

Peer-to-Peer-

(Continued from Page 10)

In my past life we had a very difficult time with divots. With the bunch type and slow growth habit of the fine fescue/colonial bentgrass mix on fairways and tees it was difficult to keep the fairways and tees from looking like a bomb went off. After a fair amount of grumblings from the crew about "topdressing" (that is what I called it, it didn't sound as tedious as "filling divots") we ended up hiring an individual to do it all. He would come in Monday through Friday and immediately head out and hit all of the landing areas and par 3 tees. Along with this he was also responsible for picking up all of the divots that could not be put back anywhere. We would still try to encourage all divots to be replaced but when we would drag fairways we would inevitably kick some divots up. We had three 30-gallon garbage cans behind the maintenance facility located next to the cart staging area, and the cart guys were responsible for filling the bottles but we would make up the mix. The mix was our construction sand (mason sand) with milorganite and fine fescue seed. I liked using only the fine fescue seed so the mix could be used in the rough as well. I still would rather see all divots replaced when

applicable; however I think that part of course etiquette may slowly be fading. I have seen it way too much where a golfer hits a shot and immediately looks for the sand bottle without even attempting to find the divot and put it back, aarrghhh. Great topic, I am excited to see the replies.

- Tod Blankenship
Oregon State University

At Alexandria Country Club, we provide seed and soil mix to our members. The pro shop staff fills the bottles. We provide the mix. In addition, the green maintenance staff seed and soil fairways. Also, players who seed and soil are directed to pick up and dispose of the divot.

- Donnacha O'Connor
Alexandria Country Club

Somerby provides a mixture of sand/peat (60/40), dyed green in tip and pour jugs. The clubhouse staff is responsible for keeping the jugs full. We have jugs on carts and for walkers. We have members that have adopted holes that they monitor for additional divot repair, and we have a monthly divot filling event with the members. We provide beverages and they contribute to the maintenance of their course.

- Eric Counselman
Somerby Golf Club

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ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF FINE FESCUE PUTTING GREENS

By **Brian Horgan, Andrew Hollman and Eric Watkins**

*Department of Horticultural Science
University of Minnesota*

Introduction

A focus of our research program at the University of Minnesota is to help turf managers be more efficient and effective in their day-to-day work lives. We accomplish this through breeding and genetics, product testing, environmental stewardship and looking into our crystal ball. For some strange reason, our crystal ball is coming up with the same message, LESS is BETTER!

You can interpret this in many different ways. LESS nutrients, LESS water, LESS pesticide, LESS labor, LESS resources, etc...Or you can interpret this as we can do BETTER by applying newer chemistries, having more control over our fertilizers and water, overseeding with new plant material, taking advantage of new equipment and BETTER management through cultural practices.

Shake up your 8-ball and tell me what you see in our future.

A Sports Turf Research Institute Agronomist, Henry Bechelet, from Bingley, England said, "Good greenkeeping is all about letting go of the looks without sacrificing the playing quality."

Are you ready to let go of the looks to play the LESS is BETTER game. We are giving it a try for you at the TROE Center.

Although not a novel research project from an international perspective, we are looking at finer grasses as putting green surfaces. Ongoing is research using velvet bentgrass on putting greens which we know uses less water than its creeping counterpart. However, this research is focusing on the use of fine fescues, primarily Hard Fescue (SR3150), Chewings Fescue (Longfellow II), Sheep Fescue (Azay) and comparing them to Creeping Bentgrass (Declaration), Colonial Bentgrass (Revere) and Velvet Bentgrass (SR7200). Good traditional putting green management naturally favors these finer textured grasses because occasional stress is used rather than masking weaker grasses with additional inputs and surface preparations. Bechelet states it best: "Genuine fine turf comes when the greenkeeper invites a certain level of stress and is canny enough to reduce the level of disturbance; good greenkeeping is the art of working with the environment."

Materials and Methods

Plots are located at the University of Minnesota Turfgrass Research, Outreach and Education (TROE) center on a native push-up green. Six different turfgrass species are mowed at three different heights (0.125 in, 0.250 in and 0.375 in). Plot size is 5 by 17 feet and treatments are replicated in triplicate. Data will be collected on turfgrass quality, density and annual bluegrass invasion. Stimp meter readings will be used to compare putting speed by species and mowing height. All grasses will be man-

aged as low input with reduced pesticide use, irrigation at 60-80% PET and 1-2 lbs N per 1,000 ft² per year. Plots were seeded on August 19, 2008. Fine fescues were seeded at 10 lbs per 1,000 ft² and the bentgrasses were seeded at 1 lb per 1,000 ft². A starter fertilizer (1-2-1 ratio) was applied at 1.0 lb P₂O₅ per 1,000 ft². All plots were covered with Futerra blankets for establishment.

