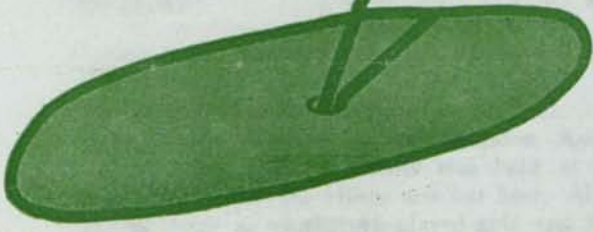




# The Bull Sheet

Official Bulletin

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents



**RUEBIN THODE**  
Retires

**THE AUGUST MEETING  
BARRINGTON HILLS COUNTRY CLUB**

**WILLIAM BRADY  
SUPT. OF GROUNDS  
OUR HOST**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 1960**

**GOLF — DINNER**

*Guest Speaker*  
**James Holmes**  
**U. S. G. A. G. S.**



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

The July Meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held at the White Pines Golf Club, Al Hintz was our host. Al had things in top shape as usual. 41 played golf and the weather was perfect for it. There were approximately 85 in attendance. Thanks to Mr. Mike Minnini, the manager, for the fine steak dinner which I'm sure all enjoyed.

On this day we also received some sad news — the passing away of our good friend and Superintendent Walter Kilmer who always was a faithful member of the Midwest and attended many of our meetings. He will long be remembered by all of us in the Association. Our condolences to his family.

We are also sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. E. H. Gos, owner of the Bartlett Hills Country Club who passed away July 14th. The golf course was built on the family farm in 1928 and has been in constant operation by Mr. Gos and daughter Harriett since then. Our condolence to his family.

On my way to the meeting at White Pines, I noticed about 30% of the Elm trees along Route 64 were infected with Elm disease from Sycamore to Elmhurst. We have 12 trees this year so far on our course that are infected. Let us hope that someone will come up with a cure real soon.

Some fine publicity was recently given our organization in the Chicago Tribune newspaper through the efforts of members Peter and Paul Voykin. Perhaps many of you read the article. I feel this is good publicity and well deserved. We should have more of it. Many thanks to Peter and Paul and also the Tribune.

Our August meeting will be held at the Barrington Hills Country Club. Our host will be Bill Brady. Bill says the electric golf cars will be free of charge to members. Noon luncheon is also available. Let's have a real good turn out. — also keep in mind our joint meeting with the Wisconsin group in September.

See you at Barrington.

Sincerely, Emil Cassier, President

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WOMEN GOLFERS ARE IMPROVING, WE  
GUESS  
THEY ARE GOING AROUND IN LESS AND  
LESS.

RUEBIN THODE RETIRES AFTER 30 YEARS  
SERVICE TO CHICAGO PARK BOARD

HERE ARE A FEW HIGHLIGHTS &  
MEMORIES AS RELATED BY RUBE

Born in Des Moines, Iowa.

Played golf and caddied on same courses that were later on supervised by Bert Rost.

Became active in golf course work in 1925 under Joe Roseman, Sr. greenskeeper at that time on what is now the Glenview Park Golf Course on Shermer Ave.

Worked on Pickwick Golf Course in construction work and when completed acted as starter on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Joined the Midwest Association when Ed Dearie, Jr., was president and John MacGregor, vice president. Played in the first tournament at Evanston Golf Club when Bob Duguid, Sr., was in charge and still have the Clark lighter which I won with a 22 handicap.

Played golf with Stanley Arndt, George Roloff and the fourth I think was Fred Ingwerson, deceased, at the meeting at Tam O Shanter.

Dropped out of Association when taking a job at Flossmoor Country Club in 1929. Rejoined the Midwest Association when Matt Bissick was secretary, some years ago. Also joined the National Association about that time or probably before.

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Left Flossmoor Country Club to take civil service examination as greenskeeper for the South Park Board, having two nine hole courses, one 18 and four bowling greens. When the park systems consolidated in 1934 was greenskeeper for five nine hole courses and one 18 and six bowling greens. Stayed on the job for thirty years.

