



The Bull Sheet

Official Bulletin

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents

Our 29th Year



MARVIN GRUENING
Supt., Midwest Country Club

THE APRIL MEETING

RIVER FOREST COUNTRY CLUB
ELMHURST, ILLINOIS

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 1955

ED. STEWART, OUR HOST

GOLF, SOCIAL GATHERING in afternoon
DINNER 6:00 P. M.

BUSINESS MEETING 7:30 P. M.

EDUCATIONAL MEETING

DR. KEITH C. BARRONS, GUEST SPEAKER

THIS WILL BE OUR FIRST OUTDOOR MEETING
OF 1955. LET'S MAKE IT A GOOD ONE.

DON'T FORGET TO COME OUT AND HAVE A
GOOD TIME AT OUR SPRING DINNER DANCE.

SPRING DINNER DANCE — MIDWEST COUNTRY CLUB, APRIL 23, 1955

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

Editor, William H. Stupple, 543 Michigan Ave., Highland Park, Ill.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Our next meeting will be held at Ed Stewart's beautiful River Forest Country Club on Monday, April 11. This is the second consecutive year that we have had an early spring meeting at Ed's course and we are hoping this year that the weather will be right so we can get to play golf. As I remember it, last year, while the weather was warm it was pretty soggy underfoot and there was no play. Our Educational Chairman, Peter Bild, promises us a most interesting educational meeting. Dr. Keith Barrons, who is in charge of Agricultural research at the Dow Chemical Company, will be with us and is going to discuss some of the factors in selective weed killing and tell us of possible products that are under test to be made available in the future.

With the coming of April, we will all be very busy, but I wish to urge you to take time off from your work to attend our April meeting. Also, don't forget our Dinner Dance at Midwest Country Club on April 23. Marvin and Mrs. Gruening will be our hosts and promise us a most wonderful time.

I was certainly well pleased to see the fine turnout which our Association had at the Purdue Conference. It seems that every year we have an increasingly large representation there. It was a good meeting and I want to extend my thanks and congratulations to Dr. Bill Daniel for a job well done.

Yours for better turf and hoping to see you all in the near future.

George Roloff, President.

COMING EVENTS

Regular meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, River Forest Country Club, April 11, 1955.

Spring Dinner Dance at Midwest Country Club on April 23, 1955.

Spring Golf Tournament, Roselle Country Club, May 9, 1955.

Joint meeting Central Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association, Michiana Golf Course Superintendents and Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Kankakee, Illinois, June 7, 1955.

Joint meeting with Wisconsin Greenkeepers Association at McHenry Country Club, McHenry, Illinois in September.

CONGRATULATIONS

Donald and Lynn Gerber are the proud parents of a daughter, Kimberly born March 21, weight 9 pounds. This makes Ray Gerber a grandpa and is he proud. Our congratulations and best wishes to all.

Elmer Bertucci is driving a new Chevrolet. Elmer did not make his usual early spring trip to Hot Springs this year, but we did see him at Purdue and he is looking fine. Elmer is starting his 44th year at Old Elm Club and we believe that he is the oldest Superintendent in years of service in this part of the country.

DR. KEITH C. BARRONS WILL BE OUR GUEST SPEAKER

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we can announce that Dr. Barrons will be the principal speaker at our next meeting.

Dr. Barrons is now the Manager of Agricultural Chemical Development of the Dow Chemical Company. He received his training in plant physiology and crop production at Minnesota and Michigan State. He was formerly professor of horticulture at Michigan State College where he was engaged in weed control research. He has continued this work for the Dow Chemical Company the past 10 years. His subject at our meeting will be "Recent Developments in Chemicals for the Golf Course Superintendent."

THE MARCH MEETING

Some 50 members of our association sat down to dinner at Sambo's on March 14 after enjoying a social afternoon there. Sambo's famous barbecued ribs were enjoyed by all, although some claimed that they did not get enough due to a bottleneck at the kitchen end of the table. Anyway, it was a wonderful meal.

