



The Bull Sheet

Official Bulletin

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents



DENNIS STRAUS
Host Superintendent

**ILLINOIS TURF GRASS
FOUNDATION FIELD DAY
SEPTEMBER 16th
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**

**MIDWEST REGIONAL
TURF GRASS FOUNDATION
FIELD DAY — SEPT. 9 & 10
PURDUE UNIVERSITY**

NEXT MEETING —

***Joint Meeting with
The Wisconsin Chapter
Rolling Green Country Club
Monday, September 9, 1963***

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

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

OFFICERS

President - John Ebel
1st Vice-President - Warren Bidwell
2nd Vice-President - Al Johnson
Secretary & Treasurer - Roy Nelson

DIRECTORS

Marv Gruening	Adolph Bertucci
Dudley Smith	Don Gerber
Anthony Meyer	Bill Brady

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dateline: August 15

Although no one will admit it yet I'm sure we all have that inner exuberant feeling that we are over the "hump" for '63. If I didn't feel that way before, I certainly did yesterday morning when my thermometer read a cool 45 degrees! It's always a good feeling to be reasonably sure that from here on in the weatherman is going to supply us with the kind of weather that turf grasses revel in. Let's hope our inner instincts are correct.

In the Chicago area one could get much controversy over the past or passing season. We all started out in about the same kind of boats, but by late July some boats sprung bigger leaks than others if you know what I mean. At any rate generally speaking, things got better over most of the area as time went on.

This is a looking forward time for many of us. Looking forward to solving some problems on the course during the coming fall. Looking forward to more time with the family. Looking forward to more opportunity for fellowship with some of the boys. As for me I'm looking forward to taking my ol' double 12 gauge off the rack and burning powder come October.

It's always nice to have something pleasant to look forward to whatever your pleasure. It's also the beginning of a looking back time. Looking back to see if we have accomplished all the things we set out to do early this year. It might not hurt to look over our work program outlines for the season and see if we haven't overlooked something we intended to do before all the summer help is gone.

As you can see my President's Messages are starting to wane with the season, lucky for you. So shine on Harvest Moon for me and my golf course and soon the frost will be on the pumpkin.

John Ebel, President



DR. JACK BUTLER
Extension Turf Specialists
University of Illinois

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

The August meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held at the Palos Country Club on August 5th. Many of the Superintendents came early and participated in a game of golf. They had the privilege of playing one of the many fine Public fee golf courses in the Chicago area. Host Superintendent Bob Johnson had the course in fine playing condition. Bob is new in the Chicago area and is presently being processed into our membership.

After golf we all retired to the dining room where General Manager Ralph Krueger served us a fine meal.

There was a brief business meeting where the following points of business were resolved.

The Midwest Association voted to return a blank recommendation to the National Association's nominating committee. It was felt that we presently have two men from the immediate area active in National affairs and that another man would not stand much of a chance in being elected. Recommendations of men from outside our local were also discussed but again there was no definite decision made. The Secretary was instructed to inform the National Nominating Committee that we were not recommending men for the election in Philadelphia.

Tony Meyer, Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, asked for a show of hands regarding the question of two annual dinner dances versus one annual dinner dance. The membership voted to have only one dinner dance per year and that should be held preferably in the fall.

Arrangements chairman, Al Johnson, informed us that the next scheduled meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be held jointly with the Wisconsin Chapter at the Rolling Green Country Club on September 9, 1963. This is the Monday after Labor Day.

Tony Meyer introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Dr. Jack Butler, the extension turf specialist from the University of Illinois. His talk was an introduction to our membership of the work that is being done at present and the work that is being planned. He also introduced to us the men that are working on these projects by the use of colored slides. All in all it was an enlightening presentation. It is good to see their program getting under way. We should be hearing a great deal from the University of Illinois during the next few years. Many of their undertakings involve the Golf Course Superintendent and his problems in turf.

One point that was noticed during the past three meetings; several of our members have failed to dress properly. The absence of neckties is very objectionable. We cannot afford to dress improperly. If we wish to be considered "Gentlemen" in our profession we must first look like "Gentlemen". If you want to look like a slob, then continue to ignore the necktie.

