

**THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS.**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To have the privilege and honor to congratulate a fellow professional for achieving outstanding rewards I now take with great pleasure.

Robert M. Williams was presented the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America 1977 Distinguished Service Award at our recent National Conference and Show in Portland, Oregon. I attended the Opening Ceremonies when Bob received this award and believe me I have seldom been more impressed nor have there been occasions in my lifetime that I have felt as much pride and honor for a truly professional friend. The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents officially submitted Bob's name for this very high award and it was felt that no one in the history of our profession could be more worthy. His leadership, career accomplishments and professionalism have always stood out as the finest.

To keep the honor parade rolling along with all its brass and shining color, Mike Bavier followed up two days later by winning a directorship on the National Board. He showed the entire nation just what kind of mettle Mike is really made of. We in the Midwest have always been aware of this -- some others were just a little slow in recognizing it. I know he will be a great credit to our Association and do a super job as a G.C.S.A.A. Director.

Good luck Mike, and I still think you looked beautiful in your **custom fitted** tuxedo sitting up at the head table!!!

HOW'S YOUR TURF IQ?

1. What are some of the problems that result from an excessive accumulation of thatch? _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.
2. Can you come up with some good points in the favor of thatch? _____, _____, _____.
3. Name three things that would increase thatch accumulation rate. _____, _____, _____.
Either cultural or environmental factor may be used.
4. The microorganisms that are responsible for the thatch decomposition will be most active at pH's near _____.
5. The accumulation of thatch is usually more rapid on coarse textured and well aerated soils. True or False? Answers to the above questions will be found on another page.

From Mrs. Grass "L"
846 N. Fairview Avenue
Park Ridge, Ill. 60068

Hi Ladies - It's been a cold and silent winter among our communication lines. So just to inform you, I'm still around for your benefit and use. I'd like to print anything you may want to send my way. Let me know how you ladies made it through the winter without snow mold, and how did you handle those bed knives? Let's all get together and spring into action with Spring; conference time in Portland is over and Spring is just around the corner.

Our thanks goes to Judy Opperman who has put together a summary of the ladies high-lights of the conference (for those of us who couldn't attend). I'm sure you're with me in expressing a thank you for her taking the time and interest to share this with us. Thank you, Judy.

Have a great month, ladies!

Dear Mrs. Grass "L",

This is a wish-you-were-there "postcard" from "The Rose City" - Portland welcomed us with warm breezes, budding blooms, and green! Remember that color? Normally the grass would have been greener, but Portland's yearly rainfall average of 40 inches held off a little longer to keep our umbrellas dry.

Being homesick for snow already, on Sunday we headed east. The city's skyline boasts the highest point in Oregon, Mount Hood, rising to 11,245 ft. We squeezed into a Chevette with John and Denita Jackman and drove thru some beautiful forests up to Timberline Lodge at Mount Hood's 6,000 ft. level where the skiers inside outnumbered those outside 2 to 1. You see, their usual 27 ft. snowfall was a mere 10 inches! The mountain's northern route back provided us with more impressive forests, unusual rock formations, and some delightful waterfalls.

Next time you see Bob Williams, shake his hand. He received the GCSAA distinguished service award at Monday's opening session. Although we missed the crab fete that evening, we heard all had a crunching, munching good time.

Tuesday's jaunt for the ladies (and several men) turned out to be a 100+ -mile bus ride to the ocean to lunch at the charming Inn at Otter Crest and a 15 minute stop at a marine museum. The almost 150-mile ride back reduced us to "100 bottles of beer on the wall" and "Gong Show" jokes by our return at 6 p.m. This was the first Tuesday ladies' trip I want to forget out of my last eleven conventions. Oh, I heard one unusual warning about the Oregon beaches: Don't swim in the ocean - you may get hit by floating logs! It's true!

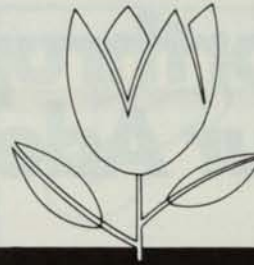
Also shake the hand of Mike Bavier, a brand new GCSAA Director. Champagne flowed and flowed in the Midwest Room Wednesday night.

