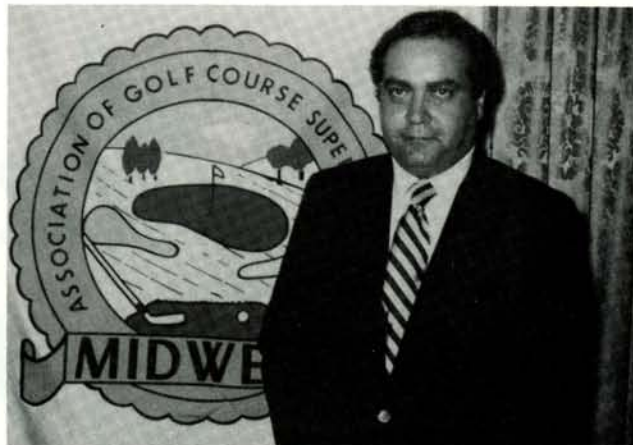


**THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.**

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**John Berarducci, Pres.**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I think now is an appropriate time of the year to review a Superintendents relationship with the GCSAA and our chapters relationship. I would like to offer my opinion of the above and touch on what direction the GCSAA should be following for our behalf. It is my opinion that there are three main categories to cover; education, security and public relations.

I will not elaborate much on education. The GCSAA has been doing a commendable job in this area of responsibility. Their programs are good and the long range outlook is bright. When I mention "security" I'm including membership services, such as job referrals, retirement programs, certification and the overall economic stability of the national association itself, so as it can implement it's long range plans. After many years of stagnation I'm seeing a positive move in the right direction. However, there is still a long way to go in this regard. Many Superintendents are skeptical about certification and they deserve to be. Why should a successful Superintendent be examined by his peers. We are entering a new era with the EPA's involvement, we must now be tested and licensed for pesticide use in all areas of grounds management. I think these exams are enough to prove your qualification and knowledge of chemicals and their use. In all other categories of grooming a good golf course it's the end result that counts, who's to say how you achieve that end. The area that I see a lackluster approach is that of public relations! It all starts in Lawrence Kansas. The Managers are headquartered in Washington, D.C. which couldn't be more ideal for them. They are situated in an area that puts them on top of government decisions related to country clubs and golf in general. They are close enough to have some immediate input that benefits everyone involved in the golf industry. The National Golf Foundation and the PGA operate out of Florida, which is fast becoming the mecca of golf. How can the GCSAA possibly do an admirable job of public relations in an area so far out of reach with the other associations in the golf industry. There are times when business must be conducted on a one to one basis and not from a telephone. With the tremendous increased costs of travel, how can we as Superintendents, many of which will never see Lawrence, Kansas have a feeling of closeness with our national headquarters. How can provincial Lawrence be in the main stream of the golf industry and promote our image when it is not in a golfing capital or close to other associations that have an indirect bearing on our future. How can we be on top of governmental policies from so

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far away. For years the Superintendent has been recognized with the barn. It took years to get out of that barn and be recognized. By working out of Lawrence reminds me of those days back in the barn. Now the GCSAA wants a by-law change where they can automatically increase our dues 15% a year without taking it before the membership. They need this change to accomodate the tremendous increases for costs of traveling to get the job done. It's obvious to me that it's time for a review and a move!

John Berarducci

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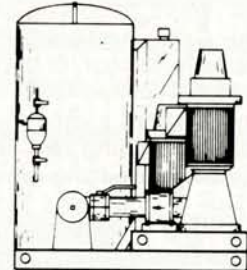
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Dear Editor:

Enclosed is an advertisement about the USGA's Green Section Turf Advisory Service.

As you know, the USGA is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization made up of nearly 700 volunteers from throughout the United States. USGA officers and committee members pay their own expenses to meetings and Championships in their desire to preserve and promote the game.

One of our primary services to the game of golf is our Green Section Turf Advisory Service. Although there is a nominal fee for the visits, the income does not come close to covering the cost of the services provided.

To help the USGA increase the number of courses that participate in the Turf Advisory Service program, it would be greatly appreciated if you would include the enclosed ad in your publication when you have space available.

We recognize that you may not have space available in every issue on a gratis basis; but if you ever do, we would appreciate your assistance in helping us promote this service to the game and individual golfers.

Harry W. Easterly, Jr., Senior Executive Director

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## THE DEMISE OF TORONTO C-15 CREEPING BENTGRASS

In 1959, my first year at Silver Lake Golf Club, we watched the snow melt in April and expose thirty dead greens. This was the most opportune time to start a rebuilding program. Raymond Didier, retired superintendent at Tam-O-Shanter C.C., was contracted to design and build three greens each season, after Labor Day week-end. Between October 1959 and October 1971 we rebuilt 28 putting greens. All were sodded with Toronto C-15 Bentgrass. These greens performed satisfactorily, except for occasional vandalism, until the Spring of 1981.

