



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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TURF LIBRARY ESTABLISHED

The O.J. Noer Research Foundation, Inc. has donated the personal turfgrass library collected by the late O.J. Noer to Michigan State University.

Charles G. Wilson, Research Director of the Foundation, announced the establishment of the O.J. Noer Memorial Library, and indicated that the addition of the Library to the existing turfgrass library at MSU makes the combined library the largest single collection of turfgrass literature in the world.

A bulletin will be prepared compiling a list of all turf publications now available at the library. This bulletin is being prepared in cooperation with Dr. James B. Beard, MSU Department of Crop Science and the University's Science Librarian, Dr. M. Kabalin.

This collection will be available to students and scholars throughout the United States. Wilson stated, "I am pleased to announce that this valuable collection of turfgrass literature will be available to all turfgrass students and scholars through an inner-library loan agreement. Arrangements can be made with local libraries to have specific publications loaned to local libraries for a period of time or preferably to obtain a xeroxed copy for a nominal fee."

Interested individuals possessing proceedings of turfgrass conferences, old U.S.G.A. Greens Section Bulletins, early issues of the publications by the Golf Course Superintendents Association or similar publications are encouraged to contact Chas. Wilson at P.O. Box 2079, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201.

LIVING WITH POA ANNUA by Lee C. Dieter

The following article was written by Lee Dieter on his maintenance practices on his Poa annua greens at Washington Golf and Country Club. Lee presented this as a talk at the V.P.I. Turfgrass Conference this past February in Richmond. He felt it would be of interest to the superintendents who must try to contend with Poa in their greens.

"When I accepted the position of Golf Course Superintendent at Washington Golf in the spring of 1961, I found the following conditions:

The greens were extremely small, built for the day when 200 golfers a week was heavy play. Now I would be expected to maintain 3,000 to 4,500 square foot greens in an era when 2,000 players a week can be expected during the season. The soil in the greens was tight and compact, percolation was slow and pore space a minimum. The soil analysis showed high phosphorus (500 lb. per acre range) and low potassium (40-72 lb. per acre range). The pH was low, in the 5.5 to 6.1 range. What could you expect to be growing on these greens other than Poa? It was the only grass that could survive these conditions. From 40 to 90% of the turf cover on the greens was Poa annua.

I felt that, ideally, the answer would be to start from scratch and rebuild all the greens. Certain factors made it impossible for me to start on this program at the time including poor member acceptance of newly constructed greens and financial considerations, among others.

This left me little else to do but face the facts that I must maintain the prominent grass in my greens - Poa - but still improve the conditions so that what bent was in the greens had a better chance of survival. But in any case, I must live with Poa annua until the time that I would be able to rebuild the greens. I embarked on the following program and have found it very successful.

Fertilization: I put 5 lbs of nitrogen and 1lb of potash on in split applications in the spring. The nitrogen source is ureaform and the potash is recrystallized muriate. I also put on 1 oz. of chelated iron between April 1st and May 1st. During the summer I spoon feed the greens by putting 1/10 part N and 1/10 part K on with my spray application. My fall fertilization consists of two applications of a low phosphorus fertilizer, such as 10-3-7 or 12-4-8, in quantity enough to apply 1-1½ part of N per application. Dolomitic limestone is applied during the growing season at 40 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft. This program has balanced out the fertility and pH of the

greens, maintained the Poa, and seems to have favored what bent I have in the greens.

Top dressing and aerifying: A spring and fall application of ¼ yd. per 1,000 of top dressing consisting of 70% coarse sand combined with a fairly heavy aerification during the spring and fall and followed by 5 or 6 regular aerifications also during the spring and fall has greatly improved the top 2½ to 3 inches of the green surface. Compaction is reduced, percolation has improved greatly, and pore spaces allow air to enter the root systems.

Fungicides: Thiram has been the mainstay of my program. Over the years, spring and fall has seen me go from Cadminates to Dyrene and now to Daconil. These chemicals have shown progressively better control of dollarspot for me. ½ oz. to 1 oz. P.M.A. according to the season is added to the main chemical program. Zineb, over the last three years, has seemed to have given me a preventive control of Pythium on one problem green.

Watering: The greens are watered as needed in the spring and fall. The watering pace accelerates as we get into the hot weather to a maximum of every other night. We make it standard procedure to syringe the greens any afternoon that the temperature is over the low 80's.

Mowing and verticutting: We mow our greens daily through the whole growing season. In the spring and fall they are cut at ¼ inch and in the summer at 5/16 inch. We have found that very light vertical mowing does a lot to reduce the number of seed heads on the green and improves the appearance and putting quality of the surface.

