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The Bull Sheet

Official Bulletin

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents



ADOLPH BERTUCCI
Superintendent
Lake Shore Country Club

NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 1962

LAKE SHORE COUNTRY CLUB

Educational Program:

*A discussion of our winter
problems brought up to date.*

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

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Assuming that you were a member of a club who was given the responsibility of procuring a progressive golf course superintendent for your club - What are 10 of the most important questions you would ask the applicants for the job?"

"What, in the consensus of opinions among your members, are the ten most important phases of golf course maintenance knowledge that golf course superintendents must possess in order to be qualified as a progressive golf course superintendent?"

These two good thought provoking questions have been submitted to the members of the Midwest Association by Mr. Frederick Bove, President of the Southern California Chapter of the GCSAA. The results of this inquiry will help constitute a basis for a proposed educational program among our southern California colleagues. This survey will be presented to the membership for discussion at our next meeting. I think that we may assume that the first question pertains to one's character and experience; the second question refers to one's technical and administrative abilities.

It is interesting to note that a former member of the Midwest Association, Dave Mastroleo, is the secretary of the Southern California Chapter.

Don't miss the opportunity to play golf at our next meeting. Lake Shore Country Club (Adolph Bertucci, Supt.) is one of the outstanding clubs in the Chicago area. Paul Voykin and his golf committee have planned interesting events for everyone and shall provide excellent golf prizes for the winners.

When you approach the first tee, you will notice that something is different - someone is missing. Our fellow member who usually enters your name on the score sheet will not be present. Mr. Herman Woehrle died suddenly on Sunday, May 13th. He lived a life exemplifying good citizenship, friendliness and humility. He was a gentleman always and was never reluctant to offer his assistance when it was needed.

God bless you, Herman.

Donald Gerber, President



HERMAN WOHRLE

Herman Woehrle passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Sunday, May 13th. He was Course Superintendent at the Kankakee Valley Country Club, Kankakee, Illinois. In apparent good health, his passing came as a shock not only to his family but his many friends. He served at Kankakee Valley for 22 years and was a pivotal influence during the club's transition during the post war years into a private club with a beautiful golf course.

He was born in Germany in 1903 and came to the United States in 1923, when he was 20 years old. For a number of years he worked around Homewood, Illinois, received his first experience in turf work at the Ravisloe Country Club. For twelve years from 1928 to 1940 he was employed by the Illinois Grass Company, which was the first commercial sod grower in the Chicago area. In 1940 he moved to Kankakee, Illinois.

He was a member of our Association for many years and one of the most active ones. Everybody was attracted by his kindly and friendly disposition. He set an example of responsibility, self reliance and hard work to his family, friends and associates.

Our sympathy is extended to Mrs. Woehrle, to Ted, editor of the Bull Sheet and Supt. at Beverly Country Club, Ted's two sisters and the five grand children.

C. O. Borgmeier

Cont'd

THE BUSINESS OF TURF — GOLF COURSE SECTION — PURDUE - CLINIC

By

Bill Lyons, Supt. Firestone Country Club,
Akron, Ohio

We must give the golfer his rights. He is struggling with 14 different clubs. That's enough trouble without having mowers, verticutters, aerifiers, topdressers, sprayers, fertilizing machines, trucks, etc., distracting his attention and slowing down play on the whole course.

If this is a problem on your course; **THINK ABOUT IT!** If you have a need there is an answer. Could it be that you are one who should think about putting a night maintenance program into effect? Will it please our customer, the golfer? Will it produce better turf? Will it save money to get more work per man hour? Will more rounds of golf get played? More cash flow?

An owner of an irastible short golf course, who is known to many of you, accounted for his success this way. First get 'em on. Second get their money. Third get 'em off. Hard bold facts about "cash flow".

Save money on labor. This thought has been kicked around ever since golf wages went from 25¢ per hour to 30¢. The 12 to 18 year olds are finding it rough to get summer time work. They need money, only a lot more of it than we oldsters did at that age. More than that and especially the ever growing number of "drop-outs" from school need to learn the responsibility that goes with a job.

Much thought and some action has been taken at private clubs to close in little used sand traps. At some public courses it has been observed that the customers won't rake traps. Caddy carts can't, so the only thing to do was to remove the sand and let a grassy hollow take its place. Sure it saved money, sped up play and "cash flow".

Want to save money on equipment? Look at the good, and not so good, equipment dealers are offering. Many private clubs who do not have to depreciate equipment costs for income tax reasons trade mowing units every four years or less. These are often priced at 1/5 to 1/7 the cost of new units. To the fee course owner these low prices for tax reasons can be attractive. Repairs put into same can be expensed not taxable.

