

APRIL, 1965
VOL. 18, NO. 10



The Bull Sheet

Official Bulletin

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents



BOB BLOCK
Host
Superintendent

**APRIL MEETING
SPORTSMAN COUNTRY CLUB
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 1965**

**BOWLING — DINNER
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
BUSINESS MEETING**

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

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

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The President's Message

At our March 10th meeting, it was brought to my attention that we have a few delinquent members, some of which are long standing members of this association and have been a great asset to the Midwest Association.

If there is an oversight on the part of the member, we hope that they will respond. On the other hand, if there is a personal grievance, your officers and directors would appreciate hearing from you.

Our Membership Committee is in three sections of the Midwest area, and are striving to bolster our membership for both the Midwest Association and the National Association, and we ask your help.

Your Educational Committee will be striving to bring you timely educational topics which is the heart of our association, so if you have any suggestions that will present more interesting meetings, please bring them to our attention.

Al Johnson, President

MARCH MEETING

The March meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held at the Chicago Swedish Club on March 10, 1965. Affable Nels Johnson was our host for the meeting. The food was delicious as was expected, and the Business meeting was fruitful.

The educational program that was scheduled was changed at the last minute in favor of presenting two films of Scandinavian Countries. SAS sent a man over in the person of Wally Martin to show these enlightening films, one of which showed the Northernmost golf course in the world—way up in Lapland

PAST PRESIDENTS HONORED

President Al Johnson presented Past President Pins to six members qualified for this honor. The fol-

lowing past presidents of the Midwest Association were given pins: Ray Gerber, Emil Cassier, Ed Stewart, Don Gerber, John Ebel and Ted Woehrle. Ray Gerber has held the office of President several times. The remainder of the pins will be given to Past Presidents at future meetings, and those not given out by the end of the year will be sent to them.

APRIL MEETING

The April meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be held on Wednesday, April 7, 1965. The site of the meeting will be at the Sportsman Country Club. Mr. Bob Block and Lawrence Marczynski will be co-hosts of the meeting. Free Bowling will be available through the generosity of Mr. Dick Chamberlain, the owner. Dinner will be followed by our monthly educational program which will feature Mr. R. Paul Kohler, Horticulturalist of the Brookside Laboratory. He will be discussing the value of good soil testing and how to put the results from these tests to use and receive the full benefits from them. An Editorial covering soil testing can be found in this issue.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE MAGCS

1926 John MacGregor	1946 Ray Didier
1927 John MacGregor	1947 Don Strand
1928 John MacGregor	1948 Don Strand
1929 Alex Binnie	1949 Mel Warnecke
1930 Matt Bezek	1950 Bill Stupple
1931 Matt Bezek	1951 Bill Stupple
1932 R. N. Johnson	1952 Ray Davis
1933 R. N. Johson	1953 Ray Davis
1934 A. L. Brandon	1954 George Roloff
1935 C. A. Tregillus	1955 George Roloff
1937 John MacGregor	1956 Bob Williams
1938 John MacGregor	1957 Amos Lapp
1939 Harold Clements	1958 Ed Stewart
1941 Graham Gardiner	1959 Ray Gerber
1940 Graham Gardiner	1960 Emil Cassier
1942 John Darrah	1961 Ted Woehrle
1943 Ray Gerber	1962 Donald Gerber
1944 Ray Gerber	1963 John Ebel
1945 Ray Didier	1964 Warren Bidwell



Picture of MAGCS Caucus Meeting in Cleveland

Pesticide Injected In Tree, Kills Carriers Of Dutch Elm Disease

Shell Oil Says Beetle Slaying Bidrin Will be Sold Only to Experts, Isn't a Disease Cure

By a Wall Street Journal Staff Reporter

NEW YORK — Shell Chemical Co. introduced a pesticide that is injected into the base of a tree, something like a human getting a vaccination, to kill the beetles at the top of the tree carrying Dutch elm disease.

The company, a division of Shell Oil Co., said it received a license to distribute the pesticide, called Bidrin, from the U.S. Agriculture Department last month. Bidrin won't be sold to the general public, however, because it is an organic phosphate pesticide and the company considers it too toxic to be used by other than experts.

Sumner H. McAllister, general manager of the agricultural chemicals division, estimated the cost of the chemical at \$2 to \$4 a tree. He said Shell will sell it to cities in large quantities for from 12 cents to 20 cents a capsule.

Robert A. Bartlett, president of Bartlett Expert Tree Co. of Stamford, Conn., at a news conference announcing the pesticide, estimated it would cost a homeowner \$20 to \$40, including labor costs, to have each tree inoculated with Bidrin, about the same cost, he said, as spraying with DDT.

