



The Bull Sheet

Official Bulletin

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents

28th NATIONAL TURFGRASS CONFERENCE AND SHOW
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, FEBRUARY 10-15, 1957



MARVIN GRUENING

THE DECEMBER MEETING
MIDWEST COUNTRY CLUB
HINSDALE, ILLINOIS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1956
MARVIN GRUENING, OUR HOST
ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION
OF OFFICERS
SOCIAL MEETING IN AFTERNOON
DINNER — 6:30 P. M.
BUSINESS MEETING — 7:30 P. M.

THERE WILL BE SOME IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT UP AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING, INCLUDING CHANGES IN THE BY-LAWS, WHICH HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE MEMBERS AT THIS TIME.

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

Our next meeting will be the ANNUAL MEETING and will be highlighted by the election of new officers and directors who will guide our operations for the coming year. This all goes to remind me that my term as president will come to a close and I would like to take this opportunity to briefly reflect our progress over the past year.

We have held four Board meetings wherein we have set up the operational program for the coming meetings and events. Each of these meetings have been well attended and enthusiastic discussions have prevailed. Space would not allow for me to amply praise each director and officer for their efforts on the behalf of all of us. Their work and your acceptance has made my term in office a most pleasant one and I hope that each of you take the opportunity of becoming a director or officer as time goes on so that you too may experience the good feeling of having made an effort in behalf of your profession and your friends.

Our dinner dance and the turf Clinic have served as fitting climaxes to the hard work of the respective chairmen, ED STEWART, FRANK DINELLI AND GORDON BRINKWORTH in planning and producing these events. Your attendance and enthusiastic support is all they want as a reward for their work. This we can not deny them.

It is particularly important that you be present at the annual meeting in view of the fact that important changes in the by-laws will be presented for your approval.

In closing I would like to say "thank you" to each one of you for the support this past year and let us all hope that each year of the future will bring added progress for our profession.

ROBERT M. WILLIAMS, President

THE ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting of officers will be held at Midwest Country Club on Tuesday, December 4. Marvin Gruening will be our host. Up to the date of this writing we have not heard whether O. J. Noer will be on hand to give his "Annual Report to The Superintendents," but we are sure that our Educational Committee will have something interesting for us. The Nominating Committee has selected a fine group of men for nominees for the various offices and it is the duty of us all to be at this important meeting to make our selections.

It looks like a tough winter, according to at least one sign. For generations the people of this country and Europe have kept a close watch for the wooly bears (furry caterpillars) in the fall in an effort to determine the winter outlook. Legend has it that the color of their coat foretells the sort of winter that can be expected. Each of the three segments, either brown or black, represents a third of the coming winter season. The darker the color, the colder and nastier the weather will be. Weather forecasters say that the wooly bears this fall are black and darker portions of two segments indicate there will be intense storms in the middle or latter part of both January and February.

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT.

The Nominating Committee has prepared the following slate for the election to be held at the time of the Annual Membership Meeting in Louisville next Feb.

PRESIDENT: To be elected for term of one year. Paul Weiss (Philadelphia Assn. of Golf Course Supts.) Lehigh Country Club, Emmaus, Penn.

VICE-PRESIDENT: One to be elected for term of one year. Robert Williams (Midwest Assn. of Golf Course Supts.) Beverly Country Club, Chicago, Ill. James E. Thomas (Mid-Atlantic Assn. Golf Course Supts.) Army-Navy Country Club, Arlington, Va.

Directors: Three to be elected for two-year terms. Leonard Bloomquist (Minnesota Golf Course Supts. Assn.) Brookview Country Club, Minneapolis, Minn. Nelson Monical (Northern Ohio Golf Course Supts. Assn.) Portage Country Club, Akron, Ohio.

Tom Hayes (Mississippi Valley Golf Course Supts. Assn.) Meadow Brook Country Club, Overland, Mo. Marion Mendenhall (Greater Cincinnati Golf Course Supts. Assn.) Kenwood Country Club, Madisonville, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Thomas Topp (Central New York Golf Course Supts. Assn.) Syracuse Yacht & Country Club, Clay, N. Y. Henson Maples (Carolinas Golf Course Supts. Assn.) Pinehurst Country Club, Pinehurst, North Carolina.

