Green is Beautiful

Ontario Golf Superintendents Association

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SPRING 1989

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From the President

I hope all of you have recharged your batteries as well as taken advantage of any educational opportunities at your disposal. The snow and ice are gone, and now is the time to put our expertise to the test.

We all thought that we had survived our worst summer experience to date in '88, but indications point to '89 being just as severe. Many north-eastern States were restricting water use as early as March of this year, the result of water tables and reservoirs approaching crisis levels. Make sure your water distribution system is working as efficiently as possible and be prepared to grow turf with less water. I believe this will be the norm in the future, as our water resources diminish.

There is another unpleasant situation which we, the Green Industry, are experienceing. It seems our pesticide usage has come under intense scrutiny from environmentalists who have been very successful lobbying our Environment Ministry. The ramifications of this are far-reaching. We can assure you that the OGSA has become very active in addressing this problem. We, along with the CGSA, are presently involved with other sectors of the Green Industry, forming a united front to face this problem and prepare ourselves for future problems.

BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We all must handle pesticides in a manner totally above reproach. Our position will be much stronger if you and your staff demonstrate pesticide responsibility. How can we do that? Licence all applicators; follow label instructions; calibrate equipment; apply pesticides only when necessary. Protecting the applicator, surroundings and environment are but a few methods to demonstrate responsibility. Last, but certainly not least, keep precise, up-to-date records.

Everyone must do their part!

Neil Acton, CGCS

From the Editor

By now you will all have received your letter from the Ministry of the Environment stating their proposal to amend Regulation 751 of the Pesticides Act requiring notification of pesticide applications. The OGSA, along with other professional associations, is lobbying the government with regard to these proposed changes.

This is only the tip of the iceberg with new government regulations regarding pesticides. We as Superintendents will be required to give a lot more thought into the way we apply pesticides. With prior notification being necessary it will be much more difficult to react quickly to a specific pest problem. How will we treat Pythhium? Will we have to let those cutworms eat away for a day before we can take any action?

Maybe this new legislation will increase pesticide use rather than decrease it as more preventative applications will be applied to ensure control, as we won't have the luxury of being able to wait and see what we will get or how severe a pest problem becomes before spraying.

Regardless of what happens, the time to prepare is NOW. We must make our Club Officials aware of this and how it affects us. When, as the licenced applicator, you put your name and phone number on all those signs around your golf course, are you going to be backed up by your Board of Directors or Club Officials? Communications has never been more important.

Our environment is fast becoming the number one concern on people's minds and as professionals using pesticides in that environment we'd better be darn sure we are doing it properly. The Golf Course industry has always been the leader in proper and safe pesticide use, and we must continue to set a good example.

Rod Trainor, CGCS

WANTED:

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GOLF COURSE IMPACT ON WATER QUALITY

FINDING: Golf courses do not pose a significant pollution threat to the nation's water supplies. This conclusion is based on a review of the scientific evidence that is currently available. Neither groundwater nor surface water is threat ened by golf course runoff. Further, studies show that stormwater runoff is near zero from golf courses.

GROUNDWATER: About half of all people in the United States depend on groundwater for their drinking water, and the figure is 90 percent in rural areas. Results from ongoing scientific studies show that the use of pesticides on golf courses does not threaten public drinking water. Because of the low mobility and quick biodegradation of most golf course pesticides, they simply do not reach groundwater in significant quantities.

One Environmental Protection Agency-funded study being undertaken on Cape Cod in Massachusetts provides for a "worst-case" estimate of groundwater contamination. To date, test results have been encouraging, demostrating that golf courses and clean groundwater do coexist.

Some experts argue that golf turf offers uniquely favorable control mechanisms to prevent groundwater contamination. Dr. Stuart Z. Cohen, a former Ground Water Team Leader for the EPA in Washington, notes that "the use of pesticides on golf courses poses less of a threat to the nation's groundwater than does the agricultural use of pesticides."

Additionally, turfgrass provides a "thatch layer" not found in row crop situations. Thatch binds up pesticide residues and increases degradation of some chemicals. Dr. Harry D. Niemczyk of Ohio State University has found that as much as 99% of recovered pesticides are found in turfgrass thatch.

In some areas, golf courses are also helping to mitigate the goundwater pollution effects of hazardous waste sites. Many of the nation's golf courses ferlilize soil using sludge compost mixes prepared by urban waste recycling programs. These sludges might otherwise be disposed of in municipal landfills. Thus, potential groundwater leaching from dump sites is averted by careful community planning and recycling.