Thursday's Ladies Program offered salmon cooking suggestions and recipes. Portland's Chinook salmon is superb.

The city's seaport yielded most of our fine dinners during our stay, and I wouldn't mind it at all if the convention road led us back to Portland.

Judy Opperman

Thought - Seeing much, suffering much and studying much are the three pillars of learning.



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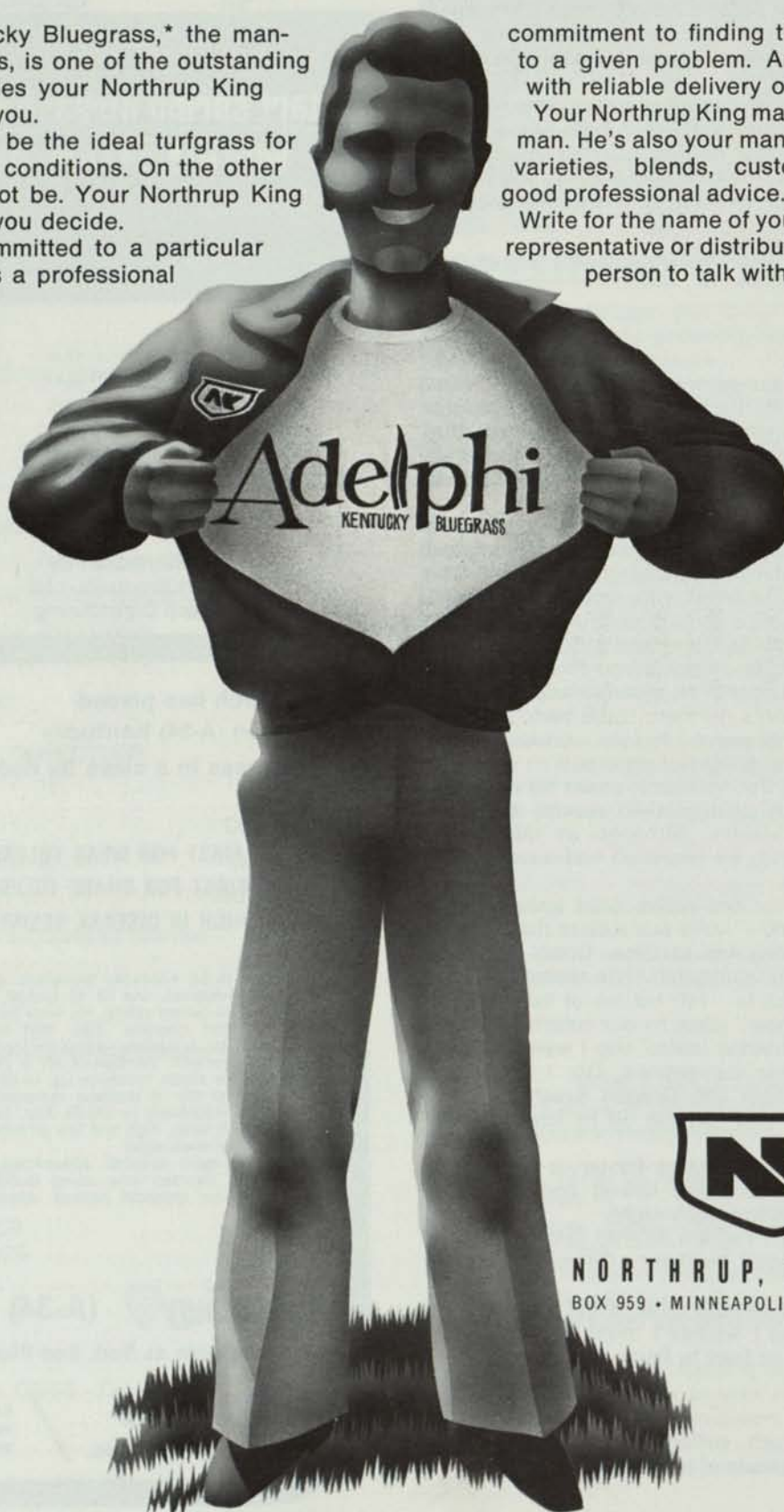
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EDITORIAL

