

May 1972



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*J. B. Beard*

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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The month of May is perhaps the most important month of the year for the Superintendent. This is the month that sets the stage for the success of the entire season. Proper fertilization, weed control and early disease control measures will pay off immensely.

There are other things that we can do in May that will enrich our goals as Superintendents. This is the month that we can do so much to help our own cause. On May 15th we have an opportunity to attend the 5th Annual National Golf Day Dinner. By attending we are helping the Michigan Section of the PGA to raise money for



the National Golf Day which is held annually on the 30th of May. Proceeds are divided among all the golfing associations. Our own GCSAA was given over \$16,000 last year for turf research and scholarships. *Need we say more?* Support both of these events and help our profession.

We are averaging over 100 in attendance at our meetings this year. I think there are two reasons for this renewed interest. The most important reason, as I see it, would have to be the educational program, and the second is the caliber of our meeting places. We will continue to receive invitations to these fine places as long as we continue to conduct ourselves in a gentlemanly and business-like manner.

Our thanks to the educational committee and the arrangements committee. This new image has paid off in another way also; we have picked up twenty new members during the past three months. Their names are listed on this page.

Best of luck for the season,  
Your President,  
Ted Woehle, C.G.C.S.

## NEW MBCGCSA MEMBERS

Richard Maurer (A)  
Twin Oaks Golf Club, Saginaw  
Robert P. Walter (A)  
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Gerald R. Hadden (A)  
Oxford Hills Golf & Rec., Rochester  
Byron C. Montgomery (B)  
Spring Oaks Golf, Waterford  
David Lee Watson (B)  
Spring Brook GC, Royal Oak  
Ronald W. Wisniewski (C)  
Crooked Creek GC, Saginaw  
Hugo A. Niemi (D)  
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Raymond Herndon (D)  
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James G. Johnson (C)  
Pontiac Municipal GC, Pontiac  
Arnold Collens (D)  
Certified Laboratories, Farmington  
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## MARCH MEETING



Mr. Charles Chapman, Greens Chairman Emeritus - GAM, and member of CC of Detroit, discussing common problems with Mr. John Campbell, Links Supervisor, St. Andrews Royal Ancient Golf Club, St. Andrews, Scotland, at the March 25th Meeting at Bay Pointe Golf Club.

## APRIL MEETING

On April 18, 1972 we met at the Essex Country Club, Dave Moote, host Superintendent. The weather was ideal and quite a few showed up for golf. This meeting was originally intended to be a joint meeting with the Ontario Superintendents but because of their meeting just a week earlier we felt that

it would be asking too much of our Canadian friends to attend our meeting. Much to our surprise we found that 25 Ontario Superintendents showed up any way. The comradeship shown at this meeting proves that a joint meeting should be considered annually.

We can all appreciate the problem that Dave has with his poor drainage. His golf course is so flat that it is difficult to drain the water to a spot that is low enough so it will run off the property. The golf course was in excellent condition despite the problems and Dave is to be congratulated for the course that we played.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Ed Irish. He spoke to us on the moving of large trees, which was illustrated with a film about the moving of a 17 inch tree, and the problems in maintaining our trees which he illustrated with a collection of slides.

Ed showed us how we can avoid many of our tree problems by practicing a good sanitation program and by adopting a good feeding program. It was suggested that we all go out and inventory our trees and give them a value. It would become a matter of fact for our committees when we discuss our tree programs and perhaps we could impress them with the true worth of our trees.



Guest speaker Mr. Ed Irish; Norbert Karman, Forester for Michigan Cons. Gas.; Co-chairman of Education Committee, Bill Milne, Supt., CC of Detroit; and Co-chairman of Education, Dave Moote, Supt., Essex CC, Windsor, Ontario.

### USE GCSAA MEMBERSHIP AT PGA TOURNAMENT

Members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America may use their membership card for complimentary admission to the PGA Championship at Oakland Hills Country Club in August. The invitation comes to us from Warren Orlick, President of the PGA. The Complimentary admission is restricted to GCSAA members only and does not include members of their family or their guest.

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## MAY MEETING

The rains which caused the wet conditions at Essex in April continued to fall and caused similar conditions at Knollwood, site of our May 2, 1972 meeting. I don't know how host Bob Hope, was able to have his course in mid-season shape so early but he did. The excellent greens and the beautiful trees more than made up for the few injured places on the fairways. (A problem common to all of us and one that was discussed by Dr. Jim Beard during our educational program that night.)

