

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the  
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"One picture is worth a thousand words". A very commonly spoken phrase that surely is befitting to a multitude of aspects within our modern day society. A picture or more specifically a colored slide is as important to professional turf management as the most sophisticated piece of machinery you have.

My golf course slide collection was started a number of years ago and I regard it as one of the most important tools of my profession. The progress of a renovation program or a rebuilding project can be recorded on film, giving you positive proof of the before, during and after situations. Now you have that tool I mentioned before and the proper people can be reminded how easy it is to forget what things were like in the past. Unique turf situations regarding pesticide applications, weather conditions and mechanical or vandalism damage recorded within a slide collection are perpetually available and quite possibly could be an aid in preventing distasteful reoccurrences.

A good slide collection becomes extremely valuable and helpful in the event one might be asked to participate as a speaker at a Turf Clinic or a local Garden Club. Even the most complex situation will be more easily understood when your audience is presented with visual proof.

We all have seen certain days when the air is clear, the sky is a brilliant blue and the sun is casting lazy shadows over a specific view of your third hole.

This is the time for you to capture this on a colored slide, have it blown up into a beautiful color print that when framed becomes a thing of beauty. Hang this in a prominent place in your clubhouse and your golfers or members can truly enjoy something they are a part of, their own golf course.

#### JOB OPENING

Arlington Heights Park District is looking for a golf course superintendent [actual title will be "Assistant Superintendent of Parks"]. The park district is currently developing an 18 hole golf course and wants to hire a person who will be responsible for the maintenance of the course after it is finished. He will also be responsible for the maintenance of other park areas and recreational facilities, under the direction of the Superintendent of Parks. Starting salary is open and will depend on the experience of the man. Send resume to: Angelo Capulli, Superintendent of Parks, Arlington Heights Park District, 800 East Falcon Drive, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005.

## THE WAY IT WAS

by Bill Stuppel, Retired Golf Course Supt.  
Exmoor Country Club

Much has been said about how it was on golf courses years ago, but there was also an important activity at many clubs beside golf and tennis, which of course, are spring, summer and fall activities, although I can say that some golfers played during the winter months, even carrying a broom in their bags to sweep the snow away from their line of putt. What I am referring to is winter sports. If a greenkeeper thinks he has it tough he should have the winter program which I had to contend with at Exmoor. This program reached it's ultimate in the winter of 1939-40, which if I remember correctly was a very severe winter. Here is what we had. Toboggan slide, ski slide, skating rink, hockey rink, curling rink, trap shooting, skeet shooting. Besides, the 1/2 mile plus of road and parking lots had to be kept open at all times with our one snow plow mounted on the front of a 1932 International truck. The toboggan slide had to be iced for a length for 175 yards. For water supply there was an outlet 200 yards from the far end of the slide and with a 3/4 inch hose, you can imagine how much pressure there was at the end. If there was not enough snow to pack the slide, we had to gather snow that had drifted into sand traps and hollows.

As to ice for the rinks, three kinds were required. A good hard ice for the hockey players, pool table level pebbled ice for curling and two different kinds for the skaters. For the skaters during the day, regular ice sufficed. At 5 p.m. the skating rink was closed for two hours in order to allow my crew to prepare it for the figure skaters in the evening. The ice was cleaned off and given a shot of very hot water. This gave the surface a velvety finish which made it wonderful for figure skating. We really did have some fine ice and our rink became famous in the district. The hot water came from a steam line we ran from the boiler in the club house.

Needless to say, this work required a crew of five or six men. It was a good thing in one way because it enabled me to keep my best men year round. In their spare time these men overhauled and painted all machinery and other equipment, trimmed trees and did any other work possible to do in the winter.

These winter sports went all the way back to 1915, except for curling which started in 1936. The tobogganning was discontinued in 1941 and skating and hockey a few years ago. Trap shooting and skeet shooting were discontinued years ago. Paddle tennis has been added and proves to be very popular. People play the game in the coldest weather.

I hope this article is not too boring to you, but that's the way it was.

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## LIVING WITH POA ANNUA

by Bob Williams - Supt. at Bob O'Link Golf Club  
Wisconsin Turf Symposium - October, 1976

My philosophy on poa annua as a golf turf for fairways, simply stated, is that until the research people can give me a practical, efficient and safe method for removing poa from bentgrass turf, I will continue to make every effort to live with poa annua.