Truly a long winter. This past winter season of 1976-1977 has been much longer with respect to the amount of time our grounds crew personnel has had to work inside. Unforeseen problems arise sometimes when a highly compatible crew of men are confined together for unusually long periods of time. Jobs to be accomplished during the winter months in the golf course maintenance shop slightly differ in importance. It involves cleaning surfaces for painting, then painting or whatever process is required. Most of the other work is accomplished by the mechanic, who has his work pretty well cut out for him. Logic tells us that the meticulous individual will be selected for refinishing the beautiful redwood signs for the tees; even though he was employed only two months ago; and the long term employee must paint the same benches he has painted four years previous. What is it about the indoor confinement that causes rebellion? Is it because they took this job for outdoor work and suddenly they are confined indoors? Also thought provoking is the fact that some people want to work outside no matter what the weather conditions and others say, "You wouldn't make me work outside in this type of weather". Personal management is an art all its own; how well do you pride yourself in managing your employees? How do you gain their respect; by consistently bragging that you know more than they do, or do you retain it all with the idea that their knowledge of golf course maintenance will surpass yours and thus hinder your position? Respect - respect your employees and they will respect you, that's first on the list. Teaching them will only enhance your position and your knowledge. Now you must instill this same attitude into your assistant, foreman and mechanic; for the situation is no different for them and again personal management becomes an art all its own.

Explain this one: in testing a piece of maintenance equipment the mechanic appears to be mistreating or abusing it (Example - skidding the tires while checking the brakes, to see if one brake is grabbing more than the other), the operator wonders why he is reprimanded when he does it. The mechanic must go and hide someplace when he tests equipment. Remember that, those of you building new shop facilities, include in the design a hiding place.

Supervising is full time, winter and summer; correct problems immediately, letting them ride will only allow them to get out of hand. Keep the spirit of your employees high, the quality of your golf course will reflect this.

Anonymous

MOWING MANAGEMENT CAN HALT DISEASE

John Hall, turf specialist at the University of Maryland, passes along this tip to superintendents. Often, mowers can do great harm to turfgrass during disease epidemics. Not only will the effect of mowing generally weaken the grass, but the operation can further spread the disease.

If there is a diseased area on your course, it is better to mow in that area last. Clean mowers before you take them back into healthy turf areas. Mowers are probably the finest disease spreaders ever devised. They not only drag spores over turf areas, but make wounds for fungal entry.

During times of disease on your course, remember planned and well thought out mowing habits are crucial to stopping disease.

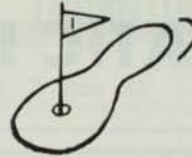
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- 6. Frost control**

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- 7. Summer of 1976**

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It's called empathy, and it's the ability to see things from the other person's point of view ... to put ourselves in someone else's shoes.

Most of us have no trouble putting ourselves in someone else's shoes when the someone else is an individual like us ... a friend, relative, neighbor, co-worker. But when it comes to our employer—the company—that's another story.

For some reason it's easy to lose empathy when it comes to "the company". Often, because "the company" is so big and so varied, we fail to see things from its point of view.

The result is that sometimes we allow a little waste to creep into our jobs. We miss a few details now and then. We lose a few minutes here and there. And very often our reaction becomes ... "Well, the company can afford it".

Yet the people who get ahead are the ones who do what's best for the company. Your immediate boss may not be the owner, and yet he—or she—certainly represents the owner. Everything stems from the top. You represent the owner, too. No matter what your job is—president or worker—you represent your organization. Do what's best for it—and you're bound to come out a winner!

It's easy to think that a big organization can afford a day off for you here, a few copies on the copy machine there, and yet, think of it: How would you feel about it if **you** were paying the freight? Big companies and institutions make less profit than we sometimes think—it's a competitive world out there—and if we watchdog our employer's pennies as we do our own, we'll be doing the right, fair thing.

Put yourself in your employer's shoes ... and when it comes time for raises and promotions ... he'll put himself in yours!

