



Tee to Green

August 1978

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MEETING NOTICE:

Date: September 19 MGCSA Invitational
Place: Sunningdale Golf Club
Host: Dick Allen
Golf: Shot gun start—12 PM
Lunch: Buffet available in grill room—11 AM
Cocktails: 6-7 PM
Dinner: 7 PM
Program:

COMING EVENTS:

September 12 Conn GCSA, Mill River C.C.
September 19 MGCSA Invitational
October 3 NJGCSA Turfgrass Equipment and Supplies Field Day
October MGCSA meeting—Rutgers Stadium and Golf Course
October 25-26 Annual Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium Milwaukee, Wisc. Contact: Bob Welch, 8500 South Fifth Ave., Oak Creek, Wisc. 53154, (414) 764-2300.
November 14-15 Management II Seminar GCSAA, Hyannis, Mass.
November MGCSA annual meeting
December 2 MGCSA Christmas Party, Greenwich C.C., Tentative
December 15 Grand Opening Pinnacle Mt. Randolph, Vt.—All skiers welcome.

MGCSA NEWS:

The weather was threatening for the Labriola Memorial Tournament but still over 100 turned out for the dinner and days activities. It's just too bad that more Superintendents didn't show up. 7-8 is all. MGCSA does sponsor the event and we do receive monies for our Research and Scholarship Fund. I was unable to make it but I understand our President won a set of clubs and I know there were many other prizes. Our thanks to our host Chuck Martineau who again did an excellent job in organizing the whole days activities.

We probably had the most successful picnic MGCSA has had. Well over 100 turned out. Many parents, many children and just loads of fun for all. The weather was perfect for the picnic but it was the beginning of wilt week 1978. Marie, Sherwood and Glen Moore were great hosts. Roger Morhardt, Frank Bevelacqua, Joe, Bill and especially Father, Jim Carriere helped prepare and cook the hamburgers and

sausage. We especially appreciate the fact that Jim Carriere made the sausage. Actually we had to get more beer because we only had 80 reservations and there must have been 125 on hand. Dan Cancelleri had everybody hopping with all his fun games—wheel barrel races for father's and son's, father's and daughter's, husbands and wives, potato sack races, tug of war games for males and females, volley ball, shuffle board, tennis, and swimming. Some of the Supt's. get tossed in by their crews, right Dick Allen? Pat Lucas had many prizes for all the children's games. Yours truly was presented with a very nice plaque with a clock to boot. The service award read as follows: Presented to Garry N. Crothers, CGCS, for distinguished service to follow Golf Course Superintendents and to the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association, Aug. 14, 1978. Edward C. Horton, President MGCSA. All I can say is that I enjoyed all my years in helping MGCSA and my fellow Superintendents. That's what life is all about and that is to help your fellow man. As I said at the picnic I truly have enjoyed all the fellowship with all the Superintendents and I will miss that but I am sure I'll be back to say hello. I won't miss the hot, horrible, humid days of August when you watch the poa annua disappear under a sprinkler. Sometimes you think you have licked mother nature but she always shows who is boss.

We had two big golf tournaments in August in our local area. The Curtis Cup at The Apawamis Club, though it rained, turned out to be a very successful tournament and



Plaque presented to Garry N. Crothers for distinguished service to MGCSA. Left to right: Bob Alonzi, Vice-President, Sharon, Sherry and Garry Crothers, Ted Horton, President.



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Not copyrighted. If there is good here, we want to share it with all chapters – unless author states otherwise.

the International flavor sure made it exciting. It was my swan song and it went well and it sure is nice to leave a club on top. I received the greatest compliment of my 18 years as a golf superintendent by the President of the USGA at the closing ceremony. Mike Caravella was a great help and I am sure it was a great experience for him too. We were lucky with the weather. The Westchester Classic was two weeks later and that was the two weeks we had all the rainy, cloudy weather followed by the hot, humid stretch right during the classic tournament. The grass can only take so much. John Traynor handled it well. It certainly isn't something to look forward to when you have a major tournament in mid August. It's usually low tide for golf course turf. It's either, wilt, brown patch, or pythium that keeps you hopping and if you get too much rain then you just loose control. It's always much better if you can put the water on. It's feast or famine because we all know that a nice 1/2 inch of rain really can revive tired turf. That's about all, folks. MGCSA News, Garry Crothers



There was a long line for Jim Carriere's sausage.

