

MARCH, 1965
VOL. 18, NO. 9



The Bull Sheet

Official Bulletin

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents



ADOLPH BERTUCCI
1st Vice President
MAGCS

MARCH MEETING

SWEDISH CLUB

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1965

DINNER — BUSINESS MEETING

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

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

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The President's Message

Another G.C.S.A.A. turf conference is in the past and we all owe a debt of gratitude to the Cleveland Boys, Northern Ohio golf course superintendents, Ben Chlevin and his staff for a superb conference. All those connected with handling the conference went out of their way to see that everyone was taken care of and happy.

May I personally extend my thanks to the Midwest Association Superintendents that took part in the educational program of the conference and in the fine way they presented themselves.

There always seems to be the sad side of each conference and so at the Cleveland Conference, a former member of our association, Joe Venturella, at one time Brookwood Country Club superintendent, suddenly passed away after arriving from Southern California. All members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents express our deepest and sincere condolences to Mrs. Venturella and their children.

We were happy to learn at the conference that there is a good possibility of our headquarters office being moved to Chicago or in the vicinity. It is an asset to Chicago to have the fine headquarters here and may the Midwest Association volunteer any help that is possible to assist Ben Chlevin and headquarters office wherever we may.

Again on the lighter side our Midwest Association hospitality room was a success and something to keep in mind for the future. Past president's pins were given to Mel Warneke and Warren Bidwell on Wednesday evening. Tuesday evening a group of women kept Mr. Iverson, of the Garfield Park Conservatory, busy in one corner talking flowers. There also was a new hobby formed for the coming year, taming tigers. Ward Cornwell and myself are the first to take a stab at it; anyone else may help and just think, all from our own hospitality room.

Don't forget two very worthwhile turf conferences coming up, Purdue Conference, first three days of March, and a very good educational program by U.S.G.A. green section in St. Louis, March 24th—also other state conferences close by in the month of March.

Al Johnson, President

MARCH MEETING

The March meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be held at the Swedish Club on March 10, 1965. Mr. Nels Johnson will be our host. This should be a fine meeting. Secretary, Roy Nelson will be sending you a notice of the meeting with all the details.

2611 ATTEND 36th INTERNATIONAL TURFGRASS CONFERENCE AND SHOW

The week of February 7 thru 12 found the biggest gathering of turf minded people ever to congregate at one time in Cleveland. Over 2,000 Superintendents and their wives, Chairmen, commercial representatives and many other interested people were present for what turned out to be the finest Conference to date.

The Midwest chapter was well represented as usual with 76 members attending and about 37 wives. Speakers and Session Chairmen selected from our ranks did an outstanding job of conducting their portion of the program.

The wives tell me that they were well entertained by the Host Association throughout the entire week. For the first time we splurged and had an official Midwest Hospitality Room which proved to be the fun-spot of the conference. The Teepee and Wigwam Rooms were made available to us for the occasion. We certainly should consider this again for the next year.

*

ELECTION

The results of the National election are as follows:
PRESIDENT — L. R. "Bob" Shields
VICE-PRESIDENT — Edward "Ted" Roberts
NEW DIRECTORS — James W. Brandt (Re-elected)
Tom Leonard
Richard A. McClaughlin

The Midwest's Delegate, Ed Stewart voted our full National strength of 107 votes. We still have about 6 or 7 delinquent members and about 4 more new members that haven't been processed. Next year our voting strength should be well around 120. This is almost double what it was seven short years ago.

*

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS TO MOVE

It was reported at the Conference at Cleveland that the National Headquarters, now in Florida, will soon be moved to a more centrally located portion of the United States. The feeling that one got from listening to the conversations would make you think that the Chicago Area is the one that will be selected. The final move should be made during the next four or five months.

*

WARD CORNWELL AWARDED 25 YEAR PIN

During the Banquet Ceremonies, President Dave Moote announced that Ward Cornwell of the Evanston Country Club was given a 25 year pin at the Quarter Century Breakfast held earlier in the week. Congratulations, Ward.



PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE MIDWEST HONORED AT CLEVELAND

During one of the more festive nights at Cleveland two of our Past Presidents were presented pins indicating that they are past-presidents of our Association. Mel Warnecke and Warren Bidwell, both now living outside the Chicago area, were presented their pins by President Al Johnson. Several other pins are being delivered to two other Past Presidents now residing in Florida by Ray Gerber. We hope to have all the past presidents of the Midwest so honored in the near future.

*

THREE MEMBERS OF THE MIDWEST RECEIVE AA MEMBERSHIPS

Class AA-Life Members are very rare indeed. To qualify for such a membership a member must have been a Regular or Charter member for at least 25 years and must have retired from active service as a golf course Superintendent. George Roloff, Bill Stupple and Stan Arendt were given the new Classification of AA membership in the GCSAA.

*

JOE VENTURELLA DIES AT CONFERENCE

Shortly after arriving at the Hotel with the California delegation, Joe Venturella died of a heart attack. The sad news traveled fast and a quiet air filled the Hotel for the remainder of the Conference. Many of us here in the Midwest knew Joe very well from his days at Brookwood Country Club. Another death was reported to us shortly after returning home on Sunday. News reached us that "Red" Lambert of Kansas City, Past President of the GCSAA in 1961, died of a heart attack Saturday night after returning home from Cleveland. "Red" conducted the election at the membership meeting on Wednesday afternoon. He will be long remembered by many of us for his slow deliberate way of conducting a meeting always reminding the younger members of times gone by. He was always willing to discuss the background and reasoning behind decisions made by the Executive Committees in the past. Our condolences go out to the widows and families of these two fine men.

HELP! HELP! HELP!

The United States Post Office has recently announced that all bulk mailing must include the newly adopted ZIP code on all addresses or we will be charged the first class rate for each incorrectly addressed envelope. This could add up to a considerable amount each month.

To date we only have about 10% of our 580 addresses listed with ZIP code numbers. In order to avoid a penalty we need your ZIP code number immediately.

Check your envelope and note if the ZIP code is included. If it isn't, please send me your number as soon as possible so we can continue to send you your free copy of the "Bull Sheet".

This would also be the time to change your address if you would like to receive the "Bull Sheet" at another location. Thank You,

Ted Woehrle, Editor
8700 South Western Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60620

World Flower Show To Be Held March 20-28 At McCormick Place

Once again the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation will be sharing a booth with the University of Illinois at the World Flower Show. In past years the Foundation has participated in this show with great success. People have an interest in the turf, whether it is a small home lawn or a larger area and they would like answers to their problems. A large number of Superintendents have helped to man this booth and have answered many of the questions that have arisen.

It is amazing to see how little people know about turf and also how misinformed many of them are. The experience gained during one of these tours of duty is well worth the time that one spends. If you are interested in helping the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation during the Flower Show contact Jim Burdett or Bob Williams and they will be happy to give you a chance. Jim is chairman of this Committee.

Midwest To Participate In Annual Golf Show

It was voted at the last Board Meeting that the Midwest would participate in the Golf Show to be held at McCormick Place on _____, 1965. We have been able to borrow the National's new display board that was shown in the lobby of the Sheraton Hotel in Cleveland. It is a tremendous piece of equipment and should work fine in a booth at the Show. Members will be asked to man this booth so please make arrangements now for attending.

The board depicts the Golf Course Superintendents' profession at work. It is felt that through using this display throughout the United States much can be accomplished in promoting the profession in the eyes of the golfing public.



Ice damage to one of our northern courses.

ICE DAMAGE

During several days in January the Northern portion of the Chicago area was hit with, what the weather bureau called, the worst ice storm in the history of weather. Upwards of two inches of ice covered everything. Many trees were damaged. The falling branches broke electrical wires and much of the area was without electricity for four or five days. Some of the courses in the vicinity report hundreds of trees fallen and thousands of branches on the ground. They have a cleanup program to look forward to that will last many weeks. Some of the biggest and prettiest trees were destroyed. It was a storm that will be long remembered.

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The National Society of Professional Engineers opposes the providing of engineering services in any manner which makes it appear as though engineering is being done on a gratis basis, or with the implication that there are no engineering costs.

