



Tee to Green

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NEW YORK/CT TURF IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is reprinted in part from an article that appeared somewhere around 1952. The author is unknown to us, but it gives us a lot of valuable information on how our association was formed.

THE HISTORY OF OUR ASSOCIATION

Sometime in the early part of July 1946, Warren Lafkin invited a few friends to his home, all of whom Warren knew as a result of his transactions with them in their endeavors to grow turf. As the evening wore on, it was suggested that an interesting pleasant time having been had by all, more such gatherings should be arranged. Among those present at this initial gathering were:

Charles Baskin, Joseph Flynn, Warren Lafkin, Harold LeFurgy, Anthony Maslin, Charles Sawtelle, Emilio Strazza, Tate Taylor, Art Twombly.

Before leaving for home, this group designated Harold LeFurgy, Joseph Flynn and Art Twombly to arrange for a future gathering, which took place on July 24th, 1946.

Following is a transcript of the Minutes of this meeting, at which our Association was formed.

Mamaroneck, NY, July 24th, 1946

As the result of an informal gathering held at the home of Warren Lafkin earlier this month, at which Harold LeFurgy, Joseph Flynn, and Art Twombly were chosen co-chairmen to arrange for a meeting to organize an association among those interested in the problems of growing turf, a meeting was held at the Winged Foot Country Club, Mamaroneck, NY, on Wednesday evening, July 24, 1946.

After the boys had looked over some of Harold's fine golf course, and had partaken of a very fine roast beef dinner, the meeting was called to order at 8:00 P.M., Harold LeFurgy acting as temporary Chairman.

The Chairman appointed A.H. Maslin as Temporary Secretary.

After a word of welcome to those present, during which he extended the regrets of his Green Chairman, Mr. Horace Tuttle, who was unable to be present, the Chairman read a short paper on the reason for organizing and the future

aims of The Association which it was hoped would be formed at this meeting.

It was suggested that those present rise, state their names, and their affiliation, so that we might become better acquainted.

A favorable reply was received in answer to the question as to whether all those present were in favor of forming an Association.

Mr. Krumlauf, Superintendent of Maplemoor Public Course, suggested that a Nominating Committee be named to present a slate of Officers for the Association.

The Chairman stated that before this was done he thought it should be clearly defined as to whether the membership was to be confined to Green Superintendents or opened to all those interested in growing turf.

T. T. Taylor said he thought the Association should be broadened so as to admit all those interested in turf as he felt that the failure of the old organization to properly function was due to the separation of those associated with growing turf.

After a general discussion during which several present stated their reasons for or against opening up the membership in the Association, a vote was taken and the Chairman announced that those in favor of opening the membership to all those interested in turf were in the majority. 26 voting for, 2 against and 3 not voting.

In answer to a question as to what the name of the Association should be, Warren Lafkin said that he thought this should be left in the hands of an Executive Committee yet to be appointed, and it was so ordered. On motion by Warren Lafkin it was decided that the Chairman appoint a Nominating Committee, to retire and upon return submit a slate of Officers to be elected at this meeting.

The Chairman appointed the follow-

ing as a Nominating Committee:

King Troensengaard, Emilio Strazza, Tate Taylor, Art Twombly, Frank Grandolfi.

This Committee retired and upon its return presented the following slate:

For President, Harold LeFurgy; for Vice President, Allen J. Bartlett; Secretary & Treasurer, Anthony H. Maslin.

Upon a motion from the floor, the nominations were declared closed, and the Secretary instructed to cast one unanimous ballot and the above slate was declared elected.

It was decided that the Executive Committee be composed of seven members, three of whom would be the elected Officers, the remaining four to be elected from the members.

The following members were duly elected to serve on the Executive Committee:

James Smart, Lloyd Stott, Warren Lafkin, David Krumlauf, James Vigliotta.

