

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

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Very often, editorials are critical writings. They may be constructive, mind you, but critical just the same. They are meant to help us, our organization, or even, pray tell, the game of golf. However, I must say that I am amazed at how few positive items I read. Whether it be the local paper, or a monthly periodical, we are drenched with whatever is wrong. Even the TV and its deluge of evening news programs has the networks competing to see whose "bad" news can attract the larger audience. It's too bad things have to be this way.

I have been reminded from time to time, especially when a bit "down", that, for the most part, I am a positive person. (She has never lied to me before.) This gentle reminder is intended to cheer me up, and for some reason, it does. It helps me stop worrying about yesterday's problems. I am able to shift gears just long enough to look forward to tomorrow's challenges. (This is not intended to sound prophetic, just honest.) This is the positive thinking that gets things done. Positive thinkers welcome day-to-day challenges. They don't have time to grumble. The grumbler makes himself miserable and sometimes contaminates the very people he lives and works with. What an awful situation! Here we are, feeling sorry for ourselves, while grumbling about every obstacle that confronts us. But, just when we start feeling a little better, the people we work with are feeling so rotten that the whole day becomes a waste, having to associate with such poor company. (Did I say prophetic or pathetic?)

Unfortunately, we are not programmed to "stop and smell the roses". Instead, we have been programmed to hurry, to do it fast, to do it effectively, to do for the "me" group, the "I" group, and the "other" group. We have been programmed to do it to the other guy before he does it to us. And worst of all, we have been programmed to think that nothing is more important than "The Job". Sometimes we forget that we started out doing what we really like to do - provide. We provide our services and expertise for others to enjoy. We provide for and enjoy the family, the community, the church, and the school. And sometimes, in spite of all the hub bub around us, we are able to de-program just long enough to look and see what we have in our profession. It's our own little world - the golf course. And, in this isolated area, we have the golden opportunity to provide so many positive things for everyone, including ourselves. It's a place where day-to-day changes make each day unique. We have the chance to help Mother Nature grow. Our golf courses are clean places, so different, so quiet, compared to the Metro.

I'm glad she reminds me to be positive. I really do feel better about what I'm doing today. I hope that others around me feel better too.

**Pete Leuzinger**





On February eighteen, **Ray and Jo Gerber** celebrated their fifty-eighth wedding anniversary! Can you top this? If you can, I am sure yours could not be a happier one than the Gerber's marriage has been!



## IN YOUR GARDEN UNUSUAL WEATHER HARD ON PLANTS

Much of the Midwest has been blessed with an unusually mild winter so far. Very little snow has fallen to interfere with driving and the mild temperatures are in direct contrast to those of last year.

According to James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Horticulturist in Cook County, what we humans consider nice may be very hard on plants which really need the vigorous winter. The mild weather through December and into January kept many plants from going completely dormant. Some, which had achieved dormancy in early cold spells, thought winter was over and broke dormancy. Crocuses bloomed. Buds of lilac and forsythia began to swell. A magnolia even popped out a flower.

We do know many of these buds were damaged or killed when temperatures suddenly fell back to normal. We won't know the full extent of damage to buds, branches and trunks until spring when plants try to leaf out and bloom.

Research has shown that sudden drops in temperatures causes much more damage than do very low temperatures themselves.

The lack of snow cover has an effect on plants too. Snow is an excellent insulator. If snow cover is heavy enough it can keep the ground frost free all winter. This year frost will probably go deep into the soil. Roots which are less temperature tolerant than tops of plants may be severely injured or killed outright.

There are some benefits from lack of snow cover. For instance, insects, which normally overwinter in the soil or plant debris protected by snow cover will have a tougher time standing the cold. (Insects normally exposed in winter can stand just about anything mother nature provides.) Also, soils subjected to repeated freezing and thawing tend to become more friable and in better planting condition for spring.

You can be of some help to your plantings by providing mulch to insulate perennials and roots of newly planted trees and shrubs.