Species

Hard Fescue (HDF) - SR3150
Chewings Fescue (CHF) - Longfellow II
Sheep Fescue (SHF) - Azay
Creeping Bentgrass (CRB) - Declaration
Colonial Bentgrass (COL) - Revere
Velvet Bentgrass (VEL) - SR7200
Mowing Heights - 0.125, 0.250, 0.375 inches

Table 1. Plot layout of fine fescue putting green

| <u>Mowing Height (inches)</u> | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| 0.125 | COL | CHF | SHF |
| | HDF | VEL | CRB |
| 0.25 | SHF | COL | CHF |
| | VEL | HDF | CRB |
| 0.375 | HDF | VEL | COL |
| | SHF | CRB | CHF |
| 0.375 | COL | SHF | HDF |
| | CRB | CHF | VEL |
| 0.125 | CRB | COL | CHF |
| | VEL | SHF | HDF |
| 0.25 | VEL | CHF | SHF |
| | HDF | COL | CRB |
| 0.375 | CHF | CRB | HDF |
| | SHF | COL | VEL |
| 0.25 | CRB | VEL | COL |
| | CHF | SHF | HDF |
| 0.125 | HDF | SHF | CHF |
| | COL | CRB | VEL |



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Analyzing Drainage Problems and Applying Proper Drainage Techniques

By Dennis Hurley

President of Turf Drainage Co. of America.

(Editor's Note: This article was originally published on January 6, 2004. This is the first of two parts of the article. Part II will be published in the August 2009 issue of Hole Notes. Dennis Hurley is president of Turf Drainage Co. of America. Dennis was the first person to introduce what is now generically called "waffle drainage" to the golf course industry at the GCSAA show in San Francisco in 1985. Since that time he has received four patents in the field of seepage drainage, and is the inventor of the Turf Drain Siphon System. In 2001 alone, his company was involved in drainage projects at four of the top 12 ranked golf courses in the country.)

I. Analyzing and Classifying Drainage Problems

The first step in solving drainage problems is properly identifying the type of drainage problem. Drainage problems may be classified into one of four major categories: (1) surface, (2) seepage, (3) collection and (4) transportation. A surface water problem would be defined as any area where standing water or streaming water is a problem. A seepage water problem would be any area that presents a problem either after all of the surface water is removed, or is a problem even when no surface water was ever present. The ground remains saturated to the point that it interferes with either the mowability or playability of the hole.

Once the type of drainage problem has been identified, it is then necessary to determine whether the problem is due to the existing system's lack of ability to collect or transport water. For instance, if water was present in an area after a rain because of the trashing over of an undersized surface inlet, the problem would be defined as a surface water collection problem. If, however, the water was standing over a completely open inlet, but the water could not be transported off as the pipe size was too small to carry the volume of water present, it would be defined as a surface water transportation problem. The same analysis would apply to seepage water. Water that saturates the profile of the soil around a drainage basin that has solid sidewalls would be defined as a seepage water collection problem, but a USGA green being drained to a gravel sump that filled with water after a rain would be defined as a seepage water transportation problem.

All drainage problems can be defined within the parameters of the four classes described above. The key in golf course drainage is to realize that the problems are almost always a mixture of the above scenarios. Other than the isolated water puddle that stands on an impervious cart path surface, almost every problem in turf areas will have some aspect of more than one of the above categories. The key to designing an effective drainage system is building a system that will address both the surface and seepage issues present. Most drainage systems that fail do so because they are relying too heavily on surface inlets to collect seepage water, or trying to use seepage lines to collect water.

Designing a drainage system that delivers the maximum impact for the dollars spent requires recognition that the cost of collecting the same water can vary depending upon where it is collected. The least expensive water to collect is streaming or puddled water, while seepage water would be the most expensive. Sheet flow is collected at an intermediate cost between streaming and seepage water. For example, water that is flowing onto a fairway from houses constructed above a fairway may be coming from a hill in a relatively compacted stream. Placing a surface inlet directly in its path is much less expensive than waiting until the water dumps onto a fairway and is then turned into seepage water, as it loses velocity and infiltrates the profile.

II. Options in Drainage Designs

When designing a drainage system, multiple tools are available to collect and transport water. On the collection side, surface water is best collected with open inlets. However, tools such as berms, curbs, and v-drains can increase the effectiveness of the inlet by concentrating the sheet flow into stream flow, thus reducing the cost to collect. The least effective way to collect surface water is with seepage drainage and should only be used as a last resort. There are certain areas where one has no choice because of the unacceptability of catch basins in areas such as greens, bunkers, approaches and athletic fields.