I have witnessed the scorching programs on fairways with sodium arsenite followed by bent overseeding. Within two or more years the poa was back again and the membership discouraged.

I have witnessed the lead arsenate programs which have given varying degrees of success. However, this material is no longer available.

I have witnessed the calcium arsenate programs with results running all the way from success to disaster, with many of the superintendents involved losing their jobs as members became unhappy with the unpredictable results.

Currently, we have new chemicals being advertised as specific controls for poa. Frankly, I am not up to date as to whether or not these chemicals are doing the job. My primary purpose in attending this conference is to keep abreast of the latest developments so that when a breakthrough does come to light, I'll be informed.

**Carl Hoppman**, at the Aurora C.C. is one superintendent that I know of who has licked poa annua. However, he did it with bluegrass fairways, not bent. He tells me that he too had his ups and downs in the process of achieving his ultimate victory.

My membership neither knows or much less cares what specie of fairway grass they are playing on. They are only concerned with the playability and the aesthetics of that turf.

Having made the judgement to attempt to live with poa annua, just what can I do to maintain satisfactory turf throughout the season? Let's talk about fairways first. The main weakness with poa annua as a fairway turf is its shallow root system. Due to this short root system, the poa plant has a very low drought and heat tolerance. It is disease prone and has a poor resistance to golf cart and foot traffic. At the same time I am mindful that poa annua does make a good playing turf and it is persistent due to its heavy seeding capability.

Generally speaking, if the poa plant in a fairway is supplied with adequate moisture for transpiration on a hot, humid or arid day, the plant will survive. This means that the moisture must be available in that shallow root zone at the time of stress. So we can see why superintendents who are trying to live with poa-bent fairways must use the light, frequent application method of irrigation. Automated irrigation is ideally suited for this purpose. My normal fairway irrigation program calls for approximately 10 to 15 minutes on an almost every night basis. I'm really trying to keep the soil moisture at a constant level. Only replacing daily, that moisture we have lost through evapotranspiration.

This kind of irrigation program dictates that we must keep the soil surface open for water penetration and uniformity. To do this, we rely on frequent aerification with spoons, knives or discs depending on the time of the season. During July and August, I prefer to use the triangular knives following a good rain.

Next to watering, perhaps the most significant feature towards keeping the poa in our fairways, is the height of cut. In our procedure, the mechanic places the mower unit on a 4 foot square steel plate and then

accurately gauges the setting with a ruler. I have found in practice, that poa-bent fairways mowed within the range of 7/8ths to 1 and 1/8th inches will survive much better than the 5/8th 3/4" range. But, now comes the argument, will the membership stand for fairways mowed 7/8ths to 1-1/8th? My answer and experience is definitely yes, providing the turf will support the ball and allow for a clean hit. In fact, every year when the touring golf professionals are in the area we have a number of them who play our course. I always make it a point to ask them what kind of fairway lies they are getting and how the ball is responding. They invariably reply, "Super", just like setting on a tee, no fuzz behind the ball. And this is when we are at the 1" height. If there is a secret to this, it lies in having a full dense turf that will support a ball for a clean hit.

I'm afraid that all too often superintendents have had to go along with low handicap members who insist on 1/2 fairways just because that's what the professionals want. Now I've proven to myself that the golf professionals do not necessarily want a 1/2" lie. What they really mean is a clean lie where grass blades will not stand up between the clubface and the ball. I'm sure you have noticed that the tour professionals do not place their ball on the tight turf of the par 3 tees. No, they use a wood tee to make sure there will be no grass between clubface and ball.

In contrast to the professional, the average clubmember is a fifteen handicapper who has had a successful round of golf if he has gotten most of his shots airborne. In order to do this, most golfers require a cushion of turfgrass under the ball but not behind it.

In my procedure, I start mowing fairways in the spring at 7/8ths, move up to 1 inch about the middle of June and if it looks like a difficult season for turfgrass, I'll go up again to 1 and 1/8th by the middle of July. We then move back down in two steps starting about the middle of August. Additionally, in a stretch of 90 degree weather we may skip mowing altogether for as much as a week at a time. We try to accomplish our fairway mowing either in the early morning or the evening hours, to avoid the peak stress period for the grass plants.

