

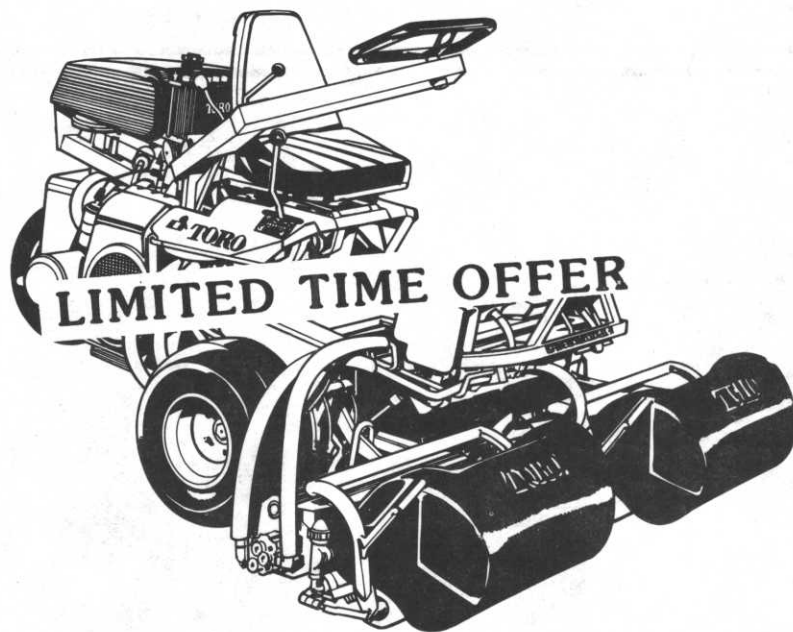
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HOLE NOTES

Official publication of the MINNESOTA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

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Necrology

We are sorry to have to report the death of Life Member Cal Polsean, Sr. on Thursday, January 14. Cal was the long time superintendent of the Arrowhead Country Club in Rapid City, South Dakota. He retired in 1978 to Hill City, South Dakota. He was a member of the M.G.C.S.A. for over thirty-five years. His son, Cal, Jr., is the superintendent at the Westward Ho Country Club in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

LARRY MUELLER

Now that the 1982 G.C.S.A.A. Turf Conference in New Orleans is over and most of us have returned to work, it is a good time to reflect on our successes and failures of 1981 and make plans to improve our over all operations for 1982. No matter how successful we were last year, there are always a few areas we would like to smooth out. Good planning now can save us unnecessary hassle next summer.

I would like to thank George Jennrich and the Woodhill Country Club for hosting the January meeting. It was a very good day for visiting and we all enjoyed hearing from Woodhill's retired superintendent, Carl Anderson.

It is with regret that I report the passing of Cal Polsean, Sr. of Hill City, South Dakota. A retired member of our association, Cal was a familiar face at our annual conferences for many years in spite of the distance he had to travel. Our sympathy goes to his family. His son, Cal, Jr., is an active member of our association.

Our spring Mini-Seminar is set for Tuesday, March 9 at the Town and Country Club in St. Paul. Dale Caldwell, our Education Chairman, is putting together an excellent slate of speakers. We should all try to attend this seminar as it will be time well spent. I hope to see each of you there.

There are two sides to
every argument—but
no end

Everyone hears only
what he understands

GROOMING THE PUTTING SURFACE

by James T. Snow, U.S.G.A. Senior Agronomist, Northeastern Region

To most golfers, turf management involves little more than mowing, fertilizing, irrigation and occasional applications of chemicals to control various unidentified pests. The many details of a good turfgrass management program go unnoticed by most of us, and perhaps this is as it should be.

One of these details which golf superintendents concern themselves with is the grooming of the putting surface. Providing a smooth, true, fast surface involves much more than frequent mowing. Many little tricks of the trade are utilized to obtain the desired results. To appreciate fully why some of these techniques are necessary and how they work, it is helpful to understand how the putting green grasses grow if they receive only minimum maintenance. Both bentgrass and bermudagrass, two of the most important grasses cultured for use on greens in this country, tend to produce prostrate-type growth when they receive a minimum program of regular mowing. If allowed to continue, this results in a textured, leafy appearance which is sometimes referred to as grain. Grain is the subject of lengthy arguments in many locker rooms, but there is little doubt that slow, bumpy, untrue greens are one of the consequences.

