

WGCSA



GREEN SHEET

Official Publication of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association, Inc.

Volume 1, No. 1

June 1970

1970 MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>HOST</u>
April 14	Bavarian Club	Milwaukee	John Eimerman R. L. Ryerson Co.
Speaker: Charles Watson - Toro Mfg.			
May 11	Hartford C. C.	Hartford	Jiggs Wenzel
Speaker: Robert Newman - Univ. of Wis. Dept. of Horticulture			
June 8	Meadowbrook C. C.	Racine	Al Vrana
July 13	Clintonville C. C.	Clintonville	Ed Breitrick
August 10	Milwaukee C. C.	Milwaukee	John Stampfl
September 14	Wausau C. C.	Schofield	Walt Stepanik
Annual Golf Tournament			
October 12	Playboy Club	Lake Geneva	Tom Burrows
Annual Business Meeting			
December 9 & 10	Fifth Annual Golf Turf Symposium - Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee		

Other speakers will be announced. Please mark these dates down and make plans to attend all of the meetings. We will be playing some very good golf course and having some very good educational sessions.

Editor's Note: First, I would like to have your comments on this newsletter. Any ideas on how to improve it would be greatly appreciated. Second, if this newsletter is to be successful, we will need contributions from the membership. Articles and ideas will be welcomed. If you have something you think would be of interest to our membership, pass it along to me and I will see that it is passed along to the membership in your name. This is your chance to sound-off. Make the best use of it, Thankyou.

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REPORT ON BUSINESS MEETING

Official Publication of the
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New Book on Turf Available

The American Society of Agronomy has published a 715 page book of up-to-date information on turfgrass management. It is called TURFGRASS SCIENCE and consists of 28 chapters written by 42 authors. It covers all aspects of turfgrass management. It is available from the American Society of Agronomy, 677 South Segoe Road, Madison, Wisconsin. The cost is \$10.00 to members of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America. The cost to non-members is \$12.50.

HACKERS AND DUFFERS

At the May meeting 45 golfers braved less than ideal weather conditions to play the Hartford Country Club course. It didn't rain, but it took most of us a while to thaw out.

Bob Welsh didn't seem to be bothered by the cool conditions. His 77 took the low honors for the day.

Tom Lees and John Hartung along with 14 other lucky golfers collected prizes in the Blind Boggy drawing. As all of you know, there are only two requirements for winning a prize in the Boggy:

- 1) you must sign-up, settle-up and play
- 2) you should be lucky. Come early next month and play golf. You may be lucky,

The first order of new business was discussion concerning the establishment of a newsletter for our association. It was indicated that printing costs for 300 copies would be approximately \$15 per issue. Reinders Brothers had offered to address and mail the newsletters. The association will pay for the postage. The newsletter was approved by a voice vote on a move by Bill Sell.

Symposium - A question from the floor asked about the possibility of moving the symposium from the Pfister Hotel. Bob Welsh indicated that other locations had been investigated, but none had been found that suited our specific needs. The facilities were either too large or too small. Another factor mentioned was that the out of town visitors were familiar with the Pfister and how to get to it. It was also indicated that the sound system at the Pfister was to be improved.

Les Verhaalen asked about the possibility of obtaining our own speaker system. He thought such a system would help at the symposium and also at our monthly meetings where the PA systems are sometimes inadequate. President Bob Musbach indicated that the idea of purchasing a transistorized portable speaker system was being investigated and that a report should be available by the June meeting.

Superintendent Liability - Gil Bergdoll brought up a subject that could be of very great importance to all supervisors of people. It seems that if one of the people working under you becomes sick or is injured through his work, that you may become personally liable. If there is any one that knows the specific details on this it would be of great interest to all of our members. If possible we will have a more complete report on this subject in a later issue.



"I've been in here so often that I've made friends with all of them."

At our May meeting we were privileged to have Robert Newman, Extension Horticulturist with the University of Wisconsin as our guest speaker. His subject was pesticides, a subject that everyone in the turf business is vitally interested.

Chemicals and Pesticides - Where Are We Going?

