

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the MID-WEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPER-INTENDENTS.

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President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ONE MAN'S OPINION

An old friend of mine once said that, "If someone would invent a golf shoe with retractable spikes for walking on putting greens, he would become a millionaire." The enigma of the golf spike as part of the game is probably here to stay. People like that "clique" noise when they walk on the pavement. The loud and flashy apparel worn on the golf course by the American golfer includes some pretty zany fashions, including the golf shoe. Don't you just love it when our golfers line up their three foot putts? They parade around the cup zone, check all angles, set up for the putt, and then they prance 14 times with each foot; up, down, up, down. If they miss the damn thing they go through the whole procedure again. That really bothers me. On hot, dry days, the area around the cup is pretty badly bruised. Golf spikes: they cause stress! I tried to explain that to one of our 10 handicappers one day. He didn't believe me so I asked him if he would put his hand down on the putting surface and let me press my size thirteen set of spikes on his hand; all 195 pounds worth. I wonder what kind of stress he would experience?

Golf companies and golfers alike have done a little to promote sales through a campaign of decreased wear and tear on the greens, by promoting the new spikeless shoe. Some of the new shoes resemble football cleats, well, maybe soccer-style cleats. Some of those type shoes have been banned from the golf course. But not all the spikeless shoes have been designed alike. I think there are some brands worth looking at, and if nothing else, letting the public try on our courses. I have purchased a pair of the Etonic spikeless shoes and have found them to be extremely acceptable. Having scrutinized them in wet weather, dry weather, for comfort and ease of walking, I'd say bravo! They work, they do not harm the ground. They do not damage the turf. Their design precludes negative turf maintenance, with less injury to turf than spiked shoes. They will help enhance the putting quality for the golfer.

The point I am trying to make is that not all these new styled shoes are designed the same. I think I have found a pair that are very acceptable for the golf course. I would encourage manufacturers to come up with a design on the tread similar to the Etonic shoe. So before a few badly designed shoes spoil a good thing, it is my hope that this trend be given a try. I want the best for our golfers. We don't have retractable spikes yet. But maybe we have the next best thing.

Pete Leuzinger

USGA RESEARCHES THE SPIKELESS GOLF SHOE

Today there certainly is a tremendous amount of interest in the new "spikeless" golf shoe. As far as I can tell there are some 12 brands of these shoes available today and I am sure there will be more in a very short period of time. When you look at these shoes you can quickly see that they are not all the same. The tread design and even hardness of the rubber soles are different. Much has been said pro and con about these shoes but unfortunately no one knows for sure whether or not they will have more or less effect on the grass and soil than our standard metal spike golf shoe or what! In fact, a few courses in the Chicago district have outright banned the shoes. Also, I can't tell you just how many telephone calls I get from people inquiring whether or not these shoes are any good or whether or not they do damage to the grass, soil as well as the line of putt. **Right now** I just can't say for sure what these shoes can and will do under varying conditions of heat, humidity, grass growth rate, type of soil, moisture, etc. For this reason the USGA Green Section is studying the effect of these shoes on golf greens. The preliminary study determining how best to set up the program and what criterias to look at has been completed. The final study where these shoes are actually walked over a bentgrass putting green is, at this writing, underway. Obviously, the results won't be known for a few weeks because there just is no way to compress hours, days or even weeks of walking into less time than it actually takes. The USGA wanted to duplicate as closely as possible how golfers will use the shoes and still have a study that is scientifically valid. The tests are being performed at Industry Hills Country Club, in the City of Industry, California, the home course of Mr. William Bengeyfield, National Director of the USGA Green Section. The research project has been planned and developed by Dr. Vic Youngner and Dr. Victor Gibeault, both from the University of California at Riverside.

Not all of the shoes available to the industry have been included in this study. There just wasn't time, area or space to replicate all of the tests. We literally would have had to have had acres of grass and an army of people walking over the turf, so we have condensed the program to include two representative shoes having the most "knobby" tread pattern on the sole, one shoe with the much smaller and less obtrusive projections on their sole and and finally comparing all of these to the traditional metal spike golf shoe commonly worn today.