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Safety Tips Working In Cold Weather

by Mary Medonis

In the winter, about one out of ten Emergency Room cases are related to hypothermia. Hypothermia is a gradual process in which the human body succumbs to cold, and its vital systems begin shutting down. Although cases of hypothermia have been recorded in the 40's, it most often occurs when the thermometer drops below 32 degrees. This rate of this process increases if you are wet — a human loses his body heat almost 200 times faster than if dry.

Another aggravating factor in cold weather is the presence of wind, which results in wind chill. A thermometer reading of 40 degrees will feel like 10 degrees with a 40 MPH wind. At 10 degrees with a 25 mile wind, it will feel as it is 30 below. Low temperatures with a significant wind can become life threatening with prolonged exposure.

Because it is often necessary to be

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A Letter from the Editor:

Well 1989 has arrived and it is time when we all can sit back and review our last year and plan for the upcoming season. It is a good opportunity for us all to take a good look at our own operations and analyze where we feel we can improve in the future. Most of us take this time to attend many of the educational meetings, seminars and conferences available to us, in striving to improving ourselves and learn a little more about our ever changing industry. On January 11, 1989 the MGCSA co-sponsored with the Connecticut GCSA our annual winter seminar. It was held at the Mount Kisco Country Club and a large turn out was on hand to participate in the many interesting and informative topics that were covered. Other upcoming educational events are the International Golf Course Conference and Show held this year in Anaheim, California, February 6th thru the 13th and the University of Massachusetts Conference March 6th thru the 9th.

The 1988 season was a very challenging one for all of us on our courses as well as for everyone involved with the Tee to Green. Most of you are aware of the problems we faced this last year with the production of our newsletter. There have been many errors, poor quality of typesetting, printing, and delivery resulting in the issues being mailed much later than their intended date. To all of you I apologize for any inconvenience this has caused, in particular to our advertisers and the patrons of the Tee to Green. We have moved our business to a new printer who offers us a better quality production and who will be able to meet our printing deadlines. Our new printer is Printech Printing & Typesetting, located in Elmsford, New York. From this issue all of our layouts are being done with the use of a computer which will give us more flexibility in putting the newsletter together and a cleaner looking publication to read. Starting with our next issue, the March/April edition we have retained the services of Pandora Wojick who will be doing the editing and layout of our future editions. Pandora, who is the wife of Greg Wojick, Superintendent of Greenwich Country Club, has a lot of experience in newsletter publications and with her professional touch should improve the layout and look of the Tee to Green. Over the next few issues we will be changing the layout of the Tee To Green in an effort to make it more interesting. In short, we have sought out professional help to improve our newsletter and make it a publication that we can all be proud of.

The Tee to Green committee has been hard at work lining up articles and coming up with ideas for future editions. The most important thing to remember is that this is your newsletter so please feel free to get involved. We would appreciate your comments, ideas and input. If anyone has an idea which they feel would improve the Tee to Green, please contact anyone on the newsletter committee. Equally important, if anyone has an idea for a article or wants to contribute something based on their experience or knowledge or feel it would benefit this association, please bring it to my attention. One of our goals is to have more of our own members contribute to this publication.

We have come up with a tentative outline for 1989, and have tried to come up with some information that we feel is valued as our responsibilities as superintendents. The one area that every member can help out is passing along any news of interest about our own members. We would like to include a new column each month in an effort to keep ourselves up to date. This information could be news of births, deaths, illness, recovery, graduations, certifications, change of jobs or anything else you wish to include. In the past, this information has not always reached the newsletter committee.

In closing, we feel with this issue you're going to see a significant change and look forward to your response and a much smoother 1989.

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ASSOCIATION HISTORY

From this beginning we have today an Association that we feel is comparable to any like organization in the country. We have an active membership of about ninety members. The leading personages in the fields of turf, agriculture, entomology, chemistry and pathology have attended our meetings, speaking to us from time to time so that we might keep abreast of latest methods and materials in the field of turf production.