Shell has been working on Bidrin for seven years, Mr. McAllister said. It has been selling another form of the chemical for about three years for spray use against pests that attack early spring cotton. Bidrin is being made in a plant in Los Angeles, Mr. McAllister said, at the daily rate of 60,000 capsules that are about the size of a large thimble.

Dutch elm disease, which attacks the American, or white elm, is caused by a fungus growth that a small insect called the bark beetle carries on its feet. The

fungus settles under the tree bark and creates a gummy substance, which clogs the tree vein system, preventing travel of nutrients. Once the infection starts, the only cure is to cut away the diseased tree sections.

Shell emphasized that Bidrin isn't a cure but is a way of killing the beetle. In most cases now, this is done by spraying with DDT, but this has the disadvantage of spreading DDT into the air and on the surrounding ground.

Bidrin lasts in the tree only about 30 days, but the peculiarity of the disease is that it only infects a tree for a brief period of about 20 days during the early spring. Thus, only one treatment a year is needed.

In one test last year in Milwaukee, described by Dale Norris of the University of Wisconsin, 11,472 trees were inoculated with Bidrin and only 1.4% were lost. In a test of 3,300 trees treated in the conventional manner, about 4.3% were lost.

Mr. Norris and Hugh E. Thompson of Kansas State University demonstrated the use of Bidrin on a foot-diameter elm log. A needle-like shaft of aluminum first is driven into the tree just beyond the bark level, then a capsule under pressure is attached to the shaft and is burst so the Bidrin flows into the tree. This procedure is repeated around the girth of the tree every five inches.

The Bidrin works its way to the top of the tree, where most of the bark beetles feed. When the beetle bites a leaf or twig, it ingests the pesticide and dies almost instantly. Like other organic phosphates, the pesticide affects the insect's nervous system.

Shell said it is unlikely the disease ever could be wiped out because of the large stands of infected elm present in wooded, unsettled areas.

Golf Course Specifications

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America presented a Proposed Outline of specifications for the construction and maintenance of golf courses. The original work was started by the late L. E. "Red" Lambert and then the committee was headed by the able George L. Lanphear. The outline can be used very satisfactorily in preparing the original layout of a course. If this report is used as a check list it will eliminate many mistakes and help to prevent omissions. This outline can be found in the minutes of the 1964 Annual Meeting.

While at Purdue we were handed a list of Standards set up by the "Sprinkler Irrigation Association" which is called Installation Minimum Standards. This set of specifications if added to the work done by our Association would supplement it very well.

The National Golf Foundation also has some materials available for the asking which would prove to be of great value to anyone interested in the construction of a new course.* The United States Golf Association also has some material available in regards to record keeping, green construction and several other sets of recommendations.

* Suggested Equipment List For Maintenance of 9 and 18 Hole Golf Courses.

Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Has Successful Conference at Purdue University

On March 1, 2, and 3, 1965 over 500 interested members and guests of the Foundation attended the 28th annual Turf Conference at Purdue University. As usual the program was outstanding. Dr. Daniel and his staff are to be congratulated for their efforts in bringing to us the finest speakers available to present to us subject matter involving material or great importance.

The first afternoon session held in Loeb Theater-Memorial featured three hours on a subject that is becoming more and more interesting to our profession, that being soils. Particles of soils and spaces found between them are being studied at the University with new equipment which helps us to understand how soils react to various management techniques. One thing that was brought out about man-made-soils for golf courses was the fact that we should not rely on our ability to look at a soil and tell whether it is a good soil. Send your soils to a laboratory for analysis to determine the make up of the soil. Does it have the right composition of soil, humus and sand? Will your soil drain? Will it compact and seal off the movement of water and air?

The value of the USGA Green was discussed to a small degree and it was decided that these greens, if built according to specifications, would provide us with a fool proof method of preparing a soil that would give us good drainage when excessive amounts of water were applied. They could give us a soil that would not compact and one that would almost be trouble free during times of stress. One must understand these soils and the practice of perching a water table in the soil. Unless one understands the principles of perching a false water table he should not attempt to undertake this program.

On Tuesday morning, March 2 the program was devoted to irrigation and the many ramifications of this much neglected subject. The more we hear about artificial watering of golf courses the more we begin to understand how little we really know. There are still many theories concerning the proper way to water turf. Once it was believed that the **only** right way to water turf was to water "Deep", this meant that we would water infrequently and heavy. Now the trend seems to be light and frequent watering.