EFFECTS OF PREEMERGENCE HERBICIDES ON TURFGRASS THATCH DEVELOPMENT

Extensive use of preemergence herbicides in recent years to prevent annual weed development has been suspected of causing reduced turfgrass quality. A study was conducted at the University of Illinois Agricultural Exp. Station to determine whether repeated use of preemergence herbicides resulted in thatch development and other effects associated with turfgrass deterioration.

Six preemergence herbicides were applied annually for four years to 'Kenblue' - type Kentucky bluegrass growing on Flanagan silt loam.

Calcium arsenate and bandane applications resulted in increased leaf spot disease, higher wilting tendency, reduced shoot and root growth, and substantial thatch development. The thatching tendency was associated with a complete lack of earthworm activity in the underlying soil. Bandane residue was largely confined to thatch, while calcium arsenate was more generally distributed throughout the upper thatch soil profile. Verdure was significantly reduced in plots treated with bensulide, while benefin, DCPA, and siduron treatments produced no measurable effects.

("Thatch Development and Other Effects of Pre-emergence Herbicides in Kentucky Bluegrass Turf," by A. J. Turgeon, R. P. Freebork, and W. N. Bruce, Agronomy Journal, Vol. 67, No. 4, July-August 1975).

Clifford G. Warren
Extension Turfgrass Specialist

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ANSWERS TO YOUR TURF IQ

1. Some problems would be: Increased disease and insect damage, localized dry spots, chlorosis, proneness to scalping, foot printing, decreased heat, cold, and drought hardness.
2. Some good points would be: A resiliency for the proper ball bounce or to hold, the wear tolerance of a turf would be greater with a thatch, and thatch would also tend to help insulate the soil against temperature extremes.
3. Some major factors to thatch accumulation would be: Vigorous growing turf, acidic conditions, poor aeration, excessively high plant nitrogen levels and infrequent or excessively high mowing.
4. A neutral pH is best for the microorganisms to decompose thatch. It is possible for the soil pH to be neutral, yet the thatch pH could be acidic due to acidification during decomposition and leaching on irrigated turf. Frequent light lime applications will greatly help to neutralize the thatch.
5. False. The rapid accumulation of thatch would be found on poorly drained soils and ones with fine textured soils. A lot of the microorganisms responsible for the decomposition of thatch are aerobic and thus soils with coarse texture and well aerated will not have the rapid build-up of thatch.

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Walter Fuchs, Sr., Supt. at Evanston Golf Club was honored with the "Distinguished Golf Course Superintendent" award at the annual Iowa Golf Course Supt. Assoc. Turfgrass Conference which was held in Waterloo, Iowa, March 14, 15 & 16, 1977.

Robert Williams, Supt. at Bob O'Link Golf Club participated as a speaker on the educational program recently held at Michigan State University.

Paul Voykin, Supt. at Briarwood C.C. will be on WBBM radio on April 7th. Consult your radio program for correct time.

Harold and Lillian Michels, from McHenry III. vacationed in Hawaii this winter. Harold is Supt. at McHenry C.C. Also vacationing in Hawaii, were **Dave Fearis** from Peoria C.C. and his wife **Lynn**. Speaking from experience, I can not think of a better place to vacation in the winter, than Hawaii. During their visit to this state they enjoyed visiting with **Mr. and Mrs. George A. Davis**. George A. has chosen Hawaii, as his winter home for the past thirty years. It must have some attraction, other than the pretty girls.



Editor

MIDWEST BREEZES

The sympathy of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Supts. is extended to the family of **Bert Rost**. Bert passed away on February 25 at his home in Sarasota, Florida. He was a member of the armed service in World War II. Bert became interested in golf course work in the state of Iowa. After many years in this state he was offered the position of golf course Supt. at Park Ridge C.C., Park Ridge, Ill. and he accepted. Several years later the Supts. position at Butterfield C.C. was offered to him. After much consideration he accepted. Bert's later years as a golf course superintendent were at Elcona C.C., Elkart, Ind. He retired three years ago and along with Mrs. Rost they moved to their new home at 2080 Piazza Dr., Sarasota, Florida 33581. Bert Rost will be missed by his many friends, not only on the golf course but in all walks of life. "Surely one of the greatest". He was a member of the Midwest Golf Course Superintendents Assn. and the Golf Course Superintendents Assn. of America. He also was the editor of the **Bull Sheet** in its early years.