Last year, a small monthly newsletter, "The Green Thumb" was started by our Secretary. This notice acts as a meeting announcement, and at the same time helps to keep those unable to be present at our meetings posted on our activities. We have future hopes of grandeur for this paper.

Through our meetings we discuss our problems and frequently find a solution from a brother member. Many an idea has been given birth from our gatherings, and many ideas have been given us from our members. To wit: Doug Rankin of Westchester Country Club has told

us of his system of having an electric motor on his pickup operated by storage batteries to start cranky gas engines by connecting the motor and pull starter with belts. Bill Livingston of Silver Springs developed a power rake for hard sandtraps. These and many other ideas make our work easier, resulting in more time for turf production.

Article 1, Section 2 of our Constitution and By-Laws states, "The object of this Association shall be to advance the production and maintenance of turf for beautification and utility purposes and for the dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge for turf improvement." We intend to abide by this article; and in so doing we hope to live long and prosper.

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SAFETY TIPS

outdoors in the extreme cold, it is necessary to know how to dress appropriately.

The extremities (head, feet, and hands) are the first to be effected by extreme cold, so they must be protected. Beware of the warning signs

of exposure or frostbite including tingling sensations in the extremities, and a dull or drowsy feeling. Finally, if you or your men must be out on the golf course in the extreme cold, it is important that they not work alone. □

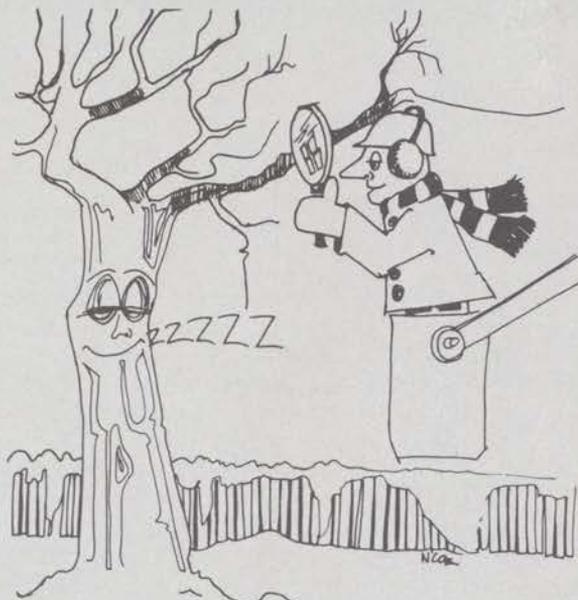
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Weather Sentinel Alerts Of Approaching Lightning

MINNEAPOLIS, (Dec. 5, 1988) — Lightning's menacing unpredictability is a deadly threat to golfers. Now course managers and superintendents can find out in advance when lightning approaches using a new system developed by R-SCAN Corp. of Minneapolis.

Weather Sentinel™, a highly accurate, low-cost lightning alerting service, was developed by R-SCAN for use in the recreation industry. Using a portable paging system with LCD readout, Weather Sentinel alerts subscribers; when lightning activity is present within 10 miles of the golf course. After receiving the alert, managers can notify golfers to clear fairways and greens and move to safety. □

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Patch Disease Research at Rutgers

by Dr. Peter Landschoot and Bruce B. Clarke

(reprinted from the "Greenside" September/October 1988)

Patch diseases caused by root and crown-infecting fungi are among the most controversial and least understood of all turfgrass diseases. After more than 20 years of intensive research by several turfgrass pathologists we are only beginning to understand the causes of these complex disorders. Patch diseases are also among the most difficult diseases to diagnose and control, thus, increasing the potential for severe damage on golf course greens and fairways.

The Fusarium Blight Syndrome

Following several years of research, Dr. Richard Smiley (formerly of Cornell University) and Melissa Craven-Fowler implicated two new disorders which had previously been grouped into the category known as the "Fusarium blight syndrome." This was an important discovery since both diseases, necrotic ringspot and summer patch, occur under different environmental conditions and often do not respond to the same chemical and cultural control measures.

