



# The Bull Sheet

*Official Bulletin*

*Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents*



**AL PURVEY, Superintendent**  
Mc Henry Country Club  
Our Host

**THE SEPTEMBER MEETING**  
**McHENRY COUNTRY CLUB**  
**McHENRY, ILLINOIS**  
**TUESDAY, SEPT. 8th, 1959**  
**JOINT MEETING WITH WISCONSIN**  
**SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION**  
**GOLF IN AFTERNOON**  
**DINNER — 6:30 P.M.**  
**EDUCATIONAL MEETING**

*Charles Wilson, Milwaukee Sewerage  
Commission, Guest Speaker*  
*This is our Annual Meeting with the  
Wisconsin Association. Let's all  
be there to greet them.*

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

BERT H. ROST, *Editor*,  
Midwest Rd. Nr. 31st Street  
Hinsdale, Illinois

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#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Although the weather man washed out the golf events at our August meeting at the White Pines Golf Club, the very fine steak dinner (thank you, Al Hinz) satisfied our culinary appetites and the excellent educational program (arranged by Al Johnson and directed by Frank Dinelli) satisfied the mental appetites of over eighty learned students.

Al Purvey will be our host for the joint Midwest and Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendent Associations on September 8th at the McHenry Country Club. Apparently the Wisconsin fellows are determined to win possession of the golf championship title this year. Let's get the dirt out of the grooves of our golf clubs and the lead out of our pants, and demonstrate to our northern neighbors that we are capable of retaining the title. On a recent expedition to the Milwaukee area two of our Midwest Superintendents were advised of this determined challenge. Being men of stout heart and athletic ambition but dubious ability, they decided that a practice round at the Milwaukee Country Club would be advisable. One of the gentlemen reported that he had thirty-six strokes on the first nine; second nine - no report.

Although the summer season is almost over, the responsibilities of the Superintendent are seldom concluded. Because the poa annua in the fairways took it on the chin again this year, now is the time to seed the void areas with permanent grasses. Early seedings might germinate before the poa annua and, therefore, might reduce the density of the poa annua. Several clubs have their fall construction work thoroughly planned and approved by their grounds committee. These fellows realize that projects started as soon as possible after Labor Day usually are the most successful.

A meeting of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation was held on August 7th. Four men from the University of Illinois, Miss Carol McCue and Mr. Charles Eckstein from the Chicago District Golf Association, Jim Holmes from U.S.G.A. Greens Section, Mr. Packard, Bert Rost, Roy Nelson and myself were present. Most of the planning has been completed. Actual construction of the large turf and soil research golf green will start as soon as the necessary funds are available.

The time will soon be here for us to check the tires on the car to see if they can make the trip to the G.C.S.A. Turfgrass Conference and Equipment Show in Houston, Texas during the week of February 1-5, 1960, and to start saving a few nickels for a well deserved vacation at a sunny spot in the south. The G.S.S.A. membership is at an all-time high. I am sure it would make you very happy if you would sponsor one new G.C.S.A.

member. Try it and see. I have a feeling that it will make three of us very happy; the applicant, you and me.

I reported to you at our last meeting that our good friend Norman C. Johnson was not in good health. Since then, he has improved very much and is staying with his daughter in Miami, Florida.

It is also good news to know that our stout hearted Superintendent Peter Bild is home with his feet under the table enjoying his wife's good cooking. A few more meals and he will be better than ever. Good luck to both of you.

Ray Gerber, President

It is sure good to see Pete Bild and George Roloff kicking their heels again.

Herman Whorele was honored with a dinner and cash contributions by the membership of his club last week for 20 years of service to the Kankakee Country Club. Congradulations Herman, make it another 20.

The month of August since the meeting has been indeed an unusual month. Starting the first week in August the weather has been hot, very hot, and rainy and very humid, and the toll on the grass, everywhere, has been very heavy. At this time no one has had time to really evaluate the extent of the damage, each being concerned with limiting that occurring under his jurisdiction, but it is wide spread and great.