After dinner, President Roloff on behalf of the Association, presented the Bull Sheet editor with a beautiful camera in recognition of his work for the Association and for which the editor was truly grateful and many thanks.

After a short business meeting, our guest speaker, Dr. A. J. Vlitos of the Boyce Thompson Institute gave us a very interesting talk on chemical weed and crabgrass control in turf and the regulation of plant growth with chemicals.

It was a very interesting meeting and it was too bad that we did not have a better turnout.

SOMETHING ABOUT CRAG HERBICIDE 1.

We were very much interested in Dr. Vlitos report on work done with Crag Herbicide 1. The following is a digest of his remarks on just what it is.

Its chemical name is Sodium 2, 4-Dichlorophenoxyethyl Sulfate. It is a white powder which is easily dissolved in water and can be sprayed or sprinkled on the soil with a garden hose sprayer, sprinkling can, or pressure sprayer. Its mode of action is to kill weed seeds as they sprout. It is not an active weed killer until it has been on the soil for a few hours. Soil bacteria change it from a material that is harmless to the leaves of plants to a powerful killer of germinating weed seeds. It is used for preventing weeds in gardens, shrub borders, foundation plantings, driveways, paths, and other areas where weed growth is a problem and for the prevention of crabgrass in established lawns. It should be applied four times a year, at monthly intervals starting between April 15 and May 15 to keep crabgrass from becoming a problem.

Crag Herbicide-1 will prevent weeds from 3 to 6 weeks. After that time the same soil bacteria that first made it an active weed seed killer convert it to a material harmless to plants.

Much was heard at Purdue about a new weed killer, Disodium Methyl Arsenite and Disodium Benzol Arsenite. Bill Cleary of the W. A. Cleary Corporation, New Brunswick, New Jersey says that he has a quantity of the Benzol on hand and will gladly send a sample to anybody who wants to experiment with it.

REPORT ON THE M.R.T.F. CONFERENCE

It is our humble opinion that the conference at Purdue in March was one of the best in a long string of good meetings. Certainly it was the best attended with the attendance figure hitting the four hundred mark and that's a big meeting. The speakers were all very interesting, with the Superintendents on the program doing an outstanding job. Certainly, the lecture on Japan by Miss L. E. Roarbacher of the Dept. of English of Purdue University on the last morning of the meeting, is something that will long be remembered by all who were there. It was something different and was enjoyed by all.

Of course, the annual banquet was one of the highlights of the conference, as is always the case. Our congratulations to Al Stewart for the performance of the Purdue Glee Club and to Red Mackey for his part at the banquet.

It was reported at the meeting of the M.R.T.F., that our membership is steadily gaining and that more and more research is being done with the increased revenue. It was most heartening to us all to hear the excellent annual report. At the election for the coming year, Frank Dinelli was elected Director.

OUTLOOK ROSY

by

C. O. Borgmeier

The time when a shortage existed in many items of equipment and supplies is practically abated. Many new items are constantly being introduced. In the few cases where a shortage does exist, there are adequate substitutes available. On the other hand, shortages sometimes do develop because of unbalanced seasonal demand so it is sometimes wise to make purchases in the off-season. Here is a general appraisal of conditions in the various fields affecting the turf industry.

Grass Seed: Seaside Bent, Red Top and Merion Blue Grass in short supply; Kentucky Blue Grass, Fescues, Colonial Bents, Poa Trivialis and Rye Grass in plentiful supply. Good sod is in short supply. The demand exceeds the supply.

Fertilizers and Chemicals: In plentiful supply. More and better formulations to excite your interest. Milorganite is still on a ration basis.

Insecticides, Fungicides and Weed Killers: In adequate supply, new products from intensive research being offered.