When it comes to seepage collection tools, there are seepage lines, permeable basins and curtain drains. The common denominator is that they must have a permeability higher than the

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Drainage-

(Continued from Page 16)

profile to be drained. In almost all cases, the installation of seepage drains in native soils will require the use of a sand backfill as opposed to gravel, which is the common procedure in the golf course industry. If a system is to stand the test of time, water must move into the system without carrying fines in the water stream. The basis of all seepage drainage engineering is a formula developed by Dr. Karl Von Terzaghi, the "Father of Soil Mechanics", at MIT in 1940. This formula determines the proper size backfill material in order to create a stable system. The objective in seepage drainage is to create a system where the water in the saturated soil can move to the drainage medium without having fines move with it. To do this, the 15% largest particle (d 85) must be stopped from moving with the water stream. If the 15% largest particles are stopped, then all of the smaller particles will be held in place behind it. The easiest way to look at this is in relation to the widely used USGA greens specifications. In 1993, the USGA revised the specifications for green construction. One of the outcomes of this work was an alternative method to green construction that allowed for the elimination of the choker sand layer. By adopting the Terzaghi formula as the basis for their soil testing, they were able to justify the reduction of the particle sizes in the gravel blanket. One can imagine that if gravel needed to be downsized to match up to a typical greens mix, which is huge relative to most native soils, that the native soil will seldom match up to even a downsized gravel. Successful drainage systems will follow the guidelines of this formula in all installations, not just in the construction of greens.

Seepage water will be from one of three sources. The first is seepage water from lack of velocity. This is the only type of surface water that has the possibility of being collected with a surface solution, as this was surface water somewhere on the property, but entered the profile prior to reaching the area. Other possibilities include water that falls on such a flat area that the lack of velocity never allows it to stream off, or water that accumulates at such a low rate that it never forms surface water (i.e. irrigation or certain climates, such as the northwest, where mist is constant).

A second type of seepage water is water that has never moved onto the property as surface water (i.e. hillside

springs). It was surface water somewhere, but there was never an opportunity to collect it as such. Now, the only option is to collect it as seepage. Third is water that is in the profile from a high water table (i.e. a coastal property with a fairway slightly above the controlling water level).

Additionally, a proper relief must be built for any drainage that is installed. Any drainage system is only as good as its relief. Any system that goes to a gravel sump is not drainage. IT IS A STORAGE COMPARTMENT. Not only should the reliefs be open and free flowing, but they should be of adequate depth so that they can serve as a relief for the seepage system, as well as the surface collection systems. Nothing is more wasteful than having to run a new relief parallel to an existing system because the existing system transporting the surface water was run at a shallow depth.

Three main choices exist when it comes to transportation systems: (1) conventional piping, (2) siphon systems and (3) pump systems. Conventional piping simply involves installing pipe on a proper grade, and is by far the most common transportation system employed. Siphon systems are patented systems built by the Turf Drainage Co. of America and allow for the installation of drainage without the need to grade pipe. Siphon systems can provide shorter reliefs for large seepage systems, and enable the use of smaller equipment, such as trenchers instead of trackhoes. Siphon systems can also be used when the existing slope makes it impossible to build a conventional system that has enough water velocity to be self-cleaning. Pump systems can elevate water to elevations higher than that at which it is collected, and in many cases move water over obstructions or under streets less expensively than conventional reliefs. Pumps also can move larger amounts of water through a given pipe size, and can be used to create airspace for more effective seepage systems. These systems, when used in combination with check valves, can make it possible to drain any area, even one that might be at or below sea level.

Effective drain plans will use a different mix of these options, depending on the job site. Rolling properties will typically be almost exclusively conventional reliefs, while flat, coastal or rocky properties will contain a larger percentage of the latter two choices. As a rule of thumb, no drainage installation should occur until a proper relief has been located or built that is at least 24" deep. The choice of deeper reliefs makes the entire system more effective

with lower overall costs. Many systems will combine two or more of these transportation systems.

