

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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I would be remiss in my duties if at some point this year I failed to devote at least a few lines to the most fortunate people on "God's Green Earth", the wives of the Chicago Area Superintendents.

Not unlike their male counterparts, they come in all shapes and sizes, age and hair color. And in most cases their beauty is exceeded only by their charm, wit and intelligence. How could it be otherwise?

She must also possess a trusting nature, as who else would possibly believe a man who gets a phone call in the middle of the night and immediately gets up and dresses, mumbling something about an "idiot night-man" as he is walking out the door. And why is it the night man always gets sick when it's her relatives' anniversary, wedding or Bar Mitzva? He's healthy enough when the "Honcho's" relatives have cause to celebrate.

Meal planning and cooking is an area in which the wives are presented an opportunity shine and show creativity--it really seems worthwhile until that damn phone rings again and he's off this time grumbling about a head that is leaking on the 8th green and all the golfers are complaining. Why does it invariably happen at meal time? I think Suzie Fredricksen covered it beautifully in an article titled, I believe, "Dinner's in the Oven" a few years back. It would probably be a good time to print it again, as it could be used as a guide for young wives whose husbands have just come into the profession.

However you look at it--you know that when the "dog days" set in and it gets really touchy, it is you who gives him that smile and encouragement when he needs it most. And it is you and the family that are the reason why he is willing to put in a little more time than the usually accepted 40-hour week. Another thing that you must know deep in your heart is that if you are not feeling up to par and he has a green or two that need attention, he will look after you, **immediately** after seeing that the greens are sprayed!

Seriously, all in all, you are special people and are needed, loved and appreciated more than you will ever know. That is why you are the luckiest people on "God's Green Earth".

"It takes only 17 muscles to smile ... 43 muscles to frown. Conserve energy."

Dear Bob:

You fellows don't miss a trick! My Honorary membership card and certificate in MAGCS is here and is prominently displayed. I am proud to be a part of your fine organization. Ever since 1931, when I began to work with some of your members, I've felt a close kinship with the Midwest. Your loyalty to high ideals has established a bench mark in the industry.

In 1945, when the USGA asked me to be The Green Section Director, the need for trained turfgrass scientists was evident. The "game plan" of helping to finance promising graduate students has paid off handsomely. Watson, Harper, Duich, Daniel are among those who gained their Ph.D. degree and have earned national prominence. Now they are aiding in the continuing effort to train others who will one day take their places. I am proud to be part of The Fellowship process which is the total thrust of The Musser Foundation. As we gain strength through support from long-range thinking people such as yourselves, we will hope to either establish or support a Fellowship in Illinois. Donations to the Musser Fellowship Fund will earn income forever for assistance to promising graduate students.

Your encouragement in the past has been greatly appreciated. Thank you again for your friendship and for your many courtesies.

Sincerely yours For Better Turf,
Fred V. Grau, president

Dear Bob,

I received my certificate and membership card for the Midwest and wish to thank you and your board very much. I appreciate the membership and look forward to working with MAGCS anytime I can be of help.

Sincerely,
Carol McCue

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THE POA SNYDROME

A short while ago I was reading article No. 2001 on Poa annua and whether to fight it or feed it. Somehow, I had the feeling I had read the same articles 1000 times before and 1000 other articles expressing the exact opposite opinion. It was at that time I decided I must have ingested enough expert theories by now, and that I should climb down off the fence and firmly put forth my own side to the story. So what follows is a summary of 12 years hard work, diligent observation, and 2001 "Poa" articles. However, these ideas are subject to change without notice, if I have a bad spring.

Firstly, I would like to say to those who are, as we are, with well established Poa on their greens and tees, live with it. It can be a fine putting surface if treated properly. If your major objections to Poa has been losing it is due to cool temperature diseases, there are new chemicals and some old ones which have proven to be very successful in solving this problem. Of course one major plus in Poa's favor is that in the event you do lose some of it, there is always a nice supply of preplanted seeds waiting below to fill the gap. Also, if your Poa is well established in these areas, to try to eradicate it and replace it with a more desirable turf would probably be extremely difficult, costly, inconvenient and have dubious results. As long as we pamper and intensively maintain these areas as is required for the game, I cannot envision much success in fighting the reality of Poa annua.