My theory on height of cut for poa-bent fairways is that there must be a compromise between what is best for the golfer and what is best for the turfgrass. Each must give-a-little to keep everyone happy. But how does the membership feel about this? I believe the answer lies in the fact that our members had come to expect that poa fairways automatically killed out every July. That was before my time at Bob O'Link. Over the past 18 years, I have made a constant effort to communicate to the membership that if they will accept playing on slightly higher cut on fairways, they could expect minimal if any loss of turf. We seldom ever hear any discussion on the subject anymore. I really believe the superintendent who has poa in his fairways, has been his own worst enemy in yielding to the pressures of the 1/2 inch cut for fairways.

Two years ago, Jim Latham brought Mr. Allis, green chairman from the Milwaukee C.C. down to Chicago to visit several clubs. He was particularly interested in fairway maintenance. While at Bob O'Link, he tried a number of iron shots from the one inch poa-bent fairways. His conclusion, "I see it but I don't believe it".

Fertility, of course, has to play a significant role in providing a dense turf. My practice has been to use approximately 2 lbs. of actual nitrogen, 1 lb. of phosphorus and 2 lbs. of potash per year. We use

milorganite at about 1,000 lbs. per acre in the dormant winter season and apply urea, superphosphate and sulphate of potash as supplements. This program has been effective, efficient and most economical. In fact, my fairway fertilizer expense this past year was \$3,600 for approximately 35 acres or roughly \$100 per acre.

Perhaps modern day disease control ranks equally important with automatic irrigation in learning to live with poa annua. For the past 20 years I have been using a strong disease control program on fairways. In 1976, we used a total of 13 fungicide applications to date and will apply one more in November. We rotated 3 different prescriptions:

- 1st -- Daconil at 1 gallon per acre.
- 2nd -- Combination of PMAS at 1 quart per A. with Thiram at 3 lbs. per A.
- 3rd -- Combination of Acti-Dione TGF at 2 pkg. per A with Thiram at 2 lbs. per A.

The 14 applications started in May with 1 treatment, 4 in June, 3 in July, 2 in August, 2 in September, 1 in October and the final will be in November. Total cost for fairway treatment was about \$6,000. The rotation of the 3 formulations was determined on the basis of what was most appropriate at any time in relation to the weather, phytotoxicity, and type of specific disease that might be expected. One disease problem I have not controlled is fairy ring. We have experienced a minor problem now for about 4 years. Dr. Vargus of Michigan State agrees with my suspicion that this might be a negative side effect from the former use of systemics.

When it comes to poa annua on putting greens, I have a different attitude and a different approach. I detest having to tolerate poa in our greens and yet I am at a loss as to a painless method of eradication. Poa is particularly bad on putting greens when it is seeding and we have some greens with perhaps as much as 20 or 30% poa. My long range program for greens is to grow our own poa-free turf in our nursery and resod. This project is now underway with 20,000 square feet seeded this fall and we expect to add another 10,000 square feet next spring. The soil was sterilized with methyl bromide.

Allow me to conclude this report with a couple of observations. First, I have noted that some of our courses with the poorest irrigation systems have the most bentgrass in their fairways. (Providing they have seeded in bent rather than bluegrass). I've also noticed that with a single row irrigation system, you will find more bent along the outer edges of the fairway and into the short rough where less water is applied. My closing observation is that our golfers in the Chicago area pretty much judge our greenkeeping ability on the basis of how well the greens putt and whether or not we are able to hold the fairway turf throughout the season. They are quite intolerant with even moderate loss of grass on fairways regardless whether bent or poa. So, I believe most of us are doing whatever we can to live with poa on fairways until something better and painless comes along.

**SORRY AN ERROR WAS MADE**

In the January issue of the **Bull Sheet** a statement was made concerning the Toro Distributor in Itasca, Illinois was for sale. **It is not for sale!** The editor was not the author of the statement and again the editor is sorry it happened.

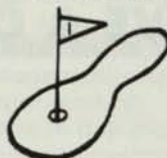
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FROM: Alexander M. Radko  
 United States Golf Association Green Section  
 P. O. Box 1237  
 Highland Park, New Jersey 08904

Much has been written and/or anticipated about course conditioning for a USGA Championship. Course conditioning is the prime concern of the Green Section's eight agronomists who cover the entire country and work with golf clubs and all aspects of fine turfgrass management. When a course is selected for a USGA event, the Green Section Regional Director in that area is immediately notified. This normally is two years in advance of the tournament date. From that time on, visits are arranged with the Tournament Chairman, the Chairman of the Green Committee, and the Golf Course Superintendent. During the course of the two years, several on the site visits are made and close contact is kept with the course superintendent by phone or mail in order to devise the very best program possible for the National Championship for that specific course.

