

THE WISCONSIN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATIONS: The First Ten Years 1930 — 1939

By Monroe S. Miller

Our professional forefathers in Wisconsin banded together in March of 1930 and formed the **Wisconsin Greenkeepers Association**. The formal organizational meeting was held at Blue Mound Country Club in Wauwatosa and Paul Brockhausen, Greenkeeper at Blue Mound, was elected the first President.

Charles L. Bingham of the Municipal Golf Course in Beloit was elected Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Bingham reported on that organizational meeting:

"Our association is the spontaneous outgrowth of the first short course for greenkeepers held at the University of Wisconsin, in February, 1930. Its active membership is confined to greenkeepers on golf courses in the State of Wisconsin. Assistant greenkeepers and members of green committees are admitted as associate members. Others who wish to encourage the movement join as contributing members." Mr. Bingham continued: "The purpose of our association is educational. It largely centers around the short course for greenkeepers at the State University. The program for these short courses is varied and practical. They bring the greenkeepers in personal contact with those at the experiment station whose training and everyday work are along lines allied with the problems the greenkeeper must meet and solve to the satisfaction of the multitude of golf players."

May 12, 1930 was an important day in the history of our Association. It was on that day that the first by-laws were adopted. It was also decided then that anyone in the state of Wisconsin involved in golf course maintenance who joined the newly formed organization before June 30, 1930 would be considered a charter member.

There were thirty-nine members who joined before that date. Those men, the charter members of our Association, are listed below:

Barrows, Bert	Kenosha CC
Bingham, C. L.	Beloit Municipal CC
Bone, John S.	Blackhawk CC
Brandt, Frank B.	Hartford CC
Brockhausen, Paul	Blue Mound CC
Caley, Garfield	Waterford Woods CC
Clemons, Harold	Nakoma Golf Club
Daniels, C. E.	River Dale Golf Club
Dietz, V. S.	Beloit CC
Erdman, A. B.	Whiting CC
Erickson, Alfred	Mount Horeb CC
Farmer, R. E.	Brynwood CC
Foeger, Joseph	Ozaukee CC
Fox, E. A.	Racine CC
Glaster, James	Lake Lawn CC
Hanson, Harry	Maple Bluff CC
Johns, F. L.	Platteville CC
Lietzinger, E. A.	Lake Ripley CC
Littlefield, L. L.	Delbrook Golf Club
Liverseed, Robert	Sheboygan Golf Club
Ludwigen, Alfred	Chenequa CC
McCann, C. B.	Hillcrest Golf Club
Merrifield, Wesley	St. Johns Golf Club
Michaels, R. B.	Oconomowoc CC
Miller, Verland	Tuckaway CC
Mitchell, S. S.	Lawsonia CC
Nielson, W. C.	Tripoli CC
Peter, Fred	Waukesha CC
Ream, C. L.	Onieda Golf and Riding Club
Reitz, G. A.	Kish-wau-kee-toc Golf Club
Rolfs, Raymond	North Hills CC
Schendel, Archie	Westmoor CC
Schoel, Otto	Wausau CC
Snavelly, C. C.	Milwaukee CC
Sieber, Peter	Winneshiek Golf and CC
White, H. H.	Hilmoor Golf Club
World, O. M.	Burr Oak Golf Club
Yost, R. D.	Beloit Municipal CC
Zwerg, Robert	Madison Municipal Golf Course

The Wisconsin Greenkeepers Association held three other meetings in addition to the Blue Mound meeting. They met at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison in May and were addressed by A. S. Dahl of the USGA Green Section. Mr. Dahl treated the subject of snowmold for those in attendance. The Association gathered again in July of 1930 at Hillmoor Country Club in Lake Geneva. The speakers at the meeting were Wesley Merrifield and Messrs. Harrison and Reams,

staff members of the "United States Golf Association Green Section's Mid-West turf garden." The educational format of that meeting was question and answer. The tradition of our annual tournament meeting began in September of that year. The tournament was held at Lawsonia Country Club in Green Lake.

Bingham wrote that the average attendance of the 1930 meetings was 41. The normal practice at the seasonal meetings was "to take visitors on an inspection of the golf course at which they were guests." They would look at interesting work being done and seasonal problems. Lunch was served after the inspection, and the afternoon was spent in discussion and the business meeting was held.