However, I do believe that it is possible to be victorious over Poa invading our fairways. What we have to do is deny it what it thrives on i.e. high fertility, close cutting and water. It is not totally unlike winning a football game. If you don't give the other team the ball, they can't score. So don't give Poa the ball.

At my club we have drastically improved our Poa situation on the fairways since installing a few strategic drainage lines and we are installing more. Proper water management would seem to be the most important key to Poa control. That is why I view automatic irrigation as an important asset and not just a labor saving device. Controlling soil moisture levels through drainage and irrigation is the major link in the chain. Without it, we lose.

Poa, of course, prefers high N levels and seeds more prolifically at high phosphorus levels. So frugal and judicious fertilizing will help stem the tide.

What for some of us, has become a serious problem recently, is the increased demands by members for more closely cut fairways. This is a result of more awareness by the general public of golf course conditions worldwide, due to television exposure, increased travel and more outspoken touring pros. I totally agree that a closely cut fairway is more desirable for the game. However, it is unwise to just begin cutting lower to abate golfer pressure without being sure your predominant grasses will tolerate this new condition. A few of the better local clubs with older varieties of bluegrass and fescues have done this in the past few years and have paid dearly with increased Poa invasion. As desirable as short fairways might be, it does not warrant that kind of result. If the club insists, be sure that your views are recorded, those who insisted could either have short memories or have left the Board. Protect your flanks!

Credit - The Greenmaster

EVENT: ILCA's Annual Summer Field Day
PLACE: Kankakee Nursery, Aroma Park, IL
DATE: August 8, 1979

The day will consist of demonstrations by the exhibitors, steak luncheon, sixth annual horseshoe tournament and an auction at the end of the day. Please list our event in your calendar of events or, if you have space, run a small editorial. For further information, call or contact Carole Rache-sky, 665 Forest, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137; phone 312-858-8574.

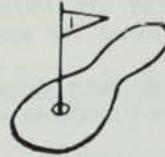
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LANDON'S TURF TIPS

LOCALIZED DRY SPOTS

Dry patches or spots on bentgrass greens are frequently observed throughout the Carolinas in summer and fall months. They occasionally become a major problem and the superintendent tries various methods including pitch forks, fungicides, and shovels to get the spots wet again.

J. F. Wilkinson and R. H. Miller at Ohio State completed some studies in 1977 which may be of assistance. Greens built in 1972 started developing localized dry spots in the summer of 1974. The greens were 85 to 90% sand.

The researchers core aerified one-half of each green and left the other half non-aerified. Within each area 3 wetting agents were used followed by turfgrass quality rating scores on 3 dates. The 3 wetting agents were Hydro-Wet, Aqua-Gro, and Grozyme. The combination of core aerification and either Hydro-Wet or Aqua-Gro were most beneficial in wetting the dry spots. Core aerification alone alleviated the dry spots by providing holes for water movement into the soil. Grozyme had no effect. Wilkinson and Miller found the hydrophobic (repels water) condition of the dry spots was limited to the upper 2cm of soil. Allowing the soil to become dry makes the hydrophobic condition worse. Infiltration rate within the dry spots was 20% of that for normal turf. Percent moisture in the dry spots averaged 3% 24 hours following irrigation. Moisture in the normal areas averaged 6.8%. This small difference can be critical in sandy soil.

Wilkinson and Miller carried the study further to determine the cause of the dry spots. Using a scanning electron microscope they found a coating surrounding individual sand particles from dry spots only. The coating had the appearance of an amorphous covering interspersed with fungal mycelium. The same did not occur on samples of sand from normally wet areas. In numerous cases several sand particles were found bound together by the coating. The coating was organic and acidic. Speculation is that the coating causing the dry spots was from fungal mycelium growth which took place before the dry spots appeared. The fungi were not active when the dry spots appeared.

