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# A Patch of Green

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

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## **"A Patch of Green"**

31823 Utica Road, Fraser, Michigan 48026  
(313) 293-3540

*Published monthly by the Michigan and  
Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents  
Association*

*Circulation: 600*

Ted Woehrle, Oakland Hills CC  
*Editor*

Blakeman Publications  
*Graphic Arts/Circulation*

## **ADVERTISING RATES**

Double Page Spread.....	\$100.00
Back Outside Page.....	65.00
Full Page.....	55.00
Half Page.....	35.00
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Sixteenth Page.....	7.50
Classified Ad (per inch).....	5.00

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## How to Raise \$5,000 for Turf Research

The registration desk busy at work trying to get things started pictured above.

The Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association has a habit of doing good things for golf. They have been leaders in raising money for turf research at Michigan State University. Over the past six years they have raised around \$35,000.00. This has been accomplished in several ways. At first the majority of the income came from selling raffle tickets. The effort was culminated with a golf outing and dinner where the results were announced and the money was turned over to the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. In 1969, the format was changed to include a golf tournament as part of the festivities. The first such event was held at Oakland Hills Country Club. This proved successful enough that it was decided to expand the tournament effort and really do it right. The following year we added several other steps to the tournament and it proved to be highly successful. This

year we changed the location and improved the eating and meeting facility to the point where we feel now that we have reached a level of professionalism in running the event.

Here is how it is done. First, you pick out a very capable Chairman. This year we made a wise decision and picked Don Benham of National Chemsearch. He in turn picked his Committee Chairmen. These included:

*Gordie LaFontaine* of Lawn Equipment. His primary duty was to collect money from entry fees and raffle ticket sales and place them in the checking account so he could pay the bills.

*Bob Hope*, Superintendent of the Knollwood Country Club, Chairman of the Raffle Ticket Committee. This is the Committee that makes the profit. Tickets were distributed to all members of the Association and then the money was collected before the drawing for prizes.

*Gary Bartsch*, Superintendent, Pine Lake C.C., Chairman of the Tournament Entries. Posters announcing the

Continued on next page

event were sent out to all member Clubs along with entry blanks. As the entries were sent to Gary, he would assign tee off times and sent the money collected to Gordie.

*Clem Wolfrom*, Superintendent, Detroit Golf Club, Chairman of the Prize Committee. This is one of the thankless jobs. Clem had to go out and solicit money or prizes from our suppliers and any other people interested

in helping our cause. He did a tremendous job. The prizes were outstanding.

*Doug Forier*, Michigan Turf Specialties Corp., Chairman of the Golf Event. He controls the type of event and the administration of the event. Keeping scores and deciding the winner can be very hectic. Another one of the thankless jobs.

Under the heading of golf events we had *George Carson*, W. F. Miller



Left to Right: Don Benham, General Chairman of our 6th Annual Golf Day, Ted Fuller, one of the owners of Bay Pointe, and Don LaFond, host Superintendent of Bay Pointe Golf Club.



Head table dignitaries with golf and raffle prizes displayed on table.

Company, Chairman of the "Closest to the hole" event. This is a money maker. The prize here was a set of woods. *Charlie Croley* of Scotts helped also.

Another golf event on the course was run by *Al Kaltz*, Superintendent of Maple Lane Golf Club. He ran the "Inside the circle" event. Another good money maker. Prizes here included golf balls.

*Jerry Gill*, Superintendent, Tam O Shanter Golf Club, was in charge of all secretarial work and he bought the beautiful bag tags that were presented to contestants. Incidentally, we still have quite a few of these available for the asking.

*Ted Woehrle*, Superintendent, Oakland Hills Country Club, Chairman of Publicity, created exposure in the papers, TV, and radio.

The most important people, of course, are *Don Lafond*, Host Superintendent, and the *Fuller Brothers*, the owners of Bay Pointe.

We appreciated the use of the

course very much and enjoyed the entire day. Because of the tremendous hospitality and the fine food and drink we were able to enjoy ourselves and raise our \$5,000.00.

