

Vol. 9, No. 3
SEPTEMBER, 1955



The Bull Sheet

Official Bulletin

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents

Our 29th Year



AL PURVEY, Superintendent
McHENRY COUNTRY CLUB

THE SEPTEMBER MEETING
McHENRY COUNTRY CLUB
McHENRY, ILLINOIS
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
AL PURVEY, OUR HOST
JOINT MEETING WITH WISCONSIN
GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
GOLF IN AFTERNOON
SOCIAL GET TOGETHER
DINNER 6:30 P. M.
EDUCATIONAL MEETING
DR. JIM WATSON, GUEST SPEAKER

THIS IS OUR ANNUAL MEETING WITH OUR
FRIENDS. LET'S GIVE THEM A ROYAL WELCOME
BY ALL BEING THERE TO GREET THEM.
DR. WATSON HAS AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR
US ALL. DON'T MISS IT.

MIDWEST REGIONAL TURF FOUNDATION FALL FIELD DAYS
PURDUE UNIVERSITY, SEPTEMBER 19-20

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

At last the weather has modified and it seems good to be able to draw a breath of good, cool, clean air again, and to sleep again under a blanket. As one of our fellow members said, "it has been a rough summer". Many, many times during the last several weeks I have had to remember the time honored saying "It's a great job in the winter" and it always helped to see me thru difficult days.

At this time, the faded greens are recovering their sheen again, top dressing and fertilizer are being applied to restore complete coverage and good growth and top dressing is helping to cover the remaining scars. It is surprising how quick the work can be done when the weather becomes favorable again.

Our meeting August 8th at Oak Hills was one of the best we have had, it was only the second good meeting day we have had all summer, the course was in fine shape and the MacIntosh Brothers and their Mother made us welcome. There was a great plenty of good food, and the 100 golfers and non golfers that sat down to dinner sure enjoyed themselves. It was a good day.

Our next meeting will be at McHenry Country Club and will be our annual get together with the Wisconsin group. Our meeting with Wisconsin is an annual affair and this year it is our turn to be hosts. We will meet with Al Purvey at the McHenry Country Club and we expect that everyone will come. Try to make yourselves known to our friends from Wisconsin. They are a fine group and we enjoy meeting with them.

Al Hintz has invited us to come to Mohawk C. C. for our November meeting and we will play golf at that time if the weather is still warm. This will be November 7th.

Be sure and come to the joint meeting at McHenry. There are not many more this year and we have all earned the opportunity to have a good time. Meet and discuss things with our Wisconsin friends. Peter Bild advises me that he has asked Dr. Watson to be the speaker of the evening.

Geo. Roloff, President

COMING EVENTS

Joint meeting with Wisconsin Greenkeepers Association, McHenry Country Club, September 12.

Fall Field Days, Purdue University, LaFayette, Indiana. September 19, 20.

Annual Fall Tournament and Meeting, Itasca Country Club, Itasca, Illinois. October 3.

The November Meeting, Mohawk Country Club, November 7.

We regret to report the passing of Mrs. H. S. Bailey wife of H. S. Bailey or Bill Bailey as he was commonly known. Bill was a representative of Geo. A. Davis, Inc. for 25 years until his retirement several years ago. Our sympathies to Bill and his family.

THE JOINT MEETING WITH WISCONSIN

On September 12, we go to visit our old friend, Al Purvey and to meet with the Wisconsin boys at McHenry Country Club. This is our traditional meeting and is looked forward to by all for a fine meeting and get together of the Illinois and Wisconsin Superintendents. Golf play in the afternoon will be the yearly team match play for the Midwest-Wisconsin cup. This cup has been played for for a number of years and the Midwest golfers have always carried it home with them after every meeting. However, things might not be as usual and from what we hear there is going to be plenty of competition.

We are very happy to report that our guest speaker will be Dr. Jim Watson, agronomist of the Toro Manufacturing Company. Jim always has something interesting to tell us and will not fail us this time. There is plenty to talk about this year, so be there without fail.