Weed control: The only weed that is any real problem is silver crab and we remove it by hand. We don't feel that we can take the chance of thinning out the Poa with the present chemicals available. Soft (hairy) crabgrass is no problem as the ½ oz. of P.M.A. takes care of that.

Our program has paid off during the past eight years with a minimum of green problems. We built a new putting green that helped reduce the reluctance of the membership to building new greens. This past fall we built three new regular greens and hope to continue this rebuilding program. We plan to use chemicals to keep the Poa and silver crab under control in these greens. We have lived with Poa annua and been successful, but by no means do we advocate it. You are living on a powder keg when you are living with Poa. If your percentage is too high for your bent to regain control, by all means, rebuild. But if you have to live with it, perhaps my experiences will be of some help.



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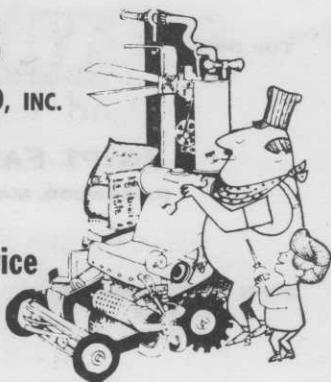
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THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER by Tom Doerer

The illustration is self explanatory and is as old as time immortal. The other fellows grass is usually greener, simply because he exerted a little more time and effort in making it that way.

To meet the demands of the modern day golfer, time and effort must often be spent in convincing greens chairmen, boards of directors, and memberships at large that it is wise to hire the help necessary on a yearly basis to maintain these playing conditions.

Gone are the days of a bag of seed, a mower, a bag of fertilizer, and any help available for the growing and cutting of grass on a ten to twelve hour a day program. Today's sophisticated and expensive machinery requires semi-skilled help to operate it economically and efficiently. What are we as superintendents doing to promote this type of help? What incentives are we establishing to attract this type of personnel? Are we doing enough promotional work with our directors? Are we demanding that our greens chairman help us in establishing job security for our mechanics and maintenance men? This security might be in the form of retirement plans, group insurance plans, educational programs and many others. All personnel in this day and age are being taught to look for job security. This certainly cannot be done with our present hiring practices. Continuity in managing personnel is as important to our courses as is the knowledge we must use in turf management. Many golf courses in the Mid-Atlantic area are being played eleven months out of the year. This fact makes it a must to hire employees with this thought in mind. Maintaining year round personnel is economically sound over a period of years as it puts continuity in our programs,

making for greater course progress. This thinking would naturally boost the payroll dollar, but over the years we would be saving on the costs of repairs to this modern expensive equipment. Job security would also reduce the overall costs in the attitude and the effectiveness of the employee. The employee could be trained better and also trained to have a little pride in his work. In my opinion, it would be a step in the right direction if we as superintendents devoted more time at some of our monthly meetings in further discussion of these matters. It would be a suggestion that we have these meetings attended by all the superintendents in the area. This could be done with just superintendents attending and with no other business. We as a group should have many comments concerning this. Comments that would start us getting a program started that would not only be beneficial to the superintendent, but would help the clubs and the employees at the same time.

I TRAVEL THE SUBURBAN LINKS by Dave Fairbanks

I took some time off from the spring grind to visit with a few of our suburban supers last week and I wasn't too surprised to find they were working hard too. Some of us are working hard with projects at hand and some are working with their Boards to come up with some projects and or equipment. I believe a conspiracy is in the air this year because it seems to me that an awfully lot of clubs are enlarging dining rooms, locker rooms, kitchen areas, and rebuilding parking lots instead of improving the most important part of the golfing facility, the course itself. There are always constant and sometimes justified complaints about the golf course but when budgets are submitted to make amends, they are scratched for more important projects. You can fight just so much until you realize their ears have been closed the whole time. We all complain about our chairmen once in a while, but this time I'll give mine credit for fighting for the course to the final "no."

I stopped to see my neighbor, Wayne Jerome, over at Montgomery Village Golf Club. I'm sure you all know by now that we'll be losing Wayne from our ranks on May 3. He's going on working retirement in Florida building a new club just north of Fort Lauderdale. We've got a few members that have worked the twelve month gauntlet in the past. Might suggest that Wayne get a few pointers from them before leaving. While at his club, I noticed three new tees built this spring, one in its final stages. Wayne kept his men busy over the winter planting 200 trees of mixed breeds and rebuilt three traps in strategic locations on the course. Sorry to see you leave, Wayne.

