

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

Editor — Ray Gerber
865 Hillside Ave.
Glen Ellyn, Ill. 60137
Phone — 469-6467

Associate Editor — Robert Williams
90 East Franklin, Apt. 208
Lake Forest, Ill. 60045
Office Phone — 432-0088

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Illinois 60525. Phone: 312-352-4378.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At last we got through 1977 and are into the 1978 year. At times it seemed as if 1977 would never run out of extremes to throw at us. Even with all this, if you total it all up, 1977 was a good year for golf as a whole. I know it was our best season here at Marriott Lincolnshire Resort, but then we are a new course. Each course should to some degree have had a successful season. Every year adds to our experiences on which to base our future decisions. The future offers many more new challenges in technology, personnel, and equipment. Because of this, our profession has always been made interesting and challenging.

The E.P.A., OSHA, and the new wage laws are but some of the subjects we have to ponder this year. With the many changes and a number to come up in the near future, this will put more strain on already tight budgets. The ever present increase in cost of materials and wages will bring forth a major question in everyone's mind and that will be "How efficiently can we make use of man-hours, chemicals, and fertilizers?". I hope that through our decisions to change types of equipment we do not sacrifice in quality only to save man-hours. One thing that must go hand in hand with this new equipment will be better trained and more knowledgeable employees to use it. On a good note, with all this new equipment and better trained employees the superintendent's job should be made easier.

The end of the golf season and the problem of reducing a staff is yet another big problem, especially now with our more highly trained staff. There should be workable solutions to continue their service from golf season to golf season and not lose the time and dollars we have put into training a qualified staff. I have gone through this problem for many years as a way of life, and I think it is about time this problem is changed. The dollars spent each year in training a new staff could be taken and possibly used to keep the staff already employed.

In looking to the future I hope to see all of you in San Antonio in February. There will be a "caucus" in our hospitality room at 12:00 noon, February 15, prior to the National Elections. Hope to see everyone there.

Joe Grenko

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MEETING DATES

- MARCH 7 • NORDIC HILLS CLUB
- APRIL 4 • SILVER LAKE GOLF CLUB



Editor
MIDWEST BREEZES

Bob and Bobbie Williams from Bob-O-Link G.C. are vacationing in Florida, enjoying the sun and getting their golf game in good condition. In early February they will be heading for the G.C.S.A.A. golf tournament at Corpus Christi, Texas, on February 9 & 10 and then to the G.C.S.A.A. Turfgrass Conference, at San Antonio on February 12 - 17.

John Berarducci, former Superintendent at Ravinia Green C.C., has resigned and then accepted the position as Superintendent at Skokie C.C. which was vacated by the resignation of Supt. **Ronald Rosset**.

Peter Bild, C.G.C.S. has resigned from the position as Golf Course Supt. at Plum Tree National G.C., Harvard, IL

Supts. and families who vacationed in Florida during the Christmas holidays: **Walter Fuchs, Jr., Bruce Sering, Julius Albaugh, Tom Byrne, and Mike Bavier**. It appears a New Years Eve party took place at Howey in the Hills. Twenty-one adults and thirteen children celebrated the old year out and welcomed in the new year. It must be some party that they travel that many miles from home to hold a New Years Eve party.

Dennis Fulton, Supt. at Olympia Fields C.C. has resigned.

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents and the Chicagoland Golf Course Superintendents Association have combined their votes that will be cast at the Annual G.C.S.A.A. meeting in San Antonio, Texas on February 15, 1978.

Mike Bavier, C.G.C.S-G.C.S.A.A. director, has recently returned from a trip to Texas. The purpose was to visit his father who is not in the best of health. We all hope for a speedy recovery.

Chicago Toro, Itasca, IL is moving to a larger new building in the early spring located at 911 Hilltop Drive, Itasca. It is just around the corner in the next block from the present building.

President **Grenko** informed this writer that there will be a Theater Dinner Party at the Marriott's Lincolnshire Resort on March 25th. Keep this date in mind. Payment of \$33.00 per couple, to the secretary in

advance is necessary to avoid extra cost. Rooms will be available to those who wish to stay overnight.

