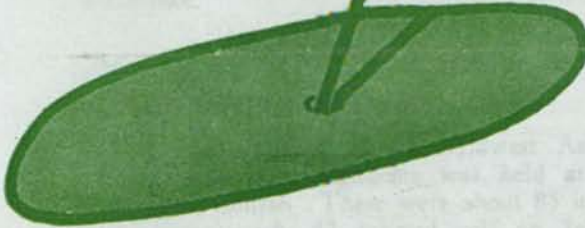




The Bull Sheet

Official Bulletin

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents



AL HINTZ
Golf Course Superintendent
White Pines Golf Course
Our Host

THE JULY MEETING

WHITE PINES GOLF COURSE

MONDAY, JULY 11, 1960

GOLF — DINNER

Question Box

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 June meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held at the Silver Lake Golf Course. There were about 85 in attendance and approximately 42 enjoyed golf on John Coghill's well groomed course. Following a sumptuous roast beef dinner, a question box and answer period was conducted by Ted Woehrle, his panel consisted of Bob Williams, Roy Nelson, Dr. Wm. Daniels and our host superintendent, Dudley Smith. Special guests at the meeting were Dr. Wm. Daniels of Purdue University, Ward Cornwall from the Detroit Country Club, and Bill Milne of the Country Club of Detroit. Many thanks to our hosts for an enjoyable day and for the use of their facilities.

The past week I received a letter from Bill Rueck whom many of you will remember and he sends his regards to all the Midwest boys. He is on an 18 hole course 21 miles north of San Francisco. He states that the climate there is fine, making Golf course maintenance much easier.

In a letter recently received from our National Secretary, he states they would welcome any information from our group concerning rebuilding of greens or any other changes made on our golf courses, also special events which we have scheduled. You may send this information along with your photograph to the Golf Course Reporter, P. O. Box 1385, Jacksonville Beach, Florida.

The Midwest - Wisconsin joint meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 20 at the Blue Mound Country Club which is in the Milwaukee area. More information will be given at a later date.

Congratulations to our friend Rueben Thode on his retirement. Good luck and best wishes Rube.

Our next regular meeting will be held at the White Pines Golf Course, Al Hintz, our host, hope to see you all there.

Sincerely, Emil Cassier, President

CLIPPINGS —

PURDUE UNIVERSITY — FALL FIELD DAYS

Something different—mark your calendar now—September 15, repeated September 16. The Fall Field Days will be *Thursday and Friday — not Monday and Tuesday*—so get the week's work planned and choose any combination of program convenient for your travels. This is your chance to keep track and get progress reports on research under way!

GOLF PRIZES —

1 low net Charlie Park; 2 low gross Al Pierce 74; 3 — Peter Voykin; 4 low net Al Bertucci; 5 low net Seedalli; 6 Oscar Melesguirt; 7 Mitchell Lurut and Clarence Sheater; 8 Keneth Zauzig; 9 Charles Sebultz; 10 Dudley Smith.

Glen Meters who has spent the last year with Bert Rost at Butterfield Country Club, is now the Superintendent at Fox Valley Country Club.

The June meeting was held at the beautiful Silver Lake Country Club with Dud Smith and John Coghill as hosts. About 85 sat down to an excellent roast beef dinner. Some 40 members and guests played golf over the excellent Silver Lake courses.

Ward Cornwall and Bill Milne of the Detroit District attended the meeting, we were all glad to see them.

Rube Thode plans to retire from the Chicago Park District where he has been greenkeeper for many years. Rube plans to do a little fishing. We hope to have a full story covering his post retirement activities in an early issue. Have a good vacation Rube.

Bill Daniels of Purdue attended the Silver Lake meeting and was one of the panel members during the question and answer period.

With summer just beginning it seems strange to be thinking of the nominating committee, but sure enough it soon will be conference time again, Toronto next.

Walter Pieper Superintendent at Flossmoor Country Club, had the course in excellent condition for the Chicago District team matches, June 16th. Walter has been plagued with high water in the creek all spring, but in spite of this handicap, has kept the course in beautiful condition.

The Walter Fuchs family of the Glen Eagles Country Club mourn the passing of their Grandmother and Mother, Mrs. Lorretta Fuchs, during June.

Arthur Benson, Jr., son of Art from St. Charles Country Club is now the Superintendent at Naperville Country Club.

Rube Thode, who is retiring, had some very good advice to all of us during the last meeting. Among the many matters he touched on he suggested that all Superintendents make haste slowly to accept new ideas, and then use them only if they prove to be advantageous.

FAIRWAY MAINTENANCE

How a season-long program based on proper timing and calculated risks can produce durable turf that stands up under all kinds of weather and conditions.

By Robert M. Williams

Supt., Bob O'Link GC, Highland Park, Ill.

(This article is condensed from a speech made by Bob Williams at a recent Michigan State U. turf meeting.)

Most of us probably have been so preoccupied in recent years with the care and handling of greens that we have overlooked to some extent the maintenance of what constitutes about 85 or 90 per cent of the golf course proper — the fairways. Not that I think that the fairways I have seen at numerous courses around the country are in danger of going to pot. They're not. It's just that I think that it is occasionally good for us to stop and take stock of our methods of maintenance and to improve where we can.

When I transferred from Beverly Country Club in Chicago to Bob O'Link last year, I did a lot of thinking about an improved fairway maintenance program. The turf at my new club was about 50 per cent creeping bent and 50 per cent annual bluegrass. Irrigation facilities were limited since we could water only from midnight until 6 a.m. at a capacity of 450 gpm. Weed infestation was relatively light. Drainage seemed to be a localized problem in several low areas. The soil at Bob O'Link is a sandy, clay loam mixture with good physical and chemical structure. The biggest drawback was that corrugations had developed on fairway surfaces due to high speed mowing.