In August 1971, I established a one acre bentgrass nursery for patching and emergencies. Warren's Turf Nursery stolonized the area using a hydromulch tank truck. Our C-15 nursery looked fine for the first three years. When the putting greens at Butler National started to sour with a strange disease about 1974, Ben Warren financed a study by the people at the University of Illinois. Their testing site was the nursery at Silver Lake. Dr. Bill Meyer found that feeding the diseased turf with soluble nitrogen aided recovery. Dr. Malcolm Shurleff after many tedious hours concluded that of all the fungicides tested none were doing the job. If he had to select just one it might be Acti-Dione.

This season the "blue ribbon" committee composed of Prof. H. Couch, P. Larsen, and D. Wehner conducted more tests on this same nursery site. By midsummer the testing of 21 fungicides was scrapped as ineffective. All efforts were devoted to the anti-biotics. Meanwhile our tired old nursery had been ravaged with the disease and was nothing more than a weed infested Poa Annua patch. I suggest that the anti-biotic trails be done on some of the C-15 greens of our South Course. Of the drugs applied each week by David Wehner, Mycoshield, a Pfizer product with 17% oxytetracycline warranted further testing.

March 1981 gave us warm dry weather and all the golf courses were rolling and mowing greens for the first time. Everything at Silver Lake came through the winter in super shape. The last days of March we had some Spring thundershowers. When I mowed the South Course greens for the second time, they were not lush and green but ... orange! Ed Fischer responded to my phone call, and confirmed that we did indeed have the dreaded "red leaf spot". The infected greens No. 1, 4, 6, and 16 on the South Course were all built in Fall of 1968 and sodded with Warren's C-15 from the farm in Sullivan, Wisconsin. Fisher's parting remarks were, "Smith, if you don't want an ulcer and sudden gray hair then plow the ----- up".

Ben Warren was gracious to come over for several hours and survey the situation. Ben said this definitely doomed Toronto C-15 bentgrass commercially, and left only the seeded bents for the future. A rushed "summit meeting" was called at Silver Lake and these were our decisions: 1. Try to control the spread of the disease, mow less frequently, raise the nitrogen level, isolate the machines mowing the infected greens, and stay on top of the situation and correspond with the University people.

2. Since we had never had any success overseeding existing bentgrass greens; and since to close the course late in the season, fumigate, and seed was risky; we were committed to sod the diseased greens in September after the tournaments concluded. In May I drove to the H & E Sod Farm in Mommence, Illinois to

check their bentgrass supply. They had several acres of beautiful Penneagle, but it was all reserved for Joe Dinelli at North Shore. I claimed the remaining acreage of Penncross for Silver Lake, and returned swiftly with a deposit check. Unfortunately for all the other Chicago golf courses, this depleted the bentgrass sod supply for 1981.

Our efforts to control the disease were futile. We rated all 28 of our Toronto greens weekly on a scale of 1 to 10. 1 or 2 meant totally ravaged; 10 meant near perfect only a few ballmarks. On June 17th on the South Course we had six greens with scores **under 5**, twenty rated perfect 10. On July 4th eight greens scored **under 6** seven greens held at perfect 10, but ... the disease had invaded two of our North Course greens. On August 12th only seven of the total twenty eight rated a 5. Hey! They were "coming back" or was it just an illusion? Poa Annual filled in the diseased areas rapidly. The putting surfaces were bumpy and untrue. On June 13th we had 2.5 inches of rain, our evaluation scores read the poorest on June 17th. On July 28th and August 3rd, we had rains of 1.3 inches that gave us poor scores on August 3rd. Saturated soils and pore space accent the disease.

Getting back to the use of the drug oxytetracycline. We followed all the recommendations at the time. We applied the material at dusk, we used 8 lbs. per green, we applied 300 gallons of water per green to wash it in, and we did not mow the treated turf the next day. But this took us one hour per green, and limited us to treating five greens a night. It would take us all week for a single application. (Besides, there is no one to talk with at 2:00 A.M. except mosquitos). We used the 300 gallon drench method to all 28 greens the week of June 8th. In 1981 we consumed over twenty five drums of Mycoshield. For you cost conscious superintendents that's \$3,500 without the overtime labor and we still had our Pythium, Helmithosporium, and the Dollar Spot treatments to make as well.

