

(which stills leads us back to competition). While there is generally enough stored energy within the seed to complete germination and seedling emergence, the seedling is unable to produce enough photosynthate to initiate new tiller production and growth, and effectively compete with the existing turf.

Growth regulators have been promoted as inter-seeding tools to reduce the competitive advantage of *P. annua*. The idea is to slow the growth of annual bluegrass so the bentgrass can create a "beach head" for further expansion. While the logic is sound, the results have not been impressive. Researchers at Purdue University found that the application of Primo provided no competitive favor to bentgrass establishment. The growth of *P. annua*, was reduced, but there is still the plant density problem to contend with. Space and light are needed to establish turfgrass populations. Slowing growth does not provide space **or** light.

Summer is generally considered a less than ideal time to seed turfgrasses, and rightly so. Heat and moisture are difficult to manage to benefit seedling establishment. On the other hand, summer drought stress, combined with heat, is an excellent pre-stress event to create space and light, and may be just what bentgrass needs to gain the upper hand. Creeping bentgrass has the ability to withstand higher temperatures (evidence bentgrass usage in the deep south) than *P. annua*. The research group at Rutgers has shown that the least annual bluegrass invasion during establishment (not inter-seeding or conversion) occurred when bentgrass was planted in either June or August.

There is an absence of turfgrass population conversion research being conducted during the summer months. Logic, based on the principles of plant competition, say summer seeding will work, though it will not be easy. On the other hand,

reality and logic do not always go hand in hand.

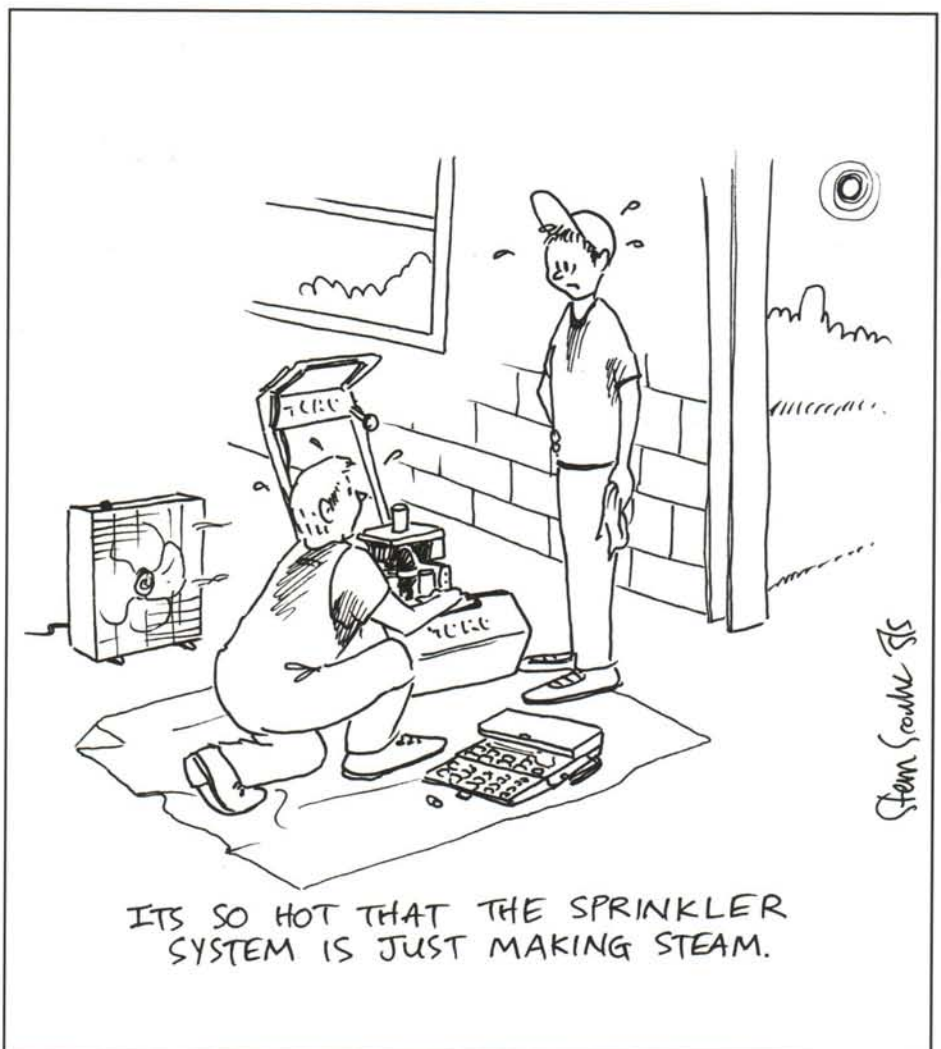
Optimum temperatures for bentgrass seed germination reach up to 86°F. Beyond 86°, germination speed increases, and germination rates will be suppressed. The increased speed of germination will get plants up and out of the ground faster, while the *P. annua* will be sitting, struggling to survive summer's stress. The edge will be to the bentgrass.

