

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Can we finally see the light at the end of the tunnel? It has certainly been a long winter. I know I have seen all the snow I want to see for one year. Although the constant snow is better for the grass than an open winter. I know all of us who got down our winter treatments in time this year can probably look forward to good grass conditions so far. The extreme weather in some areas will add to the needed moisture in this area. My next problem will probably be flooding do to the accumulation of snow this winter.

At this time you will have received the edition of the **Bull Sheet**, most of us will have gotten back from the National Conference. This is also the time for the Midwest Turf Conference at the University of Purdue. I am sure as in the past many of you will attend.

The Midwest Superintendents will have a booth at the Chicago Flower Show again this year. I am sure Carl Hoppfan and Fred Opperman have talked many of you into helping out by manning the booth. This is a great opportunity to help out some of our many friends and residents of the Chicago area.

The CDGA is getting ready for another one of their seminars for Superintendents and the green chairmen. They have a very impressive committee even though this is intended mainly for the Green Chairmen, it should be interesting to all who attend.

Joe Grenko

**By Kenneth R. Zanzig
Supt. - Old Oak C.C.**

We have added approximately sixty Evergreen trees, four to ten feet tall, over the past three years. This beautiful investment, led me to the following:

"WINTER SENTIMENTS"

Winters scene is sometimes dreary,
But the Evergreens make it cheery.
To see them stand so proud and tall,
And spread their limbs, a sight for all.
They add the color so sadly missed,
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When He gave us the Evergreen.
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Without it in the winter time,
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CHICAGO FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW April 1 - April 9

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be staffing a booth for the third year in a row this coming April at the Flower Show in McCormick Place. As in the past years our booth is used to give out useful information to the home owners on the care and upkeep of their lawns.

The booth will have on display various weed pests in pots that are so common to the Chicago area, flats of bluegrass and bents. Posters will also be on display showing the different diseases that are harmful to the grasses that the home owners should also be aware of. As in the past years we are using five members per day to staff the booth, split into two shifts, with a "swing man" coming in at the middle of the day to help cover both shifts. If you would like to work the flower show please call Fred Opperman at 469-6220.

This is the 20th Anniversary of the show and some of the highlights will be: 20th Anniversary Rose Garden, a Salute to the Sun Marigold Garden, Garden Market Mall and Flower Market, A Fountain Spectacular (that's truly spectacular), Picnic Woods, Japanese Gardens and Bonsai exhibits. Daily lectures and demonstrations offer many helpful hints for garden lovers, and nightly entertainment provides a festive mood for everyone.

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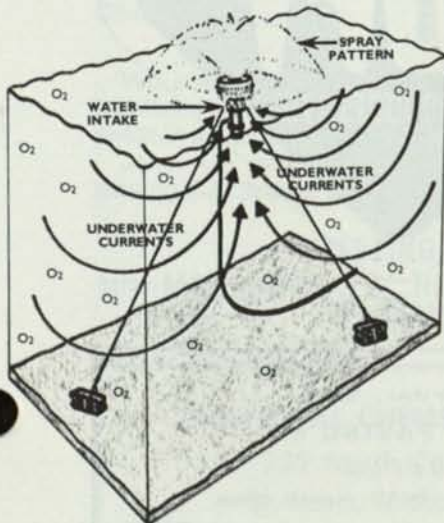
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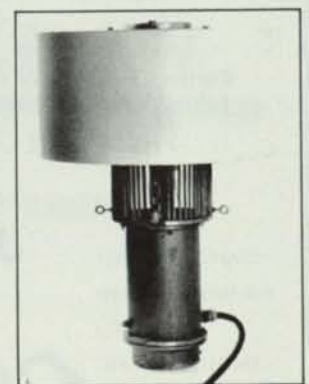
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Editor
MIDWEST BREEZES

The editor thanks **Ever-Redi Printing** for the prompt service in getting the February issue of the **Bull Sheet** in the mail so those who are on the mailing list received their copy before leaving on their vacation the first of February. It sure is nice to do business with dedicated people like one will find at Ever-Redi.

