

NEWSLETTER

MAY, 1971



Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

Sponsors and administrators of the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund — Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

RUNNING OUT OF IDEAS

They are called "turf conferences" or "field days" or "equipment days" or "green seminars."

Whatever the title, just wait around for a week or so and one or the other will come popping at your door.

"The original idea of the conference was great", a veteran of the scene offered the other day. "But to be truthful, these things are beginning to become old hat. I went to three different affairs in the past month. And I didn't hear anything I hadn't heard a year ago."

This isn't to say that the conference or seminar isn't worthwhile. Certainly there always will be a place in the planning book of every superintendent for this form of education. However, things are getting out of hand. The country is becoming saturated with them.

"There's no doubt that we have enough problems to warrant these conferences", our man in the know noted. "But if we could arrange some sort of a regional setup for the events, it would cut down on the overstated messages we hear in bouncing from one locale to another."

The remedy is simple. Instead of sections fielding their own conferences, they could be consolidated with those of other sections within a region. For instance, in New England there probably are five or six presentations a year. And what you hear in New Hampshire one night you're likely to hear in Rhode Island the next.

"I'll give you an example", our man cracked. "I hit most of the conferences within a radius of 200 miles of my home. Let's say I've gone to six. Well, during at least three of them I've been exposed to the battle against poa annua. After a while it gets boring."

Milorganite of Milwaukee recently published a calendar in which it shows a lineup of turfgrass meetings. To stress our point, a look at January revealed that every week in the month is planted with one turf session or the other. In fact, during two of those weeks there are three different events scheduled.

Naturally, there has to be a shutting off station somewhere. If the myriad of conferences and seminars continues, one or two things are likely to occur. Either the conference will run out of ideas or people interested enough to attend them.

The regional basis seems to be the logical answer to the overflow. A rotating plan could be arranged so that each section or state would get the opportunity to serve as regional host. In this way many supers and other turfgrass enthusiasts would be spared the "agony" of having to hear the same theme five times.

"It's the only answer," our man insisted. "I've seen the same guy speak on the same subject the last three conferences I attended. It's getting so that I hate him when I see him. There has to be a change to keep us coming to these things. Otherwise, no one will go anywhere."

— Gerry Finn

GRAU MAKES IT GROW

Dr. Fred Grau is one of the pillars of his profession. He's listed in the Yellow Pages as "turf expert", but his heart belongs with the ever increasing strides made by the golf course superintendent.

"I just returned from a trip to Africa", Dr. Grau told a group of heavy listeners recently at the Massachusetts Turf Conference. "They need help. Why, they can't even go into the country club's clubhouse and seldom do you see a member talking to them."

Dr. Grau, nevertheless, sees the plight of the African species of super improving. "It's a slow process, as we all know," he said. "On the technical side of the coin, they are making much greater gains. What I did was involve myself in this area. I even had a hand in the selection of grasses for a course Gary Player is building on a gold mine."

The theme of Dr. Grau's conversation strays from one of discussing the new grasses on the market to a definite stand against the fabricated forms of maintaining golf courses to the challenge of getting the superintendents national association to concentrate on a membership drive.

"We're all excited about this Pennstar grass", Dr. Grau revealed. "It is one of the best. It usually is used in blends with other grasses like Merion. Then there is something called Prato. It's an import from Sweden. Oh yes, the research people are doing wonders."

Dr. Grau falls in that category, too. He has discovered and developed Penngift Crownvetch. "This could be the answer to the rugged times of trying to grow grass on steep banks", Dr. Grau advised. "It has both beauty and guts. It is a very courageous grass. It grows in clay, under rock, almost anywhere . . . and it requires no water and no mowing."

There is a definite tone of support for the super in that group's never ending quest for a budget which is in step with the time or the incessant demands by the country club member to have a perfect playground for his game of golf.

"I believe the member should realize that maintaining a golf course is like anything else requiring capital outlay", Dr. Grau barked. "The country club must be prepared to spend money for results. It's the same old story. Anything that's good is expensive. But in the same breath may I add that in the long run it turns out to be the least expensive. I know of courses which spend, spend for the cheap item and wind up plowing it under. If they had gone high price at the start, they'd have won the battle of the budget in the end."

