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*March 1972*



# A Patch of Green

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Official Publication of the  
Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

I want to thank the members of the Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association for their genuine, whole hearted support in Cincinnati. My election to the Board of Directors of the GCSAA was a chapter victory.

It made me proud to see how united the membership was in supporting me for election. I will attempt to justify your



support during my tenure on the National Board. Michigan will be well represented in all aspects of National affairs.

Our hospitality room was a huge success. Many of our members are to be congratulated for their efforts in organizing and operating the room. From the comments on the room I would recommend this idea be continued in future years. A hospitality room is an ideal way to bring us closer together while attending the Conference in a strange city.

The enthusiasm of the membership is quite obvious and will be rewarded through the hard work of our committees.

Come to the meetings and get active.

Your President,  
Ted Woehrle

## MARCH MEETING

As of this writing the location of the March Meeting has not been decided but the speaker has been selected. We'll have the pleasure of hearing Mr. John Campbell, Superintendent, St. Andrews Golf Club, from Scotland discuss his operations.

There will be a management seminar in Chicago, sponsored by the GCSAA, on April 5-6, 1972. For details write the National Headquarters or call Ted Woehrle, (313) 644-3352.

## MERCURY DATED

Although researchers have long known that mercury appears as a natural element in our environment, recent studies have added a new dimension to this knowledge. Dr. Edwin Wilmsen of the University of Michigan reports that he has found evidence of mercury in preserved fish ranging from 300 to 2,000 years of age! Not only that but the concentrations of mercury were often above the permissible level as designated by the Food and Drug Administration.

## DISTRIBUTOR NAMED

The W. F. Miller Company has been appointed Distributor for the Easy Rider Trap Rake, by Smithco, for the Michigan area.

The Easy Rider Trip Rake's new concept of tricycle wheel drive offers the best traction and hill climbing yet.

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# GCSAA TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

A record-breaking registration of over 4,000 was announced at the 43rd International Turfgrass Conference and Show which was held February 13-18, 1972, at the Cincinnati Convention Exposition Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Sponsored by the GCSAA, the Conference has drawn well over the previous high of golf course superintendents who attended the 1970 Houston Meeting.

Highlight of the Conference was crusader Ralph Nader, who headed more than 50 speakers qualified to speak on ecology, fine turfgrass, the financial impact of golf courses on municipalities and many other topics



Robert V. Mitchell

## 44th TURFGRASS CONFERENCE SITE NAMED

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America announced that Boston, Massachusetts has been selected as the site for the 44th International Turfgrass Conference and Show. The dates of the Conference will be January 7-12, 1973 and the Statler Hilton Hotel will serve as the association's Headquarters.

"The Conference this year has been the best ever both in terms of our meaningful educational program and the broad and extensive display of equipment and products at the show. We expect the Conference and attendance in Boston to even exceed the response in Cincinnati," stated newly elected GCSAA president Robert V. Mitchell, who is superintendent of Portage CC, Akron, Ohio.

of interest to the golfer and nongolfer.

In addition to the educational portion of the meeting, there was a huge exhibit of the latest equipment and services available for golf courses. Displays of equipment, supplies and services offered by over 150 leading firms of the golf industry utilized some 40,000 feet of exhibit space at the Convention-Exposition Center.

A number of business sessions were also held during the Conference, including the annual membership meeting and election of officers.

The Association's annual banquet featured entertainment by the Collegiate Singers from Purdue University and comedian Billy Kelly. A nine piece orchestra provided dinner and dancing music.

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## NEW GCSAA OFFICERS

Robert V. Mitchell of Akron, Ohio, was elected president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America at the group's 43rd annual meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio.

He succeeds Richard C. Blake, superintendent at the Mt. Pleasant CC in Boylston, Mass. Blake becomes president emeritus of the GCSAA.

Clifford A. Wagoner, superintendent at Del Rio G&CC, Modesto, Calif., who had served as secretary-treasurer the previous year, was elected vice president. Charles G. Baskin, superin-

tendent at the Country Club of Waterbury, Waterbury, Conn., was appointed GCSAA secretary-treasurer.