Will summer seeding work? No one knows at this time. But if it doesn't work, you have a lot to lose. If you pre-stress your *P. annua* population and the bentgrass seeding fails, you may end up with little or no turfgrass in your fairways.

So what are your options if you

don't want the *P. annua* that has moved in on your fairways? Total renovation is a costly, but effective alternative. If you have lots of money, sodding always works well. If you have lots of money and time (yeah, right), seeding works too. Other research has shown that the high-density creeping bentgrasses (L-93, A-4, etc) have excellent resistance to annual bluegrass encroachment. You can pray for longer summers and more heat and drought, to cater to the needs of the bentgrass. Or, go with Mother Nature's flow, and manage the *P. annua* as your turf species of choice.

For more information on inter-seeding, and the ITM Program, contact Kevin at hensler@entomology.wisc.edu, or (608) 845-2545. ♻



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The Historic American Club Provides Perfect Setting for the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium

By **Monroe S. Miller**, Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club



For those fortunate enough to ever have stayed at the American Club in Kohler, the experience likely was one never to be forgotten. In fact, that is how I have felt each time I have stayed in Wisconsin's only five star hotel. It is a great place to visit, to relax in and to experience service usually reserved for royalty. It is also a great place for an educational event like the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium.

Lots of features set the American Club apart from any other hotel I have visited. Foremost among them is the rich history of the place. Let me tell you what I have learned about it over the years.

Ed Kirchenwitz, sometime before I first spent a night there, told me stories of his personal experiences at The American Club as a result of growing up in the area. The thing I remember most was Ed's description of the bowling alley in the north end of the building which is now occupied by a restaurant. I was dumbfounded.

Former Wisconsin governor Walter Kohler Sr. (1929 - 1931) and Kohler Company president for 35 years came up with the idea of building a place for immigrant workers in the employment of the Kohler Company to live. The three story, 347-foot long building fit in perfectly with the quaint, tidy houses of the Village of Kohler, a community planned by the company.

Governor Kohler said this at the 1918 dedication of the new building: "The name American Club was decided upon as it was thought with high standards of living and clean, healthful recreation it would be a factor in inculcating in the men of



The American Club on its dedication day, June 23, 1918. The impressive Tudor-style manor was created to serve as a first home in a new world for immigrant workers at Kohler Co.



The American Club® today. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is the Midwest's only AAA Five Diamond resort hotel. Internationally recognized for its resort amenities and an award winning conference site, The American Club offers 236 guest rooms and suites, and more than 21,000 square feet of meeting facilities.

foreign antecedents a love for their adopted country...If this Club, besides providing suitable living conditions, be also an influence in the Americanization of the foreign born and serve as a stimulus for greater love of country and a desire for a higher citizenship then its purpose will have been achieved."

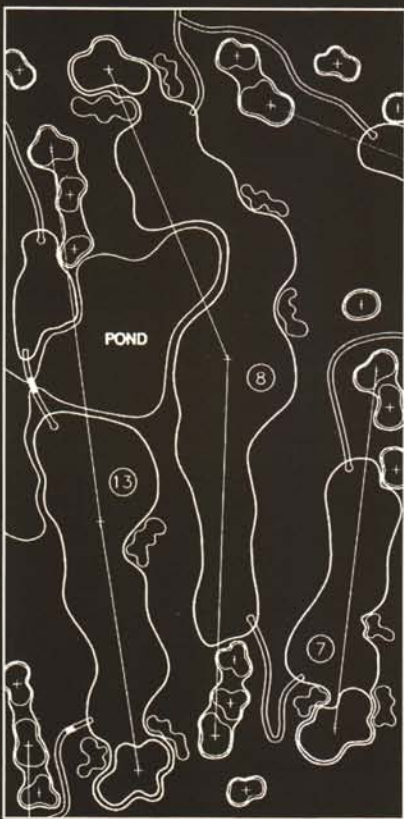
The red brick building, trimmed in white and roofed with green and purple slate, was built with 100 single bedrooms and 15 doubles. Each room was furnished. Lounge areas, reading rooms, a billiards room, a card room and that bowling

alley Ed Kirchenwitz told me about gave residents lots to choose from for leisure activities.

