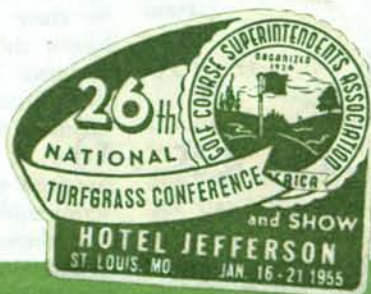




# The Bull Sheet

Official Bulletin

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents



**CHARLES SHILEY**  
Supt. North Hills Country Club

**THE SEPTEMBER MEETING  
JOINT MEETING WITH THE WISCONSIN  
GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
NORTH HILLS COUNTRY CLUB  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1954**

**CHARLES SHILEY, Host Superintendent  
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**DINNER — 6:30 P. M.**

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM  
DR. JAMES WATSON, GUEST SPEAKER**

**THE WISCONSIN GREENKEEPERS WILL BE OUR  
HOSTS FOR OUR ANNUAL JOINT MEETING WITH  
WISCONSIN ON SEPTEMBER 13. LET'S MAKE THIS  
TRADITIONAL GET-TOGETHER A BIG SUCCESS  
BY ALL BEING THERE.**



THE BULL SHEET, official monthly publication of THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS. Editor, William H. Stuppel, 543 Michigan Ave., Highland Park, Ill.

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### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the last several years, we have not been permitted to be represented by a delegate at the National meetings, because we have failed to have 60 percent or more of our regular members as members in the National organization. I feel that we should be represented in a proper manner at these meetings and that a wish to be 100 percent is not unreasonable. A number of other associations have taken steps to make their regular members 100 percent National members and I think we should do the same. At Chesterfield on August 9 we had a special meeting to discuss amending our by-laws to make this possible. Our plan is to amend the by-laws relating to regular membership in Article 3, section 2 which now reads in part, "Regular members shall be only those persons employed as Superintendents who shall have at the time of application for membership at least three (3) years of experience in actual work of this nature." This would be amended to read as follows, "Regular members shall be only those persons employed as Superintendents who shall have at the time of application for membership at least three (3) years of experience in actual work of this nature and who shall be Regular members of the National Association of Golf Course Superintendents of America." We will have a special membership meeting on October 19 for final action on this matter.

Our next meeting will be our annual meeting with the Wisconsin Greenkeepers Association. Each year we hold a joint meeting with this worthy and friendly group, a custom which has been going on for more years than I can remember. Last year we were the host and this year we meet with them on their own grounds, but this year we are exceptionally pleased for the course we meet at, North Hills Country Club at Milwaukee, has for a Superintendent one of our own boys, Charley Shiley, who was assistant to Ray Didier at Tam O Shanter for many years. It will be a real pleasure to meet at his course.

I'll see you all at North Hills on September 13.  
George Roloff, President

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### COMING EVENTS

Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Fall Field Days—September 27, 28.

Annual Fall Tournament, Evanston Golf Club, Tuesday, October 5.

Fall Dance, River Forest Country Club, November 6.

Bill Daniel announces that the 1955 Midwest Regional Turf Conference has been scheduled for March 7, 8, 9, in the Purdue Memorial Union.

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Midwest member Ted Woehrle is now 2nd Lt. Ted Woehrle, 1st Officer Student Battery, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Frank Dinelli's fourth and youngest daughter, Nancy, is to be married in the near future. Frank says it is going to seem strange around the house without any girls. Frank still has two young sons, however, who keep him plenty busy.

### OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING

On Monday, September 13, we meet with the Wisconsin Greenkeepers Association at North Hills Country Club, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. These joint meetings are always looked forward to by members of both associations because of the good will and good fellowship at these meetings. In other words, we always have a grand time. There will be the usual golf tournament in the afternoon and play for the Midwest-Wisconsin Trophy. In the evening we will have our get together and the guest speaker will be Dr. James Watson, Agronomist for the Toro Manufacturing Company. Charley Shiley, who you will all remember as Ray Didier's assistant at Tam for many years will be the Host Superintendent. Charley says that it is not difficult to reach his club and if you will follow the directions he has sent to us you will not have any trouble. From the Chicago area, take Routes U.S. 41 or 45 to the interchange of Highways 100-41-45-175 and turn northwest on 175 and go 2½ miles to the club which is about 2½ miles Southeast of Menomonee Falls. Just Northwest of the club is a church on a hill which can be seen for miles and is a very good landmark.

