

Eighty Attend Iowa Greens Course

Pupils Say Course Worth Many \$ in Savings Important Maintenance Advances Described

By C. G. YARN

By VERNON STOUTEMYER

THE Iowa Greenkeepers' Short Course held at Iowa State college, Ames, March 5 and 6, broke all records for attendance, registering over 80 green-chairmen and greenkeepers.

The "Heart of America" Greenkeepers' association, Kansas City, Mo., was represented by 7 members, and their president, W. C. Peters, acted as chairman of the Tuesday afternoon session. Other states represented were Minnesota, Illinois and North Dakota.

This was the first time these boys have attended our short course and from their conversations I feel they were amply repaid and will do their best to bring others with them to our 1935 meeting.

Kenneth Welton of the Green Section was our principal speaker. He all but opened a hole in our heads to pour into our brains the absolute necessity of having correct top soil.

After Welton's lecture on the above topic one of the green-chairmen said, "I wish I had heard this lecture three or four years ago." He feels like some of the rest of us. He doesn't like the idea of rebuilding his old greens, and putting them out of play for a long period or trying to rebuild his top soil from the top down.

Another golf course superintendent told the writer his club had saved thousands of dollars in future greens expense by following Welton's advice on top soil and drainage.

One out of state member said he would have to go home and improve the top soil he had already prepared to put on 9 new greens. This man traveled a long way to attend our short course, but no doubt he will be repaid for his trouble and time in being sure of this one important part in building greens.

We were very pleased to have O. J. Noer with us again this year. He is a very convincing speaker and we always
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THIRD annual greenkeepers short course held March 5 and 6 at Iowa State College was the largest and most successful yet held. There were 80 greenkeepers registered for the course, and some visitors. The interest shown in the course was unusual.

Prof. B. S. Pickett officially welcomed the visiting greenkeepers. He told of the facilities at the college available to the greenkeepers for their aid in organizational work, insect disease, and soil and other problems.

Slides of suitable trees for use on golf courses and view of some well designed plantings were shown by V. T. Stoutemyer. The use of sorts susceptible to diseases and insects, lack of diversification, neglect of the evergreens for planting about tees and greens, and planting in checkerboard fashion or rows to define fairways were some mistakes which were pointed out.

Interesting new information in regard to chemical treatments for weed control were presented by Kenneth Welton, USGA Green Section. He emphasized the value of liberal fertilization at one time for fairways in order to establish a weed resistant turf, in contrast to the application of smaller amounts at more frequent intervals. The treatment of compost to prevent weed seeds was discussed.

The afternoon of the first day was devoted to a discussion of soils and watering. Prof. B. J. Firkins of the Soils department of the college told of the role played by organic matter in the soil.

Kenneth Welton discussed the proper treatments for the rather heavy soils found in most parts of Iowa. He advised a more liberal use of tiling and a proper preparation of soils when building the green in order to get a higher percentage of organic matter than is usually obtained and to obtain a more porous and friable soil.

O. J. Noer gave a talk which presented

many new watering ideas of great help in reducing troubles in hot weather. He helped to clear up many controversial points concerning the time, amount and frequency of watering, making observations from a long experience with golf course practices. He advised the use of a spike roller on areas of the green which dry out quickly or do not take water rapidly. Hand watering may be advisable on parts of sharply contoured greens during the troublesome hot weather. The "layer cake" green gives an unusual amount of trouble.

John MacGregor addressed the greenkeepers at the luncheon for greenkeepers. He said recent conditions had suddenly awakened the greenkeepers to the great value of the turf gardens of the USGA Green Section. The necessity for accurate turf knowledge was made imperative by retrenchment in club operating costs. The Green Section and the work of the national association need to be supported. Some aspects of the new regional organization development in the NAGA were explained.

The Iowa greenkeeping group appreciated the opportunity to get acquainted with MacGregor, who has long been prominent in the greenkeeping profession.

On the second day V. T. Stoutemyer discussed turf grasses. Kenneth Welton told of new ideas in golf course management and economies. He described the advantages of smaller greens and areas. He also explained a practical cost accounting system which showed detailed costs to the clubs at a glance. O. J. Noer discussed fertilization of grass turf.

The greenkeepers were told that painting often did not really prolong the life of machinery so much but that it did have a good psychological effect. Painting, it was pointed out, revealed parts which needed replacing or missing bolts, said Prof. E. G. McKibben. He also gave directions for the lubrication of machinery, the care of tools and other mechanical problems.

Prof. E. C. Volz of the Department of Floriculture showed colored lantern slides of useful flowers and discussed their use and care. Prof. H. W. Richey gave some important points on tree pruning and care, using slides to illustrate his remarks.

The life history and control of turf and tree insect pests were treated by Professors Drake and Decker of the Entomology department.

A number of commercial firms had ex-

I have worked with other trade and professional groups, but I do not believe that I ever have seen any other group quite as aggressive, up-and-coming and as ready to take over new ideas, as the greenkeepers in Iowa.

The intelligence and spirit in the greenkeeping profession speaks well for the future. What we need to do now is to get together and push the game of golf. The pros, the greenkeepers, manufacturers and many others will reap the harvest. It will mean a great deal to the health and mental attitude of the American people.

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hibits of machinery, fertilizers, peats and other golf course supplies which attracted the attention of the greenkeepers. The college had a display of various turf grasses and some cultures of turf disease fungi.

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get new ideas each time he appears on the program. We are beginning to learn that specialists are needed to direct operations on a golf course as well as to operation on the human body.

Professors Pickett, Stoutemyer, Vifquain and other members of the college faculty did a good job of arranging and also taking part in the sessions. We missed Leo Feser of the National Organization, but he was unable to attend this year. He helped us organize our association 3 years ago and we all appreciate the fine work he is doing for the national association.

Our turf garden which was planted last fall by the Green Section under the personal supervision of Kenneth Welton, was fully explained by Jack Welsh, pro-greenkeeper at Wakonda Club in Des Moines, where the garden is located. Welsh urged members of the short course, also the college faculty who are interested in this project to keep in close touch with this work, and to come down from time to time and watch the growth of the different grasses in this plot and see what progress they make under Iowa weather conditions.