It really makes one feel good when you see the closeness of the employees at Knollwood and the respect that they reflect for each other. The Club manager, Al Schiff who is President of the Detroit Club Managers Association, the Golf Professional, John Molinda, and the Caddy Superintendent, Sam Moore were in attendance at our dinner meeting along with Messrs. Fink and Steinberg, Club officers of Knollwood.

There attendance and participation in our meeting shows the respect that they have for Bob.

As mentioned earlier, Dr. Jim Beard was our speaker for the evening. He portrayed the importance of establishing a good root system early in the season because these are the roots that will have to take the grass plant through the remainder of the season. Proper fertilizing and proper timing of the fertilizer were stressed as very important. Recent data shows that supplying adequate nitrogen nutrition to the cool season grass during periods of natural carbohydrate build-up (Fall) enhances the plant's appearance and vigor in the spring. Nitrogen applications made during the fall and winter increase carbohydrates, create green color and produce more roots. This vigor is carried through the next summer.



Host Bob Hope, Superintendent Knollwood CC; Mr. Al Schiff, Club Manager, Knollwood CC; and Dr. Kenyon Payne, MSU Turf Student Coordinator.



Guest speaker Dr. James Beard, of MSU Turf School discussing program with Bill Madigan, Superintendent of Jackson CC.

Nitrogen applications made immediately prior to or during the spring flush growth stimulate top growth, reduce carbohydrates and root development. If nitrogen is needed, it is best to wait until the spring flush growth has ceased. Heavy summer applications of nitrogen cause loss of carbohydrates and reduce the turf vigor and should be avoided.

Dr. Beard also discussed some of the different turf injuries experienced

Continued on Page 11

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# NEMATODES IN MICHIGAN TURFGRASSES

By DR. CHARLES W. LAUGHLIN, Extension Specialist Nematologist, MSU

Certain nematodes are severe pests of turfgrasses. Above-ground symptoms of nematode infected turf include varying degrees of chlorosis (yellowing of leaves), possible dieback and breakdown of the young foliage (necrosis) and a tendency to wilt during periods of high temperature and low moisture. Grass cover generally becomes thin and growth bare and, in turn, infested by annual grasses and weeds.

Nematodes attacking turfgrasses are parasites of the root system. Many feed at or near tips of young feeder roots causing a severe stunting of the root system. Stubby root nematodes (*Trichodorus* spp.) are the major pests which feed in this manner. Stubby root nematodes occur less frequently than many nematodes in turf, but moderate populations can produce significant injury. Fortunately, they are relatively easy to control.

Nematodes feeding on the older roots of turfgrasses include: stunt nematodes (*Tylenchorynchus* spp.), spiral nematodes (*Helicotylenchus* spp.), sheath nematodes (*Hemicycliophora* spp.), ring nematodes (*Cricone-moides* spp.), grass-cyst nematodes (*Heterodera punctata*) and grass-root-knot nematodes (*Meloidogyne nassi*).

Stunt and spiral nematodes are widely distributed parasites of turfgrasses. Recent work indicates these nematodes cause much more damage than previously suspected. They are capable of inciting damage when occurring at moderate populations on Kentucky bluegrass, bentgrass or red fescue. Damage may be masked by frequent fertilization and irrigation; but during stress periods, damaged areas may become noticeable.

Sheath and ring nematodes occur frequently in high numbers in turfgrasses growing in Michigan. Fortunately, their pathogenic potential on cool-season grasses appears to be much less than that for other nematodes mentioned.

The grass-cyst nematode was recently found associated with roots of unthrifty Merion Kentucky bluegrass lawns in western Michigan. At about the same time, the northern grass-root-knot nematode was recovered from bentgrass golf greens in eastern Michigan. These nematodes are reported as serious pests in several other states on turfgrasses. At the present time, it is not known how widespread their distribution is in Michigan.



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# TAKING SAMPLES TO DETERMINE THE PRESENCE OF NEMATODES

By DR. CHARLES W. LAUGHLIN, Extension Specialist Nematologist, MSU

An examination of plant roots and soil taken from around the turfgrass roots frequently yields results that are helpful in determining whether or not nematodes are responsible for poor plant growth. When collecting and sending samples for laboratory examination, the following procedures are suggested to increase the reliability of the results obtained.