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## CLIPPINGS

Betty Grotti, Susie Johnson, Lotte Rossette and Ann Lang took a trip to the Wisconsin Dells the last week end in July. The girls had a real good time and they are not telling on each other yet.

Rube Thode will retire as Greenkeeper of the Chicago Park District within the next twelve months. Rube has been in charge of the Chicago Park District Golf Courses for the past thirty years and has had many experiences. It is still too early for Rube to have made any plans for activity, but Rube is ready to pass along all the knowledge the many years have taught him.

The third of August was rainy and cloudy all day, cool in the morning and warming in the afternoon. In spite of the weather, 76 members and guests sat down to dinner at White Pines and it was truly a delicious dinner, Fillet mignon, baked potatoes, peas, a good salad, rolls and trimmings. It sure was a good dinner. It was a wonderful day Emil; we all thank you.

Frank Dinelli was in charge of the talks at the meeting and handled the program very well.

Jim Holms gave a report on his idea of what happened to greens last winter, based on his observations as he traveled around.

John Coghill spoke on Calcium arsenate, and described the extreme difficulty with them this spring, how it was necessary to reseed with Penncross and that the new seeding mostly passed out, and reported that the greens look good but that they are as much pot annua as anything else. It was a hard winter and spring. John believes that Calcium Arsenate is possibly a very good product but that the application possibly has not been too well worked out.

Al Johnson thinks that Arsenate of Lead may be the cheaper material to use in spite of the lower cost of Calcium Arsenate. Calcium Arsenate may and has backfired.

Bill Stupple suggested lighter more frequent applications of the materials as a way to avoid damage.

Rube Thode reported that the Chicago Park District played 400 a day regularly and were still able to keep greens.

Howard Baerwald has an excellent knife to play with during meetings. It has several blades and a sissors too and Howard does all right with it.

Don Gerber of Chicago Golf reported that he had used aqua grow successfully. Al Johnson and Ray Davis described in detail their fertilizing practices and Don Grotti and Bill Stupple described their fairway watering practices.

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## TREES, DOLLARS, AND GOLF

(By Taylor Boyd)

Trees and shrubs on a golf course are beautiful and necessary. They can make an otherwise mediocre course a thing of beauty and most interesting to play. They can make an enforced wait at a tee during a hot day very pleasant because of their shade. These conditions don't always exist, though.

Trees, when improperly planted, can make a course nightmarish to play and can prevent the proper growth of grass. This last item is our present interest plus cost or rather increased costs caused by improper planting and location of trees.

There can certainly be no question that too many trees too close to a green can make conditions such that it is next to impossible to have a good green. Nearly every course in town has such conditions.

I have been very much interested in recent years to watch the performance of greens that a few years ago caused no trouble and today they are very troublesome because trees were planted too near a green on the wind side and over the years have grown up to stop all air drainage across the green surface. This causes the grass to remain wet during the hot humid days when what you want most is for the green surface to dry.

The best tee grass in Cincinnati now is Bermuda in some form or Zoysia, both of which will not grow in shade—even slight shade. We have tees at Camargo that are very good warm season grass except where a tree shades a portion of the tee. In that area the grass is poa annua or in some instances, weeds. Unsightly to say the least.

Cost of golf maintenance has risen in the recent years to a point of actual painfulness to the club and about every conceivable method has been tried or discussed to cut costs, but I have heard no talk of tree removal.

Golf maintenance today is high-speed mowing with wide sets of mowers. This being true, when areas are so planted that any area can't be mowed with a tractor and gang mowers, you will be spending ten times as much money to mow a given area by hand.

We have an area that took six to seven minutes to mow with a tractor and gang mower. It is improperly planted in shrubs and it now takes a man two hours to cut the same area. With thirty-two cuttings per year the hand mowing cost sixty-four man hours as against three and two-thirds hours with the tractor and gang mowers, or \$84.00 more per year plus the care of the shrubs. The shrubs were necessary, but they could have been planted in such a manner that care would have been less costly.