In addition to Brockhausen and Bingham, other officers for 1930 were:

- 1st Vice President — John S. Bone, Blackhawk Country Club
- 2nd Vice President — Charles L. Ream, Green Bay Country Club
- Director for 1 year — C. B. McCann, Hillcrest Country Club
- Director for 2 years — Robert Michaels, Oconomowoc Country Club
- Director for 3 years — Robert E. Farmer, Brynwood Country Club

The University of Wisconsin in Madison was important, as Bingham noted, in the formation of our Association. Although the record isn't entirely clear, it seems that Dr. James G. Moore (namesake of Moore Hall on the UW campus) of the UW Department of Horticulture was important in arranging a short course for Greenkeepers in Wisconsin. It was a five day conference, held from February 10th through February 14th, 1930 on the UW campus. Fifty-nine Greenkeepers, from Minnesota and Illinois as well as Wisconsin attended. H. Hankinson, in the March 1930 issue of *The*

National Greenkeeper (this article is reprinted elsewhere in the GRASSROOTS), wrote that this conference "was the first greenkeepers' course ever held by a state university in the Mid-West. Faculty members for this course included the best that could be secured in the various fields. Specialists were selected not only from the College of Agriculture, but also from other places, so that expert instruction in all phases of golf grounds management could be given. The subjects covered a wide range of interests from maintenance problems, golf grounds equipment and land drainage, to discussions regarding care of turf and plantings and the preservation of natural beauty on golf courses."

A photograph of the men attending the first short course is on the front cover and accompanies the "National Greenkeeper" article. It is interesting to make note of those in attendance. The picture gives us a chance, in many cases, to see our predecessor(s), individuals we may have heard about but never seen. It is, for example, one of the few times I've seen a photograph of John Bone. John's name, even today, is occasionally brought up by an older member of Blackhawk Country Club — he had great respect from the members of the Club in his own time. F. B. "Fritz" Reinhart attended this first meeting. Fritz was Don Ferger's immediate predecessor at The Country Club of Beloit, and in meetings I attended in the late 1960's and early 1970's, Fritz was always there. Dick Ryerson is standing next to Fritz Reinhart in this picture — he was the owner of the R. L. Ryerson Co. of Milwaukee and was the distributor of Toro equipment in Wisconsin for many years.

The officers of the Wisconsin Greenkeepers Association for 1931 were the same as those that served in 1930, excepting that Mr. Peter Sieber of the Winneshiek Golf Club was elected to replace Robert Michaels as a director; Mr. Michaels moved out of Wisconsin and was ineligible to serve.

The 1930 short course of instruction for Greenkeepers was so successful that a similar program was held in 1931, February 9th through February 13th.

The program for the 1931 College of Agriculture Short Course for Greenkeepers, Green Commit-

tee members and officials of golf clubs is reprinted here. In an invitation to Wisconsin Greenkeepers, Dr. Moore wrote: "The enrollment fee is \$10 and must accompany the

application. Other expenses, including hotel, should run from \$20 to \$30. Enrollment is limited to 80." In fact, 62 men attended that meeting.

Wisconsin Greenkeepers' Course

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

- 1:30 P.M. Fundamentals in Preparing Soils for Greens
Construction O. J. Noer
- 2:30 P.M. Topography of the Green in Relation to
Drainage and Play Kenneth Welton
Other Drainage Problems of the Green . . . E. R. Jones
The Orientation of the Green as Regards the
Snow Problem J. G. Dickson

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

- 8:00 A.M. What to Look for in a Fairway Mower . . . F. W. Duffee
8:45 A.M. Fundamentals in Grass Development G. W. Mortimer
9:45 A.M. What to Look for in Grass Seeds A. L. Stone
10:30 A.M. Grasses for Greens John Montieth, Jr.
1:30 P.M. Laboratory Instruction
Section 1. Seeds and Weeds. Section 3. Land Drainage.
Section 2. Mowers. Section 4. Soil Problems.
3:30 P.M. Experiences in Growing Bent
C. T. Pedlow Robert Zwerg H. A. Arnold

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- 8:00 A.M. Sources of Plant Nutrients C. J. Chapman
8:50 A.M. Fertilizing and Top Dressing Greens O. J. Noer
10:00 A.M. Mowing Greens—Its Relation to Maintenance and Play John Montieth, Jr.
11:00 A.M. Controlling Diseases of the Green A. S. Dahl
1:30 P.M. Laboratory Instruction.
Section 1. Mowers. Section 3. Soil Problems.
Section 2. Land Drainage. Section 4. Seeds and Weeds.
3:30 P.M. Landscaping Problems F. A. Aust

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- 8:00 A.M. Grasses for Tees, Fairways and
Rough John Montieth, Jr.
9:00 A.M. How Cutting Affects Grass L. A. Graber
10:00 A.M. What the Movies Show F. A. Aust
10:40 A.M. Traps, Their Location and
Maintenance Kenneth Welton
1:30 P.M. Laboratory Instruction
Section 1. Land Drainage. Section 3. Seeds and Weeds.
Section 2. Soil Problems. Section 4. Mowers.
3:30 P.M. The Greenkeepers' Records F. R. Elwell

