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

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"A Patch of Green"

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President's Message

The month of September was most fruitful for the Association. Once again we sponsored a very successful golf day or fund raising day at Bay Pointe Golf Club on the 17th of September. All Committees and their various chairmen, and especially The General Chairman, Roger Gill, and his assistant, Clem Wolfrom, are to be congratulated for organizing such an outstanding event.

Michigan State University conducted its annual turfgrass field day on September 13, at East Lansing. They

1974 Officer Nominations

The Nominating Committee submits the following slate for the elections on November 12:

President, Gerald Gill, Supt. Tam-O-Shanter

Vice President, George Prieskorn, Supt. Burroughs Farm

Secretary-Treasurer, Bob Hope, Supt. Loochmore

For Directors:

Don LaFond, Supt. Bay Pointe Golf Club

Walter Trombley, Supt. Arrowhead Golf Club

Fred McMullen, Supt. Forest Lake Country Club

Clem Wolfrom, Supt. Detroit Golf Club Al Kaltz, Supt. Maple Lane Golf Club Jim Vlasics

Bob Minto, Supt. Davison Country Club
Chairman Committee:

Clarence Wolfrom Ward Swanson Bob Prieskorn

Two directors to be elected for two years and one to be elected for one year. should be proud of their work at MSU. We are very fortunate to have such a fine institution in our State. The work being done is outstanding. One of the largest crowds in history attended this year on one of the finest days of the year. It's too bad that the weather wasn't as good for our day at Bay Pointe on the 17th.

The reason I mention both of these events is because of their relationship to one another. We certainly cannot take full credit for the work that MSU is able to do with the money we raise, but we can feel like we are supporting a worthwhile cause in our own behalf. Without our annual support and interest they would find the going a little more difficult. So, Congratulations! to all of you for your hard work in making our golf day a success. I'm proud of you.

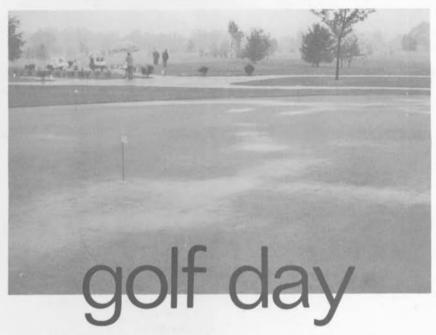
Your President, Ted Woehrle, C.G.C.S.

Increase Drouth Resistance

It was shown at the Turfgrass Field Day on September 17, that applications of Potash resulted in increased drouth resistance and turf density of the Kentucky Bluegrass plots. There has also been some indication of less susceptibility to leafspot on all grasses where Potash was applied.

There seems to be a definite link between the disease of Fusarium Blight and the nematodes. The disease can be controlled equally as well with a nematicide or a fungicide.

pH has a very marked effect on the results obtained with the use of Arsenicals on the control of Poa annua. Calcium arsenate toxicity increases when the soil is more acid.



Despite the heavy rain and the cold temperatures on September 17, we held our 8th annual fund raising day. Many of the earlier golfers were able to play nine holes or more before calling it quits, and a few hardy souls ventured out for the full 18 holes. By noon the course was almost under water in a few areas. Don LaFond is to be commended for his efforts in keeping the course open for play under these trying conditions. It reminded us of last year at Oakland Hills when we were almost rained out.

The following people deserve special recognition for their work in the cold wet weather. These are the men that ran the various events out on the course:

Harold Fiebelkorn
Dick Manahan
Jim Timmerman
Jerry Penner
Walt Lorang
George Carson
Walt Lorang Jr.
Ken McRae
Jim Cramban
Fritz McMullen

Jim Vince Russ Hancock George Prieskorn, Chm.

Host Superintendent, Don LaFond, was the prize Chairman and you must admit the prizes this year were outstanding. The first prize was a 1973 Chevy Nova which was won by Dan Horal, a young man from Brighton, Michigan. I understand that the winning ticket was sold by Jim Valasis.

General Chairman, Roger Gill, and assistant chairman, Clem Wolfrom, are to be congratulated for their efforts in organizing this fine day. Treasurer, Gordie LaFontaine is to be commended for his watchful eye on the money at all times. The final figures will be available soon and all indications are that we will have raised over \$5,000.00 this year. Nice going.

