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# HOLE NOTES

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA  
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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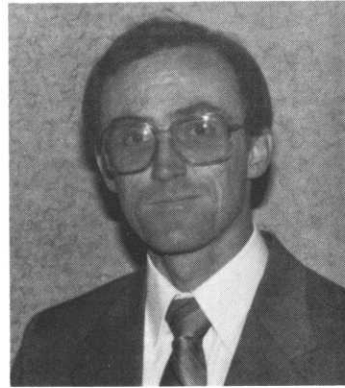
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

DALE CALDWELL

In October several of us had the opportunity to attend a dinner honoring Roger Kisch for twenty years of service to Southview Country Club. We in M.G.C.S.A. all know how dedicated and intense Roger is in the maintenance of Southview. It was a real pleasure to see Roger get the recognition he deserves from the membership. It was nice to see such a large membership turnout at the event. It was kind of a surprise to see Roger show up. Those of you who know Roger at all also know that his priorities are occasionally slightly misdirected in the fall of the year.

As an update on the local pesticide ordinance issue, the City of St. Paul has amended their ordinance to require that only lawn care firms purchase a business license from the city. This is expected to be passed by the city council soon.

Furthermore, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture has announced plans to amend the Minnesota Pesticide Control Law. This will be proposed in the 1986 legislative session. One of the major elements of the proposed amendments states that "no local governments may prohibit or in any way attempt to regulate pesticides at the local level. It is the intent of the state (Dept. of Ag.) to solely occupy the field of regulation regarding pesticides."

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# PREFERRED TURFGRASS IN FAIRWAYS

by PAUL MAYES

Golf Course Superintendent  
Midland Hills Country Club

In the past three to five years there has been an increased interest for better quality fairway turf in Minnesota. Color, playability and height of cuts have been the major area of concern. With this in mind, we must consider what is necessary to achieve these important items.

In Minnesota most golf courses have a large population of poa annua in their fairways. Here at Midland is no exception. The poa is a high maintenance turfgrass if you are wanting to keep it disease and heat stress free. Insects also seem to desire this soft-leaf plant. The poa does not prefer low heights of cut. It is also a messy seed plant in the spring. The color is a "pale" green in spring and fall. Poa also does not like extreme cold as well as heat. There must be some other turf plant which is more reasonable to manage at cold or hot temperatures, drought tolerant, disease resistant and prefers low heights of cut.

Of course the answer we are looking for is bentgrass. It is drought tolerant, has less disease pressure, likes lower heights of cut and needs less fertility. But what kind is best for fairway turf? We have so many varieties to choose from. University studies show that Penncross or Penneagle are among the top of preferred types of bentgrass.

At Midland we decided to take a study of these two types of bentgrass to see which does do the best in fairways. With the experience of changing fairways from bluegrass to bentgrass in Indiana and Illinois, I decided to set up a turf experiment at Midland Hills. The Chicago area has been doing the change over for the past ten years at most clubs. At Midland we wanted to see what was available to us. We started with six plots. Each with a different mix of

bentgrass and ryegrass. We introduced ryegrass to some plots to see if playability would be different. Each plot was as follows: 100% Penncross, 100% Penneagle and 50-50 Penncross and Penneagle. We repeated this rotation and added pennfine ryegrass with it to give us six plots.

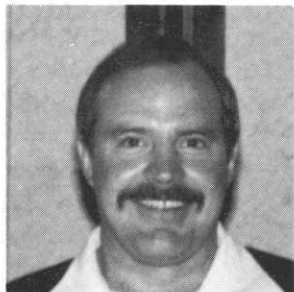
The process was to eliminate any other plant from competing with our desired turf type. Our procedure was as follows: Spray area with Roundup at one quart per acre, three days later aerate with 5/8" spoons, overseed with bentgrass at 1 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. and ryegrass at 10 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft., verti-cut in two directions at 1/4" deep, drag, blow off debris, mow at preferred height, fertilized and apply a fungicide for algae and melting out. We kept the surface one inch moist at all times for 21 days. After that, normal irrigation was sufficient. Three days after seeding we noticed ryegrass breaking to the surface of the dead grass. Within a week it was a 1/4" high. The bentgrass started germinating in five days. We first mowed all plots at the three week day from seeding. At four weeks, tillers of bentgrass began to spread. At five weeks, the bentgrass was hunting for bare areas to fill in. Also at this time we were mowing at least twice a week at 1/2". In six weeks, the plots with ryegrass were playable. In seven weeks all plots were playable. In eight weeks we could not find a bare area in the plots.

