

Northwest TURFGRASS TOPICS

Vol. 17 — No. 3

PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON

DEC., 1974

The President's Corner



The President's Corner

By Cliff Everhart

The 28th Turf Conference at Sunriver, Oregon, in October was well attended from all sections of the Northwest, and everyone enjoyed the beautiful setting and various activities provided. We extend our thanks and appreciation to all the personnel at Sunriver Lodge, especially to their golf course superintendent, Joe Lymp, who had the golf course in fine condition. Thanks also to Vern Perry, golf professional, for his courtesies.

All members of your Board of Directors are hard at work on the job of making preparations for the next Turfgrass Conference in September, 1975 at Yakima. The dates for the conference we set at the December 6 board meeting at Broadmoor Golf and Country Club for September 17, 18 and 19, 1975. Watch this column and other announcements in Turfgrass Topics should any changes in the date of the conference be made. We hope to have good, interesting speakers for this show as well as a fine golf course for our tournament. The tournament will be held on Tuesday, September 16, preceding the beginning of the conference. There will also be a good program for the ladies.

Here in Spokane, we are still playing permanent greens (as of December 5) and mowing greens in December for a new first for us. I have noticed in the newspapers how bad the weather is in the eastern part of the United States as compared to the wonderful Indian summer we have had. The hunting and fishing has been good, and golf is still being enjoyed on our great courses. Think how fortunate we all are to live in the beautiful Northwest.

Taken from the newspaper: In Africa, natives beat the ground with clubs and utter bloodcurdling yells. Anthropologists call this primitive expression — here, we call it golf.

Pesticide Short Course to be Offered

By William P. A. Scheer
Area Extension Agent

A pest management short course has been scheduled for January 28, 29 and 30 at the Sherwood Inn in Tacoma. The course is designed to prepare persons for all categories of state licensing examinations. People who are already licensed and want to take in a review session are also welcome.

The first day will cover pesticide chemistry, formulations, calibration, equipment maintenance and all aspects of weed control. The second day will be devoted to insect and plant disease control. The morning of the third day takes in pesticide safety and laws and regulations, while exams will be administered in the afternoon of the third day.

Details regarding study material and registration can be obtained by contacting Bill Scheer, Area Extension Agent, at 5601 Sixth Avenue, Tacoma, Washington 98406, telephone 593-4190, or 100 Crockett Street, Seattle, Washington 98109, telephone 344-2686.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This short course is extremely helpful and is essential for preparing you for the state examination. Needless to say, the time has arrived when all of us who apply pesticides must be licensed and knowledgeable in this field. Pass this word on to anyone you know who might be interested in this study course and the state examination.

Western Canada Turfgrass Conference

The directors for the Western Canada Turf Association have announced that their annual conference will be held at the Empress Hotel in Victoria, B.C., on February 26, 27 and 28. The program for this conference is finalized and promises to be very interesting and timely. As all of you know, Victoria is a very fine setting for such a conference with many interesting sites and things to see and do. This should also be a lovely time due to the weather conditions that frequently occur on that part of the Island in late February.

Since this location is not far from home for many of you in the Pacific Northwest, we encourage as many of you as possible to attend this conference. After all, it is a good, educational program, and all of you have something to gain from these educational sessions. Remember the dates and put them on your calendar now, and try to attend if possible.

Notice to Advertisers

The Northwest Turfgrass Topics is published three times per year, April, September, December. The deadline for including advertising in the Turfgrass Topics is April 1, August 15 (for September issue) and December 1. The cost for each insertion is \$6.00 per column inch (minimum of 2 inches). The standard ad is 2 inches in depth and cost \$12.00 per insertion. A full-page ad costs \$120 (20 inches); a half-page ad costs \$60.00.

Professional Responsibilities and Ethics

By Dick Malpass

It was the most important meeting of the organization for the year. Those attending had come from the entire Pacific Northwest. Speakers had been brought in from Canada, California, Colorado and the Northwest states. As the chairman rose to introduce the next speaker, most of the speakers rose and noisily left the meeting. Shocking? Disrespectful to the speaker and the membership? Only, this isn't the way it happened. It was the members who walked out leaving an embarrassed chairman, a speaker who was understandably perturbed, and other speakers wondering what kind of a group they had been called in to address. And, incidentally, the speaker had an excellent message since he, also, was responsible for overseeing the maintenance of probably more turf than any golf superintendent in attendance.

One of the provisions of the GCSAA Code of Ethics states as follows: "3) Utilize every opportunity to extend my professional knowledge in order to increase my value to my employers, my industry, and my profession."