Upon arriving at the Club on the morning of September 17, 1971, the skies were cloudy and a light rain was falling. The temperature was cold and it looked like it was going to be a miserable day. By 9:30 the sun came out and the sky cleared up and we couldn't have asked for a nicer day.

*Dick Mauer* won the set of Woods for being closest to the pin (14 inches). The team entry of A to Z Landscape Co. won the team championship and our old friend *Louis Sinnelli*, Superintendent, Barton Hills Country Club, won the Color TV in the raffle ticket drawing.

Many thanks to all of our members that participated in the running of the events and the selling of the raffle tickets. This day has become a true team effort. Thanks again.



One of the attractive hostesses selling raffle tickets out on the course to a happy foursome

MORE PICTURES ON NEXT THREE PAGES





Clem Wolfrom holding raffle ticket container for one of Bay Pointe's pretty waitresses to select the next lucky number.



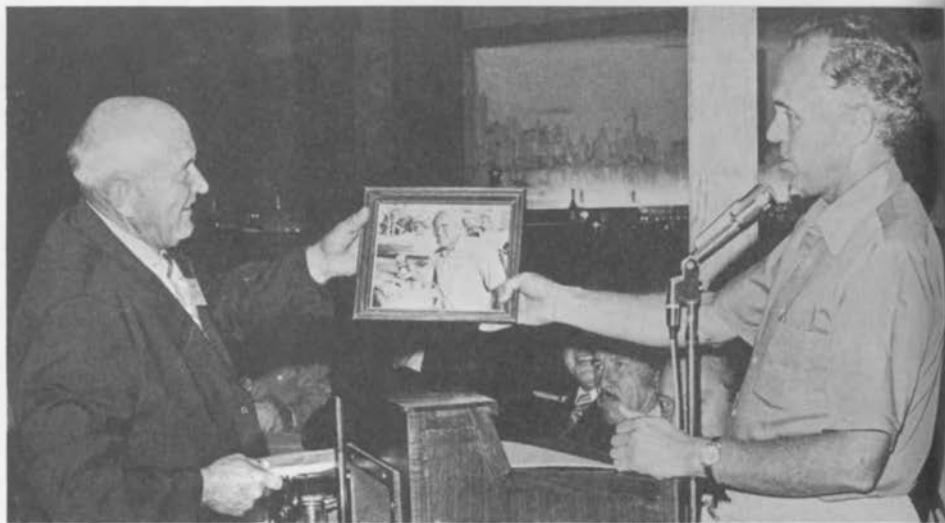
Doug Forier at mike announcing the winning raffle ticket number of 521 which was a color TV for Louis Sinnelli.



Charles Croley (left) of Scotts measuring the distance of 14 inches for the Closest To The Pin contest, won by Dick Mauer on the right.



President Ward Swanson (center) presenting trophy and 1st Place prizes to winning team from A to Z Landscaping (Left to Right: Don Trombly, Albin Zupance, Bruce Harris, and Kenneth Mott).



"From one beer lover to another" . . . Dr. Ken Payne, on right, presenting Clarence Wolfrom, Supt. of Maple Lane Golf Club, with a picture taken last year on Golf Day.



Dr. James Beard, of MSU, expressing his thanks to the Association for the continued effort given turf research in the State of Michigan.



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## MBCGCSA MEETING

The monthly MBCGCSA monthly meeting was held on October 4th at Maple Lane Golf Club-Host, Clarence Wolfrom, guest speaker, Dr. James Beard.

Dr. Beard gave us a progress report of work accomplished at MSU in Turf Research over the past ten years. His talk was accompanied by colored slides.

Many of the projects carried on at MSU have been covered in past issues of the "Patch of Green." The purpose for his visit to our meeting was

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The following is a list of suppliers who donated to our 6th Annual Golf Day.

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to keep us abreast of work being done at MSU and explain to us the importance of our annual contribution to the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation.