To combat this problem, techniques have evolved to force the prostrate-type growth to grow more upright. The results are comparable to putting on a shag rug versus putting on a tightly-knit, dense carpet, although the actual cutting height has much less to do with the difference than many people believe.

Perhaps the best place to begin a program of grooming the putting turf is with the greens mower itself. Some models have accessory brushes which can be mounted to the frame and project out in front of the mower as it moves across the green. These brushes are made of wire or thin metal strips and act to fluff up the turf, especially the prostrate-type growth, before it is mowed to produce a crisp, clean cut. Another accessory is the comb, which is mounted near the front roller on the mowing unit. It is simply a bar with metal teeth which project down into the turf and fluff it up before it is cut. Also a special grooved roller, called the Wiele Roller, can be used instead of the traditional solid roller on the front of the mowing unit. This grooved roller tends less to mat the grass down before it is cut than the other. These three accessories are inexpensive and convenient to use. They function as part of the mowing machine and do not require an extra operation to achieve the desired results. However, sometimes other techniques also must be employed to combat successfully the buildup of grain on the greens.

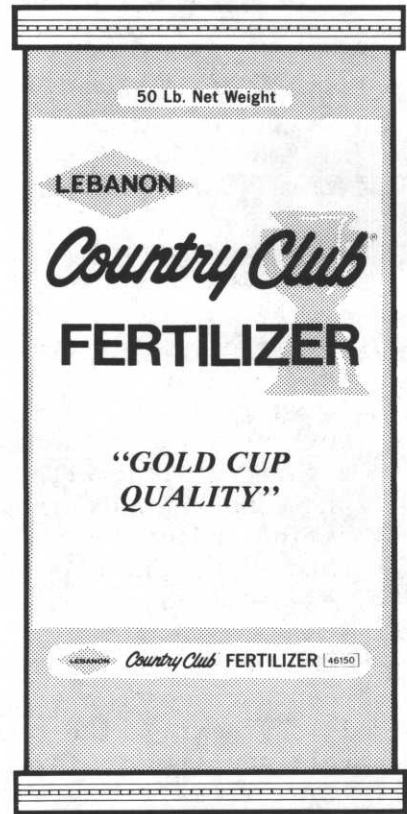
An effective, easy method is to drag some type of mat across the turf surface before the green is mowed. This works on the same principle as the mower-mounted brushes, but good results are achieved usually much faster. The mats are made often of metal, but any convenient material may be used. In fact, utility brooms are used often to brush the greens before mowing.

Another very effective technique for grooming the turf is to vertical mow the greens. This is known also as verticutting the greens and involves the use of specialized mowing units with vertical cutting blades to cut down into the turf surface. They are similar to the units available to the homeowner from rental centers and are used for dethatching lawns. This technique is based on the principle that the vertical blades will cut through the thatch and remove the prostrate-type growth, to produce a smooth, true putting surface. The secret of this operation is to set the units very shallow so that they just nick the surface of the turf. A good rule of thumb is that if you can see the grooves the machine is making, it is cutting too deeply. It is recommended that verticutting be done frequently, several times per month is possible, especially during the spring and fall when weather conditions are favorable. Verticutting greens is a very effective means of controlling the grain, but it requires the purchase of a separate machine or units which fit into the triplex putting green mower, and it takes extra time to perform the operation. However, the results would appear to justify the means.

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VOYKIN IS WINNER OF GCSAA'S LEO FESER AWARD FOR 1981

Paul N. Voykin, golf course superintendent of Briarwood Country Club, Deerfield, Ill., will receive the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America's Leo Feser Award during opening ceremonies of the Association's annual Turfgrass Conference and Show in New Orleans February 1.

The award, named for the founding editor of the Association's magazine, GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT, honors the best superintendent-written contribution to the magazine during the past year. Voykin's award-winning article, "Overgrooming is Overspending", appeared in the November/December issue of the magazine.

Voykin is the author of two books on lawn care and currently is working on a third dealing with lawn games. He has written articles for numerous trade and consumer magazines and is a frequent speaker at professional turf organization and garden club meetings. His GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT article detailed changes he had made in Briarwood's maintenance practices which substantially reduced expenses while providing a more challenging test of golf.

