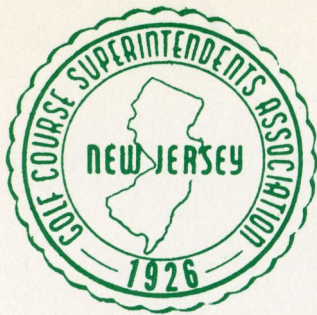


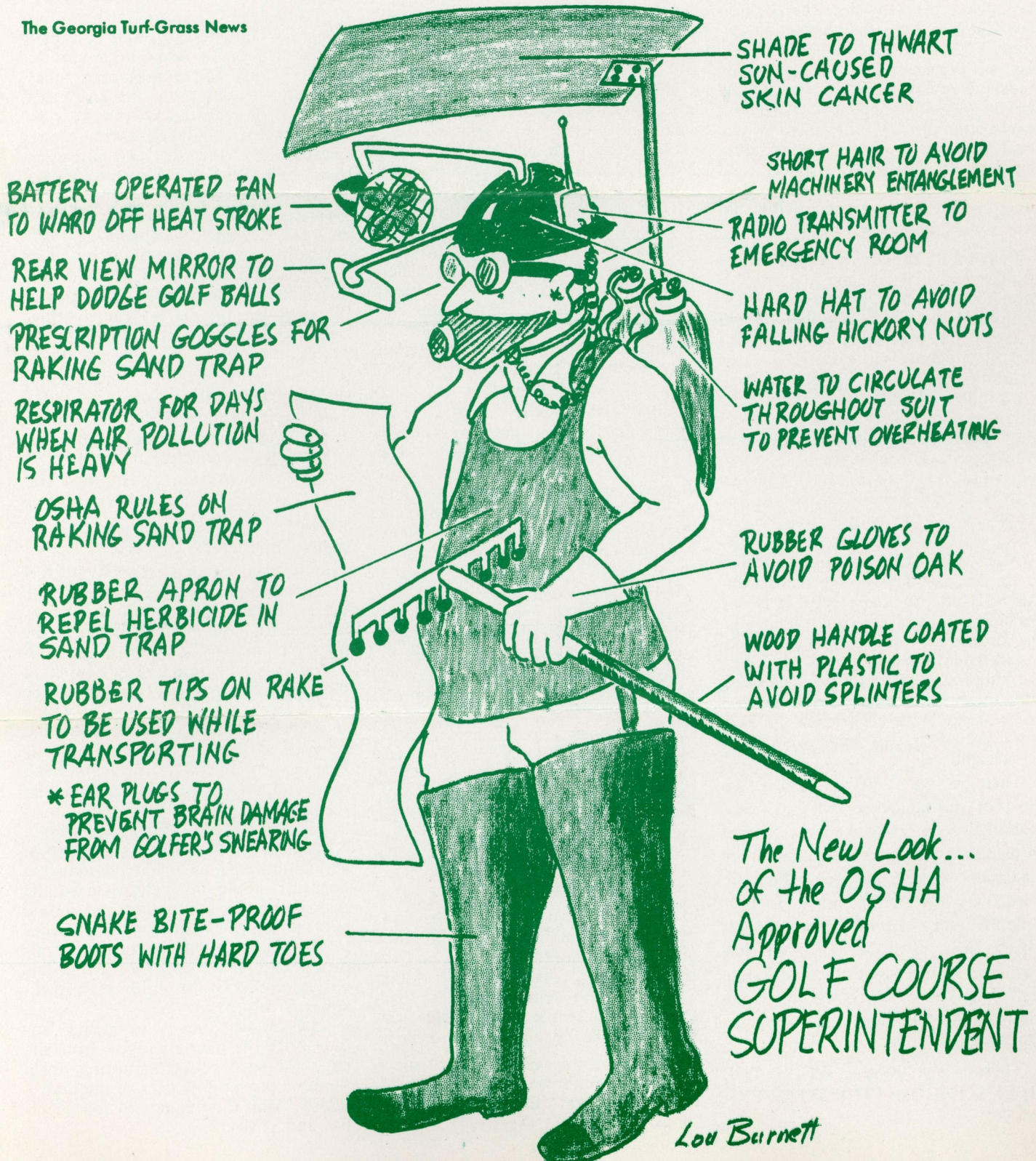


New Jersey Golf Course Report

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The Georgia Turf-Grass News



Editorial — The Federal Monday

Every industry probably feels that the Federal Government is out to "sink its personal ship" in some way or another. Yet the Recreation Industry may have firmer grounds than most to feel back-stabbed by the total lack of consideration shown by Congress in the form of the "Federal Monday Holiday."

Last year, in a fit of patriotic effort, Congress set aside five Mondays throughout the year as Federal Holidays. Please note the distinction between Federal and National. In theory this move gave five guaranteed long weekends every year and eliminated the hit or miss bonanza the calendar would often provide in the form of two, three, and even four day weekends. On paper everyone would benefit, and some might even save money. Unfortunately, a couple of things were not very well thought out.

First of all, there was no uniformity in acceptance of the law. Granted, a Monday Memorial Day received 100% compliance from all except those whose birthday still falls on the old holiday, the 31st. However, take the recent Columbus Day, October 9th. In New York 53% of the general businesses observed the holiday by closing, yet most stores, many area schools, and even the stock exchanges were open, but couldn't get any mail. In Chicago only 10% took the day off, and in Los Angeles a very minor 6% quit for the day.

Now Monday is, has been, and has to be the one day the Recreation Industry is off. In many ways it is our Sabbath, if that term can still include the proverbial "day of rest." Therefore if the industry is to work Mondays, the simplest result is a 13 day week with the hours and overtime pay that go with it. With electricians in New York on a four day week, who needs 13 straight!

Then on top of this insult we lose most of our audience, who are also working. As a result, we must attempt to make a good guess as to how many customers we will have and therefore burden as few staff members as possible. A wrong guess either way makes for too many at the service of too few (expensive and undesirable for the staff), or too few serving too many (intolerable for the luxuriating customer).