Residents of that time had the rare luxury of hot water and the best bathroom fixtures the Kohler Company could provide. Even today, the rooms of the American Club are a showcase for Kohler's finest products.

In 1918 a resident paid about a quarter of his salary for room and board - \$27.50 - a single room and three meals a day. There was a rule in the dining room like the one there was in the house I grew up in

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The Tap Room within The American Club (pictured circa 1924) was among the amenities available to the building's residents. Built in 1918 by Kohler Co. as a home for its immigrant workers, The American Club provided clean, comfortable lodging, and offered recreations such as bowling and billiards. The antique bar, pictured here, still serves customers in its new location at Kohler's Blackwolf Run golf course clubhouse.



The Horse & Plow, a casual pub with turn-of-the-century ambience, now occupies the space of the former Tap Room at The American Club. The restaurant serves luncheon and dinner daily. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, The American Club® is today an acclaimed resort and conference hotel providing world class services while maintaining the intimacy of a village Inn.

- "clean your plate. Nothing is wasted." The residents ate meals to the sound of a RCA Victrola playing John Phillip Sousa marches. Sousa, in fact, appeared in Kohler twice - 1919 and 1925 - to conduct the Kohler band over the noon hour in a concert on the American Club lawn!

A three-story wing was built on the north end of the American Club in 1924. This added 88 more single rooms and changed the mission to include providing rooms for women as well as men.

Big changes took place in our society between 1918 and 1940. In 1941 and 1942 the American Club was gutted and larger rooms were

built, each with its own bathroom and closets. Guests other than employees were accepted and the American Club evolved from an employee dormitory to a public accommodation. Among the many famous guests of that day was Carl Sandburg. Many do not realize that the great poet, historian, novelist, writer and reporter worked in Wisconsin cities like Sheboygan, Manitowoc and Milwaukee.

The old dining hall became the Wisconsin Room, the bowling alley was moved and the taproom was remodeled. Art work was added; foremost to my eyes were the portraits of famous Wisconsinites that



To its hundreds of immigrant residents, for whom The American Club® was originally built, the dining hall (pictured circa 1918) was a communal place. Hearty food in copious quantity was served family-style at the long refectory tables, and a Victrola played Sousa marches for mealtime entertainment.



The American Club's original dining hall has been transformed into the resort hotel's elegant Wisconsin Room restaurant, serving breakfast and dinner daily. Oak paneling, antique chandeliers and two large Wisconsin-theme tapestries commissioned for the room in the 1940s add to its historic flavor. Etched leaded glass panels above the French doors bear a John Ruskin quote favored by American Club founder, Walter J. Kohler, Sr.: "Life without labor is guilt, labor without art is brutality."

are still in the hallways for viewing. By the late seventies the interior again needed renovation. In 1978 the building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in America and Herbert V. Kohler Jr. decided to transform the American Club into a hotel with national recognition. Great attention to detail was given. The overhaul was completed in 1981 and another

