

MIDWEST BREEZES

JULIUS ALBAUGH is the winner of the "Charles Bartlett Award" for his article on "Stimp-meters" that appeared in the USGA "Green Section Record" and his speech at the GCSAA Conference on the same subject. Julius is the Superintendent at Westmoreland C.C. and is presently serving as a Director on the MAGCS Board. Congratulations to you, Julius!!!! Other winners of the "Charles Bartlett Award" are: Paul Voykin in 1967, Oscar Miles in 1968, Norman Kramer in 1970, Ray Gerber in 1971, Robert Williams in 1975.

Editor's Comment: I must apologize to all of the speakers of the NCTE and to our membership for not having any pictures of this event. For various reasons all of the pictures I took, none of them turned out. How about someone else in the future take our pictures and I'll stick to being an editor and a duck hunter.

LOOKING FOR AN ASSISTANT?

Here are a couple to choose from.

Sam McKenzie is looking for a job. Sam is a graduate from Michigan State's two year turf program. His phone number is (309) 776-4378.

Andy Davksas presently working at Idle Wild C.C. on the grounds crew is interested in an assistant's job. He has 8 years experience on golf courses, is single, 24 years old and holds a degree from Iowa State on Turf Management. Call him at 798-4927.

Another is Dale Morrison, phone 1(815) 722-7285. Unfortunately due to my being out of the office and not being able to talk to Dale, I have no other information on him.

Robert Avenius is the new Research Assistant of Pathology for Dr. Hank Wilkinson at the U. of I. Robert has his Masters of Turfgrass Pathology from the University of Wisconsin. His turf experience comes from working on a golf course and as assistant manager of a sod farm.

JOB OPENING

Oneida Golf & Riding Club, P. O. Box 3038, Green Bay, WI, 54303. Contact the Green Chairman, Mr. Carl Johanski c/o the club address. This is a private 18 hole club, automatic irrigation, budget of \$238,000. Benefits include life, health, and disability insurance, dues and expenses at local and national meetings, transportation or allowance. Salary range \$28,000 to \$35,000. Requirement: 5 years as Superintendent with a degree is preferred.

The deepest sympathy of the members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is extended to the Bruansky family due to the death of Edward Bruansky in October.



Congratulations to Dr. Jack Butler — Dr. Butler won the award from the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation as "Man of the Year" and was presented with a plaque at the North Central Turfgrass Exposition the first of November. Dr. Butler has also been awarded the "Gamma Sigma Delta Award" for the outstanding worker in agriculture in 1983.

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PLAN NOW FOR THE GCSAA CONFERENCE AND SHOW IN LAS VEGAS, JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 3, 1984

Mid-Am/84 Trade show will be January 13-15 at the Hyatt Regency, Chicago.

JANUARY 10 & 11, 1984

Make your reservations now for the GCSAA Seminar "Diseases of Turfgrass" that will be taught by Dr. Houston Couch at Pheasant Run. For more information call toll-free 1-800-GSA-SUPT. Cost: \$75.00 for members.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO GRET OLTMAN - The new President of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation.

"DECEMBER THOUGHT"

December and the lines are drained,
Past Season's pressures, no longer reign.
The Course in it's semi-dormancy rests,
No longer being heckled by pests.
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"ALL GOODS WORTH PRICE CHARGED"

Well, here we are wading our way into the new season. By now most Golf Course Superintendents have finished the rigors and tedium of purchasing consumables for use on the golf course. Our own mini-warehouses are full of those items that the turf related purveyors supply for use as a part of managing and confronting the obstacles to a successful season. Chemicals comprise the vast bulk (in dollars spent) of these consumables. Many of these chemicals as well as fertilizer and tee & green equipment are offered for sale in direct competition with themselves - different purveyors offering the same item by the same manufacturer at an often times widely variant price. I often use this price variance to advantage in purchasing large quantities of chemicals for the season.

