



MIDWEST BREEZES

Many times we hear the statement made, "What does the G.C.S.A.A. do for its golf course Supt. members?" This editor is not one of the junior members. I have had many years of experience with G.C.S.A.A. Therefore I know they have helped the Supt. many times when it did not meet the eye of the Supt. members.

On behalf of the Midwest Golf Course Supt. Assoc., I want to thank the G.C.S.A.A. for showing their concern in regards to the problem that was encountered on a certain strain of bent grass on greens in the Chicago area this past season of 1980. Our many thanks goes to G.C.S.A.A. Pres. **Mel Lucas** for making it possible in a financial way for **Dr. Couch** and **Dr. Larsen** to participate in our M.A.G.C.S. turf clinic at Medinah C.C. Their part of the program was very educational to everyone present and I am sure eased the minds of many who encountered this serious problem.

This is only one of the many ways the G.C.S.A.A. gets involved in pertaining to our profession. Now ask yourself, "What can I do to help our national association?" My answer is, if you are not a member, become one. If you are a member, get in touch with a golf course Supt. who is not a member. Get involved, offer your service. You will find that sooner or later it will pay dividends.

The M.A.G.C.S. 28th Annual Turf Clinic held at Medinah C.C. on Nov. 18 and 19, 1980 was a success in every way. The educational part of the program was among the better ones. The speakers did a splendid job in delivering their part of the educational program. Approximately 200 attended the one day and a half program. The food was excellent and the service was super. We thank all the employees and above all our host, **Don Pakkala**, Supt. and Manager **Robert Nelson**. Also Medinah C.C. who have permitted the Midwest Association to hold their clinic at this beautiful club. The location is perfect and the facilities are the best. All in all, we are a lucky association.

The busy golf season in the Chicago area has come to a close. A good season for some course Supts. and not so good for others. I guess that is part of the game. Now that this is behind us, it is time to get ready for next year. I hope your snow mold treatments have been applied; all new construction work has been completed; the planting of new trees finds them all in the hole, wrapped and staked if necessary. Also, are your reservations all in order for the G.C.S.A.A. 52nd International Turfgrass Conference and Show in Anaheim, CA on Jan. 25-30, 1981. Save a little time for our M.A.G.C.S. Jan. 5th meeting at Arrowhead G.C. **Bob Breen**, Supt. will be our host.

We were all glad to see **Mrs. Walter Fuchs, Sr.** at her son **Walter's** Christmas party on Dec. 5. She sure looks good after a 29 day stay in the hospital. It proves one can not keep a good lady down and where there is a will, there is a way.

The Dec. issue of the **Bull Sheet** listed the M.A.G.C.S. dinner dance door prizes and donors names. Due to not all the necessary information, the donors of the centerpiece on each table was donated by Warren's Turfgrass and Thornton's Turfgrass Nurseries.

Dear Ray,

A new year opens the door to optimism and great expectations.

"NINETEEN EIGHTY ONE"

N*ow we have a chance to say,
I'll be an asset every day.
N*owhere else on this good Earth,
E*ach may compliment their birth,
T*hrough deeds they do, big or small,
E*normous dividends will fall.
E*veryone may reap their share,
N*ow they've given and show they care.
E*ach year brings a new perspective,
I'n this one, a new elective.
G*reat things may we find in store,
H*istoric changes, by the score,
T*o lead us in the paths of right,
Y*ielding not to Worldly blight.

O*ur treasured values that went astray,
N*ow will come back home to stay.
E*njoy the pleasures that will come,

from Nineteen Eighty One.

Happy New Year, Superintendently,

Kenneth R. Zanzig
Green Garden C.C.

The deepest sympathy of the M.A.G.C.S. is extended to the Voykin family, due to the death of Rodney who passed away on Dec. 5th. Rodney was the golf course supt. for the past several years at Green Acres C.C. He will certainly be missed by his many, many friends.



Adolph Bertucci has done it again. With the help of **Nancy Norman** and **Nancy Johnson**, his Christmas party at Lake Shore C.C. gets bigger and better each year. Approximately 300 attended and enjoyed the assortment of food and liquid refreshments. This editor hopes he will continue to be one of **Adolph's** many friends.

Pete Leuzinger
talk given at MAGCS clinic at Medinah C.C.

MOWING, AN IMPORTANT CULTURAL PRACTICE ON THE GOLF COURSE

One basic premise that I have to remember in greenkeeping is that golf turf is truly a specialized turf, grown artificially for golf. It in no way resembles the turf in a lawn or any other plot of turf. It is different because it goes through the day to day stresses of cutting, play, disease, insects, wilt, and excesses of water. Between the evils of Mother Nature, the wear and tear of everyday golf, and the ensuing day to day maintenance, even the temporary cures that we apply to solve problems cause stress by themselves. We, as growers really have to be on our toes to keep the golf course near-perfect each day, each week, and each season. We have to mold cultural programs that will work for us each day and be compatible with each season. Growing healthy turf first, and taking care of it after establishment, is the key to good cultural practices. They include mowing, watering, fertilization, disease control, and insect control. Auxiliary cultural practices include aerification, vertical mowing, top dressing, rolling, drainage. Done properly, cultural practices will indeed minimize most extremes experienced in turfgrass maintenance. Each required decision making and proper timing since they may vary from day to day and season to season.