The purpose of this study is to determine which shoe does or doesn't cause a problem with the grass or the soils. The USGA is in a position to present the results of the findings to the industry so the individual clubs will have some information and guidance on how they want to handle this situation. The USGA itself will **not** outlaw or ban these shoes. It just isn't our charge in the industry. We are attempting to provide solid, factual information so that we all know what effects can be expected from these spikeless shoes and under what conditions. Needless to say, with so much interest the outcome of these tests will have great interest. When they become available I will certainly let you know so the readers of the **Bull Sheet** will have the most current and up to date information available on the effects of this new innovation in the golf shoe. It should certainly prove to be interesting information!

Hope this information clears up some of the questions the readers may have. At least you know someone is working on it and as soon as any results are known they will be immediately released to the industry. **Stanley J. Zontek**
USGA North-Central Director

SAND TOPDRESSING OF PUTTING GREENS MAY BE BEST TO BEWARE

Golf Course Superintendent, Warren Bidwell (Olympia Fields Country Club) states that caution should be used for those considering or already on sand topdressing of greens. Working more than 53 years in the turfgrass industry, Warren has made it a point to discuss topdressing mixes with many turfgrass advisors at the PhD level. Research information through work completed a various experimental turf plots has shown that sand topdressing is not all sunrise.

Dr. Elliot Roberts, formerly of Iowa State University, proved in the laboratory and in the field that a healthy and strong root system is directly related to top growth development which can be accomplished without sand topdressing. At the Canadian Conference, Dr. Roy Goss, from the University of Washington told me that we haven't seen the end results of this sand topdressing work. When you overlay a sand, soil, and peat mixture (which we all have done going back to the 1920's) with 100% sand could have ending results on our putting greens 20 to 25 years from now.

While on a sand topdressing program you are not to aerify because you do not want to mix the sand topdressing with the soil underneath. You are stuck topdressing right over already compacted soil and then you expect excellent results. Sand topdressing originated with the touring Golf Professionals. They are never satisfied with the speed of the greens unless they're as fast as a bullet passing a train. The Golf Pro's want pool table surfaces. When superintendents are preparing for a tournament the putting green cut is lowered to 9/64" in order to increase the speed on the greens. When the tournament is over, the height of cut is back to 3/16" for plant protection and stability. During the tournament the members get used to those faster than normal greens. So when you walk through the men's grill you are likely to hear "when the hell are you going to cut those greens". Top growth and root growth are directly related. I find it very difficult to accept lower and lower cutting heights. The younger generation, who I do respect, must please its members. For a superintendent to survive at a club for any given tenure, he must follow the directives of the locker room agronomic experts. This is the way of life around our many private and publicly owned golf courses.

Working as a superintendent at two golf clubs where major golf Championships were played the putting greens were never topdressed with 100% sand. The putting speed and turf quality remained excellent.

"The Driving Should Be Left To Us". The Golf Course Superintendent has the expertise, good judgment, research data, and education that allows him to make professional decisions in manicuring turfgrass. Club members have to start confiding in their Golf Course Superintendents and not other neighboring clubs. Soil modification is a solution but 100% sand could only be a quick fix.

Warren Bidwell, C.D.G.A.
Greens Seminar - April 5, 1983



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PESTICIDES DECOMPOSE IN ALKALINE WATER

Pesticides can be ineffective in controlling pests for several reasons, including incorrect application rate, improper timing, inappropriate chemical used for the insect involved and old chemicals that have outlived their effective shelf life. One seldom-considered factor is water quality. Most pesticides will lose some degree of their effectiveness in alkaline water (a pH value of seven is considered neutral, values above that are alkaline) through a decomposition process called alkaline hydrolysis. This process, which begins as soon as the chemical is mixed with water, continues after it has been sprayed onto the plants, and can greatly reduce the effectiveness of a pesticide. The rate at which this process occurs varies according to the chemical involved and the alkalinity of the water. Malathion, for example, loses its effectiveness very quickly in water that is just above neutral. Other pesticides affected by alkaline water include Parathion, Sevin, Orthene, Di-Syston and Lannate. Some fungicides also are pH sensitive and should not be combined with materials such as hydrated lime or mixed in alkaline water. These include Captan, Botran, Lesan and Carbamate fungicides.

