

WSGA — 1984, A YEAR OF TRIUMPH

By Gene Haas
WSGA Executive Director

The crisp chill of a late autumn wind gusting upon a rapidly fading tan face, signals the end of another Wisconsin golf season. The Wisconsin State Golf Association experienced its most successful season ever. Over 200 clubs were enrolled as members in 1984 and the WSGA serviced over 40,000 golfers with its computer handicap program. A record number of over 1400 members participated in the golf competitions sponsored by the WSGA in 1984 to the satisfaction of everyone.

The year started off with the annual trip to the Masters Golf Championship in Augusta, GA where a capacity group enjoyed sparkling sunshine and 80 degree weather to witness BEN CRENSHAW'S move to capture the green jacket, emblematic of the Masters champion. This success assured that a repeat trip is definitely in the plans for 1985.

The initial competition for 1984 saw the Merrill Hills team of TOM SCHMIDT and DICK BAKER capture the WSGA BESTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP at the Hartford CC when they edged MIKE STOLZ and DAVE UELMEN of North Shore CC by a 3/2 margin. SCOTT OVERBY and DAVE WERNICKE of Brown Deer defeated Johnson Park's JIM COVELLI and MARK BEMOWSKI for the President's Flight title.

The WSGA MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP was won by JOHN P. HAYES, JR. of Butte des Morts GC which was held at the Old Hickory CC in Beaver Dam in a 3/2 victory over DAVE JONES of Johnson Park. This event attracted over 180 participants to the challenging design of Old Hickory.

The beautiful Blackhawk CC in Madison was the setting for the WSGA GOVERNOR'S CUP CHAMPIONSHIP where Appleton Butte des Morts GC's JIM RUDOLF won the title with an impressive 145 total. Age division titles were won by (40-44) JAY LOHMILLER of Hartford CC, (45-49) RUDOLF and (50-55) HAL KNUTH of Tuckaway CC.

The 84th running of the WSGA STATE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP was conducted at the Racine CC. Competitively smooth greens featuring strategic pin placements tested the skills of all the players. The result was a third crown for MARK BEMOWSKI of Johnson Park with a very respectable 294 total. AL PETERS of the Tuckaway CC placed second at 296 followed by longtime standout DICK SUCHER of Ozaukee CC at 298. The Yule Cup team championship was won by the Johnson Park threesome of Bemowski, JIM WEBERS and JIM COVELLI.

The 1984 WSGA STATE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP was held at the Oshkosh CC and STEVE STRICKER of Edgerton's Towne CC prevailed to win the championship with a 215 total to edge North Hills' DAVE MILEY by three strokes. Age group champions were (Under 15) BILL HEIM of Royal Scott GC in New Franken, (15-16) PAT VICKERS of Chenequa and (17-18) STRICKLER. The team title was won by Nakoma GC for the second year in a row. Team members were DAN AEHL, TOM RASMUSSEN, DAVE GRAMS, JR, and PAUL MITCHELL.

Tuckaway CC served as the setting for the 1984 PATER-FILIUS CHAMPIONSHIP with a record turnout of over 400 teams. For the second straight year the team of DAVID and DEAN WERNICKE of Brown Deer Park GC won the LOW GROSS CHAMPIONSHIP with an alternate-shot score of 73. The LOW NET CHAMPIONSHIP was won by LYLE and MARK HIRD of Nakoma GC, who scored a net 65 to edge HARVEY KUENN and HARVIE KUENN, JR. of the host club.

The WSGA STATE SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP was held at the Nakoma GC in Madison and FRANK TENFEL of West Bend CC won his third straight title with a 150 total. Champions of age divisions were (55-59) TENFEL, (60-64) DON STRUTZ, Butte des Morts GC, (65-69) STEVE CARAVELLO, Maple Bluff CC, (70 & Over) JACK

DORNER, Ozaukee CC.

The NELTHORPE CUP MATCHES were held at the Racine CC and the Wisconsin PGA captured their 13th victory in 16 tries with a 33½ to 29½ victory over the WSGA. This was the first time that the event featured senior representatives competing with their respective organizations, and it added to the camaraderie of the event.



The WSGA has come a long way since nine clubs met in Janesville during July of 1901 to formulate the Wisconsin State Golf Association. The nine clubs were Janesville Sinnissippi GC, Milwaukee CC, Kenosha CC, Green Lake Tuscumbia CC, Oshkosh CC, Maple Bluff CC, La Crosse Schaghticoke CC, Appleton Riverview CC and the Racine CC. The WSGA sponsored three competitions at that time and they were all held during the same week at the same club. They were the State Amateur, the State Junior and the Pater Filius. The WSGA now sponsors eight major events and requires the use of 31 golf sites to conduct the competitions and qualifying events that are on the schedule each year.