On March 23, 1978 the Chicago District Golf Association will hold their annual Green Seminar at Butterfield C.C. The theme will be "Living With Poa Annua With an Adjusted Budget". **Dr. J. M. Vargas, Jr.**, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Michigan State University, will be covering the subject from a professional point of view. Other speakers will also present their version of living with poa annua. Bring your green committee and any other member from your club that would be interested in this subject. It will be a valuable meeting - one that you cannot afford to miss.

Richard Hahn, former assistant to Fred Opperman at Glen Oak C.C., has resigned and taken the same title position with **Joe Grenko**, M.A.G.C.S. president, at Marriott's Lincolnshire Resort.

Warren Bidwell, Supt. at Congressional C.C., has resigned and is moving back to Olympia Fields C.C. Warren was located at Olympia Fields several years ago. I am sure I can speak in behalf of his many friends in welcoming him and Mrs. Bidwell back to the Chicago area.

We also welcome **John West**, one of our Midwest members back to the Chicago area. John has taken the position as Supt. at Lake Barrington Shores G.C.

John was one of our Midwest Secretaries before leaving the Chicago area.

MEETING DATES

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

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March 13-15, 1978

For additional information, please contact:

W. H. Daniel
Department of Agronomy
Purdue University
W. Lafayette, IN 47907

Dear Ray,

We have expanded our facilities at Silver Lake. We now offer 9 racquetball--handball courts in addition to our 45 holes of golf and banquet trade.

The Court Club which has been seven months under construction, is an addition to our clubhouse building. This enabled us to use our existing parking lot, men's locker room, cocktail lounge and pro-shop accommodations.

The new features include ladies locker room, saunas for the men and women, an exercise room for the men and women, and a nursery for baby-sitting services. The Court Club has one glass walled court for exhibitions and spectator appeal. The building has been decorated and furnished exquisitely. The cost of this venture is in excess of \$500,000.00.

The contractors: plumbers, electricians, cement masons, heat and air-conditioning, carpenters, painters, and carpet layers have left, but my job now starts.

The Court Club has necessitated moving the 18th green on the North Course, relocating the pond, increasing the size of our parking lot, and landscaping the area around the new structure.

You might pray for warm dry weather early this spring. The April meeting of the Midwest Association is set for Monday, April 3rd, at Silver Lake. **It will be a luncheon meeting.** The racquetball courts have been reserved for use by the Midwest members, before and after the meeting. Bring your gym shoes and shorts and try this new craze out. Naturally, golf will also be available, weather permitting.

I'd like to see a record smashing turn-out for this Spring Meeting.

Dudley Smith, Grounds Supt.
Silver Lake Country Club
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SALES • SERVICE • PARTS • RENTALS

Dear Ray,

I felt it necessary to comment on an article printed on the front page of GCSAA Newsletter, December 1977, titled "Long-Awaited GCSAA Pension Plan Approved".

After reading the article I discovered it is an IRA account established in a bank or an IRA annuity offered thru GCSAA's broker "Whitney Associates, Inc., Orange, NJ". This certainly is not news to any of us who read or are in contact with our own bankers.

Having participated in an IRA account for two years, I find the ideal arrangement is to have your employer make the maximum annual contribution.

Since any employed person who is not covered by a group pension plan, can obtain these accounts locally thru their personal insurance agent, a bank, or a savings and loan. It does not make sense to me why the GCSAA feels they are offering the members a service as a pension plan.

I speak from some experience having entered in a pension plan recommended by the GCSAA in 1964, a monthly investment in mutual funds and life insurance. This plan was dropped by GCSAA many years ago, but for a few of us hearty souls who remained active in it, it will provide a very small cushion in retirement.

Anyone planning to retire from being an active golf course superintendent should certainly make their own plans and investments.

In my opinion the GCSAA has not been of service to their members in regard to pensions.

**William S. Leith, Supt.
Elgin Country Club**

EDITORIAL SOME COMMON GROUND

One of the benefits enjoyed by us superintendents is the monthly golf outing at the meetings of our association. Because of this privilege we have the opportunity to play at many of the Chicago area's private golf courses. I cannot help but admire the intense maintenance of the acres upon acres of turfgrasses. In my experience as a head superintendent I even further appreciate this art of maintaining finely cultivated turf.

We as a profession realize that there are constraints that have to be dealt with in attaining our optimum turf quality. Some we cannot control. The first one that comes in mind is weather. All we can do is anticipate the weather and live with its effects, be they good or bad.