HYPERODES UPDATE

By Pat Vittum

The summer field studies are nearly completed, and this third summer of population surveys has yielded a great deal of information. I was able to maintain a weekly survey at eight different golf courses, scattered throughout Westchester and Fairfield Counties.

The weevils demonstrated several trends which were very similar to those of last year. For example, the weevils in the southern part of the county reached a peak in numbers in the third week of June and then dropped off considerably and rapidly for three or four weeks. A second, lower peak of activity (probably a second generation or a second brood) was noted in the first or second week of August, followed by a less dramatic decline in numbers. As this goes to press (last week of August), the majority of weevils in the southern areas are pupae or adults. The trends have been similar in northern areas, but development has consistently remained about a week behind the southern areas. These trends closely resemble those of 1977, except that the second peak of activity occurred a week to 10 days later (according to the calendar) in 1978. This is probably because temperatures this year have been relatively cooler than last year.

This summer I have collected litter from under several white pine trees on a regular basis. I recovered large numbers of adults from litter (up to 40 per square foot) during the first week of August. This corresponded with the period when much of the population in the fairways was in the large larva or pupa stage. Subsequent litter collections showed a considerable decline in numbers of adults. The most recent collections (last week of August) have yielded less than 10 weevils per square foot.

I have preserved over 1000 adults collected from fairways and from pine litter. I will begin dissecting these adults when I return to the lab in Geneva. These dissections will be a continuation of a study begun last year to trace the development of the reproductive system throughout the year. Information gathered from these studies will be essential to determine how many generations of weevils are produced each year—and will be valuable in determining the most effective times to apply chemicals to control the weevils.

Last year I found a few individuals which were a different species than the vast majority of weevils. This fall I will continue lab studies to determine how many species might be involved in this problem. These studies will involve another series of dissections and some more scanning electron microscope studies.

TURF GRASS FIELD-DAY AT UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Rachel Therrien
Winged Foot Golf Club

Superintendents from the New England state and the New York metropolitan area convened August 23 at the Kingston campus of the University of Rhode Island for the 47th Annual Turf Grass Field-Day.

The primary intention of the conference was to allow all persons involved or interested in turf management the opportunity to enlighten themselves on current turf research by not only observing experimental plots but also exchanging ideas

on particular concepts and opinions with researchers.

Those attending were given a tour of several research plots which was supplemented with verbal description and analysis by those who directed the particular research.

The following is a brief synopsis and description of some research projects being undertaken at the U.R.I. campus:

1. **Selective control of bentgrass with herbicides**—J. Jagschitz

Purpose: Determine a herbicide treatment that will eliminate the presence of bentgrass in lawn areas consisting of Kentucky Bluegrass, Red Fescue, and Perennial Ryegrass.

Results: After a year of experimental treatment, the use of Cyperquat, 8 lb. per acre and HOE-22870, also at a rate of 8 lb. per acre but applied 4 times in one year versus 2 applications of Cyperquat, proved to be most effective.

2. **Evaluation of Fungicides**,—N. Jackson & P. Dernoeden

Purpose: Evaluating commercial fungicides for disease control especially, dollar spot and brown patch.

Result: Out of all the chemicals tested, Acti-dione and Bayleton seemed most effective. It was also noted that Seaside and colonial bentgrasses were very susceptible to Dollarspot.

3. **Chemical vegetation control under cyclone fencing**—

Jagschitz

Purpose: With the utilization of chemicals, vegetative kill under and along various fences may reduce maintenance costs related to hand cutting.

Results: No conclusions as to which chemical or chemical combination were most effective but whatever chemicals are used for this purpose, precautions should be taken so that they not be used near the roots of trees and shrubs.

Land slope should also be considerable in the application because of potential lateral movement of the chemical used.

Other areas discussed included fertilization studies, turf grass varieties, and top-dressing tests.

