



The Bull Sheet

Official Bulletin

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents



DENIS STRAUS
Superintendent
Rolling Green Country Club

NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1962

ROLLING GREEN COUNTRY CLUB

Dinner and Business Meeting

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

TED WOEHRLE, *Editor*,
8700 So. Western Avenue
Chicago 20, Illinois

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Several weeks ago the Midwest Association was contacted by Mr. Benjamin Orloff, the managing director of the forthcoming Chicago Golf Show and Exposition. Mr. Orloff presented to us an opportunity to participate in this event by extending to us the use of booth space at no charge. He explained further that the Golf Show will occupy two floors of the Hilton Hotel's exposition facilities. The first floor Hilton Exhibit Hall of approximately 30,000 square feet will be devoted exclusively to exhibits and displays of manufacturers, associations, publications and institutions related to golf.

This will be the first stop for visitors immediately upon entering and before they proceed to the area featuring clinics and demonstrations. On the second floor in the Continental Exhibit Hall five nets will be erected at which visitors may have the privilege of hitting golf balls under the guidance of a member of the Illinois Section of the Professional Golfers Association of America under whose auspices this show will be presented. The Golf Show will be open to the general public from 12:30 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. on April 16, 17 and 18 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday).

The Executive Committee reviewed and discussed all facets of this invitation. We are aware of the fact that the Golf Show is basically a golf merchandising event. We realize that the Midwest Association has been and should continue to be averse to participate in any venture which has a definite commercial purpose. However, the Board does feel that certain benefits may be derived, specifically those of a publicity or promotional nature. It is not unconceivable that the Golf Show may be the embryo of an annual exposition that will include all phases of golf. Therefore, the Executive Committee concurred that the Midwest Association should accept Mr. Orloff's invitation. Because this is the first year for the Chicago Golf Show and certain aspects are uncertain, expenses will be held to an absolute minimum. Mr. Bob Williams, our publicity chairman, is making the necessary arrangements.

Donald Gerber, President



WARREN BIDWELL, 2nd VICE PRESIDENT
OF THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS AND
CHRMN. OF EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

Warren started in this profession as a caddy at the Clovernook Country Club in the Cincinnati, Ohio area in 1928. His first job on a golf course was at the Homestead Golf Club also in the Cincinnati area in 1930. The Course was a Semi-Private 9 hole course with an 18 hole, Par 3 lighted for night play, with Seaside greens.

He joined the National GCSA in 1934.

His first move to better himself was to Ft. Mitchell Country Club (9 holes) in 1936. He attended his first Turf Conference and Show at Carter Hotel in Cleveland in 1934.

He attended the University of Cincinnati during the winter months of 1937 and '38 as a student in the School of Landscape Architecture.

In 1939 he moved to the Cincinnati Country Club and remained there until 1948 when a job offer came from the famous Seaview Country Club at Atlantic City, New Jersey. Warren installed a Cast Iron irrigation for their two eighteens. While at Seaview he built the final nine of the second eighteen as well as designing nine holes for the Cohanzick Country Club at nearby Bridgeton, N. J.

On August 1st, 1959 he came to the Chicago area and began work at the Olympia Fields Country Club.

He served as Secretary and President of the Cincinnati GCSA and President of the Philadelphia GCSA.

Warren is a Free Lance Photographer since 1953, doing jobs for Caterpillar, Le Tourneau, Bucyrus Erie and others during the building of the Garden State Parkway and the North-Eastern Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

He has contributed illustrated articles to the Park Maintenance, Golfdom and Golf Course Reporter during the past ten years. He states that he will photograph anything that will serve to promote the status of the Golf Course Superintendent. If you have a project underway, or being planned, tell him about it and perhaps he can send a pictorial layout to the Golf Course Reporter.

Very seldom do we see anything in The Reporter concerning activities of superintendents in the MIDWEST area. Warren feels that we can do better.