## HOW TO COLLECT SAMPLES

Parasitic nematodes are rarely found in dead roots or other plant structures, regardless of what may have killed the plant. Soil and root samples should be taken from nearby plants, preferably those that show symptoms of the trouble, but are not yet severely affected. Take the sample from around the edge of damaged areas where the plants are still alive. *Do not take samples from areas where the plants are dead.* Samples should not be taken at a depth greater than the root zone for either turfgrasses or ornamentals. Samples taken should include both roots and associated soil. If the damage to the planting is severe and widespread, take samples from where the plants are in the best condition. When sampling golf courses, submit individual samples from prob-

lem greens, fairways and/or tees. A soil sample of one pint is generally adequate for analysis.

Do not allow samples to become dry or heated. Laboratory procedures for removing nematodes from samples are effective only when the nematodes are alive and active. Dead or inactive nematodes are likely to escape detection.

## HOW TO SUBMIT SAMPLES

As soon as possible after collecting the samples and before they have a chance to become dry, place the soil and roots in some kind of moisture-proof container. Small polyethylene sacks (freeze bags, etc.) are suitable for this purpose. Samples should not be left in the sun or in a closed automobile on a hot day.

All samples for nematode analysis must be submitted through the county agent. To make an accurate nematode control recommendation, it is necessary to know the host, symptoms associated with the damage, environmental conditions preceding the damage (rainfall, temperature, etc.), cultural practices (herbicides, fertilizers, fungicides, etc.), prevalence and location of the problem. Include this material with each sample.

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# CARL'S COMMENTS

By CARL SCHWARTZKOPF  
Mid-Continent Agronomist  
USGA - Green Section

With the spring beauty of flowers on the trees, ornamental shrubs dandelions and clover in the landscape and dotting the rough in areas of the golf course, it is not only time to consider applying herbicides so that the unwanted flowering weeds are removed, but also time to think about the insects, particularly bees, that are attracted to the flowers. With all the spring flowering material, golf courses are natural attractions for insect life.

One of the more economically important, but perhaps the most dangerous family of insects is the wasp and bee family. Few people are highly sensitive to bee venom; this is a very small percentage of the population. However, their bite is extremely dangerous to sensitive individuals. Bees kill more persons than all the poisonous reptiles combined. This is one of those strange phenomena of nature. Although bees do not possess the deadly poisons of the reptile or the black widow spider, their lethal effects are felt by persons strongly.

Fortunately, there is something that can be done for individuals who suffer a bad reaction from a bee sting. Desensitization treatments injected by the family physician are helpful. Recently, pills have been available that help combat swelling and painful effects of insect bites.

As far as first aid is concerned, if

any golfer or worker on the golf course should suffer a reaction from a bite on the head, face or body, apply cold compresses or ice. If he is bitten on an arm or leg, applying a tourniquet to decrease the amount of venom absorbed from the sting may be helpful.

In a serious reaction, get the patient to a physician or hospital as soon as possible, where emergency treatment can be given. When extreme breathing difficulties are experienced by the patient, artificial respiration may be needed while waiting for professional assistance.

## WASPS & HONEY BEES

By STANLEY RACHESKY  
Entomologist, University of Illinois

For control of either wasps or bees:

1. Use one of the following insecticides: Sevin (carbaryl) 5% dust or Malathion 4% dust. These insecticides are readily obtainable at your local garden center, hardware store or farm supply.

2. Dusts are the best formulation to use for they disperse better.

3. Apply the dust first through the entrance hole *after dark* - Bee careful!

4. Drill a 1/4" hole in the wall above the colony and inject the insecticide through it. Seal the hole and all other escape holes.

5. Large colonies may require repeat treatments in about 10 days to eliminate emerging bees and wasps.

6. In approximately 2 weeks all buzzing activity should have stopped. Removal of the dead insects is next. When the nest is removed it should be discarded in such a manner so as not to attract other insects of the same species.

7. After removal of the nest treat the area with a spray of Diazinon 0.5%

Continued on Page 11

### ARTHUR HILLS Golf Course Architect

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### May Meeting Cont.

this past winter. There were two basic types mentioned. Type one, or the solid dead looking area, found in the low areas that had poor drainage and type two, the area that was basically green but had a dead ring around it.



TYPE 1 WINTER DAMAGE – These areas appeared in a swale or valley. They were under water and the crowns were damaged when cold temperatures occurred.