A new 'first' occurred when Chairman of the Golf Committee, Marv Gruening, presented all the prizes in the form of women's wear. He felt that the women would appreciate a gift once in a while from their husbands. Low Gross was shared by Bill Saielli and Pete Voykin with 78's. The winners of the Blind Bogey were: Ben Kronn, Charlie Schultz, Elmer Lempke, Emil Cassier, Norm Barnes and Dudley Smith. Other winners were, Adolph Bertucci, Charlie Rack, Jim Raines and Ed Braunsky. The longest drive was won by Art Benson, Jr. and the prize for being the closest to the hole on a par 3 was Joe Canale. Additional prizes for the last two events were donated by Ralph Krueger, the General Manager of Palos Country Club.

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ANNUAL FALL CLINIC

Warren Bidwell and Dudley Smith, Co-Chairmen of the Educational Committee, have announced the dates for our Annual Fall Clinic. This year will find the dates a little earlier in the fall than in the past. We will meet on November 19, and 20, 1963 at the Olympia Fields Country Club.

The Committee is in the process of finalizing the program. Many of the subjects and speakers have been selected and from all early indications it should be one of the finest Fall Clinics in our history. This will be our 11th Annual Clinic. Each one seems to improve on the one preceding it.

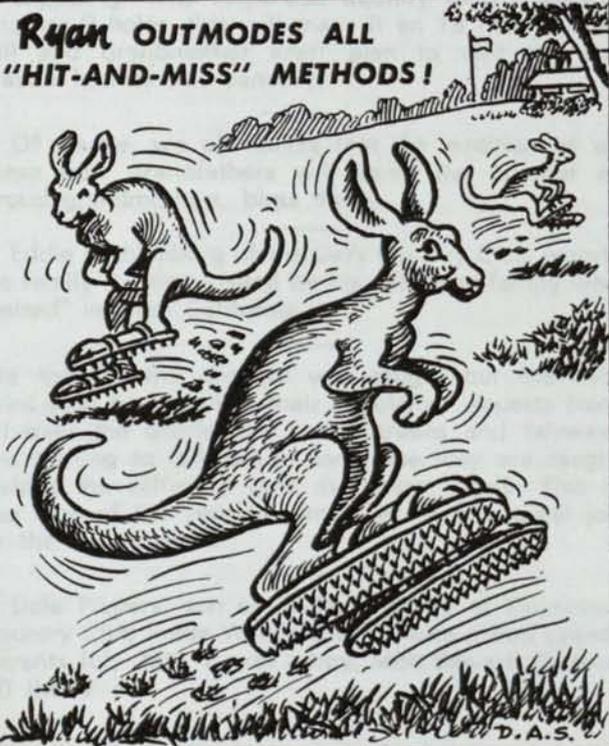
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NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

Our annual joint meeting with the Wisconsin Chapter will be held on Monday, September the 9th at the Rolling Green Country Club. Dennis Straus will be host Superintendent. This is a day when a special effort should be made to mix with our neighbors from the North. Our guest speaker will be one of our profession's finest and dearest friends, Mr. Marshal Farnham. Marshal will speak to us on many of his past experiences. For those of you that have never met Mr. Farnham, you are in for a real treat. He is retired from our ranks but continues to stay active as a Golf Course Consultant.

Marshal is a past President of our National Association, serving for two years, 1946 and 1947. He was Superintendent of the Philadelphia Country Club for many years. He graduated from Penn State with a B.S. degree and then went on to receive his Master's degree from Cornell University. Mr. Farnham is also one of the Founders of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Foundation.

If you want to hear one of the finest men in our profession, come to the next meeting.

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THE MOLE

Here is the rundown on elm tree disease at Sycamore Park — in 1960 Emil Cassier removed 45 trees, in 1962 he took out 54 trees, in 1963, this year, he plans to destroy 40 trees. At this rate it will take 3 more years to lose all 280 of them. Not so good.

Emil and his wife have grandchildren, all girls. They love the kiddies.

Jim Meyer, discussing his golf partner at the meeting, "He swears, and I lie too."

Bill Saielli of Indian Hills Country Club says he soon will become one of the favored group welcoming his first grandchild. His son Bill Jr. is the proud harrassed father.