My concluding thoughts for my peers to digest:

1. Don't get excited about Tetracycline as **THE CURE** yet. We don't know how much to put on for sure, and whether to apply it monthly or at each outbreak. Must we drench the material in? What are these anti-biotics doing to the beneficial bacteria working in the soil?
2. By all means, establish yourself a bent nursery for future emergencies, disease or vandalism. The sod growers, like the new owners of Warrens, may not produce creeping bent because of the costs involved.
3. Start your public relations **now** with the green committee or executive board. Those three or four Toronto C-15 greens that you have may succumb in 1982.
4. **Pray, that the two research teams (H. Couch, P. Larsen, and D. Wehner), and (J. Vargas and D. Roberts) cease their idiotic rivalry to see who is No. 1. Pass the peacpipe. Share their trade secrets and scientific breakthroughs. Save the remaining beautiful Toronto C-15 putting greens in Chicago. Save us our jobs!**

Dudley Smith

---

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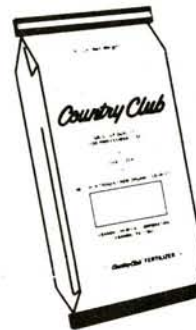
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## Coping With the Water Shortage

### The Irrigation System

A well-designed, correctly-installed and properly-utilized automatic irrigation system provides the best means of conserving water. Water savings of 40 to 75 per cent have been documented on golf courses which converted from a manual to an automatic system. However, regardless of the type of irrigation system available, it should be operating at peak efficiency. Steps should be taken to increase its efficiency if the situation permits.

- Repair all leaks.
- Check nozzle size as it relates to available pressure and resulting coverage.
- Check for nozzle wear.
- Where necessary, relocate heads to improve water distribution.
- Use half-circle sprinklers where applicable.
- Check pump performance and other pumphouse systems.

### Irrigation Practices

Proper use of the irrigation system is one of the most important factors in conserving water. Preparing turf for hot summer weather requires that little, if any, irrigation water be applied during the spring. Encourage the turf to establish a deep, fibrous root system in the spring by allowing the soil to become dry between rains and/or irrigation sessions.

- Before irrigation, use a soil probe to determine existing soil moisture and rooting depth.
- Apply water as uniformly as possible, depending on soil conditions and plant needs.
- Apply water only as fast as the soil can accept it. To avoid puddling and runoff, use short, repeat cycles or else cultivate the soil (core, slice, spike) to improve water infiltration.
- Irrigate when there is little wind and when the temperature is relatively low, usually at night.
- Hand-water critical areas if it can prevent over-watering adjacent areas.
- Constantly monitor the system to ensure that all heads are operating as they should be.

### Cultural Programs

- Aeration — aerate (core) turf areas during the spring in order to relieve soil compaction, promote root growth and improve water infiltration (note: concerns about *Poa annua* encroachment after spring aeration are of secondary importance when drought stress may place the survival of the turf in jeopardy).
- Cultivation — spike and/or slice turf areas when weather permits throughout the season so that good water infiltration is maintained.
- Fertilization — use relatively low rates of nitrogen fertilizer. A lush, fast-growing turf uses more water and is more susceptible to injury from other stresses. Coordinate application with predicted rains or apply during light rains.
- Diseases and Insects — avoid turf damage from diseases and insects by utilizing a proper pest-control program.
- Weeds — apply herbicides in the spring for weed control only if large numbers of weeds are present (broadleaf) or can be anticipated (crabgrass). If spraying must be done, spot-treat the worst areas rather than making a blanket application.
- Cutting height — if possible, raise the cutting height and reduce the mowing frequency on tees, fairways and roughs. It is unlikely that much benefit will be derived from raising the height on greens already cut at 3/16" - 1/4".
- Thatch control — if excessive thatch is a problem, then thatch control measures (aeration, spiking, slic-

ing, verticutting) and wetting agents should be utilized on a regular basis.

• Overseeding — on turf areas composed primarily of *Poa annua*, plans should include overseeding during late summer or early fall with a more drought-tolerant grass species. Turf areas which cannot be irrigated during the summer will likely require renovation during the fall.

### Reduce Other Stress Factors

Avoid placing turf under any unnecessary forms of stress. A healthy, vigorous turf is much more likely to survive the drought if other stress factors can be reduced or eliminated.

• Cart and foot traffic — distribute traffic across the turf as uniformly as possible. Eliminate traffic on important play areas when possible by keeping carts on paths, by banning cart use on certain days or weeks during the season, and by careful traffic monitoring.

• Drainage — good drainage, even during a water shortage, is a pre-requisite to good turf. Turf in poorly drained areas is usually shallow-rooted and weak. Work on drainage installation anytime weather permits.