Necrotic ringspot is primarily a cool weather disease caused by the fungus *Leptosphaeria korrae*. It is particularly troublesome on Kentucky bluegrass turf, although bentgrass and fine fescue can also be affected. Summer patch, however, is a warm weather disease favored by excessive soil moisture and high humidity. This disease was originally reported to be caused by *Phialophora graminicola* but now known to be induced by the fungus *Magnaporthe poae*. Currently, up to 50 percent of the golf courses in New Jersey have reported this disease on greens, tees or fairways.

Summer Patch

Although summer patch is primarily a disease of *Poa annua* and Kentucky bluegrass, it can occur on bentgrass in rare instances. On greens, symptoms typically appear as circular areas of dead or dying turf with bentgrass often colonizing infection centers. Symptoms, however, may also appear in horse-shoe or crescent patterns. In the early stages of development, patches vary from 2 to 3 inches in diameter. As the disease progresses, these areas increase in size from 6 to 8 inches. Patches, however, have been observed as large as two feet in diameter on severely affected turf.

Under higher-cut, symptoms are more irregular in size and shape. On golf course fairways for instance, summer patch is often confused with a number of stress related injuries. As a result, a laboratory analysis is generally recommended before control measures are

enacted.

Summer patch typically occurs in July and August following extended periods of hot, humid weather. Symptoms are particularly severe in poorly drained areas following heavy rains or irrigation. While areas receiving excess traffic or wear are most likely to become infected, any situation leading to root stress will increase the susceptibility of the turf.

Current Research

Although our current knowledge of summer patch (as well as other patch diseases) is increasing each year, little is known about its overall development and control. Consequently, Rutgers University and the Golf Course Superintendents Associations of New Jersey and the region have joined forces to fund research on this disease so that more detailed cultural and chemical control measures can be developed for the future.

Research currently underway at Rutgers includes a *field survey* designed to determine the prevalence of individual patch diseases in the region. Information from this survey will help define the type of turf affected, the causal agents involved, pertinent site information (i.e.—air circulation, drainage, compaction, etc.), the influence of soil fertility, organic matter, texture, pH, nematodes, thatch development, mowing height, and other cultural practices affecting disease severity. Control measures which appear promising from such work will be evaluated in field trial next year.

Current Recommendations

For now, summer patch management should center on stress avoidance and the application of fungicides (i.e.—Banner, Bayleton, Chipco 26019, Cleary's 3336, Rubigan or Tersan 1991) in sufficient water to reach the root zone. Sprays should commence prior to hot weather and continue throughout the summer at 3 to 4 week intervals. Finally, where greens are concerned, a vigorous aeration program is recommended to relieve compaction and improve rooting.

BILL FILED TO SAVE CARP THAT EAT ALGAE

Hartford Correspondent

by Avice Meehan

HARTFORD—A group of Republican legislators led by state Sen. George "Doc" Gunther of Stratford has filed a bill in a last-ditch effort to save the algae-eating grass carp stocked in Connecticut ponds.

The bill would legalize fertile grass carp that remain in some ponds in the state and liberalize the regulations gov-

erning the use of sterile carp, which are now legal.

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has ordered anyone using fertile grass carp or sterile carp brought into the state before last January to destroy the fish. Meanwhile, sterile carp can only be stocked in ponds that are fewer than five acres in size and owned by a single person.

"This whole thing centers around a pretty hard-nosed view from our DEP that the fish will escape," said Gunther. "That's Ludicrous."

State officials fear that fertile grass carp could escape into rivers or streams, eating the food supply and damaging the habitat of other fish. Gunther disputes that view, arguing that the grass carp can reproduce only under special conditions.

"If the department can prove they are propagating, then God bless them. They can kill 'em all," said Gunther.