Beginning sometime in October or November I review the season results regarding pesticide performance plus assess newly introduced products. Several lists soon form - new requirements, new & varied possibilities, tentative application scheduling, and who supplies what. Where possible, the opportunity to procure more than one quote for a particular item is used to dual advantage:

- accurate budget preparation and
- competitive price comparisons.

When submitting requirements for quotations an attempt is always made to keep everything equal, always asking for same materials and considerations. To insure the best possible quotations I follow a few but very important guidelines. It is important to note that I may begin the new seasons purchases as early as November - a month after the beginning of the new fiscal year.

My guidelines are: early ordering; quantity discounts; end of season "buys"; specific material & specific quantities; payment month of delivery; no "terms"; delivery at leisure but before a set date; NO "premiums"; bulk containers if possible and don't confuse me with "free goods" programs. I want the best price.

A few examples follow listing the material and the range of the quotes (all for fiscal '83).

Daconil 2787 WP.....	\$135-\$160/cs.
Oftenol.....	\$57-\$75/bag.
Round Up.....	\$75-\$87/gal.
Actidione TGF.....	\$99-\$120/cs.

Since the price variance for most chemicals is quite wide, I believe the only defensible approach is to "shop around". In my chemical account for the Grounds budget every dollar will be spent, my thought is simply to increase the return for every dollar in that account. If for "x" amount of dollars 10 units of material from a supplier vs. 12 units of material for the same dollars from a second supplier - I will spend those dollars with the second supplier for the increased return. What normally happens during the season is that I have some latitude regarding on hand material availability. That sometimes needed extra case for spot or emergency use is normally available. A small inventory carryover from one season to another is not a serious concern, a serious concern is having it there when it is needed.

This is especially true while most of you are languishing in the "stress" of dollarspot, I'm suffering another 30% hair loss over the first incidence of Pythium. Those extra cases of fungicide for those stingy dollars come in to real importance on unforeseen and unplanned days of disease stress. Careful forethought eliminates the unnecessary frantic calls for immediately delivery of materials. No matter how customer aware a vendor is - by the time the needed material is

(cont.)

delivered to the frantic customer - the SP, Subdue, or Banol (for instance) it's too late.

Plan ahead and buy ahead, shop around and take a longer look at the bottom line. Sure - loyalties, service, "friendship", track record, intangibles, as well as price can and should carry weight in any decision of purchase. But the only defensible position is the decision based on return for the spent dollar. The goods BEING worth THE price charged.

Al Fierst, Oak Park Country Club

FOUNDATION HONORS HERB GRAFFIS

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The National Golf Foundation's Herb Graffis Award has gone to some very familiar names in the past six years.

The award, which honors those who have made "long-time and outstanding contributions in preserving the true spirit of the game - but specifically, for keeping golf as it was meant to be: for recreation, good fellowship and health" has been won by, among others, Arnold Palmer, Bob Hope, Patty Berg and Jack Nicklaus.

This year's winner is also a familiar name to those in the golf industry.

The 1983 winner of the Herb Graffis Award is ... Herb Graffis.

"After a lot of thought, we decided that no one in golf better represents what the award stands for than Herb Graffis," Joe Much, NGF acting executive director announced.

Graffis was honored with a testimonial dinner at the Foundation's recent Golf Management Workshop at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas, Nev.

Many of Graffis' long-time friends attended, and representatives of all of golf's major organizations were also in attendance. Among those making speeches at the dinner were Frank Hannigan, senior executive director of the USGA, John Laupheimer, commissioner of the LPGA, and Mark Kizziar, president of the PGA of America.

Graffis, without question the most famous golf writer of our time, co-founded the National Golf Foundation with his late brother Joe, who also has an NGF award named for him.

"Herb Butler Graffis, at 90, continues as the acknowledged poet laureate of golf journalism," Much remarked. "While his last published effort was a comprehensive history of the PGA in 1975, he continues to favor countless friends throughout the golf community with priceless prose in the form of letters pounded out at his trusty typewriter. For many of us, they are the Gospel of God."



