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48th Annual MICHIGAN TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

By 'Tuck' Tate

The 48th Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference was recently held on January 10-11th, 1978 at The Kellogg Center for Continuing Education, Michigan State University, East Lansing. In spite of the unusual cold and snowy conditions that prevailed, it was a very successful Conference with an excellent program being presented. Among the outstanding speakers were Dr. William Davis, Department of Environmental Horticulture, University of California, Dr. Haruo Tashiro, Department of Entomology, Cornell University, Dr. James B. Beard, Department of Soil & Drop Sciences, Texas A&M, Dr. Robert Partyka, Chem-Lawn Corporation, Dr. Joseph M. Vargas, Jr., Department of Botany & Plant Pathology, M.S.U., Dr. Frank Laemli, same Department, M.S.U., Dr. Robert Ruppel, Department of Entomology, M.S.U., Drs. J. E. Kaufmann, Paul Rieke and K.T. Payne, Department of Crop & Soil Sciences, M.S.U., Senator Jack Wilborn, Kalamazoo, Mich., Mr. Peter Loft, Loft's Pedigreed Seek Co., Bound Brook, N.J., Mr. Art Brown, Director Lawn Sprayers Ass'n of Michigan and others. At this conference, Dr. James B. Beard, Texas A&M University was awarded the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation Meritorious Service Award by President James W. Smith of The Foundation. Guest speaker in the "Big Ten" Room was Art Holst, A Pro On The Go whose subject, "Funny Thing About Football" was excellent and more so now to those that heard him since he was one of the officials in the super game at New Orleans, four days later.

The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation held it's annual meeting during this Conference and in line with the desire to expand it's Board of Directors to twelve with guaranteed representation from all parts of the state plus representation from various segments of the turfgrass industry. Robert Rieschl was elected to the Board as representing the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association, Wallace Huggett as representing the Sod Growers Association of Michigan, Robert Olsen as representative of the Lawn Care Industry and Robert Barton was elected as an "At Large" representative. This now brings to a total of ten directors and each year one will be added until twelve members are on the Board of Directors.

After the Conference at the meeting of the Board of Directors, Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, Mr. Gordon LaFontaine, vice-president of Lawn Equipment Corporation, Royal Oak, was elected President of the Foundation for the coming year. At the same time, Mr. C.E. "Tuck" Tate was elected Vice-President.

A new publication was forthcoming at this Conference called "NEWSNOTES" and it will be a quarterly publication of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation with Paula M. Dietz, as Editor. This publication will be sent to all members of The Foundation and in it will be information that is hoped to keep you abreast of the turfgrass industry in Michigan.

People can be divided into three groups; those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened.



The Board of Directors and MSU staff at meeting of Michigan Turfgrass Foundation.

Michigan Turfgrass Foundation

What is it?

The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation is a cooperative turfgrass research and educational association of golf clubs, lawn care industry, park boards, seed, sod and stolon growers, cemetery associations, athletic associations, ski clubs, airports, and seed, supply and equipment dealers interested in the development of better turfgrasses and better methods of turfgrass maintenance.

The Purpose. . .

of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation is (1) to establish and maintain a turfgrass research and educational fund to be used to support and expand the turfgrass research and educational program of the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station and thus to (2) promote and advance the interests of its members as growers of turfgrasses, the turfgrass industry, and association industries in the improvement of turfgrasses consistent with the best interests of the public.

Activities and Services

Awards: "Meritorious Services Award"

given to the individual who has done an outstanding job in the promotion of the turfgrass industry in Michigan. Outstanding Student Award given to the student in the 2-year turfgrass program who has demonstrated leadership quality, worked hard on extra curricular activities while obtaining satisfactory grades. The "Norm Kramer Award" given to the 2-year student who obtains the highest grade point through 3 terms.

Field Days:

The MTF supports the Michigan State University field days at East Lansing and the Northern Michigan turfgrass field day in Traverse City.

Government Relations:

The MTF represents you on such key issues as restricted use of fertilizers for food production after the energy crises, pesticide registration and cancellations and many other important issues.

Turfgrass Conferences:

The MFT, in cooperation with MSU, holds an annual 2-day turfgrass conference in January to present the latest findings on turfgrass management, fertility, soils, diseases, weeds, varieties, pesticides and other timely topics.