The **Bull Sheet** thanks **Nels Johnson** for the wonderful pictures taken in Sweden. Looks like a good place to take a vacation. I am sure Nels will agree on this. I have been informed he is in Sweden at the present time and his daughter is coming in from the continent for a get together.

Mr. Johnson informed me the **King of Sweden** will be receiving a copy of this **Bull Sheet**. This is certainly a great honor, something of this nature has never happened in the past. "Nels", the editor thanks you.

The January 10 MAGCS meeting held at Arrowhead G.C. was a most educational one. The attendance of sixty-one enjoyed the talk by a representative of Wage and Hour Division U.S. Labor Dept. MAGCS Host **Bob Breen**, Supt. took care of all the details. We thank him for this.

George Druzisky, Supt. at the Bakersfield C.C. reports that he lost 235 trees and severe damage to numerous other trees in the hurricane-like winds that swept thru California just before Christmas. The winds also deposited 1/2 to 1" of soil/sand on the course in some areas.

The editor was a guest visitor of the "Mid-Am Trade Show" held at **O'Hare Exposition Center**, during the week of January 15-18, 1978. Over 350 exhibits occupied by commercial firms related to various types of landscaping and maintenance for home owners, road sides, parks, cemeteries, golf courses, and commercial buildings. You name it, it was there. Booths were occupied by firms from all parts of the country. Hilo, Hawaii was present, so you see they came from far away as well as near by.

This would be a good place for the GCSAA to investigate to hold one of our national future conference and show. It is only five minutes from O'Hare Airport and there are ample hotels and motels near by.

The committees in charge did a super job. Everything moved very smoothly.

LAKE BARRINGTON ASSOCIATES - 590 Miller Rd., Barrington, IL 60010, has a position open for a Golf Course Superintendent at the **New Lake Shores Golf Club**. Please send resume to Mr. **James Sayers**, 590 Miller Rd., Barrington, IL 60010.

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For additional information, please contact:
W. H. Daniel
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RABBIT REPELLENTS

Landscapers, nurserymen, and golf course superintendents are reminded that rabbits can do a lot of damage especially to young trees and shrubs. Sometimes damage occurs very early, so applications of rabbit repellents or plastic tree protectors should not be delayed too long.

"If you are caught with very cold weather and want to make application of liquid rabbit repellents, one can simply mix 1/2 to 1 pint methanol anti-freeze per gallon of repellent with the repellent and application can be made in even the coldest weather," states Tom Mendelson, ornamental horticulturist with Lake-Cook Farm Supply Company at Des Plaines, Illinois. Mendelson pointed out that with prolonged periods of cold weather and a lot of snow, extra precaution may have to be made where prior protection was unnecessary.

"We have also found that there can be outbreaks of rodents where populations were very low before, so nurserymen, particularly, should constantly monitor their fields for rabbit or mouse damage," he stated. If one has just a few trees to protect, the plastic tree protector is quick and easy to snap around the trunk. Mouse damage will be found primarily where there is a cover of weeds or turf grass. Orchardists use Zinc Phosphide as an effective mouse killer.

Walter L. Vogl

Dear Ray;

I am sending you a Poem I wrote, back in the fifties. It was my sentiments then and I find they still hold true. You are always looking for material for the **Bull Sheet**, so if you feel this will qualify, be my guest. If not, give it the deep six.

"DOLLAR SPOT ON PARADE?"

The speckling of Pythium,
The blur of Helminthosporium,
The unrestricted view, of Curvularia too.

It makes you think and wonder,
Of lightning and of thunder.

Of Natures's way of showing,
How much is in our knowing.

With prevention and control,
You end up in the hole.

Over a period of time,
Mother Nature says, it's mine,
I will do just as I feel.

If you have tasted of this wine,
I'm sure you know, it's real.

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and I wish you the best the New Year can bring. Superintendently,

Kenneth R. Zanzig, Supt.
Old Oak C.C.

Skeptical about the way mail is handled, the man left this note on a parcel: "Fragile. Please throw underhand."

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LIVING WITH POA ANNUA

by Bob Williams

My philosophy on poa annua as a golf turfgrass for fairways simply stated, is that until the research people can give me a practical, efficient and safe method of eliminating poa from bentgrass turf, I will continue to make every effort to live with poa annua. However, I would prefer 100% bent as a fairway turf. Going back a few years, I well recall the use of sodium arsenite to scorch fairways followed by bent overseeding. Within two to three years the poa was back again and the golfers were pretty upset.