Machinery: In good supply but demand indicates possible squeeze in late spring. Here the emphasis by manufacturers is on improved and more efficient models. 1955 models of mowers, sod cutters, aerifiers, etc. like the new cars you see on the streets, have more eye appeal, better quality and more efficient performance. So as not to inconvenience yourselves and to help the manufacturer and your supplier, place your orders in advance of immediate need.

Unlike the early spring of 1954 when business statistics indicated a recession under way, early 1955 spring business is influenced by a general feeling of optimism. There is considerable activity under way in the promotion of new schools, parks and golf courses. The Chicago district has lagged on new golf facilities but the pressure is building up and several new courses are under construction. Many new schools have to be built to keep up with the growing population. All new institutions including industrial buildings involve the use of grass, trees and flowers. As long as the building boom lasts the turf industry will be busy, too. However, in view of the erratic behavior of the stock market recently, maybe it's time to take off the rose colored glasses and keep our fingers crossed.

ABOVE NORMAL APRIL WEATHER SEEN FOR AREA

The weather bureau says its 30 day outlook for April calls for temperatures to average below seasonal normals east of the Appalachians and over the southern half of the nation from Texas eastward.

"Above normal temperatures are predicted in a belt extending from the Great Lakes westward thru the northern plains to the northern plateau. In areas not specified near normal temperatures are anticipated.

"Precipitation is expected to be above normal over the southern third of the country below normal in the northern third, and about normal in the central third."



ED STEWART

Supt., River Forest Country Club

We learn that Harold Reid, long time Superintendent at Ridgemoor Country Club is resigning his position on account of ill health and plans to move to St. Petersburg, Florida. Harold has not been feeling well the last several years and figures that he will be able to take it easy in Florida. We wish to express our sincerest best wishes to Harold and hope that he will soon be restored to good health again.

Joe Canale says that he enjoyed his vacation in Florida and hopes to go back next year. Joe has been so busy that he hadn't had a vacation for many years. He heard reports from some of the guys who were in Florida last year and decided to try it himself. Now Joe is one of the most enthusiastic Florida boosters.

Dom Grotti is getting into shape for the golfing season. He has been playing golf all winter whenever the ground was clear of snow and says his game is of midsummer quality right now.

The Annual President's Dinner at Lafayette during the Conference in March was attended by some 24 Association members in honor of our President. This has come to be an annual event on the second night of our stay there. As per custom, the president was formally presented with the bill for the dinner and the president just as formally declared that he reckoned as how he couldn't find that much dough in his pockets and not having the power to declare it was on the Association that he was very much honored at the gesture, but that in order to get out of the banquet hall, he thought that each of those present this year, anyway, would have to pay for his own dinner.

SPREADING IT THIN

Gabe Rosset has weathered his first winter as boss of the Curling at Skokie. Gabe says it was quite an experience.

The new curling building at North Shore Country Club is nearing completion and is the envy of all curlers in the Chicago district.

George and Mrs. Dahlman drove their new Ford to Purdue.

Altogether, the Purdue meeting was a good one. It is great to get together with the friends you have made thru the years and renew old friendships.

Fred Grau made the final talk of the meeting at Purdue asking for compassion and understanding of each other's problems. After all, we are all in the same boat.

Nels and Mrs. Lundblad of Chicago Golf really had an outstanding vacation. Leaving Wheaton February 1, they drove to Salt Lake City, and then 140 miles into the mountains to see Mrs. Lundblad's folks, got snowbound for three days and had temperatures of 22 below zero. Then they went south to route 66 thru Texas into California and as far north as San Francisco and finally returned home where Nels had a brief bout with the flu. Nels is in good shape again now and plans to make his future winter trips where the palm trees grow and where there are no blizzards or mountains and where the temperature does not get below 50 degrees.