Drainage Do's and Don'ts

DO

Build a system that is a combination of surface and seepage collection

Run lateral lines as perpendicular to flow as possible

Have the end of the system open and free-flowing

Make the depth of pipe deep enough so that it can be used for both seepage drainage as well as surface water

Backfill with sand, not gravel

Make sure your reliefs are always protected

Plan when it is wet, and install when it is dry

DON'T

Try to collect seepage water with surface basins

Collect surface water with seepage drainage-unless there are no other options

Use gravel sumps

Allow water in a pipe to dump onto another part of the course

MISCONCEPTIONS

Aerification will solve drainage problems

Soil is only wet at the top, so a deep trench is not needed

Low permeability soils cannot be drained

Geotextiles clog up

VIETNAM

By Randy Witt, CGCS
 Courses Manager
 Hong Kong Golf Club

One of the benefits of working and living in Hong Kong has been the ability to enjoy one of my favorite pastimes of being able to travel. For many people, the thought of spending 12 hours on an airplane is not pleasant, but for me that period of time has never been an unpleasant issue. I've always been an avid reader, so time on an airplane provides me a nice uninterrupted period to read. Here in Hong Kong on a daily basis I receive the following newspapers: South China Daily News, the International Herald Tribune, and the USA Today. Weekly I receive the Time magazine publication. I

also watch Fox News programming to maintain a political balance between the Left and the Right. Being raised on a dairy farm afforded a black and white television that provided three channels of viewing on a clear evening, so reading became a good pastime. Today the Internet provides me the opportunity to view the local newspapers from Green Bay and Milwaukee as well as listening to the Milwaukee radio station that I listened to regularly back in Green Bay. But, back to travel. While in Hong Kong I have been fortunate to travel into China to see the Great Wall and Tinnemann Square as well as attend the China Golf Show; experience seeing elephants on the streets in Bangkok, Thailand, the white sand beaches of Phuket, Thailand, and the beautiful city of Singapore. Closer to home, exploring the gambling capital of the world of Maccau, China. Looking forward, I plan on attending the Australian Turf Grass Conference and Trade Show in Hobart, Australia in mid-July.

One of the most interesting trips and experiences was an adventure in mid



Crowded streets in Vietnam

November into Vietnam to Ho Chi Minh City, previously known as Saigon. The major world happening in my teen years was, of course, the War in Viet Nam. Some of my high school classmates never returned from their service in Vietnam. Having grown up so to speak with Viet Nam, I was curious about the country today. Thus, I was fortunate to travel into and experience the country in a time much removed and different from the '60s.

One tip that I've learned when traveling in Asia is to arrange for a vehicle and driver ahead of your arrival into an Asian city. Life is much simpler and less stressful with having a driver and transportation waiting upon one's arrival. An unsuspecting, bewildered looking foreigner can be an easy target upon exiting an airport looking for transportation to a hotel. Greatly elevated fares can be paid by a tourist in a foreign country in search of transportation to one's hotel, along with the task of finding a taxi driver that is able to understand any English at all. The overwhelmed tourist may end with an

unplanned citywide tour with a fare to match. After meeting the driver and loading luggage, we departed for our hotel. Upon exiting the airport, we were greeted with a sight that was beyond description. The 6-lane wide street was an enormous parking lot of motor scooter and mopeds with a few cars and trucks sprinkled in for variety. Mass confusion was a description that came to mind along with amusement. Never in my entire life had I ever seen or experienced anything like this before. Anything and everything was carried on

the scooters. Mothers carrying babies strapped on the mother's back, mom, dad, and two children on one scooter, businessmen in suits, children of all ages, almost anything imaginable was somehow carried by the driver on the scooters. Stoplights and stop signs were tolerated and many times ignored. At some busy intersections there were police attempting to direct traffic-usually to no avail. Adding to this amusing scenario was the dress of the police - a Dreamsicle immediately came to mind. My youth revisited thru the Dreamsicle. Through all this mass confusion the traffic surprisingly did move in somewhat of a controlled chaos. If the street is full of traffic, the sidewalk becomes a route of choice. Traversing the sidewalks requires one to be aware that a scooter could easily appear. On our first venture out for a walk, crossing a street appeared to be impossible. One soon learns that you just begin a slow walk across the intersection at a constant pace. This slow movement makes it possible

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Vietnam-

(Continued from Page 18)

venture out for a walk, crossing a street appeared to be impossible. One soon learns that you just begin a slow walk across the intersection at a constant pace. This slow movement makes it possible for the traffic to judge your movement so you are less likely to become a human front fender. One quickly learns not to stop or tries to judge the oncoming traffic - the traffic will judge you. Keep the slowly, steady pace and you emerge on the opposite side of the street in one piece. Initially this is a bit scary, but soon it becomes the comfortable and only way to safely cross the street.

Accommodations and all related expenses in Ho Chi Ming City are extremely cheap; 4-star accommodations can be had for less than \$60 US a night with most all hotels providing a full buffet breakfast included in the accommodations. Asian hotels normally provide a full breakfast with both western foods and the traditional foods that are part of that particular country's normal food fare. The heavier, greasier American foods are in a sharp contrast to the lighter-based Asian foods. Most upscale hotels will also have lounges for enjoying a refreshment, but those of European descent will usually frequent these as many Asians do not partake of relaxing and enjoying an evening refreshment as is the Western or European custom.