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- 8:00 AM. The Well-Kept Course John Montieth, Jr.
9:00 A.M. Fertilizers as Related to the Character of the
Turf on Fairways George Mortimer
9:45 A.M. How to Determine the Need of Plant Food
Elements O. J. Noer
10:30 A.M. White Grub Control C. L. Fluke
11:15 A.M. The Control of Weeds on the Fairways . . . A. L. Stone
1:30 P.M. Laboratory Instruction
Section 1. Soil Problems. Section 3. Mowers.
Section 2. Seeds and Weeds. Section 4. Land Drainage.
3:30 P.M. Final Conference

The speakers featured on this 1931 program included some of the best minds working on turfgrass and related problems, not only in their time but of all times. John Monteith represented the USGA on the program. He was joined by his USGA Green Section colleagues

A. S. Dahl and Kenneth Welton. Dahl's name is frequently found in reviewing early literature of golf course management. And what name is more closely associated with Wisconsin golf course management and the current WGCSA than that of O. J. Noer.

Noer received his undergraduate and graduate school training in the Department of Soil Science at the University of Wisconsin—Madison and gave instruction at this conference on topics relating to soils for greens construction, fertilizing and topdressing putting greens, and soil testing. Mr. Noer's topic selection illustrates that 1931 was not the "dark ages," and most any current turfgrass conference will include some discussion of those same subjects. Dr. C. J. Chapman, a renown Soil Scientist, spoke on plant nutrition. The group was addressed by the internationally known plant pathologist Dr. J. G. Dickson. Professors Mortimer, Stone and Graber, all of the Department of Agronomy, participated. E. R. Jones and F. W. Duffee, both on the Agricultural Engineering staff, made presentations on golf course equipment and golf course drainage. Entomologist C. L. Fluke covered the subject of grub control, and Horticulture Professor F. A. Aust spoke on landscaping problems. One has to be impressed with the faculty gathered for the short course as much as by the broad range of subjects and problems discussed. A copy of the proceedings, if one had been published, would indeed be a prize possession of any current professional Golf Course Superintendent.

Paul Brockhausen was reelected president of the Association for 1932, and he was succeeded by charter member R. E. Farmer of Brynwood Country Club in 1933. This might be a good place to make note of the dues of the Association during the early years. The dues for membership from 1930 to 1932 were \$5.00 per year.



A late 1930's meeting of the WGA at Meadowbrook Town and Country Club in Racine. The photo was taken following the afternoon of golf and some of "the boys" were still in the shower!

For the years 1933 to 1935, the dues were \$3.00 per year. Then, a new concept for dues was initiated. The dues for the years 1936 to 1947 were \$1.00 per year, and a collection was taken at meetings to help defray mailing and any other expenses incurred in the function of the Association. The recommendation was that 25¢ per person be given as the hat was passed at each meeting! The dues from 1948 to 1958 were back up to \$3.00 and they climbed back up to \$5.00 per year for the years 1959 through 1966. In 1967 the dues were raised to \$10.00.

In June of 1933 the finances of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America were tied up (reasons are unknown to me). The Wisconsin Association lent the N.A.G.A. \$50.00. This money was repaid to the Wisconsin Association in August 1937.

Nineteen thirty-four was the fifth year in the life of the Wisconsin Greenkeepers Association. The season started with the annual short course in Madison, held from February 27 to March 2, and their annual meeting was on the



1934 WGA meeting at Hillcrest Country Club in Eau Claire.

evening of March 1. At that meeting, the officers for 1934 were elected. They were:

President — Robert E. Farmer (re-elected)

1st Vice-President — J. A. Taylor

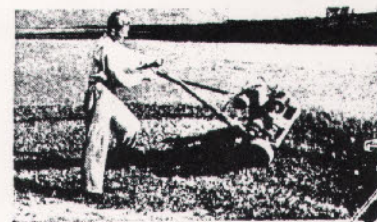
2nd Vice-President — G. A. Caley

Secretary/Treasurer — H. B. Ream

1st Year Director — C. B. McCann

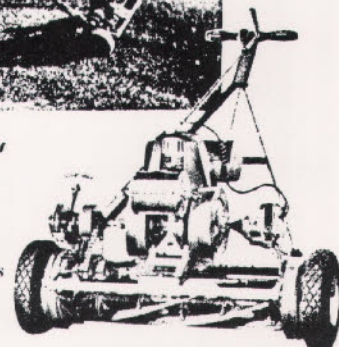
Key topics of business at the annual meeting were a request for affiliation with the National Association of Greenkeepers of America (N.A.G.A.) and the dues for 1934. The membership voted to affiliate with the N.A.G.A. (WGA member Harry Hanson was one of