"The desire to improve and excel in the maintenance of our golf courses has been carried to a ridiculous and costly extreme", Voykin wrote. "If we did less grooming, the country clubs could save money and have a more challenging golf course with fewer headaches".

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- Single, rear-wheel steering provides extreme maneuverability and a 12-inch turning radius.
- Simple, functional, sturdy design makes it easy to maintain in your own shop. Standard, off-the-shelf belts and parts are interchangeable with any National mower.
- All-mechanical, ground and reel drives.
- Provides a 71-inch (180cm) cut with one-pass mowing. Trims close to any obstruction.
- Designed for easiest operator convenience. Clutch throttle, mower clutch, gear lever and mower lifts are all at operator's fingertips.
- Kohler, 4-cycle, cast iron engine for rugged, durable operation.

SPECIFICATIONS

TRACTOR

- Frame:** Welded tubular steel.
- Gears:** All machined from solid steel, carborized, hardened and tempered.
- Speed:** Two forward and reverse up to 7mph.
- Clutches:** Belt tightener type for traction and mowers.
- Differential:** Automotive type, all hardened gear.
- Tires:** Full pneumatic power grip. Front, 650 x 8. Rear, 650 x 6.
- Steering:** Cable.
- Engine:** 8HP Kohler, 4-cycle. Cast iron.

MOWER

- Mowers:** Three, 25". Free floating, power driven.
- Width of cut:** 71 inches (180cm).
- Reels:** Five blades 13/64" thick x 1-9/32" wide. 6" Dia. reels adjust down to bed knives. Timken reel bearings. Reels disengage for transport.
- Bed Knife:** 13/64" x 2". Upturned lip of alloy steel.
- Mower clutches:** Belt tightener type for mowers.

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Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association

AFFILIATED WITH THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT'S ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

MINI SEMINAR



TUESDAY MARCH 9 1982

Town and Country Club, St. Paul, Minn.

SCHEDULE

- 9:00 am Registration and coffee
 - 10:00 am Welcome. Larry Mueller, President M.G.C.S.A.
 - 10:15 am Dale A. Gustafson, Landscape Design Consultant, Dundee Nurseries
 - 11:00 am Dr. Ward Steinstra, University of Minnesota, Department of Plant Pathology
 - 11:45 am Lunch and cash bar
 - 1:00 pm Dr. Harold Pellett, University of Minnesota, Department of Horticulture
 - 1:45 pm Dr. Donald White, University of Minnesota, Department of Horticulture
 - 2:30 pm Break
 - 2:45 pm Leroy Young, Minnesota Toro, Inc., Irrigation Department
 - 3:30 pm M.G.C.S.A. business meeting
- Adjournment

Advance Registration
 Names _____

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 March 9, 1982
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 includes lunch and
 break.
 Total enclosed \$ _____
 Make check payable to: M.G.C. S.A.

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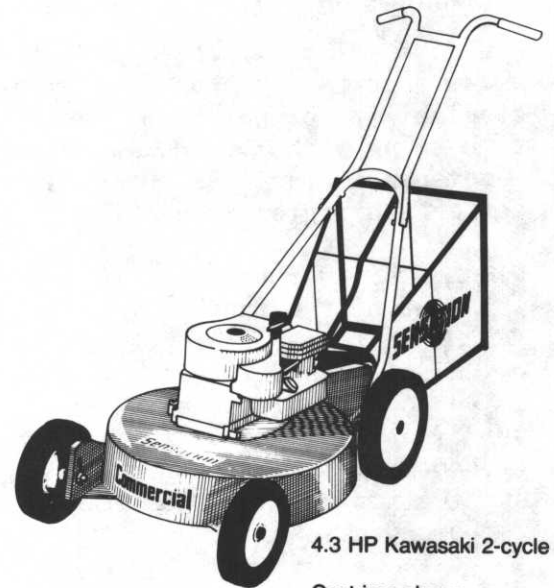
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KERRY GLADER
Membership Chm.

REACH OUT - We've Got A Good Thing Going!