Special thanks go to the Fuller family for allowing us the use of their fine facilities. The Fuller family consists of brothers: Jim, Bill, Fred, and Ernie, Ernie's son, Ted, is the manager and is not to be forgotten in our thanks. The hospitality and food is always outstanding.

golf day a Success

In attendance at our golf day were several of the Michigan State Staff that will benefit from our efforts. Dr. Ken Payne, Dr. Joe Vargas, and Dr. Paul Riecke all conveyed their thanks. We are very proud to have such fine researchers at State and we are happy to be able to help.

Thanks to all the helpers that made this day such a success. The raffle ticket sales were tremendous. Many of our Superintendents sold over \$100.00 worth. Our Commercial friends did their usual fine job in donating their time and money.

The following people and companies donated money and gifts:

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Gene Bone, Host Golf Professional
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Guess Who ? ? ?

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Left to Right: General Chairman, Roger Gill; Mr. Horal, father of the winner; Dan Horal, winner of car; Don LaFond, Gordy LaFontaine, Gerald Gill.



Above:

Golf and door prizes at fund raising day.

Right:

Dan Horal, the happy winner.

Below:

Chairman, Roger Gill, turning over the keys to Dan Horal as Dan's father looks





Building A Better Trap

... And Taking Care Of It

by TED WOEHRLE
From Golf Course Operations, May
1966, when Ted was Superintendent of
Beverly C.C., Chicago, Illinois

What do I, as a golf course superintendent, look for in a good sand trap? Well, first of all, I look for one that is not placed closer than 10 feet to your putting surface. When they are closer, tremendous amounts of sand will be blasted onto your green by explosion shots. This 10-foot minimum spacing also allows adequate room for the distribution of foot traffic around the green.

Traps, however, should not be placed more than 20 feet from the green, because then you're inviting golf car traffic through the area between. Also, if the traps are too far from the greens they will penalize the high handicap player - and he is usually having a tough enough time of it without placing another hazard in his way.

If at all possible, your green traps should be located so as not to hinder the normal walk-off by golfers. Quite often I see traps placed directly in the path of the golfer who is walking to the next tee. This forces golfers to walk around the trap. Soon two worn paths are created adjacent to either side of it. And, naturally, these paths require continuous turf replacement.

As for fairway traps, they should be located in the vicinity of the landing area at the edges of the fairway - not in the center of the fairway. On long

par-5 holes, additional trapping may be necessary at the second landing, or approach area to the green.

Present practice is to make traps look as natural as possible. Edges swing in and out with bays of sand and capes of grass, reminiscent of the old Scottish courses. They are attractive as traps go, and offer easy walk-in-and-out access. Cutting the grass on these capes, however, is somewhat of a problem - it must be done with hand-mowers.

Lips and/or overhangs are much in evidence on most well-groomed courses throughout the country. An overhang of Merion Bluegrass in the northern states or a Zoyzia grass in the southern states - in conjunction with a small lip - provides an attractive appearance as well as a serviceable addition to a hazard. As beautiful as lips are, however, they are expensive to maintain. Heavy rain and normal irrigation from sprinklers causes soil from the exposed lips to wash into the trap and create a dirty and crusty sand.

Lips also require continuous cutting or edging to keep them looking neat. This practice, if continued, eventually extends into the grass portion of the bunker and finally reaches the top of it. In some cases, bunkers are even being edged on the *back side* of the slope. One must expect to rebuild such scalloped slopes at least every 10 to 15 years.

When grass overhangs are used, an occasional clipping or trimming of the grass with a pair of hand shears is usually all that is required to keep up their appearance. Soil is very seldom removed in this operation. Both Merion and Zoyzia grasses are popular for overhangs, mainly because they do not

Continued on Page 13

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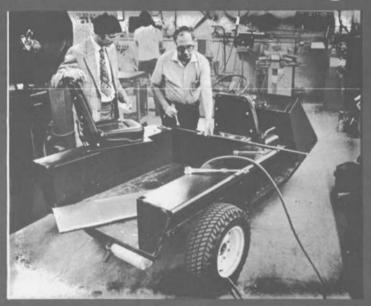
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Or you may contact the next golf course supplier who calls on you and give him the information needed for application.