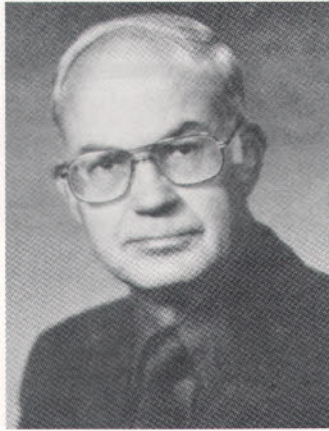
The Association's affairs are managed by a Board of Directors comprised of 34 directors from regions throughout the State. An office is located in the metropolitan Milwaukee area which is staffed year round and is equipped to service all golfers with information relative to the game of golf. Everyone associated with the WSGA is enthusiastic about the growth and direction that the WSGA is headed for. Golf is alive and growing in the State of Wisconsin, thanks to the Wisconsin State Golf Association.

Looking Back

1984 Turf Diseases in Review

By Gayle L. Worf

Vaughan-Bascom Professor
UWEX and Department of Plant
Pathology
University of Wisconsin —
Madison



Pythium problems that plagued many courses in 1983 were virtually absent this past growing season. Since weather factors determine, more than any other single factor, what diseases are going to occur, and how bad they are going to be, none of us were probably surprised that this disease which is only periodically epidemic in Wisconsin, took a break this year. But we had a number of other very interesting and significant disease problems to deal with during the season, and we will offer a few observations about them, from our perspective.

Snowmold. Conditions were favorable for snowmold, and some courses had problems. But in most instances the control treatments worked well where they were applied properly, and demonstrated their importance to turf quality in Wisconsin. There's another article dealing with that subject, so we'll not deal further with snowmold here.

Dollar spot. Perhaps the most interesting aspect about this disease is the outbreaks that occurred on many courses in October, during the cool, foggy weather period. This is certainly not the common pattern for that disease. Most courses are not "September-treated," but this disease normally stays quiet anyway. Those observations reminded us of the dollar spot-like symptoms that were evident at snow melt on several courses last April. We've seen that on previous occasions, too, but reports were greater this year. We successfully isolated *Sclerotinia* several times this fall, to confirm the fall infections, but could not do so with the winter attacks. It could be that lower temperature strains exist than we have formerly considered. This question will deserve superintendent observations in the

future. Some concerns have also been expressed about apparent build-up of resistance to Chipco 26019 on occasional courses. We've not verified the reports, but such has been verified in other states. We need to continue with rotational fungicide use patterns and monitoring in order not to lose valuable fungicides.

Bacterial wilt. Several courses reported outbreaks of this disease again on C-15 turfs. Conditions were apparently especially favorable for the bacterium this spring. Though we are no longer surprised when it occurs, there is concern that this bacterium which is essentially restricted in damage to C-15 or Toronto bentgrass, may change sufficiently to infect and damage other grasses. That would be a **very** serious situation, because acceptable bactericides haven't been developed, and control measures other than resistance are not really available. Though the symptoms help in diagnosis, laboratory isolations are also needed. Dr. Dave Roberts, Michigan State University, helped diagnose several Wisconsin infections, and also assisted our laboratory in becoming proficient in its identification.

Patch disease complexes. Turf professionals are becoming aware of the new diseases and organisms that are sometimes referred to as "patch diseases" because of that rather common symptom characteristic. Necrotic ring spot was adopted as the common name for a disease frequently referred to as "Fusarium blight." It has been confirmed in several states from Rhode Island to Washington. In fact, the causal organism (*Leptosphaera korrae*)

was first identified in Australia where it causes "spring dead spot" of bermuda grass. Californians this year confirmed that it was causing "spring dead spot" there, too, and it may ultimately be found to be involved with that disease everywhere. Internationally speaking, that would be a significant step forward, because the southland has struggled with that disease of unknown causation for forty years. For us, it's especially important on bluegrass, but we also isolate it from *Poa*, and we've killed *Poa* experimentally with it. At one time we were suspicious that it may be a major factor in our *Poa* decline. Now we don't know what to think—it isn't in tissue where we think it should be, if it were a major contributor.

Take-all patch (*Gaeumannomyces*) has received a lot of publicity over the past three years. Much of this is because of mistaken confusion with the NRS-causing organism, but we have isolated it for two years off bentgrass on one new course, and have isolated an organism we believe to be *Gaeumannomyces* off some dying *Poa* patches this summer. There, the bentgrass was not being affected. Strains, plus other factors, are probably at work.

Yellow patch (cool temperature brown patch) was more evident on Wisconsin courses than any year that we've known about to date. Although its damage is usually not as severe as some other problems, we'd better get to knowing more about the "Rhizoctonias" that are beginning to appear in lots of places.

We've looked for, but have not found "summer patch" (*Phialophora graminicola*) which was newly reported by Dr. Smiley at Cornell this year, and which could be causing some of our mysterious disorders.

You aren't alone if all of this is confusing at the moment. But we need to be conversant about them, and know how to watch for and deal with them. We plan to emphasize some aspects about this complex at the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association annual meeting on January 24, 1985.