Wrap the trunks of thin bark trees such as maple, ash or locust to insulate them from the warming rays of the sun. On days when the ground isn't frozen water evergreens under overhangs where they may not have received benefit of the December rains.

And, if you have evergreens exposed to winds and sun, spray with one of the wilt proofing anti-desiccants on a day when temperatures stay above freezing for several hours.

No matter what we mortals do our efforts are sometimes futile when compared with the forces of nature. But take heart. Each mild day brings us closer to spring and in only 10 weeks or so we'll be into planting season.

**James A. Fizzell, Senior Extension Adviser  
Horticulture**

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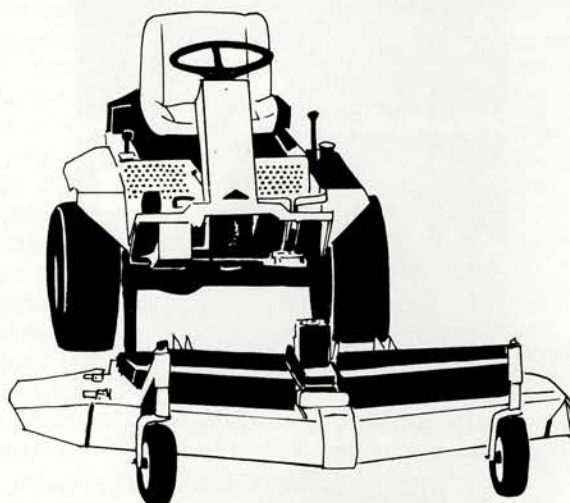
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## USGA TO STAY IN NEW JERSEY

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif.--The United States Golf Association has decided to keep its headquarters in Far Hills, N.J., rather than move to suburban Atlanta.

"The Executive Committee voted this morning to retain our headquarters, museum and library at our location in New Jersey rather than move to the Atlanta area," said USGA President William C. Campbell of Huntington, W.Va., in announcing the group's decision.

"We greatly appreciate the excellent cooperation and strong expressions of interest and financial support from the Atlanta group, but the Executive Committee decided it will be in the Association's best interests to construct a new office building at our present site," Campbell said.

The USGA Executive Committee, meeting here prior to the start of the 82nd U.S. Open at the Pebble Beach Golf Links on Thursday, considered several sites along the Chattahoochee River, northeast of Atlanta.

The Executive Committee's decision means that the USGA will build a new office building next to Golf House on its 62-acre estate in central New Jersey. Golf House, a 19-room building, will be retained as a museum and library.

The USGA, which was founded in 1894, moved from New York City to its present location in 1972. Since that time, the size of the staff has doubled from 41 to 82 people, forcing the Association to lease space in three buildings near Far Hills.

Construction of the new office building is expected to take approximately two years. Plans for financing the construction are under consideration and will be announced at a later date.

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1983\*

March 15	Silver Lake Golf Course
April 11	Deer Creek Golf Course
May 16	Bon Vivant Country Club
	(Tri-meeting with Central and Northwest)
June 6	Old Elm Country Club
July 11	Palatine Hills Country Club
August 8	Ridge Country Club
September 12	St. Charles Country Club
October 3	Kishwaukee Country Club
November 1	Cypress Inn
	(Annual Meeting)

Dear Ray;

I think we all get far out in thoughts of Spring and a new season.

### "MARCH TO THE TUNE OF SPRING"

We've had our rest from Season pressure,  
Had our bout with Winter blahs.  
Been to Conferences, had Vacations,  
Looking forward to Springtime thaws.  
Hello Spring, goodbye Barn fever,  
A brand new Season's on it's way.  
Joining Nature to initiate the start,  
More than makes a Superintendent's day.  
So bite the bullet, toe the line,  
Soon We'll have our fling.  
What a wonderful day to come,  
Marching to the tune of Spring.  
Superintendently,

Kenneth R. Zanzig  
Green Garden C.C.