As with any professional organization at some time in a given year, you have a membership promotion. This is a time when M.G.C.S.A. members should seek out others in our profession and encourage them to obtain membership. Between now and our March meeting we all have the opportunity to talk to others about the many benefits of our association as well as to invite them to the Mini-Conference on March 9 at the Town and Country Club, St. Paul.

The more members this organization has, the more potential we have for greater input into areas such as research and different ideas on maintenance. We all will grow with the availability of new clubs to attend for monthly meetings. We know that besides having time to be with friends and other professionals, we gain greatly from seeing first hand maintenance practices and ideas of other superintendents. Anyone not yet in our organization would greatly benefit from this.

Please remember that we are the association, an association of professionals all dealing with one of the toughest, most unpredictable elements of daily living. I'm referring to "Mother Nature". When we all have long days, troublesome diseases and difficult members, we can at least all get together and discuss these areas with our friends. We can also solve some problems, play some golf and attend educational seminars. When we look at all our organization does for us, it's doubly important that we spread the word to prospective members. Let's spread the word and share ourselves with others. Use the membership application on the opposite page to tie down that interested person! Vague promises do not produce results.

Some of our most recent new members are:

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CLUB</u>
A	Brian L. Evenson	Birchwood Golf Course, Pelican Rapids
A	Steve Christensen	Town & Country Club, Devils Lake, N.D.
BII	Rick Traver	Glencoe Country Club, Glencoe
C	John Burke	Fair Oaks Golf Course
F	William D. Kaiser	Reeds Sales and Service, St. Paul
F	Joe Sampair	Sampair Enterprises, St. Paul
F	Joe Wilmes	Sampair Enterprises, St. Paul
BII	Tom Maki	St. Cloud Country Club, St. Cloud

.....And While We're At It

Are you a member of our national organization, The Golf Course Superintendents' of America? If not, consider this: G.C.S.A.A. is a multi-faceted professional organization, based on the premise that through a joining of like forces, with similar needs, a stronger body will come into existence, for the benefit of all.

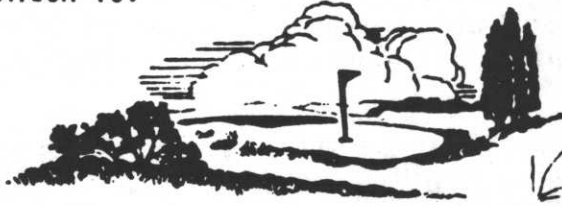
Membership in G.C.S.A.A. will provide direct and indirect benefits to both you and your club. Because G.C.S.A.A. is a member-oriented organization, the more obvious benefits are seen going to the member; however, the club also realizes significant advantages in having its Superintendent become a member of the Association. In fact, most clubs are willing to pay for their Superintendent's membership in G.C.S.A.A. By joining with G.C.S.A.A., you can become the Golf Course Superintendent you and your club would like you to be. This is accomplished through the growing list of membership services which include educational programs, publications and special services.

Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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Membership Application

I HEREBY APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE MINNESOTA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION:

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

NAME _____ AGE _____ SINGLE _____ MARRIED _____

HOME ADDRESS _____ HOME PHONE: A/C _____ WIFE'S NAME _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CLUB _____ WORK PHONE: A/C _____

CLUB ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SEND MAIL TO HOME ADDRESS () CLUB ADDRESS (). PLEASE CHECK ONE.

MY PRESENT POSITION IS _____

LENGTH OF SERVICE IN PRESENT POSITION _____

I AM APPLYING FOR CLASS: (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

- \$30.00 CLASS A SUPERINTENDENT FOR THREE YEARS OR MORE.
- 30.00 CLASS B SUPERINTENDENT MORE THAN ONE YEAR BUT LESS THAN THREE YEARS.
- 30.00 CLASS BII SUPERINTENDENT FOR LESS THAN ONE YEAR OR AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT.
- 20.00 CLASS C STUDENT
- 20.00 CLASS D TECHNICIAN
- 20.00 CLASS E AFFILIATE: GROWTH, MANAGEMENT OR PRODUCTION OF TURFGRASS
- 40.00 CLASS F ASSOCIATE MEMBER OR OWNER

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____. ONE YEAR'S DUES MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.
REFUNDED IF NOT ACCEPTED.

I PROMISE TO OBSERVE AND ABIDE BY THE BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

DATE _____ APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE _____

OVER