STORMWATER RUNOFF: Stormwater runoff from golf courses is not a significant environmental hazard. Research conducted by Dr. Thomas Watschke, a turfgrass specialist at the Pennsylvania State University, indicates that thick, healthy turf reduces runoff "to next to nothing."

An average golf course of 150 acres effortlessly absorbs 12 million gallons of water during a three-inch rainfall. Dr. Watschke finds that thick, carefully managed turfgrass has 15 times less runoff than does a lower quality lawn. As a result, almost all of the pesticides applied to the grass remain the place after peak rainfall.

Dr. Richard J. Cooper of the University of Massachusetts argues that turfgrass cover "reduces soil erosion and prevents soil and chemical runoff into water sources."

By comparison, parking lots, streets and even residential areas load nearby waters with hazardous pollutants carried in runoff from road surfaces, gutters and catch basins.

SURFACE WATER: Golf courses help decrease sedimentation pollution of rivers, streams and lakes by preventing topsoil erosion. The major polluter of U.S. surface water is sedimentation from soil erosion. However, turfgrass reduces erosion, as compared to alternative land uses.

For instance, studies show that grassland experiences 84 to 668 times less erosion than areas planted with wheat or corn. Construction has an even more devastating impact on topsoil, so golf courses can greatly reduce erosion effects as compared to other land users, like shopping malls or housing developments.

Sedimentation pollution from soil erosion costs society billions of dollars in increased transportation, shipping, and cleaning costs. Thus, by preventing soil erosion, golf courses serve a very beneficial societal purpose.

CONCLUSIONS: Golf courses do not threaten the nation's water supplies. Scientific studies show that pesticides used on golf courses do not seep into neighboring groundwater sources. Other studies demonstrate that stormwater runoff is greatly reduced by turfgrass. Finally, still more studies show that grassy areas reduce soil erosion, which is a major cause of sedimentation pollution in the nation's rivers, lakes and streams.

On the whole, a golf course makes an environmentally sound contribution to any community.

Michigan/Border Cities Golf and Meeting

The Michigan/Border Cities Superintendents met on April 3 at Essex Golf and Country Club under cludy but dry skies. The temperature was very comfortable and the rain stayed away, providing a great day of golf for approximately 80 players.

One hundred and twenty sat down to a great steak dinner and listened to a fine talk by Dr. Joe Vargas.

Stu Mills had Essex in great shape for the time of year. It was obvious that lots of work had gone on before we arrived. Stu must be hoping for some dry weather to try his new computerized irrigation system.

The international competition this year was won by the Canadian Superintendents who edged out their American counterparts by a single shot. The victory was official and random drug testing was not necessary.

It was a great day and for those of you that did not attend, it shows you can't always believe the weather man.

Already looking forward to next year.

New Members

	Class
Ian Bowen, Lakeview GC	B
Mary Beth Kelly, Ladies Golf Club	F
Doug Walsh, Westmount GV	F
Gordon Wendover, Gordon Wendover Const. Ltd.	E
Rob Sharpe, Glen Abbey CG	F
Bill Dickinson, Champion Turf & Sport	E
Stephen Jones, Deer Creek G&CC	B
James Hopkins, Fawn Brook	B
Raymond Yule, Glen Cedars GC	B

Soil Temperatures And Crabgrass

by Jeff Lefton, Extension Turfrass Specialist

Crabgrass germination is very dependent on soil temperature, NOT air temperature. As a rule of thumb, crabgrass will germinate if you have three (3) consecutive days with soil temperatures taken between 7 and 8 a.m. at a three-inch depth for the soil textures indicated below.

Soil Texture	Soil Temperature °F between 7 - 8 a.m.
Loam	50 - 52° F
Heavy wet clay soil	53 - 57° F
Sandy soil	49 - 51° F

The time (7 to 8 a.m.) represents the daily low point of soil temperatures. Soil temperatures can be expected to increase 10 to 15 degrees by midafternoon on a sunny, moderately dry day in late April and May. A person could take a soil temperature reading at 3 p.m. and get a high reading, i.e. 59° F. This does not mean that crabgrass will germinate.

Variations in soil temperatures depend on several factors:

1. The soil in a wet lawn area will warm up much slower than a dry soil.
2. Lawns on south-facing slopes warm up faster than those on north-facing slopes.
3. A thick lawn grown on muck sod (dark color) will warm up sooner than a thin lawn on light colored soil.