The turf grass field-day proved to be a very worthwhile and helpful event. Not only can one observe turf research developments but also turf products and equipment available for use.

TURF GRASS FIELD DAY AT UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Rich Puvogel
Winged Foot Golf Club

On August 23, I attended the forty-seventh annual turf grass field day held at the University of Rhode Island. Studies of seed mixtures, herbicides, defoliant, and numerous other aspects of turf grass management were presented on the immaculate, well maintained turf plots of U.R.I. Being relatively new to the field, I felt overwhelmed by the amount of work done on the plots and the depth at which each study dealt. Presented in a simple, straightforward manner, the studies were clear to me while at the same time were advanced enough to be useful to others who have been working with turf for many years. Below are a few interesting findings at the U.R.I. turf plots which may be of interest to those who work with turf.

In the studies of seed mixtures, different blends of seed were compared to one another. The plots were established by seed at the rate of 1 Kilo/acre. The sod strength and rate of rooting were evaluated. This study showed the Kentucky bluegrass—Chewing fescue mix to establish best.

In the Kentucky Bluegrass variety trials 56 different varieties of Kentucky Bluegrass were evaluated taking into consideration the quality, resistance to disease, thatch formation, and seed head production. The one variety which looked most promising was the Brunswick variety which lead the 55 other varieties of Kentucky bluegrass in overall scoring. The problem with Brunswick is that it doesn't produce seed heads and therefore is unavailable on the commercial market to date. Second in the overall scoring is Touchdown which is available on the market at this time.

Chemical vegetation control involving total kill of vegetation with chemicals may be used to reduce maintenance costs by eliminating hand cutting of areas under and around fences. The studies were done on a flat, level surface away from roots of shrubs and trees. I would think this study would be of special interest to those involved in maintaining athletic fields where fences are common and there are usually no shrubs or trees present in such an area. The study showed the three following materials to be best suited for the purpose of total vegetative kill: Amizine, Downponm & Kuron, and Velpar. These three materials were considered best suited for the job due to the lack of lateral movement each exhibited, they did not have a tendency to wash out immediately, and the kill persists the longest of all materials tested. Spike had the longest kill persistence which was up to 80% dead vegetation in the applied area three months after the application. It was also noted that Spike had a significant amount of lateral movement.

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It has been known for several years that activated charcoal applied to areas where a spill, an over application, or misuse of certain chemicals has occurred, can absorb and nullify the harmful effects of such chemicals. The effect of activated charcoal on the future performance of fungicides and herbicides was studied. As of now the study by U.R.I. has shown no effect of the activated charcoal on the fungicides. When charcoal was applied to the surface of established grass, pre-emergence herbicides used 5 months later showed reduced effectiveness. Herbicides performed normally after 17 months from the date that the activated charcoal was applied.

In conclusion I would like to stress an important aspect involving the turf grass studies at U.R.I. The studies conducted at U.R.I. have not taken into consideration the economic factors involved in recommending certain materials. The primary concern at U.R.I. is to bring about a better turf product, the economics of choosing the materials for a project is left up to you, the consumer.

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TOURNAMENT PRESSURE?

Are the pros and low ams the only victims of golf's tournament pressure?

How about the golf course superintendent . . . the club manager . . . the home pro?

One veteran super recently included everyone on the lot. "When our member-guest tournament arrives, it's tension time," he cracked. "Even the guy running the swimming pool has to be on his toes. One of our greens fronts that area. And when someone's putting, he has to hold up a 'quiet please' sign."

The latter might be a slight exaggeration. However, tournament time at the country club does present quite a challenge to certain of those people connected with the golf operation. This is especially true of the four-day, member-guest brand of competition—that popular social-business-pleasure-obligatory session highlighting the golfing season.

"For some members, our four-ball is a time for them to showcase the course," one superintendent told. "And this is only natural. One of the most popular topics of conversation among golfers is their individual courses and the conditions

of them. Frankly, there's no special formula I have for bringing the course to peak playing form and aesthetic height. But I'm aware of the fishbowl nature of the place during a tournament."