TYPE 2 WINTER DAMAGE – Dead ring around a healthy green area. Caused by melted edge of ice cover. Turf was saturated for a period of time and when temperatures fell there was crown damage.

Both types of injury were caused by a late winter warming trend that melted ice in the low areas and the resulting water wasn't able to drain because of the frozen soil under the puddles. The plants became hydrated after a day or two under water and then a cold snap came along and the grass suffered crown damage. The type one damage where the entire low area turned brown was an area that was completely under water. The type two damage where we had green areas in the middle with a brown or dead ring around it was an area where the ice did not melt in the center and the grass remained protected from the cold and it was never under water therefore there was no damage. The dead ring around this green spot was under water because the perimeter of the ice patch melted and the grass became hydrated and froze when the cold weather came causing crown damage.

### Wasps & Honey Bees Cont.

in oil to eliminate the chances of a secondary insect problem.

8. Control of a beehive or wasp nest located in a tree or shrub can be done by using a hose-end sprayer (the little bottle that fits on the end of your garden hose) or power sprayer and or one of the following chemicals: Sevin 50% wettable powder or Malathion 57% emulsifiable concentrate (mix with water) plus DDVP or Pyrethrin.

Malathion will give a residual of about 3-5 days and either the DDVP or Pyrethrin is used as a quick knock-down. Once again do your control work at night when the nest activity is low. And once again BEE CAREFUL!

Bee and wasp nests located in the ground can be quickly eradicated by using Chlordane. Mix a gallon or two according to label directions on the bottle. Pour directly over the nest site. Once again do your control work at night. After treatment place a few shovel fulls of dirt over the treated area.

*-Read the label before using any pesticide.*

## THE SUPERINTENDENT IN THE SEVENTIES



By  
Robert V. Mitchell,  
GCSAA President

We can no longer hide our head in the sand - nor can club officials or course owners. We, as superintendents, *must* sell our employers on equality for our crews. A living wage is an absolute necessity if we are to maintain the course during this onslaught of increased traffic and player demand. We must constantly strive to upgrade our workers and working conditions. We must "accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative", so to speak.

We must sell the idea of offering year-round work, pay a livable wage and offer a degree of security for a nucleus of employees who can maintain the course with the help of a few seasonal workers. Most of us are working toward this goal - but we still fall short on attracting the better than average type person: those who are willing to work, desirous of learning and have the golfer's best interests at heart in striving to procure the finest playing conditions possible. As we get more sophisticated and complex machinery to groom today's courses we will not be able to allow a non-interested person to operate it. Most labor saving equipment is very intricate and requires an operator who thinks more of the job than just re-

porting to work and drawing a paycheck. Then, too, you must assess the value of time spent in training new people every spring, including the non-productive time of the trainee. This strengthens the fact that we must get, train, and keep good people if we are to produce a product that will be acceptable to our employers. Labor must be one of our primary considerations, for without it, our plight is made more difficult - perhaps even impossible!

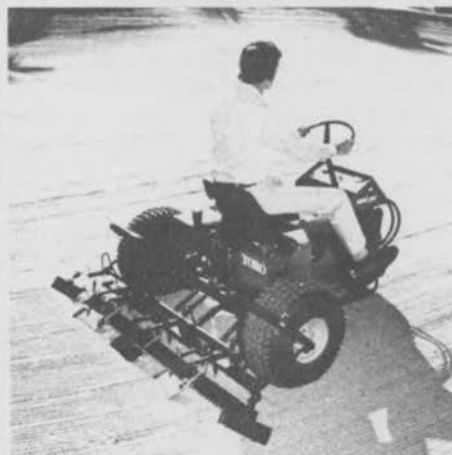
**BUSINESS KNOWHOW:** We superintendents have reached the point where this is an absolute requirement in our profession. No longer is our most difficult task to "grow grass". People are our problem. We must sell programs, we must sell ourselves, we must be able to communicate. We are gravitating toward the business end of club operations. Our job of producing turf for golf is still a primary responsibility, without which we'd have no golf nor a reason for our existence. But the time that it takes us to achieve this very important phase of our operation represents only a portion of our workday. We are constantly trying to schedule our work between club events (or even between foursomes). We must plan all operations in detail so we have the necessary money available, supplies on hand, adequate manpower trained to perform the designated tasks and then to put the plans in motion. The planning and preliminary work takes more time than doing the job - but adequate planning also insures a successful job - one of working around the players. We are constantly improving on our record-keeping, both in accuracy and detail, to help us study our operations and to determine if we are doing the best job possible with our employer's money.

