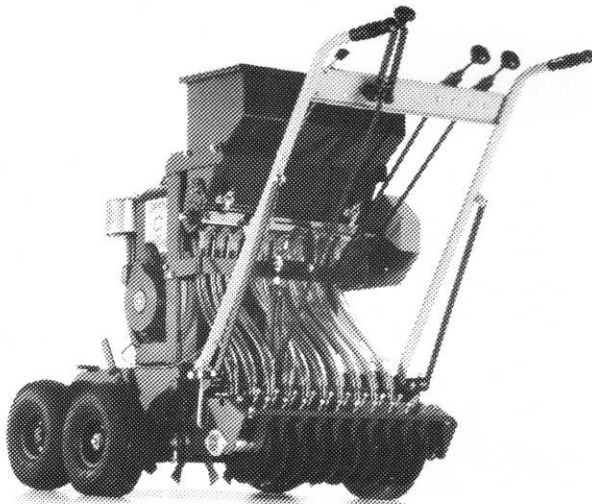


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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

SCOTT HOFFMANN, CGCS

I wonder if it's too late to buy stock in a good wetting agent manufacturer. This should go down as one of the all time hot, dry summers in Minnesota history, but judging from what I've seen, most of you have been up to the challenge and are providing very playable golf courses. Actually the drought suits my game just fine. I've gained 50 yards off the tee, albeit still not down the middle, but it feels great!

On the more serious side, this drought has taken its toll on a number of Minnesota golf courses irrigating from surface water sources. The irony of surface water irrigation is that when we need it the most, we are most likely to be cut off. As Minnesota water appropriation statutes are written, golf courses are amongst the lowest priority users.

Although up-grading our priority rating may prove difficult if not impossible, there may be some positive changes we can effect. One of these would involve a reasonable warning notice prior to cut-off. As the law now stands, golf course irrigators are not entitled to appropriate notice or opportunity for hearing, and in some instances this year, golf courses have been cut from their water supply with less than two days notice.

I urge that whether or not your water supply is affected, you familiarize yourself with the Minnesota Water Appropriations Statutes, Rules, and Policy #6115.0620-0810 which can be obtained from your Regional DNR Division of Waters, and take time to express your concerns to your local legislators. I can assure you I will do the same.

Mike Netzel had the winter covers off in time for our July meeting at Northland and the superb Donald Ross layout was enjoyed by the more than ninety that attended. This month's speaker provided by Turf Supply was Mark Ascerno, U. of M. entomologist. Mark assured us the drought was not adversely affecting all life in Minnesota, with the insect world having a banner year.

As a result of a poll taken on the July meeting registrations, the MGCSA will not be sponsoring a bus to our August meeting at Rochester Country Club, but we expect a great turn-out for our Annual Superintendents' Championship and retirement dinner for Kurt Erdmann. Can't believe it! Rochester and Northland back to back. I think our arrangements chairmen deserve a raise!

GREEN IS THE COLOR OF GOLF

A History of Turfgrass Management

by WILLIAM H. BENGUEFIELD
National Director, USGA Green Section

Early on, "green" has been the color of golf. In those early days when Dutch Traders called at St. Andrews (one of the world's largest trading markets and fairs in the 12th century), the green Linksland between harbor and town was ideally suited for Het Kolven--a popular ball and stick game from the Netherlands. The sandy coastal soils; the smooth wind-blown, rolling terrain and the soft, springy turf sustained by howling gales and gentle rains produced the Green Links. Natural, too, were the pits of sand where sheep huddled for shelter, later to become hazards in the evolving game of "goff." Through the centuries the game cast its spell over these people and their land and eventually over the earth.

These were simple times. The implements and balls of the day were as simple as the playing conditions crude. But the game persisted from the 12th Century on and by 1700, townsfolk of St. Andrews simply called the narrow strip of land leading to the harbor and the sea "The Green." The course was known in this way for generations. There they would tee up with a handful of sand, hopefully drive the leather-wrapped feathered ball to the "fair-green" all the while keeping it out of the surrounding heather and mass of entanglements. Once on the fair-green, the next target was on the 'play-green,' a roughly prepared area with an equally roughly prepared hole in it. Sometimes the hole was so deep it took a long arm to retrieve the expensive ball. In early 'golfe,' the winner was determined by the number of holes he won in the contest, not by the total number of strokes taken during the round. Whether it be 5 or 15 was of minor concern, just as long as he 'won the hole.'