Every visit to a golf course is a stimulating experience. It is a study in techniques and management that are intricate and exacting and no two superintendents' programs are exactly alike. Therefore, it is a very delicate thing to make recommendations of any kind without considering the long term effects on the total program, on the course and upon the grasses involved. Most people know generally what the requirements for tournament play involve—close-cropped grasses throughout except in non-target areas; greens that are fast and firm, meticulously groomed tees and fairways. Before making any recommendations, however, a thorough study of the course is first made. This includes a thorough discussion with the superintendent about all conditions observed during inspection of the course and his total management program. Once this is completed, then recommendations are discussed and the championship direction is decided upon with all agronomic considerations involved. After all, when the tournament is over, the course should be returned to the membership in as good or better condition that it was before the championship was scheduled. Please note: THE GREEN SECTION AGRONOMISTS MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS, they don't dictate the terms of management changes! For example, "Do you think you could safely condition greens to reduce the height of cut 1/32 to the area of 5/32 inch"? "Would you double-cut greens beginning with the practice round and throughout the tournament"? "Could you reduce the height of cut on fairways 1/8 to 1/4 inch during the entire competition"? "Would you contour this fairway slightly"? "Would you change your fertilizer program or water management program to insure firmer and tighter playing conditions"? It is a "give and take" process to assure that nothing is done that will cause the slightest turf injury.

Most courses today are beautifully groomed so the changes involved are very slight and subtle differences from the norm. Surprisingly, many of the changes are retained because once a championship is played on a course, golfers remember every stroke and want to test their skills against the performance of favorite contestants. "Let me see now, Arnie drove the ball here...hah! I'm only 10 yards behind him...not bad for a once a week golfer, eh"! That drive is conversational fodder for father for a long time thereafter! Of course, no mention is made that "Pops" played the white tees!

This article is designed to let you know what to

expect should your club be selected to entertain a USGA Championship. It's a fun and learning experience for everyone involved. We of the Green Section staff always look forward to the challenge with anticipation, to the pleasure of working out intricate management problems on the site with the golf course superintendent, and to making friends with new people in this great game of golf.

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 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

2. Infections to turfgrass are caused by four things, name them.

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

3. Now name five non-infectious or non-transmittal diseases to turfgrass.

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name and spell correctly the disease which has the following symptoms: Irregularly shaped patches of blighted grass ranging from a few inches up to 2 feet in diameter, over-all coloration is usually first a purplish green, which rapidly fades to light brown. The main diagnostic feature is a dark purplish "smoke ring" which may border the diseased area.

Answers to the above questions will be found on another page.

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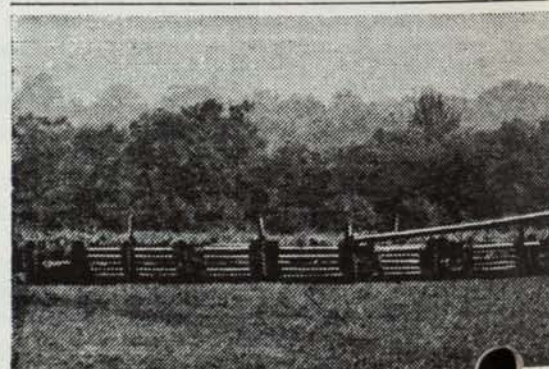
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Editor

## MIDWEST BREEZES

The **Bull Sheet** has entered into the G.C.S.A.A. Chapter News Bulletins contest. This contest will continue each month during 1977. The editor needs your support. If you have any news that would be of value or just plain interesting news, write it on a card or letter and send it to the editor by the 10th of the previous month. With your cooperation the **Bull Sheet** may have a chance for the grand award. The mail carrier comes to the editor's house six days a week.

**Peter Bild**, Supt. at Plum Tree National C.C., a short time ago had the good Lord with him. His car came to rest on the railroad tracks. About that time a train came along and demolished the car. Within a couple of days Peter was back at Plum Tree National, counting his blessings.

**Bob Williams**, Supt. at Bob O'Link C.C. and his wife **Bobbie** are vacationing for two months in sunny Florida. I am sure they are enjoying the warm sunshine while playing golf and keeping in condition to take on those who were not so fortunate this past winter.

**Ed and Jean Stewart** from River Forest G.C. have turned their car in a southerly direction leaving the cold and snow to the hardy snow birds.