Our evaluation is not complete at this time but we do wish to make some general views. The Penncross plot seems to be the most playable at this time. The ball "sits up" better and the turf is aggressive. The Penneagle plot is not as good. Penneagle grows more "upright" than Penncross. Therefore, the ball sits down in the turf more. Also horizontal growth is less so the healing of a divot takes longer. Color is about the same. The 50-50 mix is evaluated about the same as the Penneagle plot. The plots with ryegrass are the least desired. Ryegrass is tough to cut. The advantage of the ryegrass plots is darker color, earlier play and helps in erosion control during bentgrass germination. We wish to see how the ryegrass fairs through the winter and how

Continued

much area the bentgrass takes over.

Compared to poa fairways, all plots were more playable, had better color, and easier to manage at low heights of cut. I invite everyone out to Midland to see our plots. We are going to put the plots under severe stress next season to compare them to poa fairways.



## EDITOR'S CORNER

FRED ANDERSON, JR.

Congratulations to our 1985 M.G.C.S.A. Golf Champion John Nylund, Braemar Golf Course, who brought the Golden Valley Country Club to its knees. And that was some undertaking, especially with the "tough" pin placements and weather that

seemed to change almost every hole. So congratulations again, John. A job well done goes to Mike Olson, host superintendent, and your staff for the preparation of Golden Valley Country Club for our event. Also please thank the entire clubhouse staff for the use of facilities and the fine meal and service.

Thanks to Jack Kolb and staff from Turf Supply Company for providing our speaker, Mr. Tom Perkins, and his talk on "Growth Regulators." It's a topic we'll hear and read more about in our industry for years to come. And to last month's HOLE NOTES contributors Jerry Murphy, Somerset Country Club; Kerry Glader, St. Cloud Country Club; and Robert C. Shearman, Department of Horticulture, University of Nebraska.

John Nylund has an update on the vandalism done at Braemar this summer. The seven college students must each make a \$105.00 restitution payment. There were no other charges. Another reminder to send your "blue certification" seed tags to Kerry Glader. He'll collect and forward to the

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I must apologize for my lack of creative juices this month. I have spent many hours with pen in hand and nothing flows. Sorry. See you at the annual conference.

## TRANSITION AT STILLWATER

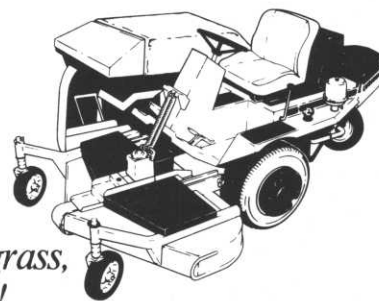
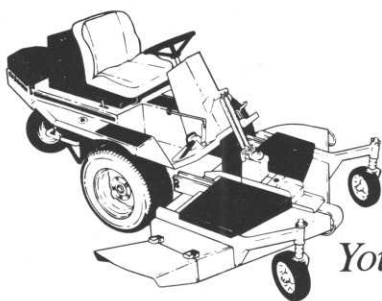
by KEVIN CLUNIS  
Superintendent Stillwater Country Club

As winter draws near at Stillwater Country Club I've taken some time to reflect on this past season. My first year here started on a sad note. I replaced the greenskeeper, Lyle Cran, who had worked here for 37 years. I had worked under him during the summers I attended college in

the late 1970's. I remember him as a man who worked hard and never complained. He was hired in 1947 as greenskeeper after one year's experience working on the grounds crew. He learned over the years what worked and what did not and stuck by those values all the time. He changed very little with the times but was successful at his job for doing so. He was able to get by for years with a shoestring and baling wire to keep the machines running. He spent very little money and, thus, kept the dues of the members down. Lyle gained construction experience when Stillwater expanded from nine holes to eighteen holes in 1957. That was the same year I was born.