Building A Better Trap Cont.

spread as rapidly into the traps as the Bents and Bermudas.

Originally, lips were installed to prevent golfers from putting out of the trap. But today grass overhangs do the job just as well.

A trap is badly designed when the low side is lipped. This prevents the golfer with a tight lie from playing his ball out, because the lip will 'hide' the ball. The sand should be at the same level as the turf at this point in a trap.

Selecting your sand. There are many variables to consider when selecting trap sand. Washed Torpedo No. 1 is commonly used when available. Its composition is not too coarse but still heavy enough to remain in the trap under windy conditions. The lighter sugar or silica sand is beautiful but easily blown from the traps under windy conditions. White sand is elegant in appearance but requires constant care and maintenance. It becomes dirty - especially if the traps have lips - and, as a result, requires constant replenishing.

Coarse sand will allow explosion shots to blast small stones or pebbles of sand onto the putting surface, causing damage to the grass and/or the green mower.

Uniformity of texture between traps is very important. This can be attained by using uniform sand and by providing good drainage so that all traps have the same moisture content.

Trap Maintenance. Early in the season, sand should be shoveled onto the banks of the traps to replace that which washed down during the winter months.

During the season, sand should be completely raked at least once a week, and after heavy rains to loosen it up. In addition, of course, footprints must be raked daily. A small rake or two in every trap, for use by golfers and caddies, will help considerably.

Hand raking is best accomplished with a magnesium landscape rake which varies in size from 20 to 40 inches in width. The teeth are closer together and do not leave grooves.

Power raking can be used to speed up the maintenance program. Small traps can be raked with a two wheeled machine pulling a heavy metal rake about 40 inches wide. This is used primarily for loosening sand. For very large traps a three-gang power rake is available, to be pulled with a tractor with sand tires.

To keep traps attractive, they must be edged. This applies to traps with lips or grass overhangs. Lips are cut until three or four inches of exposure is attained above the sand. This is accomplished with a power edger or hand tool. The frequency depends upon the weather and growth factor in your area. Three or four times per year is the average.

Proper and constant attention to the traps will help eliminate weeds.

Continued on Next Page

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- burg e. 2"-3" pea gravel under tile

How To Build A Tile Drain

Occasionally conditions dictate the installation of a trap drainage system. Following are steps to construct a tile drain:

1. Dig a trench one foot wide and one foot deep through the lowest point of the trap base.

2. Cover the bottom of the trench with about three inches of pea gravel.

3. Lay in a four-inch tile (pipe) the length of the trench. Perforated is preferred but standard clay or field tile can be used, covering the top half of the field tile with a sheet of tarpaper. If perforated tile is used, be sure to face the holes down. If standard is used, butt ends tightly together.

4. Fill the trench with the same

pea gravel used for base.

5. If you feel that sand will filter through gravel, lay about one inch of Calcined clay meterial on top of trench, then lay in No. 1 Torpedo sand. Cover trap to a thickness of four to six inches.

6. The drain tile (pipe) outside the trap proper does not need the gravel base. It should empty into a storm system or into a French drain out in the rough.

Loosening of sand helps in this regard. If weeds became critical, chemicals are available to aid control.

Sand should be protected from outside surface drainage which on occasion might run into and through the trap. The construction of a berm or dike - sloped properly for easy maintenance - on the high side of the trap will help eliminate the 'run-through' condition. The berm will also cut down a lot of the hand shoveling which is necessary after each rain.

When designing a trap, banks should have a gentle slope so that sand washed down after each rain is kept to a minimum.

A well-designed trap is beautiful and easy to maintain. The trend today in trap construction is to build everything larger than in the past. Some traps are constructed on such a grand scale that they are a 'sea of sand with islands of grass.' Naturally this trend to enormity increases the maintenance cost, but what it does for the golf course frequently offsets this.

I have noticed that traps are being "blended in" with the contour of the greens, much more so than in the past. This certainly reduces maintenance costs because specialized pieces of equipment are no longer needed for the mowing of the steep banks.

If you experienced problems with your traps last summer, now is the time to remedy the situation before your desk is cluttered with complaints from members or players.

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Not So Peachy

Once upon a time there was a man named Snadley Klabberhorn who was the healthiest man in the whole wide world.