Greenhouse Grower, February, 1983, recommends you take four precautions to reduce the effects of alkaline hydrolysis: 1) frequently check the pH of your water, 2) read pesticide labels to see if material is sensitive to alkaline water, 3) do not mix pesticides until you are ready to use them, especially if you are combining pesticides and 4) if your water is alkaline, and you are using a sensitive pesticide, add a product to neutralize the pH such as Spray-Aide, Buffer-X, Nutrex, Sorba spray or Tri-fol. These should be available from your local garden center or nursery, especially if alkalinity is a problem in your area. Adding commercial vinegar (acetic acid) to the water has been suggested as a home remedy, but, according to Dr. Christine Stephens, a professor of vegetable and ornamental diseases at Michigan State University, it "is not reported to give satisfactory results because of its instability and failure to remain on leaf surfaces."

American Horticulturist, May 1983

Dear Pete:

Thanks again for the honorary membership in the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. I am glad to know that you still think enough about this old Texan to include me in your honorary membership each year.

Regarding the last Illinois Turfgrass Conference, it was certainly a pleasure for me to have the opportunity to participate and to visit with so many friends. While I enjoy my present job very much, I miss the direct involvement in turfgrass research, especially when I have the opportunity to rub elbows with professional turf men such as yourself.

Just completed a 1.5 million dollar construction program here at the Dallas Center and am getting ready to initiate another one using funds generated by the sale of 42 acres of land worth several dollars per sq. ft. This is certainly a departure from the kinds of things I did when I was at the University of Illinois; however, its fun and it will have a tremendous enhancing effect on our future research capability.

Don't know when I will have the opportunity to visit the Chicago area again, but I hope it will be soon. Until then, take care and have a good season.

**A. J. Turgeon, Professor &
Resident Director**

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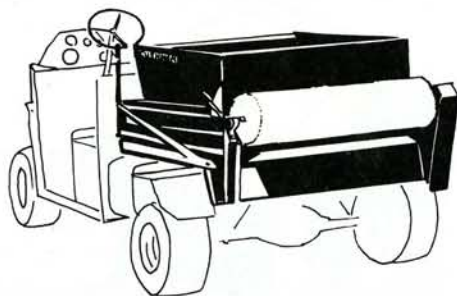
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"HOW FAST IS FAST?"

In the English language, the word fast has many meanings, such as you can run fast, hold fast, go on a fast, have fast women and have fast greens.

The topic of conversation around the locker and grill rooms of golf clubs these days is "how fast are the greens today?" In some areas of the country it is referred to as "the roll of the green." It all boils down to the speed of the ball on the green. Lost is the art of stroking the ball — today a tap is all that is required. I think some of the golfers want the ball to roll into the cup just by looking at it. At some clubs they post the speed of the green on the bulletin board for the day.

Are we becoming victims of the stimp meter, fast greens and tournament play? When big tournaments are on TV all we hear about is how fast the greens putt, that they double cut the greens daily, even triple cut, and yes, on some greens quadruple cut to increase the speed.

Whenever a group of golfers or superintendents congregate, golf and turf are naturally discussed, greens speed for the average club is a favorite topic. Seven, eight, nine, ten or more feet is suggested.

Has the superintendent contributed to the dilemma? Yes, in a way. He probably has perfected his course to the point where only incredible fast greens will save par. Also the competition to have faster greens than your neighbor is not helping the situation in any way.

In any event, an increasing amount of pressure is put on the Superintendent to increase the speed of the greens. Every Superintendent has heard the following remarks: "Are the greens going to be mowed today?" "When are you going to lower the height of cut?" "The greens at such and such a club are faster than ours."

Seriously, I am concerned about this trend of "fast greens". Can we afford to maintain greens of this caliber — that require frequent topdressing; frequent verticutting; daily cutting or double cutting of greens; close, close mowing—even to the point of grinding the underside of already thin bedknives.

And in all my conversation and reading and listening, I have never heard anyone mention a thing about the little grass plant. How is it standing up under all this abuse? I was tutored under the late Professor Lawrence Dickenson of Massachusetts and one of his often quoted phrases was "Give the grass plant half a chance. It wants to live." Under these conditions of shaving the grass plant to 1/8" or less are we giving it "half a chance?" I do not think so. We are giving it very little chance. Sooner or later we are headed for trouble.

