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april meeting

A joint meeting of the Ontario Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association met on April 17 at the Dominion Golf and Country Club, Oldcastle, Ontario, Canada.

What a beautiful day! Two years ago it rained so hard we couldn't play golf. This year it was sunny and warm and 62 entered the golf event and 120 stayed for dinner.

Host, Dan Uzelac and his family were most gracious and hospitable. "Pops" and Dorothy did a great job in the bar and in the kitchen.

Jim Latham, of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission delivered an excellent talk over some loud noises but it didn't seem to bother him too much.

President Bob Herron of the Ontario chapter announced their celebration of their 50th anniversary later this year. We found out recently that we will be having our golden anniversary in 1975 here in Michigan.

Jim Latham showed slides and discussed some of the following subjects:

1. Dime spot - a smaller disease but similar to dollar spot. Pathologists are stumped.

2. Crown hydration of grass plants.
3. A weird problem on *Poa annua* in New York.
4. Using arsenicals for *Poa* control often produces excessive thatch.
5. Arsenicals kill earthworms.
6. Texas A & M and Michigan State working on thatch control.
7. Fungicides may contribute to stress periods.
8. We have overused and misused fertilizer for years.

Above: Danny Uzelac, host Superintendent and owner of the Dominion Club, Jim Latham, guest speaker from the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, and Bob Herron, President of the Ontario Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Below: Hostess, Dorothy Uzelac



More pictures on page 13.

USGA Green Section RESEARCH & EDUCATION FUND

For a number of years the U.S.G.A. Green Section Research and Education Fund, Inc., a tax deductible entity, has made substantial grants to numerous educational institutions performing extensive and valuable work in turf research and turf-related maintenance research.

In the last five years, almost \$200,000 has been granted. In 1973, over \$50,000 was granted. Contributions have been gratefully received by the Fund from the National Golf Fund and the Augusta National Golf Club. Over \$20,000 per year is allocated from USGA membership dues. Several golf associations and interested individuals contribute

periodically.

However, far more funds are needed to intensify this great work. Perhaps your association has surplus funds from various sources or perhaps an individual connected with your association would like to contribute. Permit me to draw your attention to considering a contribution to the Fund.

For several years, the Alabama Golf Association has donated \$1.00 of every entry fee of its sponsored events (the entry fee is simply increased \$1.00). This scheme has produced about \$400 per year for the Fund. Wouldn't it be great if every association would do this?

Continued on Next Page



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USGA Green Section Cont.

Last year, \$1,000 was contributed from the net proceeds of the Birmingham, Alabama LPGA Classic. The Trustees of this event felt that proceeds from a golf event should go back into what is good for golf and all golfers - turf research.

Please consider this. I would greatly appreciate personally hearing from you concerning your affirmative plans to contribute.

Checks should be made payable to U.S.G.A. Green Section Research and Education Fund, Inc., and may be sent to me, or to P.J. Boatwright, Jr., at Golf House. Contributions are deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Best wishes for a most successful 1974.

Elbert S. Jemison, Jr., Chairman
Green Section Committee
909 Bank for Savings Bldg.
Birmingham, Ala. 35203

GCSAA 1974 Membership Profile

A membership profile questionnaire was recently sent to members of the G.C.S.A.A. The value of this project is "to learn where the profession is, so better plans can be made for the future."

Frequently, a golf course superintendent will want some means by which he can gauge himself and his course on a regional or national basis. He may be interested in determining how his course responsibilities compare to his colleagues, or he may be interested in comparing course budgets. The results of this survey will provide factual information which is vital in arriving at meaningful comparisons with the 1971 survey.

The compiled information will be available to members as soon as it is studied and released.

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GCSAA Reviews EPA Guideline Proposals

How will the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed pesticide applicator certification regulations and guidelines affect golf course superintendents, and their ability to adequately perform their jobs?

What will the individual state regulations require of the golf course superintendent in order to acquire an applicator's certificate?

What will happen when a certified applicator accepts a new position in a different state?

These and a host of other questions are being raised by superintendents throughout the country as the inevitable 1976 certification deadline approaches.