I tried to put my maintenance program on a segmented basis, thinking of it as a procedure that involved these things: Timing of maintenance operations; Diagnosis of troubles; Observation; Planning; and, of course, the proper use of the Calculated Risk. I won't say that the program was 100 per cent successful for us, and possibly wouldn't be at any other course, but I do think it was a distinct improvement over the general practices of the past, my own included, and has a promising future.

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spring and is graduated to a maximum of 3/8 ins. in the hot, humid midsummer months. We drop back to the lower cut in the fall. Frequency ranges from 3 to 4 times a week in the growing season to only once a week during hot weather. During midsummer most of the fairway mowing is done in the evening to avoid bruising the turf. Most important, our tractor speed is kept to 5 mph to keep the mowers from lifting and causing corrugation.

Removal of early morning dew has been a big factor in our program. This not only permits the golfer to get out early but gives the grass an extra drying period so that mowing can be started and nearly completed before play becomes too heavy. We remove dew by attaching 200 ft. of 1-in. hose to two tractors that are driven down opposite sides of the fairway. All 18 fairways are dragged in about 40 minutes.

Irrigation and Moisture Control

Since we have a great deal of annual bluegrass we have tried to learn to live with poa annua. To do this it is necessary to keep the poa's shallow root system moist, well fertilized and treated with fungicide to combat fungus disease.

The building of a two-acre lake and new pumping plant has increased our irrigation supply to 1,000 gpm. We can now water all tees, greens and fairways in about eight hours. Also, we can water the entire course nightly now and not stretch the operation over three days, as before. We have found that poa frequently can't wait two or three days for water. If the top 1/2 in. of soil dries out, poa may die.

Aerification Procedure

Aerification is a means of moisture control. Without it, turf may become dense, moisture penetration is impeded and slopes will shed water with about 100 per cent runoff. We sink a 3/4 in. thatch spoon below the turf mat into about 1/2 in. of soil. Care should be taken to

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aerify only if grass is growing and heals readily. The exception comes when water penetration is necessary to prevent desiccation.

In 1959 in May, July and Sept., aerification worked well at Bob O'Link. With a tractor-lift aerifier, 18 fairways can be completed in about 12 hours. Following this, fairways should be dragged with a 20 ft. length of mesh fence to break up cores and help reduce matting of the bentgrass. If soil is kept in a moist state during aerification, formation of local dry spots, that refuse to take water thereafter, is avoided.

Weed Control

Weed infestation at our club was light. Our experience has been that healthy turf will surmount the weed menace. When we use 2-4-D on bent fairways, the dose is kept at a ¼ to ½ lb. per acre rate for active ingredient. Light applications of sodium arsenite seem to be safe for fairways in the spring and fall. We have used 1 to 3 lb. applications in Nov. and April. They reduce clover and minor weeds and apparently stimulate bent growth.

Disease Prevention Program

Fairway fungicide programs probably are neglected in maintaining close-cut bent-poa turf. Fear of high costs and too demanding work in application undoubtedly have deterred fairway fungiciding. Yet at the same time, no supt. would hesitate to treat bent-poa greens with fungicides. In either situation it's the same grass growing under similar conditions except for height of cut. It should be remembered that fairway grass is just as susceptible to disease as the turf on a green. After the 1959 toll of fine fairway grass, due to disease, I think many supts. will come around to adopting a fungicide program that will prevent a recurrence.

A few years back, while treating for crabgrass with phenyl mercury, we noted that turf was not seriously affected and poa annua loss was not great when this

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chemical was applied. This was really nothing new. But it forcibly showed how important fairway disease control can be. We worked out a practical dosage for economy and effect. I have continued this practice for several years and my fairways have been much improved.

Last year we applied phenyl mercury six times, applying it upon the first indication of a disease attack in the last week of July, again in early August, and making four applications in the last 10 days of August when we encountered our worst disease weather. Dosage was at 1 st. per acre of 10 per cent material. This yields $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs. of material per 1,000 sq. ft., or less than the recommended rate of 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ozs. Water in conjunction averaged about 75 gals. per acre. We added 3 lbs. per acre of iron sulfate to the above mixture to give added color, plant strength and to combat iron chlorosis, usually prevalent in hot, wet weather.

Two spray rigs were used in the fungicide treatment and our 40 acres of fairways were handled in about three hours. About 10 gals. of chemicals were diluted in 3,000 gals. of water. Material cost was around \$100, cheap in comparison with reseeding costs when disease damaged areas have to be repaired.

Fertilization Procedure

We go on the theory that fairways have to be fed lightly and frequently. The slightest overfeeding yields excess clippings that can't be practically removed. They remain to smother healthy turf. Then, too, overfeeding softens the grass plant and invites disease, wilt and physical damage.

We treated six times in 1959 between April and Sept. In April we used 370 lbs. per acre of a 10-10-10. In July we applied 225 lbs. per acre of Milorganite. In August and Sept. two additional treatments of Milorganite were applied at a 200 lb. rate. Also, in Sept. on treatment of urea (45 per cent N) was applied at a 50 lbs. rate alone with a single treatment of potash at a 50 lb. rate. The pelitized or granular materials were laid on with a broadcast type spreader covering 40 ft. to a swath. It took four hours to cover our 40 acres.

Insect Situation

Our program calls for an application of 8 lbs. (actual toxicant) of Chlordane per acre to combat angleworm and grubworm. It is timed to head off cutworm infestation that comes in June or July. We find this treatment more to our liking than the arsenates which aren't needed in our case because we don't have much of a crabgrass problem.

Our total expenditure for materials for the 1959 fairway program amounted to \$2,560, broken down as shown:

Fertilizer	\$36 per acre	—	\$1,440
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