Later on in the meeting Don Benham reported that his Golf Day Committee was able to collect \$5,000 from our Annual Golf Day held at Bay Pointe Golf Club, September 17, 1971. He thanked the following people for the tremendous job done:

Treasurer, Gordon LaFontaine, Lawn Equipment; Host Supt., Don LaFond; Bay Pointe Golf Club; Tickets, Bob Hope, Supt., Knollwood CC; Entries, Gary Bartsch, Supt., Pine Lake CC; Bag Tags, Jerry Gill, Supt., Tam-O-Shanter CC; Golf Event, Doug Forier; Par 3 Event (Closest to Hole), George Carson, W.F. Miller; Selling a lot of tickets, Dick Monohan, Century Supply; Par 3 Event (In the Circle), Al Kaltz, Supt., Maple Lane GC.

### MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

The Norm Kramer Memorial Tournament held on October 4th was a huge success. About \$2,000 was raised for the Scholarship & Research Fund of the GCSAA. The event was sponsored by the Western & Michigan GCSA.

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Or you may contact the next golf course supplier that calls on  
you and give him the information needed for application.



## The President's Message

Our thanks to the host superintendents for allowing us the use of their facilities for this year. We appreciate the privilege extended by their members and boards of directors.

These meetings are improving in quality and hopefully they will continue to make our group a tightly knit one that can communicate successfully with each other.

Our recent picnic was a smashing success through the efforts of George Prieskorn and his mother Lucille. When the wife and kids tell you it was great - then you know you're in.

The brochure with appropriate literature has arrived from Mr. Miriani, Head of Detroit Convention facilities for our consideration. A discussion of our intentions will take place at a future meeting. Our invitation to the Detroit area is dependent on our membership's decision and all of you

Your President,  
Ward Swanson

## ELECTION SLATE

Jim Vaughn, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, and his committee, have presented the following slate for election at the Annual Meeting:

President, Ted Woehrle; Vice President, Jerry Gill; Secretary-Treasurer, Bob Hope; Board of Directors (2) to be elected, Bill Madigan, Gary Bartsch, Roger Gill, James Vaughn.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Jerry Gill, Secretary

## DID YOU KNOW?

Attendance at the Michigan Turfgrass Conference held annually at the Kellogg Center has risen from 70 to 500 during the past ten years. It is now the largest in the State Extension Program.

The total attendance at the two Turf Field Days this year was over 600.

There are now 100 turf students attending classes at Michigan State University. There are 75 in the two year program, 25 in the four year program, and 9 graduate students working in turf.



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## GREATEST TESTS OF GOLF

The November issue of "Golf Digest" lists five Michigan golf courses in "America's 100 Greatest Tests of Golf."

*Listed in 1st 10;* Oakland Hills CC, Birmingham.

*Listed in 2nd 10;* Point-O-Woods Golf & Country Club, Benton Harbor.

*Listed in 5th 10;* Country Club of Detroit, Grosse Pointe Farms.

*Listed in 2nd 50;* Boyne Highlands Golf Club, Harbor Springs; Warwick Hills Golf Club, Grand Blanc.

*Some people are like blisters. They show up when the work is done.*

# Lightning

By RICK GREEN, Moody Sprinkler Company

The occurrence of rainfall brings positive charged ions from the air to the ground, leaving a surplus of electrons in the air. When the potential difference between the earth and surrounding air builds to a certain limit, an arc is formed as the electrons move at the speed of light toward the positive charge. Ionization of air between the two areas of positive and negative charge generates the flash of light and discharge of energy called lightning.

## PROTECTION OF SPRINKLER EQUIPMENT FROM LIGHTNING

Lightning, or any other form of electricity, will seek the path of least resistance in its attempt to reach ground potential. If lightning strikes an area where both an electrical insulator and a metal object are present, both tied to ground, the lightning will strike the metal object, since it is the path of least resistance to ground.

A sprinkler system which uses electrically operated remote control valves will usually have a common wire tied to all valves in the system. If this wire is not grounded and lightning strikes it (with many thousands of volts) an instantaneous current will flow through all the solenoids to the control wires and eventually through the insulation to ground. This instan-

taneous high voltage and current will destroy any solenoid through which it passes.