There is a solution — **WHAT THE HELL'S THE MATTER WITH FRIDAY?!**

Uptight Kloss

by Jerry Kloss

"The majority is never right," proclaimed Ibsen, and I think that applies to a lot of the guff people are telling each other about ecology nowadays. They're all for pure air, crystal clear rivers, protection of wildlife and all that, but they simply don't realize what the consequences would be if these wild dreams were fulfilled.

Pure air, for example. Sure, it would be nice if we had pure air. But at what cost? Freezing in the winter because you wouldn't want to foul the air with chimney smoke? Eating raw meat because cooking requires gas or electricity that is produced by burning coal that fouls the air? I mean, if you really want pure air, stop breathing, right? You're exhaling carbon monoxide.

This knee jerk response to a vastly complicated problem is typified by the anguish of conservationists over the approaching demise of certain endangered species. These species are so rare, some of them, that hardly anybody has heard of them, and their total extinction would mean absolutely nothing except for a vague moral feeling that this shouldn't happen.

I'll cite the example of the Devil's Hole pupfish, the whole known population of which is something like 300, living in a pond of salty, 92 degree water about 50 feet below ground level in a cave spring called Devil's Hole at Ash Meadow, Nev. They are minnows less than an inch long, descended from the Ice Age.

Okay, so it would be nice to have them around, but at what cost? If, for example, drilling wells in the area to irrigate farms producing food for 10,000 families would so lower the water table that this pond would dry up and the pupfish would be extinguished, should we then stop drilling the wells? Some people would say yes, we should stop drilling the wells, even though they've never heard of the Devil's Hole pupfish and even if they were told that these few minnows have nothing whatever to do with the food chain of the delicate balances of nature.