LOCAL NEWS

We are sorry to report that the wife of Bob Breen, Superintendent of Arrowhead Country Club, passed away March 6, 1962. The Association extends its deepest sympathies.

The wife of Ed Stewart recently underwent surgery. We all hope that she recovers soon and is in good health for our Spring Dinner Dance.

On Saturday, April 14, 1962 the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is holding its annual Spring Dinner Dance at the St. Andrews Country Club. Amos Lapp and his wife will be our Host and Hostess. Let's make this the most successful dance in our history. Come and enjoy the friendship that these functions provide. Bill Brady is the Chairman of the Entertainment Committee and he promises us fine food and good music.

At our last meeting which was held at the River Forest Country Club, Warren Bidwell, Chairman of the Educational Committee, demonstrated the new slide projector and screen which the Association recently purchased. Several of the members contributed slides for the demonstration. We saw pictures of flowers, wind damage, floods, hunters, and vacationers. The projector is automatic as well as semi-automatic. You can adjust the focus automatically also.

We were happy to see the wife of Henry Lange up and around again.

In one of our future issues of the Bull Sheet we will be covering the story of the new drainage system being installed by Al Johnson at the Park Ridge Country Club. He has been working on the installation since last fall. It should make for interesting reading.

Now that the snow is almost gone we notice a severe attack of snow mold on the fairways. The greens seem to be fairly free of damage. This is very surprising because of the length of time that the grass was under ice and snow. We all hope that the damage to the fairways is only superficial.

Warren Bidwell of the Educational Committee is attempting to get Dr. Fred Grau and Dr. Bert Musser to speak to us at our next Meeting on New Developments in the Fertilizer Industry.

Ward Cornwell is the new Superintendent of the Evanston Golf Club. He and his wife are moving to this area on April 1st. Welcome to Chicago Ward! The Cornwells come to us from the Detroit area. Ward is a past President of the GCSAA.

The Midwest Regional Turf Conference recently celebrated its 25th Anniversary. The following members of our Association attended the first conference in 1937. Oscar Borgmeier, Ward Cornwell, John Darrah, Ray Didier, Frank Dinelli, Ray Gerber, Amos Lapp, Gabe Rosset, Don Strand, Bill Stuppel, Herman Woehrl.

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THE FOLLOWING TALK WAS PRESENTED
AT OUR JANUARY MEETING HELD AT
THE ITASCA COUNTRY CLUB

LIME IN THE LIFE OF THE PLANT

O. J. Noer

Old timers in the Midwest Association recall the acid era in golf turf management, but many younger members may not. It terminated 34 years ago after the memorable hot, wet and humid summer of 1928, when the bent grass on greens died.

That era was based on the turf grass plots at the Rhode Island Experiment Station. They were established by Dr. H. J. Wheeler when he became Director, after graduate studies in Germany, Dr. Wheeler compared ammonium sulfate and nitrate of soda singly, and in combination. At the time they were the only commercial sources of chemical nitrogen. All plots received phosphate and potash, but no lime. The sulfate plots became singularly free of clover, weeds and worm casting. Increased soil acidity caused by the sulfate was given credit for the striking results. Golf clubs were advised not to use lime on bent grass greens and the Green Section advocated the exclusive use of ammonium sulfate as fertilizer. The Green Section Director was also head of the U.S.D.A. Bureau of Plant Industry. He was a positive individual, well trained in the plant sciences but not well versed in soils and chemistry. He ignored warnings that soils could become too acid for the acid tolerant bent grasses.

Dr. Piper did not live to see the disasters in 1928. The grass on all eighteen greens was lost on many

courses. Lime especially, and other sources of nitrogen came back into favor.

Grass on the Rhode Island plots survived the 1928 holocaust, because of more moderate New England summer weather. Sometime later wintertime troubles started and became increasingly bad. At first grass collapsed in spots. Recovery was slow in spring. Finally all the grass on the sulfate plots suffered severe winter damage and failed to recover without reseeding. Then Dr. DeFrance decided the plots had outlived their usefulness. So lime helps grass survive adversity, in summer and in winter.

