



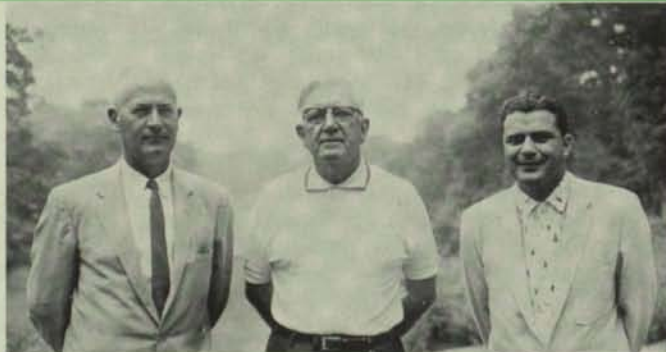
The Bull Sheet

Official Bulletin

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents

GOLF
DINNER
EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAM

AUGUST MEETING
OLYMPIA FIELDS COUNTRY CLUB
MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 1964



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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The President's Message

One Hundred Years, Plus - An Observation

Your hosts for the August meeting at Olympia Fields have rolled up a combined total of 110 years in the service of golf. Chuck Tanis, Golf Professional, entered golf fifty years ago this year. Forty of these have been spent at Olympia. In 1962 he was elected Pro of the Year by the Illinois PGA. This is truly a great honor and an enviable record of service. He is closely seconded by Manager, Jim DiSanto's twenty-six years, all at Olympia. Of my own thirty-four years in golf, I complete my fifth at Olympia the first of August.

As with all men in key positions in golf clubs everywhere, I believe we share a common aim—to give the best we have and to use fully the knowledge we have accumulated in these 110 years to further the cause of golf right here at Olympia. Perhaps I speak boldly, but also very honestly, when I say there are times when we feel our efforts are appreciated and there are other times when frustration would take over but for the steadfastness of dedicated, professional men.

In this day to day relationship around any club, which I like to call the School of Everyday Experience, there is yet to be learned many things, for classes are never over and you never graduate. Your professor may be a member who is the greatest industrial giant of the metropolitan area, a housewife who has a new found love, the game of golf or your lowest paid employee. From any one of these you may learn about a part of the great jig saw puzzle called Life and apply it to your particular need at the moment or file it for further reference.

With the succeeding election of club officials and the appointment of department chairmen, a new semester in the School of Everyday Experience begins. Sometimes the attitude of the individual chairman leads to an amiable situation wherein he can be educated in the ways and needs of the department. If so, the superintendent is fortunate indeed. Proper liaison between the superintendent and the club membership and the Board of Governors is one

of the chief functions of the department chairman and is of great importance.

Then too, there are times when the superintendent is educated by the department chairman in a new facet of membership wishes, some good, some self-fish and ridiculous. This same chairman who, upon appointment, confessed ignorance concerning the operation of the grounds department has suddenly become the five month expert in carrying out every wish that is brought to his attention by the membership. From the School of Everyday Experience you reach for the file marked Tact, Diplomacy, Desire to Please or What is Best and try to come up with the right answer. The Experience you get may not be shown in your particular brochure marked How to Succeed as A Grounds Superintendent but this is a part of the first One Hundred and Ten Years—a small portion of your life and mine.

JULY MEETING

The July Meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held on July 7, 1964 at the Woodridge Country Club. Tony Meyer was our host. The weather on the 7th was not the best for all concerned. It rained most of the day so our field of golfers was limited to 30. Most of them were able to get in 18 holes before getting too wet. The rain didn't seem to bother Al Pruess too much because he fired a 69 against some of our finest golfers to take the honors for the day.

We did not eat in the big tent because of the threatening weather but we enjoyed the meal just as well in the clubhouse. The food was delicious and the service was outstanding. Ted Hammerschmidt is to be congratulated for the fine time that was had by all. Tony had his course in top condition as usual. Thanks again to both of these fine gentlemen.

The highlight of the evening was the introduction of 14 new members in the Association. Walter Simon Asst. at Prestwick Country Club; Joe Perrachi, Olympia Fields; Art Oslund; Dave Edison, Ravisloe Don Maske, Ken Quandt, Prestwick Asst.; Ted Wiersma, Silver Lake; Everett Comstock, Don Theesfield, Supt. Evergreen Country Club; Torgelson, Brookwood Country Club; Walter Fuchs Jr. Salesman; Al Lagman, Eldorado Country Club; Jim Larson; Paul Frankowski, Asst. Beverly Country Club.