**Tom and Regina Byrne** of Addison Golf Club have spent the holidays in Florida. As many of you know, Tom had the reputation of being a famous hunter. They say times change, evidently so do people. Which is it, Tom?

**Marvin and Lorraine Gruening** from Midwest G.C. have decided to leave the snow removing to others, they are enjoying the sunshine in Florida. I am sure they will experience some of the white stuff after they return.

Midwest Regional Turf Conference will be held from Feb. 28th to March 2, 1977. A good program to attend before the busy season starts.

Be sure to attend the big one! The National Conference and Show in Portland, Oregon, February 6 to 11, 1977. This one should be a must.

The Midwest Ass'n. hospitality room in Portland will be in the Hilton Hotel. It will be open on Sunday, Feb. 6th from 4 to 12 P.M.

Some people get perturbed when they see their name misspelled. This does not hold true with our host. At the January 17 meeting at Elmhurst C.C., Thomas DiGuido, supt. was a real host and the editor is sorry.

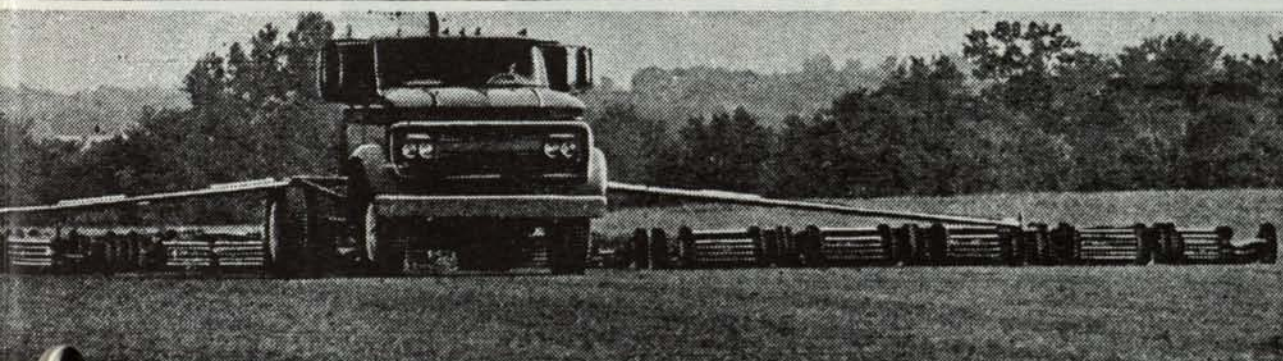
## ROSEMAN

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SALES ● SERVICE ● PARTS ● RENTALS

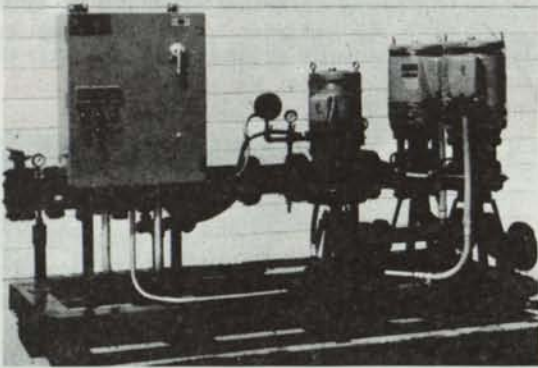


According to its builder— it can  
ute! Sod farmer Jay Frick of  
ging me" because mowing his

farm took so long. So he put together this monster mower, constructed of a truck and 27 mowers like those used on golf courses. Frick says his superclipper—which cuts a 60-foot-wide swath—obviously won't work on the average lawn. But in his case, he has to mow 60 to 100 acres of grass, sometimes twice a week.



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The two main pumps are Cornell 40 h.p. or 50 h.p. units. Total unit capacities range from 750 to 1200 GPM at pressures of 100 p.s.i. to 118 p.s.i. Other ranges available.

Available with either a Cornell 10 h.p. jockey pump (pictured) or a 750 GPM equivalent Well-X-Trol tank.

Standard equipment includes mercoird "Start - Stop" switches, suction and discharge piping, non-slam check valves, "Y" type strainer and a combination pressure regulating and check valve with flow switches and discharge gate valve.

A pre-wired electrical panel (480V, three-phase) includes pump hour meters and a manual operator to alternate the lead pump.

Consult John Olman, your SISCO representative for more specific information and prices.

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