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### OUR AUGUST MEETING

Our August meeting was held at Chesterfield Country Club, Glenview, Illinois, on Monday, August 9. It was a perfect day and our hosts, Julius and Dick Buchen, certainly did their best to make it a wonderful day for us. 53 golfers toured the course in the afternoon and were unanimous in their praise of the condition of Chesterfield. As usual, the refreshments on the course were very welcome and this was thru the courtesy of Geo. A. Davis, Inc., who supplied them. After a most delightful buffet supper, the meeting was called to order and we had the privilege of listening to Dr. A. J. Vlitos of Boyce Thompson Institute, who gave us a most interesting talk on the advances made in various chemicals in agriculture. It is certainly heartening to hear of the many wonderful things being done in this line which will also be directly beneficial to us in our work. After the regular meeting was closed, President Roloff called a special meeting to discuss an amendment in our By-Laws covering membership in our association. It has been proposed that we amend Article 3, Section 2 to read as follows; Regular members shall be only those persons employed as Superintendents who have at the time of application for membership at least three (3) years experience in actual work of this nature and who shall be Regular Members of the National Association of Golf Course Superintendents of America. After considerable discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed that discussion be tabled until our October meeting.

### GOLF WINNERS

Blind Bogey: 1. Dom Grotti, 2. Bill Saielli, 3. Marvin Gruening, 4. Dave Mastroleo, 5. Jock McIntosh, 6. Andy Dunn, 7. Joe Klem, 8. Frank Dinelli, 9. Ed. Muzik, 10. Don Swenson, 11. Frank Mastroleo, 12. Julius Buchen.

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As has been the case when we have visited Chesterfield before, we had a nice day, but a terrific thunderstorm in the evening. We did not see it there, but in some areas there was also a terrific hail storm. The hailstones were so large that they made imprints in the greens similar to ball marks.



OPEN LETTER  
TO MID-WEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF  
COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

Dear Mr. Superintendent:

From Monday, July 12, through Wednesday, July 14, I had the good fortune to visit several golf courses in the Chicago area, and the further pleasure of speaking to your group about our turfgrass problems in the West.

I will always be indebted to Ray Gerber, Don Strand and Bob Williams for their thoughtfulness in acting as hosts during each of the three days. Their willingness to transport me over the countryside enabled me to get a true picture of turf conditions on both private and public fee courses. Needless to say, I couldn't have picked a more adverse time for good cool-season grass growth. Temperatures were in the high 90's and humidity was near the precipitation point. Yet with mother nature pulling out all the stops in order to make it tough for you fellows, I was able to see perfection in golfing turf.

In reviewing the tour my most favorable impressions relate to the degree of grooming; tees clipped at putting green height; and analytical questions from superintendents who are constantly striving to find the answer to their turf problems, and thus provide better golfing turf for increased golfer satisfaction. It is doubtful if any professional group in the nation can closely approach the superintendents in their selfless goal of striving to increase the pleasurable leisure hours of our bosses, the golfers.

I couldn't help but see that many of your problems were similar to those faced by our western superintendents. I felt right at home in discussions covering *Poa annua*, crabgrass, water management, diseases and accepted management practices. To my mind, basic soil-moisture-grass relationships are the same regardless of where one is located. It is for this reason that a Los-Angeles superintendent may have an answer for a Chicago problem, and practices that were devised by Chicago superintendents are finding wide acceptance in the Northwest. One has only to look at Norm Johnson's success in Florida to appreciate that there are no geographical boundaries large enough to interfere with sound basic turfgrass knowledge.

Of all the turf culture subjects discussed, possibly *Poa annua* received the most attention. For this reason I am taking the liberty of mentioning a few management practices that are enabling some of our western courses to gradually eliminate annual bluegrass from the pest category.