Other problems. The outbreak of *Fusarium* patch (pink snow mold) in October was significant. Now we can understand why places like Washington and Oregon, with their

routine cool, wet winters, regard this disease as their number one concern! For us, we should tuck this experience away, and plan on early fall applications of some component of our snowmold control program to prevent future out-

breaks when we begin experiencing such weather patterns again.

And we encountered the usual variety of unusual, localized problems, including some on greens that we will want to examine closely in another year.

Diseases continue to be a problem, and some might be inclined toward pessimism after reading this report. We shouldn't be, for the overall impression of turf health was good. We'll just strive for even better turf in 1985.

RANSOMES INC. CONTINUES EXPANSION

Ransomes Inc., located in Johnson Creek, held ground breaking ceremonies on October 10, 1984 for its third major expansion in the last five years. They are a leading manufacturer of turf care equipment.

In 1979, Ransomes Inc. purchased forty acres of land from the Village of Johnson Creek, Wisconsin and built a factory of 90,000 square feet. A second facility covering 23,000 square feet was erected on the acreage in 1982 to accommodate increased warehousing needs. In October, the ground broken was for an additional 48,000 square feet of manufacturing space.

Ransomes Inc. began in rented facilities in 1972 with three full-time employees. Its growth in the commercial turf care equipment business necessitated a constant increase in employment and facilities. The company is now a



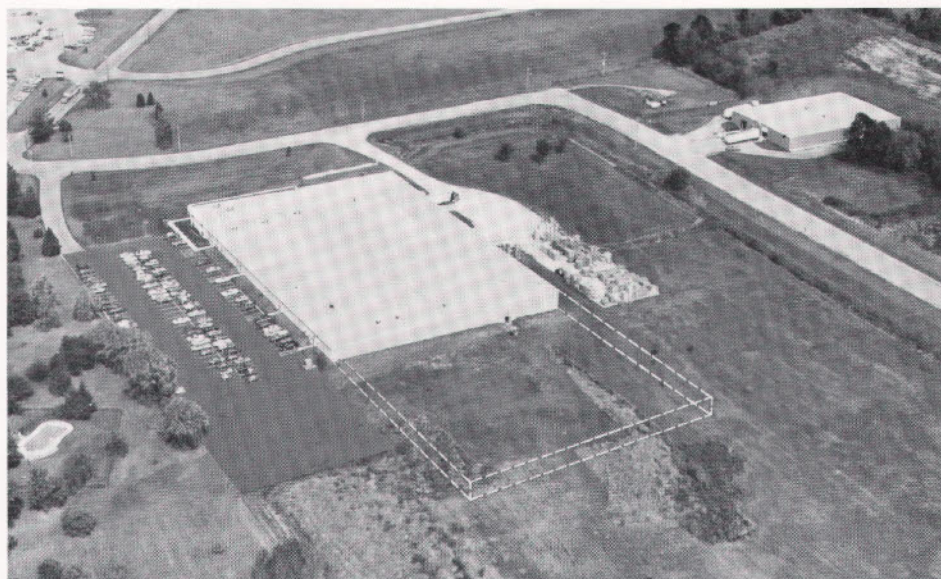
Participating in the ground breaking ceremony are Ransomes' executives Helmut Adam, President; Ron Tvedt, Vice President of Finance and Dick Lehman, Executive Vice President.

leading manufacturer of rotary and reel lawnmowers for golf course, landscape and municipal markets. Products manufactured in Johnson Creek are distributed in all of the U.S. and the provinces of

Canada plus in the Western European and Commonwealth countries.

The new facilities will allow Ransomes to continue its rapid growth in the reel mower market while allowing space for several new products that were developed recently in the rotary mower line. A good portion of the new space will allow housing for a complete inventory of spare parts for both the reel and the rotary units. Expansion will continue to mean more jobs for residents in the Johnson Creek area. In the past year and a half, twenty additional employees have been added to shop and staff positions; and it is expected that upwards of fifty could be utilized under the forward plan for the next four to five years.

The decision to continue the expansion in Wisconsin, despite the very enticing offers of southern states, is based on the very loyal, supportive employees at Ransomes Inc. and the welcome arms of the Johnson Creek community in general.



Aerial view of Ransomes, Inc. facilities at Johnson Creek, Wisconsin. Dotted line indicates the location of the 48,000 square foot manufacturing addition on the south end of the existing plant.

WISCONSIN'S GOLF COURSES: LOOKING BACK OVER 1984



Southeast Report

By Bob Erdahl

The general consensus among the 15 Southeast Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents that I interviewed was that 1984 was a welcome relief from the scorching 1983 season. Most courses emerged from the winter of 83/84 with very little snowmold and desiccation damage. A cold spring gave way to an average summer that contained timely rainfall until the heat and drought finally arrived in August. A beautiful September was short lived as almost the entire month of October was so wet that many maintenance and construction projects had to be cancelled.