The Northern Ohio GCSA now have an annual field day at which the manufacturers and dealers display and demonstrate their wares. This is an excellent way to sell your management on tools you need to up grade your golf course.

Is the slow fire of rust destroying your maintenance machinery. At most golf courses a separate fertilizer storage building is needed. \$175,000 was invested in a maintenance building at one of our clubs. One end was walled off with concrete block to serve as fertilizer storage. The ammonium fumes from the fertilizer still comes thru to the machinery in storage. That unseen thief rust is still deteriorating all machines.

Pole type buildings are still the lowest cost buildings. They are good units for fertilizer storage, Machine storage, Shops for repairing both summer and winter. With five poles one can make a very attractive shelter house. Anyone who can drive a nail and use a saw can put up a pole type structure.

Maintaining Poor Design

Years ago some Scotchman from the vicinity of St. Andrews came to the clay hills of Pennsylvania and got so home sick for sand dunes that he built a golf course, putting sand into the deep pot holes he dug to build greens. He did not realize that sand is unnatural to the area. Nor did he know and cared less, like some golf architects, that torrential rains would make his traps look like Niagra Falls hit them. A never ending expense until design is corrected.

Pro's argue that sand is one of the basic five facets of a golf course. Sure, it can be decorative. It can be a mental hazard to a duffer. As one architect says,

"It makes for strong pin positions." To a playing pro sand is easier than two inch high grass.

Tommy Armour at the National Open at Canterbury, played a 3 iron to a green. It hooked a little and caught a left trap. A spectator remarked, "Ah, too bad it got in that trap." Tommy snapped back, "What the — do I care I've got the tools and the know how to get out of there." And he did, dead to the pin for one putt.

Had this first Scotchman golf builder been a fisherman as well as a homesick golfer he would have realized that he could have created several farm ponds on the property that would have been more natural, at a lower maintenance cost than sand. This is another of the five facets of nature that can enhance a property. Water is a more equal hazard to both pro and duffer. As an asset a few extra million gallons of water can come in mighty handy to fight a fire or to combat the slow fire of drought on turf.

Well placed trees make American golf courses interesting and beautiful. My Scotch brother, not having seen trees at St. Andrews had no conception of how trees grow. Many of you are annually cutting tree roots around greens and tee areas.

However, trees can create problems. The easy way out is to cut them down. Scotchmen play golf without them but we Americans are sentimental about them. Trees become old familiar treasurers on the course. Even tho they are expensive to maintain, are robbing greens, tees and fairways — still to cut one down is like murdering ones best friend. It takes a lot of selling to get a course owner or a club sold on getting rid of the "wolf trees". Don't get yourself in the middle on this one. Hire your areas best tree authority. Tell him what you want and then let him take the blame for tree murdering.

Those who subscribe to USGA Green Section Service can use their field man to be the "tree Fall" guy.

A Superintendent was heard to remark that 1/3 of his labor cost is chargeable to trees. Leaf removal the largest expense. The big leaf blowers are reducing this expense and extending the golf season. These along with the portable leaf burners are definite aids to the "Z" type of profitable management.

Many courses have lost or are losing their elms to blights and diseases. Looking at the annual cost of questionable control measures one has to ask the question, "What Price Golf"? From studies made at Firestone Country Club we learned we can replant with 2" to 7" trees of more suitable varieties for the price of one years treatment to try to save the 495 elms standing in the playing area. It will take time for the smaller trees to grow but all of the 495 elms are not going to die in one year.

Sense of Values

In turf maintenance one must develop a "sense of values". For example, one man walks to work. Maybe he has more time than money. Another rides a bicycle, a small investment. A third may drive his own automobile. A sizeable investment. They all get where they are going "at a price".

Today's golf market caters to people of all classes from a \$0.50 green fee and up. On some of the fee courses the 50¢ fee is over priced because of the cow pasture facilities offered. On another well kept course a \$5.00 fee is a bargain.

There was a time when people would wear a path to your door to buy a better mouse trap. The chemical industry ruined that path. On the other hand, at Waverly, W. Va., people paved a road to Loren Parish's, Par-Mar-Pines Golf Course, because they are happy to pay to play this beautiful course so well maintained. His best customers are members of other country clubs. Your customers have a "Sense of Value" when it comes to parting with their dough to play golf.

New Grasses on Old Courses

Many of the old grasses on the old courses are expensive to maintain. Even on a new course *Poa Annua* can be most expensive. All kinds of excuses are heard when the *Poa* suddenly wilts and fades away as it did on Saturday afternoon, August 5, 1961.

Here is what one bold course owner decided to do after expensing *Poa* greens for 15 years. He reasoned this way. "There is nothing wrong with his tight clay soil! The weakness was with the original seeded grasses." His nursery practice green of a superior stolonized bent on the same soil was beautiful and free from *Poa*. A practice green is a test for any bent."