In compliance with the By-Laws, additional nominations for all offices may be made from the floor at the proper time.

Voting for this election as well as upon all matters coming before the Annual Meeting can be done in person, by proxy, or by the delegate of a District Association having the required 60 percent National membership strength. Proxy forms will be sent to all Members in sufficient time for use.

Nominating Committee Members, Ray Gerber, Chairman, Albert Linkogel, George Lanphear, Colin Smith, Charlie Danner.

THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Our November meeting was held at Glendale Golf & Country Club on November 5. Clarence Mueller was our host and it being a nice day, there were 35 golfers in the afternoon who toured Clarence's well groomed golf course. There were also a number who availed themselves of the club house facilities to enjoy themselves with a social meeting, also. We sat down that evening to a most bountiful turkey dinner and at 7:30, President Williams called the meeting to order. Ray Gerber made his Nominating Committee Report and our Secretary read the Nominating Committee report for the National Association. Ray Gerber also reported that Barrington Hills Country Club and Arrowhead Country Club were open for Superintendents positions. Peter Bild announced that there were important By-Law changes to be considered at our Annual Meeting. President Williams announced that our Annual Meeting would be held at Midwest Country Club on Tuesday, December 4. Gordon Brinkworth announced that plans for the Clinic at Olympia Fields on November 27 & 28 were completed and that he expected a good attendance. Ed Stewart reported on progress of plans for the Dinner Dance on November 24 at River Forest Country Club. President Williams urged that we endeavor to build up our National Association strength so that we would be enabled to have the right to send a delegate to Louisville in Feb.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents has selected the following list of candidates all of whom have signified their willingness to run for the various offices of our Association for 1957.

PRESIDENT: Amos Lapp

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Ed Stewart, Peter Bild.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: William H. Stupple, Emil Cassier.

SECRETARY & TREASURER: Al Johnson, Al Rausch.

DIRECTORS: (2 to be elected) Robert Williams, Dom Grotti, Norm Kramer, Walter Fuchs, Wes Updegraff.

Respectfully submitted, Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents Nominating Committee.

Gerald Dearie, Frank Dinelli, Henry Lange, Herman Woehrle, Ray Gerber, Chairman.

THE OUTLOOK

By C. O. Borgmeier

There is no indication at the present time of a slackening of the economic pace or interest in Golf. Private Clubs are filled and have waiting lists, and municipal and fee Clubs have had a big year. Most Clubs now are ripe for improvements, sometimes running into quite large expenditures.

It is up to the Superintendent to get his two cents in for reconstruction, new barns, new or improved irrigation systems, and by all means, new and better labor saving equipment. It is hard for golf courses to compete with government and industry for labor, so the Superintendent must figure out ways and means to pay his labor higher wages, and make labor more productive. It also means efficient management of labor to get results and get the jobs done. Today, there is power equipment for nearly all operations on a golf course. Very often old or worn out equipment is inefficient and unsightly. It should be replaced. The players will think more of the Superintendent if they see good equipment on the course, and clean and orderly premises for storage, and maintenance. Too often, the Club House gets first call for additions, new furniture, redecorating, etc. Sure the members and players feel closer to the Club House environment, but, they also feel concerned with the appearance of the Course and its furnishings. Tee and greens equipment should be cleaned and replaced as soon as it looks shoddy. Machinery that looks run down and worn out should be repaired, repainted, or replaced. It does wonders for the spirit and efficiency of labor to give them efficient or new machines to work with. This is all related to and part of the general maintenance picture. In all our experience we have never seen a Superintendent criticized for maintaining his course in good condition. And that includes his equipment and working premises.

The outlook for next season is one of slightly higher prices and costs, both for material and labor. Machinery is up from 5 - 10%, Grass Seed up about 15%. Fertilizer, Chemicals, Insecticides, and Fungicides, are even with no indication at present of a change. A Budget must be flexible to provide for weather extremes, but since these usually average out during the season, the cost of labor, supplies, and equipment, govern your picture.