Continued

Research:

The MTF has donated over \$100,000 since its inception in 1954 to support turfgrass research in Crop & Soil Sciences, Botany & Plant Pathology, and Entomology. The research generated by these monies has led to practices that are being used by you in the field today.

Extension:

The MTF has provided important monies for transportation and expenses which has allowed MSU personnel to visit the turfgrass industries of the state and help individuals solve their problems, often on an emergency basis.

The Importance to Your Organization

The development, testing, and evaluation of better turfgrasses and of better methods of turfgrass maintenance has a common interest for all facets of the turfgrass industry; it enhances the landscapes and provides better facilities for enjoyment of the recreational sports; it lessens the dust hazards and upkeep of airports and roadsides as well as play areas and cemeteries.

Through the cooperative participation of many golf clubs, lawn care industry, parks, cemeteries, athletic associations, airports, ski clubs, seed, sod, and stolon growers, and organizations concerned with turf management, sufficient funds have been made available to do research in these important areas.

The Administration

The business affairs and the activities of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation are governed by a Board of Directors composed of twelve (12) members plus the Executive Secretary. The board of directors is composed of representatives from each of the following organizations or groups:

- 1) Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association
- 2) Northern Michigan Turfgrass Managers
- 3) Western Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association
- 4) Sod Grower Association
- 5) A Commercial Turfgrass Supplier Representative
- 6) A Cemetery or Park Representative
- 7) Custom Lawn Care Representative plus 5 members elected at large

Financing

of the research and educational activities of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation call for the continuous support of all facets of the turfgrass industry interested in turfgrass research in the state of Michigan in the form of membership fees. An invitation is extended to all organizations and individuals interested in the development of better turfgrasses and methods of turfgrass maintenance to become active members of the Foundation.

Continued

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Les Rutan, Outstanding Student Award winner, with Ward Swanson, Chairman and MTF Director.

Membership Information

Organizations:

Superintendents, directors, and managers of golf courses, golf associations, parks, recreation areas, cemeteries, custom lawn applicators, landscape contractors, sod growers, school grounds and athletic fields, airports and related organizations. Membership services are provided to all employees. Annual dues - \$40.

Individual:

Any person not representing an organization or corporation is invited to join as an individual member. Annual dues - \$25.

Student:

Any student studying full-time toward a degree or certificate in turfgrass science or management is welcome to join the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation on a complimentary basis. This category does not provide voting privileges.



Paula Dietz, Burton C. Bradshaw Award, Ward Swanson, and Upjohn Award winner Steven Vasher.



Christmas Party a success despite snowstorm

Chairman Walt Trombley, Superintendent, Arrowhead Golf Club, and his wife are to be congratulated for their efforts in making the Christmas Party a joyful occasion.

One hundred and fifty-two people braved the storm to attend the party held at the Edgewood Golf Club on December 9, 1977.



The 'Godfather' checking out the action at the Christmas Party - left, Gerry Gill and Don LaFond on the right.

Below: Walt and Lorraine Trombley, Chairman of the Christmas Party.





Barbara and Gene Johaningsmeier.



The quick feet of Jim Smith dancing with Mrs. Vargas.

BOB PRIESKORN RECEIVES QUARTER CENTURY PIN

Bob Prieskorn, Superintendent Godwin Glenn Golf Club, was presented his Quarter Century Pin at the GCSAA Conference in San Antonio. He joins over 300 other members of this elite club. Congratulations, Bob.



Tax help for Superintendents

According to information from the Internal Revenue Service, recent legislation has brought about several changes in tax law which may affect tax returns filed by golf course superintendents. You should be aware of these changes and begin now to gather the information you will need to file your return next year.

Updated laws say in order to qualify for long-term capital gain or loss treatment, taxpayers must have held an asset (stocks, bonds or real property) for at least nine months. In previous years the limit was six months. If you hold a capital asset for nine months, taxes are due on only half the profits. Knowing this ahead of time could represent a significant tax savings for you.

For more information, consult IRS Publication 544, "Sales and Other Dispositions of Assets."

