



Clutching scholarship checks awarded to them at the Midwest Regional Turf Conference's annual banquet are: (from left) Randal Bellinger, Reynolds, Ill., Alan Nees, Chesterton, In. and Kenneth R. Griepentrog, Tulsa, Okla. Griepentrog, a senior, received a Golf Course Superintendents Association scholarship worth \$500. Bellinger, a sophomore, and Nees, a senior, received scholarships valued at \$200 and \$100 respectively.

Midwest Regional Turf Conference Report

If experience is the best teacher, then some 600 persons attending the Midwest Regional Turf Conference at Purdue University in late February should have learned plenty.

Capitalizing on the personal experiences and problems of some of the top turf specialists, agronomists and sales personnel in the mid-continent, the meeting represented possibly the most educational turf conference in the U.S.

It was a joint effort by the Midwest Turf Foundation and the Purdue Agronomy Department that put

the conference in gear but the impressive line-up of speakers really put the conference in motion.

By placing major emphasis on personal experiences, enough atmosphere of credibility was generated on Monday afternoon to hold the interest of all attending until Wednesday noon. The real action began Tuesday morning when the sessions started three deep; enough to make this attender wish he could be in more places than one.

At the kick-off session on Monday, senior attendee Harold Glissman reminisced through the scores of conferences he has attended and the many lasting friends he made along the way. Included in Glissman's trip down memory lane was an inkling of the art philosophy and motivations of attending conferences.

Tuesday morning's section on general turf proved to be a combination of research, sales, management and the first job experience. Dr. R. P. Freeborg of Purdue quickly reviewed some reseeding and Roundup herbicide experiments. Tom Douglas, Caterpillar Tractor Co., presented the advantages and disadvantages of supervising an industrial lawn and his methods of approaching the varying problems of unions, winter salt damage and personnel turnover.

Lee Record, midwest director, USGA, led off one of Tuesday afternoon's sections with the current specifications for putting greens. He reported USGA greens can be constructed for about \$1.20 per square foot. Conforming to the construction theme, Steve Gipson, TRW, Inc., told how he was involved in the



From left, W. H. Daniel, Purdue turf specialist, executive secretary (re-elected); John Spodnik, superintendent, Westfield Country Club, Westfield Center, O., vice president and O. Lee Redman, superintendent, Bellerive Country Club, St. Louis, Mo., president. The 1974-75 officers were elected at the organization's annual conference at Purdue University.



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trials and tribulations of developing a new golf course and the many factors to be considered when building a course. Gipson pointed out that the most important item necessary to efficient construction is a dedicated and experienced working crew. Mike McMullen, Eastern Rainbird Sales Corp., traced the developing trends in golf course irrigation from the sod cup to the two-wire automatic irrigation system.

The conference consisted of nine, one-half day sessions, each presenting a major theme. One entire session was devoted to Dr. W. H. Daniel's and Purdue's exclusive development, the Purr-Wick system (Plastic Under Sand Reservoir Root-Zone). The system uses the principle of capillary (wick) action to water grass. Plastic is used at the base to contain moisture. This section included eight testimonials from turf specialists and a golf course superintendent on the success of the system in applications ranging from golf course greens to flower beds.

Paul Morgan, superintendent of Brown's Run Country Club, Middleton, O., shared his fairway problems with the conference delegates Wednesday morning. He pointed out the values of proper seed selection and fertilizer application for growing and maintaining desirable fairways. Len Hazlett, Jr., superintendent of the Country Club, Inc., Cleveland, O., described his procedure for ridding his course of most of its poa annua.

The annual banquet highlighted Tuesday evening and featured the rousing harmonies of the Purdue Glee Club. Four Purdue turf students received scholarships totaling \$1,300 at the affair. Recipients of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America scholarships worth \$500 each were Kenneth R. Griepentrog and Douglas J. Meadows. Randal Bellinger received \$200 and Alan Nees was presented \$100.

Elected 1974-75 officers of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation were O. Lee Redman, superintendent, Bellerive Country Club, St. Louis, president; John Spodnik, superintendent, Westfield Country Club, Westfield Center, O., vice president, and W. H. Daniel, Purdue turf specialist, executive secretary (re-elected).

New directors are John C. West, Little Turtle Country Club, Columbus, O.; Danny K. Quast, Milwaukee Country Club, Milwaukee, Wis.; Harry Murray, Century Toro, Cincinnati, O., and Robert L. (Pete) Cahill, Summit Hills Golf Course, S. Ft. Mitchell, Ky. □

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