

GRAU from page 9

learn to utilize every resource to the maximum and this is a fine way to begin. Fertilizer for golf turf might be in short supply, but I'm sure that you could get enough to fertilize food ponds.

Q—During World War II, many of our golf courses deteriorated severely because of shortages. Do you anticipate a similar situation in the months and years ahead? (Massachusetts)

A—No, I do not. For one thing, this is peace time, and we have an unemployment problem. There is no shortage of manpower to operate equipment.

Q—We fear that our public pay-as-you-play courses will suffer when people who want to play and who want to walk will not be able to get to the courses to play. We are resigned to storing our power cars to conserve energy. Do you have any thoughts on the situation? (Ohio)

A—With transportation curtailed, getting golfers to the golf course could seriously affect all operations at the club and could cut into incoming revenues. It might create new interest in car pools and in public transportation. Each course has its individual aspects of the general situation and should encourage group travel to the course by any mode of transportation.

Q—We are considering planting our 70 acres of fairways to a reliable strain of improved bermuda grass. How many bushels of sprigs would be required? Can you give us a reasonable accurate estimate of the cost? What would it cost to seed the fairways to Arizona common (hulled) bermuda? (Maryland)

A—Recently I had asked some of the same questions of my friend E. Ray Jensen of Southern Turf Nurseries, Tifton, Ga. He does a lot of contract planting (sprigging). He uses 300 bushels of sprigs an acre. The cost varies between \$300 and \$350 an acre, depending mainly on the source of sprigs and the variety. In your area, Tufcote bermuda is one of the favorite varieties. Arizona common seed at current prices (it may be higher) would cost about \$60 to \$75 an acre. Your main problem will be winterkill (or springkill), if

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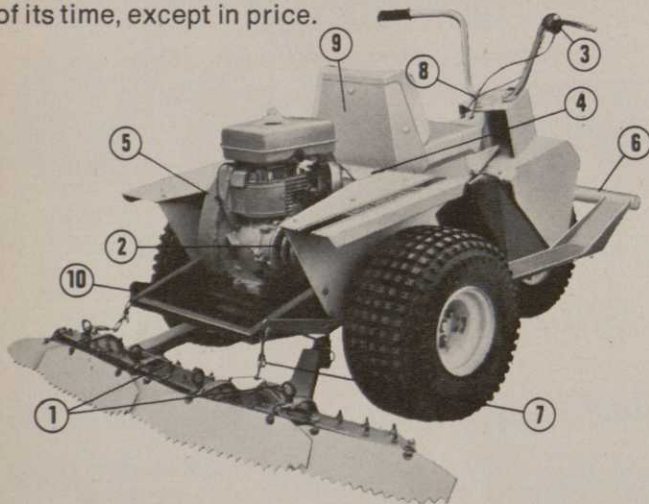
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GRAU from page 11

we have the right weather conditions. This will be true with any bermuda-grass in southern Maryland, but more severe with the Arizona common seed.

Q—Your Q & A in last February's issue on superintendents becoming managers has raised some serious questions. Members of our group disagree heartily with your concept of the relationships. Superintendents represent an honored profession, as do managers. We think that the two should remain separate and distinct with no crossover, even though many of us are trained both as turf managers and as businessmen. True, our profession does not have the glamour because our operations are removed from the hub of things. We are not proud when one of our "greenkeepers" moves to the other side and becomes a manager. None of us can condone consolidating "the two most important functions of the club." Any light that you can shed on the reasons for your position shall be appreciated. (Illinois)

A—In considering your thoughtful and honest letter, I can't get my mind off some of my long-time "greenkeeper" friends who have become effective and honored club managers. The golf course superintendents who work with them enjoy a favored position, because they operate in conjunction with a manager who understands the problems of coping and working with nature. When a manager has technical and sympathetic understanding of golf course conditions, I see a harmonious relationship that is good for 1) the superintendent, 2) the manager and 3) the club.

When a superintendent gains the expertise to cope with a manager's problems and frustrations and goes into it with his eyes open, why should I oppose it? I see a gain for the superintendent.

I see no good reason for anyone to consider the "greenkeepers" as one faction and managers as another, continuously at odds. Why should not these two most important functions of a club be harmonious? Both serve the same club and the same members. This unwillingness to "give and take" does not seem to be in the best interests of those you serve.