Bill Kraft too will become one of the favored fraternity, the royal order of grandfathers. His daughter is expecting. His Valparaiso Country Club is adding another 9 holes, this will make it an 18 hole course. Bill and grandmother Kraft plan to visit the Hawaiian Islands this January.

Of course, we all realize that the addition of all these new grandfathers will swell the number of proud grandmothers, bless them.

Eddie Wohlenberg of the Gary Country Club reports his family is being visited by his sister and family who "jetted" in from California.

We thought the drought was tough, but the July rains sure have caused their problems. Reports from all over the district say many greens and fairways are starting to fail, but in each case they are caught before the difficulty gets the upper hand. This is the time of the year to remember "it is a great job in the winter time."

Dale Piepers, son of Walter Piepers of Flossmoor Country Club made Walter and his wife proud grandparents July 26th. It was a boy, Scott Edward Piepers, 10 lbs. 7 oz.

Tommy Diguido, who started with Bill Gissna on the 111th Golf Center in Palos, now a shopping center, has left Vernon Hills Country Club and is now working with Roy Nelson at Ravisloe Country Club. Tommy is getting married November 16th.

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LOCAL NEWS

Prestwick Country Club — looking forward to opening day soon.

Silver Lake Country Club opened a new 9-hole short course, Par 29, last August 15, 1963. This now makes 45 holes for Supt. Dudley Smith.

Superintendent Peter Bild of the Glen Flora Country Club is going to have his hands full on the week end preceding Labor Day. The Big Three of Golf will be competing for a huge purse. Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player will be present. It's a lot of work preparing for such an event and a lot of work cleaning up afterwards. Good Luck, Pete.

The Inverness Country Club recently held a day honoring Stan Arendt, long time member of our Association. Several Superintendents attended and had a wonderful time. Stan is now Pro at Inverness. He was Pro-Superintendent several years ago.

The La Grange Country Club was the site for the Qualifying rounds of the National Amateur last August 26th and 27th. The course was in excellent shape and it proved to be a real test of golf. Superintendent Howard Baerwald is to be commended for all the work and preparation that went into this effort.

The Flossmoor Country Club played host to the CDGA amateur tournament for three days on August 18, 19 and 20, 1963. Wally Peiper, the Superintendent should have been proud of the condition of the course. It was in its usual spotless condition.

PATRONIZE
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TEN YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

We had our joint meeting with the Wisconsin Chapter at the Medinah Country Club. Mr. Ray Davis with the Host Superintendent. This was the biggest turnout in the history of the Association. There were 123 that played golf and 163 stayed for dinner.

Dr. Jim Watson of the Toro Manufacturing Company was the guest speaker. He showed some slides of happenings around the country and discussed some of the research that was being conducted by Toro.

A lively Question and Answer session followed with Dr. Bill Daniel of Purdue joining Dr. Watson, Bert Rost and Les Verhaalen joining in on a panel that answered the questions asked by the Superintendents.

The Midwest defeated the Wisconsin Chapter and retained the Cup in its annual golf Tournament, 309-316.

MANAGING YOURSELF

The following are some thoughts as written and compiled by the editors of Nation's Business, a most worthwhile publication for all superintendents.

In one of their chapters in Managing Yourself they deal with a subject entitled, "How to Simplify a Problem."

A six-step formula built by research and experience provides a logical and open-minded approach to problem-solving.

It does not guarantee finding the right solution every time. What it does do, its developers say, is to overcome the temptation to arrive at snap judgments on the basis of past experience or intuition—a temptation which they say, grows with every year in a job.

The approach, which has been developed by the U.S. Air Force, is being drilled into all students who pass through the Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base, just outside Montgomery, Ala. The Air Force formula—as easily applicable to business as to military problems—involves these steps:

1. Identify the problem.
2. Gather data.
3. List possible solutions.
4. Test possible solutions.
5. Select the best solution
6. Put the solution into action.

The six phases are listed here in the order that would normally be followed. It is important to bear in mind, however, that the sequence is not hard and fast. The phases usually overlap.

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It is frequently necessary, for example, to get well into the phase two before completing phase one.