*Poa annua* must outgrow bentgrass during some portion of the growing season if it is to become a problem. With us, this period falls during cool wet weather of winter to early summer, depending on location and the season. During this time we avoid fertilizing with water soluble sources of nitrogen and the use of aeration tools. It seems to us that when *Poa* is outgrowing bent regardless of what we do, aeration to encourage deeper rooting plus readily available nitrogen to stimulate growth, would further help *Poa* to crowd out the more desirable bentgrasses. Since our golfers demand good early season color we keep a stronger feeding program going during hot weather when *Poa* is at a low ebb and only the bentgrass can respond. We find this not only gives early spring color due to a residual effect, but also prevents *Poa* from germinating because our bentgrass is dense in the fall.

Since climatic conditions are decidedly difficult to judge in advance, we favor making our earliest fertilizer application with a true organic material. We do this because there seems to be a direct correlation between availability of organic nitrogen and the start of the bent growing season. Thus, if we misjudge the weather, and it continues to remain cool and wet, the organic nitrogen does not react to stimulate *Poa*. All is not lost, by the way, in applying true organics under adverse conditions for their release. They merely lie in wait for warmer weather.

We have also found that lead arsenate is a good inhibitor of seed germination as long as phosphate levels are not excessive. Courses that have continued to use a little lead each year, and have avoided the constant use of complete fertilizers high in phosphoric acid, have little trouble with *Poa*.

Management techniques of value to us during *Poa* season include frequent cup changes to distribute traffic; sodium arsenite to prevent seedhead formation; use of sterilized topdressing; and holding off on early broad leaf weed control to prevent *Poa* from germinating in the voids where the weeds are killed.

Other techniques worthy of consideration during Bent season would be watering as deeply and infrequently as possible; aeration where needed to encourage deeper rooting; and starting the renovation program early in the season. We have noticed that the normal time of seeding bent into renovated fairways often coincides with the fall germination of *Poa*. Thus it is possible to have *Poa* emerge first and crowd out the bent. We believe that it might be better to seed bent earlier in the season when temperatures are too hot for good *Poa* germination.

In order to help you do a better job of fighting *Poa*, we placed a research grant at the University of Illinois this year. In the near future we plan to establish a regional Green Section office in the Mid-West, and would appreciate the views of the Chicago Area superintendents concerning such a move. The United States Golf Association's new program of Green Section decentralization to provide better service to its member clubs through closer cooperation with the individual Golf Course Superintendent is working well in the West. It should be equally, if not more effective, in Chicago because of the large number of golf courses in a limited geographical area. With the full support of Chicago clubs, each applicant for Regional Turf Service would have the full time help of a turfgrass Agronomist who would be available almost immediately for special request visits in addition to the regular yearly visit. As with all USGA activities this service is provided at or below cost and one fee covers everything. For an 18 hole, 300 member private club, it amounts to 33-1/3 cents per member per year. More complete detail is available from USGA "Golf House", 40 East 38th Street, New York 16, New York, or locally through Mr. John D. Ames, Vice President USGA, 135 South LaSalle Street, Chicago 3, Illinois.

In closing, I wish to again thank the Mid-West Association of Golf Course Superintendents for making my visit an enjoyable and memorable occasion. Your USGA Green Section cannot effectively exist for our common goal of providing better turf for better golf without the support of the golf course superintendent.

Sincerely

Yours for Better Golfing Turf,

Charles G. Wilson

Western Director, USGA Green Section



## DISEASE FATAL TO ELMS HITS CHICAGO AREA

Dutch elm disease, a devastating fungus ailment of elm trees for which science knows no cure, has been found in the Chicago area for the first time, Dr. Leo R. Tehon, head of applied botany and plant pathology with the Illinois Natural History survey, Urbana, announced.

One infected elm has been found at 356 Sumac st., Highland Park. Another is located in North Aurora, Kane county. The infection was determined by laboratory analysis of branch samples by Dr. J. C. Carter, a survey plant pathologist.

Tehon said he plans to ask officials of the two towns to meet with him and other survey specialists to work out control programs in an effort to prevent spread of the disease. He has held similar meetings in recent weeks with officials of several downstate towns, including Kankakee, Pontiac, Bloomington, and Paxton, where the disease has broken out.