It was in 1754--a rather recent date in the annals of golf, that the Royal and Ancient Golf Club was formed. Since the beginning of time, the Old Course has always belonged--and still does--to the citizens of St. Andrews. The Royal and Ancient Golf Club sought playing privileges there and in return worked out an agreement with the town fathers to pay for the maintenance of the course. This raises an interesting historical point, at least from the grass growers perspective. The Royal and Ancient was actually concerned with the care and maintenance of the turf on the Old Course fully 100 years before assuming responsibility for The Rules of Golf! In other words, course conditioning received very early attention. It was not until 1892 that the R&A became the one and only governing body for the Rules. (Unification

of the American and British Codes of Rules did not take place until 1951.)

By the end of the 1700's, the first greenkeepers came into being. Not unlike today, they were charged with making things better for the golfer. From Horace Hutchinson's book, "British Golf Links," (1897), there appears this record from the Aberdeen Golf Links on July 6, 1820:

"The secretary was instructed to pay Alexander Monroe at the rate of L4 (approximately \$15) per annum for taking charge of the Links and providing accommodation for the member's club boxes, and for that sum Monroe is to pay particular attention to keeping the holes in good order. If that was not bad enough, the above allowance was diminished in 1822 to L3, an alteration which may be regarded as an illustration of the well known prudence of the Aberdonians in financial matters."

Long before there was golf on the western side of the Atlantic, the Society of Golfers at St. Andrews (1832) decided to rebuild some of their "old greens." They enlarged them to the enormous and famous double greens of St. Andrews as we know them today!

And so the care of "The Green" had its beginning. The early golf professionals frequently became the greenkeepers as well. Neither job was known for its security even in those days. If a man could win at competitive golf it was all to his credit. But he would also be wise to know how to make club heads or golf balls or care for the course just in case.

Old Tom Morris, still considered the Grand Old Man of Golf and four times winner of the British Open, became greenkeeper of St. Andrews in 1865 and continued until 1904. He had two rules for his maintenance program: "Mair sound, Honeyman" was his cry for his assistant Honeyman to apply evermore topdressings of sharp sand to the greens and fairways in order to "maintain the character of the grass." His second rule was, "Nae Sunday Play. The course needs a rest if the gowfers don't." As a tribute to Old Tom Morris for his care of the Old Course, the first patented hole cutter developed by Charles Anderson was presented to him in 1869.

Golf was now sinking its roots in this country and around the world. It caused people to take an increasing interest in grass. The first turf garden in America was established at Manchester, Connecticut in 1885 and the first turfgrass research was recorded in 1895 at Kingston, Rhode Island. Grazing sheep were still used in the early 1900's for mowing and nurturing the green cover of golf courses. But the lawnmower, having its start as early as 1830, was slowly adopted for horsedrawn use and special leather shoes were placed on the horses so the golfing surface would not be disturbed.



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Now two explosions lie just ahead for golf in America. The first occurred in 1913 when an unknown American caddy by the name of Francis Ouimet beat the world's greatest golfers of the day, Englishmen Vardon and Ray for the U.S. Open Championship at The Country Club, Brookline, Massachusetts. The popularity of the game soared. About the same time, agricultural science had budded and was about to bloom. The USGA, organized in 1894, supported publication of a new book in 1917, "Turf for Golf Courses" written by Drs. Piper and Oakley of the Department of Agriculture. These men were not only scientists but golfers as well. Others throughout the country who loved the game could see the need for better, more dependable playing surfaces. Agricultural science would now serve golf.

The Green Section of the USGA was formed in November, 1920 and gained immediate support from green chairmen and greenkeepers (now they prefer to be called golf course superintendents) throughout the country. It's difficult for us today to even imagine or understand the complaints of the golfer just 40 years ago! For example, earthworms were a major problem especially on greens. Either their casts or their bodies were always in the line of a putt. One early Green Section agronomist recalls the golfers would complain bitterly that their ball would invariably be deflected away from the hole while putting over these impediments. In all his years however, he never once heard a golfer complain that his ball was

deflected into the hole by the earthworm. Surely, the scientist thought, statistically this must have happened at least now and then!