I have no desire to change your way

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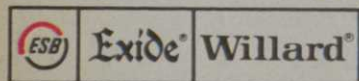
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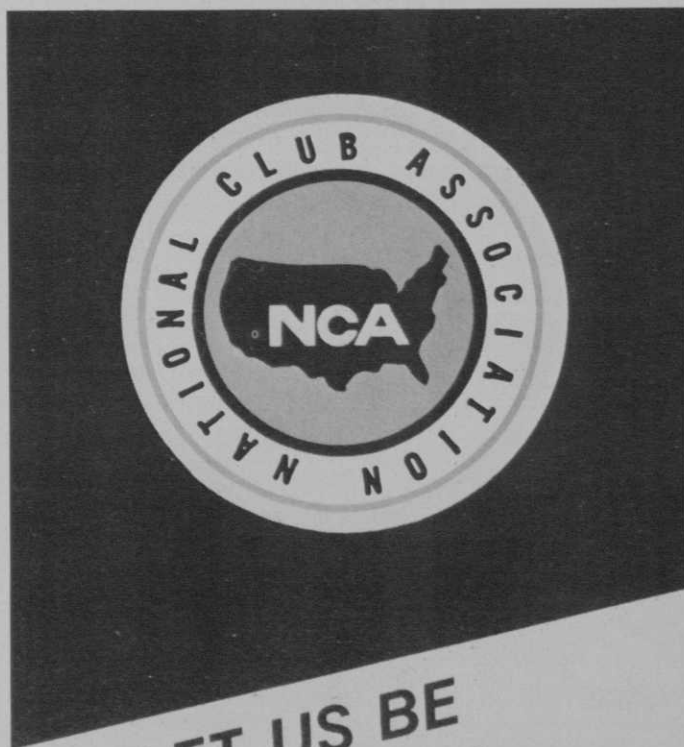
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GRAU from page 12

of thinking, especially because you endorse the views of one of your group who has been in print and is heartily opposed to any "crossover." You and he should never become managers because of your adamant stand on the subject. My advice to a friend to go ahead and become a manager has a sound foundation. He was ready and the club wanted him. For him the future is bright as is the future of the superintendent at the club at which both are employed.

My friendship for you and for those in your group who hold views similar to yours will in no way be diminished. I do not attempt to influence superintendents on any score, but when I see a situation that will benefit everyone, I exercise my prerogative to express my view just as one of your group published his.

Q—*This is not exactly a question, but more a plea for recognition. Ours is one of the more than 500 golf courses in the Commonwealth. Everyone in the club, members and employees alike, believe that our grounds were meant to serve a function beyond that of simply pleasing golf members. We like to feel that our club property is one of the best bird and wildlife sanctuaries around. The grounds crew is dedicated to serving this end. Naturally, no shooting, trapping or hunting is allowed on the premises. Should we not be accorded some recognition from the Game Commission, and, perhaps, receive suggestions on how we can improve conditions?* (Pennsylvania)

A—Bravo for your common sense approach to helping our wildlife. This should make a good story for a magazine. We will see to it that a copy of this issue of GOLFDOM reaches the Game Commission in Harrisburg. Keep up the good work.