In summary, use a combination of core aerification to penetrate the 2 cm. top layer of the dry spots which sheds water from the area and use a wetting agent to lower the surface tension of the 2 cm. layer so it can be more easily wetted.

We were talking with Fred Meda of Myrtle Beach National about this recently. He said "Penetrate" wetting agent had worked very well on his greens. And where he applied lime in solution on dry spots they did not return. The lime would be expected to work because of the acidic nature of the fungus mycelium. Wilkinson and Miller found no dry spots where there was a high level of calcium carbonate in the greens soil.

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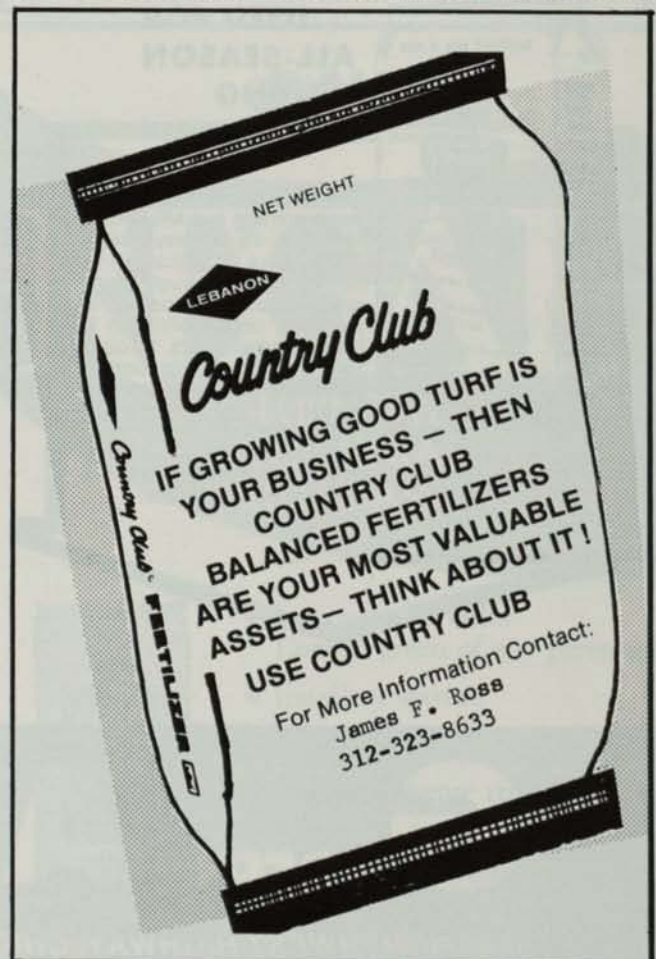
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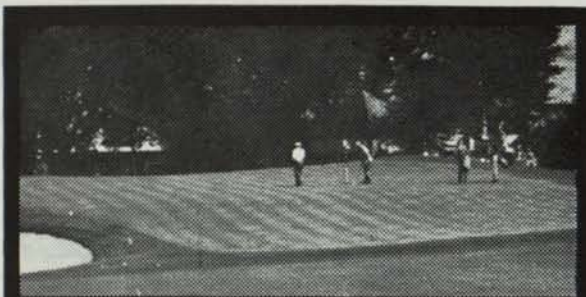
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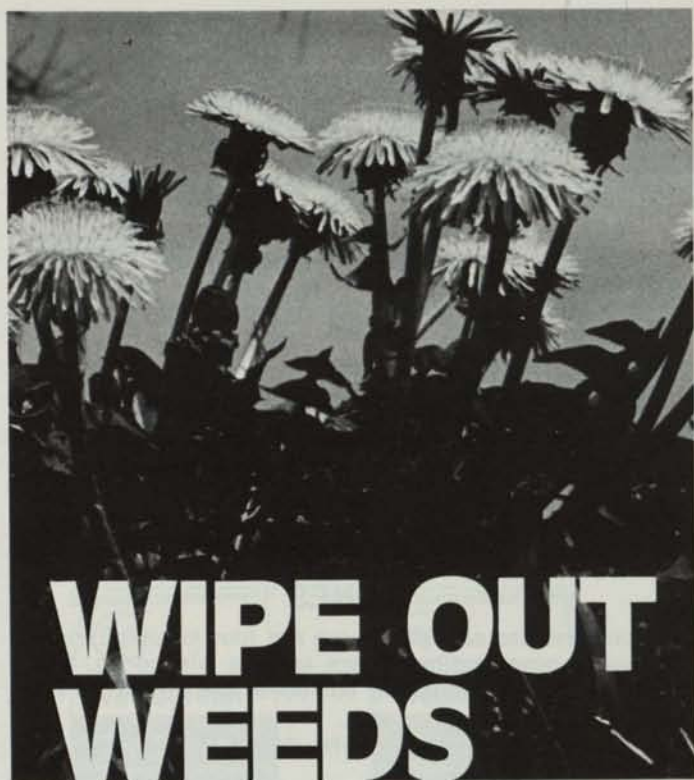
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POWER MOWER SAFETY - IMPORTANT LESSON