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From a paper presented at the Royal Canadian Golf Association National Turfgrass Conference, March 16, 1972, Skyline Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Continued on Page 14

# TORO SANDPRO



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## **Supt. in the Seventies Cont.**

Events of the past few years are going to force us to be better record-keepers than ever before. I'm referring to the fact that with the economic

## **GCSAA MANAGEMENT SEMINAR**

The first management seminar in the ever expanding educational program sponsored by the GCSAA was held on April 5 and 6. Bob Mauch, Superintendent of Franklin Hills Country Club and Ted Woehrle were in attendance and report that the material presented on budget preparation, record keeping and report writing was outstanding. The two days of concentrated work was well worth the effort and time spent. This same program will be presented at five different locations throughout the country at five different dates. If you are interested in attending one of these seminars keep watching for the announcement which will be appearing soon in one of the magazines in the near future. The cost for this seminar is set at \$60.00 plus transportation room and board. The money will be well spent.



Superintendents hard at work at the first Management Seminar sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. The Seminar was held at The Regency Hyatt Hotel in Rosemont, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, April 5 - 6.

squeeze - budget tightening and lack of funds - club officials and course owners are demanding greater efficiency. Superintendents must convince their employers that they are on the right track via the details offered in budget preparation, discussion, and execution. We must continually assure our employers that we are getting the most for the members' dollar.

Our business expertise and record-keeping ability will be tested even more as we approach the ecology issue and its many ramifications. One of the more important issues is the pesticide battle which has resulted in outright bans for certain chemicals. Government officials are trying to conserve our natural resources in an attempt to insure real estate upon which we can dwell with the assurance that it has a safe environment and breathable atmosphere.

We are not in disagreement with government officials or ecologists! We feel that we must do the same thing! If a difference of opinion exists, it would be in the fact that many bans or restrictions are placed upon us today that not only cause serious concern, but which aren't scientifically justified. In fact, the recommended substitute may eventually prove more detrimental than the banned chemical (as in the case of the phosphates in detergents). If we would argue with legislators at all, it would relate to the fact that their decisions and laws should be based upon more scientific data than they presently have or seemingly care to assemble. They, in their efforts to satisfy, are prone to act hastily in favor of groups that talk the loudest and command the most votes.

There will be more chemicals banned. I sincerely hope that all those banned prove to be in the best interests of society and mankind. This I say, because as chemicals are banned, you and I, in addition to our counter-parts in related fields, will have our work cut out for us. For then we will be forced to use substitutes -

*Continued on Page 16*



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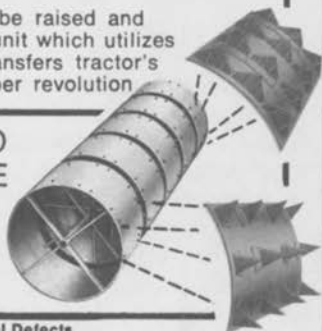


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## Supt. in the Seventies Cont.

many of which are inferior to the original. These substitutes will probably cost much more (either in terms of cost per unit area treated or the necessity of more applications), yet be less effective in performance and perhaps result in less than desirable turf conditions. No doubt about it, our budgets will be stretched to the limit!

We will be criticized by many due to the shortage of potable water. We will, apparently, waste water in the growing of turf. In some areas in the future as already in the past, there will be restrictions placed on using water for irrigation, car washes, etc. There is no doubt that the supply of "clean" water is shrinking. This is occurring because there is less and less space to store water and, as more people inhabit the earth occupying space, we are polluting our waterways with ever-increasing amounts of sewerage and wastes.

As our water reserves decrease, the public looks with disdain on large water consumers, such as golf courses. Golf courses and recreational users are not insensitive to this problem - in fact, we readily recognize it - and are fighting constantly to conserve water in every manner. We build lakes for reservoirs and use for irrigation purposes. We grow turf which aids in filtration of water and also prevent erosion. We are constantly improving our practices and techniques so as to make our water supply as effective as possible.

How can we prepare ourselves for these future problems? How can the GCSAA help the superintendent in his fight for survival or aid in his efforts to perpetuate life and give good cause for his existence?

The need for the superintendent to stay abreast of changes in his field has always been important. But the need is increasing with alarming speed. The superintendent who doesn't keep abreast of new developments in turf, of changing technology in science, or of restrictions and regulations in chemical usage will be about as

effective as the man who tries to cut fairways with a hand mower.