Some incidents that stand out in mind in particular are Geo. Davis with his "T" model going around peddling golf course supplies, Ed Dearie, Jr., doing all the talking for John MacGreagor when he was secretary, also the whole Dearie family and relatives when they were kids, and the Scotchmen, Pete Stewart, Alec Binnie, Anderson, MacIntosh, Sr. and many others who wouldn't give away their secrets. You can include Dutra and Stupple and Dinelli too. Also, O. J. Noer in 1927 when he sold Pickwick a load of sludge in burlap bags that caught fire and burnt the barn down. I'll never forget that overcoat O. J. had with the velvet collar. Herb and Joe Graffis out at Pickwick most every Sunday with Joe Davis, learning the tricks of their now prosperous business.

Names, dates, meetings and all the wonderful events would fill a fair sized book besides all the favors that have been bestowed on me and the hundreds of friends I have made and who have been overwhelming with kindness and consideration. This goes for all the dealers, salesmen and truck drivers, not a bad egg in the whole lot. The wonderful experience in thirty-five years has been worth more than money can provide and I hope it continues for sometime to come.

Ruebin Thode

#### CLIPPINGS —

Walter Pieper of Flossmoor has joined the ranks of grandfather for the second time with the birth of a daughter to his son Bill.

Bill Brenner formerly of Chevy Chase is Supt. at Palos Country Club, formerly Southmoor Country Club.

When Bob Williams, Past President of the G.C.S.A., and now Superintendent of the Bob O' Link Country Club, was asked about his new Ester Williams (no relation) Swimming Pool he built for the family, he says "It's Cool Man".

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## UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS HOLDS FIRST TURF FIELD DAY

The First Annual Field Day of the University of Illinois and the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation was held on Wednesday the 27th. The meeting was held in the morning at the Thornhill Lodge of the Morton Arboretum where Dean Howard of the College of Agriculture said that he had included two full time men and one half time man on the list of highest priority to be included in the new budget. President Ben Warren presided over the meeting, gave a brief report on the objectives of the organization.

### PROGRAM —

Morning Session - Thornhill Building, Chairman, Dr. C. J. Birkeland, Head Dept. of Hort.

10:00 - 10:10 - The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation Aims and Objectives. Ben Warren, President of ITF, Warrens Turf Nursery.

10:10 - 10:20 - Turfgrass Research, Teaching and Extension at the University of Illinois. Dr. L. B. Howard, Dean, College of Agriculture, U. of I.

10:20 - 10:40 - Turfgrass in Illinois - Horizons Unlimited. Dr. R. Milton Carleton - Director, ITF, Research Director Vaughans Seed Co.

10:40 - 11:05 - Coordinated Turfgrass Research. Prof. Michael Britton, Dept. of Plant Pathology, U. of I.

11:05 - 11:10 - "Stretch"

11:10 - 11:20 - Established and Planned Research and Demonstration Turfgrass Plots at the U. of I. Prof. H. R. Kemmerer, Dept. of Horticulture, U. of I.

11:20 - 12:00 - Lunch (Bring your own) in Picnic Grove on Arboretum Grounds. Coffee - courtesy ITF.


Afternoon Session -  
1:00 - 5:00 - Tour (on your own, consult map for directory). Individuals will be stationed at each plot to explain plot work and answer questions.

- *Crabgrass Control Plots* - South Hedge Garden, Morton Arboretum, Tour Consultants - Dr. F. F. Weinard, Dept. of Hort., U. of I. Webster Crowley - Morton Arboretum.

- *Cultural Study Plots* - U. of I. Drug and Horticultural Experiment Station, Downers Grove, Illinois. - Fertility; Rate of Seeding; Variety; Sodding versus Seeding; Seed Mixtures; Tour Consultants - H. R. Kemmerer, Dept. of Hort., U. of I., R. A. Miller, Dept. of Hort., U. of I.

- *Vaughan's Seed Co. Turfgrass Research Plots* - McCormick Gardens, Wheaton, Ill. Tour Consultants: Dr. R. Milton Carleton, Vaughan's Staff.

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## WETTING AGENTS —

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Robert A. Moore\*

\*This is a condensation of a speech that Moore gave at the recent annual conference of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA.