If you move because of your job, a maximum deduction of \$1,500 may be allowed for pre-move expenses such as the cost of house hunting and temporary housing. This is up from \$1,000 last year. You may also claim some job-related moving expenses if you moved more than 50 miles (up from 35 miles last year). Check Publication 521, "Tax Information on Moving Expenses."

If you are a worker under 70½ and did not participate in any other pension plan or annuity plan during the year, you may include your spouse in your Individual Retirement Arrangement, if your spouse is not working. If you establish an IRA for you and your spouse, you may contribute a total of 15 percent of your compensation to a maximum of \$1,750.

The advantage of an IRA is that taxes are not paid on the funds in the account until the funds are withdrawn,

when you will probably be in a lower tax bracket. An IRA plan is available to GCSAA members through GCSAA. IRS Publication 590, "Tax Information on Individual Retirement Savings Programs," contains more facts.

Your local IRS office has these free publications and others about your taxes. They also can answer specific questions you may have about your return.

CASSETTE TAPES AVAILABLE

Cassette tapes of many of the educational sessions at this year's San Antonio conference are available for \$3.95 a tape (one session per tape). These cassettes may be ordered from:

Convention Seminar Cassettes
13356 Sherman Way
North Hollywood, Calif. 91605
Telephone 213-765-2777

According to GCSAA Director of Education Palmer Maples Jr., this is the first year the service has been offered. The company will accept Master Charge, VISA, Carte Blanche, American Express, personal checks or cash. A postage and handling charge of 25 cents per cassette will be added.

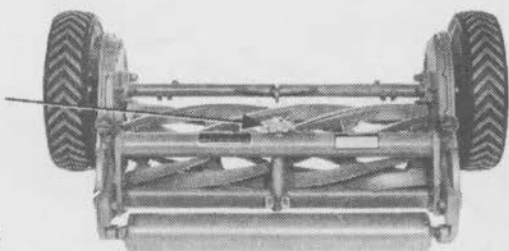
PROGRESS MADE ON BOOK

W.H. Daniel and R.P. Freeborg have been writing a 'Turf Manager's Handbook'. The last parts will be sent to the printer in early November. The book will contain 260 tables, 100 drawings, 160 black and white pictures, plus 80 colored pictures, along with 150,000 words. It's been a challenge to the authors! Hopefully, by April, 1978, the Havest Publishing Co. (Publishers of Weeds, Trees and Turf) will have the book on the market.

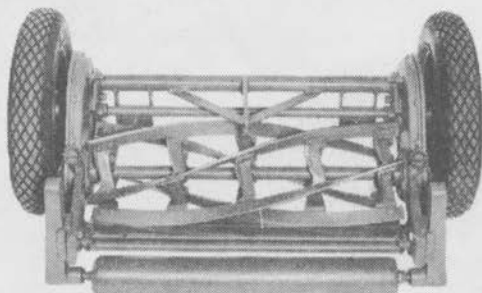
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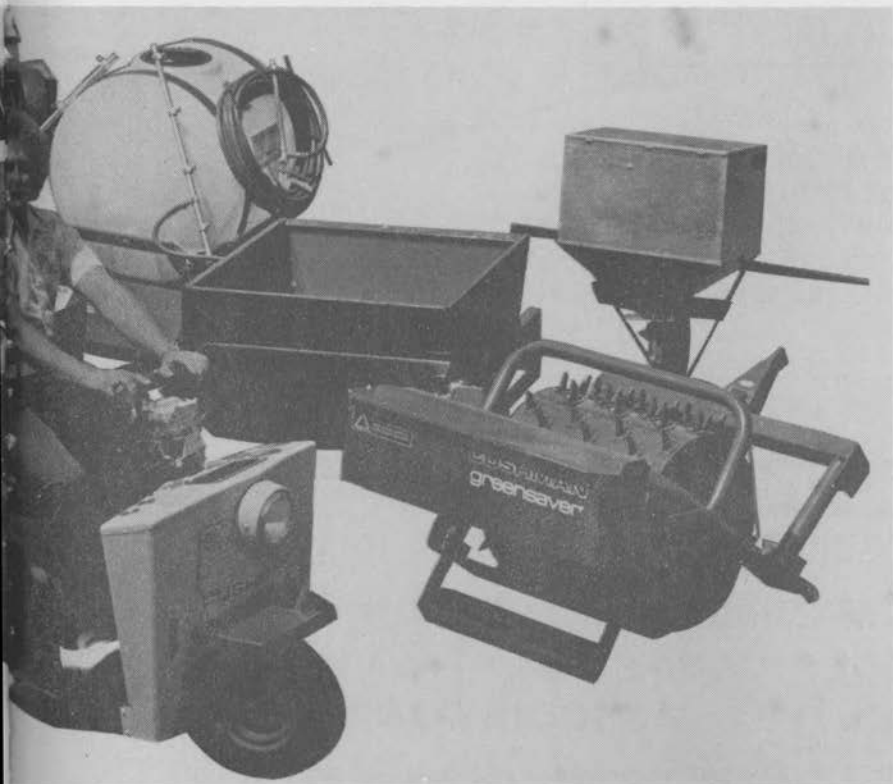
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Or you may contact the next golf course supplier who calls on you and give him the information needed for application.