Disease was the big grass killer of those days and Dr. John Montieth, then Director of the Green Section, in the late 1920's developed the first effective fungicides for their control. His findings are still in use today.

The march of science made possible new machinery, new grasses, chemical fertilizers, weed controls, insecticides, improved soil mixes, irrigation and drainage principles, etc. All followed in blazing succession from the early 1930's to the present day.

Dr. Fanny Fern Davis received the 1975 USGA Green Section Award for her tremendous contribution to golf through work with turfgrasses. During World War II, Dr. Davis left her job with the National Capital Parks Service and served as Acting Director of the USGA Green Section. During this time, she was instrumental in recognizing and adapting newly developed chemical plant hormones for the control of broadleaf weeds in turf. If you have ever played golf in a sea of dandelion seedheads, you will recognize immediately the importance of her work with 2,4-D. She ushered in a new era for the game. Dr. Davis' contribution in weed control has had far-reaching effects and she is the first woman to receive the Green Section Award.



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The idea of an agency to carry out turfgrass research and disseminate unbiased information caught on. Throughout the world, other golf associations recognized the value and formed their own Green Sections. The USGA Green Section's mission has changed little over the years. It did and still does conduct research and disseminates unbiased, factual information to USGA Member Clubs and their superintendents on matters pertaining to turfgrass management.

Golf has come a long way from the days of the Dutch Traders at St. Andrews. Even within our lifetime, we have seen the changes from the cleek, spoon and mashie to the numbered irons and woods. There is little resemblance between the implements and balls of the 1920's and those you see in play today. Nor is there any

resemblance in course conditioning. Today's golf course superintendent may not know how to shape a club head, wrap a grip or sew a feather ball, but he does know how to grow championship grass for golf. As you walk our golf courses today, take a moment to marvel at what the early Scots called "The Green"; that is the entire golf course. Golf Course Superintendents and Green Committees use the turfgrass knowledge of centuries to produce the best possible playing surfaces for testing today's contestants.

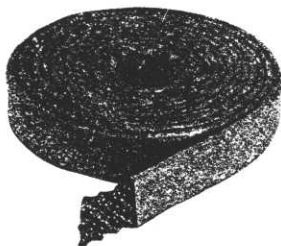
And after you have played our course or galleried at a Championship, surely you will look back at the excitement and drama of the play....and the memory of The Green.

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EDITOR'S CORNER

BRAD KLEIN, CGCS

Where has the summer gone? It's almost over and I'm sure that many of us have some plans and ideas about handling a drought in the future. Whether it be more reliable water sources, better coverage or just more trained water men. This year we have found that the state with 10,000 lakes is temporarily drying up. Our neighbors to the east, west and south have had regulations on water use for some time and this may be an opportunity to learn from our neighbors about more efficient water usage.

It was a real pleasure to play Northland Country Club July 11. I had heard many things about this unique golf course and wasn't disappointed at all. Mike Netzel and his crew offered us a beautiful course and many thanks go out to him. I do have one suggestion. You really should hand out pocket transits to strangers to read

those greens.

What makes our meetings so successful are the speakers and vendors that participate. Many thanks to Turf Supply for bringing in Dr. Ascerno to discuss some timely entomology with us. North Star Turf had a real complete display on hand and I'm sure got some ideas flowing.

August 15 takes us to Rochester Country Club to honor Kurt Erdmann on his upcoming retirement and have our annual MGCSA Golf Championship. I'm sure the competition will be keen, but in your haste of preparation don't forget your coat and tie.

SPRAY & HOO RAY!

*Some players shoot birds
without happy words.*

*Even eagles will leave them
complacent.*

*But the players worthwhile
Are those with a smile—*

*Who approach from the fairway
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Cliff Mackay



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HISTORY OF GOLF IN MINNESOTA ROCHESTER GOLF & C C

by **JAMES D. GARDNER**
Assistant Golf Course Superintendent
Rochester Golf and Country Club

Rochester was one of the seven charter members in the Minnesota Golf Association (MGA) in 1901. The other initial members were Town and Country Club and Merriam Golf Club in St. Paul, Minikahda Club and Bryn Mawr Club in Minneapolis, Tapeta Golf Club in Faribault and Meadow Brook Club in Winona. Golf in Rochester up to 1916 was played on a leased piece of land just east of town. This pasture was maintained by a herd of sheep and a few goats with the greens given more attention by hand mowing. At that time, the course was called The Silver Creek Golf Club.