Wet clay soils may require up to 3 to 4 times more heat to warm them than when they are dry. Future weather conditions play an important role in determining if soils will remain at adequate soil temperature for good crabgrass germination. Generally a forecast for below normal temperatures, but dry and sunny conditions will result in little or no change in the seasonal warming trend of the soil. Future cloudy, cold, wet weather will produce a rapid decrease in soil temperatures. Warm, dry sunny weather provides a moderate rate of soil temperature increase.

Crabgrass germination is also dependent on abundant sunlight near the soil surface. A tall dense lawn or a heavily shaded area will delay and/or eliminate the potential for crabgrass germination. Moisture is also needed for the germination process and for survival after germination.

Crabgrass will germinate much later than you think. And, as you can see, many factors contribute to its germination. Consider these factors when applying pre-emergents. For instance, a somewhat dry sandy area should not be applied in the late spring, while a poorly drained lawn could be delayed until mid to late spring.

Several environmental factors can be used as guidelines in predicting crabgrass germination. You can use one factory only in making this decision.

1. Night temperature – consistently greater than 65° F.
2. Daytime temperature – consistently between 55 - 75° F.
3. Soil temperature 7 - 10 consecutive days at or greather than 55 - 60° F.
4. Moist seedbed.

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Michael Vogt, Editor

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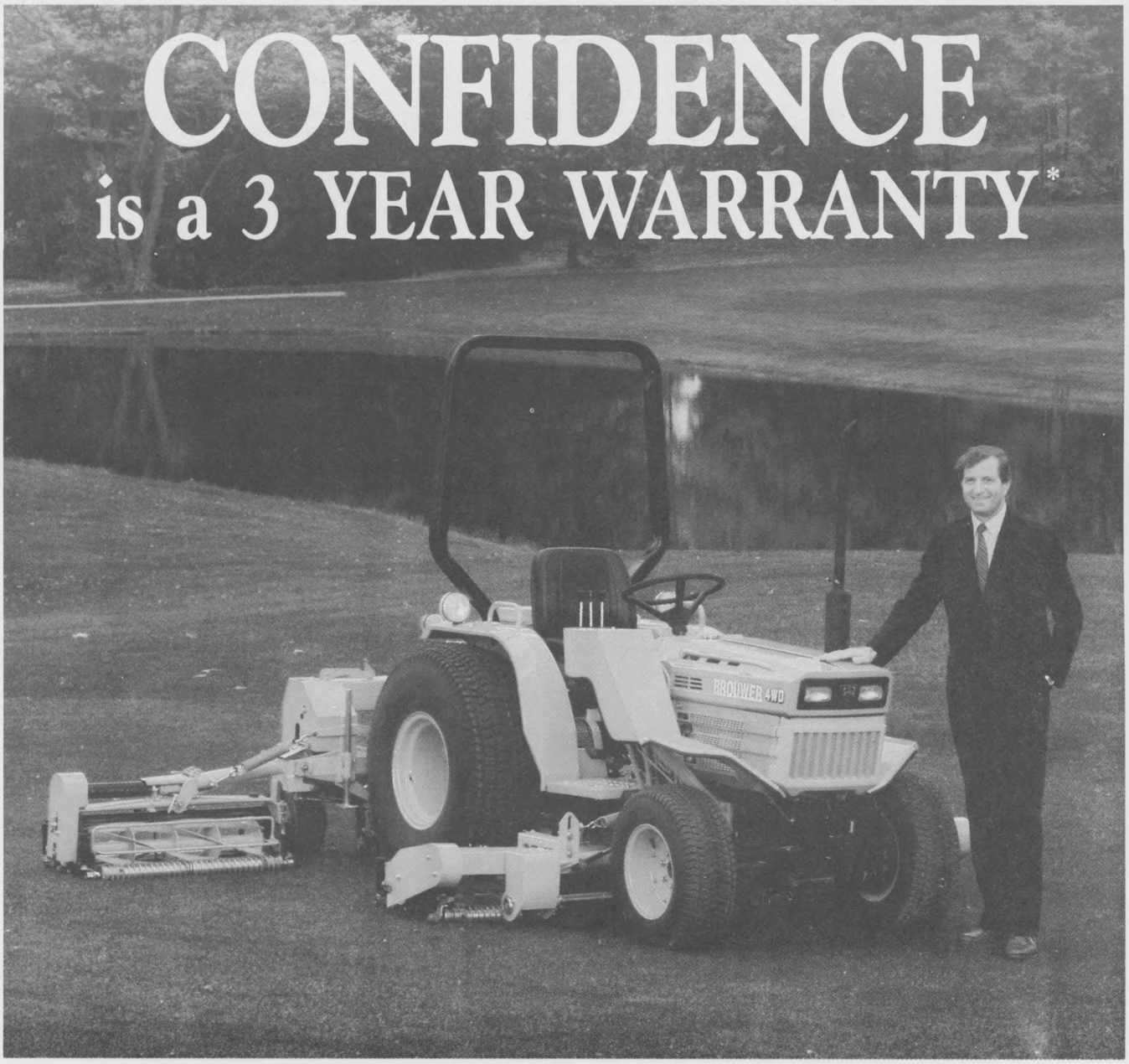