During the Business Meeting the assembly voted to nominate Warren Bidwell of our Association for the position of Director of the GCSAA. He was nominated by Ray Gerber and seconded by Ted Woehrle.

The Educational Committee presented their program with Carlyle Regele, irrigation engineer from Rainey Sprinkler, acting as Moderator for a panel that discussed irrigation of golf courses. The panel consisted of Ed Braunsky of Hickory Hills Country Club, Ken Zanzig of Walnut Hills Country Club and Ted Woehrle of Beverly Country Club. Each member of the panel explained his particular irrigation system and its use after which Mr. Regele summarized the presentation with a few remarks of his own. The biggest change in irrigation as told to us by Mr. Regele will be automatic systems. Several members seemed to disagree with this statement and a lively debate followed. Some of the newer types of pipe include various linings in the pipe itself to help prevent scale and deterioration.

It was pointed out that any system regardless of size is only as good as the man that operates it.

Roy Nelson, a Director of the National as well as the immediate past President of the National, presented a Special Citation in the form of a plaque to Ted Woehrlé for his recognition and his profession during the 1963 Western Open Golf Tournament. The Citation reads as follows:

SPECIAL CITATION
presented by

THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

in recognition of

outstanding public relations efforts in connection with publicity gained for the superintendents profession during

The 1963 Western Open Golf Tournament
at

The Beverly Country Club, Chicago, Illinois
presented at the 1963 Annual Meeting
of the Association in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Signed: Lawrence G. Mattei, Chairman
Public Relations and Awards Committee

Signed: Roy W. Nelson, President
Golf Course Superintendents Association
of America

Al Johnson reported that Ray Didier is recovering from overwork and should be improving soon. Ray Murphy is also suffering from a heat stroke. We wish them both a speedy recovery and hope to see them up and around shortly. For further details contact Al Johnson, TA 5-3809, TA 3-8682.

Golf prizes went to the following: Al Pruess — Low Gross: Ed Burke, Art Benson Jr., Ed Braunsky, Alby Staudt, Doug Jabaay, Joe Dinelli, Harold Michels, Joe Canale, Harold Fredrickson, O. Ramsey.

TROUBLES

With the excessive amounts of rainfall and temperatures here in the Chicago area this summer we are seeing extensive damage to turf from our old enemy Pythium Blight. Pythium is perhaps the most damaging of all the Fungi that attacks turf.

The following information was taken from Circular 510, "Control Turfgrass Disease" from Pennsylvania State University, College of Agriculture, Extension Service, University Park, Pennsylvania. Herbert Cole, Extension Plant Pathologist and Houston Couch, Plant Pathologist compiled and printed the Circular.

Pythium Blight first appears as small, irregularly shaped spots ranging from 1/2 to 4 inches in diameter. At first water-soaked in appearance, the leaves soon shrivel and the color of these patches fades to a light brown.

Groups of affected patches frequently join together. At times, the shape of the affected areas resembles elongate streaks. This disease development pattern is apparently the result of the fungus being washed over the surface of the soil. The presence and pattern of these streaks are determined, mostly, by the surface water drainage flow of the area.

Diseased leaves are at first water-soaked, soft, and slimy. When walked on they mat together. If the

growth of the pathogen is checked before an entire leaf is blighted, distinct, straw-colored spots of varying size develop. In general, these spots are quite similar to those produced by the Sclerotinia Dollar Spots fungus—except that the reddish margins characteristic of the latter disease are missing.

In early morning, or if high humidity exists throughout the day, diseased leaves may be covered with the white, cobwebby, mold-like growth form of the pathogen.

Disease cycle—Both species of **Pythium** may live for long periods as soil inhabitants. In turf with a past history of Pythium blight, plants infected the previous season serve as the chief source of infection centers.

Further disease development from the infection centers occurs by growth of the fungus from plant to plant. Under favorable conditions for disease development the rate of this movement can be very rapid.

Long distance spread occurs by movement of either diseased grass plant parts or infested soil on maintenance equipment and by surface water.

Primarily a warm, wet weather disease, turf blighting and disease development will be most rapid and severe at air temperatures of 85° to 95°F. Minimum temperature for disease development is 68°F. As the air temperature increases to 95°F, a much shorter time is required for complete destruction of a grass stand.