"Free Engineering", the practice of concealing charges for providing engineering services or feasibility studies incidental to the furnishing of materials, equipment, service facilities and/or construction (beyond the normal supplying of technical assistance and application data), is not to the best interest of the owner because this practice tends to restrict competitive bidding and may result in the inclusion of materials, equipment, service facilities, and/or construction not best suited to the project, it encourages conditions under which engineering services may not be complete, objective, or to the owner's best interest, and deprives the owner of direct control and full benefit of engineering services for which he pays.

The National Society of Professional Engineers believes that the owner's and public's interest is best served by a full disclosure of the total costs of providing service, and that when engineering services are provided in any form, other than the furnishing of technical data by manufacturers and agents only as required for the proper application of their equipment or products, the charge for such engineering services should be separately proposed and invoiced by the party providing such engineering services. An appropriate charge should be made when engineering services are performed whether the project is constructed or not.

GRASS SEED FOR BETTER TURF!



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Wives of Midwest superintendents enjoying Hospitality Room at Cleveland.

CLUB AUDITORS TO ORGANIZE

At a recent meeting held at the Merchants and Manufacturers Club in the Merchandise Mart, the ground work for an association of Club Accountants and office Managers was held.

Mr. Anthony C. Rosso, Comptroller of the Beverly Country Club, Mr. Richard Wallace, Comptroller of the Medinah Club and Mr. Don W. Zienty, President of the Accountants Hotel and Motel Association met to discuss the merits of this new organization.

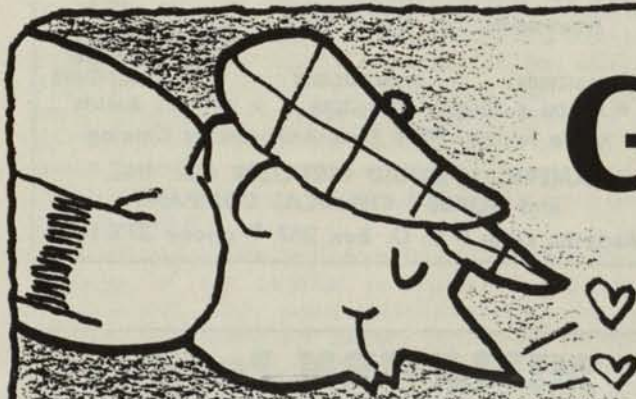
Originally thought of by Mr. Rosso and Mr. Wallace, it is the belief that such a group could meet regularly and relate club accounting problems, procedures and tax problems regarding Country Clubs. Other helpful information would be the use of departmental budgets, expenses, inventory control and other methods which would be a part of Country Club accounting.

The Beverly Country Club which was the first club in the Chicagoland area to advance their Accounts Receivable on date processing will be joined by Medinah Country Club which will have similar processing for their receivables. It is felt that other Country Clubs may accept this procedure and try to unify Club Accounting.

At the present time, approximately twelve have expressed their interest in this new organization. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please contact one of the gentlemen listed below:

Anthony C. Rosso, Beverly Country Club—BE 8-4203
Richard Wallace, Medinah Country Club—NA 5-9200

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All who have examined critically the question of "How green is good" recognize it is not a new problem. In any series of turfgrass literature this matter is discussed repeatedly. As recently as 1960 in these Proceedings, Dr. Eliot C. Roberts discussed the relationship between foliage and root production and again pointed out that yield, as foliage production, and dark green color were, in themselves, poor indicators of quality turfgrass.

Anyone seriously concerned with turfgrass management recognizes as obvious, the fact that grass, like most other plants, cannot be grown without an adequate root system. Examples of problems observed during the past season illustrate the point that many apparently do not yet recognize this point or overlook it in the pressures of the growing season. Thus some of the factors affecting foliage and root development are perhaps worthy of review and re-emphasis.