"But they have as much right to exist as you do, don't they?" they ask. Sure they do, these inch long minnows. So does the malaria mosquito and the polio virus. It is said that Albert Schweitzer felt remorse for the bacteria he killed while sterilizing his scalpel. And that's just plain silly, isn't it?

Don't get me wrong. I'm as much against oil spills and polluted streams as the next man. But I think it's ridiculous to dissipate the newly aroused

concern over the ecology in projects either impossible to achieve or of little importance.

It's impossible, for example, to return our country to the America of 100 years ago, with all of the bird and animal species of that period. For heaven's sake, what if we had all of those millions of bison roaming up and down the Great Plains nowadays? They'd run right over the wheat fields of Kansas and Nebraska, and the price of bread would be something else.

To go back a little farther — say some 65 million years, when the dinosaurs died out — what if an aroused citizenry had started a bumper sticker campaign to "Save the Brontosaurus" and had succeeded? We'd have a nation of great, bellowing lizards rooting around the countryside and paying absolutely no attention to the requirements of civilized life. They would cross the superhighways without rhyme or reason, hopelessly jamming traffic on holiday weekends. Short on brain, they would refuse to be trained for useful work or show biz. Even Rudd Weatherwax, the patient trainer of half a dozen Lassies, would throw up his hands in despair.

Feel free to use these penetrating arguments next time you bump into a wild eyed conservationist at a patio party. And not too many tall, cool ones, now — you'll get polluted.

**Milwaukee Journal via
Jim Latham — Milorganite**

"Why Topdress?"

It is amazing that so many in turf maintenance answer this question with this statement "To smooth the surface" and feel that they have answered the question completely and correctly. It would be an unnecessary waste of money to topdress if smoothing the surface were the sole reason for doing so. There are other easier and more economical ways of smoothing a surface than topdressing. There are much more important reasons to topdress turfgrasses.

The answer to "Why Topdress?" originates deep in the basic tenets of agriculture and anyone who manages fine turf would do well to learn the real reasons for topdressing and should become aware of the damage he does to the valuable turf entrusted to his expert care if he does not know this answer and does not observe the principles involved.

The answer comes from the laboratory of the microbiologist, from the rules for successful composting, from the time proven practices of the agronomists, from the findings of soil chemists and physicists.

The answer, derived from these many sources, might be expressed in this way "To bury the dead and succour the living." This abstruse answer demands explanation.

To better explain this statement let us agree to describe the cross section of turf from the top of the grass plant down to just below the main root mass as "The Growth Zone."

Within this "Growth Zone" there is a complexity of life processes which are interdependent and upon which, to varying degrees, success or failure in turf culture depend. The processes are: physical growth of grass plants, often under adverse conditions; photosynthesis carried out by leaves which are constantly being mowed, sprayed and trampled; chemical reactions relating to fungicides, fertilizers, herbicides, and water borne minerals and other chemicals; biological reactions relating to the decomposition of dead plant and animal tissue; and to the microbiological population which increases or decreases as conditions determine. These, and other processes, must be properly maintained to insure healthy satisfactory turf and turfgrass.

Where does topdressing fit in this "Growth Zone" complex?

Topdressing is a prime requisite for the optimum functioning of the "Growth Zone." These are the ways in which topdressing contributes to this optimum functioning.

(1) It provides a physical separator to keep plant and animal residues from matting into an impervious mass which would be a barrier to passage of air, water, and chemicals, and which would be a serious deterrent to decomposition.

(2) It introduces a buffering agent to modify chemical reactions.

(3) It physically supports the plants to help absorb the shock of compacting factors.

(4) It introduces and supports microbiological activity so essential to the prevention of an undesirable amount of thatch.

(5) It builds up the soil surface slowly.

(6) It maintains a friability in the "Growth Zone" which assures a proper degree of porosity.

(7) It ultimately produces a soil of a sandy loam texture.