Disease development on highland bentgrass is greater at high nitrogen fertility or high balanced fertility and less under conditions of low fertility.

Plants grown under conditions of deficient calcium are more susceptible than when the supply is adequate. With normal or high fertility, disease development is greater at alkaline (above pH 7) soil conditions.

Cultural control—In Pythium blight problem areas, a cultural program that maintains satisfactory, but not "lush," plant growth through balanced fertilizer applications, and holds the soil pH in the acid range, provides the highest level of resistance on the part of the turfgrass. However, without fungicide applications, these measures will not provide satisfactory control of the disease.

Chemical control—Good control of Pythium blights requires early diagnosis.

If temperatures are in 70° to 78°F range, fungicide applications at 5 to 7 day intervals will be satisfactory. However, if air temperatures remain in the 80°-95°F range with high humidity, it may be necessary to make applications at 3 to 4 day intervals. ZINEB - 75% wettable powder at 2 oz./1000 sq. ft. or DEXON. (Use care) or DITHANE M45 at 6-8 oz. per 1000 sq. ft.

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Ted Woehrle (left) being presented the Special Citation by Roy Nelson.

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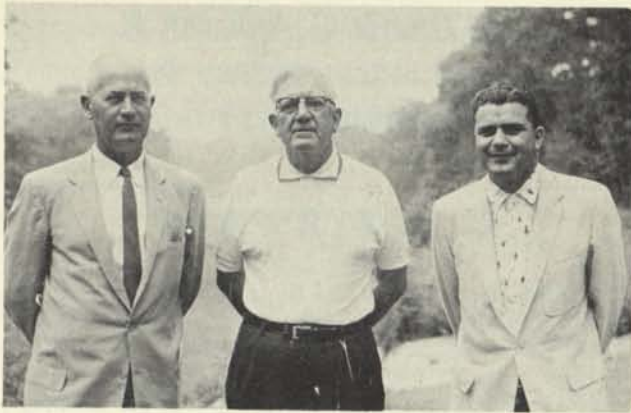
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 Left to right — Warren Bidwell, Superintendent
 Chuck Tanis, Golf Professional
 Jim DiSantos, Manager

AUGUST MEETING

Our next meeting will be held at Olympia Fields Country Club on Monday, August 3. Warren Bidwell will be our host.

We will have our usual golf tournament which will start on both nines of the North Course at 11:30. Lunch will be available in the dining room at 11:30. Dress for lunch can be informal. All drinks must be paid with coupons which will be sold in \$2.00 and \$5.00 books. Any coupons left over will be redeemed by the club. For those who do not play golf, cards can be played in the "73rd Hole". From 6 to 7 P.M. we will have a social gathering with the Shrimp Bowl as the center of attraction. Dinner will be at 7 P.M. and will consist of sliced sirloin of beef, fruit cup, garden salad, au gratin potatoes and asparagus with parfait desert. Price will be \$5.00.

THE GREEN

The green keeper stood at the golden gate
 his head was bent low.

He merely asked the man of fate
 Which way he ought to go.

What have you done, St. Peter said
 to seek admittance here.

I ran a country club on earth
 For many and many a year.

St. Peter opened wide the gate
 And gently pressed the bell.

Come in, he said, and choose your harp
 You've had your share of hell.

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(Continued from last month)

TOP DRESSING — A MAINTENANCE MUST

By Dr. Eliot C. Roberts

A layer of sand on top of soil is not detrimental as long as the sand stays on top. Such a condition is difficult to maintain. Where putting greens have been properly constructed, a safe rule to follow is topdress with a material which contains about the same sand-soil-organic matter ratio as the topsoil in the green.

Fourth — The topdressing should contain enough soil to provide good growth conditions. These include good soil structure, capacity for providing plant food to grass roots, proper soil-air-water relationships and good buffering capacity. A soil that is too heavy or too sandy is undesirable because of the factors cited above. The soil should be fertile and may be enriched by adding fertilizer if necessary.

Recommended Topdressing Procedures

For most conditions where greens are well constructed with a good sand-soil-mixture and where previous topdressing has not contained excessive sand, soil or organic matter, a topdressing mixture of 50% soil (good black topsoil) and 50% sand (as coarse and sharp as possible) by volume should give good results. Where organic matter content of the topsoil is low as evidenced by a light brown color a good grade of compost as first choice or peat moss as second choice should be mixed with the soil and sand.