Dr. Grau is a nature lover and because of this particular romance, he hates to see a superintendent blot out the natural contributions to the golf course. "I tell them 'don't kill every weed on your course'", Dr. Grau told. "I like to see the native flowers growing. A natural setting can't be replaced. We need a return to nature."

So, Dr. Grau has a lot on his mind and much on the ball to boot. He is an expert . . . an expert in more ways than one.

— Gerry Finn

Golf Course Superintendents Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Interested in advancing your profession and promoting golf at the same time?

Get behind National Golf Day — promote and support it. Help your P.G.A. professional. How? Ask him if there is any way you can help. You can groom the golf course and talk it up yourself. Participate yourself.

Let's set a record in 1971. An important part of National Golf Day is the benefits that occur to the many convalescing G. I.'s in the nation's veterans' hospitals. Two organizations, the United Voluntary Services and the National Amputee Golf Association work very closely in this area, turning veterans' thoughts of despair to those of rehabilitation and a future of normal living.

All of this is made possible because of the thousands of American amateurs who compete each year in National Golf Day, which, in 1971 will cover a two-week period on either side of May 31.

So DO YOUR PART — groom the course, talk it up and play yourself. Consider yourself fortunate that you can support this most worthy event.

DICK BLAKE
President Golf Course Superintendents
Association of New England

Applications to be voted on at the next Regular Business Meeting:

Dino Frigo — Associate
57 Palmyra St., Springfield, Mass.
Club affiliation — Veterans Golf Course

Louis Simili, Jr. — Associate
40 Henderson St., Arlington, Mass.
Club affiliation — Fresh Pond Golf Course

Donald B. Silver — Associate
82 Peerless St., Cranston, Rhode Island
Club affiliation — Wannamoisett Country Club

John M. Kellar — Associate
236 Western Ave., Essex, Mass.
Club affiliation — Wenham Golf Course

James J. Lyons — Associate
42 Boylston St., Jamaica Plain, Mass.
Club affiliation — Ponkapoag Golf Course

News From Western Massachusetts

Superintendent Roy MacIntosh was Master of Ceremonies at the Willow Glenn Restaurant in East Longmeadow recently at a party to welcome Dave Clement to the area. Dave became the Super at the Country Club in Agawam, Mass. during the winter. Nineteen superintendents and turf men were present at the luncheon to welcome Dave. Good luck on your new position!

NEXT MEETING



Curran. Larry is married and has no children.

May 10, 1971 is the date for the first outdoor meeting in 1971. The place is the Milton Hoosic Club, Canton, Massachusetts. Larry Bonn is the very capable super and he has been there for only one year. Prior to graduating from Stockbridge in 1970 Larry was the super at Geneva Country Club for five years in Muscatine, Iowa. He worked for Leon V. St.Pierre in 1968 for a season and took his placement at the Country Club under Tom

Directions to Milton Hoosic: From the Mass. Pike go south on 128 to Route 138 south one-half mile to Green Lodge Rd. Sharp right and follow to club, three-quarter mile on your left.

MEETING SCHEDULE

- 11:00 a. m. Farm Bureau Demonstration
- 12:00 p. m. Golf and Course Tours
- 4:45 p. m. Directors' Meeting
- 5:30 p. m. Business Meeting
- 7:00 p. m. Buffet

At 11:00 a. m. on May 10, 1971 Fred Heyliger of the Farm Bureau has arranged for a Bulk Spread Truck with High Flo-tation Tires for Fairways. It will spread both fertilizer and lime. Also, Fred has lined up a Helicopter demonstration for spraying both granular and liquid insecticides and fungicides on fairways. Both are weather permitting.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- May 10, 1971 — Milton Hoosic, Larry Bonn, Supt.
- June 8, 1971 — Woodland, Super-Press, Norman Mucciarone, Supt.
- July 12, 1971 — The Orchards, Dave Vibber, Supt.
- August, 1971 — Vesper C. C., Super-Chairmen. Burt Fredricks, Supt.
- Sept. 13, 1971 — South Shore C. C., Al Auger, Supt.
- October, 1971 — Brae Burn, Super-Pro, Bob Grant, Supt.
- November 1971 — Eastward Ho, Brian Cowan, Supt.