Often it may be necessary to be working on several phases of this method at the same time.

1. Identify the problem.

The essential first step is to define as precisely as possible the problem to be solved. This may sound easy, but it often is the most difficult part of the process.

"You are half way to a solution," says Maj. Robert P. Crow, who teaches the problem-solving course at the Air University, "when you can write out a clear statement of the problem itself."

Another way to limit the problem, and thereby ease the task of finding a solution, is to concentrate on the elements which are within the scope of your control.

2. Gather data.

In the second phase of scientific problem-solving, you set out to collect all the information that might have a bearing on your problem. Don't settle for an assumption on any point where it is reasonably possible to obtain facts and figures.

Major Crow is invariably asked, at this point, "How much data should you gather?" His answer:

"It depends on the nature of the problem, and the amount of time you have. I've seen lots of occasions on which people came up with the wrong answer because they knew too little about the problem. You rarely see a man make a mistake because he knows too much.

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"You will usually know when you have investigated a problem sufficiently, if you approach it with an open mind and an honest desire to find the best solution. If you are merely going through the motions of problem-solving, you'll probably short-cut the information gathering phase.

"The most foolish thing you can do is to stack the evidence, by confining your search to facts that tend to support your own pre-conceived ideas. When you do, you're not solving problems scientifically. You're just building camouflage to conceal the fact that you've already jumped to a conclusion."

As you collect facts, organize them in some form that helps you make sense of them and to spot possible relationships between them.

Evaluate each item of information as you go along. Is the source absolutely reliable, probably reliable, or not to be trusted too far? Is this an established fact, an expert opinion, or just an opinion?

3. List possible solutions.

This is the creative thinking phase of the problem-solving process. The important thing is to keep an open mind; let your imagination roam freely over the facts you have collected. Jot down every possible solution that occurs to you, or to anyone else who is working on the problem. Resist the temptation to

evaluate various proposals as you go along. List the seemingly absurd ideas along with the more plausible ones.

4. Test possible solutions.

Now you begin to evaluate the possible solutions you have listed. And right here it is necessary to take particular pains to be objective, or your scientific approach to the problem goes out the window. You have compelled yourself thus far to suspend judgment, but the temptation is strong now to pick out the solution you secretly favored all along and proclaim it obviously the best of the lot. Now you must enumerate as many criteria as you can think of. Criteria are best phrased as questions which you ask of each possible solution. They can be drawn from three general categories:

Suitability. Will this solution do the job? Will it remedy the problem situation completely, or partially? Is it a permanent or stopgap solution?

Feasibility. Will this plan work in actual practice? Can we afford this approach? How much will it cost?

Acceptability. Will the Board go along with the changes required by this plan? Are we trying to drive a tack with a sledge hammer?

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As you formulate criteria, rank them roughly in order of importance. Is this test one that a possible solution absolutely must pass? Or is it merely something that would be nice to accomplish?

5. Select the best solution.

This is the area of executive decision.

Occasionally, one clearly superior solution will stand out at the conclusion of the testing process. But often it is not that simple. You may find that no one solution has come through all the tests with flying colors. You may also find that a proposal, which flunked miserably on one of the essential tests, racked up a very high score on others.

The best solution frequently will turn out to be a combination of two or more possible solutions which you tested. You will usually come up with the best possible solution under the circumstances.

6. Put the solution into action.

Now we put the chosen solution into action and watch the results. They may point toward modifications.

"If the problem disappears when you put your solution into effect," Maj. Crow tells his students, "you know you had the right solution."

There is still the possibility that the solution does not work. This is usually an indication that you have the wrong solution for the wrong problem. If this is the case we start all over with step number one.

POINT FOR THE MONTH

Every man who aspires to a higher position will be helped or impeded by the effect his attitudes have on his performance and on the way he impresses others.

It is important to have positive, open-minded attitudes. Nine of the most essential are:

1. The ability to question the existing order and suggest constructive changes.
2. Flexibility.
3. A positive approach to problems.
4. A willingness to learn from others.
5. Courtesy and modesty.
6. Self-respect.
7. Willingness to give credit.
8. A realistic outlook.
9. Seeing things from the other fellow's point of view.

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