Over at the monstrous Washingtonian National, Buel Hitchcock had his gala opening on April 12th, banners and all. For any of you have seen it, I'm sure you will

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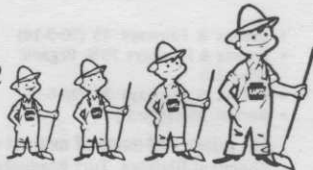
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agree with me when I say monstrous. To back up my description. I'll offer a few examples; 1½ miles of paved paths and roads, two new shelters with running water in the bathrooms, sand traps which carry a total load of 4200 tons of sand (now the Sahara Desert has competition), five new bridges at a total cost of \$30,000, greens averaging 14,000 sq.ft. Buel plans on having three triplex greens mowers by the end of the season. The whole 18 holes are now open, the first nine having opened in June of 1968.

George Thompson over at Columbia Country Club had a busy off season. The road that borders the No. 6 hole was widened, tightening the width of the hole. George screened the fence with 37 mixed Red and White Pines ranging from 3 to 5 inch caliper. The trees were all taken from the course nursery using a hydraulic tree spade. George has also planted flowering crabs and cherries, bald cypress, and metasequoia to go with the old established club. I took another look at his greenhouse and not only saw a lot of seedling flowers, but tomatoes and peppers as well. I asked George which bed he was going to plant them in, but I never did get an answer. While driving around in the rain, I saw his new Fylking tee and his U.S.G.A. C-1 bent tee which both looked very good. We stopped and watched his Massachusetts placement student sprigging sedum in a bank for erosion control. George is trying a variety of plants to see which works best. Even though I did get wet, there was a bright side to the day. I came home with a few flats of petunias and marigold seedlings to plant around my clubhouse. Just couldn't get any of those tomatoes or peppers away from George.

Here at Lakewood Country Club, we're working on our ground maintenance, trying to keep us with the grass on the new holes and waiting for the new parking lot - can't wait for that!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Support the N.C.A."

This is a very busy time of the year in the Mid-Atlantic States for the superintendent. All the spring chores are demanding our attention and the availability of good labor is severely restricted.

Let us stop for a moment in this budding season and consider a project that needs our support. I am speaking of the National Club Association and their assistance to the clubs that are being harassed by various government agencies and others imposing themselves upon these clubs. One of the threats involves revoking state licenses to compel clubs to become public facilities and thereby serve the general public.

Our association is comprised of 90% club-employed superintendents (92 of 109). Allow an erosion of the club system and if golf is to survive it will be on government reservations, which are not favorable to superintendents. As an example: Our association lists

seventeen government-employed superintendents. A quick count shows 513 tax-free government owned golf holes in this area, at 29 different locations. One might assume from these statistics that only half of the public facilities require professional superintendents.

Clubs are entirely in service for our members. Since forced servitude is not proper or legal, the clubs must remain selective in determining the make-up of their membership. Our moral support is needed by the club system and the N.C.A. in this battle of survival.

Robert C. Milligan

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB

The May meeting of the Mid Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents will be held on May 13 at Washington Golf and Country Club in Arlington, Va. To reach the club, turn north off Route 95 onto Glebe Road and proceed through Arlington to the Club on the right hand side of the road.

FROM THE EDITOR

Lately we've heard a lot of talk about the so-called "generation gap." The literature and ideas that have been written and spoken on this phrase are sometimes interesting as well as informative. Often they are quite questionable and controversial. But none the less, there does seem to be a void between the youth and the older people of today's society. This appears to be wide spread all over the country and we are made aware of this fact every day.

But in our association, it is interesting to note that there does not seem to be a generation gap between the two age groups. Now, more than ever before, there are many young superintendents showing up at courses all over the country. The majority of these fellows are able to work hand in hand with the older and more experienced supers in their area and are able to communicate and get along well with them.

There are still grudges between young and old supers in isolated areas, to be sure. But here in the Mid-Atlantic, the rule of thumb that is becoming more and more obvious is that we CAN and DO work together.

And believe me, for these younger men taking on the job of a golf course superintendent in this area, cooperation means a lot. Cooperation between supers, however, is not the entire answer to our problem. The cooperation that is needed to some degree in many instances and is often lacking is between the clubs and their own superintendents.

Whose fault is this? It is hard to assess any one particular problem without details. But the fact that is often overlooked is that our job is not always a 50-50 proposition. No job really is. Sometimes it takes a little

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or maybe even a lot more from one party or the other to make things work.

But the occasionally unfortunate part is that this imbalance, when it occurs, does seem to be on the part of the club. It could be due to one or a lot of things, but this does seem to be the case in the majority of instances.