President — RICHARD C. BLAKE 211 Sewall Street Boylston, Mass. 01505 Phone 869-2737 Club Affiliation Mt. Pleasant Country Club	First Vice President — ROBERT GRANT 22 Patricia Road Sudbury, Mass. 01776 Phone 443-2671 Club Affiliation Brae Burn Country Club	Second Vice President — THOMAS CURRAN 153 Fisher Street Walpole, Mass. 02081 Phone 668-7221 Club Affiliation The Country Club	Secretary — WAYNE ZOPPO 48 Barbary Drive Seekonk, Mass. Phone 399-7141 Club Affiliation Agawam Hunt Club	Treasurer — LUCIEN DUVAL R.F. No. 5 Gault Road Bedford, N. H. 03105 Phone 472-3454 Club Affiliation Manchester Country Club	Trustee — RONALD KIRKMAN 25 Green Street Needham, Mass. 02192 Phone 444-8412 Club Affiliation Needham Golf Club	Trustee — ROBERT MUCCIARONE 465 Summer Street Westwood, Mass. 02090 Phone 329-9682 Club Affiliation Dedham Country and Polo Club	Trustee — NORMAN MUCCIARONE 101 Alban Road Waban, Mass. 02168 Phone 329-3056 Club Affiliation Woodland Country Club	Finance Chairman — NARY SPERANDIO Concord, Mass. 01742 Phone 369-4223 Club Affiliation Concord Country Club
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Golf Course Superintendents Association



UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION GREEN SECTION

EASTERN REGION
P. O. BOX 1237 - HIGHLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY 08904
Telephone (201) 572-0440

April 26, 1971

Eastern Director
National Research Director
ALEXANDER M. RADKO

Agronomists
WILLIAM G. BUCHANAN
STANLEY J. ZONTEK

WINTER INJURY — EASTERN REGION

Winter injury is a general term used to describe turfgrass injury that occurs year to year as golf courses emerge from the winter. Specifically, there are these major forms of winter injury which can occur individually or in combination:

- (1) Snow mold — caused by fungi — occurs in circular pattern from golf ball to basketball size. One is grey, the other is pink snow mold.
- (2) Ice damage — where the ice remains on the turf for extended periods — usually in the low spots and on areas where snow accumulates, freezes and melts slowly.
- (3) Desiccation — when snow cover is absent and high winds persist. This dries the turf excessively until the plant is dehydrated completely.
- (4) Injury due to excessive traffic.
 - a Too much winter play — shows up around winter cupping areas and walk-off areas.
 - b When grasses are frozen — traffic bruises brittle blades which results in footprints and more disease problems.
 - c Heavy play on days when shallow thawing occurs — the top soil fraction is compressed and soil structure is impaired or destroyed.
- (5) Crown hydration — excessive water intake by plants during cold weather due to poor drainage. Excessive water in plants and the freezing and thawing action that occurs within the plant (crystallization) ruptures cells and the plant collapses with the first warm days.

Any or all of these afflictions can cause problems and delay recovery of the turf in early spring. The following check points are listed as reminders to help reduce winter injury:

- (1) Apply a fungicide treatment or two after the leaves fall from the trees to eradicate germinating snow mold spores. Then apply preventative fungicide materials prior to the first snowfall and in mid-winter when the opportunity presents itself, when greens are clear of snow and ice cover.
- (2) Feed the turf on the conservative side during the entire year in order to keep it from becoming soft and lush.

Hungry turf rebounds, doesn't injure so readily. Light frequent applications are far better than any heavy treatments. Don't fertilize after August.

- (3) Keep an eye on potash levels — apply small amounts in spring and early summer — none in the fall.
- (4) Heavy topdressing of greens just prior to closing greens for the winter is most helpful. The rate of 2 cubic yards per 5,000 square feet on all or most troublesome greens will help greatly.
- (5) Make channels through the ice in winter to keep the water moving off the green as the ice melts.
- (6) Correct existing drainage problems to reduce the time that water and ice remain on the turf.
- (7) Keep winter play on regular greens to a minimum — use alternate greens during inclement and winter season.

To help speed recovery of weak areas:

- (1) Aerate most severely injured areas where recovery appears slow or doubtful.
- (2) Spike all injured areas — several times over.
- (3) Topdress lightly and overseed.
- (4) Soluble fertilizer applied at rates of 1/16 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per week for about four weeks will be helpful. This is in addition to the dry application of fertilizer at *light* rates.
- (5) Syringe several times daily.
- (6) Spray with Thiram (Tersan, Thimer, etc.) to keep seedlings healthy.
- (7) Plug or sod as needed on areas that show no recovery by early May.