## COPING WITH A WATER SHORTAGE

Maintenance practices on golf courses and other large turf areas may need to be altered during periods of water shortages and, in some circumstances, drastic changes may be necessary. If the facility depends for irrigation on municipal water and that supply is terminated or restricted, or if water available from other sources is severely limited, steps should be taken to:

- \* Reduce the need for moisture.
- \* Make certain all available moisture, including dew and rainfall, is utilized with maximum benefit and with maximum efficiency.
- \* Improve moisture retention of the soil.
- \* Find new sources of water, such as treated sewage effluent, brackish or other marginal quality water.

Here is an eight-point program that will help to conserve water and reduce the need for irrigation, while the search is made for alternate sources.

1. **Establish watering priorities.** Give the highest priority to the most intensively managed areas; for example, on a golf course, the greens, the most valuable part of the course and where the most critical play takes place. The greens also are the most difficult to revive following periods of extreme moisture stress, especially if the stress causes dormancy or turf loss. On a golf course, give lesser importance, in descending order, to tees, fairways, clubhouse grounds, rough. If there are specimen plantings or trees or plants that have special significance, e.g., those imported at high cost or a gift, give them the same special attention as the greens.

2. **Alter irrigation practices.** (This is much easier to do if the course has an automatic irrigation system.) Use only enough water to sustain life, not to stimulate growth. Irrigate when there is the best combination of little wind, low temperature and high humidity. In any 24-hour period, that combination most often exists just before dawn.

When there is dew on the ground, use a surfactant ("wetting agent"), or drag a hose across the grass to break the surface tension of the dew and send as much moisture as possible to the root systems. When watering trees and shrubs, use probes so the water will penetrate deeply.

3. **Reduce, or avoid where possible, other causes of stress.** Be alert to salt build-up, especially in arid or semi-arid regions. Make certain there is adequate drainage. On golf courses, alter locations of tees and flags, and restrict golf cart use to paths and trails, keeping them off turf areas.

4. **Alter mowing and cultivation practices.** Initially, test the soil to ensure adequate fertility, especially for phosphorus, which encourages root system growth -- deeper roots, thus expanding the area from which the turfgrasses can draw nutrients and moisture. Use calcium if there is a deficiency, to bring pH to a range of 6.5 - 7.2. Maintain a constant and uniform supply of nitrogen at a low to medium level to avoid unnecessary leaf growth. Consider slow-release materials; otherwise apply soluble materials at low rates frequently, rather than at higher rates infrequently. The latter will stimulate excessive leaf growth.

Raise the height of cut for all areas. Although this enlarges the surface area through which moisture is transpired, and under normal moisture conditions may result in stepped-up activity for disease-producing organisms, the benefits gained -- mainly root extension -- are most important. Raising the height of cut on a golf course green as little as 1/32 of an inch can have a significant effect on the ability of the green to tolerate stress from lack of moisture.

Mow less frequently. The combination of reduced irrigation and fertilization, higher height of cut and less frequent mowing can induce "hardening" of the turfgrasses.

Increase frequency of spiking or cultivate -- if temperatures are not extreme -- to trap moisture and hold it longer in the vicinity of the root system.

5. **Expand use of mulch.** Apply heavy layers of mulch -- any organic debris that's available -- around the base of trees, shrubs and flower beds, to hold in moisture.

6. **Erect wind barriers, especially where there are larger expanses of open spaces.** Less than 3 percent of the water absorbed by a turfgrass plant is utilized by the plant. Most of it -- the other 97 percent is lost into the atmosphere by transpiration. And the rate of transpiration will rise with an increase in wind speed, radiation or temperature and by reduction in humidity. (Some of the same practices used to trap snow in the northern regions can be applied to reduce wind velocity.)

7. **Aggressively seek additional sources of water.** Among the several possibilities are wells and ponds, collections of marginal water and -- the most abundant and most often wasted supply -- treated sewage effluent. There are many golf courses throughout the country successfully using recycled wastewater for irrigation.

8. **Experiment with anti-transpirants.** Although techniques for inhibiting transpiration have had mixed results, some reduction in moisture loss through transpiration might be accomplished with the use of chemicals, emulsions or films.