New GCSAA directors are Carlton E. Gipson, superintendent at River Plantation CC, Conroe, and Elkins Lake CC, Huntsville, both in Texas; and Theodore W. Woehrle, superintendent at the Oakland Hills CC, Birmingham, Michigan.

Reelected as director was Palmer Maples, Jr., superintendent at The Standard Club, Atlanta, Ga.

Continuing as directors are Richard W. Malpass, superintendent at Riverside G&CC, Portland, Ore.; and Paul E. Mechling, superintendent at Sylvania CC, Sylvania, Ohio.

*Pictured Above, left to right: Ted Woehrle, Supt., Oakland Hills C.C. newly elected Director of GCSAA, Warren Orlick, President PGS, Professional, Tam O'Shanter C.C., Bob Mitchell newly elected President, GCSAA, Supt. Portage C.C. Akron, Ohio and Richard Blake, Past GCSAA President, Boylston, Mass.*



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## NORMAN W. KRAMER AWARD



Left To Right: Ted Woehrle, Michigan Turf Foundation Board. Christopher E. Fochtman, recipient of the MTF Norman W. Kramer Outstanding Scholar Award, and MTF President Jim Armstrong.



Left to Right: Michigan Turf Foundation President Jim Armstrong, Michael J. Hemquist, receiving the MTF Norman W. Kramer Outstanding Scholar Award, and James Smith, MTF Board.

# TURF MANAGEMENT

by A. J. POWELL, JR., TURF SPECIALIST

Hopefully not everyone has had a "Satchmo" visit his turf operation. But chances are good that "Satchmo" has appeared but was not recognized. "Satchmo", by my definition, is an out-of-town peddler with a "satchel full" of "more gifts than a gift shop". For a minimum order of \$67.00, your wife will receive a new pop-up toaster or knife sharpener. And along with your pocket knife, pen and pencil set and billfold, you can have a choice between a \$17.00 briefcase or your very own manicure set.

Think again before you bind yourself in such a deal. Why is he so generous and your local dealer so stingy? Is he trying to steal your business or is he only concerned about the quality of your turf operation? *Of course*, all of his gifts to you and your wife would not make you feel obligated to him on a return trip. *Of course*, he would not hint around you, your boss, or laborers that you had accepted these gifts. *Of course*, he would not try to increase that minimum order on the next trip. To be so generous, he must be considering you as very influential among your peers and associates.

What is your first impression of Satchmo? Suppose Satchmo visits a

golf course. Inside his satchel of gifts he also carries a 674 page notebook that describes products for the club house ranging from salt to floor wax, products for the golf pro ranging from kilties to marshmallow centered driving range balls, and products for the superintendent ranging from axle grease to chelated iron. Many of his products are similar to those you are presently using, but without the actual label you may never recognize them. Many of his products are "fantastic new discoveries" packaged for your convenience. Hopefully, he comes to you first instead of trying to soft-sell one of your mechanics on the type of tube sealant he needs or your boss on the very recent discovery of "Poa Out" for complete *Poa annua* eradication. Very often his "bag" is name-tossing. John Brown uses six tons per year of his liquid mow and Pebble Run saves \$20,000 annually in labor by using his liquid sand that never needs raking.

If you have time take a look at his products and judge their worth yourself. Always compare his delivered cost with that of your local dealer. Very often, Satchmo will be able to do no more than read his company's advertisements about the products in quest-

continued on page 8



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ion. Play the Agronomist part and question the correctness of the advertisements. Put him on the spot, and he may never return. Although you have been very successful with a cheaper product, he may list 25 reasons why his product is better. Is a free coin purse any reason to switch from a good product to one that you are not familiar with?

Hopefully, you will feel that Satchmo is disrespectful since he is trying to sell you a miracle product. Soil microbes or soil enzymes boxed and ready to mix with fertilizer or water are often sold with astounding assurance that they actually cure soil problems of plant food availability, soil structure and per meability.

Another product often misrepresented is the surfactant. No doubt, surfactants have been successful for special use situations, but general use to solve fertility or management problems is unfeasible. By decreasing water surface tension, surfactants have been used to relieve puddling in depression areas, to increase infiltration or decrease water run off on small knolls, and to decrease dew formation. Therefore, know your needs and buy these materials accordingly. The percent surfactant in a material and its residual nature should be considered when comparing prices.