How many readers would utilize the services of a CPA to prepare tax returns who did not keep up-to-date on the latest of tax information? How many would retain such a person after having returns audited and penalties and assessments levied because your CPA had not fulfilled his professional obligations? Who would want to hire an attorney to represent him in court who was not versed fully in all aspects of the case which he was handling for you and the laws which pertained to your particular problem?

Dr. Joseph Troll, from the University of Massachusetts, speaking to the Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Association, said, "We are all cognizant of the fact that we never stop learning and that all education is not acquired from schools. Turf conferences such as this one, the GCSAA Conference, university conferences, field days, and the reading of professional magazines are all valuable educational programs, and are certainly to be encouraged as facets of continuing education. It appears to be the policy for today and the future, 'for the job you want, get the education you need,' and education is the prime requisite for future superintendents."

Dr. Troll went on to say, "In addition, the increased interest in golf has created an even greater demand for responsible superintendents. They must be far more exacting — which requires knowledge and skill in a large number of disciplines for proper management of greens, grounds and men. I can best clarify what is meant by knowledge in a number of disciplines by quoting from a letter I received from a president of a golf club. He was soliciting my assistance in a search for candidates for the superintendent's position at his course. He listed the following as the essential or desirable qualifications required for the job:"

"Since we are living in a rapidly changing world, the most important characteristic is that a man must have a natural desire for learning and must have an open mind for new techniques, whether they be in labor management, choice of machinery, traffic control, chemistry, or other significant areas.

"He should have a thorough academic grounding in agronomy, with a real understanding of plant metabolism

and nutrition, soil structure, plant pathology, and the knowledge of modern techniques in herbicides, pesticides and fungicides. Some actual experience in laboratory techniques would be highly desirable.

"Since the cost of labor will become an increasingly important factor he should have a real faculty for dealing with human beings and should be able to teach and motivate those who work under him. This factor is hard to describe, but perhaps can best be stated as the ability to have people like you even though you are firm and a strict taskmaster. Perhaps a sense of humor and the ability to smile are important parts of this vague personality factor.

"He should be able to communicate well, particularly to the people working under him, but also to the people for whom he is working. This characteristic, incidentally, is closely linked with the previous qualification.

"He should have had some practical experience as an assistant or with a nine-hole course of his own.

"He should have the ability, when required, to do hard manual labor and use tools effectively. Otherwise, in the beginning, he will never command the respect of those working for him.

"He should have practical common sense from a mechanical and engineering point of view."

"I believe he left out a need for a background in business management. However, the gentleman did admit that a man who had all these qualifications would be difficult to find and certainly would be desired by many golf club associations. In brief, a superintendent is and must be truly a professional man."

We must, of necessity, keep on top of what is transpiring in our industry. To do so, we read our professional publications; we attend conferences and seminars; we attend field days, observe research plots, listen to evaluation of results. Additionally, we attend local meetings with our fellow superintendents, discuss mutual problems, and solutions to those problems.

We make enough mistakes during a lifetime without committing unnecessary ones. Much trouble or sorrow can be avoided by listening to the experiences of others. We can save our employers substantial sums by listening to or observing research results. Others who are in the same business as we or similar to ours can forewarn us of problems ahead if we will but listen or pay attention.

In 1963 the writer attended his first GCSSA conference, in San Diego, California. I don't remember the program, I remember only a few who were there. But one I will never forget. He was a superintendent from the Midwest who had come all the way to California to attend an educational conference. And where did he spend his employer's money? He spent the entire conference — nearly a whole week — drunk in a little bar just off the front lobby of the hotel where the conference was held. We have been similarly impressed by others at other conferences who have taken their employer's money to supposedly attend the educational sessions but, instead, have spent most of the time in the bar, or playing golf, or goofing off. They don't care that hours were spent in preparing for the program by session chairmen, educational directors, or boards of directors. Or that speakers who may have travelled thousands of miles to present research data resulting from years of work and research; or other speakers with invaluable information regarding our bettering ourselves and growing professionally have worked months preparing the material they presented. No, it is more important to have a good time.

Henry Ford said it: "Anyone who stops learning is old,

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Non-Farm Use Fertilizer Where Do We Stand?

By Roy L. Goss

To answer this question simply, I don't think anyone knows. But there are many people who are deeply concerned about the rumors of curtailing the use of fertilizer, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus on all non-farm use areas. There have been a number of good quotes that I would like to bring out, and perhaps any of you who are interested in talking to anyone that may help in this situation can use some of the information.

