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OFFICIAL BULLETIN WISCONSIN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here we are approaching the middle of another golf season with various comments on the kind of year we are enduring. The month of June seems to have been somewhat of a relief - compared to May. But not all is well everywhere in the area. Danny Quast tells me that Bob Musbach has, what appears to be, Ataenius spretulus larvae on fairway turf. There will be more on this subject in this issue. I have had dollar spot on fairways that had to be treated with contact fungicides for control; and plan to use a contact with systemic fungicide in future applications.

There has been much talk about the use of SAND for topdressing. Some superintendents are using the light frequent application of sand for topdressing. Although I am using this program myself, I firmly believe it is experimental and do not know positively that this is going to be the thing to do. It is very complicated and much consideration should be taken before the superintendent takes the jump. You should literally have this program engraved in the by-laws of the club once it is started. Therefore, I think it is wrong for any superintendent to

publicly advertise that he is using sand and attribute any success to putting green quality. There has been a report of some superintendent being told by his club that he start topdressing with sand. That would make me madder than hell! You know sand topdressing was used 20 years ago by some superintendents on the Q.T. and you can see the layer of sand which was later covered with peat, sand and soil mixes. Surely, sand for topdressing is no panacea.

Wayne Otto, CGCS  
President

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### Ataenius spretulus

Ataenius spretulus has been reported in the area. The first symptoms of injury in Ohio appeared in mid-June when the turf in fairways wilted despite regular irrigation. Wilted areas were especially visible when looking at the turf while facing the sun. Under continued stress from summer heat and larvae eating off the roots, the turf died in irregular patches.

Damage was observed on fairways consisting of annual bluegrass and bentgrass. Larvae were also found feeding on bluegrass in home lawns and golf course fairways, but causing only slight damage to the turf. One case of severe damage to several Penncross bentgrass greens occurred on one course at Hamden, Connecticut.

# Reinders

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