Some tournament committees have the foresight to engage in deep preparation for the annual member-guest or invitation—whatever it is called. They meet with each head of the country club operating wings in order to have a fluid motion to the staging of the event. Such sessions are held well in advance of play.

"I think advance preparation is the most important phase of getting it all together," one pro commented. "There are so many details to be studied and decisions which might seem trivial but turn out to be major when they are put into practice under game conditions.

"I remember one year our whole tournament was hanging between success and failure because of the placement of tee markers on a certain hole. We had altered it slightly from the year before, moving the marker back about 15 yards. However, those 15 yards meant that the average tee shot wouldn't carry an extended rough area between the tee and fairway. Most of the post-round conversation on the first day centered on those markers. Somehow, they got changed in a hurry."

Can the super do anything to give that showcasing aspect some appeal?

"Most of the big attractions to guests—the ones that they see during their rounds and casual observations—are the results of long-range planning by the golf committee and others involved in maintenance and improvements," another superintendent disclosed. "Sometimes a drain placed in a vital spot, maybe two or three months before the tournament, proves to be the key in the course holding the well-groomed look. As far as on-the-spot pampering and crash-course improvements, it just can't be done.

"Oh, sometimes we may spray the greens to fancy up their color. But I find that extreme caution must be followed here. I've seen cases where spray methods made the greens so green that the rest of the course looked so sickly yellow by comparison. As far as I'm concerned, the conditioning of the golf course is a 12-month process. If Mother Nature cooperates at opportune times, we can give the members a good and pride-venting layout when their guests come to play."

Tournament time also presents another form of cooperation—that among the super, home pro and clubhouse manager. "We all have to work together and sometimes a comment of agreement from one or the other does magic with the overall operation," our professional friend added. "I'm in closer on-course contact with the members and their guests. And, if I can, I direct my efforts toward a one-for-all, all-for-one existence for myself, the superintendent and the manager."

Tournament pressure, then, does exist for those non-players whose contributions are just as important as the birdies and bogies out on the course. But as one super put it . . . "what the hell; it's like this for me all the time. We still have to play golf here, long before and long after a tournament."

Gerry Finn

Credit: NEWSLETTER, August 1978

People have a built-in hunger for genuine friendship and enduring relationships.

In our mobile society it seems more difficult to establish the finest, deepest friendships for they require time—considerable time. Being a friend means making one's self available to another. Really good friends work out reasonable ways of coping with each other's supply and demand.

8 TIPS TO MAKING NEW FRIENDS

1. **REMEMBER** that the time to make friends is before you need them.
2. **BROADEN** your friendship base (including all age groups) so that when you lose friends through death or geographical separation others will remain to take their place.
3. **REGULATE** your routine and business affairs so that friendships receive proper attention.
4. **MAINTAIN** good listening habits (which means active listening and thoughtful responding) so people will look upon you as a friend.
5. **RENEW** past acquaintances with a willingness to fade in or out as the vibes indicate.
6. **MINIMIZE** little inconsistencies and oddities that you notice in your friends, for you too have your share.
7. **COMMUNICATE** by brief, thoughtful gestures such as phone calls or notes. I'm not talking about writing long letters; instead send clippings, snapshots, or a pressed flower with "Hi! Thinking of you."
8. **DARE** to tell your friends that you love them and that they matter to your life.

Boswell in The Life of Samuel Johnson says, "If a man does not make new acquaintances as he advances through life, he will soon find himself left alone. A man, sir, should keep his friendship in a constant repair."

Credit: Cooperative Extension New York State

Welfare: Please contact Pat Lucas 203-637-3210 or Edward Horton 914-699-2827 in regard to any hospitalizations etc. of members of MGCSA.



New Jersey was well represented.

BUDGET YOUR TIME—DELEGATE

Most people are familiar with the concepts of budgeting their money and spending it in ways that give them maximum benefit. But too many "Money-smart" people are spend-thrifts with their time.

One of the prime offenders is the manager who believes he must be personally involved in every aspect of his operation. This person has forgotten that a good manager is one who has trained his staff so well that he could walk out of his office at any time and be assured that routine decisions will be taken care of as well as if he were present. The superintendent who understands this and who has trained his staff to take care of the day-to-day mechanics of running a golf course is the one who has time and energy to devote to trouble shooting and long-range planning.

