



The Bull Sheet

Official Bulletin

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents

Our 29th Year



PETER BILD, Chairman
Educational Committee

THE OCTOBER MEETING
ITASCA COUNTRY CLUB - ITASCA, ILL.
MONDAY, OCTOBER 3
JOHN COUTRE, OUR HOST
ANNUAL FALL GOLF TOURNAMENT
DINNER 6:30 P. M.
EDUCATIONAL MEETING
NELS J. JOHNSON, SPEAKER

THIS PROMISES TO BE A GREAT MEETING. IN ADDITION TO OUR FALL TOURNAMENT WITH IT'S WONDERFUL PRIZES, ASSOCIATION MEMBER NELS J. JOHNSON HAS KINDLY CONSENTED TO GIVE US AN ILLUSTRATED TALK ON TREE CULTURE IN GENERAL WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON DUTCH ELM DISEASE, PHLOEM NECROSIS AND OAK WILT. IF TIME PERMITS, HE WILL ALSO SHOW SOME PICTURES HE TOOK ABROAD. BETTER BE THERE

27th NATIONAL TURF GRASS CONFERENCE AND SHOW
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY 5 - 10, 1956

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

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased indeed with the interest and attendance at our regular meetings and particularly with the great number of our members who play golf regularly. Remember that on October 3rd we have our annual tournament at Itasca Country Club with John Coutre as our host and that on November 7th we will have our final outdoor meeting at Mohawk C. C. Particularly do I wish to call your attention to that Fall Dinner Dance at the River Forest Country Club, Saturday, November 5th. Ed Stewart is Chairman of that Committee and we have always had a good time at River Forest. Ed will have the tickets in the mail in plenty of time.

Our annual meeting with the Wisconsin Group was on a beautiful day, the course was in fine shape and our Host Al Purvey had every thing under control. The food was good and ample the location of the clubhouse, surrounded on three sides by water, was beautiful and 100 people played golf and 123 sat down for dinner. We thank Al and the McHenry Country Club and our Wisconsin Friends for helping us to have a wonderful day. Al even provided fishing and rumour has it that one of our members caught a 10 pound snapping turtle on his 5# bait.

Plan to be with us at Itasca C. C. on the 3rd for another wonderful day and tournament.

Geo. Roloff, President

COMING EVENTS

The October meeting and Fall Tournament, Itasca Country Club, Itasca, Ill., October 3.

Annual Fall Dinner Dance, River Foerst Country Club, Nov. 5.

The November meeting, Mohawk Country Club, November 7.

PRESIDENT ROLOFF APPOINTS NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Our President has appointed the following to serve on the Nominating Committee. Ray Gerber, Chairman, Amos Lapp, Walter Killmer, Dom Grotti, Ray Davis.

NEW MEMBERS

The following were elected to membership in our association at our last meeting. Thomas A. Jenkins, Orval V. Decker, Harvey Hamilton, Rueben H. Thode, Wayne Ronald Bruns, Allen Earl Davis, Bernard Kronn, Joseph Ventrilia, William Harold Brenner.

THE OCTOBER MEETING AND TOURNAMENT

On October 3 we will meet at Itasca Country Club for our Annual Fall Tournament and meeting. John Coutre will be our host along with Mr. Erickson, owner. Play will be in the afternoon for a beautiful assortment of prizes which Bill Krafft and Dave Mastroleo have for us. It might be a good idea to start early to give yourself time to finish 18 holes before dark. Why not play nine in the morning and nine in the afternoon? Our speaker of the evening will be Association member Nels Johnson, tree expert, who will give us a talk on trees.

OUR JOINT MEETING WITH WISCONSIN

It was a lovely day and exactly 100 golfers turned out to play Al Purvey's beautiful golf course on Monday, September 12. It was our joint meeting with Wisconsin and it was a wonderful get together. After golf, we had a social hour and then repaired to the dining room where a bountiful buffet dinner awaited us. After we had eaten until we could hold no more, President Roloff introduced Wisconsin President Del Stollenwerk and welcomed the Wisconsin men to Illinois. Dr. Jim Watson was introduced and gave us a nice talk on maintenance problems with some very interesting slides of troubles, etc., on the golf course. Dr. Watson had a barrage of questions thrown at him and did right well in answering them. We had kind of figured that Wisconsin might take the trophy home, but Illinois retained it with some fine golf by Julius Goffo, Dick Buchan and Ben Kronn. It was a meeting long to be remembered and our many thanks to Al for a wonderful day.