• Weeds, Insects, Diseases — as noted above, eliminate competition and injury from weeds, insects and diseases by following proper pest-control programs.

• Trees — trees can weaken turf by preventing good air circulation and creating excessive shade, and tree roots can compete with turf for available moisture and nutrients. When possible, improve sunlight penetration and air circulation by thinning trees or their branches. Root-prune trees near tees and greens to reduce moisture stress in these areas.

• Wind barriers — though not practical in most instances, the establishment of wind barriers near exposed sites can help to reduce evapotranspiration water losses.

### Establish Priorities

When water use is restricted, based on either a percentage of previous use or on an absolute quantity per facility, it usually becomes necessary to set priorities for which areas of the course will receive the specified allotment. When this occurs, the following priorities are usually established.

1. Greens and collars
2. Tees
3. Approach areas
4. Landing zones
5. Other fairway areas
6. Roughs

### Investigate New Sources of Water

When water rationing is imposed, the hardest hit is often those golf courses which utilize municipal or public water supplies. Therefore, it usually pays a golf course to establish alternative sources of water for future use. Among the options are:

• Creating new ponds or enlarging existing ponds and reservoirs to hold large quantities of water which can be diverted from streams, wells, catch basins or other bodies of water.

• Digging wells to supply water directly to the irrigation system or to existing ponds or reservoirs.

• Dredging existing ponds, canals and reservoirs in order to increase their capacity.

• Investigate using sewage effluent for irrigation purposes.

• Collecting and funneling runoff water, water from air conditioners, shower water and pool water into existing ponds.

James T. Snow, Senior Agronomist  
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## Charles G. Wilson named Recipient of 1982 USGA Green Section Award

Far Hills, N.J. -- Charles G. Wilson, of Milwaukee, WI, the man who pioneered the Green Section Regional Turf Service in 1952, has been named the recipient of the 1982 Green Section Award, presented by the USGA in recognition of his distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass.

Wilson will receive the Green Section Award during the 26th annual USGA Green Section Educational Conference at the New Orleans Hilton, in New Orleans, La., Wednesday, February 3, 1982. Stephen J. Horrell, of El Cajon, CA, Chairman of the Green Section Award Committee, will make the presentation.

The theme of the Conference will be "The Good Earth Needs Good Golfing Turf". For the second consecutive year, the Conference will be held as part of the GCSAA International Turfgrass Conference and Show, at the invitation of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

The USGA established the Green Section Award in 1961 to honor those persons requiring special recognition for distinguished service to golf in any phase of work with turfgrass, i.e., research, education, extension, superintendence, maintenance, management, etc.

Furthermore, the USGA believes that there are many individuals who have made immeasurable contributions respecting the arena upon which the game of golf is played. Their contributions and services may be evidenced by their achievements over a number of years or by a single act.

In presenting the Green Section Award, the USGA wishes to identify, celebrate, and hold up for emulation individuals, such as Charles G. Wilson, who exemplify outstanding dedication to golf through their work with turfgrass.

Wilson also serves as a consultant on Wisconsin turfgrass problems and is involved in setting up the very successful Wisconsin Turfgrass Conference, which he founded 16 years ago in cooperation with the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association.

The literature of turfgrass management is richer for many contributions Wilson has made throughout his career. He has authored a chapter in the Turfgrass Science Monography, published by the American Society of Agronomy. Furthermore, he has co-authored several bulletins on turfgrass management and maintenance practices. Wilson also has written and presented numerous papers dealing with all phases of turf culture at local, regional, and national golf course superintendents meetings throughout the United States and Canada.

Wilson is a member of the Alpha Zeta and the Sigma Xi Honorary Agricultural Fraternities, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and an honorary member of several regional superintendents and turfgrass associations.

Wilson's career has been one of a lifetime devotion and dedication to the turfgrass industry, marked by a special concern for improving turfgrass growth and playing conditions for this country's golfers.

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The sympathy of the M.A.G.C.S. is extended to the Roy Nelson family due to the death of Roy. Roy was the 27th G.C.S.A.A. President. He also was the golf course supt. at Ravisloe C.C. for many years prior to his retirement. His late years he was living in Florida.





## MIDWEST BREEZES

The M.A.G.C.S. January 4th meeting held at Hackney Inn, Wheeling, Ill., was attended by sixty-three members and all enjoyed a wonderful luncheon.

**Mike Bavier**, G.C.S.A.A. president, and director **Paul Boizelle** answered many questions pertaining to the operation of the G.C.S.A.A. They did an excellent job and we are grateful to them.