The key to effective delegation of routine decisions is to make it clear to your employees just how well informed you want to be about the actions they take on responsibilities you have given them.

How much independence you give a particular person should depend on the skill and experience he has. The ultimate in delegation is to allow him to make decisions and act on them without informing you.

Another form of delegation is to ask a staff member who has brought a problem to your attention to explore various ways of solving the problem, evaluate the alternatives, make a decision, and tell you what he has decided. You will then have a change to discuss the situation in more detail if necessary. This is an excellent way to assess an employee's ability to make good decisions.

Effective delegation lets you win in two ways. You save your valuable time by not getting involved in minor decisions others can handle, and you also take an important step in training your staff. This on-the-job training increases an employee's value to your organization and contributes to good morale and teamwork.

Be aware, though, that no matter how good your system is, mistakes will occur from time to time. The test of a good delegation system is how the situation is handled. On one hand, don't ignore the problem and hope it won't reoccur. But don't make such a fuss over it that a potentially valuable employee loses all confidence in his ability to make good judgments. Use this opportunity to initiate a discussion about what the proper actions would have been and why.

Credit: "Forefront"

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GOOD BYE TEE TO GREEN and MGCSA

Well guys this is my last issue of Tee to Green. I really have enjoyed doing it since we started as a 2 page printed folded sheet, to its present form. I have met many editors from all over the USA and just the exchange of Newsletters has been very gratifying. It also has helped in the exchange of educational articles because we all try to share our information. That's why almost all newsletters are *not copyrighted*. If there is good here, we want to share it with all chapters unless author states otherwise. I will miss going to GCSAA national meetings and saying hello to my many editor friends. Those of you who might read this, my new address will be Box 45, Roxbury, Vermont 05669. I sure have enjoyed reading the many newsletters I receive.

To all my fellow MGCSA members I want to thank you for the plaques that were presented to me at the picnic. I enjoyed contributing what I could to MGCSA. I will miss the fellowship of a great bunch of guys. To those of you who are skiers and even if you don't, we can teach you. Please feel welcome to come up to Pinnacle Mt. in Randolph, Vt. anytime. We will only operate on Fri., Sat., Sun., Christmas week and Washington's Birthday week. I'll be praying for snow, while you are praying for no ice on the greens like last year.

I feel like I have been on the banquet circuit for the last month with all the dinners and going away parties etc. I am not retiring as some think—far from it, it's just another challenge and I happen to be fortunate enough to be able to try and do something on my own. You only get a few such opportunities in Life so you have to try.

I certainly can't thank everybody enough for all the support and kind words in regard to our new venture. The golf course superintendent profession has been good to me and I will sure remember the many varied experiences I have had from my first day on the Crew at Winged Foot Golf Club with Sherwood Moore to Deal Golf & C.C. to a great club like Apawamis. Yes, 20 years goes awfully fast. I wish you, all the best and good health. God Bless you all.

Sincerely,
Garry N. Crothers, CGCS



Picnic Activity

FEBRUARY 1 and 2 SEA ISLAND, GEORGIA WILL HOST 1979 TOURNAMENT

The 1979 preconference golf tournament will be played at The Cloister Hotel, Sea Island, Georgia, February 1 and 2. This location, approved by the Executive Committee, was chosen after consideration by the tournament committee of clubs in the Atlanta area and on Jekyll Island.

The 36-hole Sea Island Golf Club, where CGSAA member James M. Hildebrand is superintendent, is known as an excellent golf complex. The course is located on the south shore of St. Simons Island, about five and a half miles from the hotel.

The ladies' tournament will be at one of the other two courses on Sea Island or at the nearby Brunswick Country Club.

Sea Island and St. Simons Island are part of the beautiful semitropical Georgia coastal islands, about halfway between Savannah, Georgia, and Jacksonville, Florida.

The Cloister is the only hotel on Sea Island, and is an outstanding resort complex. In addition to its widely known golf course, it offers tennis facilities, a riding stable, skeet and trap shooting and excellent dining rooms and cocktails lounges.