This program is recommended for courses that experience problems with winter injury year after year.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Radko

Golf Course Superintendents Association

A V.I.P. AT PINE VALLEY

Very Important Person. That must be Eberhard (Eb) Steiniger, the man who has nationally famous Pine Valley Golf Club under his green thumb and keeps players of that course gasping from the joy of experiencing a round there.

Steiniger, along with John Arthur Brown, is Pine Valley. They have been an integral part of the course's leap to fame. Eb is starting his 44th year as superintendent. Brown has been the club president for 40 years.

"It's a very profitable arrangement", Steiniger talked about the solid relationship between super and prexy at Pine Valley while he was on his way to an MGA Day appearance. "There is no bother about transition. I know I'm going to have the same boss every year. Naturally, every 40 seasons together, we understand each other."

Golfers look upon Pine Valley as a monster, but as a monster whose layout and condition draws its victims to high scores with regularity. "I suppose golfers come back year after year because of the challenge there", Eb laughed. "We have all kinds of golfers visit us. It is the kind of course one never forgets."

There are standing bets among golfers who look upon Pine Valley as some kind of Everest. It usually goes something like this: A golfer in the low handicap range gets socked with the wager that he won't break 90 the first time he plays Pine Valley. Very few accomplish it.

The traps at Pine Valley are unique. "We never rake them", Eb grinned. "Cuts down on expense. But, really, that has nothing to do with it. We consider the traps as part of the fairway. The golfers have to walk through some of them to get to where their balls are. We also have heather, Scotch broom and hawthorne growing in them. We just let them be."

This gives Pine Valley that much sought natural look. Then, too, there are no out of bounds stakes. "If you make a mistake you have to pay for it", Eb warned. "You start off on the first tee and you're on your own. A penalty shot might be a blessing the way some rounds are played."

Steiniger also gets a chuckle out of the latest development at Pine Valley. It concerns a little setback to the male sex, since the club has always been "for men only." Make that WAS.

"They finally had to let the women play the course", Eb revealed. "But I would hardly call it a full concession. The ladies are allowed to play on Sunday afternoons after one o'clock. However, they still can't get into the clubhouse. They change their shoes in their cars."

Pine Valley has had some physical woes on the layout during Eb's long tenure. "We had a tornado last year", Steiniger said with a choke in his voice. "We lost 400 pine trees and that hurt. The cost just to clean up the mess was \$22,000, but that's not the point. It's the loss of the trees which was the biggest setback."

Steiniger not only keeps the course in shape, he also throws his hand into experiment. He has been working on a new grass — C-7 Cohansy Vent — which he discovered and plans to use at Pine Valley. "It stands the heat very well", Eb said. "Any grass that can do that is worth the money and time it takes to develop."

That man, Steiniger, certainly lives up to the V.I.P. descriptive at the top of this piece. And you can add another accolade. To everyone at the New Jersey spread he is "Mr. Pine Valley."

— Gerry Finn

GREAT MAGICIAN

I sometimes think that Spring's a myth,
That only winter's real
In January I forget
How sunny mornings feel.

I've lost the scent of daffodils,
And almost think I know
That nothing's really waiting there
Asleep beneath the snow.

In February's darkest days
The robin's just a word —
And something known as crocuses
Sounds totally absurd.

There's no such thing as hyacinth
Or violets galore,
There's only frost and sleet and snow
To last forevermore.

By March the first — for sure I know
That only poets sing
Of something they invented, and
I think they call it "Spring."

But lo — the Great Magician comes
And flings before my eyes
A dazzling woodland masterpiece!
And I apologize.

James C. Spry

TROLLING WITH JOE

1. Is there a difference between the nitrogen absorbed by the turf grass plant coming from an applied organic fertilizer and that of a commercial fertilizer?

Ans. No. Chemically the nitrogen coming from either source, organic or commercial (salt) form, is taken into the plant either as nitrate nitrogen (NO_3) or ammonium (NH_4) or both. However, if the nitrogen is in an organic form, the nitrogen has to be mineralized.