It is recommended that in order to protect against destruction of all solenoids in areas susceptible to lightning, that the common wire to the valves be grounded to any good electrical ground. This ground can be a metal water pipe, a third ground wire provided with the 115 volt service, or a steel rod driven into the ground a minimum of 6 feet. The electrical path of least resistance will then be through the water pipe (or other ground connection) and not through the solenoid. If lightning does strike a solenoid or a control wire to the solenoid, the current will pass through only that solenoid to ground. The other solenoids will therefore be protected.

Automatic controllers should have their cases grounded. Controllers which actuate pumps should use the pump switch to actuate only a pump relay. This will isolate the pump circuit from the controller and isolate any possible electrical overload in the pump circuit from acting on the controller.

The 115 volt power lines to the controller should have a lightning protection device installed in each controller between these two lines. This device will protect the input side of the controller against high voltage transients caused by lightning striking the power lines.

There are two basic types of lightning arresters presently available. The most common is the spark gap type of arrester. This is a device which has two electrodes mounted in a capsule filled with gas. When voltage reaches a predetermined maximum the gas is ionized creating a direct short between the two electrodes. With one of the electrodes connected to ground,

Continued on next page

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## LIGHTNING CONT.

the high voltage transient is shorted to ground, thus protecting any devices down the power lines. Spark gap type of protectors generally protect against voltage surges above 1000 volts with response times anywhere from instantaneous to one second. Some are good for only one shot and then must be replaced. Others may be reset or are good for 50 to 100 strikes.

Zener type protectors are solid state devices which can be purchased to protect against voltage surges of 6 volts and up. Due to the precise firing level that can be obtained from this type of device, they are excellent for protecting sensitive electronic circuitry. They will dissipate up to 1500 watts of peak pulse power or 200 amps for 1/120 second.

In summary, grounding of all common wires and insertion of lightning arresters in incoming power lines where necessary, will virtually eliminate mass damage to irrigation systems caused by lightning.

## DEATH TAKES LEO JOHNSON

Leo Johnson, age 53, Superintendent, Walnut Hills Golf Club, East Lansing, Michigan, died suddenly September 4, 1971, after a short illness.

Before coming to Walnut Hills in 1964, Leo was Superintendent at the Washtenaw C.C., Ypsilanti, Michigan, for many years. While at Washtenaw, Leo joined the Michigan and Border Cities Superintendents Association and was not only an active member, but a faithful member. He served as Director, Vice President, and President of our Association. He was always interested in better turf and better methods of maintaining it. Leo trained a number of young men who are now Superintendents or in some related turf fields.

Leo was a long time member of the GCSAA and attended most of the conferences. His hobbies included fishing and deer hunting. He enjoyed the outdoors. He leaves to mourn his wife, Micky, and son, William.

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## MEET THE BOARD

This month we are featuring Bob Prieskom, Superintendent, Western Golf Club. Bob said he started in the golf business when he was about this high (pointing to his waist). He first worked at the Birch Hill C.C. in western Wayne County about 1930 or 1931. His family has traditionally been connected with golf for many years. He worked with his Dad, brothers, and now sons and nephews. The Prieskom name is well known in Michigan Golf.

In 1953 he became the Superintendent of Western Golf Club. Bob has been a faithful member of the Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association for many years. He has served on the Board for 15 years, during which time he has been Chairman of the Golf Committee

about 12 years. He moved up through the various offices and was President for 1 year.

Bob has been the perennial Seniors Champ of the GCSAA for the past three years and has served in the capacity of voting delegate of our association for a number of years.