Satchmo practically always promotes liquid fertilizers. He knows that a good turf operation has labor problems and a pressure sprayer. He often stresses

that the phosphorus in liquid fertilizers are very soluble and therefore quickly available. Also the liquid material offers foliar feeding and penetrates deeper into the root zone area. Do you believe these suggested advantages?

Concerning phosphorus availability most granular phosphates are in an available form when applied. However with either a liquid or granular phosphorus material, if there is complete soil-phosphorus contact, usually 30% or more of the phosphorus is fixed in unavailable forms within a short time. Experiments conducted to date show that usually the same crop responses are obtained with liquid and solid fertilizers when equal amounts of nitrogen, phosphate and potash are applied.

Liquid fertilizers have helped from the labor standpoint for many turf growers because they can be applied through a sprayer. Many liquid fertilizers can be mixed with pesticides that are routinely applied. The actual effectiveness of liquid fertilizers does not differ greatly from that of granular fertilizers. Before purchasing, compare the cost of liquid versus granular materials that give the same amount of plant food. If the cost of the liquid material is greater, then assess whether the extra cost is worth the handling advantages.

Your local salesmen and distributors might not appear to be Santa Clauses, but they are interested in your turf operation. Being concerned is their "bread

Continued on Page 11

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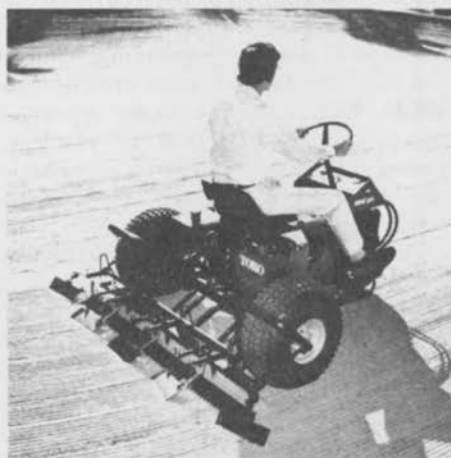


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**Or you may contact the next golf course supplier who calls on  
you and give him the information needed for application.**

## O. J. NOER MEMORIAL TURFGRASS LIBRARY

On February 1, 1972, Dr. Jim Beard reported that the O. J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Library at Michigan State University while not complete, continued to show amazing growth.

Major contributions in 1971 came

from Tom Mascaro and Fr. Jim Watson's personal turfgrass literature collections. W. H. Bengeyfield, Western Director U.S.G.A. Green Section, donated the classic "Golf Architecture in America" to the collection.

Dr. Richard Chapin, Director of the Michigan State Library indicated that all complete volumes, proceedings sets, and books received have now been processed, indexed and bound. These are now available for student use and reprints can be obtained through inter-library loan.

Shortly a listing of what is available will be publicized in an effort to fill in the "missing links".

The O. J. Noer Memorial Library was established by The O. J. Noer Research Foundation as a Depository for this nation's pioneering turfgrass agronomist's personal library

### Turf Management Cont.

and butter" and they must give you good service or lose your business. "Satchmo" on the other hand, may only be interested in one or a few purchases because his margin of profit is high and he is not required to consult with you weekly or daily. As professional turf growers, work as closely as possible with your local dealers. And the next time that "Satchmo" visits your turf operation, ask him to accompany you to the next professional turf meeting. His response might amaze you.

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from NAC Newsletter, January 21, 1972

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

*What's in a name?* Webster defines the word chemical as "relating to, used in, or produced by chemistry." At no point does he attempt to distinguish between "natural" or other methods of bringing about reactions between atoms or groups. If you get panicky about some of the things you read recently you'd better pour a cup of coffee to settle your nerves before you read further.

There is a product on the market which contains an absolute chemical soup! Ingredients include acetone, methyl acetate, furan, diacetyl, butanol, methyl-furan, methylbutanol, isoprene, caffeine, oils, methanol, acetaldehyde, methyl formate, ethanol, dimethyl sulfide and propionaldehyde. Instructions call for soaking the stuff in hot water, throwing the remains away, and then drinking the water. If you get nervous palpitations at the prospect, don't drink the coffee. This long list of chemicals is in that cup.