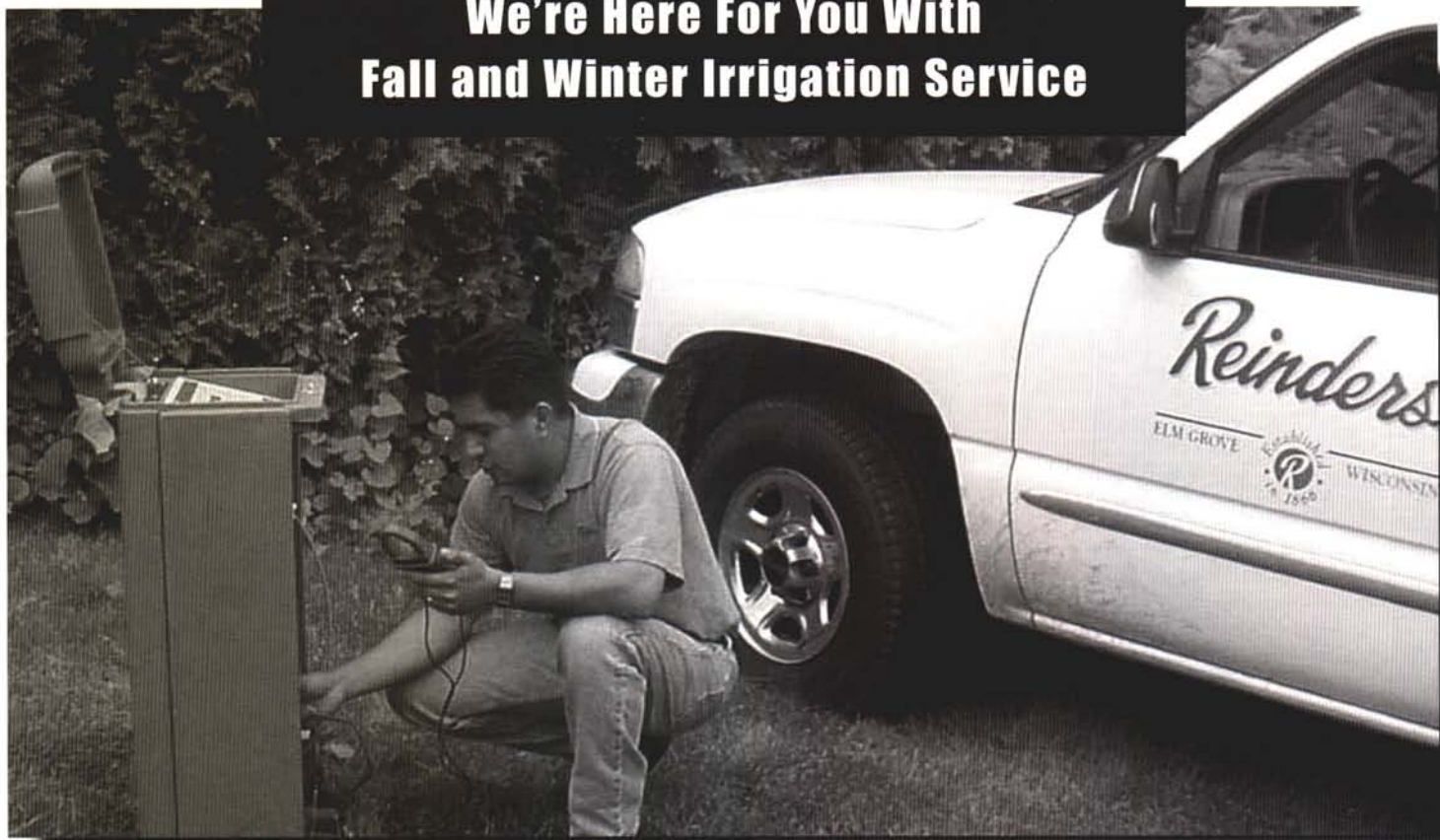
wing was added to provide more rooms. In 1993 a third wing was completed and the American Club celebrated its 75th anniversary. The number of rooms stood at 237 and 21,000 square feet of convention space was available to organizations like the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association and our Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium.

It would be difficult to find a better venue anywhere in the country than the one we have had in our backyard for many years.

If you didn't make it to Symposium last year, trust me and make certain you are there in November. And bring your spouse along; she'll love all that there is to do in Kohler, Sheboygan and the American Club. ♣



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A Long, Hot, Dry Summer

By **Monroe S. Miller**, Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

Chad Grimm drove up the slight incline to the shop late afternoon on a weekday in early August. He looked bushed, both physically and psychologically, probably because he was. He had a lot of company among those in our profession that time of the season who felt the same way.

"I've just about had enough of this," Chad said in a tone of voice that spoke volumes of how tired he was.

Not many of us, late in the summer, were having all that much fun, especially in areas of Wisconsin that were as dry as we were for the summer months. The effects of heat and lack of rainfall are unrelenting and require constant and unflagging attention, seven days a week. The work can wear you down.

The past two months served as reminders that irrigation systems at

best supplement rainfall. Areas that get 4X coverage dictate a lot of hand watering for areas that only receive 1X coverage. Although the plant disease situation was not overwhelming (except for those up against anthracnose), the Japanese beetles were thicker than flies or mosquitoes, and the cutworms visited three generations on some courses.

This kind of unrelenting weather wears down a young golf course staff, taking a lot of the fun out of the summer for them. In some cases, kids hung the work boots up earlier than they had promised.

But, always, the weather cools, it rains a little and the subsequent relief feels oh so good. Weather inflicted scars begin to heal and one's attitude improves dramati-

cally. The seemingly endless days of heat and cicadas singing and golf tournaments are coming to a close. The rush is almost over. We even find our enthusiasm again!

We are on the cusp of the season when green gives way to gold and red and orange. The tangy smell of autumn - evergreens and leaf mold - will be in the air before we know it.

So, the autumn fun begins - aerifying and football games and even a well-deserved vacation. Here's hoping the wonderful months of September and October are, well, wonderful for you.

The graphics from the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service are included here and tell the story of the weather for the past two months.