Tehon said the disease presents a particularly serious threat to urban areas such as Chicago and its suburbs where there are scores of thousands of American elms along streets and in parks. Some downstate cities have spent thousands of dollars in attempts to control the disease and save the elm trees.

Thus far this season Dutch elm has spread rapidly to infect elms in 32 Illinois counties. It was found in only 12 counties last summer.

Scientists and tree specialists have been apprehensive for some time that the fatal fungus would strike the Chicago area.

Altho there is no known cure for Dutch elm disease, there are ways to control its spread by controlling the European bark beetle which transmits it. This beetle, a tiny dark insect, breeds in dead elm wood. One method of control is to remove and burn dead elm trees and prune out all dead branches and limbs.

Such a control program has been under way this summer in the Cook county forest preserve district under direction of Noel B. Wyson, chief forester. Healthy trees also may be sprayed with DDT to destroy the beetles.

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## MIDWEST REGIONAL TURF FOUNDATION FALL FIELD DAYS

For 1954 the Fall Field Days for the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation are to be divided into two groups. On Monday, September 27, turfmen from southern areas — St. Louis, Central Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Cincinnati, and Dayton Associations are invited to come in at that time. Emphasis will be placed on the Bermudas, zoysias, bentgrass and brownbatch, fungicide control and vegetative grass plantings.

On Tuesday, September 28, turfmen from northern areas of Wisconsin, Chicago, Michiana, Western Michigan, Detroit, Cleveland and Central Ohio are invited. At that time bentgrass tests for fairways will be stressed rather than Bermudas and zoysias. Creeping bent for winter color and early growth will receive more attention.

This arrangement is planned to reduce the number attending on a given day so that it will be easier to observe the plots and to understand the discussion of the smaller groups. Any person may attend either day.

The program starts at 10:00 A. M., each day and closes at 3:30 P. M. This permits those who wish, to drive up the preceding day and return home at the end of the afternoon program. Mark these dates — get a carfull together and plan to come — Fall Field Days, September 27, or September 28.

## SPREADING IT THIN

This has been a hard summer. A summer that has called for all the concentration of effort a man was capable of giving his job. The Mole was sitting with a Supt. in his office late in July discussing the problems of growing grass when his wife walked in. She asked if she could have a short conference with her husband, "Yes" he said, "just as soon as I check Number 17 green."

"I do wish" she answered plaintively, "that I could come before the greens just once."

The Entertainment Committee announced that our fall dance would be held at the River Forest Country Club November 6th. It is planned that dinner is to be served early and dancing continue all evening.

Ray Davis reports that PMAS has done a good job of crabgrass control on the fairways at Medinah. Ray has made weekly applications thruout the summer. The greens approachs and collars which Ray sodded with Merion Bluegrass last fall have stood up very well and make a wonderful frame for the greens with the contrasting shades of dark green of the Merion and the lighter shades of green of the greens. Superintendents who have inspected the planting are fascinated with the idea and think it will be tried by others this fall.

Gabriel Rosset, formerly superintendent at Green Acres Country Club, is the new superintendent at Skokie Country Club.

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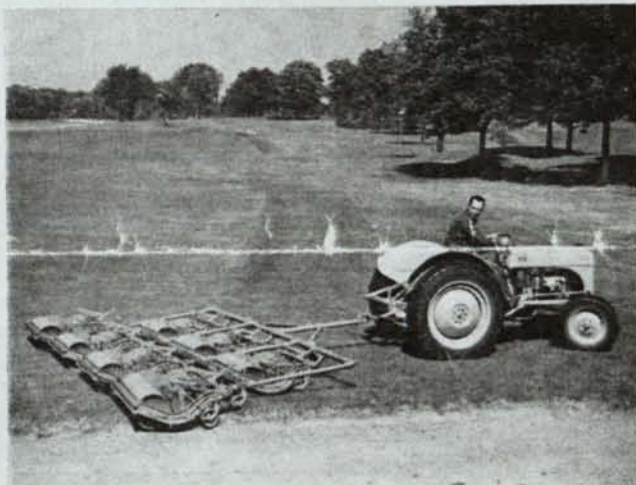
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