GOLF WINNERS

Winning team for Midwest-Wisconsin Trophy, Julius Goffo, Dick Buchan, Ben Kronn. 1st low gross, Julius Goffo, 74. Low Net 1, Dave Mastroleo. 2, Al Bertucci. 3, Norm Kramer. 4, Ed Muzik. 5, Les Verhaalen. 6, John Crewe. 7, Dom Grotti. 8, Al Pruess. 9, Bob Freske. 10, Agar Brown. 11, O. Olson. 12, Art Demay. 13, R. Mosbach. 14, Mike Coyne. 15, Stan Arendt. 16, Geo. Roloff. 17, Ed Stewart. 18, Elmer Lempke. 19, T. Overton. 20, Ray Mertins. 21, Ray Gerber. 22, Don Strand. 23, John Coghill. 24, Al Hintz. 25, Dan Corey. 26, R. Michael. 27, Joe Ventrilia. 28, Jock MacIntosh. 29, Julius Buchen. 30, John Stampfl. 31, R. Crown. 32, Oscar Borgmeier. 33, Amos Lapp.

WISCONSIN NEWS

September 12th was a very pleasant day to be remembered for a long time by the 30 Badgers who traveled to McHenry Country Club to join with Midwest Golf Course Superintendents in the annual Midwest - Wisconsin, Joint meeting. This is an event that most of us look forward too. It is one of the pleasures of life to renew old acquaintances and to establish new friends. These social contacts and, the knowledge that is to be gained by comparing our methods with those of our neighbors, and the information that is presented by the speaker of the evening, who is an authority on Turf, Equipment, or associated duties of the Golf Course Superintendent. All of which make these meetings an outstanding event and one that no Superintendent can afford to miss.

Al Purvey (our host) had the Golf Course in top shape, and a very pleasant round of golf was followed by a fine dinner. After dinner Dr. Jim Watson showed a number of slides, and gave a very fine talk.

This has been a most trying year. It has tested the metal of all superintendents. I have not seen a golf course that has not shown some scars from high humidity, and temperature, as well as extreme drought in many sections of the country. It attests to the ability of the superintendent and the many advancements made in methods of Golf Course Maintenance, that Turf has held up and survived, this year, with the small loss of Turf that Golf Courses have had much of which will recover with the cooler weather and rains of fall.

THE BADGER

CHRIST, AM I CONFUSED

(By Taylor Boyd, Supt. Camargo Club)
Cincinnati, Ohio

Please! The title to this article is a prayer to the Almighty for help and not to be taken lightly as just a catchy title. There are many reasons for confusion. They are, to name a few, topsoil, topdressing, verticut, aerifying water, strains of bent, fungicides, arsenate of lead, power mowers, and on and on.

Volumes have been written about what mixture of sand, soil and humus to use under a green. There is no answer and I'll prove it. Our nursery is on an abandoned polo field with no tile or sand or humus. It has Pennlu and C-7 Bent in it, is cut when the greens are cut, watered when we happen to remember it, never treated with fungicides and it is the best Bent we have today. Our test green (no traffic) had everything built into it—sand, humus material, and is watched like a hawk, and it is lousy except the C-1 and C-7. The Bents are Pennlu, C-1 and C-7, C-19, C-52. Why? That's why I'm confused.

TOPDRESSING. I believe in it. Always have and do it twice early spring and fall. There are greens that haven't been topdressed for years—some are good and some are not. There must be a reason for the difference. What it is I don't know, I'm confused.

Verticut or rake or brush or comb, or what have you. We are told we have to do some of it. I do some of it. I do and think it is helpful. I wouldn't do any of these operations after June 1st in Cincinnati for all the tea in China. It would be (or would it?) fatal. I am confused but only slightly on this subject—I will not do any bruising of Bent during June, July or August.

Aerification has become a "must" in most greens maintenance programs. It helps, it's not new, and has been done for as many years as I can remember. It can be done any time and will not disturb the putting qualities of a green—NUTS! Any time a hole is poked, punched, torn or drilled into a fine putting green it does disturb the putting quality, either actually or as a mental hazard to the golfer. In the spring or fall when the Bent is vigorous it can be done on Monday and very well hidden by Wednesday. That would be impossible here now. It would leave a hole for days because what little growth we get now on Bent is vertical, not lateral—and darned little of either. If a green is going to die anyway some aerification might be helpful. I guess it is—"guess" I said. I'm confused. Look at greenskeeping from the golfer's point of view as to aerification. He doesn't know that a green is getting sick like a greenskeeper does in advance, so all he sees is holes in his pretty putting greens. Talk all you want—two people will then be confused, you and the golfer.