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*** Certain conditions and limitations may apply.**

BLACK LAYER:

Anaerobiosis is the condition, but sulfer is not the cause

by Houston B. Couch

The black layering in soils of managed turfgrass that is being reported from various sections of Canada and the United States is the product of anaerobiosis.

Anaerobiosis is a dynamic series of events taking place in an oxygen-depleted environment. When the soil becomes anaerobic, there are significant changes in both the form and solubility of certain nutrient elements. In their reduced state, these elements may be taken up by the plant more rapidly than they can be metabolized, thereby becoming toxic. In additin, the root systems of plants do not function properly in anaerobic soils. Their ability to absorb water and nutrients may be reduced significantly. Also, anaerobic microorganisms growing in the soil can produce toxic metabolites that cause either an outright death of the roots or an unthrifty growth of the overall plant.

While this problem is receiving more attention than it did in times past, anaerobiosis of bentgrass greens to the point of decline and dying-out is not new. For some 30 years, I have observed this condition in various stages of severity on bentgrass putting greens in a wide range of locations in the United States. during the past two years, I have diagnosed cases of acute anaerobiosis in plugs from putting greens with both predominantly sand and predominantly soil construction.

In considering the dynamics of anaerobiosis and how to control it, one must understand that sometimes a black layer accompanies the condition, sometimes it doesn't. Sometimes, there is a strong odor of hydrogen sulfide, sometimes there isn't. Sometimes there is a high population of algae on the surface of the green, sometimes there isn't. The one thing all of these situations have in common is an anaerobic condition caused by the filling of the soil's pore spaces with water.

This water accumulation can be the result of prolonged periods of rainfall, or impaired infiltration brought on by (i) problems with the initial construction or (ii) an aerification program that included improper selection of sand type for the topdressing.

Anaerobiosis can be rapidly accelerated by an accumulation of algae on the surface of the green. Algae proliferate very rapidly on high sand content greens. This is probably due to (i) the fact that they grow better on wet, light, sandy soils, (ii) the microbial competition is not as great as that found in predominantly soil mixes, (iii) irrigation practices on high sand content greens are oftentimes excessive, and (iv) there is a wide amplitude in the "swing" of availability of various nutrient elements.

Algae produce complex polysaccharides that have the consistency of gelatin. This material can move downward in the profile, plug the pores in the soil, and thus umpede the infiltration of water. Not only do these polysaccharides contribute to the development of the anaerobic condition in the soil, but they can also serve as a growth medium for anaerobic microorganisms. Algae, then, can be an important factor in the development of anaerobically-induced decline of turfgrass.

An article entitled "Black Layer Formation in Highly Maintained Turfgrass Soils" that appeared in the June 1987 issue of Golf Course Management theorizes that sulfur is the primary cause of anaerobiosis. It is the opinion of the authors that sulfur, not excess water, in-

itiates an anaerobic state in the soil, and that sulfur (in the form of hydrogen sulfide) is the cause of the death of the plants. Their premise centers primarily around the fact that the sulfur does have the potential for developing a blackened condition in the soil, and that in their tests, they were able to produce black layers with very high rates of sulfur.

Their hypothesis assumes that (i) sulfur at presently used rates will induce an anaerobic condition in the soil, (ii) sulfur at presently used rates will produce black layers in the soil, and (iii) all conditions of anaerobiosis in soils lead to the formation of black layers. None of these assumptions is correct. In fact, the results of their tests showed that sulfur applications within the normal use range does not produce black layers.

The experimental design for this research consisted of applying sulfur at two separate rates, 1 pound and 5 pounds per 1,000 square feet. Seventy-five percent of the experimental units that had been treated with 5 lbs. of sulfer per 1,000 sq. ft. and submerged in water for 30 days developed the black layer. **None of the experimental units treated with 1 lb. of sulfer per 1,000 sq. ft. developed black layers.**

Where sulfur and products containing sulfur are concerned, there is no published scientific evidence that elemental sulfur used at the rates currently recommended, or that the levels of sulfur in fertilizers presently in use in turfgrass management, either cause or contribute to the development of anaerobiosis. **Sulfer is not a factor in the development of anaerobiosis.** This means, then, that sulfur at the rates currently recommended will not induce anaerobiosis, and refraining from using sulfur will not reduce anaerobiosis.