In early November, (too late in our opinion) he desodded a pot green with a modern sod cutter. Without modifying the tight soil he simply smoothed and sodded with the bent from his nursery green. Green was out of play not more than 4 days. After 2 years there is no *Poa* showing. Did he save money? Less fungicide, Less syringing etc. Truly this is the

"X" factor of satisfaction — for the

"Y" type of (fee) golfer — for the

"Z" type of (profitable) Management. Himself.

USGA

WESTERN TURFLETTER — Bill Bengeyfield, Western Dir.

TOP DRESSING PUTTING GREENS: OLD FASHIONED OR NOT?

In the early days of greenkeeping (and possession of 'professional secrets'), top-dressing greens was a hard and fast rule. Every few weeks the ritual was carried out. But with the tick of the clock and swing of the pendulum, the practice was largely discontinued during and after World War II as good top-dressing material became hard to find and labor costly. Only in the past few years have the faults of both extremes (i.e. too much vs. too little top-dressing) been exposed and appreciated. Now a new era is upon us: one of an adequate and sensible top-dressing program: proven of importance to anyone desiring championship putting surfaces.

Why Top Dress?

Top-dressing, or the spreading of a prepared soil mixture over a green, has a great many advantages for today's golfers and course superintendent. Not only does it help create true putting surfaces, but also provides fresh material for the growth of new grass stems and runners. A tighter, denser turf is produced with finer texture. It also contributes to thatch control and often improves the "holding qualities" of a green. Al Radko, USGA Eastern Green Section Director reports that top-dressing greens just prior to the winter season helps in preventing desiccation and winter injury. Dr. Marvin Ferguson, Mid-Continent Director predicts more top-dressing will be needed during the next decade

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as heavy play continues. Old and new greens alike will benefit from this practice.

The First Step:

Who will deny that unsuitable top-dressing materials and incorrect methods of application were to blame for many of our putting green troubles in the past? And these same malpractices are being continued today on many courses! Soil layers, different soil types, burying turf mats, smothering and weed infestation still take place. We must be alert to these problems and guard against them.

One of the great difficulties encountered by superintendents today is in 'standardizing' their top-dressing material. It is hard to locate good top soil in many areas and even harder to find the same type of soil year after year. All too often the result is a top-dressing preparation made from whatever materials happen to be on hand or available at the moment. This type of program is more likely to lead to future trouble than it is to future progress. — Recognizing this difficulty, many superintendents avoid top-dressing greens entirely and yet they realize they are missing out on a most important and valuable management practice. Is there an answer to this dilemma? We believe so, but it is not an "easy" one.

In any form of agriculture, there is no substitute for long range planning. It seems therefore, that the first step in a top-dressing program is to determine what type of soil mixture will be available and best for top-dressing under your conditions for the foreseeable future. If the present soil in greens has a history of success (good drainage, deep rooting, minimum of compaction, etc.) the top-dressing material should be of the same general nature, if available. — On the other hand, if it is not available or if the greens are tight and compact readily,

then long range planning becomes of even greater importance. In this case, a physical soil analysis (as described in the USGA reprint "Specifications for a Method of Putting Green Construction") should be made of those materials (soil, sand and organic matter) that are and will be available to you at a cost within budget means. The analysis will tell you what soil mixture is best and this then becomes the permanent mixture for all future top-dressings and construction.

"But what if we cannot find a permanent source of soil for the mixture?" is the next question. The only solution here seems to be in stockpiling sufficient soil (at time of initial purchase) for as many years as the


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present budget will allow. Continuous effort should be made to find similar soil for future use and the budget might be so set up that quantities of such soil may be purchased as it becomes available.

Once the top-dressing mixture is determined, a long range intensified aeration program must also be scheduled. A minimum of three to five years of increased aeration and top-dressing of old greens will be necessary to bring about an improved condition in the soil profile, at least to the depth of the aeration spoons. (See "Techniques" below). Frequent aeration also has merit in that it will prevent the burying of thatch or mat layers.

How Much ——— How Often?

Although there are always exceptions, it seems that a sound standard maintenance practice should include a minimum of two putting green top-dressings annually. Perhaps an optimum schedule would include three or four annually, spaced throughout the active growing season. Of course top-dressing during the heat of the summer is usually avoided. Aeration (and removal of soil cores) along with vertical mowing just prior to each dressing has merit and is widely practiced. (See "Techniques" below).

Again, the exact amount of top-dressing per application will vary according to each situation. However, for the average 4,500 sq. ft. green a moderate dressing will require from 1 to 1-1/2 cubic yards. If the aeration holes are approximately 2 inches apart, from 1-1/2 to 2 cubic yards will probably be necessary.