We do not see an economizing trend at present, as long as Club incomes are up, they will spend money. Clubs are all in competition with each other. It's up to the Superintendent to maintain a course which will please and attract the players.

For many years frequent topdressings of bent greens was considered necessary. In the past ten years topdressing has been used only when it was desired to smooth up the putting surface or change the soil structure. This change in maintenance practices has caused a new problem. An accumulation of stems and leaves, called thatch or mat, has built up on the surface of the greens interfering with the circulation of air and water. As most of the fungi damaging to fine turfgrasses attack the grass above the soil line, we have an excellent breeding place in the thatch. Overwatering, poor air circulation, high humidity and temperatures spell ruin for a heavily thatched green. Raking, brushing, aerifying and vertical cutting devices help control this thatch accumulation, but do not answer the problem completely. How does the design of our putting green mowers fit into the thatch picture?

Could design of our present putting green mowers be one of the causes of thatch? We set the cutting height with a guage or from a level surface. We do this very carefully and then go out to mow greens. All our careful adjusting goes for naught. With the cutting mechanism mounted between the guide points, (the front roller or caster and the rear roller) we can not duplicate the conditions under which the height of cut was set. We have the front roller or caster riding on unmowed grass and the rear roller on mowed areas. Therefore a mower set to cut at $\frac{1}{4}$ inch on the bench in the shop will not cut $\frac{1}{4}$ inch above the soil on the green. The cut will be higher in proportion to the amount of growth the front roller or caster rides on and raises the front of the mower.

Suppose due to drastic methods of raking, verticutting or other means, we have a putting surface on our greens $\frac{1}{4}$ inch above the soil line on April 15th. We mow greens on April 16th and the front roller or caster is riding on one day's growth. The thickness of a blade of bentgrass is about .004 and the diameter of a stem is about .020 of an inch. Suppose that this amount of one day's growth raises the cutting edge .005 of an inch above the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch above the soil line achieved the day before. There are 168 days between April 15th and October 1st. If we gain .005 of an inch per day we will find our cutting edge 1.09 inches above the soil line on September 30th. (168x.005 plus .250.)

In past years frequent topdressing raised the soil line and counteracted a great part of the above condition as long as we were careful to avoid layers of grass and soil. Now we use other methods to combat the accumulation of leaves and stems, but from personal experience and observation, I question our success.

What are we trying to do when we mow greens? Are we trying to maintain a definite amount of grass between the soil line and the putting surface or are we trying to remove a definite amount of grass from the green? If we are trying to maintain a definite height above the soil line, perhaps we need a mower to establish that height of cut and another mower designed with the cutting unit out in front of the mower and the machine supported by the predetermined mowed surface. If we are trying to remove a definite amount of grass from the green it appears we should have a mower designed with the cutting unit in the rear set to cut the amount of grass we want to remove and the mower supported on the unmowed grass. We hope the putting green mower builders can help us control thatch and maintain better putting greens.

—The Heart of American Golf Course Supts. Assoc.

PROGRESS TOLD AT STATE RALLY ON CONTROL OF DUTCH ELM DISEASE

By Robert T. Van Tress

Chicago Park District Horticulturist and Daily News
Garden Editor

At a statewide conference on control of the Dutch elm disease in the Congress hotel Nov. 13, evidence was introduced that the dreaded elm tree killer is being controlled in many communities.

Daniel W. Warren Jr., superintendent of parks and forestry, Brookline, Mass., reported that the total loss of elm trees in 1956 was only 147 trees, a reduction of 48 over the total for 1955, based on 6,000 publicly owned trees and 15,000 trees on private grounds.

This reduction was in an area where many communities reported double and triple the losses of other years. By carrying out an effective sanitation and spraying system program they were able to hold the total loss of elm trees in Brookline to less than 6 per cent over a nine-year period.

An equally effective campaign was undertaken in Detroit, according to W. I. Meyers, superintendent of forestry and landscaping, with a reduction of 109 cases this year from a high of 1,919 losses in 1915 based on 400,000 elms.

The fungus which causes the disease is carried from infected elm trees or elm wood to healthy elm trees by tiny bark beetles. They breed under the bark of dead or diseased elm trees or dead elm wood. Here they pick up the spores of the Dutch elm disease fungus.