As of this writing the turfgrass on golf courses in the Chicago area wintered the cold weather and between 5 and 6 feet of frost is in excellent condition. What this deep frost has done to the irrigation systems remains to be seen.

On March 4, 5 and 6, 1977, two of our Chicago area golf course superintendents, **John Jackman** from Medinah C.C., **Fred Opperman** from Glen Oak C.C., and **Steve DiVito** from Turf Products (who call themselves hunters and maybe so) headed for the Cumberland mountains in Crossville, Tennessee, 620 miles from home, so no one from their home area could check on their hunting ability. I do not know if any of you have ever had any experience in hunting wild boar. I know the editor never did so I have to rely on the information I received which is tempered by the possibility that hunting stories could be similar to fish stories of which I am more familiar.

It apparently was one of those places where you were furnished with a local guide and dogs. The hunter could either walk or ride a jeep on a narrow path through the timber.

The story is that Steve DiVito at 8:30 a.m. got the first boar. It was taken with a .44 magnum revolver. However it was suggested by Fred and John that the boar jumped into a stream and drowned after hearing the shot from the cannon that Steve used. Fred and

John used 30.06 rifles. The reason for using these rifles, I suppose, was so they could rest the gun on a log or a lower limb of a tree. Some people have steadier nerves than others. After traveling several miles and passing up three small boars Fred killed the second one at 1:30 p.m. It became John's turn next. After a long chase thru the woods, over creeks, and up and down hills, the boar got tired. John took the third one at 3 p.m. The boars weighed from 130 lbs. to 180 lbs. each. So I was told?.

By Art and Mary Clesen

Here we are in beautiful Acapulco living in a roomy bungalow, with two bedrooms, kitchen, and a swimming pool plus excellent room service and sun bathing every day.

Our thirteen year old granddaughter, daughter of Carol and Ken Goodman flew down to spend time with us.

The Midwest is well represented here with Adolph and Mary Bertucci, Bill and Lucille Saielli, Don Hoffman and Carl Langrebe.

While eating out at a local restaurant one evening we met Dan Foley of Foley Landscape Company, Mt. Prospect, Illinois.

Diesel fuel is fifteen cents per gallon.

"THE ROAD TO LAWRENCE"

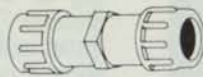
By Mike Bavier

We all during life set goals and accomplishments that we strive for. Having a goal of serving ones' fellow superintendent is not unique to just me. Many people have had the desire to serve before, and surely many will in the future. To have such a dynamic and interested group as the Midwest behind you most assuredly adds to ones' enthusiasm. The cliché that one should never stop trying is appropriate not just for me but for our group as well. The perseverance that the Midwest has shown over the years certainly turned into reality at the election in Portland. Our faint voice from afar has become a roar to many an ear! I hope and pray that my decisions will always be the right ones for the total GCSAA membership, and I hope I will be as welcome and trusted in the future as the day I was elected to the GCSAA Board. Thanks to all for the help and support.

As one of my first official duties as a Director, I traveled to Lawrence, Kansas to see and get acquainted with the personnel at the GCSAA office. President Woehrle suggested that the new directors and any of the old ones that were not familiar with the headquarters' operations and staff should do so. I was the first.

The headquarters office is set on a gently rolling golf course with homes on one side and a rather large office building on the other--quite a contrast. The GCSAA office space is very nicely laid out with the Executive Director's office, along with the bookkeeping, membership, and communication offices, located on the main floor. The Educational Department is on the lower level along with a large storage area. Most every department is well staffed and equipped. I was treated to a tour of each department and given a "crash course" on each of the departments' duties. This was most interesting and informative for me and will be a help in my Association duties.

After two days in Lawrence of listening and looking, I came away with the feeling of a real need to become involved. This can be accomplished quite simply by just answering mail, questions, and most important, trying to improve what we have already started. I am thankful for the opportunity to do this.



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