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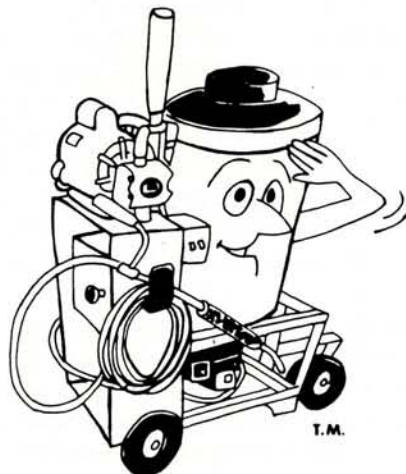
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THIRTY YEARS AGO

(Editor's comment: I found a copy of this letter when going thru Ray Gerber's desk and thought it was still worthwhile to print today)

December 28, 1953

Mr. Herb Graffis,

The player can share in many ways in cutting the cost of maintenance on the golf course and also in leaving the course in better shape for those who are playing behind him. Consideration should start on the first tee. Usually off to the side of this tee or any other tee there is ample room for any practice swings or so-called warmup swings. It is a general practice that the first tee receives the most punishment, not only from practice swings but also by other players and their caddies who are walking on the tee waiting their turn to tee off. The soil becomes so compact, it is almost impossible for grass to live. Only one foursome should be allowed on this tee at any one time.

Repairing divots on tees is one thing most players neglect. I have not found the reason why. On short holes it is not necessary to take a divot if the player will use a tee pin. Many of our good players of today are using tee pins on short holes and have found their shots are equal to those who play the ball from the turf. It would be a great help toward better maintenance on the short holes if all clubs made a ruling that all players must tee their balls on a tee pin not only on short holes but also on every tee. While on the tee subject it may be a good idea to mention a word about the tee towels that are removed from the ball washers. This takes place more on wet days than on dry days. These towels are costly and surely do the following players no good.

Many players asked the same question, "Does it do any good to replace the divots on the fairways?" My reply is always yes. Even though they do not all grow, it will fill the divot hole and some other player's ball or maybe his own next time he is out playing will roll over this divot rather than come to rest in it. Where regular rules are being played he or she must play it out from the old divot hole.

Golfers in many instances neglect their responsibility to see that their footprints are taken care of in the sand traps. Many a player is compelled to play his ball from a hole in the sand made by a disrespectful player. Walking up the face of sand traps is a costly habit toward maintenance and to the players behind him. All golf players should learn how to properly repair ball bruises on greens. Throwing bottles and all sorts of paper on the club grounds is a bad habit by some people, and all clubs should make a strictly enforced rule against such a careless habit. Many late evening players who find sprinklers on the golf course at that time have a habit of turning the sprinkler off that seems to be in their way or moving it if it has a hose attached to it. I am sure if they knew the seriousness of this sort of thing, they would not do it again.

I hope some of the items mentioned will help for more pleasant and cheaper rounds of golf. Happy New Year to all.

Sincerely,

Ray Gerber



Mrs. Penny Meyer - Executive Secretary MAGCS



Mr. Ed Smith - Presiding at the election of officers and directors

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT — 1983

The financial condition of MAGCS is good. We have a balance in excess of \$10,000 when the books were closed October 31, 1983. We will be donating \$2,000 to the University of Illinois in the next fiscal year, leaving a balance of over \$8,000. The finance committee feels a continual balance of at least \$5,000 is in the best interest of the MAGCS. This provides financial security for unforeseen necessities such as additional funding for the University of Illinois, providing educational opportunities for our members, as well as other expenditures which cannot be predicted.

The finance committee is also continuing its investigation into the purchase of equipment which will aid our Secretary and our Executive Secretary and our Bullshead Editor in keeping better track of our members and pertinent information about them, as well as making their operations smoother and more efficient.

The finance committee recommends that the Board of Directors continue to show the type of fiscal responsibility that has been exhibited during 1983.