Techniques For Methods of Application —

Unfortunately, the techniques of proper top-dressing are sometimes overlooked or forgotten. But they cannot be overstressed!

1. Greens should be fertilized approximately one week to ten days before top-dressing and aeration.
2. Top-dressing material should be well screened and

reasonably dry at application time. The putting green surface should also be dry.

3. Even distribution of the top-dressing material is essential. Some type of mechanical spreader seems best as the art of evenly spreading soil by hand with a shovel has been lost.
4. The use of boards or the back of rakes will move the top-dressing more uniformly over the surface (or into aeration holes) and better than drag or link mats.
5. The "boarding" (or "matting") operation should be done very slowly and in several directions. If the work is done rapidly (as is usually the case today), the soil is not moved properly (it flies about or bubbles over the mat or board) and does not move into the minor depressions of the putting green surface. A rushed job is not a professional job!

Preparation of Top-Dressing Material —

Just as it takes time to make good wine, so it does to make a good soil! The nearly forgotten practice of composting soils for top-dressing is finding renewed favor today. There are an ever increasing number of capable superintendents who will be preparing 1963's top-dressing material this winter. It will be in storage for over a

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TEST VACCINE TO WARD OFF ELM DISEASE

(Reprint from the Chicago Daily Tribune, Saturday, April 21, 1962, Part 2 - Page 14)

Madison, Wis., April 20 (AP) — The day may come when you call the tree surgeon to hurry over and give your favorite elm a shot to protect it from Dutch elm disease.

At least, a research team that had been working on the project for four years is willing to concede that experiments have been so successful that professional foresters are being sought for test of the technique.

Dr. Dale M. Norris Jr., assistant professor of entomology at the University of Wisconsin who has headed the research, said today the method involves injection of an organic phosphate compound he calls SD-3562 into quarter-inch holes drilled into the sapwood of healthy elms.

No Job for Amateur

The compound, a poison dangerous enough to require handling by professionals, is absorbed by the tree. Within a few days the compound is present in the bark in a quantity that will kill the European bark beetle that carries the Dutch Elm fungus.

The compound acts against the beetle, not the fungus, and therefore is help to an infected tree.

Last year, a team made up of university, state department of agriculture and Milwaukee county park commission experts selected 100 mature elms in a heavily infected plot of land in Milwaukee county.

Each tree was within 500 feet of a diseased tree, Norris said. Fifty trees were treated with the phosphate, and 50 were left untreated.

No Lifetime Immunity

By fall, 20 of the 50 untreated elms had the disease. But 47 of the treated trees remained healthy. Two of the three that showed symptoms had received smaller doses than the others.

Norris said that the injections must be made during a comparatively short period — the last two weeks in May, he believes, in the southern Wisconsin area. The insecticide remains active for about a month, which covers the May 25-June 25 period during which elms are infected by the beetles in this climate. By autumn, the tree's system is clear of the compound.

If wider scale usage shows continued high effectiveness, Norris sees his system as a tool of particular value in protecting specimen trees, as an added safety measure used in connection with spraying, or in areas where spraying may be objectionable for one reason or another.

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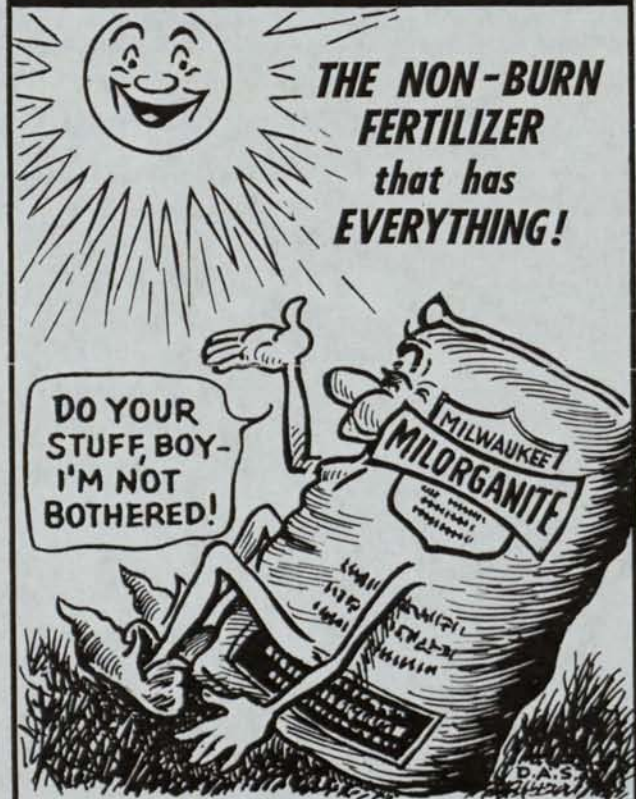
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