Robert Newman Extension Horticulturist University of Wisconsin

The anti-pesticide voices are strong at the present time - some predicting doom for the human race unless all pesticides are banned.

These predictions of doom for man and his world cannot be substantiated and it is impractical at this time to suggest that all pesticides be banned.

Pesticides are natural and synthetic compounds used by man to eradicate, or control various pests that threaten his health, his crops and his animals. There is little evidence to indicate that destructive pests in the forms of insects, diseases, weeds, etc. are any less a threat today than in the past. In other words the need for protection is as great today as it has ever been.

What we face are bans on selected pesticides and restricted usage of many others. Pesticides kill pests because they are toxic. The misuse of toxic chemicals never has been condoned and never will be. We will see the licensing of both pesticide dealers and applicators. Only the best pesticide will be allowed for a particular pest problem, and then only after the need has been substantiated.

California has banned the use of 35 pesticides on its state roadsides. Florida has restricted the usage of 35 pesticides. Restriction or regulated usage, where and when the need exists, appears to be the most satisfactory solution to the pesticide controversy. Pesticide legislation is pending at this time in many states.

Nothing is gained from indulging in emotional arguments when substantiated research is lacking. Laboratory rats can be killed by consuming relatively large quantities of DDT or 2,4-D, but they are also killed by excessive consumption of aspirin or common table salt.

The question you might ask is, "How will pesticide restrictions and bans affect me?" DDT has been banned in Wisconsin and your state may enact similar legislation. For all practical purposes usage of the herbicide 2,4,5-T in parks, homes, lakes, ponds, and ditch banks has been suspended by the United States Department of Agriculture. Certain mercury fungicides are being phased out. Some of these are used for turf disease control. Several arsenic compounds will also probably be phased out.

Some changes in pest control programs will be necessary. Present restrictions will cause no great hardships in the maintenance of ornamental plants. Many of the arsenic and mercury compounds are not necessary and some should have been eliminated years ago.

We must not misuse the pesticides presently at our disposal. The case of dicamba might be cited as an example of herbicide misuse. Dicamba is a selective broadleaf plant killer. It enters plants via the photosynthetic surface and

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Chemicals and Pesticides - Where are We Going? (cont. from page 3)

through the root system. Dicamba is used to take broadleaf weeds out of turf-grasses. Dicamba may injure or kill trees and other woody ornamentals. The herbicide became very popular with homeowners and other turf managers because of its effectiveness. It was available in both liquid and dry forms. Dicamba was also combined with fertilizers to fertilize and kill weeds in one operation. Users began making repeated applications of dicamba and dicamba containing products during the growing season. Trees and shrubs were killed and injured as a result of this misuse. Today there are relatively few homeowner products that contain dicamba.

Perhaps some of the serious pesticide problems for managers of ornamental plants lie in new product registration. Formerly it was relatively simple for a manufacturer to obtain a label for ornamental plant use. Food crops were not involved and there was no need to establish food tolerances. Now, and in the future, any new pesticide ~~is~~ ^{is} for registration will be reviewed by the Departments of Agriculture, ~~Health~~ ^{Health}, and Health, Education and Welfare. The persistence of the pesticide ~~is~~ ^{is} its effects on wildlife will be studied by 3 agencies. This change is desirable and no one questions its value, but it means that pesticide label registration on non-food or feed crops will be granted only after sufficient research has been completed to prove that the pesticide satisfied the criteria of all regulatory agencies involved. It would appear that future pesticides will be labeled for use only on the food, feed, and fiber crops where large acreages are involved. The ornamental pest control market is small and manufacturers may not be able to justify the expense of obtaining ornamental plant labels.

The need for pest control on ornamental plants will continue. Ornamental plants are grown under more stress today than ever before. Air pollution and poor soil are just two examples of plant stress factors that are greater today than before. Plants grown under any stress are usually more subject to pest damage than plants growing in ideal environments.

I'm optimistic about the future. We are in a period of questioning and discussion concerning pesticide use. Changes will be made, undesirable materials banned, others regulated, but the end result will be less pests and a more desirable environment.

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