Play at private clubs was about average during the 1984 season. Public courses saw an increase in traffic that would have lead to a very successful season had not the miserable October cut down on late season play.

The following paragraphs contain a brief summary of the state of green, tee, and fairway maintenance in Southeastern Wisconsin. The information is timely for all WGCSA members as well as a record for future Golf Course Superintendents.

Greens in Southeast Wisconsin have reached an almost universal 1/8" cutting height. Several courses are cutting with hand mowers while others use them for just the cleanup pass. All the superintendents I interviewed topdress with either a pure sand or a "dirty sand." The average frequency for topdressing is every 3-4 weeks and the amount of sand built up varies from 1/4"-3". Fall

aerification is still popular and most courses verticut on a 2-3 week schedule. Nitrogen application ranges from 1.0-2.5 lbs. of N/M/year. The use of wetting agents is limited to localized dry spots at some courses, while other courses treat all the greens with as much as 40 oz. wetting agent/M/year. Three quarters of the superintendents have used Rubigan with varying degrees of success. Some feel that 2.0 oz. Rubigan/M/year is not enough to produce the desired growth retardation of *Poa annua*.

Tee maintenance at many courses is almost at the same level as green maintenance. Walking mowers are used by several courses with cutting heights as low as 3/16". I can remember when that would have been a respectable height of cut for greens! Nitrogen is applied in a range of 1.5-4.0 lbs. N/M/year. Most superintendents said they plan to topdress and overseed more in the future.

Major changes are occurring in fairway maintenance in Southeast Wisconsin. In 1985, one third of the superintendents interviewed will be mowing fairways with light-weight mowers and removing the clippings. Another third will be mowing selected areas with light-weight mowers. Severely contoured fairways are not on the immediate horizon due to the problems that arise when converting fairway turf to roughs. New pesticides are also contributing to the improvement in fairway maintenance. Oflanol has been used successfully against *Atenius* by several courses and Bayleton continues to provide excellent control of *Poa annua* decline. A new growth retardant for *Poa annua*, Cutlass, has been used experimentally by many superintendents and all report encouraging results.

Golf course redesign continues in Southeast Wisconsin with several courses in the process of changing hole layouts, building new tees, adding sand traps, or updating their irrigation systems.

While 1984 will go down as a successful year for most of the Golf Course Superintendents in Southeast Wisconsin, we are all

looking forward to 1985 when we can try out new maintenance techniques, experiment with new pesticides, start new construction projects, or any of the other activities that make our profession so challenging and rewarding.



Northeast Report

By Roger Bell

The most recent year saw most of the golf courses in northeastern Wisconsin in good shape. The weather here has run the gamut of meteorological phenomena. Last fall was very wet and warm and consequently plants were not prepared for the record cold temperatures that followed in late December. Although the grasses on our courses were covered with a nice blanket of insulating snow, the trees and shrubs were not spared. By February, we were at the other end of the spectrum weatherwise, as record high temperatures cost us our snow cover and caused some of the trees and shrubs to start to leaf out. The cold snowless weather that followed threatened our grasses with desiccation problems but we were probably saved by the high soil moisture that we had going into winter. Spring was very slow in coming and arrived with considerable rain. Our spring projects were delayed by the weather, but we were able to open our courses earlier than usual anyway because the frost never was driven back down too deep after the February thaw. Those of us who have been installing drainage in the past few years were grateful and wished we had

done more. Late spring and early summer were just great weather-wise; we had timely rains and rounds of play were high. Most of us (the exception being those in the southern part of our area) were spared the dry summer and early fall that bothered our friends in south-central Wisconsin.

As far as disease problems go, some of us had snow mold problems on untreated areas but the damage was superficial and gone almost as soon as green-up occurred. We saw two substantial outbreaks of pythium but they were not of the severity of the outbreak in 1983 when we had pythium problems for two months.

The new big thing in northeastern Wisconsin was lightweight fairway mowing. Four or the five of us doing this are delighted with the results. Our members and especially their guests are raving about the playing conditions of the fairways. A special bonus that we all noticed is that we did not miss a mowing in spite of the very wet spring and fall.

We are now only four to six weeks from that lovely white cover of snow. We could use a little less of the rain we have been getting so we could get done with our fall building projects. Overall, we have had a good year—one that saw most of our courses in better condition than ever before.



Northern & Central Report

By Bill Roberts

The common denominator in the Northern and North Central sections of Wisconsin appeared to be abundant precipitation, moderate temperatures and very little disease pressure. Those factors produced a "lot of play" over some exceptionally well-conditioned

turfgrass. Golf Course Superintendents in this part of the State were unanimous in their descriptions of 1984 as a very good year, particularly when viewed in relationship to the summer of 1983.

JEFF BOTTENSEK, Superintendent at Stevens Point Country Club, reports more than adequate rainfall and is seeing additional fairway management pressure relative to mowing height and fungicide programs. Jeff completed installation of his automatic irrigation system in 1984.