According to Ed Wheeler, president of the 300-member Fertilizer Institute, only 3.5% of the total U.S. fertilizer is being used at all non-farm purposes which includes everything from airport runway de-icing to vegetable gardens, public park and playground maintenance, and highway shoulder stabilization.

According to Robert W. Steiner, fertilizer coordinator for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, "It is unrealistic to talk about fertilizer being taken from golf courses in America to supply farms in developing nations. What is needed are funds from the wealthier countries to secure fertilizer deliveries and to help pay shipping charges to the user." He further said that the amount of non-farm fertilizer use in the United States is very small compared to the amounts produced or used on farms in this country, or for that matter, needed by the developing nations. "Quite simply, emerging nations are broke. Their treasuries are bare, caused primarily by the unreasonable prices they are paying for oil. Higher oil prices in turn have greatly contributed to high fertilizer prices."

One of the principal factors in regard to non-farm fertilizer use that is being overlooked by many can possibly be summed up in one quotation from Ed Wheeler. "One should never forget that not only do our green lawns and landscaping make our cities more beautiful and pleasant to live in. But, in addition, growing lawns and plants remove harmful carbon dioxide and pollutants from the air and release oxygen back in return. The small amounts of fertilizer, so employed, contribute not just to aesthetic enhancement to our environment, it will make a necessary functional addition to it as well."

Realistically, we are short of fertilizer and realistically, it will be some time before adequate amounts of fertilizer are available. Therefore, I believe it is encumbant upon each of us to more judiciously use the resources that we have, apply

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whether this happens at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps on learning not only remains young but becomes constantly more valuable, regardless of physical capacity."

Many years ago we heard a talk by Dr. G. Burton Wood, Agricultural Economist with Oregon State University. In it he told of people climbing the ladder of success. They got up partway and stopped. He called it "rusting on your laurels!" And you only became conscious of what was happening when someone stepped on your knuckles as they climbed higher on the ladder of success.

There are hundreds of eager young men attending universities and colleges today hoping for a chance to be superintendent of their own golf course someday. Don't "rust on your laurels" or your knuckles may be stepped on some day by someone more capable than you.

fertilizers only when necessary to maintain the quality that we need, but on the other hand I would quote from the Review and Outlook Section of the Wall Street Journal as follows: "Doing penance with a brown lawn may, for all we know, save your soul, and eating less is certainly likely to save your heart. But neither has much to do with feeding Bangladesch; for that we need policies attuned not to the next world but to the harsh but inescapable economics of this one."

I feel that we should try to maintain some quality in our turfgrasses until such a time as more stringent decisions should be made. In the meantime, we are considering many alternatives of how to better utilize our fertilizler resources for turfgrasses in the Pacific Northwest. Can we get by on less than what we are using? I think the answer is yes. Probably considerably less and still maintain an acceptable quality although it will not be top quality. It might even help us to get rid of some *Poa annua* and it may also contribute to a little less disease. But we can also expect the turf to be a little less green.

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Special Turfgrass Research Fund

Al Blair, who has served as chairman of the Special Research Fund for the past years, announced to the Board of Directors of the Northwest Turfgrass Association in September that sufficient funds had been accumulated from all sources to fill the research position on a temporary basis. At the Board of Directors meeting at Sunriver, Oregon, the directors voted unanimously to proceed with filling this position.

To date, a Memorandum of Understanding has been prepared by Washington State University and submitted to the Board of Directors of the Northwest Turfgrass Association to receive the grant funds and so initiate the temporary hiring of the research associate in turfgrass. Since the position cannot be announced as being permanent or running for more than one year, it narrows the field of qualified individuals, but at the present time we have two or three good prospects and are screening these individuals for hiring during the first part of 1975.

Considerable additional turfgrass research was initiated in 1974 predicated on the fact that some additional help would be available in the Turfgrass Research Program in 1975. Some of these duties will be handled by the new man in addition to some new research projects. In addition to expanding the varietal research program, *Poa annua* research and nutritional interrelationships ranks in high priority. Due to the vast spectrum of fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, nematocides and other chemicals used on golf course putting greens and in other turfgrass areas, it is deemed necessary to initiate some compatibility studies to determine the response of new varieties to chemical treatment. It is disastrous to wait until these new varieties are in use and find that they have incompatibilities with certain mixtures or combinations of chemicals. Cases of this are definitely on record, and this would be a good service to perform for both the consumer and industry. When we consider that there are three or four commonly used pre-emergence herbicides, six or more commonly used post-emergence herbicides, and about the same number of fungicides used in the Pacific Northwest on turfgrass areas and then compound this with a dozen or so commonly used grass varieties, and it amounts up to a pretty large project that will take considerable time and expenditure of effort to obtain the data.

