

## Bidwell Cautions On Pure Sand Topdressing

Speaking at a greens seminar in April, Warren Bidwell, superintendent at Olympia Fields Country Club, urged caution for those considering or already on sand topdressing of greens. Working more than 35 years in the turfgrass industry, Warren has made it a point to discuss topdressing mixes with many turfgrass advisors at the Ph.D. level. Research information through work completed on various experimental turf plots has shown that sand topdressing is not all sunshine.

Dr. Elliot Roberts, formerly of Iowa State University, proved in the laboratory and in the field that a healthy and strong root system is directly related to top growth development which can be accomplished without sand topdressing. At a Canadian Conference, Dr. Roy Goss, from the University of Washington said that we haven't seen the end results of this sand topdressing work. When you overlay a sand, soil, and peat mixture (which we all have done going back to the 1920's) with 100% sand it could have end results on our putting greens 20 to 25 years from now.

While on a sand topdressing program you are not to aerify because you do not want to mix the sand topdressing right over already compacted soil and then you expect excellent results. Sand topdressing originated with the touring golf professionals. They are never satisfied with the speed of the greens unless they're as fast as a bullet passing a train. The golf pros want pool table surfaces. When superintendents are preparing for a tournament the putting green cut is lowered to 9/64" in order to increase the speed on the greens. When the tournament is over, the height of cut is back to 3/16" for plant protection and stability. During the tournament the members get used to those faster than normal greens. So when you walk through the men's grill you are likely to hear "when the hell are you going to cut those greens." Top growth and root growth are directly related, and it is very difficult to accept lower and lower cutting heights. The younger generation, however, must please its members. For a superintendent to survive a club for any given tenure, he must follow the directives of the locker room agronomic experts. This is the way of life around our many private and publicly owned golf courses.

Working as a superintendent at two golf clubs where major golf champion-

ships were played, Bidwell said, the putting greens were never toppedressed with 100% sand. The putting speed and turf quality remained excellent.

The Golf Course Superintendent has the expertise, good judgment, research data, and education that allows him to make professional decisions in manicuring turfgrass. Club members have to start confiding in their Golf Course Superintendents and not other neighboring clubs. Soil modification is a solution, but 100% sand could only be a quick fix.

## New Job Openings

Superintendent, Jackson Golf & Country Club, Jackson, Tenn.; \$25,000 negotiable; contact Greg Froehlich, General Manager, Jackson Golf & Country Club, 2523 Humboldt Highway, Jackson, TN 38301 (901-668-0981)

Superintendent, Midland Hills Country Club, St. Paul, Minnesota; \$23,000 to \$28,000; contact Richard Kopplin, General Manager, 2001 Fulham St., St. Paul, MN 55113 (612-637-0440)

Superintendent, Hartley Hills Country Club, Hagerstown, Indiana; \$13,000 to \$16,500; contact Michael L. Hensley, 3748 Crowe Rd., Richmond, IN 47374 (317-478-4501)

Superintendent, County Lakes Country Club, Napierville, Illinois; \$23,000 negotiable; contact Paul Shabby, 211 Lawrencewood, Niles, Ill., 60648

Superintendent, Richmond Country Club, Staten Island, New York; \$23,000 and up; contact Greenskeeper Search Committee, Richmond County C.C., 1335 Flagg Pl., Staten Island, NY 10304.

Assistant Superintendent, Big Canyon Country Club, Newport Beach, California; \$27,500; contact John D. Hudson, General Manager, Big Canyon Country Club, #1 Big Canyon Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660

(Summarized from GCSAA Employment Referral Service bulletins)

## KEEP THE (F)AIRWAYS OPEN – TO ALL (Continued from page 2)

come into your office and ask you a question about a particular area on a certain fairway? If you were playing, you could see the problem, explain why you have it, and what you are doing to alleviate the problem. Take some of the guess work out of your job.

In summing up "our" problem, I can't express the importance of having an open line of communication between club executives, department heads, and between the department head and his people working for him. One thing to always keep in mind is "a superintendent is only as good as the people working for him." Hire good people, communicate your desires to them, follow up by observation, and the job should be done the way you explained it in the shop.

## Be Careful When Using Epoxy Paints

A recent issue of North Central Airlines *The Ungarbled Word* tells about an employee's experience with using an epoxy-based paint to finish a model glider. As he tells it, he spray-painted the bird in his heated garage workshop. He sprayed a tack coat and stepped out; 25 minutes later he came back in, sprayed a finish, and stepped out again. Total time in the spray area was less than 4 minutes. He then proceeded to clean his spray gun. About a half-hour later, he noticed a strong smell of algae – like a stagnant swamp. Within an hour and a half, he was experiencing pains in his lower rib cage which then spread throughout his chest cavity. In short order, he found himself in a coronary intensive care unit.

Here's what the victim said about it: "Even though I suspected possible poisoning from the epoxy and took a can of it to the hospital with me, an educational program followed which should be shared with everyone: 1) There is no antitoxin (as in the case of snake bite) or reversing-type chemical to render the effects of the epoxy formula harmless; 2) If you are going to live, you live – if not, the staff just has to watch you die; 3) The resins and hardeners inflame the tissues in the lungs and surrounding areas near the heart. The effect is like a coronary, but no traces can be found later. The moral is obvious: If you are going to dry-sand epoxy, wear a carbon-activated face mask – the powder or dust is as dangerous as the wet spray. Finally, the effects are cumulative over a period of time, and when your tolerance has been reached, there is no reversing the process."

## New Member

Gary L. Angell, Class D.  
Assistant Superintendent  
Wakefield Valley Golf Club, Westminster, Md.

Reprinted from Bull Sheet, Joe Williamson