The impact of anaerobiosis on plant growth can either be chronic or acute. It can exist in soil long before there is strong evidence of affected plant growth. It can exist without producing black layers. Prevention of the problem is accomplished by close monitoring of the infiltration rates of the greens. When the rate begins to drop, even though it may not appear to be significant, direct measures should be taken to correct the matter.

When it has been determined that anaerobiosis has developed, steps should be taken to increase the oxygen levels in the root zone. This means following a watering program that allows the soil moisture to be extracted well below field capacity between irrigations. It means aerification — including deep aerification if drainage barriers exist. It may also mean installing supplementary drainage for the greens.

Another important aspect of preventing anaerobiosis from developing to the acute stage is the control of surface algae. At the present time, the only pesticide that can be used on putting greens for algae control is mancozeb (Fore, Tersan LSR, Dithane M-22, Manzate 200). This material is effective in the control of Helminthosporium-incided diseases, and is also effective in reducing the impact of Pythium blight. Its inclusion in the spray schedule, then, can serve more than one purpose.

A DAY OFF

So you want a day off. Let's take a look at what you are asking for:

There are 365 days per year available for work. There are 52 weeks per year in which you already have two days off per week, leaving 261 days available for work. Since you spend 16 hours each day away from work, you have used up 170 days, leaving only 91 days available.

You spend 30 minutes each day on coffee break. That accounts for 23 days each year, leaving only 68 days available. With a one hour lunch period each day, you have used up another 46 days, leaving only 22 days available for work. You normally spend 2 days per year on sick leave. This leaves you only 20 days available for work.

We are off 5 holidays per year, so your available work time is down to 15 days. We generously give you 14 days vacation per year, which leaves only 1 day available for work and *I'll be damned if you going to take that day off!*

OTTAWA VALLEY NEWS

by Alex LaBelle

We've had a very interesting winter so far. Everyone, it seems, has ice again, and this year we are just as determined as ever that we are going to solve the great mystery. So much for the weather.

The O.V.T.A. (Ottawa Valley Turfgrass Association) is co-operating with Algonquin College to establish a four-week Turf Management program in response to a demand from employers for well-instructed senior staff. There is talk of developing some land adjacent to the campus for test plots and a three-hole layout to study the various styles of design, species of turfgrass, management techniques and the environmental stresses of our peculiar winter.

We can, as an Association, claim a successful year in our ability to survive such an unsettling year; environmentally and otherwise.

The tournaments were well attended and the seminar in February was an eye-opener. Dr. Robert Stewart spoke of the Greenhouse Effect rivetting everyone's attention to a very scary subject. Winter temperatures climbing between 4-16°C in fifty years. Florida in Cape Breton? I could live with that.

Randy Scott came over from Montreal way (Hillsdale) to impress us with vigorous Poa fairways and some valuable experience which will no doubt help quite a few of us. Dr. Tom Fisher of the University of New Hampshire gave an enthusiastic display, complete with role playing and voices, about the true meaning of Integrated Pest Management. The only thing missing was the popcorn!

W.H.M.I.S. is coming!!! Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System. The second day of the two-day format consisted of two workshops. One, offered by Turfcare Products, dealt with the Operations and Maintenance of Small Hydraulics Machines and Maintaining Small Diesel Engines.

The other workshop was offered by the Davey Tree Expert Company regarding Loss Control. Davey's program addressed hiring procedures, the ability to trend accidents and analyze the trends which allows for preventative programs to be established. Sounds pretty straight-forward, doesn't it? Actually it's not, and Davey has a sophisticated and effective seminar which makes the complexities obvious through its professional presentation.

The seminar evaluations ranked us 4 out of a possible of 5 for content, presentation and accommodation. The two-day format was highly favoured for a repeat performance next February.

The new Board of Directors was elected at the annual meeting following the seminar and stands as follows:

Past President	George Lamirande
President	Dave Thuringer
Vice-President	Eric Ruhs
Treasurer	from below
Secretary	Alex La Belle
Members at Large	Sid Witteveen
	Kevin Patterson
	Michael Bailey
	Bruce Dewar
	Murray Finch

The Membership booklet went out on time (as opposed to waiting for delinquent accounts) and was produced at half the previous price, thanks to the efforts of Eric Ruhs.