Mowing is a number one area in our work since most of our time and financing goes toward this area of turf maintenance. We are experts in this because we know of the importance of mechanical upkeep, timing, height of cut and frequency. Proper mowing minimizes

secondary problems associated with the upkeep of the course. It is not just the method of removing top growth. Cattle do that, too. It is the method of mechanically maintaining the turf surface. Turf is a special plant because over the years it has devised its own adaptation in growth for having its foliage removed. It has low growing points and it stores reserved food in its stolons, rhizomes, and roots, thus enabling the turfgrass to give itself new growth after defoliation. The following list tells us what happens to the turf when we cut it:

1. reduction of the leaf surface
 2. temporary cessation of root growth
 3. top growth is stimulated
 4. the ratio of top to bottom is reduced thus lowering carbohydrate production and storage
 5. competition between small and large plants is reduced
 6. shading of lower leaves is reduced
 7. a port of entry for disease-causing organisms is introduced
 8. as older leaves are removed, remaining leaves are younger and less mature
 9. water loss from cut ends is temporarily increased
 10. species tolerant to mowing are favored over those not so tolerant
 11. soil surface temperatures are more extreme
- Therefore, given this group of happenings, and given a certain day with weather conditions, we have many management choices when it comes to mowing.
1. The height of cut may vary at the beginning of the season, during the season, during periods of extremes and again at the end of the season.
 2. Frequency of mowing depends on the time of the year and daily weather conditions which dictate

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whether we should mow at all, every day, or every other day.

3. When to mow can be altered by heat stress, morning dew, and so on.
4. Type of equipment can be an alternative from day to day and again from season to season.
5. Collecting clippings can be an advantage in some instances or it may work to a disadvantage in the long term.

If the affects of mowing really do reduce carbohydrate reserve and production, I am sure most of us would admit that we do not think of cutting turf in these terms, as part of our daily routine. This is why I believe in one of my "Leuzingerisms", a basic philosophy. "Greenkeeping is not a science, it is an art." Day to day decisions we make are not based on scientific data that we collect, but they are based on visual inspection and feel of the course each day. The first thing we do when we go to work is decide what needs to be done. Are the greens going to get cut, should we let carts go today, is there an outing to schedule around, was that watering on the greens or fairways enough, and will they require additional water tonight? This is what greenkeeping is all about. If greenkeeping is not just a science and is an art in growing, there have to be certain pre-requisites to become a qualified golf course superintendent. A greater appreciation of the game of golf is a must, both in the art of greenkeeping and in meeting the needs of the golfer. Technical ability in the upkeep of machinery, drainage, and personnel relations are but a few examples in the art of greenkeeping. Experience in this business is the door that opens for the patient learner. Success is measured by more than one or two good seasons in a row for the person who stays in this business.

When it comes to day to day maintenance practices, I believe in another "Leuzingerism" or basic philosophy. That is, "there is probably more than one way to do the greenkeeping right, and one way to do it wrong". The way you choose may be different, but

just as successful. Let's take a hypothetical problem: If we are in good growing weather and we have had a nice rain during the night, we will probably check the golf course for conditions before we do anything else. Depending on the amount of moisture in the ground we might be faced with several options.

1. Do we cut now or give the greens a day of rest?
2. Will they dry out enough by 11 o'clock so that we can cut ahead of the afternoon play? This may be an inconvenience, but one that will pay off if conditions are right at 11.
3. If things are not right at 11, it may be necessary to bring some of the helpers back in the evening and cut them ahead of the next rain storm. This is really an inconvenience, but very important if conditions dictate.

Nother Nature can be our biggest bug-a-boo. This is why cutting in extreme conditions has to be a number one management decision each day of the season. Inconvenience is not a good enough excuse for making the wrong decision for cutting. The feeling of accomplishment derived from making the right difficult decision far outweighs the convenience of the matter-of-fact, lackadaisical method of just sending the crew out to cut greens and fairways on an extremely wet or hot day, just to keep them busy and out of our hair. The problems of self-inflicted, injured turf from cutting at the wrong time usually causes more problems and more days for worry and concern.

The Chicagoland area is experiencing problems with C-15 turf on the greens. No matter what the problem, whether disease or genetic, we as golf course superintendents better baby those turf areas with the problem. No matter what fertilizer regime and fungicide program we have, if we predispose that turf to cutting stress, we have opened the door for additional problems that can and often are irreversible. Only the strong survive, and that is our job, to keep it strong, and at the same time, offer the best possible golf conditions.

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The Editor Wishes All of You Health, Happiness and
Good Luck During 1981

Some of the speakers at the M.A.G.C.S. clinic.



Len Berg, Pres. - CGCS.



Ed Wollenberg



Don Pakkala, CGCS.



John Berarducci



Peter Leuzinger



Dr. H. Couch



Dr. Bill Daniel



Roger Stewart



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Because of the benefits derived from attending Turf Conferences, my club officials insist that I go to Anaheim, CA. I sincerely hope that other clubs are doing the same for their grounds superintendent.



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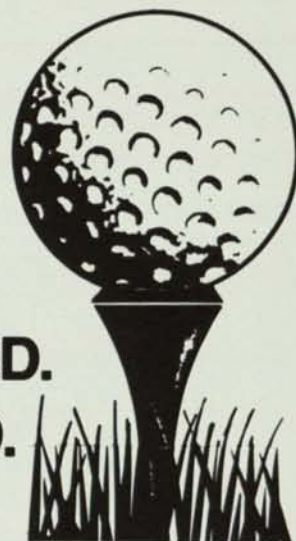
RAY MURPHY

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At the 1980 Toro Service Management Seminar, held October 27, 1980, Chicago Toro's Service Department was recognized for their service excellence.

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