THE AUGUST MEETING

There were 51 golfers registered for our tournament at Oak Hills on August 8, and all reported the course to be in excellent condition. It was a very pleasant day after the heat of the previous two weeks, in fact it was one of the cooler days of the summer come to think of it. After golf and a social hour, we repaired to the dining room where Mrs. MacIntosh had prepared a wonderful buffet dinner for us and what a dinner it was. Our many thanks to Dave and Jock and to Mrs. MacIntosh for a wonderful day.

After dinner President Roloff called the meeting to order. After a short business meeting, President Roloff appointed a Question Box panel consisting of Walter Fuchs, Ray Gerber, Norm Kramer, Amos Lapp, Bill Stupple, moderator, and the Question Box followed.

THE QUESTION BOX

Q. What can be done to prevent scald?

A. Watch your watering very carefully and if there is evidence of scald appearing, it is helpful to fork the area to let a little air into the soil. Hydrated lime as also been found helpful.

Q. What is the best way to control clover, what chemical to be used, what time of year?

A. Clover can be kept down to a minimum in most soils and under most conditions if the turf is properly fed. Greens which receive an adequate amount of nitrogen very rarely have much clover in them. Clover takes over in many cases when turf is thinned out by injuries or disease. 2,4,5-T has been found to be a very effective killer of clover. It has been recommended on bluegrass fairways that 1 quart of 2,4,5-T and 1 pint of 2,4-D in 50 to 100 gallons of water per acre be used. On watered fairways containing bent, caution is necessary. It has been found that 2,4,5-T is very hard on bent grass. The chemical must be applied in spring or fall when the weather is cool and the soil has an ample supply of moisture. The cheapest chemical to use on clover is sodium arsenite and it is probably the safest on watered fairways if properly used. 1½ to 2 pounds per acre in 100 gallons of water, repeated several times is the recommended procedure to be done in the fall and early spring.

Q. What should be the maximum output of golf course irrigation system pump?

A. It has been found that approximately 1 inch of water per week is necessary for the average putting green. If fairways and greens are to be watered, it may be necessary to have a pump capable of pumping 500 gallons per minute.

Q. What height would you mow greens and how often during the hot spell?

A. Greens should be mowed not higher than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, preferably $\frac{3}{16}$ inch and should be mowed every day if possible. However, greens mowing should be done early in the morning and never during the heat of the day.

Q. What is the best grass for fairways?

A. This depends on whether the fairways are watered. If there is no water, the bluegrasses are the best, at least in this district. On watered fairways, the bents have been found to be the best in the Chicago area.

Q. What is the best seed to use on tees?

A. If tees are cut short, bent and Merion bluegrass are the best, although Zoysia is being tried out on several courses in this area with promising results. Where tees are cut longer, Kentucky bluegrass can be used.

Q. How is Pythium controlled?

A. Pythium usually appears when soil moisture, soil temperature and humidity are high. Pythium is very hard to control, although it is reported that some of the newer fungicides show promise. Hydrated lime has been used with some success on infected turf.

GOLF WINNERS

1 Low Gross - Stan Arendt, 73

Low Net - 1 Frank Mastroleo, 2 Jock MacIntosh, 3 Cliff Rasmussen, 4 Chuck Daugherty, 5 Bob Freske, 6 Dom Grotti, 7 Julius Buchen, 8 Emil Cassier, 9 Pete Simmons, 10 Al Schaper, 11 Al Staudt, 12 Warren Roseman, 13 Jerry Transier, 14 Ed Burke, 15 Gordon Brinkworth, 16 Ed Wohlenberg.

Guest Prize, John Pratt.

The following is a reply from Leonard Strong to our Secretary in regard to our request for more information on National Policy Committee proposals as to increase in dues and the addition of a paid Director.

Dear Al:

1. In the July issue of the REPORTER, Frank Dunlap gave the reasons why a proposal for an increase in dues should be taken up with the Policy Committee as suggested by the Board.

2. I was responsible for the idea of a paid Director as I presented it to the Board. There was not to be any discussion among the locals at this time. They were only to receive information that a committee had been formed by Bill Beresford to get full data. I was appointed Chairman.