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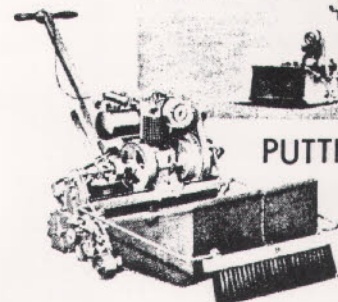
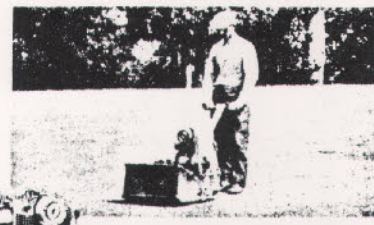


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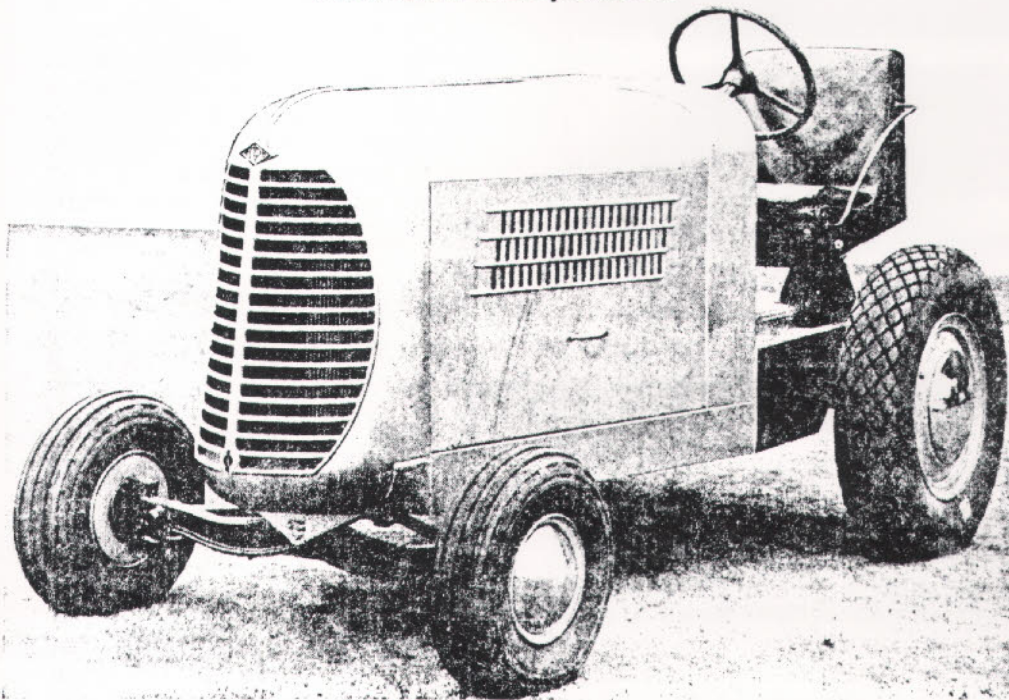
1937 ad for Jacobsen.

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- **A Knockout in Value**

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1939 ad for Toro.

the founders of the N.A.G.A. at the Sylvania Golf Club in Toledo, Ohio. That group was organized on September 12, 1926). A motion was made and passed to retain the 1934 dues for membership in the WGA at \$3.

Secretary Ream, in summarizing the 1934 season, felt it was most successful for the WGA since its birth in 1930. He wrote at some length on their efforts to hold

meetings in various sections of the state to encourage attendance at the meetings and afford all greenkeepers the chance to attend at least one meeting without excessive travel expense. Meetings were held at Tripoli Country Club in Milwaukee, Takodah Country Club in Fond du Lac, Lawsonia Country Club in Green Lake and North Shore Country Club in Menasha.

They had another serious goal for 1934. Since they were now affiliated with the national organization, they wanted to schedule joint meetings with other local organizations in other states. Two such meetings were held in 1934. The first was a joint meeting with the Mid-West Greenkeepers Association at the Waterford Woods Golf Club in Waterford, Wisconsin on June 4th. On October 2nd, the WGA met with the Iowa and Minnesota greenkeepers at the Hillcrest Country Club in Eau Claire. It is interesting to note, in Ream's report, of how the members felt these joint meetings were successful and needed to be continued in future years. The underlying thought was that such meetings produced a feeling of fellowship and understanding that was essential in a successful national organization (N.A.G.A.). The educational value of the 1934 meetings was also emphasized.