Dennis DeCarli, a deputy commissioner for the DEP, said the agency will oppose any attempt to legalize the use of fertile carp in Connecticut.

"Our fisheries people feel quite strongly about the environmental danger posed by the grass carp, said DeCarli. "We could bend on the acreage requirement, but we'd flat-out oppose the rest of it, especially since most of the pond owners have complied."

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Grooming Reel Guide

by Helmut Ulrich, The Toro Company

1. Introduction

As you know, grooming is an old technique, but the "groomer" is relatively new. It is associated with the golfer's desire for faster, truer and healthier greens. There has been much discussion among superintendents, and articles have been written in trade publications concerning the actual benefits this tool provides. Because this management practice is so new, there has been little, if any, scientific research conducted to determine the long-term effects of grooming. It is difficult, therefore, to make precise recommendations on the use of a grooming reel. This is further complicated by the many variables which play a major role in achieving desired results. Some of the variables which must be considered are:

- General condition of the green
- Variety of grass on the green
- Season of the year
- The turf-management program
- Variation in traffic
- Stress periods, especially heat and humidity

All of these vary from golf course to golf course, and usually from green to green on the course. The use of the grooming reel, therefore, requires a thorough understanding of agronomic aspects of the turf on the green which, in turn, determines the depth of setting and the frequency of use. It is recommended strongly that the superintendents experiment S-L-O-W-L-Y to achieve best results.

- Grooming, in essence, removes more leaf area.
- Grooming provides some of the same benefits as verti-cutting. The main difference is that the cutting blades are spaced closer than on traditional verti-cutters, and the grooming reel is used more frequently.
- The more frequent use removes more grass and helps to control thatch build-up, especially during periods of maximum growth. For this reason, care must be exercised during periods when grass growth is reduced — for whatever reason.
- Grooming, in addition to routine turf management techniques, like aerification and topdressing, may permit one to raise the mowing height without sacrificing green speed.
- By maintaining a higher cutting height, the effective rooting depth of the turfgrass is increased and the

grass is in a more healthy state. Also, it is better able to withstand wear, as well as environmental stresses.

2. What a Grooming Reel Does Not Do

- Grooming is not verti-cutting in the traditional sense; it is for the use above soil level. It is similar to light verti-cutting. It provides for a frequent cutting of those elements that contribute to grain.
- Grooming has the potential to replace verti-cutting, depending on the overall management program.
- Verti-cutting will continue to be used for deeper penetration into the soil, for renovation purposes or preparation of overseeding.
- Grooming does not necessarily achieve, in all cases, increased ball speed. Ball speed is dependent on other factors, i.e., height of cut, frequency of cut, the number of daily mowings, health of turf, grass variety, etc. Some of these factors may make a bigger impact on ball roll than grooming itself.
- Grooming can cause adverse effects, if used too frequently at aggressive settings (especially during environmental stress periods, i.e., heat, high humidity or traffic).

Grooming Reel Adjustments

A word of advice on grooming reel adjustment procedures. When adjusting a grooming reel, the following steps are recommended for optimal results:

First: Set the desired height of cut.

Second: Set the grooming reel in raise / disengage position. Set one flush with the rollers and set one 1/32-inch above the height of cut.

Third: Make several passes, preferably over the practice green or nursery, before tusing the unit on a regular green.

Fourth: Judge the amount of grass in the basket of number one, two, and three, and readjust accordingly.

Fifth: Visually inspect the results and decide which setting to use for the best job. Make further adjustments if necessary.

Sixth: Set all grooming reels to the same desired depth.

CAUTION: A 1/32-inch depth setting can make a very substantial impact on grass removal and, more importantly, on the severity of grooming.

The user must be aware that the groomer may cause adverse effects if used frequently at an aggressive setting. This is especially true during environmental stress periods, i.e., heat, high humidity or heavy traffic.