If we are successful in our expectations, this so-called paid or Technical Director will not be paid by our association. Monies will come from other sources, but the Technical Director will be controlled by our association. His duties will be (1) promotion of our association and its members, (2) to correlate all information from turf research for the benefit of our members, (3) to work in unison with the USGA. (4) to assist young men in the art of golf course maintenance. These are some of the items.

Hope these few lines help to satisfy your request.

Sincerely,

Leonard Strong

We received a letter from Fred Grau correcting us on the article of Zoysia in the last issue. Frank Dinelli received the seed from Fred and it was Z-73 and not Meyer. However, upon inquiry we find that Frank received some Meyer from a different source and the turf he now has is a mixture of Meyer and Z-73. Sorry to have made the mistake, Fred.

The summer of 1955 will, no doubt, go down in the records as one of the hottest and, from a golf course superintendent's point of view, one of the most difficult in a number of years. After a fairly normal spring, there were 12 days straight in June that it rained. After that it turned dry and then the heat started. From the first of July thru at least to the end of August it has been hot and, most of the time, humid. Damage to turf was terrific during the end of July and first part of August. Poa Annua went out worse than it has for many years. Pythium, Brown Patch and Melting Out damaged bent turf which was slow to recover. To add to our woes, some courses drawing water from municipalities have been severely rationed due to water shortage. In a number of cases this was disastrous with Poa Annua dying out and which could have been saved with water applied at proper times. As a result many fairways show a motheaten appearance and although we know the Poa comes back the turf looks bad at the present time. Fungus troubles were with us for a long period and one fungicide after another was tried without complete control in many cases. Pythium was more prevalent this summer than for a number of years. This is explained by the high temperatures of the soil due to hot days and also hot nights. Coupled with this was the high humidity which made things just right for the growth of the fungus. Heat and drouth have continued thru August with no relief in sight. Greens which had been overwatered or which were poorly drained suffered the most. Most of the superintendents in the Chicago District have been hand watering thru the day to cool the turf by lowering soil temperatures. In some cases almost all watering to greens was done by hand and in our opinion greens properly watered by hand have come thru the summer in the best condition.

DRY WEATHER IMPROVES SOIL

Drought is a plague to all plantsmen, but it appears there is some good in all things, even in drought. According to H. H. Krusekopf, soil scientist of the University of Missouri, drought improves the soil making it more workable and actually more productive. Complete drying, he says, destroys the water film that normally surrounds soil particles, causing them to move together and form aggregates and granules. This, in turn, results in a higher percentage of pore space in the soil, better soil aeration and, when the rains come again, more moisture absorption and better plant growth. The granulating effect of drought is most apparent and most beneficial in clay soils, and may persist for two or more years following termination of the dry weather. The effects of drying and freezing soils are similar, except that freezing makes only the surface soil more friable while drying affects both the surface and the subsoil.

MERION BLUEGRASS AROUND THE GREEN

At this time of the year it becomes a scramble to "hold" the Poa Annua, and this applies especially around greens on the approaches and "collars". It is a well known fact that the continuous turning of mowers just off the edge of the green bruises the grass, which in a great number of cases is almost straight Poa Annua. Just as soon as we get some hot, humid weather after about the 10th of July in this Chicago area, anyway, the Poa starts to wilt and right away becomes a headache, for it seems when it starts to go, no matter what we do, it thins out and looks bad.

Several of the Superintendents in the Chicago district have resodded the collars of greens with Merion blue grass and results, in our humble opinion, have been spectacular. The Merion has a deep green color and even during drought periods, still retains its color when ordinary Kentucky blue grass has turned brown. This dark green color sets off the lighter green of the bent on the green and gives a very pleasing effect, but, even more important to the superintendent, it is very tough and does not easily bruise with traffic and the turning of mowers. Many times this collar of the green becomes the neglected area on the course due to insufficient watering because maybe the sprinkler doesn't reach far enough.

In our experience, Merion, closely clipped, has thrived and seems to be an ideal answer to one of our maintenance jobs "watering approaches and collars of greens" which is one of our important jobs during July and August.

Just for fun, we measured the amount of sod needed to go around a medium sized green, and only a narrow strip at that, and it took 100 square yards of sod. So, if you are interested, make your nursery big enough.