2. What are the criteria favoring turf diseases as caused by fungi?

Ans. Presence of the inciting organism and host. In addition, predisposing factors such as favorable climate, temperature, moisture, etc. Other factors to consider are turf management practices which involve fertility, mowing, herbicide use, watering, etc., as well as climate. Turfgrass infection by weak pathogens which are primarily saprophytes — live on dead organic matter — is often related to the total management complex.

Dr. Joseph Troll
Professor of Agrostology
University of Massachusetts

SOUND OFF!!!!

(Time once again for the readers to take up their pens and spin the little yarns that has made Sound Off the pet project of the Newsletter. The feature is an open invitation to golfers, supers, dealers and what have you to air their views. You, then, are the stars of this section. So, take up your pens and let's hear from you. Send your comments to Mail Box, 24 Riverview Drive, Newbury, Mass. 01950. The Newsletter reserves the right to comment on all letters published.)

* * * * *

"I recently attended the Joe Frazier-Muhammad Ali heavy-weight title fight in New York and thought I saw your Gerry Finn in the midst of a group of celebrities. Among them was actor Peter Falk and Gerry seemed to be getting some static from Mr. Falk.

"Of course, I could be wrong and be held in a state of mistaken identity. Can you please tell me if that was Gerry and Peter having some heated words . . . or should I get my glasses checked?"

SAM ALLISON
Sparktown, Pa.

Your eyes are all right, Sam. That was Gerry and Peter toe to toe. However, since both smoke cigars they were discussing the brands each favors and Gerry is stuck on Connecticut Broadleaf!

* * * * *

"I am about to comment on something which I think is the result of the New England Newsletter. In effect, it is a small thank you from the rest of the country.

"During the PGA Championship at the National PGA Club in Palm Beach Gardens, the television announcers made a strong attempt to give credit where credit is due. I am referring to the wonderful condition of the course which players had extolled all through the tournament.

"It was satisfying, indeed, to hear the praises heaped on Carl McKinney who is the fine superintendent at the PGA course. I was wondering if anyone else noticed this long overdue gesture and if the same people realize it was you people which championed this particular cause."

SONNY BANKS
Kissimmee, Fla.

We in New England are aware of the McKinney tribute by national television. And we did campaign for such recognition long ago. Thanks for remembering the effort.

* * * * *

"It was a pleasure to learn of the recent election of Dick Blake to the post of president in your national organization.

"Since I am new to the Newsletter and virtually a stranger to the organizational setup of the golf course superintendent, I was surprised to see that someone from New England could rise that high in a national association.

"My point is that our golfers not only should be proud of Mr. Blake but also proud of the sectional organization (New

England) from whence he had his beginning in the climb up the ladder. Congratulations to both of you. Keep up the good work."

KATHERINE KEYES
Great Barrington, Mass.

No need for double bows here. Dick Blake is a product of his own ambition and ability. We're just as proud of him as you are.

* * * * *

"This is an itchy time of year for us golfers.

"No need to tell you people that the long winter brings on such ailments as cabin fever and sit-in disease. So, now it's off to the golf course to work off the effects of them and start another season of seeking birdies and warding off bogies.

"It must be that the superintendent has some ideas about how people should conduct themselves on the golf course at this time when the grasses haven't taken hold and other dangers are present because of the delicate conditions which prevail.

"I, for one, would appreciate any tips you can give in order that our course won't be sorry for some of the thoughtlessness golfers practice while concentrating on sharpening their games. Have you any suggestions?"

FRANK HARDY
Waterford, Conn.

The main suggestion for the moment is this: Treat your golf course as if it were your lawn and as though you would have to suffer the time and expense for the harm you might do it.

* * * * *

(Thus, the curtain falls on another act of Sound Off. Remember, this is your show, your stage. So, keep those cards and letters coming. We want to hear from you . . . and you . . .)



The above picture was taken at a recent Green Committee Meeting at the Chestnut Hill Country Club. The meeting was called to discuss the proposed fairway renovation program at the club. The committee viewed the Ryan Equipment Co. movie "Living Carpet." Pictured left to right are: Charles Doherty, Vice President Clapper Co.; Ken Gendall, Assistant Superintendent; Paul Goldman, Green Chairman; Dean Robertson, Golf Course Superintendent; and Frank Buschini, District Sales Representative, Ryan Equipment Co.

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* Contributors to the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund

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FIRST CLASS