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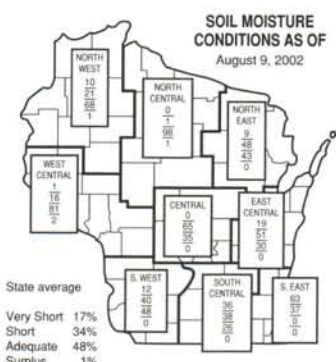
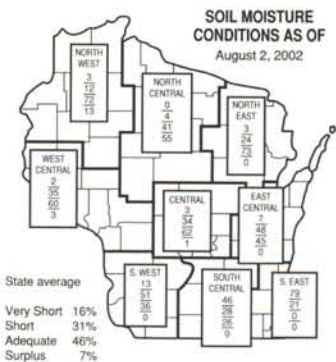
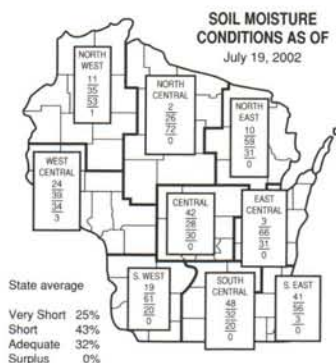
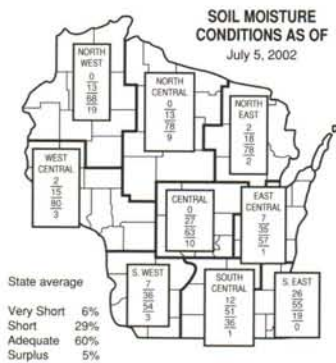
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Congratulations to Lee Bruce. And thanks for all he has done to change and improve and beautify the landscape in his fifty years in business. Not many are able to lay claim to a career as productive as

his has been. The WTA Field Day was a good time to pause and recognize him for it.

Here is a little bit of good news for the manufacturing sector of the Wisconsin economy. John Deere is closing its two-year old Gator utility vehicle production facility in Williamsburg, Virginia. They are consolidating utility vehicle production at the Horicon Deere plant. Part of the reason is the five-month break at Horicon as a result of the riding mower production schedule. This move will allow them to use the workforce all year long. The move is going to take place by October 31st.

Marc Schwarting had a nice treat in July - he was chosen to play (along with The Bridges' owner Greg Rice) in the Pro-Am at the PGA Tour John Deere Classic at Deere Run in Moline, Illinois. Congratulations to Marc.

Like you, I am looking forward to the pleasant days of fall. Before you know it, we will be talking about frost delays and Symposium speakers, the WTA Fundraiser at Blackwolf Run and plans for the GCSAA conference.

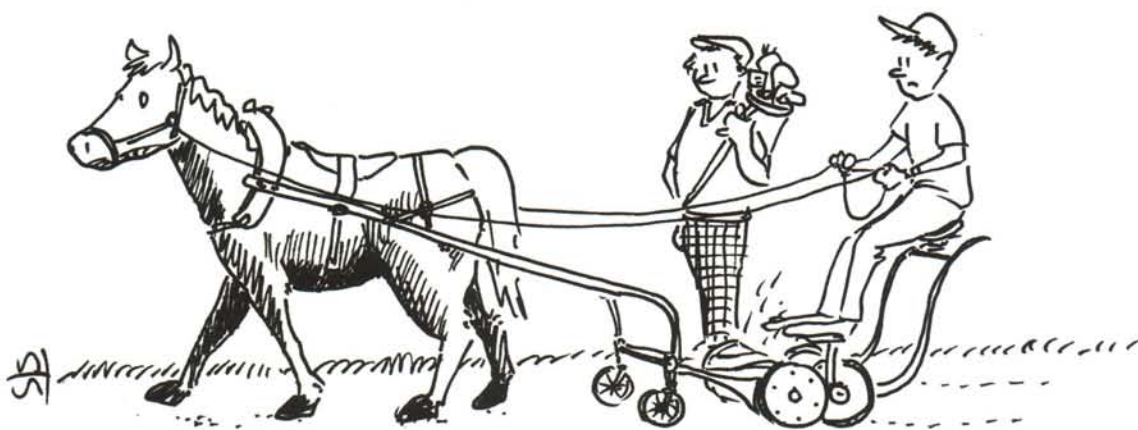
Bring it on! ♣



Shirley and Lee Bruce at the 2002 WTA Field Day where Lee was recognized for 50 years of outstanding work in the landscape industry.



Visitors to the Noer Facility for all time will know of the respect his colleagues and peers have for Lee Bruce.



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