Bull's Eye Country Club's CLIFF BRANDL completed the relocation and re-building of his practice putting green and Number 1 tee as a result of the new clubhouse construction at his club. He echoed the "good year" sentiment noting very little disease pressure relative to 1983.

Also in Wisconsin Rapids, Superintendent DAVID MURGATROYD, Ridges Inn and Country Club indicated "a good year with lots of rain." David saw less disease incidence this season while he concentrated on the completion of additional cart paths, a new practice green, a new driving range tee and a new practice bunker.

DON PETERSON of Waupaca Country Club reports excellent results with his lightweight, fairway contour mowing program. Waupaca saw heavy play while hosting numerous events and tournaments. With no real turf pest problems evident, Don even found time to complete some drainage work this summer.

Rhineland Country Club Golf Course Superintendent BRIAN J. KARNOSKY is more than pleased with the way his golf course held up this summer under increased play. Brian indicated only minor turf disease pressure although Dutch Elm Disease continues to take its toll on some very valuable specimens. He is, of course, meticulously following his tree replacement program using his own nursery stock, which includes a new, rapidly-growing Larch variety.

DICK THALACKER of Thal Acres Country Club in Westfield has had a busy summer re-building his back nine cart paths, adding a couple of bunkers and renovating several tees. Dick, too, noted the lack of disease pressure and the abundant precipitation this summer.

JEFF PARKS, Lake Arrowhead Country Club, spent a great part of

his season "growing-in" and preparing his back 9 for play in 1985. With "enough rain and very little disease," Jeff saw a 9 percent increase in play in 1984.



Southern and Western Report

By Monroe S. Miller

Western, southwestern and south central Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents have, in general, declared 1984 "a good year." Those that wouldn't go quite that far at least felt that 1984 was much better than 1983.

Weather is always significant in determining what kind of year we have on our golf courses. The season started out wet, moved into a "normal" pattern until mid-July, and after that time until late September we experienced very little moisture. There was a two month period that made the task of keeping golf courses in premier playing condition difficult, at best.

Several other things will make 1984 significant when reviewed in future years. There was a dramatic and substantial move in this part of our state toward lightweight mowing of fairways. Implements used ranged from greensmowers to Toro 84's to the Jacobsen HF-5. But the machine that really seemed to catch this year for more intense fairway management was the Ransomes' Motor 180. Most managers that took the step toward lightweight mowing also did some experimenting with clipping harvest. Experimentation was about as far as it went with most, although a couple of our colleagues did follow the practice for the bulk of the season. The jury is still out as to whether or not this practice will result in fairway turf that is enough improved to merit its widespread use.

SEPTEMBER WGCSA MEETING ANOTHER WINNER

Most golf courses that have had a history of problems with the BTA grub invested in the insecticide Oftenol. The results reported back indicate that this material worked exceptionally well. Many that did not use it have budgeted and scheduled the material for next season. Most of the BTA problems, by the way, are on fairway grass.

A couple of other points concerning fairway management are worth note. The height of cut is finding its way down and in a number of cases is approaching the 1/2" mark. There also seems to be a trend toward lesser amounts of fertilizer for fairways, and applications are being made at lower rates of N/M. The use of the newer generations of fungicides have been a real help, also.

The "hot" topic of discussion among players and Golf Course Superintendents seems no longer to be the speed of greens. It is becoming more and more common to see cutting heights on putting surfaces approach the 1/8" level for everyday play. Topdressing is still a common practice, but my sense after discussions on this topic is that the frequency seems to have declined.

One other note this reporter has observed, and it is, I think, an encouraging one. There seems to be more activity with rebuilding, modification and master plans, and this activity is more and more often being done under the watchful and helpful eye of the Golf Course Architect. It is nearly to the point where one might wonder if a designer will set up an office somewhere in the state to deal with this trend.

And, as always, most of us end up this year with the thought that next year will always be better.

Milwaukee Country Club's Danny Quast had his golf course in championship condition for WGCSA members that played there at the September meeting. Beautiful autumn weather, careful planning on Dan's part, and the finest of service from other Club staff members led to another great meeting for Wisconsin's golf course managers. Club officials — Hal Kuehl and Bill Allis — were kind enough to join the meeting for the evening meal and for the opportunity to hear WGCSA Honorary member Dr. Bill Daniel of Purdue University. Dr. Daniel led the assembled group on a trip back over the past four decades in golf course management. He also offered some kind memories about our own O. J. Noer and emphasized the important role O. J. played in the golf course business for so many years.

Familiar names appear on the results of the golf event. Congratulations to the winners.