In 1916 The Rochester Golf Club bought the present day land and secured Harry Turple (a seasonal New Orleans golf professional at Red Wing) to lay out a 9-hole golf course - 3,285 yards, Par 38, bogey 40.

Albert Warren Tillinghast "Tillie the Terror" then came upon the scene. During the winter of 1925, Mr. Tillinghast presented his plans to the board for an all new 18-hole

design. Construction of the new 18-holes started in the fall of 1926, with all 18-holes opening by July 5, 1927.

Rochester Golf and Country Club has hosted many professional exhibition matches during its early years. Some of these matches include the following: Jock Hutchinson and Chick Evans (Evans Scholars) in 1925, Walter Hagen (1926), Patty Berg (1938), and Byron Nelson (1945). Byron Nelson shot a 66 that day; a course record that stood until the 1950's. Wally Ulrich shot 64's in 1953 and 1956. Ulrich played on the pro tour in the 50's and won the 1954 Kansas City Open. He also shot a 60 (9 under par) on 18-holes at the Cavalier Yacht and Country Club in Virginia Beach. Now with fully matured trees lining each hole, the modern day record for Rochester Golf and Country Club is held by a half-dozen members at 66.

The present day evergreen-lined fairways were all hand planted in the early 30's under the direct supervision and hard work of Dr. W. D. Shelden. In 1947, The Shelden Tournament was conceived as an enduring tribute to Dr. Shelden's foresight and generous spirit. The Shelden attracted the leading pro's and amateurs from the five state area. Some of the past Shelden winners include: Joe Coria, Jack Fleck, Don Waryan, Wally Ulrich, Pat Sawyer and Dayton Olson. Today this annual tournament (held the third weekend in June) continues to be the big member-guest event of the year.

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Rochester Golf and Country Club has hosted 3 MGA Men's Amateur tournaments (1930, 56, 70), 3 MGA Women's Amateurs (1938, 52, 62), 1 State Open (1941), 2 Minnesota PGA's (1968, 78) and the 1967 Women's Trans-Mississippi.

In 1987 Rochester Golf and Country Club initiated a Restoration/Renovation plan directed by golf course architect Geoffrey Cornish. The plan evolved out of the green committee and the members pride in having an original A.W. Tillinghast golf course. The goal of this plan is to maintain the original character and integrity of the A.W. Tillinghast design. This plan includes re-establishing original green margins to regain some of the old Tillinghast "unique cupping positions". Also contouring of the fairways were marked by Mr. Cornish. This contouring reduced our fairway acreage from 40+ acres to less than 30. This will allow for more intensive fairway maintenance, playability improvements, create new interest to old straight line margins, accentuate shot values and show off the triplex mowing lines.

Tee recommendations were made for possible extensions and/or additions. It was also recommended that #1 tee be redesigned to correct an alignment problem, provide more teeing area and gain better usage of the site. Every existing bunker was evaluated to restore the original shapes that had been lost through time. Addition of lost fairway bunkers was recommended to coincide

with today's shot lengths and original Tillinghast shot values. Today's membership is very proud of their golf course and look forward to hosting the 1989 Minnesota Men's Amateur Tournament.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERVICE KURT ERDMANN

by **JAMES D. GARDNER**
Assistant Golf Course Superintendent
Rochester Golf and Country Club

Kurt started his career in the golf course business in 1944 at Soldiers Field Golf Course in Rochester. Sponsored by Paul Miller, he joined the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association in 1946. Some other superintendents that joined the state association around this time were George Ostler, Sr. (1949), John Fuller (1951), Lyle Cran (1951) and Irv Fuller and Gordy Miller (1949).

Kurt began his tenure at the Rochester Golf and Country Club in 1957. Bill Bergstadt was the club president. He joined the Golf Course Superintendents' Association in 1958 and attended his first conference in Chicago. As Kurt will attest to, there are many stories that involved George Ostler, John and Irv Fuller when they attended

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