Now that school is out, cutting the lawn becomes a routine chore for many young people. Cutting lawns is also a way many youngsters earn some extra money during the summer, usually with a power mower. James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Extension Adviser, Horticulture in Cook County comments that the power mowers are certainly labor savers, and are safe if used with care. Misused, they can be really dangerous, he says.

Seeing a barefoot, bikini-clad youngster (and some oldsters too) with toes just inches from the whistling blades is frightening to say the least.

According to Fizzell some 50,000 people will receive hospital treatment for cuts, bruises, burns, amputations, and yes, even a fatality or two.

Since power mowers are so common we take them for granted, and often forget the inherent danger. So it is important to keep safety in mind.

Reel type power mowers are by design safer than rotary mowers because the blades turn more slowly and it is harder to get into them.

Safety features of rotary mowers vary with some being well guarded. Older models may have no guards at all. Be sure to leave all guards in place even though they may seem inconvenient.

Before young people are mowers, teach them some basic safety rules.

-Mowers should be kept in good condition; sharp, clean and with guards in place.

-When working on a mower, turn it off and remove the spark plug. Even with the wire off, the engine compression can give the blade a kick and possibly result in a cut finger.

-Before mowing, scout the area for rocks, wire, toys, etc. The blade traveling at up to 200 miles per hour can give a rock quite a ride.

-Wear substantial footwear. Sneakers are no protection at all.

-Keep people out of range of the mower discharge.

-Run the mower only fast enough to do the job. A sharp mower cuts with much less speed than a dull mower.

-Mow across hills, not up and down. If you slip going up a hill the mower could roll back down on you.

-Never pull a mower behind you.

-Turn the mower off when you leave it.

-Never fill the gas tank of a running or a hot mower.

-Where a youngster is to use a power mower he should be supervised by an adult particularly in starting the machine where a small person may have trouble holding the mower down while jerking the starter cord.

Says Fizzell, as with many of our modern conveniences, there is danger in their use. Let's use every means to keep this summer unspoiled by needless injury.

James A. Fizzell
U. of I., Urbana, IL

A SHORT COURSE IN HUMAN RELATIONS

The 6 most important words -
I ADMIT I MADE A MISTAKE

The 5 most important words -
YOU DID A GOOD JOB

The 4 most important words -
WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?

The 3 most important words -
IF YOU PLEASE

The 2 most important words -
THANK YOU

The least important word -

SHE'S MADE HER MARK ON GOLF

Thirty-seven years ago last month, Carol McCue began working at the Chicago District Golf Association. Fresh out of business school, she was hired to do office chores.

"It was a temporary job for the summer," Carol says. "Nobody ever told me I had a full-time job here. They just kept giving me more work to do."

"I've enjoyed my whole time at the CDGA. Every day has been fun. I can't believe it's been this long. When you work with nice people, you don't have the stress of profit-making businesses."

Carol, who now is the associate executive director of the CDGA, is "nice people" herself, a fact recognized by the National Golf Foundation. It has selected her for the 1979 Herb Graffis Award, which goes to "the individual who has made a memorable contribution to golf as recreation, good fellowship, and health."