Championship Flight

1st low net 71 Pat Mertz
2nd Low Net 73 Bruce Worzella
3rd Low Net 75 Joe Fryman

A Flight

1st Low Net 67 Steve Blendell
2nd Low Net 69 Chad Ball
3rd Low Net 72 Bob Petsel

B Flight

1st Low Net 76 David Mergatroyd
2nd Low Net 77 Tom Schaller
3rd Low Net 78 Bob Belfield

Commercial Flight

1st Low Net 68 Ed Devinger
2nd Low Net 72 Gary Monfre
(Won Scorecard Playoff)
3rd Low Net 72 Roger Thomas

Closest To The Pin

#8 Gary Monfre
#12 Joe Kuta

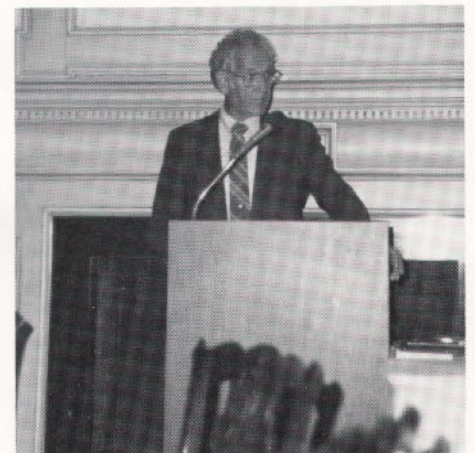


Dr. Bill Daniel & Mr. Bill Allis at Milwaukee Country Club.

REINDERS ADDITION



Reinders Brothers of Elm Grove, Toro distributor for Wisconsin, is putting the finishing touches on the new addition to their facility. The addition, 34,000 square feet in size, will house a new repair shop, the parts department as well as additional office and conference space. It will also increase their warehouse capabilities.



September's speaker — Dr. Bill Daniel, Purdue University.

Distributor Perspectives

Several of our Wisconsin distributors have been kind enough to offer their viewpoints and reflections on the golf course business — reflecting on the just completed season and even back beyond that. Their sense of the business from “across the fence” is refreshing and the lessons they’ve learned are certainly valuable to us.

THE TURFGRASS INDUSTRY — NOW & THEN

*By Ed Devinger
Turf Division Manager
Reinders Brothers*

The industry is changing more rapidly each year. It appears that it is like a rolling snowball.

What has happened? This is the easy part. 1984 was an excellent year for the turfgrass industry and golf courses in particular. Most everyone agrees that the number of rounds of golf played are up, and on the whole, Mother Nature was more cooperative than in 1983.

The demands on the Golf Course superintendent are ever increasing — faster greens, shorter fairways, more aesthetic appearance, etc., and constant pressure to reduce costs! It is becoming necessary to have accurate cost accounting on each job done (i.e. how much to mow fairways, change cups, mow greens, trim around trees, etc.). When a reduction in costs is requested, let the greens committee or membership decide how much is to be cut and in what areas! It is their golf course!

Over the past few years, there has been a leveling off of the constant price increase of the late 70's. The price changes in the last two or three years, and again in 1985, are in the 4-7% range; and there is now normally only one price change per year. This makes it easier to budget and forecast expenditures. That is the good news! The bad news is that the

equipment manufacturers have much lower inventories than in years past. This leads to a longer wait for orders! PLAN AHEAD! Give your suppliers ample time to serve you. ORDER EARLY!

Impressions from 1984

Equipment:

The Superintendent has more to choose from than ever before. Many foreign manufacturers are trying to find a place in the industry. It will be very difficult for all manufacturers to survive! The time of “light-weight” fairway mowing has arrived for the Superintendent and Golf Course who demands the ultimate in quality turf and whose budget will allow the additional cost. Fairway aerification with the Ryan Greensaire II is worth the additional time required for the most thorough job available.

Chemicals:

1. After waiting patiently for a few years, Oftanol has finally arrived. Those who used it in 1984 can attest to the value of this insecticide.
2. Embark PGR gained acceptance for seed head suppression on Poa.
3. Registration of new products continues to be a lengthy and costly ordeal! Unless agriculturally related, new turfgrass pesticides will become a thing of the past.
4. Increasing pressure from environmentalists, labor unions, and the general public are making it extremely difficult to use chemicals — especially in the Lawn Care Industry. Everyone in the industry must be aware of these situations at all levels of government and be prepared to resist with factual data.

Grass Seed:

1. Unlike 1984, there appears to be enough Penncross and Penneagle Bent Seed for 1985, as long as everyone doesn't hoard it. Buy what you anticipate you will need.
2. Bluegrass — most of the hybrid varieties are available in ample supply for Spring, but may become less available as 1985 wears on. BUY EARLY.

One Last Point:

The future of the Turfgrass Industry is extremely bright. It will

be necessary to keep up with the changing times.

Wisconsin now has a badly needed Turfgrass Association. Three years ago, a group of turfgrass managers formed this organization and while still in its infancy, it is getting the job done. This past year, saw the acceptance of its annual Summer Field Day in August and a September Golf Outing. Both events were successful in raising research funds for Wisconsin.

If you are not yet a member, let 1985 be the year you join and become involved in an organization that will improve your profession. THEY NEED YOU!

THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

*By Neil Richter
General Manager
Hanley Implement*

1984 was a pleasant surprise for Hanley Implement. Our equipment sales were above our targeted figure, and that is always a good situation to be in. We did experience some start up parts struggles, some equipment modifications to contend with, and we had to adjust to a new customer and his needs. We are, in retrospect, very satisfied with the outcome of these challenges.

One of the very real rewards of the year was the excellent cooperation of the Golf Course Superintendents in Wisconsin. We couldn't be any happier than we are with the new friends we've made in this industry.

Our sales staff has grown to two very excellent people, and we have made plans to add another person in the immediate future. We have added some new products to our turf line and we are looking at some others. We recognize that we need to be selective and choose only those manufacturers that will meet our demands for product and parts availability.

Many questions are still unanswered as to what our position will be in the Wisconsin turfgrass industry. The final answer to this question will ultimately be decided by our

customers. However, there is no question about whether or not we will be in the business of turf — the answer is a resounding YES. We are committed to it over the long haul, for years to come. Our investment and support is such that we will be a supplier for the future.

In the final analysis, 1984 was a good year for us. We have gained some valuable experience and, more importantly, we have gained the friendship of our customers.

CHANGES IN THE TURF INDUSTRY

By Ronald W. Schumacher
Horst Distributing, Inc.

I started in this business in 1962. At that time, most golf courses cut

their greens at 3/16" to 5/16", three or four times a week. (It was only the daring Superintendent that would cut at 3/16"). The greens were cut with walking Greens-mowers.

Mostly, the greens were aerified twice a year; in the spring and in the fall — sometimes in the summer with smaller tines. Some golf courses had the Ryan Greensaire, but many of them used the old West Point aerifier (Similar to a Fairway Aerifier only smaller).

Verticutting was done generally twice a year. At that time they would verticut deeply and really try to remove a lot of thatch and mat all at once.

Some Superintendents believed in Top Dressing and some didn't. The top dressing that was used varied, from soil, to a mixture of

soil, sand and peat. There were no powered top dressers. The men would use shovels to spread the top dressing over the green and then mat it in with a walking drag mat. (Big machines were not allowed on the green, such as a Cushman or a Golf Car).

Sometime about 1963 or 1964, Sod-Master developed the Top Dresser and then Ryan came out with theirs. I sold the first Sod Master to Jack Frahm at Oshkosh Country Club and then, as I recall, Bob Musbach at North Shore Golf Club in Menasha bought one and Irv Johnson of Butte Des Morts Country Club in Appleton bought one. As time went by, top dressing became very common. I should say that before World War II, top dressing was common, but because of gasoline rationing many superintendents couldn't get soil and sand delivered to their clubs, so they didn't top dress.

Fairways were mostly common Kentucky Bluegrass and Poa Annu. They were cut maybe twice a week and almost always over an inch height of cut.

Tees were cut with 22" greens-mowers or 26" or 30" walk-behind reel mowers.

The transition from minimal maintenance to the very intense maintenance that we have now, came about gradually over the years as golfers began demanding better and better playing conditions. It is my opinion that the T.V. coverage of Pro Tournaments was very influential in bringing this about.

Now lets talk about equipment and its development. In 1962 a walking greensmower cost about \$400.00. Today, because of inflation, it costs about \$2800.00.

Triplex Greensmowers were developed first in 1969 at a cost of \$3200.00. They are now over \$10,000.00.

Other Triplex Mowers such as the Jacobsen Turf King and the Toro 76" Pro sold for \$1200.00. They are now from \$6000.00 to \$9000.00.

In 1962 golf courses were being maintained with walking mowers (other than fairways) as labor became more expensive riding mowers became more popular. When it was realized that much more work could be accomplished with less man hours, the maintenance level gradually intensified. Now we have reached the

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point where the big mowers, because of their weight are phasing out and I would bet that in 5 years, many of the private clubs will be cutting with walk behind greensmowers again.

To sum this up, I guess that while everything changes, nothing under the sun is new, but it has been very interesting.

FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE TRENDS—1984 AND BEYOND

By Tom Wentz
Regional Manager
O. M. Scott and Sons

Golf course fertilizer and pesticide usage in the 1980's have changed dramatically from the usage patterns of the early to mid '70's. These changes, I believe, have developed as a result of the demand for faster greens, budget constraints, reduced acreages, new disease specific fungicides, new diseases, and a higher degree of turf manicuring. This list can go on and on. The patterns that I have observed throughout the 10 state midwest region are listed below:

I. Fertilizer Usage

— Reduced nitrogen usage on greens. The amounts of N used per 1000 per year vary from one golf course to another, but there has been a reduction overall in the total N used per season.

— Trend to spoon feeding low amounts of N each week. Incorporation into fungicide sprays is becoming a regular practice.

— Coupled with the low N, there has been an upsurge in iron and minor nutrient supplement treatments.