There are other constraints which although changeable can be managed or reasonably predicted. Some of these are membership attitude, equipment maintenance, and crew morals.

That constraint which seems to vary in direct proportion to the quality of turf on a golf course is the budget. The more money one has to work with, the more intensely he can maintain an operation.

The minimally maintained fairways do not have the fungicide applications, the insect problems, nor the high water bill as do a number of the well-groomed courses. The unwatered fairway can grow a limited number of types of grasses effectively. For instance common Kentucky might be the only variety of Kentucky bluegrass recommended for non-irrigated fairway areas. We have found that during most of the

Nutrient deficiencies, weeds, diseases, thin turf, insects.

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summer one inch of rainfall per week is needed. If we don't get that one inch within two weeks, the grass will be critically weakened. However, since our soil moisture content is relatively low, our drainage problems are practically nil.

Our tees are likewise minimally maintained. Few pesticides are applied. Fertilization is but twice a year. Tees are mowed between 1" and 1 1/4". And seed and soil is done at most twice a year.

That one area where we all, be we private, semi-private, municipal or public, are likely to maintain with equal intensity is the putting green. It is here on these 2 to 3 acres of ground that every golfer will walk, stand, stroke, and stoop. And it is here where we as superintendents are graded most critically.

I would imagine that most of us follow similar pesticide programs. From May to September we will fungicide 2, 3, or 4 times per month. Through periodic inspection we will decide when to apply insecticides. And when a herbicide is needed on the greens, the hand spraying technique will suffice and only if calibrated to the highest degree of accuracy. We probably topdress a number of times during the season. And we also aerify or spike periodically.

That management tool available for greens maintenance which probably varies the most amongst us is our fertilization program. Our programs differ due to agronomic conditions, professional experiences and even personal preferences for a particular brand name of plant food. Five years being in charge of a golf course turf program have given me five different programs for greens maintenance. This past year saw me change my program noticeably. After hearing many of you advocate "low N" for a fertilization program, I used your experiences and gave it a try. This year we used just under 4#/1000 sq. ft. actual K2O was applied. By the textbook analysis potash gives turgidity to the plant, makes it more tolerant to extreme hot and cold, and physiologically helps the plant resist disease infestation. We had good luck in '77 with these high amounts of potash and relatively low amounts of nitrogen. And if we could only keep the snowmobiles off the course I feel that the winter damage this season will be significantly lower than in past years.

Tom Vieweg, Supt.
Cary, Ill.

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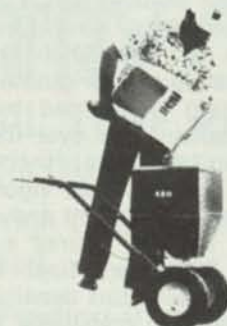
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FIELD TESTING AND EVALUATION BOB O'LINK COUNTRY CLUB

During the past year, as Assistant Superintendent at Bob O'Link Golf Club. I have been fortunate to be able to work with several universities and corporations, field testing their various products and developments for the turfgrass industry.

As we all know, many years of research and millions of dollars are spent with one goal in mind - IMPROVED TURF. Field testing of new products is one of the final steps prior to marketing.

We are currently field testing and evaluating two new varieties of creeping bentgrass for use on greens and/or tees. The first variety is "Evansville" creeping bentgrass. At the present time, we have 5,000 sq. ft. of this variety established and it is maintained at a 13/64ths of an inch height of cut. This vegetatively propagated variety has several advantages over existing bents used as putting green surfaces.

"Evansville" has a very fine leaf blade and has a greatly increased density as compared to existing varieties, establishing a dense tightly knit turf. In existing plots, "Evansville" appears to choke out *Poa annua* impurities which developed after initial stolonization. When managed properly on a low fertility program, thatch development is held under control while the grass maintains an above average color rating and an average growth rate. Our plots received only 2 lbs. of actual nitrogen during the past growing season. The only disease present in areas not treated by a fungicide was large brown patch but it did not appear to be a major problem.

Warren's Nursery has received fifty plugs of "Evansville" and over the winter they will increase these plugs on the west coast to produce enough stolons for a 5,000 sq. ft. area to be planted in the spring. A 1,000 sq. ft. test plot will be established on our #1 green in 1978 to evaluate this new variety under playing conditions. "Evansville" bent gives us all indications that it will make a fine putting surface, both fast and true.

