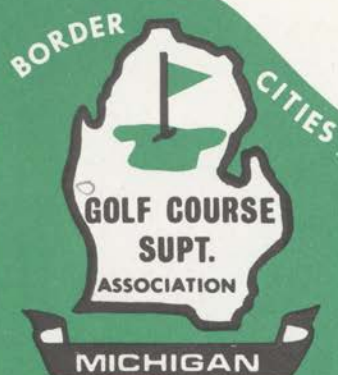


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Official Publication of the  
Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association



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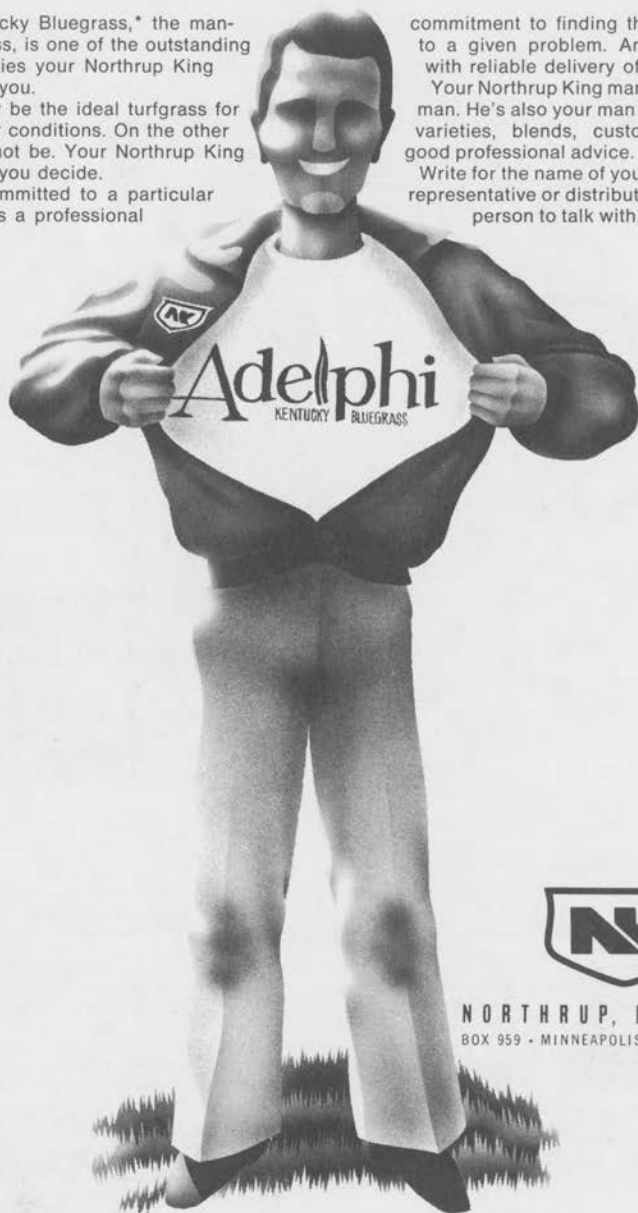
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# Research Report on Ataenius spretulus A GRUB PEST OF GOLF COURSE TURF

Dr. Harry Niemczyk and Gerald Wegner, Department of Entomology, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster, Ohio.

The research program on *Ataenius spretulus* has two major areas of emphasis: (1) research to establish the annual life cycle, and (2) the evaluation and development of methods and materials for control. The key to developing ways and means of controlling this insect now and in the future, rests with our understanding the details of its life history. This is a task which requires that one literally live with the insect for two or three years. The challenge of this part of the research program has been accepted by Mr. Gerald Wegner, graduate student in Entomology, at The Ohio State University. Gerry comes to Ohio State University from Lake Forest, Illinois. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology in 1973, and Master of Science in Biology in 1975 from Loyola University in Chicago. Gerry will write his doctorate dissertation on the biology of *Ataenius* as partial fulfillment of his requirements for receiving the Ph.D degree.

## LIFE HISTORY

Observations in Ohio indicate that the insect overwinters as an adult under leaves and other litter found in outlying areas around the golf course. The adults return to the golf course starting in late March and continuing through April and early May. During this time numerous adults are seen on golf greens. On warm evenings (4-6 p.m.) swarms of adults can be seen flying over the turf.

Egg laying begins in Early May and continues through mid-June, when clusters of 9-10 can be found in the thatch or the soil immediately beneath the thatch. From June to mid-July, larval populations are high and wilt symptoms common in heavily infested fairways.

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# Present and Future Changes in Golf Course Maintenance

The goal of producing and maintaining the best possible turf for golf has remained constant through the years but the tools and techniques used in maintenance have constantly changed and continue to do so.

We are well into the age of mechanization, automation and specialization. As with almost all professions, the apprentice has been replaced by the student.

The apprentice often worked for a small income or none at all to learn a trade and he was prone to learn pat answers from the master tradesman or craftsman for handling routine situations and only a few unusual problems. He learned from experience, which is a harsh but usually lasting method which will never be totally replaced.