What really helped Lyle out the most over the years has been the help of volunteers from the club. There were many rock-picking parties right after the construction was over. Lyle never turned down a volunteer worker no matter how big or small a job. One of Lyle's earliest memories was getting enough volunteers to round up a herd of cows that settled upon the lush fairways for grazing! Another  
Continued

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STILLWATER from Page 6

task using volunteers was a massive tree planting program instituted as soon as the Dutch Elm Disease was diagnosed at Stillwater Country Club. Other tasks included expansion of the maintenance building, tee construction and several painting projects.

Now that Lyle is gone, it is my turn to carry on the traditions at Stillwater Country Club that he left. As things change, many remain the same. Take for instance greens mowing. Years ago the only type of greens mower was a walker. Then they built the rider and everybody switched. Now the trend is toward going back to walkers. Stillwater's greens have always been cut by walkers and I will continue to do so as long as I am here. Lyle probably turned over in his grave when I test drove a riding greens mower this year. My philosophy is the same as Lyle's when it comes to spraying pesticides. At the first sign of disease, spray. This way you don't over spray chemicals into the environment and it keeps the costs down. I've continued to

use volunteer labor this year when the board set aside some tee and trap projects to do. The volunteers also helped on elm removal when I lost more than forty trees this year. It was nice to see the elms falling though, giving way to the younger trees that were planted ten years ago.

My main objective over the next few seasons is not to change anything but improve upon what I can. I am moving into a rigorous regular maintenance program on the course and a preventative maintenance program in the shop. I am keeping a careful watch of my budget and keep communications open with my greens chairman to inform him of all operations on the course.

Overall, I had a good season. The transition from an assistant to superintendent went smoothly. I have a good working relationship with the Board of Directors and the 415 members. As I gain more experience in the next few years, I will always keep in mind my predecessor and his ability to stay successful for many years.

See you in

# San Francisco

at the

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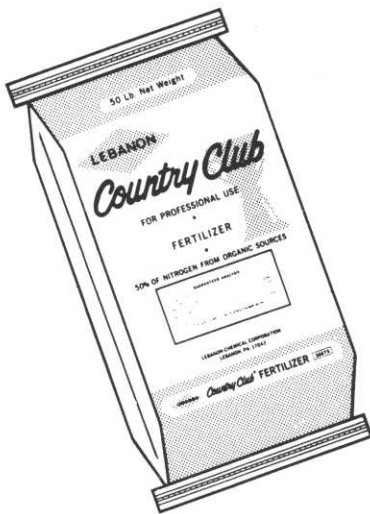


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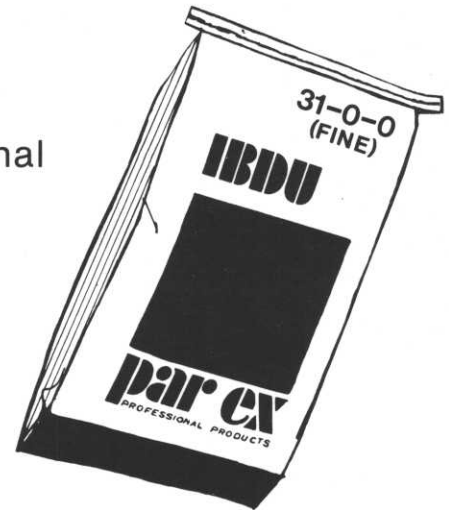
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Walter Braunig	91	15.00
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Mike Olson	36	10.00
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