The annual tournament was held at the North Shore Country Club in Menasha on September 17th. Mr. Ream described that day:

"Ray Rolfs won the championship with a very creditable 83 over the difficult layout. John Taylor was runner-up with an 85. Other prizes were won by Harry Hanson, Otto Schael, John Bone, Robert Zwerg, Max Koatz, Dr. D. W. Roth and Howard Ream. The boys all had a most enjoyable time which was somewhat dampened by the fact that our host, Leo Keating, was not able to be with us, due to an illness which kept him in bed."



1934 WGA meeting at Tripoli Country Club in Milwaukee.

The group from Madison that traveled to Menasha cleaned up — Bone, Hanson, Ream and Zwerg were all from the city!

John S. Bone, Greenkeeper at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison was chosen to serve as President of the Wisconsin Greenkeepers Association for 1935. Other officers elected were Leo Keating of North Shore Coun-

try Club in Menasha — Vice-President; Howard Ream of Nakoma Golf Club in Madison — Secretary-Treasurer; and Robert Zwerg of Madison Municipal golf courses — new Director. Their annual meeting was again held during the short course in Madison on March 7th.

Notable for 1935 was the strong resolve of the Wisconsin Association to support the N.A.G.A. So strong was the feeling that at the annual meeting the members voted to change the Association's name from the "Wisconsin Greenkeepers Association" to "The Wisconsin Section of the Greenkeepers of America." Robert E. Farmer, past president of the WGA, described the sentiments of the members and their decision to change the name this way: "We Greenkeepers in Wisconsin feel that we are an integral part of the National Greenkeepers of America. We want to express that feeling in the name of our local section. We feel that there is righteousness and justification in the name **Wisconsin Section of the Greenkeepers of America**, because only in complete unison is there complete strength. Many are the things to be accomplished when we will function as the Greenkeepers of America. Our motto for such a goal is 100 per cent membership." The date of this name change was March 7. The motion to change the name was made by John S. Bone and seconded by Del Stollenwerk.

A listing of local, state, regional, etc. associations that affiliated with the National Association of Greenkeepers of America on July 14, 1935, in the order of their affiliation, are:

Mid-Atlantic Association of Greenkeepers

Wisconsin Greenkeepers Association

Cleveland District Association of Greenkeepers

Minnesota Greenkeepers Association

Greater Cincinnati Association of Greenkeepers

Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents

Mid-West Greenkeepers Association

An invitation was extended to the N.A.G.A. to hold their Turfgrass Conference and Show in Milwaukee in either 1934 or 1935.

Invitations were also extended for later dates up until 1942. The invitation was extended again in 1970 or 1971. No reasons for declining these invitations are in the records.

They were men of strong conviction and positive action. What a fine example they set.

A review of the events of 1936 shows that, once again, the year was inaugurated by the annual short course for greenkeepers on the UW—Madison campus. But it had been shortened to two days and it was held on the 27th and 28th of February. Many subjects were covered by many familiar speakers. The program for that year is reprinted here. Noer is now working for the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, and Emil Truog was included as an instructor. Truog, of course, had a substantial background and wide recognition as a Soil Scientist. The USGA Green Section staff was again on hand.

Secretary Ray Rolfs, recording the highlights of the meeting, commented that the annual meeting was held after a "delightful" banquet. John Bone and Leo Keating were re-elected President and Vice-President and Ray Rolfs of North Hills Country Club in Menomonee Falls was elected Secretary-Treasurer.



1935 Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota joint meeting held in the Twin Cities.

From about 1937 forward, information on state organizations that was recorded in national journals starts to diminish in its quantity. One can only speculate as to the reasons why but there are a couple of possibilities that might explain it. It has been apparent from these few paragraphs about the Wisconsin group that support for the national association was strong. One can suppose that such feelings were widespread and that other states lent the same kind of support to the N.A.G.A. This might have led to a national publication

that had to aim for wider appeal and a concomitant decrease in print space for the news of local organizations in the *Greenkeepers' Reporter*. If this indeed was the case, much of the news (now history) of local groups was not recorded. That leaves us with our own Association resources, which are nil. It may be that local news was recorded in some form of a newsletter (like the GRASS-ROOTS). That is well and good, but these kinds of journals are not usually kept and bound and maintained as part of the public record in libraries. Our only help for clarifying the past record is access to private collections.