The student first gains a background in fundamental principles through formal education which applies to almost all situations. Upon completion of the formal phase of his education the student is employed at a reasonable wage so that he may complete his technical knowledge to practical situations.

Briefly stated, the apprentice learns from experience and the student gains experience while learning.

*The Greenkeeper has given way to the Golf Course Superintendent or Turf Manager, and the Agronomist or turf specialist has arrived on the scene as a necessary part of our changing technology.*

The Greenkeeper was usually a successful apprentice. The Golf Course Superintendent is a professional businessman. Turf management per se may be only a modest portion of the duties ascribed to today's successful Golf Course Superintendent since a large portion of his time is consumed

with purchasing, personnel management, equipment maintenance and repair, bookkeeping, irrigation design, installation, maintenance and use, landscape architecture and building maintenance to name a few areas in which he must have a working knowledge. He also is likely to have a respectable golf handicap.

Because of these divergent areas of responsibility it is therefore improbable that the Golf Course Superintendent will be able to maintain more than a good working knowledge of all of them and will need to rely on a specialist beyond that.

*Research is vital to the continuing progress of turf management and to develop acceptable answers to new and more complex problems that arise from day to day as our technology improves.*

Between basic research and the practical application of the information it yields, there usually must be a catalyst. This catalyst is usually called an Agronomist and he functions to collect, evaluate and disseminate

Continued on Page 8

## SCHEDULED MEETINGS - 1977

- August 2, 1977  
Burroughs Farms
- August 23, 1977  
Meadowbrook Country Club
- September 12 or 13, 1977  
Forest Lake Country Club
- September 19, 1977  
GOLF DAY
- October 4, 1977  
Maple Lane Golf Club
- October 25, 1977  
Rochester Golf Club



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## Present and Future Cont.

useful information concerning turfgrass management.

The Agronomist may also specialize in physiology, pathology, entomology, taxonomy or a seemingly endless list of related subjects; but in any event his efforts will be concentrated on a much smaller area of learning than that of the Golf Course Superintendent.

A large portion of today's golf course superintendents have some formal education in the field of turf maintenance than ever before. However, no matter what level of formal education has been completed by the turf manager there is a basic need for information which can most effectively be supplied by a specialist.

The cycle is complete only if there is a flow of turf management information from the research effort through the practical utilization phase and back again.

The individual who assumes that

this cycle can be effectively short circuited simply has not been exposed to or realized the value of each state through which information must flow in both directions at all times.

A glimpse of the future might reveal some superior plant materials, synthetic soils, better diagnostic aids for turf diseases as well as problems in general, disposable and/or recycable machinery and parts, totally computerized maintenance operations as well as golf course environments.

About the only thing that will probably remain intact is the goal of producing and maintaining the best possible turf for golf and the dedication of the individual coping with the challenge.

(This presentation made by Holman Griffin, NGF's Staff Agronomist and Southwestern Regional Director, at NGF's semi-annual staff meeting.)



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# Who In The World Put The Hole There!

By FRANK D. TATUM, JR.  
Member, U.S.G.A. Executive Committee

The Open had reached its most dramatic moment. As Jack Nicklaus crouched over an eight-foot putt on the 12th green at Pebble Beach, Arnold Palmer hunched over an eight-footer on the 14th. Nicklaus needed his putt for a bogey 4, Palmer needed his for a birdie 4, and if Arnold made and Jack missed, Palmer would lead the Open by a stroke.

Both tapped their putts at about the same instant, and both putts ran practically straight at the hole. As everyone with any interest in these things knows by now, Nicklaus holed and Palmer missed, and Jack won his third Open.

What some spectators found a bit unusual, or unexpected, was the paths of these putts. They had not expected them to run so straight. Their experience with other tournaments had conditioned them to expect holes to be cut in hillsides, behind bunkers or next to creeks, in places where only a lucky putt goes in or a lucky shot ends up in birdie range. They came prepared to condemn the man who put the hole there as some kind of a fiend.

They should not. He deserves not condemnation but pity. He is up before daylight, ready to start setting the

holes as soon as light will permit. His early start expresses his concern that the players with the early starting times will have an equal opportunity with the late starters to see how the course is set up. He struggles with intense care to get it right. If he succeeds, he is blissfully ignored; if he fails, recognition is immediate, universal, bombastic and blasphemous.

I do not seek sympathy for these men. Theirs is a vital function. They can emasculate a great design, or they can accentuate its greatness. To assume such responsibility necessarily includes accepting its consequences. Like bad art, there is too much bad pin setting afflicting the championships to combine the art and the science of locating the holes so as to bring out all the qualities of the course on which they are played. Hopefully, the principles applied by the U.S.G.A. will be useful to others who squint into the rising sun hoping to find that small plot of good grass and terrain in the right part of the green for that day's play.

The first principle is to be fair. Never pick a placemat that will not fully reward the properly struck shot

Continued on Page 13

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## Who in the World Cont.

played from the right position. The hole setter, therefore, must not only appreciate the design of the hole, but he must also weigh such factors as weather, wind direction, and firmness of the turf, and determine in advance how that particular hole will play on that particular day. He must have done some planning. In a four-day championship, for example, this means he must have analyzed the course and generally determined the four areas on each green providing hole locations appropriate for the particular tournament. He must then plan his practice round settings so that those areas will be preserved for tournament play.