Without proper topdressing excessive thatch build-up, compaction, and the need of constant mechanical aerification and thatch control become the rule. The old time "Greenskeeper," although he did not know technical reasons for topdressing, certainly knew that good greens were those which were properly topdressed.

Research Review

by Wayne C. Morgan

"Nitrogen Nutrition of Turfgrasses"

One of our nations' authorities on the nutritional needs of turfgrass is Dr. R. E. Schmidt of Virginia Polytechnic Institute. His information with the above title was presented at the First International Turfgrass Research Conference at Harrogate, England, July 1969 and published in a proceedings of these talks.

In formulating a nitrogen nutrition program for turfgrasses, all environmental phenomena must be considered. For example, bermudagrasses do well in the semi-tropics and bentgrasses are adapted to the temperate regions. This discussion will be limited to the general observations of nitrogen nutrition of those grasses that are mainly used within the temperate region (the cool-season grasses).

Ecological factors, both natural and imposed, influence chemical reactions within a plant. Symptoms of bad nitrogen fertilization management may be noticeable only after the turf has undergone stresses. It has been observed on the author's research plots that *Poa Pratensis* (Kentucky bluegrass) L. recovery from summer drought was influenced by timing of nitrogen fertilization. Plots receiving 6 lb. nitrogen per 100 sq. ft. were much slower to recover when $\frac{2}{3}$ of the nitrogen was applied in the spring than when $\frac{2}{3}$ was applied in the fall.

Normally, under soil conditions, nitrate is the principal source of nitrogen utilized by higher plants. In order for nitrates to be reduced, enzymatic reactions must occur. Thus, nitrogen and carbohydrate metabolism are interacting. Loss of energy appears to be especially true with high nitrogen and warm temperatures.

Both nitrogen assimilation and carbohydrate metabolism are influenced by environmental factors such as moisture, pH, light, temperature, and nitrogen concentration.

Soil acidity influences nitrogen metabolism in several ways; for example nitrate uptake increases with pH to about pH6, then decreases with further pH increase.

Nitrogen assimilation is dependent upon the carbohydrate reserves. Carbohydrates also furnish the substrate for respiratory release of energy.

The rate of nitrate and ammonium absorption has been shown to increase with their external concentrations up to a certain point. Nitrogen-starved plants high in carbohydrates absorb nitrate more rapidly than those grasses previously fertilized with nitrogen. The rate of nitrogen assimilation in the

plant may act in regulating nitrogen absorption.

Increases in temperature generally increase nitrate uptake. Temperature also affects photosynthesis and respiration. When temperature is increased, CO₂ fixation increases to a point (then decreases with further temperature rise): respiration is stimulated, thus enhancing nitrogen assimilation and carbohydrate utilization. If respiration increases so that carbohydrate reserves are used faster than CO₂ can be fixed, there will be less subsequent release of energy. This is what appears to limit cool-season grass growth when large amounts of nitrogen are made available during periods of high temperature.

Cool-season grasses preconditioned to maintain high carbohydrate content are better able to stand heat stresses. Bentgrass growth for 45 days at 88°F was seriously injured with heavy nitrogen fertilization but bentgrass that was preconditioned for 45 days at 76°F and 56°F did not show injury when switched to 88°F and fertilized with heavy nitrogen.

In formulating a nitrogen nutritional program one must consider seasonal root and top growth development, carbohydrate accumulation, and extreme temperature stresses. Bentgrass under almost uniform nitrogen supply has been shown to yield the most foliage in early spring followed by a sharp decline. In late spring, foliage increased again, but then declined as hot weather persisted in July and August. Top growth did not increase with the approach of lower temperatures in the fall, but in fact continued to decrease, with the lowest yields given in October.

Underground seasonal growth of cool-season grasses differs somewhat from the top growth. Roots and rhizomes of Kentucky bluegrass increased from December to May with much less root development thereafter.