A worse-sounding label lists actomyosin, myogen, nucleoproteins, peptides, amino acids, myoglobin, lipids, linoleic acid, oleic acid, lecithin, sucrose, cholesterol, adenosine, triphosphate (ATP), elastin, collagen, glucose, creatine, pyroligineous acid, sodium chloride, sodium nitrate, sodium phosphate. Some names are familiar as essential nutrients or as chemicals your own body makes, but isn't it scary? Until you find out that this chemical parade is that old favorite sugar-cure ham! And not a man-made-chemical added.

(Adapted from: "Are Chemicals Poisoning Our Food?" by Ronald M. Deutsch, *Family Circle Magazine*, January, 1972)

Nothing is more highly prized than the value of each day.

## WHAT IS YOUR LABOR FORCE TURNOVER?

1. Do you neglect to correct uncomfortable conditions surrounding a job?
2. Do you neglect to point out unguarded work hazards?
3. Do you allow the use of bad tools and of machines out of order?
4. Do you place men together who irritate each other?
5. Do you place men on jobs for which they are not fitted?
6. Do you transfer a man to another job without explaining the reason, or without letting him know whether his work has been satisfactory?
7. Do you fail to recognize the varying importance which workers attach to different jobs in the same labor grade?
8. Do you expect an employee to be able to do a job after being told or shown only once, or not at all?
9. Do you use unfamiliar trade terms without explaining them when speaking to an inexperienced worker?
10. Do you allow a new employee to repeat his mistakes without correcting him?
11. Do you leave a new man alone on a job he does not fully understand long enough so that he becomes discouraged?
12. Do you ignore an employee's complaint or handle it with snap judgment?
13. Do you neglect to offer help and counsel to an employee occupied with a personal problem?
14. Do you endeavor to "jump in" and set the pace of workers without first discussing low output with him?
15. Do you say you are "too busy" to listen to an employee's troubles or grievances?
16. Do you appear to be "high hat" to your employees, even if you don't mean to be?
17. Do you leave the worker alone on a job for a long time without a friendly word?

Continued on Page 14

## PROBLEMS

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## **Labor Force Turnover Cont.**

18. Do you neglect to speak a good word for a job well done?
19. Do you make of a man's mistakes and keep still about his successes?
20. Do you take the credit for yourself of an employee's suggestions?
21. Do you give orders without giving reasons?
22. Do you reprimand a man in the presence of others?
23. Do you lose your temper easily?
24. Do you threaten a worker directly or indirectly with the fear of losing his job?
25. Do you "drive" men rather than "lead" them?
26. Do you delegate responsibility?
27. Do you have incentives?
28. Do you have benefits other than wages?
29. Do you have a training program?
30. *Do you think you could work for a man like yourself?*

Perhaps we are asking a lot of questions and we are, but labor management today is of greater concern to the manager than ever before. Most of these questions were asked in 1945 in Extension Bulletin 666, we added a few of our own and probably you could add some as well.

The operator who has the least problems with his labor force is the man capable of giving the correct answers to these questions.

## **JIM VAUGHN WINS TV**

Jim Vaughn, Superintendent of the Dearborn Country Club, was the winner of the colored TV set at the Par-Aids Booth in Cincinnati.

## **LIVING WITHOUT REGRETS**

It is common for most of us at times to have regrets and to think how our lives might have been different if we had acted in some other way. One of the most wasteful occupations in the world is brooding about what can't be helped while neglecting what can be helped. - *Christian E. Charles*

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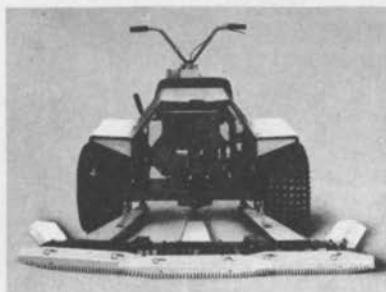
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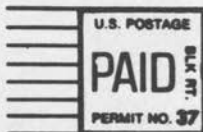
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