Group rates, including all meals, will be offered to CGSAA tournament players. In addition, the hotel will extend complimentary green fees to players staying at the hotel during the two tournament days, plus a practice round on Wednesday.

Sea Island and St. Simons Island are linked by a causeway to Brunswick and can be reached directly by air via Air south from Atlanta.

Complete information about the tournament will be distributed the latter part of October, along with conference and show information.

Credit: GCSAA



Bob Lippman

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UPDATE ON COOL WEATHER BROWN PATCH A CONTINUING PROBLEM

H. Cole, Jr., L.L. Burpee and P.O. Sanders

A Brief History

For years Brown Patch has been recognized as a warm temperature, humid weather disease of colonial bents and the older mixed creeping bentgrasses of greens and tees. Typically the disease would smolder causing patches of brownish discolored grasses until the weather became especially "muggy" and warm when smoke rings and active patches would appear overnight.

Older writings about golf courses diseases contain references to winter Brown Patch but these brownish rings or patches were little more than curiosities. In the mid 1970's, however, persistent reports of brown rings or yellowish brown rings or patches were being made from golf courses throughout the East. Often these symptoms occurred when temperatures were in the 50's, 60's, or 70's. Superficially, they resembled typical Brown Patch, but in many instances symptoms were not controlled by the common Brown Patch fungicides or at best were checked for only a few days. As the reports filtered in, we were about to blame the disease on fungicide resistant low temperature strains of *Rhizoctonia solani* and we were going to publish a note about the resistance problem. Fortunately, Dr. Robert Sherwood of the U.S.D.A. Pasture Research Laboratory asked a most important question: How do you know the fungus is *Rhizoctonia solani*, the cause of the common warm temperature Brown Patch? To make a long story short, we didn't and it wasn't. The fungus superficially looked like *R. solani*, but there the relationship stopped. After much literature and laboratory searching the fungus turned out to be a *Ceratobasidium* sp., a *Rhizoctonia* relative to *R. solani* but completely different in temperature requirements and fungicide sensitivity.

The Current Situation

As more samples and reports of disease occurrences rolled in, it became apparent that we were not dealing with a curiosity but with a problem of consequence of golf turf. Symptoms have been reported on fairways, greens, tees, and aprons.

We could isolate the *Ceratobasidium* fungus from many of these turf areas; from some we could isolate neither *Ceratobasidium* nor *R. solani* but still other unidentified fungi. At present we believe that the disease is not going to become the scourge of turfgrass but merely another problem to be solved on the way to qualify turf. It would appear that humid, cool weather is most favorable for disease development.

Where did the problem come from: Why *Ceratobasidium* now and not 10 years ago?

Any new problem always stimulates the question of why now? and not before? Answers have ranged from: the discontinuance of growing season use of mercury to the introduction of the benzimidazole systemic fungicides in wide use. Others have blamed shifts in the weather towards cooler, wetter summers. At this point there is no correct answer and there may never be one. The best we can do is speculate based on the facts on hand. Our best estimate is that the same shift towards cooler, wetter summers that has brought on increased Red Thread prevalence and severity has also brought

Cool Weather Brown Patch to prominence. Fungi respond to their environment. Those that are favored by a change in the environment become more common; those that are less favored become less common.

Where do we go from there?

The major practical problem that the turfgrass manager faces is disease control to a level compatible with the uses of the area in question. At present we just do not have enough information about the disease to make clear recommendations for either cultural or fungicide control. Environmental manipulation does not seem to offer promise, especially for the golf course superintendent who is locked into a multitude of other concerns dealing with irrigation and culture. From a fungicide view the best recommendation would be to stick with success. If Cool Weather Brown Patch does appear and your current program is not holding it, then try shifting to other fungicides labeled and registered for Brown Patch until you meet with at least partial success. We are attempting to work out the fungicide situation. Dan Loughner, who is working on his M.S. in Plant Pathology with us, will be evaluating fungicides in the laboratory, green house, and with luck, in the field. We will be screening both the *Rhizoctonia solani* warm temperature Brown Patch group as well as the *Ceratobasidium* cool temperature group of fungi.