How to Communicate

Communicating with the people around you is important, but getting your message across and understanding what others are saying probably happens less often than you'd like.

What's the key to good communication? It's nothing more - or less - than saying what you mean and then letting the other guy have an opportunity to do the same. Honesty and directness, while sometimes ruffling a few feathers, have the virtue of leading to real contact between people, and that's the way to tackle a problem head-on.

Think about these points the next time you have to communicate with a co-worker.

When you're talking:

Don't speak in the abstract. Instead of saying, "I wish a little more work was getting done around here," try, "I don't think you're getting enough work done."

Avoid talking about what ought to be. Don't say, "We really should have finished that maintenance by now." Instead, "I am concerned that we are behind on our maintenance schedule," is more honest - and a lot easier for someone else to understand.

Don't say something that contradicts the way you really feel. Keeping a smile on your face when you're mad only makes it harder for you to communicate and for others to understand you.

Don't use words like "you," "we" or "one" when you mean I. "I think," "I need," "I want," is a lot more likely to get your message across.

The other side of the coin is giving the person you're communicating with his chance to tell you what he really means. Here are a few ways to help him communicate with you:

Stop talking! It seems obvious, but you can't find out what he has to say if you don't listen - and you can't do that when you're talking.

Empathize with him. Try to put yourself in his place - imagine what he must feel like and what his perspective on the situation must be.

If you don't understand, ask questions. If you want more information or an example, ask! It shows the person that you've been listening and that you're interested in what he has to say. But don't ask embarrassing questions or ones designed to make him look bad.

Look at the other person and concentrate on what he is saying. Focus your mind on what he is trying to say to you. Look at him. His face, eyes and hands are clues to what his message really is.

Don't rush him. Give him time to say what he wants to say. Don't interrupt.

Communication doesn't need to be a problem. Honesty, directness and a real desire to listen are the most important parts.

Thoreau, as he was dying, was asked if he had made his peace with God. "I have never quarreled with Him," was his reply.

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U.S.G.A. to Hold Regional Conference in Detroit

On Tuesday, March 21, 1978, the USGA GREEN SECTION will be holding a "Regional Conference on Golf Course Management" at the Detroit Golf Club, Detroit, Michigan. This is just one of ten such meetings being held throughout the United States. Carl Schwartzkopf, Chairman and Director, Mid-Continent Region, USGA Green Section, invites the readers of The Patch of Green Members of The Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association, Green Chairmen and Club Officials to attend the one-day conference. The registration fee is \$15.00 and reservations can be made by sending a check payable to the United States Golf Association, and mail it to the Mid-Continent Region, P.O. Box 592, Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014. Registrations must be made by March 10, 1978. This meeting is the effort of the USGA Committeemen of Detroit, the Education Committee of the Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association of Michigan. The topics have been selected by members from the immediate area to discuss problems that are relevant to their turfgrass management practices.

Some of the highlights are: "Fertility & Irrigation Practices Related to Turfgrass Management" - Chas. Wilson.

A Golf Car Panel, made up of Superintendents.

"Fungicides & Disease Control" - Dr. Joe Vargas.

"Ataenius Spretulus" - Dr. Harry Niemczyk

Panel on "An Attempt to Minimize Turfgrass Maintenance Problems in the Future".

Also several USGA subjects relating to Green Section services.