I think we all feel that the "Deep" watering might be the best method but we are forced to the lighter more frequent watering programs.

The subject of Automatic Irrigation was discussed into the late hours of the night when interested persons retired to Bill Lyons, now famous, room. Don Wright, Superintendent of the Cemargo Club in Cincinnati was present to discuss his completely Automatic system that was recently installed. Many interesting points were brought out about the cost of such a system and what type of system he had. He installed an Automatic system to his already present forty year old cast iron system. He used electric valves to assure him of a more positive control system. As reported at our National Conference in Cleveland, Don has made available to our National Association a set of 80 slides showing the installation of his system. Along with the slides he has prepared a short discussion concerning each slide. These could be very valuable to any member interested in installing an Automatic system. Anyone interested in obtaining these slides should contact our National Headquarters. Chet Mendenhall from Kansas also dis-

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cussed his newly installed Automatic system. Automation is another way of making our job a little easier.

One of the most important points brought out in the irrigation discussions was that we should not worry about how much water we are applying but how to remove excess water. Drainage is still the key to growing good turf.

On Tuesday afternoon we got a cross section of several related subjects involving the management of our courses. Dudley Smith's presentation on "Organizing young workers" was one of his best efforts. A point was made during the question and answer period of Dudley's talk, that we should study the laws concerning child labor and how it applies to our courses. A point well taken.

Wednesday morning found chairman Jim Holmes calling the session to order at 9:00 A.M. The main subject of discussion was fairway maintenance. Norm Kramer made a progress report on his battle at the Point O'Woods Country Club with his fairway turf. He discussed the improvement after two seasons of thatch removal and vertical mowing combined with a good chemical program. The results seem to be outstanding. "Fairways" for 1965 was presented by a panel of experts. Bluegrass fairways are still a possibility for the future. We should keep this in mind when we decide to build new fairways. A recently released bulletin from Purdue entitled, "Bluegrass Fairways? Yet! If!" discusses the necessary points that one must keep in mind if he wishes to grow successful Bluegrass fairways.



DUDLEY SMITH
2nd Vice President MAGCS
Superintendent Silverlake Country Club



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DISEASE

DISEASE

DISEASE

By the Editor: The following article was primarily written by Vaclav J. Zolman who is the Chicago area representative for the Brookside Laboratories, Inc., New Knoxville, Ohio. He is a native of Czechoslovakia, coming to this country some eight or nine years ago. He has much to say but it is difficult for him to communicate. I have taken this opportunity to present a subject that should be reconsidered on his behalf.

Golf Course Operations Issue — November 1964:

" USGA Midwestern Section Agronomist James Holmes says that Pythium blight and other fungi killed up to 75 percent of the fairways." Hardest hit courses were in the Chicago and Minneapolis-St. Paul areas " Curiously it was the **better courses** with the big maintenance budgets that suffered the most!!!

The Golf Course Reporter — September-October issue, 1964:

" Never has the Chicago area experienced such generalized golf course troubles in turf maintenance. Fairways were hardest hit, but many courses had problems on greens and tees as well "

" Turf-Grasses lose vigor, are severely weakened and fail to respond to even maximum maintenance. Consequently, a myriad of pathogens such as diseases causing fungi become damaging "

" To date we are not aware of any positive control once Pythium sp. has become established. Golf Course Superintendents have been and are trying **everything** to stop the spread of this turf killer, but the prognosis is poor. . . . "

" Please, not only be patient with your Superintendent, but develop some real compassion for him. Unless you have been a golf course Superintendent, you will never know the extent of his anxiety and frustration "

PROTECTION OF TURF AGAINST DISEASE THROUGH PROPER NUTRITION AND ITS ADVANTAGES FOR GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT

By Vaclav Zolman

During the past few years every branch of industry has moved from pioneering experiences to the adoption of modern, scientific production methods. This same development occurred in the Golf Course Maintenance industry.

Dark green and beautiful turf was based on empirical experience in the past. Now, it requires engineering, scientific knowledge and artistic ability on the part of the Superintendent. Nutrition of grasses and the battle against so-called "diseases" is based today on scientific principles. Most soil testing today is based on primitive knowledge of the soil. Many of these tests are different, inaccurate and expensive (if you make a mistake). There are complete quantitative analysis of soils available. The latter method is accurate, adequate and necessary for the maintenance of vigorous and healthy turf, especially for very sensitive greens on golf courses.