We are disappointed that we are losing Bob Richer from the Board after many years of tenacious support, but we're not losing the best part of him — Dianne! The Board confirmed its very deep appreciation for Dianne's diligence in producing the newsletters and handling the bureaucracy that keeps this Association afloat.

I expect that 1989 will be a good year for the O.V.T.A. as long as we remain ready to draw upon each other for support. Our Membership meetings and tournaments provide us with that opportunity.

GEORGIAN BAY SUPER

by Ed Farnsworth

Winter has finally broke in ski country after the Easter Weekend. Warm temperatures and snow reduced the snow pack considerably and most Superintendents were looking forward to a late April start-up. Everyone, that is, except Ron Heesen, who will be grooming his new Tom McBroom creation for a July 1st opening.

Tom is working this year on the new Hockley Valley Golf Course, where John Anderson is the Superintendent; and with Robert Cupp on the new Deerhurst Highlands Golf Club, the second course at that resort.

Rene and Charlie Muylaert are also busy in the area building a second 18 holes for John Hughes at Horseshoe Valley and a new 18 in Orillia where Bruce Dodson will be the new Superintendent.

All this construction is certainly going to increase the potential venues for our Georgian Bay Golf Days.

The following is a list of golf courses and superintendents that will be hosting our G.B.S.A. Golf Days:

JUNE 6, 1989 :	Bonaire Golf & Country Club Hwy. #400 & Hwy. #12 Coldwater, Ontario (705) 835-3125
Host :	Randy Fielder
JULY 4, 1989 :	Orillia's Lake St. George Golf & Country Club Orillia, Ontario (705) 689-5371
Host :	Greg Louth
AUG. 1, 1989 :	Cranberry Village Golf Club Collingwood, Ontario (705) 445-5051
Host :	Charlie Terry
SEPT. 5, 1989 :	Barrie Country Club St. Vincent Street Barrie, Ontario (705) 728-4802
Host :	Ed Dodda
SEPT. 19, 1989 :	Muskoka Lakes Golf & Country Club Port Carling, Ontario (705) 765-3165
Host :	David Smith

All of these golf days begin at 12:00 noon, and the cost is $20.00 per person. Included in the price is a meal. And, if you compete in at least 3 of the 5 events you qualify for the annual prize table, which includes such impressive items as stereos and TV's.

We encourage all Superintendents to participate, even if you are not from the Georgian Bay area, and to enjoy the northern hospitality.

Further information can be received from Ray Richards at Midland G & CC (705) 526-2878.

We hope everyone has a successful season.

ON THE MOVE

Ted Ellis CGCS leaves Greenwood Golf Club to take on a new course under construction called "Blue Springs Development".

Mark Hagen assumed his new duties as Superintendent at the new West Haven Golf and Country Club, north of London. Mark's previous position at Wyldewood Golf & CC has been filled by **Mike Creed**, who left his assistant's position at Oshawa.

Gary Hastings leaves Merryhill GC to join the City of Kitchener Golf Clubs at Rockway and Doon Valley.

Southwestern Ontario welcomes **Jerry Richard** who left his assistant's position at Toronto Golf Club to take over the Superintendents job at Craigowan Golf and Country Club in Woodstock.

John Anderson also moves to a new course under construction at Hockley Valley while **Don Crymble** takes over from John at IBM.

Bruce Dodson leaves Emerald Hills to become the Superintendent at a new course in Orillia.

Jack Austin, formerly with Turf Care's irrigation division has gone out on his own, forming "Canadian Irrigation Consultants'. So if you want an unbiased opinion, call Jack.