Currently, the federal government is preparing guidelines with which states will have to comply in establishing certification or licensing systems. According to the existing regulations, all states must submit their plans to EPA officials for 1975. Then, applicators of "restricted use" pesticides will have until October 21,

1976 to be tested and become certified.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America recently submitted written testimony to the EPA Hearing Clerk in response to new proposals by that agency concerning the certification of pesticide applicators. Although there were areas of agreement with the proposed amendments, Dr. Herbert Cole, GCSAA's consultant, the GCSAA Executive Committee and Director of Education, took exception with several important aspects, as they concern golf course superintendents.

In summarizing its testimony, the GCSAA report states, "Our major concern is the lack of guidelines dealing with the interstate transfer of certified applicators and the lack of a grace period, no reciprocity, and very limited guidelines dealing with the supervision of noncertified applicators. We strongly urge that these problems be considered in preparation of the final regulations."

Specifically, the proposed guideline

Continued on Page 10

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EPA Guideline Proposals Cont.

lines made reference only to federal agency employee certification when discussing the problem of interstate provisions. The GCSAA review pointed out that golf course superintendents can easily change jobs, even in mid-season, and often will reside in an area where state lines may be crossed in the normal completion of their duties. Accordingly, the Association recommended that a six month grace period be established to allow superintendents adequate time to comply with the new state's requirements, and secondly, that applicators who reside and have a principle place of business in one state should have reciprocal privileges in other states in which at times he may engage in pest control.

The GCSAA testimony also commented on the vagueness of the proposal's recommendations concerning the supervision of non-certified individual. It was recommended that, "as long as the pest management decision making process is the responsibility of the certified applicator and that the actual sprayman is thoroughly instructed by the certified applicator concerning use of the pesticide, including all safety applications and procedures, then the intent of the regulations is fulfilled."

Agreeing with the EPA proposal to base testing standards on the evidence of "practical knowledge," the testimony noted that, "academic creden-

tials, at this time, should not be imposed as an applicator certification requirement."

Another major area of agreement with the proposal was that of combining ornamental and turf pest controllers in defining various categories included together appears to be a reasonable approach. Many golf courses involve not only intensive culture of turfgrass but also of trees, shrubs and flower gardens where 'restricted use' pesticides may be needed for successful pest management."

GCSAA plans to continually ensure that the golf course superintendent's interests are presented and protected, particularly at the national level; however, because the individual states are charged with the responsibility of developing implementation programs which must meet or exceed the federal guidelines, Chapters are encouraged to become involved at the state level, whenever and wherever possible.

Guidelines and suggestions for statewide and more local involvement are being developed by the Association, but until those materials are available, Chapters are advised to begin a close examination of what steps their states are taking in this area. In order to better formulate consistent guidelines, all Chapters are asked to supply the results of their studies and efforts to the Association's headquarters office.



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april meeting



Left to right: Retired Bob Williamson, Herb Runstedler, Reeve of Sandwich West Township, Andy Bertoni and Keith Nesbit.



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Are Soil Tests Necessary?

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Warren Hamlin talks to Parks Management Class

Warren Hamlin, Manager of W. F. Miller Co. was guest speaker for the Parks Management class on May 6. This class is taught by Ken Palto of Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority.

Warren used slides in his presentation to demonstrate the proper use of equipment to obtain the desired results. He also showed slides he took in California while at the National Golf Course Convention. The highlight of the program was a series of slides on early golf course equipment that dated back to the horsedrawn era.

The meeting closed with a question and answer time. Warren said he was very pleased with the response of the students during the whole meeting.

Also in attendance, as a guest of Mr. Hamlin, was Frank Sutherland, owner of Heckendorn Manufacturing Co. of Cedar Point, Kansas.

of all fertilizers. With this fact in mind it would behoove us all to make use of our university soil labs to determine what specifically our soil requirements will be for all areas of the golf course and club grounds.

In the future soil tests will be used to guide against over-application of fertilizer or eliminate unnecessary amounts of N,P, and K altogether. A soil test reveals your soil texture pH, available magnesium, phosphorous, and potassium. On the basis of these results, lime and fertilizer can be scientifically recommended for specific turfgrass needs.