Mowing is necessary in production of good usable turf but may be a necessary evil as far as the grass is concerned. The fact that clipping practices, especially at the heights often required, reduces foliage and root growth is a cardinal principle in turfgrass growth. Maintenance of high nitrogen levels and optimum moisture conditions stimulate shoot growth much more rapidly than root growth especially when new leaves are removed as rapidly as they are produced. This is the second principle. If root development is further placed at a disadvantage by poor aeration through compacted or poorly drained root-zone structure, the effects of the two previous facts are aggravated. The poor growth of roots is transferred to poorer shoot growth. Additional nitrogen or additional water in an effort to get quick results only make matters worse. With a good structured,

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well aerated rootzone, roubles may still arise from problems of pH or failure of the turf user to appreciate the liiminations of air and soil temperatures beyond which the turfgrass cannot be forced without serious injury.

Development of slow release nitrogen fertilizer compounds in recent years have been a most useful and welcome addition to the tool kit of turfgrass management. The ability to provide a more continuous feeding in place of the very stimulative soluble materials should lead to better turf health. At the same time, many still use moderate amounts of the quick solubles or even spray-on applications to get that "quick-kick" to keep the color up and the user happy. Without full knowledge and awareness of the interacting factors regulating foliage and root growth, all three forms can still cause serious trouble.

As an example, up to June, the greens on a small course in Southern Illinois started the season in excellent shape. Upon subsequent development of poor color, a urea-formaldehyde application was made, the only fertilizer application since early spring. The greens responded—colorwise! During the summer nearly all greens went out from 20 to 90 percent in spite of verticutting, skipping, daily watering, and more U-F. When the damage had been done it was discovered that the greens had received 16 pounds of calcium arsenate per 1,000 in a split application the preceding fall and spring, some potash but no phosphate of record. No soil test had been made but a fairly good guess could be made as to the trouble, especially in view of the arsenical used on typically low phosphate soils of Southern Illinois.

The point of concern here is that even with the exclusive use of slow release nitrogen materials, trouble can surely arise if all factors are not considered. With the typical reduction of the working depth of the grass roots accompanying high temperatures, coupled with depletion or complexing of the phosphate reserves in the surface zones of soil, addition of even slow release nitrogen to get growth and color can backfire just as surely as the more quick soluble forms.

Two home lawns in Carbondale illustrate a similar violation of the cardinal principles of growing a durable turf. They were established with the best of seed with adequate surface fertilization including limestone but no incorporation sufficiently deep into the rootzone of the slowly soluble limestone or phosphates. The results—? By following recommended applications of a complete fertilizer with a high ratio of slow release nitrogen including regular monthly applications, beautiful lawns were produced—as long



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as the rains came and before that section of the city ran out of water. Then, with the dry summer and an anti-watering ordinance, disaster struck. Other lawns in the neighborhood, with moderate to little fertilization and particularly lower nitrogen levels, survived. Not as green of course, but they survived. The luxuriant foliage had been produced at the expense of a root system adequate to carry through; moreover, the thatch developed by this program had encouraged the roots to develop even shallower in the tight soil. Small wonder the turf expired when the thatch dried out.

In a long-term fertility experiment on bluegrass at Dixon Springs in cooperation with the University of Illinois, Department of Horticulture, we again observed the breakdown of greenness of color as a measure of turf quality. This experiment was set up on low phosphate soils of very desirable structure but received supplemental irrigation only once during the summer. In the various combinations used, plots receiving high nitrogen rates in monthly increments always rated highest from the viewpoint of color regardless of whether P and K were high or at the minimum level. When drought stress took its toll the high nitrogen plots lost the most grass and by the end of the season were the lowest in measured shoot density.

In review, the basic principles of maintaining good foliage and root balance are summarized by many papers and talks in previous turfgrass meetings as follows: maintain clipping heights as high as possible with the dictates of the grass and its use, diseased leaves cannot support adequate root growth nor use of the turf, phosphorus and slowly soluble nutrients must be adequate throughout the rootzones, other essential nutrients should be supplied in proper balance and quantities, pH and water factors should be regulated with common sense, roots cannot grow without air, and nitrogen levels should be as low as possible without causing the grass to completely lose its vigor to recover when climatic and disease factors become more favorable. Even though the slow release materials may provide a much more desirable means of supplying nitrogen to grow **green** grass, they do not provide a means of escaping the pitfalls of grass being permitted to grow **too green** for its own good.

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