Work is being considered also on ways to maintain adequate turfgrass quality with less fertilizer, particularly

nitrogen. It appears eminent that fertilizer availability will not improve for some time, and as most of you have read, there are efforts underway to try to take fertilizer away from the non-farm use areas. It would seem prudent that we would at least be prepared for such an eventuality.

These are only a few of the areas to mention at this time and other research will be initiated as time and funds will allow.

Northwest Turfgrass Association Board of Directors Meeting

President Cliff Everhart, the new president of the Northwest Turfgrass Association, assembled his directors for a meeting at Broadmoor Golf and Country Club in Seattle on December 6. Among the major items on the agenda was a long discussion regarding means of generating funds to support turfgrass research in the Pacific Northwest. Duke Matthews, golf professional at Broadmoor Golf and Country Club, attended this meeting and contributed significantly to these plans.

The Turfgrass Conference for 1975 was the next major item on the agenda, and Bud Ashworth, chairman of the Program Committee, assisted by Roy Goss, presented a number of topics that would be good for a program for 1975. These program areas are well divided into interests of schools, parks, golf courses and home turf as well, and should prove to be an interesting program for all who attend the conference at Yakima on September 16 through 19, 1975. Wayne Dean, chairman of the Conference Committee, will make arrangements for conference site and local

Continued on Page 5, Column 1

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Continued from Page 4, Column 2

arrangements, will secure the exact locations in Yakima and this will be announced in the March issue of *Turfgrass Topics* at which time you can begin making your reservations.

The product and equipment display was discussed by the directors, and mixed opinions were voiced in regard to this activity. Some of the commercial exhibitors had various ideas on how to handle it or whether to have it or not. The discussion was tabled until the directors' meeting in May, 1975 in order to canvass the exhibitors who normally participate to determine the feasibility of proceeding.

Dick Haskell, who has served faithfully as treasurer of the Northwest Turfgrass Association for the past 12 years, has announced that he will retire as treasurer immediately following the conference at Yakima in 1975. Dick was given a vote of thanks by all directors for a tremendous job during these past twelve years. As most of you know, the treasurer's job is not very glamorous, requires a lot of hard work and attention to detail, plus the dubious honor of working all through the conference to handle registration and some local details. A successor to Dick is being worked on at this time and will be announced at a later date.

The \$10.00 registration fee for all members of the association was reviewed and the directors unanimously agreed to leave the \$10.00 registration as it was in 1974. After reviewing the situation, it was considered that no increases in dues have been made for a period of five years or more, and that this \$10.00 registration would help to cover increased costs of putting on a conference, publications, travel, etc.

The next directors' meeting of the Northwest Turfgrass Association will be held at Puyallup on Monday, May 12 at 1:30 p.m.

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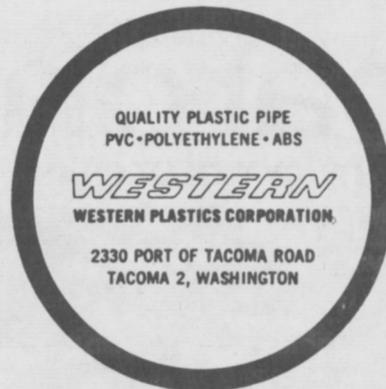
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The Finance Committee of the Northwest Turfgrass Association and the Board of Directors sincerely thank all of you who have contributed to this special research fund. It is

hoped that more can become involved to help provide funds for continued additional research. Please see the article in this edition of *Turfgrass Topics* for additional details regarding the status of the research position.

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1974 Attendance of the Northwest Turfgrass Association Conference

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Vashon Golf & Country Club, Burton, Wash.

Victoria Golf Club, Victoria, B.C., Canada

Wagner's Nursery & Landscape Serv., Walla Walla, Wash.

Wandamere Golf Club, Spokane, Wash.

Waverley Golf Club, Portland, Oregon

Wayne Golf Club, Bothell, Wash.

Norm Whitworth, Gladstone, Oregon

City of Yakima, Yakima, Wash.

Yakima Elks Golf & Country Club, Selah, Wash.