*Good nature is the oil that makes the day's work go without squeaking.*

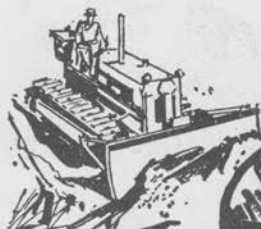
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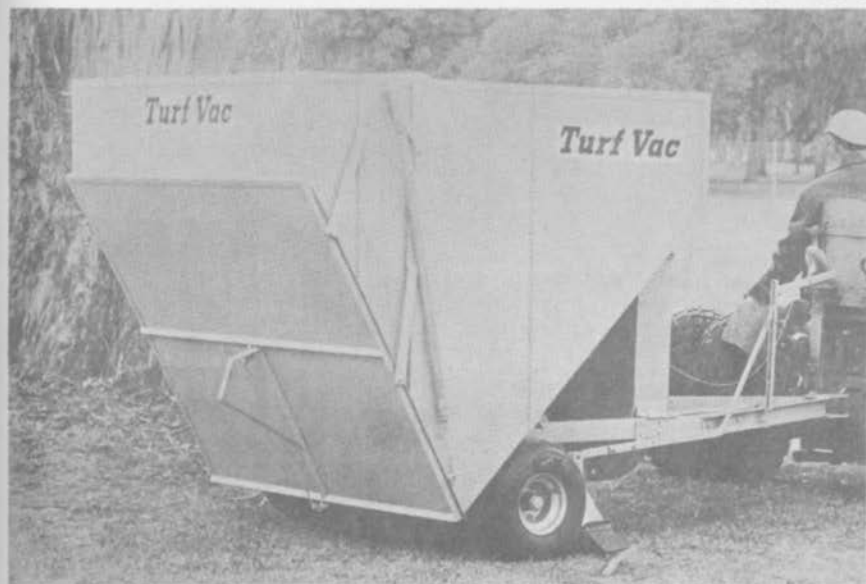
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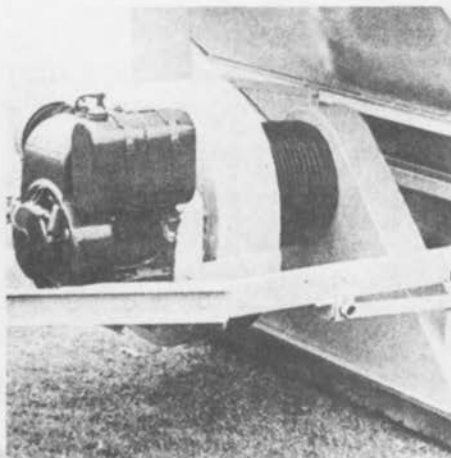
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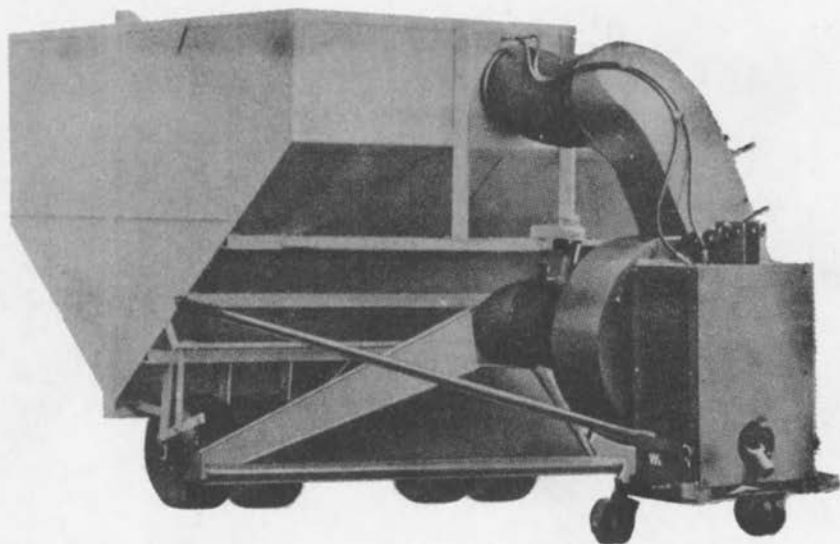
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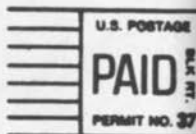
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