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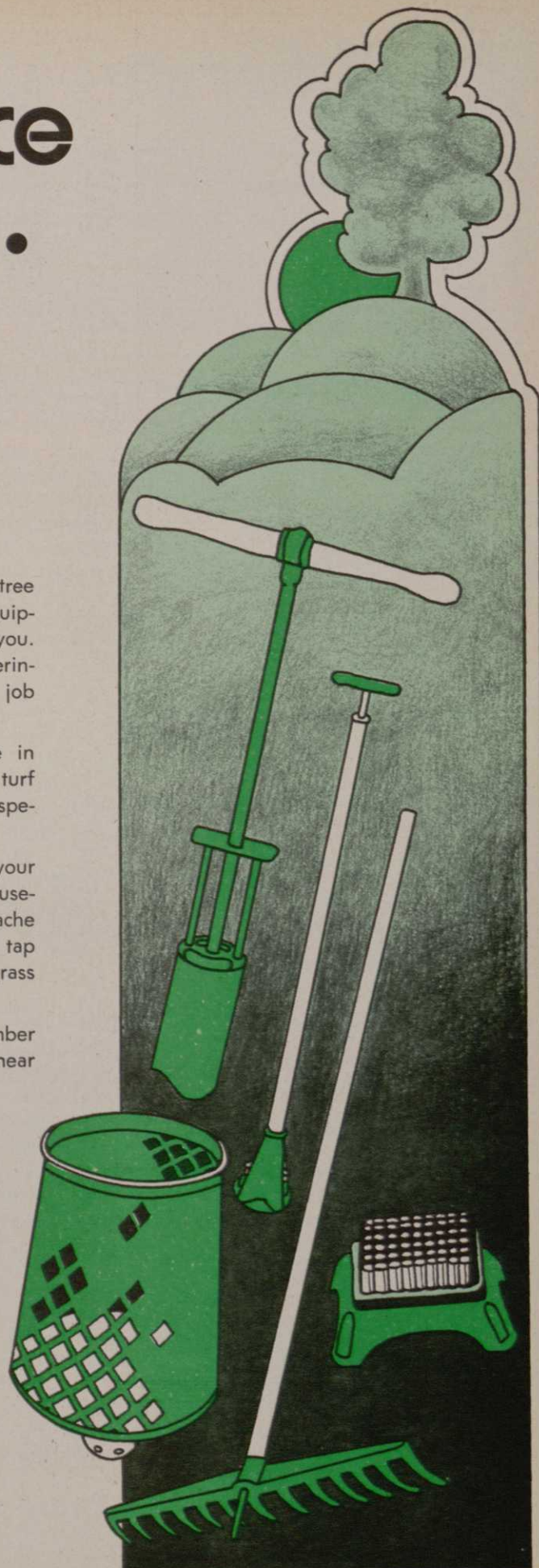
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**NCA CONFERENCE THEME:
A CAUCUS WITH GOVERNMENT
—IN WASHINGTON**

Washington, D.C., the seat of the Federal government and source of all Federal legislation will be the site of the next three annual meetings of the National Club Assn. The theme will be "A Caucus With Government—in Washington."

The city was selected because of the association's close affiliation with national legislation, taxation and legal issues and because it will give association members the unparalleled opportunity of directly contacting their elected representatives.

At its Denver meeting in January, NCA's board of directors gave their approval to preliminary plans for the conference, the dates of which are March 31 to April 2, which is the beginning of Washington's beautiful spring weather and cherry blossom season. The conference hotel will be Western's Mayflower on Connecticut Ave.

Initial plans emphasize the "government" aspect; the program will include a congressional reception on Capitol Hill, a special briefing and a "congressional package" with directions and suggestions for meeting with your senator and representative, followed by prearranged calls at congressional offices.

The reception will be attended by majority and minority leaders of both Houses of Congress, as well as other government notables.

The briefing session will be made with congressmen on the basis of NCA's early registration program.

Of special interest to members wishing to see Washington at its best will be the news that the dates selected, March 31 to April 2, mark some of the finest weather in the East and herald the beginning of Washington's cherry blossom season.

A complete and detailed review of all legislation, which could have an effect on private clubs and which is currently before the first session of the 93d Congress has just been completed by the National Club Assn.

This review was made by direct reference to Senate files and through the computer service of the House of Representatives. It was a necessary preliminary to the development of NCA's Legislative Program, which will be released to the membership the first of November.

NCA's Legislative Program—1974 will include these areas: tax reform, occupational safety and health, environmental protection, land use, unemployment compensation, pensions, social security and alien registration legislation. Additional titles will be added from time to time.

The program will carefully review current legislation under consideration in each of these areas. NCA's objectives in each section will then be briefly reviewed, followed by a position statement on the major bills under consideration.

Legislative Program—1974 is the result of many hours of intensive staff study and preparation. NCA's objectives were developed by the board only after lengthy conferences with industry leaders. Its position on specific legislation was taken as a result of meetings with the parties concerned. The final drafting was completed only after full consideration of the board of directors.

This legislative analysis and program is a true first for the club industry. Never before has there been a complete analysis of all legislation affecting the industry, nor has anyone before this attempted to gather all the issues together for proper review and publication.

The program will be updated annually and should form the nucleus of the industry's legislative reference. □