Lime and fertilizer are used most efficiently by plants when supplied in the proper amounts. Determining the amounts to apply would be a simple task if the requirements of all plants were the same. But this is not the case.

Some plants require large amounts of nutrients, while others may be miserly in their needs. It is possible to predict the total plant food requirement of most plants. But without a soil test, it is difficult to predict how much food can be supplied from the soil and how much must be supplied from lime and fertilizer.



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Continued from the April issue of
A PATCH OF GREEN

Fertilization Practices and Soil Pollution

by JAMES R. WATSON, Ph.D.
Vice President, Customer Relations
Toro Company

Practical Considerations

Much of the controversy surrounding the role of fertilizers in pollution stems from the presence of nitrogen and phosphorus in surface waters - *not soil*. The blame for increased levels of these elements frequently has been placed arbitrarily on the use of fertili-

zers. Other sources of nitrogen and phosphorus - natural and those caused by dumping sewage - often have been ignored. And there has been little, if any, effort made to distinguish between fertilizers applied to different land use situations. Certainly, almost without exception, our golf courses and other turfgrass facilities have not been singled out for the praise they so justly deserve. For, as a matter of fact, one would be hard pressed to designate an area with less potential for soil pollution than a well-managed golf course. Why?

As has been indicated, for a fertilizer element to become a soil pollutant it must be present in amounts that would be toxic to the permanent species, or find its way, through leaching or erosion, into a water source where it would pollute that medium.

On the properly managed golf

Continued on Page 17

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Fertilization Practices Cont.

course where the superintendent understands the complexities of fertilizer practices and has developed a sound fertilization and watering program, there is little opportunity for fertilizer elements to exist in excessive amounts. Thus, the potential for soil pollution is minimal. This should not be misinterpreted. Grass has been killed by improper application of fertilizer. However, in most cases, overuse produces only a transitory or temporary situation.

Turfgrass areas are rarely subject to erosion. Turfgrass cover is effective in minimizing erosion because the vegetation serves to reduce or to eliminate entirely the direct impact of rain or irrigation water on the soil surface. Direct impact of water droplets on bare soil causes it to become loose and the fine particles to become suspended. In this state they are subject to removal by surface water flow. Grass that is dense slows or reduces the speed with which surface water moves over or across the site. This reduces surface runoff because of the greater opportunity for the water to move into the soil. In addition, it is well recognized that grass contributes substantial quantities of organic matter to the soil. This tends to keep the soil more friable and, along with the channels created by earthworms and other soil microorganisms, enhances the movement of water into the soil. Again, this should not imply that soil erosion does not occur on golf courses. The existence of steep slopes with thin stands of grass, areas that are permitted to remain bare of vegetation for indefinite periods, areas where severe soil compaction has not been corrected and areas where there is an inability to vary the time of irrigation or control the amount of water delivered by an individual head, are subject to erosion and could potentially contribute to

Next Page

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Fertilization Practices Cont.
pollution of surface water.

Summary

When a fertilizer program is based on techniques that take into account the kind of grass, the soil conditions, the watering program and other sound cultural techniques there is little likelihood of soil pollution. These factors and others involved in fertilizer practices must be clearly understood and applied; otherwise curtailment, through regulation, may occur.

The golf course, properly managed, has a minimal pollution potential. The challenge for the golf course superintendent is to make certain that the facts with regard to fertilization practices and their potential for soil pollution are well understood by the club membership. Otherwise, vocal individuals and organizations who lack the knowledge and understanding of the superintendent's function may take the lead in establishing standards and controls that will severely hamper and restrict the management of golf course turfgrass.

In the main, however, golf courses do more good ecologically than virtually any other aspect of group activity or recreation that one can call to mind. The golf course superintendent's concern for healthy turfgrass and the careful procedures he maintains to achieve those healthy stands of grass are insurance that our green spaces - important to clean and cool the air - will be preserved.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN
TURFGRASS FIELD DAY

September 10, 1974. Northern Michigan Turfgrass Field Day, Michigan State University Experimental Area, Traverse City Country Club, Traverse City, Mich.

Contact:

Mr. Jeffery V. Krans, Turfgrass Extension Associate, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824.

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