SPREADING IT THIN

The weather was so bad the last week in July and first week in August that Jock MacIntosh lost his No. 6 green in two days.

Al Hintz's daughter Nancy is getting married September 3rd at Mohawk C. C.

Emil Cassier of the Sycamore Park District reported that during the first three weeks in July 16,000 kids enjoyed the pool at Sycamore.

The Mole had a chance to see all the silverware Harry Drafke's daughter Lois has won the last two summers. It would break Harry to put a sirloin steak on each of the platters the same day.

One of Harry Drafke's better employees is a man named Elmer Murphy who came to work with Harry in 1942. Harry calls Elmer "Pat" and rejoiced with Pat on celebrating Pat's 99th birthday July 31st. Pat still out works anyone on the course and is still working every day. Hope I can do as well, Pat.

There were 51 golfers on August 8th at Oak Hills G. C. 51 who were able to forget their worries and enjoy a very fine afternoon on a good course with excellent hosts. Scores were good too.

The common complaint of the expanding waist line was heard no more during the last summer. Tightened belts and baggy pants were the rule all summer. The low was reached by Don Strand who got down to 112 when things were tough but who bounced back up to 120 by the middle of August. Everyone had punched new holes in their belts.

When we arrived at Oak Hills for our meeting on August 8, we discovered it was Ladies Day also. Some of the non-golfers who usually retire to the club house for a card game decided to sit on the lawn and enjoy the scenery instead.

The 2 inch rain of the night of August 29 and the accompanying cool weather was a welcome relief and many a superintendent enjoyed a good night's sleep for a change.

Our many thanks to Elmer Lempke, Tam O Shanter Superintendent, who so graciously passed around the complimentary tickets to the big show at Tam.

It seems to us that the most popular of our national holidays as far as the golf course superintendent is concerned is Labor Day. It must be, we are always looking forward to it.

Warren Roseman entertained a number of North side superintendents at lunch recently and demonstrated the new Roseman fairway mower, at one of the courses.

Refreshments on the course at Oak Hills was by courtesy of Illinois Lawn Equipment, Inc, represented at our meeting by Bob Johnson. Many thanks, Bob.

THE MOLE

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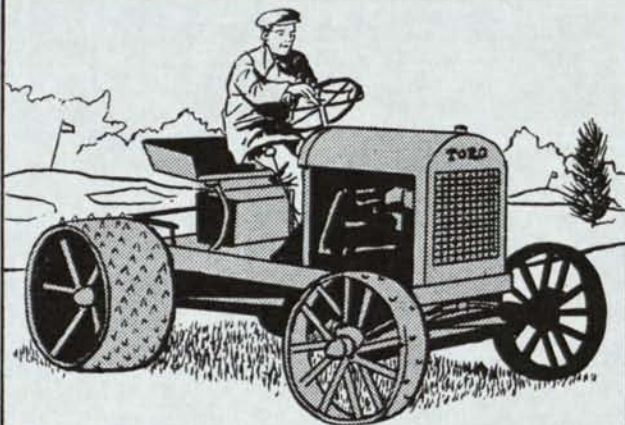


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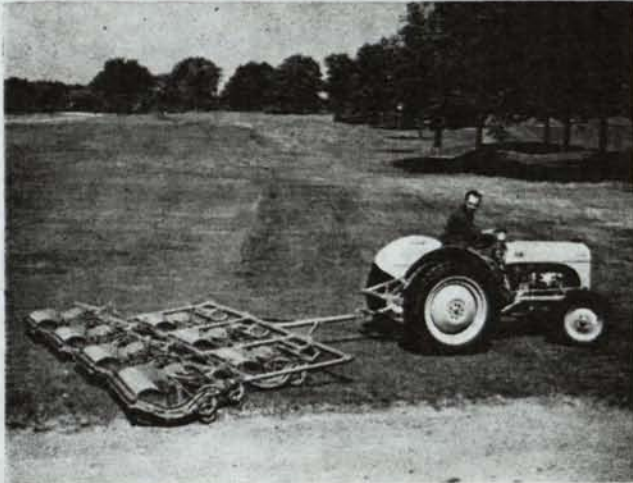
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