Amos Lapp was disturbed early in March when he visited Sycamore and looked for the home of Emil Cassier and found no trace of it where it had stood for these many years on the banks of the Kishwaukee river. The house just aint there no more. During the flood late last summer, Emil's was flooded with water six inches deep over the floors. When the water subsided, Emil picked out a lot on high ground at the west end of the park, moved the house up there and has spent the winter resetting it. It has been completely remodeled, is in a beautiful location, all new hardwood floors, automatic oil heat, every advantage of a new home and Emil and his family expect to move into it some time in April. So that is where Emil's home is now, Amos.

Joe Graffis Jr. attended our March meeting and said that the March issue of Golfdom was the biggest Golfdom ever issued.

It happens every year. Around the first week in March the weather turns balmy and all the boys get the itch to get out and do some work on the course. This year was no exception. Reports have come in that some of the Superintendents in the Chicago district cut greens as early as March 2. Others cut greens around March 15. But look what happened. A regular blizzard on March 22 and freezing weather and snow for the rest of the week. We know that a lot of Superintendents think the smell of new cut grass in the early spring is the sweetest of all, but we might as well enjoy the few warm days and then get ready to stoke up the old stove again.

Bill Saielli and Mrs. returned from a Florida vacation on March 16. Bill says the weather was ideal and fishing was good.

Al Pruess spent part of his vacation playing golf at Biloxi and Gulfport, Mississippi. Al says they have some nice golf courses in that part of the country.

Bert Jannes of the Lincoln Park Golf Courses reports that he sodded two tees with Merion blue grass sod. The tees were about 4000 square feet each. With a daily summer average of 450, Bert reports that the Merion did not survive. Merion blue grass like any other turf must have a chance to become thoroughly established on playing areas before being used if it is to survive.

Carl Peterson of South Shore Country Clubs says his fairway watering system is about complete. The system has been completely renovated during the winter and about 18,000 feet of pipe has been added and the pump capacity increased until Carl can now take 1400 gpm from the lake. Carl and Mrs. Peterson spent three weeks in March in Miami. Carl went there to help settle the estate of his parents, who, we are sorry to report, passed away there late last year.

The midwest men who were on the program at Purdue did a wonderful job and we are very proud of them.

O. J. Noer says the Purdue conference is the largest in the country.

Bowling must be a fascinating sport. Howard Baerwald attended the Purdue conference Monday, returned to La Grange to bowl with his team Monday evening, and then went back to Purdue. Paul W. Burdett attended the conference Monday, left for Springfield where he bowled in the Farm Bureau State Tournament and returned Tuesday night. Paul came in third in the State. This strenuous schedule is all right for the young fellows, but some of the oldsters settled for a game of Hearts in their spare time.

Negotiations are under way to subdivide Big Oaks Country Club. According to Barney Wendt, they are uncertain as to the operation of the club this summer.

Walter Kilmer's son, Richard, 16, is a first string line man on the Thornton High School football team. The boy is 6 feet 1½ inches tall and weighs 180.

Al and Susie Johnson are now driving a 1955 Chevrolet with power brakes and steering and are very proud of it.

Dom Grotti has a new Ford, red and white. It is a real fancy job.

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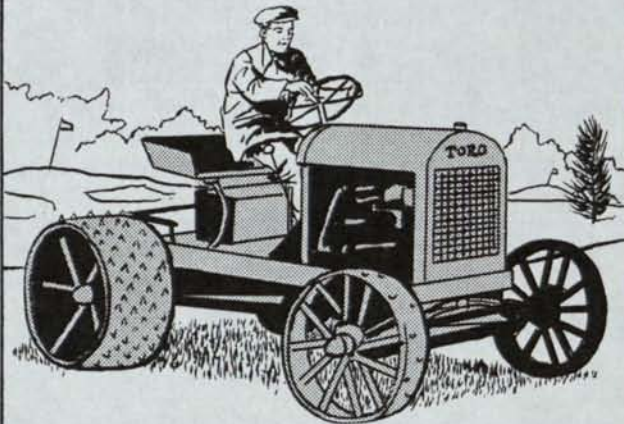
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