Water, as it does for all living things, performs many vital functions necessary to the life of turfgrass. It is the transport medium that carries nutrients to the plant. It plays an essential role in the photosynthetic process, metabolic process, in hydrolysis and in thatch decomposition. Seeds cannot germinate without it.

Denied water indefinitely turfgrass, trees -- all vegetation -- ultimately will die. But under sound management practices geared to water conservation, the life of plants on a golf course and other large turf areas can be extended, perhaps even sustained, until it rains, the water shortage subsides or water is delivered from alternate sources.

If turf must be replaced and it appears likely water will be in short supply indefinitely, replace with more drought-resistant turfgrasses. James Beard, in his book **Turfgrass Science and Culture**, gives the relative drought resistance of 22 turfgrasses. He rates Buffalograss, Bermudagrass, Zoysiagrass and Bahiagrass as "excellent" and crested wheatgrass, hard fescue, sheep fescue, tall fescue and red fescue as "good". Less drought resistant -- in the poor-to-medium range -- are the bluegrasses, ryegrasses and bentgrasses.

**Dr. James R. Watson, Vice President  
Agronomist, The Toro Company**

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## MIDWEST BREEZES

-----  
 Congratulations! New faces in new positions -  
 Medinah Country Club - Peter Wilson  
 Hinsdale Golf Club - Bob Maibusch  
 Thorngate Country Club - Bruce Burchfield  
 Woodmar Country Club - Steve Biggers  
 -----

Busy - busy - busy. Walter Fuchs and staff of Evanston Golf Club, will always remember the fall of 1982. All putting green surfaces were renovated with two of the greens being completely reconstructed and redesigned. Also, construction of 20 sand traps and 8 tees were completed. Walter reports that the turfgrass appears to be doing very well. The putting surfaces have been mowed four times thus far.  
 -----

**Mitch Duffy** has joined the **Chicago District Golf Association** as **Assistant Executive Director**, effective January 17, 1983. Duffy is a native of Barrington, Illinois and recently received his bachelors degree in economics from Northern Illinois University. He competed on the NIU golf team and maintains a handicap of plus 1.

The CDGA is a regional amateur golf association offering wide-ranging services to 180 member clubs and 45,000 club members in a five-state area.

-----  
 National Golf Foundation Administrators Forum was held in Chicago on February 2 & 3. Tim Miles, from Sportsman Golf Course, delivered a fine presentation titled, "Role of the Golf Course Superintendent". He addressed important topics such as Management, Budgets, Personnel, Scheduling, and much more. Lorraine Abbott, from N.G.F., put together the fine FORUM for all Great Lakes Golf Administrators participation.  
 -----

Memories of Love - Joy - Thankfulness. Congratulations to Bill Johnson, Assistant Supt., and Tim Johnson, Mechanic, from St. Charles Country Club. Along with their excited spouses, they are expecting new additions to their families during May or June. The two only remember celebrating at a germination party for their newly SEEDED putting greens.  
 -----

The Chicago Area of Golf Course Supts. has lost one of the best in the retirement of **Warren Bidwell**, Supt. at Olympia Fields C.C.

A retirement party was held at Silver Lake C.C. on Jan. 15 hosted by **Dudley Smith**, Supt. at Silver Lake C.C. Eighty guests were present and enjoyed a wonderful dinner and an evening of socializing with friends.

Our congratulations to **Warren** and his wife **Catherine** for many retirement years, and may the wind always be on their backs.



**Warren Bidwell**



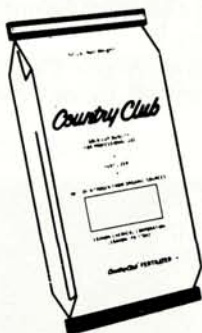
**Dudley Smith, Host**



**Catherine and Warren Bidwell**



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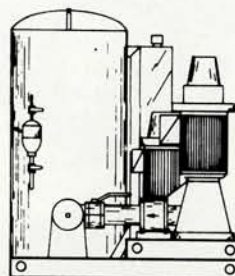
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