Trained Help Doesn't Cost . . . It Pays

By Roy L. Goss

There is more truth to the title of this article than most people are prone to believe. There is a vast difference between human error and human ignorance. Errors will always be made by people, but specialized training will help us to improve our knowledge and decrease our ignorance of things we don't understand. Well-trained employees have the ability to make decisions without close supervision in most instances. I recall an oldtime friend and golf superintendent who directed a couple of his best crew to apply lime to some tees. After one or two tees had been limed, the superintendent checked and found they were applying hydrated lime instead of agricultural limestone. Needless to say, there was a wee bit of brown grass. A knowledge of the difference between hydrated lime and agricultural limestone would have prevented this serious error. All of you can list many, many reasons why some educational training is of great assistance. But that is not the reason for this article.

Dr. Jim Maguire, Agronomy Department at Washington State University at Pullman, has informed me that they will be graduating several agronomists in 1975 who have specialized in Turfgrass Management. Some of these people are not ready to graduate at this time, but the following two men will complete their degrees this year and will be ready for employment in the field. Their names are Larry Gilhuly and Frederick Carbonatto. I believe that both these fellows have previous experience in working on golf courses as well as a degree in Agronomy with special emphasis on turfgrass management. These fellows would certainly be an asset to your crew. We propose that these graduating students be taken in as either part of the crew or in the position as an assistant on golf course, parks, cemeteries or large school districts for a period of one to three years, depending upon their previous experience, and then helping to place them in responsible positions when they show satisfactory ability.

Dr. Maguire informs me that both the men named in this article are well qualified to serve as assistant golf course superintendents, so here is your opportunity to start planning now for some good qualified help who will be graduating by May, 1975. Any of you interested in further information about these two men can write directly to Dr. J. D. Maguire, Department of Agronomy and Soils, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington 99163.

**SUPPORT YOUR
TURFGRASS RESEARCH
PROGRAMS**

USGA — Green Section Conference On Golf Course Management

It seems that spiraling inflation, recession, tight budgets, and other problems dealing with our economy dominates most conversations today; therefore, the United States Golf Association — Green Section is sponsoring their annual conference this year on *Economy Measures For Survival*. The conference will be held at the Biltmore Hotel, New York, New York, on Friday, January 24, 1975. The program will include such topics as "Golf Then and Now," "Streamlining the Club Operation — A Club Official's View," "Streamlining the Club Operation — A Manager's View," "Getting the Most Out of Golf Cars," "Good Records — An Economic Necessity," "The Golf Course Superintendent's Mission in the Economic Squeeze," "Presentation of USGA-Green Section Award," "A Second Course for Your Club," and "What's Going On in the Field."

A group of well-qualified USGA-Green Section personnel will conduct most of the meeting and will hold question-answer sessions and panel discussions. They are made up of persons like Bill Bengeyfield, William G. Buchanan, Holman M. Griffin, F. Lee Record, Carl Schwartzkopf, and Stanley J. Zontek. Charles G. Boskin, Superintendent, Country Club of Waterbury, Connecticut, will also participate in the program. Awards will be made by Harton S. Simple, President, United States Golf Association and Elbert S. Jenison, Jr., Chairman, USGA-Green Section Committee. Richard L. Siderowf, Golf Club at Aspetuck, Easton, Connecticut, will present a topic, "Golf Then and Now, A Champion's View of Course Conditions Over the Years." Others participating in the program will include E. George Wetmore, Alphonsasa Barauskas, and of course, Alexander Radko, who is Deputy Chairman of USGA-Green Section and National Research Director.

The USGA encourages all member clubs to participate in this important conference and as many club officials as possible such as Green Chairmen to attend.

Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America Annual International Turfgrass Conference and Show

Don't forget the International Turfgrass Conference and Show sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America which will be held this year in New Orleans, Louisiana. Most of you, no doubt, have already made your plans to attend this conference, but those of you who might find it possible and have not planned to do so should certainly plan on this tremendous conference and show. It is of the highest calibre in educational sessions and none better in the world for product and equipment display shows. The dates for the conference are February 16 through 21, 1975, and headquarters is at the Rivergate in New Orleans. Additional information can be obtained from any certified Golf Course Superintendent or other members of the GCSAA or by writing directly to The Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

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Turfgrass Field Days

Golf Course Superintendents— Special, Tues-
day, May 13, 1974, 10 a.m.

All Others and General Public— Thursday,
May 15, 1974, 10 a.m.

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NORTHWEST TURFGRASS TOPICS is spon-
sored by the Northwest Turfgrass Association and
financed through funds of this organization. Any
communications concerning distribution of this paper
or association business should be directed to Dick
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