We all know that the root growth of the grass plant is in proportion to the top growth. That the grass plant needs leaf surface for survival — for transpiration, respiration, the manufacturing of carbohydrates to maintain life and growth. It also needs nitrogen and other nutrients that we are withholding so as to increase speed by limiting plant growth.

I predict that in the not too distant future we will get back to the basics of a good putting green surface — that the demands of the grass plant will be given equal or more consideration than the demands of the golfers. A **firm, true, healthy green** with reasonable speed is much more pleasurable than putting on dead grass and plain soil. We will return to stroking the ball, not tapping it.

**Credit - Tee to Green, May 1983
Sherwood A. Moore, Supt.
Winged Foot Golf Club**

Gentlemen:

The firm of Killian and Nugent Inc. has had a long and gratifying relationship in the world of golf with you, our valued client. Ken Killian and Dick Nugent have worked together as an active partnership and then as a corporation for almost twenty years.

Now, because of changing times and circumstances, we find that our corporation also must change. We believe that we can best serve you by reorganizing our business structure and setting up separate corporations effective April 1, 1983. All of our existing contracts will be completed by the firm of Killian and Nugent in the customary manner. Any new contracts will be handled by either Ken Killian or Dick Nugent according to your wishes. Should there be a project which you feel demands the expertise of both of us, we anticipate being able to work a suitable joint venture arrangement. We value you, as our client, and we are confident that our reorganization will allow us to serve you more efficiently in the future.

Sincerely,
Killian and Nugent Inc.

Kenneth Killian
P. O. Box 1071
Palatine, IL 60078
358-8884

Richard Nugent
P. O. Box 1041
Palatine, IL 60078
438-5222

EDITOR'S NOTE

In the April issue, several turf products were highlighted along with research information. Golf Course Superintendent, Tom Rodems, and Kankakee Country Club are commended for their involvement in Turfgrass Research. Tom spent a lot of time and effort in collecting data, making applications, studying plots and writing the reports for product evaluation and providing information to us, the Golf Course Superintendents. Tom is congratulated for his work recognized by his peers.

THANK YOU TOM RODEMS

Superintendent Kankakee Country Club for applying and maintaining demonstration areas throughout the season. I want to publicly thank Tom Rodems for his cooperation with superintendents associations, the University of Illinois and Mallinckrodt.

Tom and I met several times planning suitable demonstration research areas. He picked fairway 13 - the fairway where dollar spot is usually more severe for the Vorlan demonstration. He picked a fairway for crabgrass control where the infestation is always a problem. We worked out different rates and suitable dates for application rates. He applied a strip with a Spray Hawk in order to achieve finer mist and more complete coverage. Tom was very precise in his calibration. Thank you for a job well done.

I would like to congratulate John Berarducci for having the foresight to initiate the grant program in which Mallinckrodt donated \$1,500 and other companies will duplicate this program each year. It is commendable when golf course superintendents, universities and industry can work together for a mutual success. We have many problems to solve needing sound research. We are fortunate to have men such as Dr. Henry Wilkinson and Dr. Dave Wehner and Dr. Tom Fermanian to be searching for solutions to our many and varied diseases and related problems.

Cecil Kerr



MIDWEST BREEZES

This editor wants to publicly thank all those that remembered me during my stay in the hospital, the flowers and plants and the many telephone calls. The flowers and plants were from Midwest Supts. Association, Chicagoland Supts. Association, Schroeders Nursery, Inc., Glen Oak C.C., Village Links G.C.; and Kim Gerber. Those of you who had any hospital experience as a patient know what a morale builder flowers and plants are. I also want to thank those who took the time to make a phone call to find out how I was progressing. And there were many, many phone calls, also, over fifty get well cards. One of the most pleasant experiences is to be lying in bed and open your eyes to see visitors in person. During my twenty-three days and nights on the bed this happened many times. One knows they are your real friends. Naturally, your immediate family would come first.