Finance Committee — Messrs., Roger Stewart,
Dave Meyer, John Stephenson, Tim Kelly

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SNOW MOLDS

Snow molds damage lawns and fine turf grasses from December to April especially in shaded or wet areas where the snow is slow to melt. Roots, stems, and leaves may be rotted over a wide range of temperatures (25° to 60°F.). Injury may take place under the snow, as the snow is melting, or during cold, drizzly periods when snow is absent. Snow mold damage frequently conforms to footprints, paths, ski or other tracks, etc., because compaction of snow favors the disease. Attack by snow mold fungi ceases when the grass surface dries out; however, infection tends to reappear in the same areas year after year. Snow molds are favored by mid- to late-fall applications of nitrogenous fertilizers or by a cover of straw, leaves, or other moisture-holding debris on the turf. Disease is most serious when air movement and soil drainage are poor and the grass stays wet for long periods.

All lawn grasses grown in Illinois are susceptible to snow mold. They include bluegrasses, fescues, bentgrasses, ryegrasses, and Bermudagrass. The fine-leaved bentgrasses are more often severely damaged than are coarser lawn grasses.

There are two types of snow mold, gray snow mold, also known as *Typhula* blight or snow scald (caused by the fungi *Typhula* species), and pink snow mold or *Fusarium* patch (caused by the fungus *Fusarium nivale*). The two types are found in the same geographical areas in the United States, including Illinois. Pink snow mold may be found farther south than gray snow mold.

GRAY SNOW MOLD, TYPHULA BLIGHT, OR SNOW SCALD

Gray snow mold appears in lawns and other turf areas as roughly circular, dead, bleached-brown areas up to about two feet in diameter. Several spots may merge, forming large, irregular areas. The wet grass may be covered at first with a fluffy white mold (mycelial) growth that soon turns bluish-gray to almost black. At other times a silvery membranous crust develops over the injured turf. It is during this period of active mycelial growth that the *Typhula* fungi produce small, hard, tan to chocolate-brown resting bodies called sclerotia. These sclerotia are embedded in the leaves and crowns of diseased plants and lie dormant during the following summer and early fall. In cold, wet weather — at temperatures as low as several degrees below freezing — they germinate to produce delicate threads (hyphae) under the snow.

A deep snow cover on unfrozen soil produces optimum conditions for disease development. The fungus hyphae infect all tissues of the grass plant and start the disease cycle once again. The fungus is inactivated while the turf and soil are frozen. In early spring, when the snow melts and the turf thaws, the fungus again becomes active, and the infection centers enlarge rapidly. As the weather warms and the turf dries, *Typhula* becomes dormant until late fall. The optimum temperature for growth of the fungi in culture is between 46° and 59°F. The organism is not seed-borne.

PINK SNOW MOLD OR FUSARIUM PATCH

Pink snow mold patches are round and usually smaller than those of gray snow mold, commonly being one to three inches in diameter. Under prolonged cold, wet conditions, the spots may enlarge up to about 8 inches across or merge to cover large areas. In cool, wet weather the bleached-brown patches may be covered with a dense, whitish-pink mold growth. As with

gray snow mold, the slimy growth quickly disappears as the grass blades dry. Usually only the leaves are attacked, but the fungus may cause a rotting of the crowns, killing the plant. Conditions favoring pink snow mold include a wet fall and winter, snow falling on unfrozen soil, deep snow, and a late, cold, wet spring. Infection and disease development occur most rapidly when the humidity is high and temperatures are 30° to 45°F (maximum about 65°F).

The *Fusarium* fungus is dormant at 72°F and above. The causal organism survives from one season to the next in infected grass plants or in dead grass debris. When temperature and moisture conditions are favorable, the fungus produces tremendous numbers of microscopic spores. These spores are carried primarily by air currents and water to grass leaves. Infection occurs through breathing pores (stomates). The fungus can exist and attack grasses in *all* soils from strongly acid to alkaline. (Fungus growth occurs in culture from a pH of 2.5 to 13, with an optimum of about 6.6 to 6.9).