The same thing is true of a maple tree we have that is planted between No. 1 tee and the practice green. There is only eighteen feet between the tee and green and with the tree between. There is the problem of root pruning around the entire base of the tree, sodding area in tee and green that go out due to excessive shade, sweeping up seed from the tree in proper season, raking leaves off tee and green once or twice per day, plus extra fertilizer and water to maintain area affected by the tree. The total cost of this one improperly planted tree for 1957 was over \$100. I'll bet that every club in town has a similar situation.

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The comparative costs of man-hours on fairways and rough as against trees at Camargo are as follows:

Cut fairways .....	627 hrs.
Cut rough .....	1821 hrs.
Water fairways .....	143 hrs.
Fertilize fairway .....	96 hrs.
Roll fairways .....	4 hrs.
Aerofy fairways .....	387 hrs.
Total .....	3080 hrs.
Trees on course .....	1439 hrs.
Trees and shrubs around club-house .....	763 hrs.
Trees around pool and tennis .....	329 hrs.
Total .....	2531 hrs.

This gives a very good idea of what is spent to take care of trees as against the proper care of actual playing areas that is the total acreage of Camargo, which covers more acres than most clubs.

I suspect that the average club spends as much money on the trees as they do on rough and fairways and don't even know it.

This article will probably get me a good round of criticism from tree lovers. It should'nt. Trees are essential and necessary, but a landscape architect or inexperienced tree committee should not be turned loose to plant trees or shrubs without giving due consideration to air drainage, possible root damage to tees and greens, wind direction, to name a few things to be considered.

Before any tree is planted these things should be considered. Use trees that have an upright habit of growth. For an example, pin oaks are bad, red and white oaks are good. Oaks are good because their root habits are good also. Location is very important so that an airway is directed across a green or tee. Never plant trees on southwest side of a green. Never forget that a tree when planted that has a six-foot spread may become forty feet across and the roots seventy to ninety feet across. Trees can very well replace directional traps, but be sure the superintendent, pro, and some good golfers help in their locations if they are to be used as a hazard or for directional trees. Never plant trees on the course closer than twenty feet together, thirty to forty feet is better so that a tractor and five or seven gang of rough mowers can be maneuvered through them.

The best advice I know of is to stake out the location and eventual size and leave the area for one playing season to have golfers' reaction and to find the cost of maintaining the tree in the given area.

— LIFTED FROM THE GREEN BREEZE

The Picnic was held at the Sycamore Park District on Tuesday the 18th. It was a beautiful day for a picnic but not too good a day to be away from the golf course, it sure was hot and humid. About 35 families made the trip out to Emil Cassiers beautiful park and golf course where Emil had made arrangements for picnic tables, swimming, shuffle board and golf. The organization provided hot dogs, and ice cream and it was late before the last cars left the coolness of the pool and came home.

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## CHARLIE WILSON T. V. PERSONALITY

It was one of those nights of which we have had too many of lately, when the humidity was high, golf course worries haunt you, sleep eludes you, that the editor was watching a late show on T. V. when the M. C. announced that his firm was selling a fertilizer made in Milwaukee that would produce a lawn as beautiful as the grass on a golf course and that an agronomist from the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission by the name of Charlie Wilson would be on to tell about the fertilizer later in the program. In about 15 minutes just as the villian had the sheriff in the sights of his rifle they cut the film and the announcer introduced Charlie and asked him to say a few words about his fertilizer which is almost a household word in Chicago. So, in a way that only Charlie and O. J. can, gave a few pointers on how to obtain greener grass out of a green bag and I may be wrong but I don't believe he said..... once, but he did expound at great length on the wonderful job that the Golf Course Superintendents are doing on the courses in the Chicago area and to quote Charlie "they are the unsung heros of golf". Right now, the elements have made us look like the "highly sung heels of golf", but it is said that the elements are the great leveler of mankind, to our knees don't hurt any of us once in a while. Thanks, Charlie, for them kind words and I can sure use some of stuff in a green bag from Milwaukee to restore my reputation. The villian plumb missed the sheriff and I didn't use that word ..... either.

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