Correct or incorrect use of water can mean life or death to turf. For centuries people have dealt with water as if it were sacred — as if nothing could be done to change it. Yet, in 1959, a number of supts. in areas with adverse weather conditions produced turf that responded differently. Their turf was denser, more disease resistant, better rooted. It was turf that was tougher in relation to wear, temperature, humidity, and wilt. It was produced from freely moving, more available water and nutrients — grown consistently under low soil-moisture-tensions.

We have seen many slides and charts with response curves. These should, and someday will, show at least two sets of response curves — one for normal moisture tensions; the other for low moisture-tensions.

These tensions can be changed — and when changed, the turf produced responds differently. Clearly two factors stand out as fundamental in growing superior turf:

1. the rate at which water displaces itself in a soil;
2. the availability and rate of utilization of water and nutrients as evaluated in terms of soil-moisture tensions.

With any soil condition and moisture content, what has to be proved is that a plant's physiology is affected by the soil-moisture tension of its environment. Tension of this environment is directly affected by non-ionic wetting-agents.

Most of us are familiar with the mechanical aspect of non-ionic wetting-agents where the reduction in tension



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of water allows water to penetrate more readily into problem areas such as hard spots, thatch, localized dry spots, banks, etc. Here, we can easily get lost in a tangle of dissension as to what the problem is and how it should be solved. Should we change our fertilizer program? aerify? aerify and apply soil-wetting-agents? should we renovate try new grasses? is the problem one of soil composition?

Dr. D. B. Peters, at the USDA experiment station in Urbana, Ill., studied the effects of soil-moisture-tension. His findings showed that soil-moisture-tensions control:

1. movement of water and nutrients in soil;
2. the uptake of water and nutrients by the plant;
3. that nutrient starvation set in under high tension conditions before water starvation (or wilt.)

Thus a plant's growth can be determined by the tension of the soil moisture in which it lives. Before, it was shown that these tensions can be controlled by non-ionic wetting-agents.

#### *Nursery Stock Greatly Improved*

Let's turn to the ornamental nursery field where a great deal of information is now available and more will be published this year. What happens to nursery stock grown under low soil-moisture-tensions? One big advantage in the nursery field is that a person is able to take plant material and follow its development over a period of months or years. Plants grown consistently under low-moisture-tensions make better growth, are denser, more disease wilt resistant and develop better root systems.

You can take the best prepared soil, physically change its moisture, and you will get a result that is utterly new. These same results are being obtained by the few supts. who have maintained their turf under low-moisture-tensions.

These results raise such questions as: What does constitute a proper soil mixture for a green? What is the most effective fertilizer program? What grasses are most desirable? To each question we can point to case after case where changing the physical characteristics of water gives us a new insight into our use of this basic ingredient of life itself. This requires a new look at all the good maintenance practices that have been developed over the years — a reevaluation of them in terms of low-moisture-tensions.

#### *Program Must Be Followed*

It can truthfully be said that this is a new philosophy of growing plant material. That is under low soil-moisture-tensions. But these results do not happen overnight! A program must be followed. A blend of non-ionic wetting agents should be used according to this general plan:

1. Every year apply a total of 24 to 32 ozs. of non-ionic wetting agent per 1,000 sq. ft. Each application should be at the rate of 8 ozs. per 1,000 sq. ft.
2. Under severe conditions apply 8 ozs. per 1,000 sq. ft. at monthly intervals during the season.
3. To promote deeper rooting, make both an early spring and fall application.
4. For maximum performance keep your program on schedule.


These rates of application are based on using a blend of non-ionic wetting agents that is 100 per cent active ingredients. Your average yearly cost for such a program should be in the neighborhood of \$2.00 to \$3.00 per 1,000 sq. ft. In terms of all greens, collars, approaches and tees on an average 18 hole course, the cost would be less than \$450 a year.

What can be expected from following such a program? After consistently growing under low-moisture-tension conditions, supts. have essentially eliminated syringing. They report very little evidence of wilt. Their fungicidal program and control are more effective. Their turf is denser, more resistant to wear and deeper rooted. During 1959 they had had more play than ever before and their greens were better than ever.

Our thinking shouldn't be confined to past experiences where soil wetting agents were used sparingly. This is not a one shot proposition — it is a program.

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