Lime has a manifold role in plant growth. It is a source of calcium, and magnesium also when dolomitic lime is used. Both are classed as major nutrient elements. Lime improves soil tilth, corrects acidity, affects soil micro-organisms, helps control thatch and in the form of hydrate exerts a very decided beneficial effect on scald, when it occurs in hot, wet, humid weather. This is true irrespective of soil reaction. Besides reviving grass the hydrate kills algae, present on the surface as a green scum which turns black and forms a skin-like cover that retards grass recovery.

Without an adequate supply of calcium plant roots are meager and brown instead of the normal white color. Calcium is needed for root tip development. In leaves, and other aerial parts, calcium is the support for cell walls. It forms a sieve through which essential elements enter the cell. Organic acids, such as oxalic, are by products of metabolic processes within the cell. If allowed to accumulate they would upset growth by making the medium too acid. Calcium neutralizes them and converts them into insoluble compounds, such as calcium oxalate.

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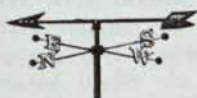


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stressed because calcium has been plentiful in fertilizers. Ordinary superphosphate is a mixture of monocalcium phosphate and gypsum (CaSO₄ · 2H₂O). So calcium as well as phosphoric acid must receive credit for benefits on new turf grass seedings. The swing to high analysis fertilizer will bring calcium into greater prominence because they are made from materials which do not contain calcium, ammonium phosphate for example.

Magnesium is a constituent of chlorophyll, the green substance of plants. It is the vehicle of transport for phosphoric acid within the plant, so it is vital to normal plant growth.

Dolomite is the usual source of magnesium. It contains calcium carbonate mostly with variable amounts of magnesium carbonate. Epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) technical grade, is a good source of soluble magnesium. Manure salts, is the original term used to describe mined fertilizer salts containing both potash and magnesium. Most of them have about 20 percent of magnesium. They are sold under various trade names.



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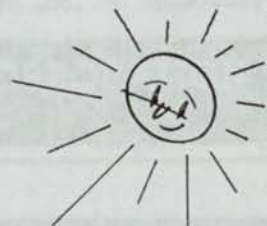
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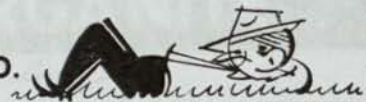
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For immediate results, when the need for magnesium is acute, technical grade of epsom salts, or one of the fertilizer salts containing potash and magnesium should be used. They are water soluble. For long time results dolomite is the thing to use. It should contain 15 to 20 percent, or more, of magnesium reported as the oxide.

Lime has the power to improve the tilth of acid loam and clay soils. It and gypsum (calcium sulfate) do the same thing for alkaline clay soils with sodium mostly in the clay complex. The calcium replaces the hydrogen in acid clays, and the sodium in the alkaline soil. A calcium clay flocculates, that is the term used to describe grouping of the individual particles into larger aggregates. This facilitates intake of air and water. Acid and sodium clays exist as dispersed particles. Then soil becomes more impervious to the entrance of air and moisture.

An athletic field was built in Milwaukee on an area which had been used as a dump. Fill for top soil was subsoil mostly. Turf cover was scant. Reseeding did not help. The same was claimed for fertilizer. Test plots disclosed that not enough had been used. Instead of 400 to 500 pounds per acre from 1-1/2 to 2 tons per acre were needed. Then grass really responded. Toward summer the only green grass was along the lime lines, following several weeks of dry weather. Moisture existed under the green grass, but otherwise the soil was bone dry. The soil was neutral but the level of exchangeable (available) calcium was low. The calcium provided in the lime line had a marked beneficial effect on soil tilth of the clay soil. So it is important to determine available calcium, besides the pH, because lime might be needed to improve tilth, and thereby increase water holding capacity.

(Cont'd Next Month)

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