We must be in a position at all times to make the best use of our own resources: labor, equipment, and monies. We must travel in the right direction. Not only must we know where we're headed, but we must know exactly what it takes to get there. There will be tremendous progress in the irrigation and equipment fields and we must keep on top of this progress in order to adapt any and all labor saving devices to our own situations. We know that new chemicals will be coming on the market. These will be designed to replace some of today's materials that are found to be dangerous to our environment. We must know what these substitutes are, how they will work for us, and what precautions we must consider in using them. We are going to have to become better trained in deciding what problems we have, what chemicals are available to correct the problem and the exact dosage rates recommended. Gone are the days when we just pick one and apply it - using the old saying "If an ounce is good, then two ounces are better" or to throw in "a little extra for good measure." We must correctly identify the problem and apply chemicals *only* in sufficient quantity to control that problem.

Our Association is helping by disseminating pamphlets and flyers to chapters in an effort to keep members informed of those things that affect our profession. We must speak out in defense of some of our "tools of the trade" when materials are under scrutiny and are in danger of being restricted or completely banned - especially when we can prove that the material in question isn't a threat to society or the environment and that suitable substitutes are not available. Such was the case in Iowa last year. The state legislature placed a ban on agricultural mercury - none to be used! Six months later the ban was partially lifted, but only on the use of mercury on golf greens. Obviously those per-

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sons connected with golf had something of importance to say to the state lawmakers.

We have seen progress made in their fertilizer industry and undoubtedly will see more in years to come. Pelletized materials in all ratios and impregnated with insecticides, herbicides and fungicides have been a "boon" for our maintenance programs by reducing application time. Likewise, slow-release fertilizers have helped us to reduce the number of times we must interfere with golfers. Systemic insecticides and fungicides have proven effective in the same manner. But we must be cognizant of the limitations of these new discoveries, be forever mindful that we must obtain the necessary results and are producing the excellent quality of golf turf the golfer expects when he steps on the first tee.

While we must always be ready to adapt to new innovations that will help us do a better job, we mustn't be

content to work with whatever industry gives us, but to suggest to manufacturers what is needed and demand and use nothing less. We know from experience that industry has grown and progressed by using our ideas. To cite an example, President James Brandt said to GCSAA Conference participants in Miami Beach (1969) that we needed a mechanical method to rake traps. Two years later, one was on the market and reportedly is doing a great job and another has entered the scene for 1972. The axiom, "If two men can be replaced by one man and a machine - then do it!", is more appropriate than ever before.

We must adhere to the new laws that have been and will be enacted; we must constantly review our maintenance operations for efficiency and safety. In April, 1971, the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act became effective. This law includes every business or employer except: U.S. Government, local and

Continued on Page 19

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### Supt. in the Seventies Cont.

state governments, mining and railroad industries and those industries regulated by the Atomic Energy Commission. Laws such as this one will cause us to re-evaluate our training sessions, to re-educate our crew (both old and new) in the proper use of various pieces of equipment, to properly handle the chemicals necessary to produce our product, to ensure that the proper protective clothing is available for use by crewmen.

Our responsibility doesn't end there, for as an employer, we must accurately detail all work-related injuries, illnesses resulting in medical treatment, loss of consciousness, restriction of work or motion, or transfer to another job. Fortunately, minor injuries requiring only first aid treatment need not be recorded.

It is obvious that unless we develop finesse in the art of record-keeping or engage a secretary to do it for us - we will become bogged down in the myriad of detail and will find it

difficult to perform our task of producing fine grass. These records will be in addition to those already maintained by the superintendent.

The GCSAA will help, through its various resources to keep us informed as to what we must do, and when we must do it in order to fulfill the requirements of the law.

We are depending on our Association to be our voice in making suggestions and recommendations to governmental bodies - to relate our side of the issue and to help in providing proof and testimony that should provide guidelines for our policy makers.

A prime Association objective is to expose its members to those areas that will enhance their effectiveness as a golf course superintendent. Many of these subjects are already covered through our new Certification Program. These subjects will be covered in educational conferences, publications, and, more effectively in our

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#### **Supt. in the Seventies Cont.**

management seminars, the first of which is scheduled next month in Chicago, Illinois. Avenues and means that will be used to educate our member superintendents will be discussed more thoroughly by Dr. Paul Alexander on your program tomorrow.