Ray H. Gerber

A recent phone call from **Frank Dinelli**, former Supt. from Northmoor C.C. informed me that he had been making some visits to the hospital. We hope they are not serious ones. Why not give Frank a phone call, he is deserving of many.

Joe Dinelli is busy getting his North Shore golf course in top playing condition for the U.S. Amateur Championship event in August. I am sure if anyone can do it, Joe can. I am also sure the amateur's will find it to be one of the best conditioned courses they have ever played.

Fred Opperman received a phone call at his house one evening from Ray Gerber asking if he could get a couple buckets of mushroom soil that he saw at the club. He also asked if Fred could be a little more lenient with the mushroom soil that he would add to the vegetable garden on the golf course this year since last year he was so cheap with it and hardly added any. (You know Ray Gerber is feeling better when he starts to worry about his tomatoe plants).

The members at St. Charles Country Club are happy to be playing their newly seeded penneagle greens. April 30th all putting greens were open for play. Pete Leuzinger reports that the greens are dense, putting good, and look super. This ends three long years of misery for Pete. Congratulations!!!

THE RAY GERBER EDITORIAL AWARD FORMAT FOR SELECTION

The ad hoc committee selected by President Leuzinger met on April 19th at the Inverness C.C. Members present were Mike Bavier, Len Berg, and Bruce Williams. The following is a list of our findings:

1. Articles eligible for the award must be written by a member of the MAGCS who is currently a Golf Course Superintendent. All articles printed in the **Bull Sheet**, meeting this requirement, will be considered. Assigned articles written by MAGCS Board members will not be eligible for consideration.
2. All articles will be judged during the time period of the Sept.-August editions of the **Bull Sheet**. In the first year articles will also be judged retroactively, dating back to the Sept. '82 printing of the **Bull Sheet**.
3. The selection committee for the award will be comprised of 5 individuals, President of MGCSA, Educational Chairman of MAGCS, Editor of the **Bull Sheet**, Sportswriter for the Chicago Tribune, & Sportswriter for the Chicago Sun-Times.
4. The President of the MAGCS will serve as Chairman of the Selection Committee and set a date and arrange a meeting of the committee in the month of September.
5. The award shall be called "Ray Gerber Editorial Award" and shall be presented at the annual Midwest Turf Clinic (which is presently held in conjunction with the North Central Turfgrass Exposition). The presentation will be made to the winner at the luncheon by the MAGCS President and the local sportswriters.
6. A plaque will be purchased for the winners. This plaque will be used on a revolving basis and can be prominently displayed at the club of the recipients to show that they have been recognized by their peers for their achievements. A smaller plaque would remain with the winner for permanent display. Both plaques would be similar, with the smaller having a place for a single name, while the large plaque would have room for the name of twenty recipients. It is suggested that the plaques carry the MAGCS logo and an etching of Ray Gerber. The inscription should read "this award is presented to the member who has shown excellence in journalism in the **Bull Sheet**; the official publication of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents." At the same time this award recognizes the many contributions over the years that Ray Gerber has given to the **Bull Sheet**.
7. Judging of articles will be based on the following criteria:
 - a. Article provides useful technical data or information.
 - b. The article is clear and easy to comprehend.
 - c. Illustrations, tables, photographs, charts, etc. help explain or support the text and add to the article's value.
 - d. The article is timely (information is current and is presented at the appropriate time of the season).
 - e. The article is useful to the Supt. in the performance of his duties and responsibilities.

8. Grading shall be on the basis of:

Deficient	Fair	Good	Excellent
1	2	3	4

These findings have been reviewed by the ad hoc committee and approved by the MAGCS Board of Directors.

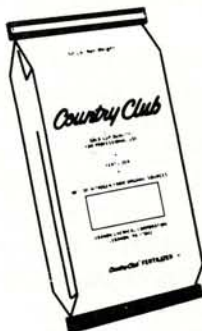
Respectfully submitted,

Bruce R. Williams, Supt.

Bob O'Link Golf Club

**Ray Gerber, Editor
is back in the saddle again!**

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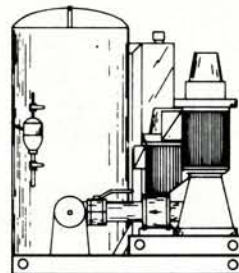
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