CONTROL

1. Follow a recommended fertilizer program for the grass or grasses being grown. Pink snow mold damage can be reduced by using adequate amounts of phosphate fertilizers. Avoid late fall fertilization. Lawns should *not* go into the winter in succulent condition. Use lime only when the need is indicated by a soil test; avoid excessive use of lime.
2. Keep the grass cut to recommended height (1½ to 2½ inches for bluegrasses, red fescues, and ryegrasses, ½ inch or less for bentgrasses). Mow the turf frequently so that the grass will not be damaged by excessive defoliation at any one mowing. Do not remove more than one-third of the leaf surface at one mowing. Mow throughout the autumn season until grass growth ceases.
3. If the mat or thatch of dead grass is more than ¼ to ½ inch thick, you can use a "vertical mower" or "power rake" to reduce this problem. These machines may be rented at most large garden supply center.
4. Before the first heavy snow or cold, drizzly weather is forecast in November or early December, apply *one* of the following turf fungicides to areas with a history of snow mold infection. *Follow the manufacturer's directions carefully.* Reapply one or more times during winter or early spring as the snow melts.

For Typhula light — Tersan SP, 65% WP (6 to 9 ounces per 1,000 square feet) and Calo-clor or Calo-Gran (see label).

For Fusarium patch — Tersan 1991, 50% WP (3 to 8 ounces per 1,000 square feet), Tersan SP, 65% WP (6 to 9 ounces per 1,000 square feet), and Calo-clor or Calo-Gran (see label).

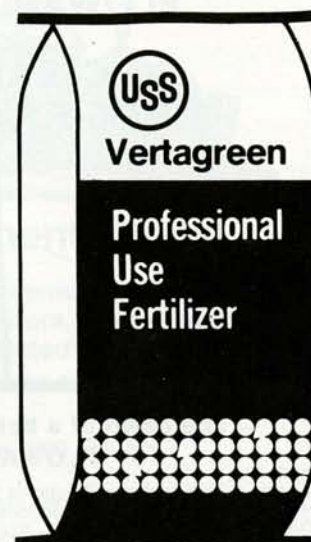
(Note: Calo-clor and Calo-Gran are cleared for use *only* on golf course greens, aprons, and tees by certified golf course superintendents only.)

5. Repair snow mold damage in early spring by raking the matted grass and fertilizing. Reseed or sod as necessary. Fungicide sprays may be needed.
6. When establishing a new lawn or other turf area, provide for adequate surface drainage by grading for a slope of 2 to 4 percent and filling in depressions to achieve a smooth, uniform surface.