John Bone presided over the group for a third year, and Ray Rolfs served as the Secretary/Treasurer. This year was one where monthly meetings were held from April through October. The tournament meeting in September was hosted by Brynwood Country Club and Rolfs wrote that "the greenkeeper and green chairman at the Club solicited so many prizes that when they were distributed, even those who hadn't played received something as a prize!" The attendance at the meetings averaged between 30 and 0, and again, they made an attempt to spread the host clubs

across the state to make the travel involved more equitable for everyone. Seasonal topics were discussed at each meeting and they initiated a "question box" format to encourage these discussions. The short course, by now a strong tradition, was held in Madison and Rolfs reported that "we have appointed a committee to draw up a program for the 1938 winter school. We are expecting some of the Mid-West boys to attend and want them to assist us in selecting subjects which appeal to most greenkeepers."

The year was a difficult one for many greenkeepers — the summer was dry and those with no fairway irrigation (the vast majority) found their golf courses very brown and there was real concern with perennial weeds taking a firmer hold, especially the dandelions. The summer also presented problems with sod webworms, cutworms, sunscald and considerable brown

patch, but apparently most were satisfied that control measures available in 1937 were sufficient to keep putting greens in good condition.

The annual short course for greenkeepers was a strong tradition by now. Read what Norman C. Johnson of the Medinah Country Club in suburban Chicago wrote about the 1938 short course:



1939 WGA meeting at Waupaca Country Club.

WISCONSIN SHORT COURSE

A Short Course for Greenkeepers was held at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, on March 7, 8 and 9. The good attendance shows the great interest taken by greenkeepers to gain further knowledge on the latest developments in turf maintenance.

The registration office was open at 11 A.M. and by noon, the book showed 58 names.

At 1:30 the sessions began, with Professor Moore as chairman. Professor Emil Truog of the Soils Department was presented and he gave a very interesting talk on "The Fundamental Basis of Fertilization," including a laboratory demonstration.

O. J. Noer, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, gave a splendid talk on his personal experiences with rapid soil tests and their advantages and limitations. Due to the fact that so many of us are just a little uncertain on soil testing and its limitations, it did make an impression on *how* and *when*.

C. R. Zeasman followed with "How to Locate and Lay Tile," with a blackboard illustration, I venture to say there were plenty taking notes during his explanations, for this is a subject concerning the foundation of every good golf course.

On Tuesday our forenoon session began at 8:30 with a talk "Bacteria in the Soil—What They Are and What They Do." This was given by Perry Wilson of the Bacteriology Department, and was illustrated with slides.

T. C. Allen, Department of Economic Entomology, followed with "Arsenicals—Their Properties and Differences." At this time literature was passed out to the students—"A Table of Arsenical Poisons and Their Relative Merits."

Dr. John Monteith gave us a very interesting talk on "Latest Developments

in the Control of Turf Diseases." His subject was brought out very clearly by the use of slides taken from various courses throughout the country.

Our morning session ended with an address by O. J. Noer on "Pertinent Observations and Comments on Turf Problems of 1937." In all of these talks time was allotted for their classes to ask questions, which were answered very efficiently by the speakers.

The afternoon session was in the Horticultural Building, as were those previous, and started off with "Special Grasses for Use on Golf Courses" by Dr. Monteith. The class derived a great deal of knowledge from this talk.

The next speaker of the afternoon was Herb Graffis, Editor of "Golfdom." Mr. Graffis' address was "How Can Officials and Players Be Educated as to the Best Greenkeeping Practices." This vital subject was to my estimation directed to the individual greenkeeper, and to those of us who were present, let us all reserve a little space in our cerebrum for this advice. It will have a great deal to do with our profession as a greenkeeper.

A very interesting topic given by Professor Moore on "The Pruning Problems of the Greenkeeper," was discussed freely and many questions answered in the short period that Professor Moore had allotted himself.

"Our Experiences in the Proper Cut of Greens for Best Play and Maintenance" was the subject of round table discussion. Those participating were Ray Gerber, Glen Oak CC, Glen Ellyn, Ill.; A. A. Germann, Naperville CC, Naperville, Ill.; John Bone, Blackhawk CC, Madison, Wis.; and Ray Rolfs, North Hills CC, Menomonee Falls, Wis.

After much discussion the class was adjourned until 6:00 P.M. when we

met at the Wisconsin Union to delve into the subject of Atrophy. The important topic of the evening was southern baked ham assisted by scalloped potatoes, salad, vegetables, pie and coffee. After the subject was well taken care of Professor Moore introduced Mr. Sanborn, a member of the Conservation Commission of Wisconsin. He spoke to us briefly on what the Conservation Commission consists of, and proceeded to take us on a journey through the Wisconsin wilds by way of a motion picture camera. It was all very enjoyable and educational.