The second field test involves PBCB which is a new variety of creeping bentgrass developed through the breeding program of Dr. Joe Duich at Pennsylvania State University. This variety originates from a four parent polycross giving it a broad base of factors resultant in several advantages over its predecessor, "Penncross" creeping bentgrass. In comparison with "Penncross", PBCB has a reduced vigor - resulting in lower levels of thatch development and overall a more manageable turf for the golf course superintendent. The leaf blades of PBCB are finer than those of "Penncross" with increased turf density and a tighter putting surface. A greater resistance to both dollar spot and large brown patch is evident in existing plots.

PBCB was initially developed in 1965 by Dr. Duich and after 12 years of testing, he says that the variety looks exceptionally good to date. Presently, Jim Holmes has 9 greens in play in Oklahoma.

At Bob O'Link Golf Club, we have established a 15,000 sq. ft. nursery of PBCB for evaluation at a 13/64ths of an inch height of cut. Seeding took place April 15, 1977 at the rate of one pound per 1,000 sq. ft. Following several applications of topdressing with a fine sand, the height of cut was gradually reduced to the present 13/64ths of an inch. Our plot received 4½ pounds of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. during the past season.

In order to evaluate this new variety properly, we plan to sod a 1,000 sq. ft. area on our #1 green for the

1978 season. A comparison then may be made between (1) the existing putting surface, (2) PBCB, & (3) "Evansville".

Dr. Duich has informed us that PBCB will be released in 6 to 8 months to the 12 Penncross growers and each one will develop 5 acres for seed production. It is anticipated that seed will be available after January 1979.

In conjunction with Rhodia Inc., we are currently testing a new fungicide - Chipco 26019. This product is a broad spectrum fungicide that is effective against summer turfgrass diseases and shows promise against winter diseases as well. Rhodia expects to obtain an experimental label from the Environmental Protection Agency in 1978.

During the past season, our #1 green received 16 total fungicide applications. Twelve of these treatments were made with "26019" at the rate of 2 oz. per 1,000 sq. ft. A check plot was established as well. Applications of "26019" were made at 7-12 day intervals dependent upon weather conditions. Using a preventative program, this product equalled the level of disease control offered by comparable products on the market today. Of particular interest in our observations though, was the extended residual effect of the fungicide. Disease control was extended an additional 3 to 5 days with "26019".

Additionally, a particular situation arose at our golf course this past summer during the first week of August which was a period of excessive heat and humidity. Two isolated areas on our #8 green became infected by an unknown pathogen which resembled and had characteristics of both *Pythium* and *Helminthosporium*. None of our regular fungicides had any effect on the disease. With the permission of Rhodia, we applied Chipco 26019 at the rate of 2 oz. per 1,000 sq. ft. and saw immediate improvement, with no further disease incidence of that type for the remainder of the season.

With few new fungicides being made available to the superintendent, to combat turfgrass disease, Chipco 26019 appears to be quite promising, while field testing still continues.

The DuPont Corp. tested a new development in fungicide packaging with us this year. The new water soluble container (tested with Tersan 1991) eased chemical handling. The individual 2 lb. soluble packets were dropped into our 300 gal. spray tank and dissolved within 30 seconds. There was no problem whatsoever with nozzle clogging and no residue was visible in the spray rig strainer. The chemical applicator avoids direct contact with the fungicide in mixture preparation, and eliminates disposal of packaging in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

The Upjohn Co. conducted a field test on a fairway fungicide spray program. Acti-dione TGF was used alone and in combination with ferrous sulphate. Preliminary results showed improved color on fairways treated with the ferrous sulphate combination, but under supreme stress conditions, a slight burn appeared on the leaf tips of the *Poa annua* plants. This appeared in areas where the fairways were mowed immediately following the application in atmospheric conditions of extreme heat and humidity. The slight discoloration of the turf was evident only on the fairways treated with the ferrous sulphate combination and only during these extreme stress periods. Disease control was identical on both groups of fairways. The ferrous sulphate was applied at the rate of 1½ lbs. per acre. Further evaluations will be made in 1978.