Malcolm C. Shurtleff
Extension Plant Pathologist

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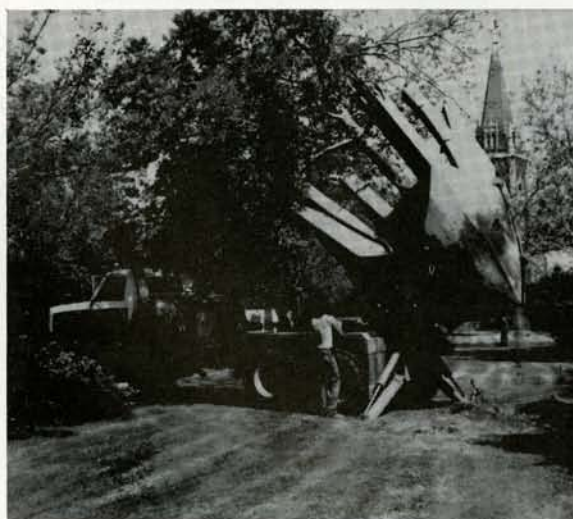
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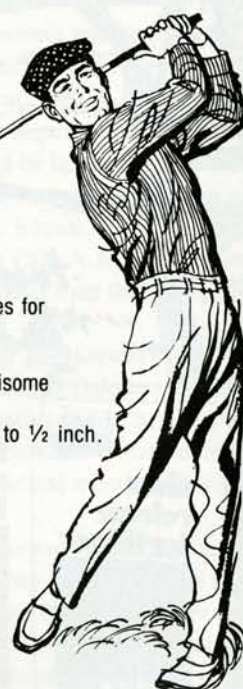
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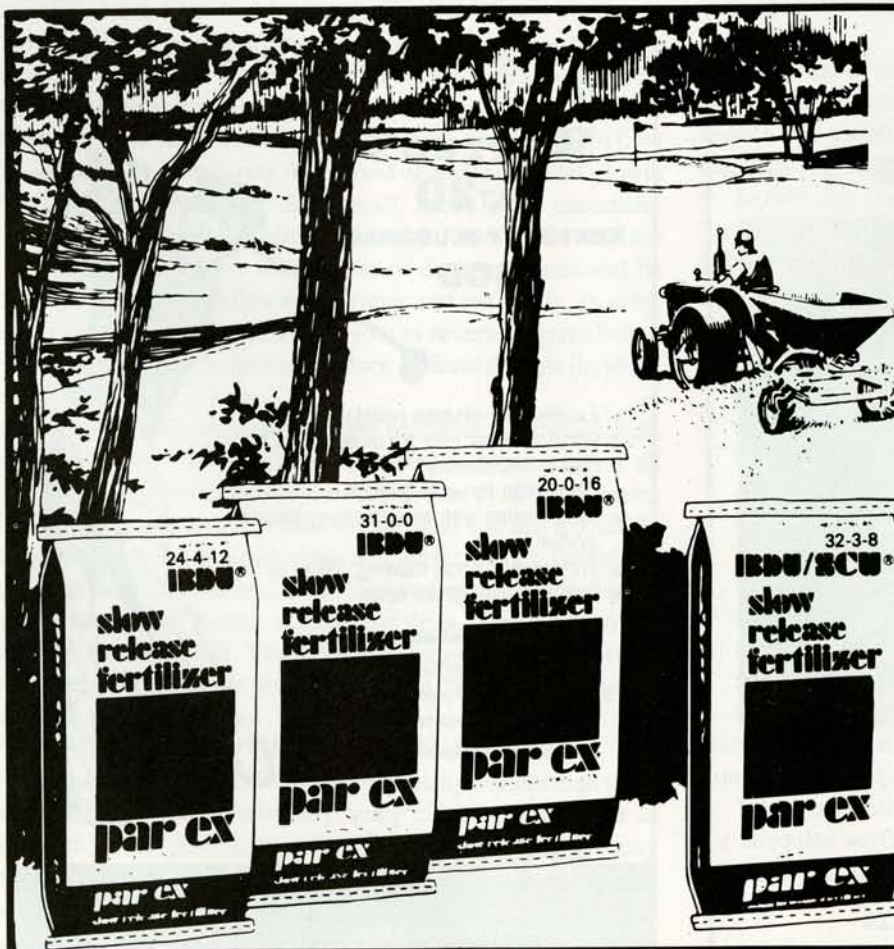
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GCSCF PRAYER BREAKFAST GUEST SPEAKER — JIM OTTO

Conference time is just around the corner and as you make plans for Las Vegas, we would like to remind you of a special event. On **Monday, January 30, 1984 at 7:00 A.M.** we will hold our 5th annual Golf Course Superintendents Christian Fellowship Prayer Breakfast. It will be held in the MGM Grand Hotel in the Metro Room #5. The room will be open at 6:30 for coffee and fellowship with your friends. It might take a little extra effort to rise and shine for a 7:00 A.M. event, but most of us are used to getting up a lot earlier than that. Besides, they say that Las Vegas never sleeps.

We are happy to announce that our guest speaker will be JIM OTTO, formerly All Pro Center for the Oakland Raiders. Jim will have some powerful and interesting things to share with us. Although we call this event a "breakfast", the hearty eaters should know that it will be a continental menu; coffee, tea and rolls.

Please remember that everyone is invited. We urge you to bring a friend, and especially families if they are along. This is a great way to start out the conference and we hope you will not miss it. We will have a GCSCF Prayer Breakfast Booth this year set up in a visible location. Watch for it, and stop by for additional information.

Plan now to attend and meet Jim Otto. You will be blessed for the experience.

GCSCF Prayer Breakfast Committee