Golf Course Superintendent's Guide to Neatness and Clutter Control

by Pete French, Glens Falls Country Club, Glens Falls, New York

Item	Save	Discard	Undecided	
Product literature collected at trade shows	✓			Put on file because as soon as you throw it out a need will arise for this product.
Equipment service bulletins	✓			File in equipment maintenance folder so you will know why it broke when your mechanic disregarded the message.
Correspondence requiring response	✓ (one year)			Dispose of at end of year when you are certain an answer now would be too late. Use the phone, who's got time to write letters anyway?
Golf tees	✓			I have a dresser full, but none in my golf bag.
Golf gloves with hole in thumb		✓		Throw these out. Nobody with any class uses gloves with holes and you'll get blisters with a holy glove.
Used Bedknives		✓		Why would they sell new ones if the old ones were good. You will never build anything with these, don't kid yourself.
Size 32" waist pants		✓		It's safe to discard these when you have been wearing 36" for 3 years.
Day-old doughnuts	✓			Refrigerate overnight, this will tide you over to lunch time and prevent you from wearing 32" pants.
String.		✓		Andy Rooney says, "If you need string, buy it".
Open paint cans		✓		Andy Rooney says, "It will be dried up when you need it". (I attest)
2-cycle rotary mowers with 3 seasons' use		✓		By the end of 3 seasons you'll save lots of labor if you chuck these because they'll spend more time and energy trying to start them than they will mowing.
Broken sand trap rakes		✓		Who keeps breaking these? Are they that fragile?
Survey questionnaires	Mail them			Send them in right away so you won't feel guilt ridden about keeping the quarter they gave you for your time.
Weed, Trees & Turf, and Ground Maintenance magazines	✓			I saved them all for references but I had to buy a bigger house after 15 years in the business.
3-year old job applications		✓		Imagine calling someone after 3 years and findout out they were still out of work and available.
Company promotional hats		give away		I collect stamps, coins, Indian artifacts, scorecards, buttons and decided I don't have room for hats.

Reprinted from: Our Collaborator, Northeastern GCSA, August, 1986

SOUTHWESTERN REPORT

by Rod Trainor.

The past winter in Southwestern Ontario was a relatively easy one, with little or no snow cover. Most courses came thorugh with very little damage; however, they are much browner than usual due to the lack of cover. Some welcome rains and a few unwelcome snowfalls are making for a slow start, but I don't think anyone will complain about the moisture except maybe Mark Hagen, who is trying to get the new West Haven Golf & CC into full construction. Welcome back to sunny southwestern Ontario, Mark.

John Bennet at the Hunt Club hopes to complete his trap renovation this spring while Graham Shouldice at Highland continues with his master plan and many renovations in preparation for the Green Chairman/Superintendent Tournament this summer.

Here at St. Thomas G & CC we are finishing a tee and a bridge before getting into some drainage.

Bob Cresswell at Pleasant Valley is putting the finishing touches on the new 9 in preparation for opening this spring.

There are three golf meetings this summer in Region 1, along with 2 OGSA events.

The first is at Confederation Golf Club in Sarnia on May 11, with host Wayne Hall.

On July 27 we will be at Ingersol G & CC with Rick Serrao and the last meeting in October at a place yet to be determined, hopefully the Windsor area.

On July 10 the Greenchairman/Superintendent Tournament (formerly the President/Greenchairman) will be at Highland Golf and Country Club. As this is now a two-man format, more clubs can participate so look for the entry form and make an effort to participate.

The Pro/Superintendent Tournament is at St. Thomas G & CC on September 7. Let your Greenchairman and Pro know well in advance so they can mark it on their calendars.

Southwestern Superintendents always have good meetings and we welcome all to attend no matter what region you are from.

Good luck in 1989.

YESTERYEARS
'36 In The Chicago District

by John MacGregor

1936, the year of extremes, started off with sub-zero temperatures and blizzards. Then came a cold, backward spring with practically no growing weather until the first week in June and the grass was slow to respond to fertilizer treatments.

No rain fell from the first week in June until the 12th of August and during that period the temperatures ranged from 90 to 111 degrees Faranheit with a dry atmosphere. From the 12th of August to the first of September, the humidity was extremely high. Since that time the frequent heavy rains, as was to be expected, caused a discoloration of the grass on putting greens, commondly known as scald. However the condition was temporary for as soon as the greens had been allowed to dry out and given a stimulant, the grass recovered.

The hot wave, as I have already stated, lasted two and a half months and necessitated continuous watering of the greens, tees and fairways. The clubs having irrigation systems on their fairways reported using from 250,000 to 500,000 gallons of water per day. One greenkeeper informed me that for the duration of the drought he had used 35,000,000 gallons of water which means high cost of maintenance for 1936.

However during the dry spell, with the exception of a few days, there was very little danger of brownpatch or for that matter of any type of fungus disease because of the absence of moisture in the air. This type of weather is what the greenkeeper likes and he always dreads the first rain because of the humidity that is sure to follow which is ideal for fungus diseases, scald and what have you. If someone could invent something to keep the rain off the greens and let it fall on the fairways, the greenkeepers' troubles would be at a minimum.