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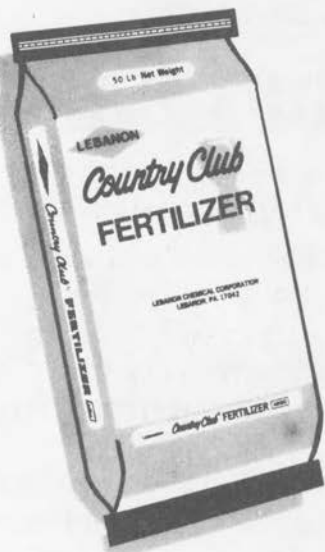
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Outgoing president George Prieskorn, right, receiving plaque of appreciation from incoming president Clem Wolfrom.

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"SPORTS TURF"

On Nov. 22, 1977 Mr. Oscar L. Miles, Grounds Superintendent at the Broadmoor Country Club in Indianapolis, Indiana, received patent protection (patent no. 4,058,930) from the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office on a natural turf growing apparatus method of containerized turf, composed of a plurality of independent units for use on athletic fields, baseball diamonds, grass tennis courts and driving range golf tees. Each container will have a detachable upper collar overlapping the side walls. When the collar is removed, the individual containers can be abutted together to provide an uninterrupted, fully established, ready to play on real grass surface. Sports Turf, Inc. containers are to be installed on a prepared base of gravel, asphalt or concrete. In the base a system of plastic perforated drainage pipe and a warming system are to be installed. This will provide a frost-free-dry natural turf condition for year round play on real grass.

With this patented method, units of turf damaged from practice sessions or competitive games can be easily and quickly removed with a fork-lift tractor and replaced with identical, healthy spare turf units. On a multi-use stadium field, the dirt infield baseball pallets could be conveniently

lifted and replaced with pregrown established natural grass containers, which would allow football or soccer to be played on real turf during the fall and winter. Owners or management of enclosed domed stadiums could once again anticipate using natural turf indoors. Sports Turf could be stored and maintained on a nearby parking lot and brought in as needed. The inventor is presently forming a full service corporation and seeking individuals or companies that have interests in being licensed installers. The projected construction and installation costs is less than a complete artificial plastic turf system, with the advantages of longer self-rejuvenating life, drier and improved footing, a natural turf grass cushion (less injuries) and in the winter a warm surface to melt snow and absorb rainfall. During the summer, in out-of-doors stadiums, natural turf is much cooler to play upon than synthetic materials. Sports Turf natural grass would help air-condition the atmosphere above the playing field on a hot summer day. The inventor would welcome any inquiries about this new method.

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POA ANNUA BULLETIN NOW AVAILABLE

The United States Golf Association of America has announced that the new bulletin Annual Bluegrass (*Poa annua* L.) - Description, Adaptation, Culture and Control, was released last December, 1977. The bulletin was prepared by James Beard, Professor, Texas A&M University (Editor); Paul Rieke, Professor, Michigan State University; Alfred Turgeon, Associate Professor, University of Illinois; and Joseph Vargas, Associate Professor, Michigan State University.

A major portion of this work is the result of a seven-year study supported by the USGA Green Section Research and Education Fund, Inc. This is the first comprehensive research study on annual bluegrass since 1937 and is another example of the USGA's interest on behalf of golf and its Member Clubs, through its agronomic arm, the Green Section. *Poa annua* is the most controversial of all grasses found on golf courses. Many superintendents promote and encourage it while others loathe and attempt to eradicate it. *Poa annua* is found on golf courses in all parts of the nation.

Included in this work is a section prepared by the Green Section agronomists that deals with the cultural programs designed to maintain *Poa annua*. There is also a section devoted to *Poa annua* control measures for those who work towards its eradication.

Two copies of this important bulletin are being mailed to every member club of the USGA; one addressed C/O the Chairman, Green

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Committee, and one addressed to the Golf Course Superintendent, with the recommendation that one of these copies be made a permanent part of the Green Committee file at the Club.

This extraordinary research bulletin is an example of how your USGA research money is being spent in the interest of better golf through the Green Section's golf-related research program.

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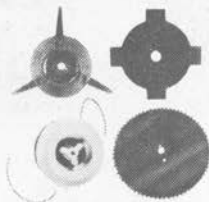
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