When the beetles emerge in the spring from the infected wood, they make their way to healthy trees to feed on the new twig growth. In the process of doing so they introduce the deadly spores of the disease.

The growing spores release toxic substances into the sap of the tree, substances which cause wilting of the leaves and death to the sapwood.

Once a tree is infected, it is doomed. Some die a few weeks after the infection occurs, others may live as long as two or three seasons.

All ornamental elms are susceptible although the Chinese and Siberian elm are more resistant to the disease.

Two strains of elms available in this area are said to be highly resistant to the disease — the Christine Buisman elm and the Augustine Ascending elm.

Control of the disease has been obtained only in areas where a twofold program of sanitation and spraying has been carried on. Breeding places or potential breeding places must be eliminated.

This means removal and destruction by burning or spraying of all diseased trees. Any dead elm branches or wood piles of elm should also be destroyed. The wood or diseased trees should be sprayed with a DDT solution before being removed.

Healthy elm trees should be protected by application of a DDT spray once or twice a year, the most effective being the dormant spray. Dormant spraying can commence any time after the leaves are down, and fall spraying is considered as effective as spring dormant spraying.

A thorough and complete coverage of all bark surfaces is absolutely essential. If spraying is done before the nesting season, danger to birds can be eliminated.

Information on how to organize a control program, methods of control, and other educational material can be obtained from the Illinois Natural History Survey, Natural Resources building, Urbana, Ill.

Bill Saielli became the new Superintendent of Indian Hill Country Club on November 15, succeeding Al Johnson who is now Superintendent at Park Ridge Country Club. This is Bill's first job as the boss and we want to wish him the best of luck.

Frank Dinelli says it won't be long now. Frank expects to be grandpa for the 11th time in the near future. Frank has 7 children and this is going to be 7 come 11. So you card players who claim Frank is a pretty good player had better be especially careful in the future if those numbers are as lucky as they are supposed to be.

We were sorry to hear that Stan Arendt was in the hospital. It seems to us that Stan would have been about the last to be on the sick list. However, from last reports, Stan was getting along in good shape and we sincerely hope he will soon be his old healthy self again.

It was reported at our last meeting that Mrs. Don Strand was confined to the hospital. We hope that Mrs. Strand recovered and is well again.

The Turf Maintenance Equipment Service Clinic sponsored by Frandsen Brothers and Illinois Lawn Equipment, Inc., was held at Elmhurst Country Club on Tuesday, November 13. It was a shame that this date conflicted with the date of the conference on control of Dutch Elm Disease at the Congress Hotel in Chicago on the same date. It is reported that there was an enthusiastic turnout for the Clinic and that much valuable information obtained from it. We will be looking forward to another next year.

A number of Superintendents attended the Dutch Elm Disease Conference at the Congress Hotel on November 13. Some 435 interested people attended and were rewarded with a splendid program. Interesting, down to earth talks were given by top-notch speakers and certainly all who were there got a lot of information on combatting the dread disease.

Frank Dinelli expects to start construction of an acre and a half lake at Northmor in the near future to supplement his water supply.

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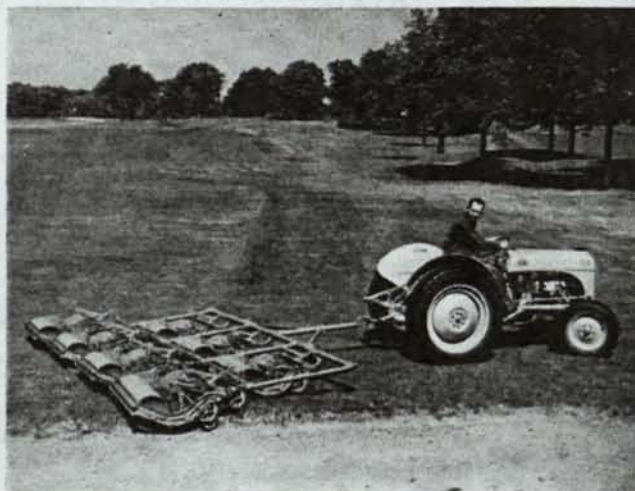
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