"The Use and Abuse of Watering Systems on Golf Courses" was the first topic on the Wednesday program. Dr. Monteith covered this subject very well and brought out many good points to remember.

O. J. Noer presented an interesting slant on "Meeting the Seepage Problem," which also included tiling problems.

Harold Clemens, Sunset Ridge CC, Northbrook, Ill. followed with "My Experience with Poling," which brought forth a great deal of discussion on the benefits of brushing greens in the spring.

M. P. Christensen of the Jacobson Mfg. Co. gave the class first hand knowledge on "Golf Course Mowers and Their Maintenance."

A. L. Stone of the Department of Agronomy closed the meeting with an interesting talk on "Dandelions, Chickweed and Crab Grass." Literature was available concerning weeds and their control methods.

And to those who gave us their time and knowledge, we wish to express thanks and our sincere appreciation for their fine work.

—Norman C. Johnson,
Medinah Country Club, Medinah, Ill.

Notice that the program included O. J. Noer again, as well as the renown golf writer, Herb Graffis.

The group elected John Bone of Blackhawk Country Club to another term (his fourth) as president. Other officers for 1938 were O. C. Wiscons of Maple Bluff Country Club as Vice-President and Ray Rolfs of North Hills Country Club as Secretary-Treasurer. The directors for the year were Otto Schael, William Nielson and Lester Verhaalen.

Rolfs, who did an outstanding job of recording events for the WGA and getting them to the National, hosted the May meeting at North Hills. He reported on that May meeting that "the new pumphouse and extensive work being done around the creek were of much interest."

"A round of golf completed the day and with donations from the local pro, Phil Greenwald, and from the Wilson and Worthington Companies, we all walked home

with a prize."

Phil Greenwald ("Greenie") is still alive and is around the golf shop at Jupiter Hills C.C. in Jupiter, Florida. We also know that sometime in the 1930's Ray Rolfs was a director of the N.A.G.A., but still maintained strong and sincere interest in his own state organization.

The 1938 season was, overall, a good one for Wisconsin's golf courses and for the greenkeepers. The weather was moderate and the rains frequent enough to enable them to keep the courses in fine shape. They held monthly meetings and remained true to the need to move their meetings around the state. One of the popular features of the meetings continued to be the "Question Box."

Ray Rolfs was not only a good Secretary-Treasurer, he was a good golfer as well. For the sixth consecutive year he won the annual tournament trophy.

On October 11 the Wisconsin

group held a joint meeting with the Midwest group at the Pickwick Golf Club near Chicago.

One reason the short course at the UW—Madison has such appeal to those involved in golf course management in the 1930's (and beyond) was the excellent quality of the instructors. Many have been noted up to this point, and included on the 1939 program was Dr. Aldo Leopold, one of the greatest naturalists that ever lived. He is the author of the world famous book "Sand County Almanac." Professor Leopold, of the UW—Madison faculty, gave a very interesting talk to the attendees of the 1939 short course on "Birds on the Golf Course." He told them in detail how to encourage birds on their courses and illustrated his talk with slides. The 1939 program also featured lectures by Burton Musser from Penn State. Topics he addressed were "New Developments in Grasses For Greens and Fairways" and "Fertilization of Grasses." Mr.



Pictured here are the "barbers of golf"—gentlemen who clip the fairways, shave the greens and sand the bunkers on Wisconsin courses. They are members of the Wisconsin Greenkeeper's Association discussing season plans at their annual meeting at the Brynwood Country club. From left to right (upper row), they are Harry Hanson, Maple Bluff club, Madison; R. E. Ryerson, Howard W. Ream, Nakoma club, Madison; lower row (left to right), R. E. (Bob) Farmer, Brynwood club; W. C. Neilson, unattached; Archie Schendel, Westmoor club; Ray Rolfs, North Hills, and J. S. Bone, Blackhawk, Madison.

From the March 30, 1933 copy of the Milwaukee Journal

O. C. Williams invited everyone to Maple Bluff C.C. for an evening of card playing that was accompanied by refreshments.

The first meeting of 1939 was held at Merrill Hills where Fred Peters was the host greenkeeper. Election of officers took most of the meeting time. Results of the election were:

Ray Rolfs — President, succeeding John S. Bone

Les Verhaalen — Vice-President, succeeding O. C. Williams

O. C. Williams — Secretary-Treasurer, succeeding Ray Rolfs.

The 1939 spring in Wisconsin was slow in breaking and most reported that they were 3 to 4 weeks behind in their work. The winter treated most of Wisconsin's golf courses kindly as they came through in generally good condition.