— Trend toward higher K feeding on greens. Many of the soil test reports around the midwest indicate the soil low on K. The use of more sand for topdressing has created a need to be aware of the plant nutritional requirements.

— The greatest reason for reduced fertilizer usage on fairways has been the reduction in fairway acreage. Contour mowing and the trend toward narrower fairways has taken the average 50 acre — 18 hole fairway of the past to the current 20-25 acre fairway.

— Greater trend to supplemental treatments of higher K fertilizer for fairways or use of a 1:2, N:K fertilizer ratio product.

— I have observed reduction in total N applied on Triplex mowed fairways. Although, where clippings are removed, a good fertility program is needed.

Overall, fertilizer usage has dropped due to reduced acreage, and the demand for faster greens.

II. Pesticide Usage

A. Fungicides

The newer fungicides today are not as broad spectrum but usually give longer periods of disease control. Superintendents have realized the importance of alternating fungicides in their preventative disease programs. The newer disease specific fungicides will require this to continue.

— Observed greater fungicide usage on fairways. Possibly with the reduced fairway acreage, more budgets can handle expanded usage for fairway treatment. I believe there is more pressure on the superintendent to keep up with competing clubs and golfer demand for greater manicuring.

— The varied type "patch" diseases, Fusariums, Antracnose, resistant strains of Dollarspot have created a need to understand fungicide limitations, re-think cultural practices and develop better preventative treatment programs.

B. Insecticides

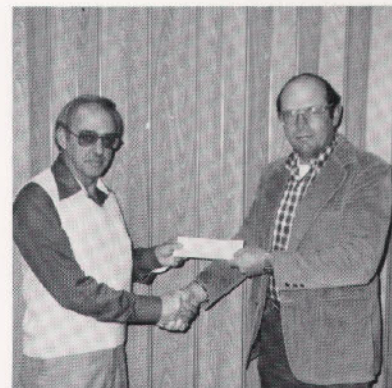
— The long term Residual Isofenphos Insecticide has been a welcome relief to those superintendents who have had to deal with grub problems. Similar residual type insecticides will be arriving on the market in the near future.

C. Herbicides

— The use of PGR's (Plant Growth Regulators) has been on the increase. This year I saw Embark being used for Poa seed head suppression. Look for the development of improved PGR's that open up greater use in the golf course turf market.

The requirements for the golf course superintendent to keep abreast of changes within the golf course management field is even greater today than in the past. We are living in a constantly changing world, an information society where the need to "Keep Up" is even more important. Trends will

change in the future as they have done in the past, and how you react and respond to these changes will determine your future success.



Hanley's Donates To WGCSA Scholarship and Research Fund

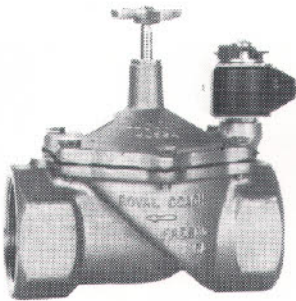
Neil Richter, general manager of Hanley Implement in Sun Prairie, presented a check for \$500 to the WGCSA at the November meeting at Tumblebrook Country Club. The gift will be added to the WGCSA Scholarship and Research Fund.

Speaking on behalf of the officers and directors of Hanleys, Richter expressed their sincere feeling for the need for investment in research that will help deal with cultural problems as they arise, as well as the basic kind of research necessary prior to field application. He also feels that any business is only as good as the people in it and applauds the WGCSA scholarship program.

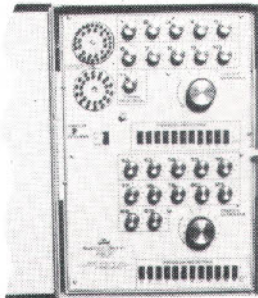
Sincere thanks to Hanley Implement from everyone in the WGCSA.

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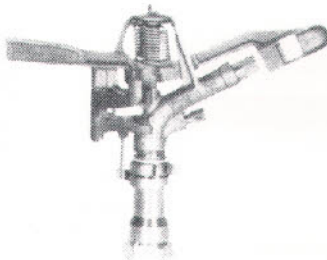
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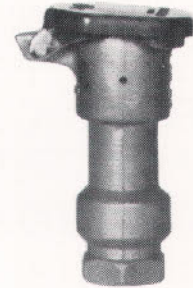
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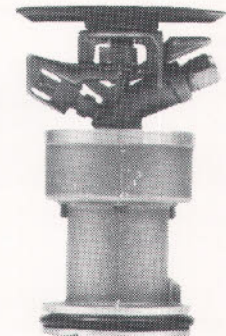
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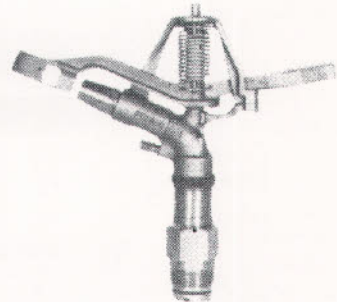
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