Taking a day trip to the Mekong Delta was enjoyable and good way to see the Vietnamese countryside and, of course, a constant flow of scooters and bikes. Small villages, rice patties, small plot of land that a family will live on and grow some type



The number of golf courses in Vietnam are limited.

of crop as a way of life composes the countryside. The standard of living for most of the Vietnamese people is very poor. One morning, while reading the local newspaper, I came across an article that contained the information that government workers would be receiving a weekly pay increase of \$5 U. S. bringing their regular monthly pay to about \$400 U. S. Government jobs are some of the best paying jobs within the country. For a large

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An Adventure in Life-

(Continued from Page 19)

segment of the Asian world, having a food to eat and some type of roof over one's head is the focus of daily life. Nothing else really appears to matter. The two-hour trip to the Mekong Delta provided a brief view into the rural Vietnamese lifestyle. A boat trip on the Mekong River was like traveling on a stream of Hershey's chocolate syrup without the wonderful chocolate smell.

One of my reasons for traveling to Vietnam was to see what, if any, lingering effects from the Vietnam War would remain or what the attitude of the people towards an American. We found the people to be very gracious, pleasant and extremely polite. The only visible reminders of the War were the exhibits and history of the War in the various museums located throughout the city. The War Remnants Museum is one of the most popular of the museums. As the name reflects, much of the museum is devoted to physical remnants from the War. A very solemn and moving exhibit is the Requiem Exhibit, which shows the war through the eyes of photographers from the countries involved in the war.

Surprising to me was the fact that the

museum presented facts, photos, etc. from the war with no biased slant. Many of the photos brought back a flood of memories of having viewed the War on a daily basis via the television. I found myself leaving the museum filled with a sense of sadness and bewilderment. The question that persisted in my mind was: was the War necessary and was it worth all the bloodshed and hardship?

The number of golf courses in Vietnam is limited. Today courses are being developed in the northern part of Vietnam in the Hanoi area. There are about six courses located in the Ho Chi Minh area. A course we chose to play was located about an hour's drive north of the city. The 27-hole course was less than 10 years old, having been built on reclaimed land that once was populated by rice paddies. As one would imagine, the main hazard was



Randy Witt with two friends

some type of lake or pond on just about very hole. To be able to reclaim the land for a golf course, a multitude of water features had to be built to drain off and hold the water. Even with the extensive drainage system, the golf course played wet. It was amazing to see and experience how fast a predominately dominated algae surface could putt. Just another experience in an Adventure in Life.

The MGCSA Fall Mixer Set for the Horse & Hunt Club in Prior Lake

"Trading Sticks for Guns"

To create a "spice" or "change" of venue, we've decided to change our traditional fall mixer golf event with a friendly sporting clay shoot. This will be held on Monday, October 5 at the Horse and Hunt Club in Prior Lake. We will still have our educational segment as in the past.

I am writing this to each of you as a "heads" up so when the sign-up sheet comes around you will have had time to allow yourself to hone in on your shooting skills. A couple of informational bits are as follows: field event (sporting clay shot) will be limited to the first 50 participants, more than 50 can of course join the educational and meal portion of this event. This event will have a \$10.00 charge at the time of pre-registration (same as Spring Mixer). Additional costs include ammunition, along with gun rental if you or your team cannot provide a gun. Suggestion would be to purchase your ammunition prior to coming to the event at your local gun supply store. Our goal is to have at least one experienced hunter in each group. Speaking of teams, we will have 10 teams of five shooters. Only one gun (if you're willing to share with team) is needed per group.

Pre-registration is going to be very important for this event to allow for equitable team formation. We encourage all to join in this fun event as we feel this will capture those who are looking for a change from the golfing events of the past. This is "our" association so, as always, if you have any suggestions, we'd love to hear from you.

- Tom C. Proshek
MGCSA Arrangement Ch

MGA and MPGA Announce 2009 Hall of Fame Inductees

The MGA and the Minnesota Section of the PGA are pleased to announce the 2009 inductees into the Minnesota Golf Hall of Fame.

The 2009 inductees are: Don Berry, Nancy Harris Blanchard, John Cook, Bill Israelson, Mike Schultz and Dick Tollette.

This group joins the 56 members inducted since the Hall of Fame was established in 1987.

(Editor's Note: Please go to www.mngolf.org/press_release.cfm?id=2904 for more information.)