He should set up a balanced course for each day's play. A common error is to set up the course to play progressively more difficult each day by using all the easiest pin placements on the first day and proceeding progressively to all of the most difficult settings on the last. This tends to

distort the course, at least on the first and last days. In a four-day championship the U.S.G.A. will evaluate each of the four areas pre-planned for each green, rating the most difficult as 1, the easiest 4 and assessing a 2 and a 3 for the intermediate areas. Each day's setting process involves planning to avoid something like an "18" course (i.e. 18 number 1 settings) on the one hand, or a "72" course (i.e. 18 number 4 settings) on the other. The optimum for each day would be a "45" course, and the effort each day is made to get as close to that number in the total course settings as conditions that day will allow. There are other balance factors to be considered, such as avoiding too many left side, right side, front or rear settings sequentially.

After a particular area has been selected for a placement on a given green, care must be given to picking the right spot. Here too a number of

Continued on Page 15

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## Who in the World Cont.

factors should be weighed. The U.S.G.A. recommends at least 15 feet between the hole and green edge. Ideally, for a radius of 3 feet around the hole there should be no changes of slope. This does not mean that such area must be flat; it rather means that there should be no change in the angle of slope over the area. The angle of slope, too, is an important factor. There have been instances where holes have been set on slopes so severe that as the green dried out it would not hold a ball. One occurred in a recent regional amateur competition where one contestant 7-putted (!) a green and the tournament winner took 4 putts there.

The area around the hole should be as free as possible of ball marks, other blemishes and changes in grass texture. It is right around the hole where the ultimate action takes place; the particular spot should be selected

with commensurate care. The location should "look" right. Care should be taken to avoid placements which from the player's point of view, present a distorted picture. Golf is a visual game, and the ultimate vision is of the location of the hole.

To assess the player's point of view, the person setting the hole should bring along a putter (and, hopefully, a reasonably representative stroke) to roll the ball at the selected spot before the hole is cut to assure that it will, in fact, play properly.)

Perhaps pity is not what the poor pin setter deserves. He experiences the quiet beauty of a superb golf course shimmering in the early morning light. And if he does his job properly he will have planned and worked and placed the hole so that it will add the final touch to the artistry of the course designer and of the shot-maker; so doing should be deeply satisfying.



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## Work Ethic Lost!

By WALTER J. WILKIE  
Wilkie Turf Equipment Company

John E. Healy II spoke at more than 200 meetings recently - industry meetings, union meetings, committee meetings - and at many of them he told the story of the Empire State Building. The story takes only a few paragraphs, but it packs a wallop. Healy is the handsome, hefty, third-generation builder from Wilmington, Delaware, who is a past president of the Associated General Contractors of America. Every time he spoke, the contractors who heard him went home with a renewed determination to restore a sense of balance to their deeply troubled industry. For, they took with them the story of the Empire State.

The world's greatest skyscraper broke ground on January 22, 1930. At peak employment, 3,400 men were working to erect 60,000 tons of steel, to lay 10 million bricks, to install 70 miles of water piping, and to connect 3,500 miles of telephone cable. The 102 stories went up at an average of four-and-a-half stories per week. On May 1, 1931, just one year and 98 days later, President Hoover dedicated the building and tenants moved in.

The same structure today, says Healy, would require three to three-

Continued on Next Page

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## Work Ethic Lost Cont.

and-a-half years to complete. The grim truth, in Healy's view, is that productivity in the building industry today is less than half what it was then. And why? "The work ethic has been lost."

People, and contractors in particular, are eager to have their troubles known. Day in and day out, their experience confirms the picture painted in a hard-hitting story recently released by Engineering News-Record. In 1926, a Chicago mason laid 600 blocks a day; today two masons are required for the same work, and they lay 100 blocks a day. In the days when concrete was finished by hand, a contractor figured on 2,000 square feet of finished concrete per man per day; today, with all kinds of power tools, the rate is 600 square feet.

The magazine cited the sorry example of a power plant job that required several small gasoline-powered generators. The union successfully demanded that each generator be watched by an operating engineer, an electrician, and a pipefitter. The operating engineer got \$300 to \$400 a week "for starting once or twice a day a gas engine smaller than those on many home lawn mowers." Each electrician received the same kind of money "for pushing the wire plugs into the sockets of the machines whenever they were moved." The contractor said he never did discover what the pipefitter did.

Such examples are legion. Many labor leaders privately agree that this nonsense has to stop. Union members themselves are suffering, as many contractors turn to the open shop.

The people who met here with me, when I met with Healy, gave him an ovation when he insisted that with the unions' help, "or without it," productivity and morale must be restored.

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A smile is a gentle curved line that  
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**Are you an active member -  
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**Do you attend the meetings  
And mingle with the flock?  
Or do you stay at home  
To criticize and knock?**

**Do you ever go to visit  
A member who is sick?  
Or leave the work to just a few,  
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**Do you take an active part  
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To only just belong?**

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