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

We have all observed the era of the calcium arsenate programs with results running the gamut from successful control to complete disaster. Many of the superintendents involved lost their jobs as the golfers became unhappy with the unpredictable results.

Currently, we have several new chemicals being advertised as specific controls for poa. Frankly, I have not heard anyone report as yet that these products are doing the job on bent-poa fairways. When a breakthrough to control poa in this situation does come to light, I am sure we will all be delighted. Most golfers could care less as to what specie of fairway turfgrass they are playing on. But they are concerned with both the playability and the aesthetics of that turf.

Having made the judgement to attempt to live with poa annua there are several adjustments in our maintenance program which allow us to maintain satisfactory playing turf throughout the season. Let's talk about fairways first. The main weakness with poa annua as a fairway turf is its characteristic shallow rooting system. Sometimes rooting only in the biomass of thatch rather than in the soil. It is disease prone and has poor resistance to golf cart and foot traffic. At the same time I am mindful that poa does make a good playing surface and it certainly 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 or arid day, the plant will survive. This means that the required moisture must be available in that shallow root zone at the time of stress. I try to live with poa by using light frequent applications of irrigation water. Automatic 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 and thatch moisture content at a constant level, only replacing daily that moisture we have lost through evapotranspiration. Additionally, we try to apply irrigation between the hours of 3 to 5 in the early morning for the longest lasting effect during the day. The early morning application also removes any accumulation of guttation water on the grass plant leaves, which may have some effect towards disease prevention.

Our 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 and discs depending on the time of the season. During July and August I prefer the triangular knives and aerifying right after a good rain.

When we do the fall aerifying, usually in early September, we also do some spot overseeding with a

combination of bentgrass and perennial ryegrass. Several clubs in our area have had excellent response with this program.

Next to watering, perhaps the most significant feature towards holding the poa in the 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 that poa-bent fairways mowed within the range of 7/8ths to 1 & 1/8th inches will survive much better than the 5/8th 3/4 inch range. But, now comes the argument, will the golfer stand for fairways mowed 7/8ths to 1 & 1/8th??? My answer from experience is definitely yes, providing the turf has the density to support the ball and allow for a clean hit. In fact, every year when the touring professionals are in the area we have a number of them who play our course. I have made a point of asking them what they think of the lies they are getting and how the ball is responding. They invariably reply, "Super, just like setting on a tee." And this is when we are at the 1 inch height. I believe in the concept that the turf must be dense enough to fully support the ball.

I am afraid that all too often many of us have had to go along with the low handicap golfers who insist on 1/2 inch fairways just because that's what the professionals want. Now I have proven to myself that the golf professionals do not necessarily want a 1/2 inch lie. What they really mean, is a clean lie where grass blades will not stand up between clubface and ball. Surely you have noticed that golf professionals use a wood tee on the par three holes instead of hitting from the close cropped tee turf. It is time we placed more emphasis on density and playability rather than height of cut.

In contrast to the professional, the average golfer is a fifteen handicapper who has usually had a great round if he has managed to get the majority of his fairway shots airborne. In order to get his shots up most golfers require a cushion of turfgrass under the ball but not behind it.

We start mowing fairways in the spring at 7/8ths inch, move up to 1 inch about the middle of June and if it looks like a difficult season for turfgrass, we'll go up to 1 & 1/8th inch by the middle of July. Frequency of mowing is 3 to 4 times per week. We then move back down in two steps starting around the middle of August. Another safeguard we employ is to skip mowing fairways altogether when the temperatures get into the 90's. Sometimes this might mean several days or even a week. We try to accomplish all of our fairway mowing in the early morning or evening hours. Afternoon mowing during the summer is out completely.

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. Both must give a little to keep everyone happy. But how does the golfer react to this compromise? Over the years I have made a constant effort to communicate to the golfers that if they will accept a slightly higher cut on fairways, they could then expect minimal if any loss of the poa-annua. We seldom ever hear any discussion on the subject anymore. I really believe that most of us who have bent-poa fairways have been our own worst enemy in yielding to the pressures of the 1/2 inch cut.

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