It is a hard thing to admit in view of the terrific strides we as superintendents have made recently, but the college graduates coming out of school with a degree in Agronomy are passing us by. Now on top of everything else we have to contend with, we are going to be faced within a few years of having to make our job attractive in some new ways to recruit new people. Not only are we going to have to do this, but so are the clubs. Their attitudes and policies will have to be altered if they are to survive.

Think about these comments and try to find a way or two to make our "unusual" occupation appeal to a young person.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

William J. Blackert, an Agronomy student at the University of Maryland, was awarded a \$500.00 scholarship by the Maryland State Golf Association at the Agronomy Awards Dinner held at the University.

The award received by Blackert is presented annually by the M.S.G.A. to the University of Maryland to promote and encourage the study of Agronomy as it relates to golf courses and to assist young men interested in studying in this field on a professional level, leading to a career as a golf course superintendent.

Blackert is a third year student in the Agronomy program in the University's College of Agriculture and lives in Mt. Airy, Md.

By making this award, the M.S.G.A. is added to the list of organizations which also contribute scholarship funds for similar studies. The other groups are; Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the United States Golf Association Green Section, and the National Golf Foundation.



Shown above is Irving E. Cantor, Vice President of the Maryland State Golf Association presenting the scholarship sponsored by the Association to William Blackert, Agronomy student at the University of Maryland. Looking on is Dr. H. Palmer Hopkins, Director of Student Aid at the University.

OLDE TYME CORNER

This month we will take a look at weed control the way it was done in 1906. Again we are quoting from Leonard Barron's book entitled "Lawn Making." In chapter VII entitled "Solving the Weed Problem," Mr. Barron writes thus; "Dandelions may be eradicated from lawns at relatively slight expense and without material injury to the grass by spraying with a solution of iron sulphate. Four or five applications are necessary; the first of May, one or two should follow at intervals of three or four weeks and one or two more in late summer. A conspicuous blackening of the lawn follows each application, but this soon disappears if the grass is in a vigorous and healthy condition. The spray solution is prepared by dissolving 1 lb. of iron sulphate in one gallon of water. This must be prepared in wooden or earthenware vessels as it is highly corrosive to metal."

And on crabgrass control - "rolling with a three thousand pound roller has killed crabgrass in Philadelphia."

Comment: Rolling with a three thousand pound roller will kill most anything. Further on, Mr. Barron's remarks on mole control are ; "moles are not seriously troublesome on well rolled lawns. They will always chose a line of least resistance and a lawn which is kept well rolled presents an entirely too compact mass for Mr. Mole's comfort in travel."

MYSTIQUE OF MOWING

While the grass may have it easy, those of us who care for it are likely to complain that we have too much

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to do. Well, it used to be worse. We should consider with thanks the improvements on the art of mowing that have taken place in a little over a century.

Lawns have been used in garden design for several centuries, with the greensward first consisting of meadow and pasture land. With the popularity of lawn bowling in England in the 1600's, fine lawns came into existence. And along with them came tedious maintenance methods. Sharp scythes were used to cut the large lawns and brooms made from twigs were used to sweep up the clippings left on the lawn. Large heavy rollers of wood, stone, and iron helped to smooth the lawn surface.

And even the "scented lawns" - fragrant lavender and aromatic mint - which became fashionable in the late 17th century, needed to be cut short.

We might still be maintaining our lawns with the frequent use of scythes if it weren't for Edwin Budding of Gloucestershire, who used his imagination in 1830. Mr. Budding was an engineer in a textile factory in England. After carefully observing a machine used to shear nap off cloth, he used this principle as a basis for his invention of the first machine to cut grass.

J.R. & A. Ransome, the British manufacturing company that made Budding's lawn mower, is still in business, but the name has changed to Ransomes Sims and Jefferies, Ltd. In Ipswich, England, the company's historian has documents describing their first mower. The original machine had a cylinder in which spiral knives were fixed and a horizontal bottom blade against which they worked. The cylinder was made to rotate by gearing driven from a large roller at the back of the machine; there was a front roller that could be raised or lowered to adjust the height of cut. Chain drive was anticipated by Budding and was included in his patent.

One advertisement for the new Grass-Cutting Machine emphasized that "persons unpracticed in the Art of Mowing may cut Grass on Lawns, Pleasure

Grounds and Bowling Greens, with ease...while the expence of Mowing is considerably lessened, as more than double the work may be done with the same labour that is requisite with the scythe."

Even the imaginative Mr. Budding would be amazed and delighted to see the rotary and reel, gas and electric, self propelled and riding models that are sold in every city today.

Phyllis Keeney in Home Garden - March 1969

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