The award previously has gone to Arnold Palmer and Chicago's Joe Jemsek, and this is the first time it has been named for Graffis, a writer and former Chicagoan.

"I'm particularly thankful to get the first Herb Graffis Award," says McCue. "He was one of the first people I met after I took the job at the CDGA. He and Charley Bartlett (late Tribune golf writer) were my sources when I needed information."

When Carol started with the CDGA, she knew little about golf.

"I learned how to play the game so I could understand its terminology," she says. "Such words as stymie and dormie were unfamiliar to me. Most tournaments then were match play, and they had to explain to me such scores as 4 and 3, 3 and 1."

McCue has made two holes-in-one and once lowered her handicap to 10 while a member at Evanston Golf Club. "But most of the time I was a 12," she says.

McCue has spent 37 years doing "about everything in the office—starting tourneys, writing releases and correspondence, and working with Chicago District Golf Charities and people who designed courses."

The charities organization was instrumental in helping build golf courses at three veterans hospitals - Downey, Hines, and Danville. "We still supply them with clubs and golf balls," says McCue. "I visit them once a year to check conditions."

With Carol doing much of the work, the CDGA began arranging charter trips for its members in 1968. Among the nations visited were India, Spain, Greece, France, Australia, Japan, Denmark, and Venezuela.

"We had 3,200 who made the trip to Spain on 21 charters from November through March," she said. "When the first group arrived, the bartenders were charging 35 cents a drink. They learned fast, though. By the time our last charter got there, the price of drinks was up to \$1.50."

"We also had a group of 1,300 for the trip to Greece. Gene Howard entered the Greek National Amateur and was runner-up."

The CDGA was the first golf association to arrange charters for its members, and a number of groups have followed suit. And starting in 1958, Carol has been arranging charter trips for the CDGA to the Masters every April.

One of her major accomplishments was helping develop the computerized handicap system in 1967. She worked on it with Chuck Eckstein and Frank Burns, and it became a model for the country, turning over to the computer the job of figuring out handicaps for 30,000 people.

A suggestion by McCue resulted in formation of the International Association of Golf Administrators. Ten years ago, when she was executive director of the CDGA, she proposed that heads of golf organizations get together to exchange ideas.

This developed into a group of 60 executive directors, including those of the USGA and PGA, plus members from Canada, Mexico, and Sweden.

McCue started group insurance plans for employes of member clubs in 1967. She also began a "hot line" service a number of years ago at the Illinois State Amateur so the media could call to the scorer's table for the latest results. This has become standard procedure at many tournaments.

She will be honored at the National Golf Foundation dinner in the O'Hare Marriott Hotel Nov. 13, with Joseph Dey, former executive director of the USGA, as emcee.

For ticket information, call the CDGA at 920-0130.

Roy Damer

BONES

"Someone has said that there are four kinds of bones in every organization. There are the wishbones, who spend their time wishing someone else would do the work.

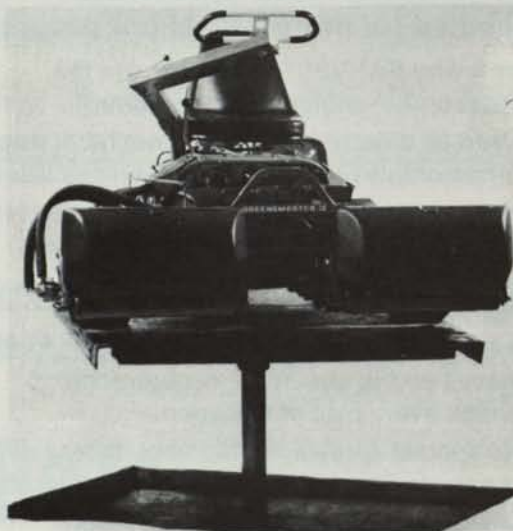
There are the jawbones, who do all the talking, but very little else.

Next, there are the knucklebones, who knock everything anyone ever tries to do.

And finally, there are the backbones, who get under the load and do the work."

copied from Knights of Columbus newsletter

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