Water is great stuff. It causes trouble with Bourbon or Scotch, causes trouble if applied in too large quantities on grass or too little or too late. I would say offhand that of the three named the worst mistake is too much; second, too late. Too little can be corrected if not too late if you haven't earlier used too much. Now you are confused. I am too. The temperature right now is 98 degrees and humidity 62%—well, would you water?—with sprinklers, by hand, morning, evening and how long in either case? Now we are both confused again. Where can you get the answer? There is no where and I mean "nowhere." The correct answer is do something about it and trust to the Lord that you are right.

What strain of Bent do you have? Is it good now? Better keep it. Is it not good? Well, get all new greens.

They cost only about \$500.00 each. The club will not care if you spend \$9,000.00 for greens that are never going to cause trouble from wilt, leaf spot, dollar patch, brown patch, but, boy oh boy, when you ask for the \$9,000.00 bucks you better know you have a Bent that will take it and how. I have a pet strain—it is good—I say so. One of my friends—Likes by name—says I'm nuts. He has his pet strain and says it is best. You know what, we are both wrong. There is no best. There are just better and worse Bents. Now, which ones they are I don't know and neither does anyone else. I'll prove that also. Within the last four weeks I've read or heard experts designate three best Bents for our area. How do they know? They don't. They have never kept greens in this area and I hope they never have to do so. I'm confused.

If you haven't gone off the deep end yet, just hold on. Fungicides and insecticides and herbicides. Why! Oh! Why! don't the U. S. G. A. put on a drive to get all producers of these products to make the actual content the same percentage? It is confusing enough to decide which one to use for what without having to convert each into a trigonometry problem before application. They run from 1% to 99% pure stuff—so I'm confused. Do you know why arsenate of lead is now pink? It is because the poor stuff has been kicked around so many years that it got grey and had to have a henna rinse. Honestly, I'm confused. It will stop Poa and Crab. It won't. It kills orchards. That wasn't what did it. It stops root growth—well does it? Who knows I have used it for 27 years with both good and bad results. There is one sure thing about it, if you eat some you won't care long what happens. That, everyone is sure about.

Don't leave me—only one more—Power Mowers. Nice, weren't they, the first or second year. Not so good now. The vibration of the engine plus extra weight compacts the soil. They do, too! BUT! where can you buy a hand putting green mower? It can't be did! Who would push it if you could buy it? I'm confused. I'm not really too confused on this though. If I had my "druthers" I'd use power mowers for the first dozen mowings in early spring—then good old hand mowers the rest of the season. It would be cheaper when all factors were considered, and, by gosh, on Saturday, Sunday and holidays the hand mower would run (providing the man showed up for work to push it). Power mowers do not always run when you are in a hurry.

To close, I may seem bitter or cynical. I'm not. I may seem to be poking fun at Drs. Noer, Daniels, Musser, Wilson, Grau and others. I most certainly am not. I holler for them like a stuck pig when I need their help. The ones named and many more I consider my closest friends and they are the people who keep us confused with new ideas, chemicals, grasses, machines, ways and means for the development of better turf. Damn, now I am confused.

Thank you, Lord, for the months of September and October.

—THE GREEN BREEZE

O. J. Noer celebrated his 65th birthday on Tuesday, September 27. Several of the Midwest superintendents had planned to surprise him with a visit on that day, but O. J. was busy leaving on a trip up into Canada somewhere, so they called off the trip. However, we want in behalf of all the members of the Midwest to congratulate O. J. and to wish him the best of luck and hope we can do the same on many more birthdays.

MIDWEST REGIONAL FALL FIELD DAYS

On September 19 and 20, Dr. Bill Daniel held his annual Fall Field Days at Purdue. We attended on the 19th and there were about 125 in attendance and probably more the second day. As usual Bill had a nice program for us, first on the experimental green on the campus, on the lawn of his new home and at the Agronomy farm. Probably the most striking thing on the green was the way Pennlu bent stood out. It really looks wonderful and may be just what we are looking for. It is a very aggressive bent and while there was goose grass in other strains on the green, none could be found in the Pennlu. Fungicide trials find some of the new materials to be superior. Zoysia attracted a great deal of attention and from remarks of those present is becoming more and more popular as a golf course grass. Crabgrass control, of course, was one of the main subjects and is still a major problem in turf culture. We were very much interested in work being done with Chlordane for control of crabgrass. The search still goes on for a superior strain of bluegrass. Bill has quite a number of strains in the nursery and is hopeful that one of them will excel even Merion. Merion took a beating this summer due to high humidity and in some places where it was thought to be the ideal grass, Merion failed this summer.