(Concluded on last page)

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MORE TROUBLES

During our first prolonged hot-spell during the last week of June, many Superintendents in the Chicago area were experiencing a damage to their greens that they have never encountered. The greens were generally thinning out and looking a lot like some type of disease or wilt. After spraying them with fungicides and doing some hand watering there seemed to be little improvement.

A little black gnat-like insect was observed by many and it was identified as the Frit Fly. This little insect has been around for a number of years here in the Mid-West but it never seemed to do much damage. The fly is more prevalent in the drier areas of the United States especially in the desert. A severe attack of Frit Flies was experienced in the St. Louis and Kansas City areas earlier this year after doing some damage to many of the Courses. The United States Golf Association Field Agronomists identified the insect and immediate action was taken to bring the new menace under control.

Here are some of the controls given by several of the Superintendents:

1. Malathion — 4/5 - 1 oz. per 1000 sq. ft.
2. DDT (50% Wettable Powder) — 1/2 lb. per 1000 sq. ft.
3. Diazinon — 2 oz. (Actual) per 1000 sq. ft. with 20 gals. of water.
4. Sevin — 2 lbs. in 150-200 gals. of water for 5000 sq. ft.

If you recall there was some mention of this insect in the July 1963 issue of the Reporter in an article written by Art Snyder, Superintendent of the Paradise Valley County Club, Scottsdale, Arizona. On page 40 you will find the history of how they first discovered this insect as the trouble maker in 1959.

The insect gnaws on the leaves and weakens it considerably opening up avenues for diseases to enter and take their toll. They can be very disastrous. Be on the look-out.

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In this case 33% soil, 33% sand and 33% organic matter, by volume is advised. Vermiculite, calcined clay pellets and other mineral soil conditioners may be effectively substituted for the organic matter. It has been observed that of these various materials the clay pellets have a longer lasting effect within the soil. Apparently there is less physical breakdown of the treated clay pellets and they retain their conditioning effects for a prolonged period of time. Where these materials are used, rates of application should follow manufacturers directions since experiment station research data is unfortunately not available.

Topdressing should be sterilized to kill weed seeds. This should be done sufficiently ahead of use to allow the readjustment of microbiological population which may have been upset by the use of soil sterilants. Calcium cyanamide mixed with topdressing at the rate of 13 pounds per cubic yard has been found effective. Methyl bromide, Vapam and Mylone have also been used frequently with good results. Spread the topdressing out to a 6-8 inch layer in a sterilization bed. Make chemical application according to manufacturers directions. Methyl bromide must be held within the soil by use of a plastic cover. Vapam and Mylone are kept within the soil as a result of puddling the surface to form an impervious crust. Incubation time will depend on the material used and varies from a minimum of 2 to 3 weeks with calcium cyanamid to 36 to 72 hours for methyl bromide. Preparation and sterilization of topdressing may be efficiently handled on a rainy day or off season job where facilities permit.

Topdressing may be mixed with an application of fertilizer so that one treatment will accomplish two jobs at once. It is important to have fertilizer and topdressing mixed uniformly for best results. The type of fertilizer used is not important as long as its analysis conforms with the needs of the turf and the decomposition requirements of the thatch.

The amount of topdressing required will depend to a large extent on the condition of the turf. Also the frequency of application will be regulated by the specific objective of topdressing. Newly stolonized greens should be topdressed frequently with sufficient material to encourage root development on newly formed runners. Topdressing for thatch control or removal will require small applications at frequent intervals in spring and fall following vertical mowing and aeration. Spot treatments may be made during any period of rapid growth to correct surface irregularities. Depressions of 1/2 to 1 inch or more deep are often more effectively corrected by lifting the sod, filling in with soil and then replacing the sod at the improved grade.

Topdressing should be matted in with a metal mat or with a section of heavy gauge wire fencing. Where necessary these may be weighted with boards to insure a leveling of the added material. Matting should be done at several angles to prevent ridging of the material and the building up of high spots. Since the method of topdressing application varies from mechanical spreading to shoveling, uniform distribution of material by thorough matting is important. The matting in of plugs following aerification may be helpful as a top dressing measure. Sweep off the bits of thatch after the soil has been worked into the green. If aerification is heavy this can be an effective method of improving turfgrass quality. It is not as effective where poor soil conditions are responsible for a thin weak turf.

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