From The Keynote, Penn. Turfgrass Council

OVERWATERING—A PLIGHT OF THE AMERICAN GOLF COURSE

Melvin B. Lucas, Jr., CGCS

How often it is heard, from players returning from a golf sabbatical, how clubs such as Shinnecock Hills, Winged Foot, Baltusrol, and Pine Valley played so well with fast, firm greens and tightly cut fairways.

It has been my pleasure to have chatted with the men in charge of maintaining these courses, all of whom echo the same water-management theme: "Keep the golf course as dry as possible."

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versity research people, findings show that grass will grow in the spring when it is ready. If man tries to push the grass in the spring this will usually result in poor golfing conditions in late July and August. During the late spring and early summer it is sound to allow a golf course, with majorities of bentgrass and bluegrass varieties, to go on the dry side. This enables the roots to go deep, thus making a plant independent. An applicable adage is that it is easy to put water on, but it is almost impossible to take it away. I know in the case of the Garden City Golf Club, the course, in 1965, used 55-plus million gallons of water. Last year's water use was 12-plus million gallons.

As a Golf Superintendent and one who has had a peripatetic golf-history heart, I have observed how membership requests can sometimes detrimentally influence the nature of a golf course, and its Golf Superintendent. Many of these wants/desires are: The greens don't hold a shot—give them a good soaking; We want everything green and lush to impress guests; We have our own well and water is free and unlimited—let's use it; Our course doesn't compare to the one seen during the televised tournament; Our foursome was out this morning and we noticed an area on the seventh fairway which was "burned out;" Why isn't the course being watered more—it's dying; and, Why do they (greens crew) have to renovate during the prime time of late August and early September?

In answering these comments, I begin by noting that giving the greens "a good soaking" can sometimes lead to weed encroachment, disease, and deep, difficult-to-repair ball marks. Also when talking about the holding qualities of a green, one must consider the condition of the fairways. Simply put, you can not "pinch" the ball from a soft, lush fairway, and to pinch the ball means to give it the needed spin to hold the green.

Water may be free for some golf courses, but the cost of electricity to pump that water is not. The self proclaimed agronomist who sees, on TV, a golf course at its peak, does not view that same golf course two weeks later after the trials



Harry Nichols approaches the grill with support of his children.

of big-time tournament play. Additional costs from the overuse of water come in the form of extra fertilizer, chemicals to control disease, and, naturally, mowing more often. Of course when overuser of water has finally drowned all turf out, then out come the aerifiers, thachers, slicers, spikes and assorted other machinery to try to bring the golf course back. By adding this additional work on a greens crew which may already be overextended, much of the normal, everyday work is left to wane, thus, making a course look even worse.

The water-management program for any golf course must take stock of the different types of soil varieties which are present on the course. These vary from sandy soil, which requires heavier amounts of water; clay soil which needs little water, but which needs to be constantly kept moist; heavy, rich loam soil, which needs water but never too much at one time; and a mix of sand and rich loam that is found in many parts of this Met area, especially on the older links, and which requires only moderate watering. On most of this area's golf courses practically all types of soil varieties can be found. This means that no set program can be made for everything getting exactly the same amount of water.

Probably the major concern that must be had at most Met-area courses is not to go into August with overly wet soil. As we all know, August days are generally hot and humid, and just bloody uncomfortable for man and, yes, grass. So as to give our courses the best chance for survival, we should gear out watering efforts for these dreaded Augusts.

Should your golf course be cutting back on the amount of water being used? Let me answer this in the following fashion.

The alarming problems of conserving water just tapped us on the shoulder last year. We saw Monterey Peninsula and Marin County of California brought to its knees for lack of water. In the Midwest, many golf courses were cut off from water use. On Long Island, a municipality whose own water supply was polluted took over a golf club's well for city use.

With the improper management and wasteful consumption by everyone, it clearly documents the severe shortage in all areas of our nation. We all must share the burdens of water conservation for if not, we only have ourselves to blame if the water runs out.

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Metropolitan Golf Association Dr. Andy Virtuoso
Pelham C.C. Charles Martineau

MGCSA Research Committee



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