I'd like to think that superintendents of the nation's golf courses, both individually and collectively as an Association, can get the public straightened out on the ecological value of green belts, recreational facilities and especially golf courses. We've heard many people claim that the world is getting too sophisticated: "Just give me the good ole days - when nature took its course!"

I don't know about you, but I believe that the world *is* better off today with its inventions, innovations, chemicals, and the like than when Nature took its course. Further, I believe that God intended it to be this way and that He gave man the wisdom to make the necessary improvisations to enable the earth to support its population.

Lately, we have been hearing more of ecology (the science concerned with the interaction of organisms and their environment) and that we must have a balance between man-made structures and nature's greenery. In fact, ecology is the magic word today.

Then, too, we have been hearing from the "Ralph Naders" and taxing authorities who theorize that golf courses and country clubs have been and are leeches on society and should be taxed like industry. Because of these high taxation rates in some areas, many clubs have moved or sold out. Last year some 76 golf courses went out of existence because of increasing taxes and/or escalated land prices.

Crusaders, who want an increase in turf areas to enhance the environment and to sustain the oxygen supply, and then support high taxes or assessments on such property make absolutely no sense to me. We, as an

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### **Supt. in the Seventies Cont.**

Association and as turf oriented people, should bring to the attention of the public some of the following benefits of keeping or increasing turf areas (excerpted from the September, 1971 issue of Fertilizer Progress):

1. *Noise Abatement:* Turf grasses and other green vegetation act as "acoustical sound blocks" to deflect, absorb and muffle the many traffic noises and undesirable street and community sounds.

2. *Heat Reduction:* Turf and ornamentals help control excessive heat. Because of transpiration, lawn grasses lower the temperature at ground level 20 degrees or more compared to pavement or artificial turf. Even at five feet above the surface, say turf researchers, the temperature above a lawn area may be 10 degrees cooler than areas with no plant cover.

3. *Air Purification:* Green leaves are natural air purifiers. They absorb carbon dioxide from air and release oxygen which is essential for all animal life. Turf grasses are known to be more tolerant of polluted air than most other green plants, and are likely to thrive even in areas of heavy air pollution. Considering that man inhales about 20 per cent oxygen with each breath, one average-sized lawn with healthy, vigorous turf can replenish the air with enough oxygen for eight persons. Green plants, such as turf grasses, absorb and detoxify sulfur dioxide, one of the major air pollutants. In fact, some green plants have been used extensively as indicators of air pollution.

We must tell our story to the people, especially the non-golfers, in an effort to make the facts clear - these things are important to our profession as well as the welfare of man.

All in all, I can see a very busy future for our profession. Many new things to do add to our already full schedule. For instance, I think the time is here when every superintendent must be very selective in choosing and attending turfgrass conferences.

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### Supt. in the Seventies Cont.

Recent developments make me more positive that ours is a very beneficial profession and one that offers a lot of good to a lot of people. People must have a method to let off steam, to forget their problems, to relax. They can find this relief on the golf course - and this will add to our problems, but we should be happy about this. Without people problems - we wouldn't exist!

In closing I'd like to suggest that as a superintendent it behooves you to continually learn all the ramifications of this profession that you possibly can. This includes the science of growing turf as well as the other phases of club management, for many clubs in the past few years have leaned toward a "general manager" type organization. I do not believe that this is the best type organization for clubs to adopt but there are definite reasons for its coming into existence. If one of the three people on the club's staff is to be offered the position, then the superintendent, who, with some business training, would be the logical choice. Logical? Certainly, for the golf course is the reason the club was established and very probably is the nucleus of interest that keeps it going. Likewise, the conversion of grass into golf playing turf is a science not easily nor quickly learned. Perhaps a quote from a paper given at the USGA Annual Meeting in New York (1971) by Mr. Allan E. Grogan, Green Chairman, Baltrusrol Golf Club in New Jersey, could express it better: "The golf course superintendent is the most important person on the staff of a golf club. He is in charge of the only asset we have to sell - the golf course."

I hope that the information I've tried to convey can be applied to your situation here in Canada. At least, I'm sure that those of you who are GCSAA members are interested in what problems your fellow members have.

I appreciate the opportunity to visit with you and my thanks to Director George Smith for the invitation. Thank you!

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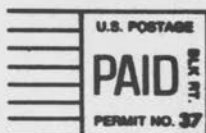


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