NEW OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Skip Camaron	President
Al Rathjens	Vice-President
Phil Scott	Secretary & Meeting Co-ordinator
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Jack Martin	Program & Publicity
Don Marshall	Newsletter & Field Day
Paul Boiselle	Newsletter & Research
Gene Tarulli	Membership
Joe Flaherty	Education
Bill Gaydosh	Welfare & By-Laws
Glen Gallion	Golf

TURF CLIPPINGS

President Jack Martin recently appointed Board Members, Don Marshall and Paul Boizelle, to represent our chapter as delegates to the National Convention and Show at Boston in January.

Chairs: Wayne Allen leaves Shackamaxon C.C. on November 1st for Chicago where he assumes his duties as Golf Course Supt., Green Acres Country Club . . .

Dennis Wagner resigns as Supt., Homestead Golf Club . . . Dennis Shuster leaving the Playboy Club to return to Playboy's Wisconsin Operation . . . applications and resumes now being accepted . . .

Oliver Rogers, former (long time) (L.M. Retired) Supt., Forsgate C.C. observed shaking hands with old friends at the Field Day Equipment Show — Oliver wears his retirement well . . . he looks terrific.

Care to see a great landscaping effort? Why not stop by Braidburn C.C. and take a look. Supt. Lea Carpenter has outdone himself. Armed with his "own" Vermeer Tree Planting Machine, he's planted literally hundreds of trees . . .

Art "Cushman" Schipski recuperating at home after a recent bout with surgery . . .

Twas a girl for the Phil Pelrin family . . .

Supt. Pat Campbell will be host to the U. S. Amateur Public Links Championship Tournament to be held at his course (Flanders Valley) during Summer 1973 . . .

Don Marshall and Ed Nickelsen enjoy an equal challenge in that they will host U. S. Women's Open this coming Summer, also.

The "Toms River Trio": Jack Ormond, Jim McCormick and Heiny Fritschka told us it only took them two hours to locate the Playboy Club after driving North to find it, but they spent four hours and fifteen minutes trying to find their way out of Playboy's "tiny" parking lot after arriving. Think that's bad? Hear about our V.P.? Seems he forgot his "key" — had to drive all the way back to Caldwell to pick it up.

We all agree host Supt. Dennis Shuster had done an unusually fine job despite "labor union" type situations, etc. Given time to season — the Playboy Club Course could become one of the area's finest.

Sabby DeFalco's lovely daughter, Rosemary, is now teaching 5th grade in the Tenaflly School System . . .

New Arrivals: Dave (Oak Hill) Mc-

Gee passing out "It's a boy" cigars . . . The Tony Rippel's new daughter, Danielle Marie weighed in at 7 lbs. 10 ozs. . . "Grandpa" Floyd (Harkars Hollow) Staatz tells us he and Grandma Staatz are grandparents for the fifth time; a little boy, Vincent, 3 lbs. 2 ozs.

Mrs. Joseph Flaherty Sr. recovering from recent surgery; Joe Sr. reports she's doing fine.

Sunrise Valley, Morris County's new golf course, right on schedule; the front nine has been seeded.

Bey Lea's Jim McCormick will leave for Montana early in November with two hunting companions . . . They will be hunting wild goats and Mule Deer at Deer Park National Forest.

Commercial Mover: Sam Horst

turned in his Agway cards . . . he's now driving a Chipman Chemical Wagon; "station," that is.

Jim Tosco accepts promotional move to North Carolina where he will continue to represent O. M. Scott. Jim and his family will be moving into their new home (Lexington, N. C.) around Christmas time.

Ted Roberts reports the "tunnel" that will afford his membership passage under new Highway 24 from the North to South courses will be opened shortly (Long last!!)

Joe (Mt. Tabor C.C.) Grivalsky recovering from foot surgery at St. Clair's Hospital, Denville, N. J. . . .

Bob and Ethel Wiley recently returned from their annual fall pilgrimage to New England where they enjoyed nature's best color show . . .

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