

# NEWSLETTER

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ENGLAND

MARCH 1957

*"Never one thing and seldom one person can make for a success. It takes a number of them merging into one perfect whole."*

MARIE DRESSLER.

That about describes the reason for the huge success of the two day turf conference held under the sponsorship of the Golf Course Supts. Assoc. of N. E. at the Waltham Field Station March 4, and 5. Everyone participating in this affair gave *their all* to make it a success. From the program committee right down to the last speaker, from the director of the Waltham Station to the janitor, from O. Clapper to his file clerk, our president down to the newest member, and from the front row to the back row of the interested audience there was an earnest, sincere and cheerful attitude that made the show what it was. The program itself was diversified in subject matter, neither too long nor too short. It was just right. The 160 the first day and 140 the second day showed this in their faces as they left the hall. Congratulations to all who had any part in this conference.

Space does not permit a long resume of all the interesting talks but if the reader doesn't mind being in the rough here is the gist of the meeting. Following the splendid remarks by our president Francis and the well chosen words of Director Havis it was fitting that the father of the fine turf school, Prof. Dickinson, was called upon for the introduction of the conference.

"Turf Renovation" was A. M. Radko's subject. He said that the 4 million golfers in the U. S. playing 66 million rounds of golf a year naturally dislike any disturbance in playing conditions. Each club must make a very strong approach to the renovation work. The Supt. must go on record on what improvements should be made and how and when. Make careful plans. Inform the membership what will be done and why. Educate them. Leave no stone unturned to in-

companied by excellent slides, on the effects of clipping heights and fertilization on root and top growth of fine turf grasses. By varying nutrients applied to roots and tops in different quantities there were different responses in root and top growth. Close clipping of top growth reduced both tops and roots, making it necessary to effect the most favorable growth possible.

Prof. Whitcomb, Entomologist at the Waltham Station, gave an interesting presentation on turf insects and their control. White grubs, Jap. beetle, Asiatic beetle, and chinch bugs held the limelight. Suggested rates of the common and newer insecticides were recommended for control of these insects. He suggested that we know something about the time lag between the date of application and the time the insecticide becomes effective so we know when to expect results. Research and new insecticides are fast catching up with todays insects.

Dr. Klomprens (Upjohn Co.) emphasized the principles of turf diseases and their control. He illustrated that the parasitic organism is always present ready to go to work when it has two other things, a host plant and proper environment. Spray to prevent or control. Keep the plant as healthy as possible for minimum infection.

Dr. Colby (U. of Mass.) gave a good talk on Soils and Fertilizer. His explanation of soil chemistry was enlightening. Know the nutrient requirements and keep the crop supplied in the proper balance.

Al Radko ably summarized the conference at which he is so capable. In fact much of his summary has been used in this letter. He closed his remarks by saying, "This conference has been a resounding success — it has been one of the best." Adding to these words we all say amen.

*Editors Note.* In addition to all the visible reasons for the success of this conference it occurs to the

sure the job being done right. No failure must occur. Keep the area in play where ever possible — fairways especially. Tees and greens temporary but keep them as good as possible, with least possible disturbance.

Next subject, "Weed Control" Panel — Maney Francis, Phil Cassidy, Albert Allen, and Dick Silver. Moderator — Dr. Havis. An excellent job was done in answering questions. Rates and results of 2 4 D and sodium arsenite thoroughly discussed. Crab grass, knot weed, chick weed and clover received a going over. Control of weeds and grass in sand traps with potent killers was cautioned. Copper sulphate or sodium arsenite for pond algae was recommended. Chlorinated water harmful to grass? (No.) Clover control early fall — 2 4 5 T plus 2 4 D excellent. Low pressure sprayer — 40 lbs-50 gal. tank. 5 qts to 50 gal. on 5 acres — 7 miles per hour. — Considerable emphasis given to following directions on labels right to the letter on different materials used.

"Trees On Golf Courses" by Dr. McKenzie (U. of Mass.). Many trees today on highways, golf courses, and housing developments are killed in ignorance by fill around the trees. Their days are numbered when this happens. A 25 foot tall tree should flare out at its base. If it is straight at its base it must have been filled at this point. This means a slow death. Trees like any other plant must have air for its root growth. Bulldozer injuries by cutting big roots another cause of death. Select your trees for beauty, shade, and practicability. Give them good care. Feed, spray and water.

Dr. Elliot (U. of Mass.) on the subject Turf Research at U. of Mass. gave an enlightening talk, ac-

editor that certain background factors also contributed to its success. For example:

1. It was our first attempt at such an event at the Waltham Field Station.
2. The Field Station itself with its splendid auditorium, its facilities for a caterer, its convenience for the public, and its exclusiveness were definite factors.
3. Having the luncheons in the building insured concentration and encouraged good fellowship.

Many of the boys are already asking, when will we do it again?

At the business meeting Leo Brown, Commonwealth C.C. and R. Joseph Dandurand, Maynard C.C. were voted associate memberships. One application for new membership was read from Joseph Capozzi, Norfolk C.C.

### OUR NEXT MEETING AT THE WALTHAM FIELD STATION

Monday, April 1. Luncheon 12:30

Dr. James R. Watson (Toro Co. Agronomist)

Dr. Watson is a good speaker as well as a scientist. Don't miss it.

This will not be an April Fools Party even though some still say,

*"Young men think old men fools and old men know young men to be so."*  
METCALF.

Those who ordered the new Lapel pin can pick them up at this meeting — Price \$2.75 each.

The committee on By-Law revision will meet at 10:30 Monday April 1st prior to the regular meeting.

H. DARLING, Editor.