Snadley wasn't always the healthiest man in the whole wide world. When he was young, Snadley smoked what he wanted, drank what he wanted, ate what he wanted, and excerised only as a young Lothario. He thought he was happy. "Life is absolutely peachy," he was fond of saying, "Nothing beats being alive."

Then, along came the Surgeon General's report linking smoking to lung cancer, heat disease, emphysema and tertiary coreopsis. Snadley read about the Great Tobacco Scare with a frown. "Life is so peachy," he said, "that there's no sense taking any risks." So he gave up smoking.

Like most people who went through the hell of giving up smoking, Snadley became more interested in his own health. In fact, he became fascinated. And when he read a WCTU tract which pointed out that alcohol caused liver damage, brain damage and acute weltanschauung, he gave up alcohol and drank dietary colas instead.

At least he did until The Great Cyclamate Scare. "There's no sense taking any risks," he said. And he switched to sugar-sweetened colas,

Continued on Page 18

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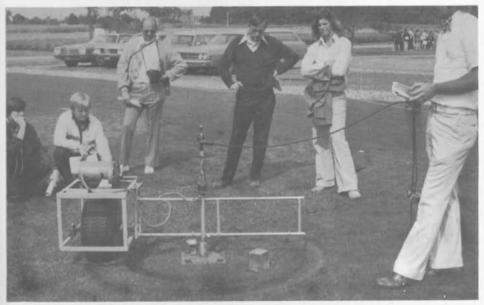
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Not So Peachy Cont.

which made him fat and caused dental cares. On realizing this, he renounced colas in favor of milk.

That was about the time of The Great Cholesterol Scare. Snadley gave up milk. To avoid cholesterol, which caused arterioselerosis, coronary infarets & chronic chryselophantinism, he also gave up meats, fats and dairy products, subsisting on a diet of raw fish.

Then came The Great DDT Scare. "The presence of large amounts of DDT in fish . . ." Snadley read with anguish. But fortunately that's when he met Ernestine. They were made for each other. Ernestine introduced him to home-ground wheat germ macrobiotic yogurt and organic succotash. They were very happy eating this dish thrice daily.

They were, that is, until The Great Color Television Scare. "If color TV does give off radiations," said Snadley, "There's no sense taking risks. After all, we still have each other." And that's about all they had. Until The Great Pill Scare. On learning that The Pill might cause carcinoma, thromboses and lingering stichometry, Ernestine promptly gave up The Pill — and Snadley. "There's no sense taking any risks," she said.

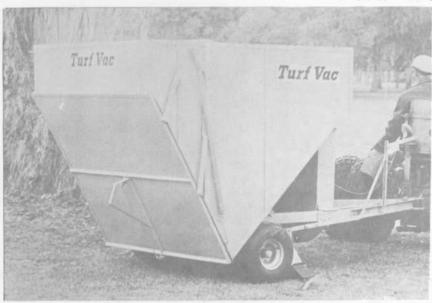
Snadley was left with his jogging. He was, that is, until he read somewhere that 13 percent of all joggers are eventually run over by a truck or bitten by rabid dogs. He then retired to a bomb shelter in his back yard (to avoid being hit by a meteorite), installed an air purifier (after The Great Smog Scare) and spent the next 63 years doing Royal Canadian Air Force exercises.

"Nothing's more important than being alive," he said proudly on reaching 102. But he never did say anymore that life was absolutely peachy.

CAUTION: Being alive may be hazardous to your health!

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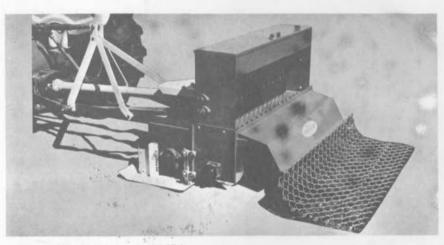
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Feed GateCast
Seed Tubes

Power......Ground driven by discs. Drive Discs. .12 in. steel with spring scraper to clear tubes. Dirt Scrapers Spring loaded keeps discs clean. Bearings......Sealed and self aligning. Flo-rate Gauge Adjustable—for flow rate and seed size. OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT: Seed Flow Speed Up A 57 pitch sprocket is available which doubles the rate of seed flow.

JACOBSEN.

W. F. Miller GARDEN AND LAWN EQUIPMENT COMPANY

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