Our thanks, Dr. Daniel, for a very educational and pleasant day.

SPREADING IT THIN

Peter Bild Chairman of the Educational Committee announced that he was working hard on the late Fall School. With the unfailing cooperation of Dr. Ralph Voight of the U. of I. College of Pharmacy, Chicago Campus, Pete promises a fine and instructive Fall School. He will announce dates and subject matter in the very near future.

Peter Bild is also proud to announce that he has made arrangements with Nels Johnson Tree Surgeon of Evanston, Ill. to be our guest speaker at the annual tournament at Itasca.

Our meeting at the McHenry C. C. was very successful. We were hosts to the Wisconsin association and for this meeting the committee tries to get an Illinois Club as close to the Wisconsin line as possible. The McHenry C. C. was a good selection, the Supt. Al Purvey had the grounds in excellent condition and the site of the club house, surrounded on three sides by water provided an opportunity for those who didn't play golf to fish and boat and chew the fat in the sunny bank of the Fox River. They did it, too.

The Tournament Committee under the direction of Bill Krafft, who came up from his new course at Valparaiso, Indiana reported that 100 played golf and 123 sat down to dinner.

The boys from Wisconsin reported that 30 of the Wisconsin members attended. The dinner was good, the prizes ample and everyone had a good day.

Jim Watson of the Toro Co. gave a brief talk covering some of the summer's activities. It was very interesting. Charlie Wilson of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission ran the slide projector for Jim's talk.

Several members of the Midwest visited Bill Daniels at The Turf Field day Monday and Tuesday at Purdue. Bill had his usual interesting day in which members examined the various grasses on the putting green and the many plots at the farm and had the additional pleasure of seeing Bill's new lawn growing. Bill has installed an automatic watering system so he doesn't even have to stick a knife in the soil to see if it needs water. The zoysia in particular attracted the interest of our Chicago representatives.

Howard Baerwald of La Grange C. C. had an operation for hernia last week. Howard is up and around now and has to keep himself in constant check to keep from climbing over the tractors and other equipment around the yard.

Al Hintz bought a new Chevrolet with everything on it.

Gearld Dearie got a new Buick Convertible, black and white.

Frank Dinelli, Warren Roseman and a few others did not play golf at McHenry, but went fishing instead. It seems that the fish were biting right up till the time we got there but for some mysterious reason they quit. However, Warren Roseman did land a snapping turtle. While he was figuring out what to do with the beast, the turtle managed to reach the water and disappeared, so Warren's problem was solved. Jerry Transier had been fishing in Wisconsin over the week end and had his car full of fishing gear which he kindly let us use.

Paul Burdett had his boat in the river and was busy all afternoon taking the boys on excursion trips up and down the river. It was a nice sunny day and the trips were delightful. Our many thanks, Paul.

Some of the boys who journeyed to Purdue for the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Fall Field Day left on Sunday to stay overnight. They knew there was a drought in Illinois but they learned that it sure is dry in Indiana on Sunday.

Ray Erickson, owner of Itasca, is a member of our Association and vows that he and John Coutre are going to make our day there a most pleasant one.

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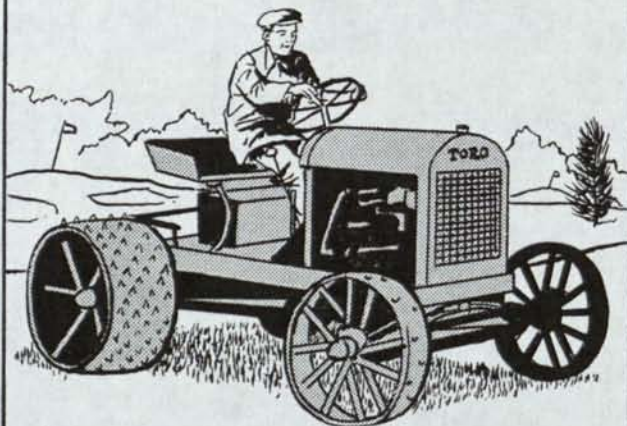
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