The June meeting was held at Watertown Country Club and they convened the July meeting at the Waupaca C.C. They were particu-

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1936 ad for O. M. Scott & Sons.

arly interested in the Waupaca meeting because Mr. Griffith Williams, the host, had an "interesting" arrangement for watering his golf course. He would have sprinklers set on his greens when his men left work. He then set an alarm clock and the clock turned the water on for the greens. A lever adjusted to the alarm winder releases a window sash weight when it goes off. This weight, tied on a rope, when falling unwound a pulley arrangement. The pulley arrangement acted as a valve turning on the water. Then another alarm clock is set for the shutting down process. This clock has the same arrangement, except that the shut-off was controlled by a lever instead of a pulley. He was obviously a pioneer of his time.

They held their 1939 meeting-golf tournament at Brynwood C.C. Rolfs won it again with a score of 80 for 18 holes. Dick Ryerson won the prize for low putts for 18 holes with 29 putts.

The Brynwood meeting captured a lot of note because of plots Lester Verhaalen had on the golf course to study weed control. Most were impressed by the fine playing condition of the golf course because a fire had destroyed the shop and over \$8,000 of Les' equipment.

Forty-six of the members drove to Madison on August 7, 1939 for the meeting at Blackhawk Country Club. Host John Bone demonstrated his fairway watering system at the club. The system had been in for over a year and they commented on how nice it was to play on nice, green fairways at that time of the year.

The 1939 season marked the end of the first ten years in the history of our Association. Although this story, as it appears here, is not complete, it is easy to tell that our predecessors were progressive, interested and concerned about



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What about the 1940's, the 1950's and the 1960's? Other stories for other times in future issues of the GRASSROOTS.

Pesticide Legislation THE WISCONSIN WORKER "RIGHT TO KNOW" LAW

By Russel R. Weisensel
Executive Director
Wisconsin Agri-Business Council



The original law providing Wisconsin workers the right to know way passed in May of 1982. At that time the record keeping and penalty sections were vetoed. This law, state statute 101.58 to 101.599, was changed in the most recent session of the legislature with the final version passing on May 2, 1984. Because of this legislation, there is no longer an agricultural exemption, and the record keeping and the penalty provisions are now part of the law. It is interesting to note that the legislature changed the law even before anyone had a chance to see how last year's was working.

Management is required by this law to post notices informing employees that they have the right to request data regarding any toxic substances, infectious agents or pesticides in the work place. Sealed packages of any such materials are exempt as long as the seal is intact.

Management must have material safety data sheets available for employees that might request such information. Fortunately, the information on pesticide labels will suffice in fulfilling this requirement.

Training, which may take the form of printed information, must

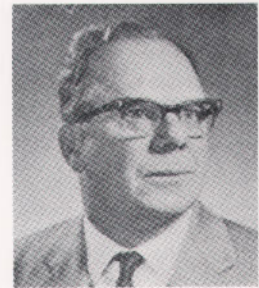
be provided if employees are routinely exposed for 30 days or more per year to 50 percent of the OSHA permissible exposure level, or if exposure any time exceeds 100 percent of permissible exposure level. Training must include the following:

1. Trade and generic name.
2. Location of the material.
3. Symptoms for chronic effects of over exposure.
4. Potential for flammability, explosion, etc.
5. Proper conditions for use.
6. Special precautions when handling.
7. Procedures for spills and/or leaks.

The law provides that employees may refuse to handle toxic substances if information is not provided. Penalties up to \$1,000.00 for each violation with penalties up to \$10,000.00 for willful or continuous violations are also part of the legislation. Record keeping for 30 years of material safety data sheets and lists of toxic substances are required by this law if the employer has over ten employees or if a firm has over \$750,000 in sales. If the company goes out of business, the required records must be sent to the State of Wisconsin.

The law is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations.

THANKS, CHARLIE!



Charles F. Shiley started golf course work in 1932 in the Chicago district and became superintendent of grounds at Windsor Country Club in 1935. In 1938 he transferred to Illinois Country Club, Glencoe, Ill. After the war, in 1945 he went to Tam O'Shanter Country Club as assistant superintendent. In 1951 he went to North Hills Country Club, Milwaukee, Wis., as superintendent. He joined the Midwest AGCS in 1938 and transferred to the Wis. GCSA in 1951 where he has served two terms as a director, two terms as president and three terms as secretary-treasurer. He has been a member of GCSAA since 1942.

Without Charlie's help and generous sharing of historical material, this issue of the GRASSROOTS would have fallen far short of the mark. Thanks from all WGCSA members to Charlie Shiley.

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