A. Efficient Program for Golf Courses Based on the Complete Quantitative Soil Analysis.

- 1) Samples of soil from each tee, fairway and green separately are taken scientifically by specially trained personnel.
- 2) The results of quantitative soil analysis helps to answer golf course problems.
- 3) The soil analysis performed in modern laboratories, for major and minor elements and other important factors for the growing plants (grasses).
- 4) Scientific report based on the results of analysis and the requirements of different grasses includes a general project and recommendations for adequate treatment.

B. Based on the Report of the Analysis and the Resulting Recommendations a Practical Program Should be Made For the Golf Course Including:

- 1) Set up machines for limited amounts of various kinds of fertilizer mixtures (nutrients):
 - a-Hand machines for greens and tees.
 - b-Large tractor drawn machine for fairways.
- 2) Fertilizing plan for the golf course with timetables for soil, grass requirements and seasonal variations:
 - a-greens = size, amount fertilizer/a. and time.
 - b-fairways = size, amount fertilizer/a. and time
 - c-tees = size, amount fertilizer/a. and time
- 3) Purchasing plan for fertilizers per year (kind, amount, price per unit, etc.
- 4) Top-dressing plan for greens—material must be analyzed and balanced.
- 5) Water Analysis.

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C. Advantages Resulting From the Complete Quantitative Soil Analysis and Treatment.

1) Elimination or Limitation of "Diseases"

a—Elimination of "diseases" from deficiencies and harmful excesses of major elements and either high or low pH.

b—Elimination of "diseases" from deficiencies and toxicities of minor elements.

c—Elimination of "diseases" which have origin in backward effects of sprays and other chemicals.

d—Recovery of vigorous growth of grasses by balanced nutrition and rebuilding of the physiological defense of grasses against infectious diseases and fungi.

e—New strains of diseases and varieties of fungi such as the new variety of Pythium sp. would find it more difficult to survive if proper nutrition was practiced resulting in healthier plants which would be more resistant.

2) Direct Financial Advantages Resulting From Practical Program.

a—Eliminating expenses for labor and fertilizers which increase deficiency and toxicity of certain elements in the soil or influence unfavorable pH, as well as nutrients which are in excess in soil and do not contribute to a vigorous growth of grasses.

b—The most economical investment is realized for labor and acquisition of fertilizers for elimination of deficiencies or toxicities and balance of pH through proper nutrition of the grasses on certain tees, greens and fairways.

c—Expenses for sprays (chemicals) and labor are actually decreased because diseases are eliminated or limited.

d—Considerable savings are realized because rebuilding of greens and tees are not necessary, with the exception of greens that are poorly located, poorly constructed or absolutely ruined.

e—The highest financial profit results from a better turf which attracts more golfers on the course.

D. Quantitative Soil Analysis or Rebuilding of Course

Expensive, new, rebuilt, or renewed golf courses are worthwhile to take under control because the danger of diseases, fungi, winter injuries, etc., exists in unbalanced soil environment. Law of the minimum and harmful maximum remains the same for new golf courses and greens.

Maintaining a beautiful golf course is possible either by complete soil analysis with proper treatment, or,

by rebuilding to change the basic soil environment. However, the cost of performing a complete soil analysis is only a fraction of the cost of rebuilding a green. Therefore, the expense for soil analysis is the best and most profitable investment in golf course business.

There are many things which add to the attractiveness and beauty of golf courses, as an example, the irrigation system, decorative trees and flowers, to name a few. However, the control of soil environment (by means of quantitative soil analysis) is basically essential for a green, healthy and vigorous turf which attracts golfers. Maintenance of a golf course at the top level of attractiveness is quite difficult and requires engineering skill and artistic ability based on scientific principles and natural laws — an immense responsibility for golf course Superintendents in the atomic age.

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b—One glass or plastic cubic centimeter tube, this graduated cc tube costs about \$1.00 and may be purchased at most drug stores or surgical supply store.

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- 1—Place the sprinkler in its desired position.
- 2—Use as many of the No. 2 cans as are required to extend from the sprinkler in a straight line to the outer edge of the sprinkler coverage and at 2 to 5 feet intervals apart.
- 3—Set the sprinkler in operation and RUN EXACTLY 44 MINUTES.
- 4—Shut off the sprinkler and pour the contents of any No. 2 can into the cc tube, a reading in centimeters will be obtained but each cubic centimeter will equal exactly 0.01 inches or (1/100th inch) of sprinkler precipitation PER HOUR.

EXAMPLE:

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By plotting the precipitation from each can on graph paper a true sprinkler precipitation curve may be obtained. The above test should be conducted where there is water distortion by wind velocity as well as a test with **No Wind**.

(Continued next month)

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