On January 3, 1982 the editor of the **Bull Sheet** received a letter from the G.C.S.A.A. office stating that the **Bull Sheet** was a winner in the newsletter contest. The award will be honored at the opening session of the G.C.S.A.A. conference in New Orleans on February 1. In 1978 the **Bull Sheet** received the same award. This editor wants to thank the Ever-Redi printer in La Grange, Ill. for the great job they have done to make the **Bull Sheet** the greatest in the newsletter contest. Ever-Redi has been the only printer the **Bull Sheet** has ever had in its' history of thirty-five years. I also want to thank the advertisers. If it were not for them the existing quality of printing and reproduction in the **Bull Sheet** would not be possible. The editor thanks everyone that has contributed articles that were taken into consideration by the judges who had the final word.

The M.A.G.C.S. March meeting will be held at Nordic Hills C.C. on Monday, March 8. More information later.

Mr. Bruce Williams, superintendent of Bob O'Link Golf Club, was one of forty speakers at the Ohio Turfgrass Conference. The 3 day conference is the largest regional conference & show in the country. There were over 1800 people in attendance from 15 states. In addition to the educational sessions, the show had 120 exhibitors in 200 booth spaces. Mr. Williams' topics were: Penneagle; A Superintendent's Experience, and Poa Annua Fairway Management; An Art and A Science

Dear Ray,

Just a note to let you know how happy we are with the birth of our first child and my parents' first grandchild. On December 23, Blake Kenton Williams was born weighing in at 7 lbs. 14 oz.

**Bruce R. Williams, Supt. Bob O'Link G.C.**

The sympathy of the Midwest Assoc. members is extended to the Overpeck family due to the death of **Lee Overpeck**. Lee passed away on December 23rd at the age of 30 years. He was a graduate of Purdue University. His degree was in Agronomy and Turf. He moved to the Chicago area as technical representative for O. M. Scotts Proturf Division. Lee's wife **Gloria** will continue to live in Bolingbrook. Lee will be missed by his many friends.

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**QUALIFICATIONS:** Minimum of 5 years experience in Turf Management, Qualified Assistants would be given due consideration, Degree or equivalent experience in Turf Management

**SALARY:** Open

**SUBMIT FULL RESUME TO:** Mr. Joseph Heidecker,  
Chairman of Grounds Committee

## FOR SALE

1 - 1948 Toro General Tractor, Serial #29282, 4 cylinder Ford Industrial Engine. Good condition. \$800.00.

1 - Jari Power Scythe (36" sickle bar). Excellent condition, few hours of use. Best offer.

100 - Wooden Sand trap rakes, 26" heads with 14 teeth, two support wires, 6' handle, have been painted red. 50 cents each.

Call Fred Opperman, Glen Oak C.C. (312)469-6220.

Wedding bells were ringing in Green Valley, Arizona where Ruth became the wife of Mr. Howard Boysen. Many of the golf course supts. in the Chicago area will remember Ruth as the lady that was always prompt in making deliveries at the time the Burdetts were in the golf course supply business. We all wish Ruth and Howard the best and that the wind will always be in their backs.

M.A.G.C.S.

\*\*\*\*\*

The husband was very unhappy. "Why do you keep talking about the mistake I made? I thought you said you had forgiven and forgotten."

"I have forgiven and forgotten," she snapped. "But I just don't want you to forget that I have forgiven and forgotten!"

\*\*\*\*\*



## SOME THOUGHTS ON HOLLOW CORE AERIFYING OF GREENS

My first suggestion to anyone considering aerifying greens is to ask yourself, why am I aerifying?

So many times I have seen greens aerified during the heart of the golfing season. The greens were aerified, the cores removed, and the holes left open. When the golfers putted the ball it surely did act peculiarly. It hopped along like a bunny rabbit and at times veered to the right or left. It really is an amusing sight to watch the ball hopping and zig-zagging. Golfers do have a good sense of humor but they draw the line when anything contributes to higher scores.

Therefore may I be so bold as to say that it is not necessary to aerify a green, remove the cores and leave the holes open for any length of time. If coring is done for the purpose of removing thatch then topdress immediately with a mixture of materials that you want to incorporate into the green. If coring is done to correct an existing condition of isolated dry areas then topdress with a mixture of materials that will allow water to percolate through the surface more readily. If coring is done to improve surface water drainage then topdress with a material that will absorb moisture.

Whatever the reason for aerifying, after the cores have been removed topdress as soon as possible with materials that will help correct any particular problem that may exist on the putting surface. By immediately filling the cored holes you will restore a smooth putting surface and the turf will knit over the holes quickly preventing infiltration of poa annua into the bent grasses. You will also have the undying gratitude of the golfing membership.

Al Bertucci

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