In summary, the grooming reel may be the best tool available to the superintendent for managing the greens precisely and in accordance with the desire of the golfer. However, timing, frequency of use and depth of setting must be managed properly! □



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BILL FILED...

The grass carp, or white amur, is native to the Amur River in the eastern Soviet Union. The fish has been used in golf course ponds and residential ponds to control the growth of vegetation.

Gunther, who is the ranking Republican member of the General Assembly's Environment Committee, has garnered the support of state Sen. Emil Benvenuto of Greenwich and state Reps. William Nickerson of Greenwich and Christopher Burnham of Stamford.

Use of sterile or triploid grass carp became legal in January, but the DEP ordered all fish imported into the state before that time to be destroyed. Nearly 60 ponds were affected by the order and DeCarli said yesterday that the owners of all but a half-dozen have taken steps to comply.

Those covered by the order include Betty and Peter Cimmino of Greenwich, who own a small pond off Cat Rock Road. The Cimminos have yet to destroy the grass carp stocked in their pond. They oppose the use of a poison to kill the fish and are now seeking permission from the town Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency to drain the pond, Betty Cimmino said Friday.

"Their whole outlook is that they want the fish dead. They don't care how we kill them," she said. □

Considering A Placement Student?

by Mary Medonis

For those sperintendents interested in hiring a Placement Student this summer, now is the time to begin soliciting the various universities and colleges. Because courses from around the country are also seeking such students, the promise of a meaningful, educational summer, competitive wages, housing and meals, and access to Association meetings and other seminars are all ways of attracting a productive placement student to your golf course.

Below is a list of schools and their professors that frequently send students out our way:

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Amherst, MA 01003

Dr. Norm Hummel (607)255-1629
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BALL LOST OR OUT OF BOUNDS

by Matt Cepla

U.S.G.A. Definition:

If a ball is lost outside a water hazard or is out of bounds, the player shall play a ball under penalty of one stroke, as nearly possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played.

This seems to be a pretty straight forward definition. I mean it is either in or out of bounds. After some investigation, there are a few possibilities that may pose some questions. For example:

- #1 - A ball enters a burrowing animal hole in bounds and comes to rest out of bounds.
- #2 - Ball moved into bounds by flow of water in a water hazard.
- #3 - Part of fence off course leans across boundry and interferes with swing.
- #4 - Players ball strikes own caddie stading out of bounds and comes to rest on course.

Answers:

- #1 - As for the first, the ball in the hole is out of bounds and should be played accordingly.
- #2 - The ball in the water is in bounds and must be played as it lies or dropped behind the hazard. If that is not possible, a stroke-and-distance penalty is incurred.
- #3 - If the fence is fixed, the player may not push it back. However, if that part of the fence leaning onto the course is an immovable obstruction, the player is entitled to relief.
- #4 - The player that hits his own caddie receives a two stroke penalty or loss of the hole and plays the ball as it lies in bounds.

"CADDY" RECEIVES NO TIP !?!?!?!?

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WEATHER SENTINEL

"Lightning has been known to travel up to five miles in advance of a storm," R-SCAN Vice President Mark Coronna said. "Weather Sentinel lets golf course superintendents and managers know in advance when lightning actually threatens their golfers."

Weather Sentinel also transmits a specialized daily forecast each morning covering predicted high and low temperature, relative humidity and dew point, maximum possible rainfall, evapotranspiration rates, percent chance of rain, percent chance of severe weather, average wind speed and direction, and moisture stress index. This daily feature allows course superintendents to plan turf maintenance operations effectively.

Subscription fees for the service are \$139 per month. R-SCAN is offering an introductory price of \$99 per mo until March 15, 1989.

R-SCAN's National Lightning Detection Network utilizes a network of sensors located throughout the United States. Sensors record the electromagnetic disturbances from cloud-to-ground lightning and relay this information back to the company's Minneapolis headquarters where it is assembled, refined and transmitted to recreation areas across the nation. Contact:

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