Clubs not having irrigation systems had their fairways burned to a crisp and many were worried about their recovery. However there is very little to fear in that respect as long as the roots of the grass have not been broken. If they have not been broken, the grass will respond after one or two good rains. In extreme cases it may be necessary to reseed some spots. However, I am speaking of courses in the middle west.

Some sections of the country have been more fortunate, having had frequent rains, but as I mentioned previously, rains and humidity spell trouble in the form of fungi. Cooler weather and frequent rains for the fall months did much to restore our faith in nature again.

I understand from individuals who have covered courses in most parts of the country that golf courses in general are in better condition than they have been for several years which indicates that business conditions are better and that budgets have been increased. If any club expects to enjoy a successful season, their course has to be in as good or better condition as their neighbor's. This means expense in the form of *fertilizer, water and brownpatch preventatives.* I say preventatives advisedly because the prevention method is the only sure way of keeping the turf free from disease. After heavy rains it may be necessary to treat greens three or four times during the period of one week. Experience has taught me this is the proper course to pursue. I have also found light applications of from one to two ounces per 1000 square feet as a preventative, have not proven sufficient. Therefore best results have been obtained by using three ounces per 1000 square feet.

The late summer and early fall have been extremely pleasant for golf courses with plenty of frequent rains and warm, though not humid, weather. It has been ideal for fall seeding providing the seeding was not done too late. It has also been an ideal fall for late work such as rebuilding of greens and tees, repairing of bunkers, tiling and other jobs.

Sound familiar? - Ed.

Reprinted from "The Greenkeepers' Report" Jan. 1937

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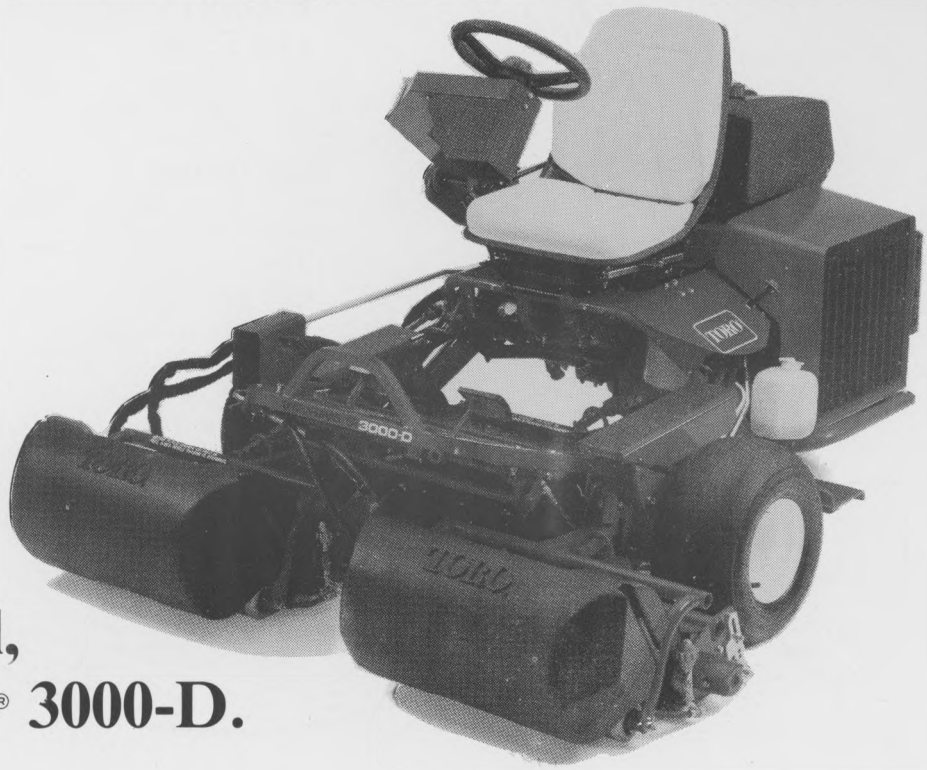

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UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 1, 1989
OGSA, Galt Field Day
Galt CC, University of Guelph
Host: Bruce Burger

JULY 10, 1989
OGSA, Greenchairman/Superintendent
Tournament, Highland CC
Host: Graham Shouldice

JULY 27, 1989
SWOGSA Golf and Meeting
Intersol G & CC
Host: Rick Serrao

AUGUST 14, 1989
OTRF Fundraising Tournament
National GC,Board of Trade G & CC

SEPTEMBER 7, 1989
Pro/Superintendent Golf Tournament
St. Thomas G & CC
Host: Rod Trainor

Green is Beautiful

Ontario Golf Superintendents Association