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# A PATCH of GREEN

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



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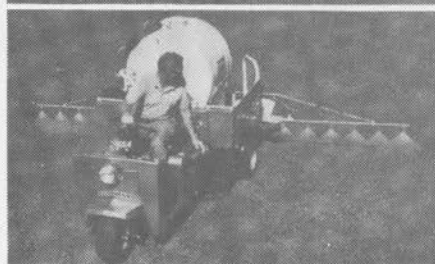
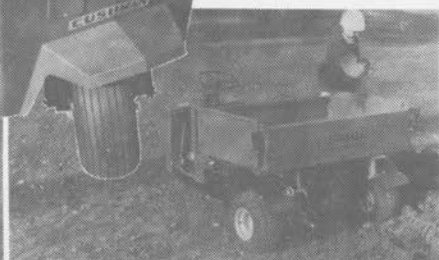
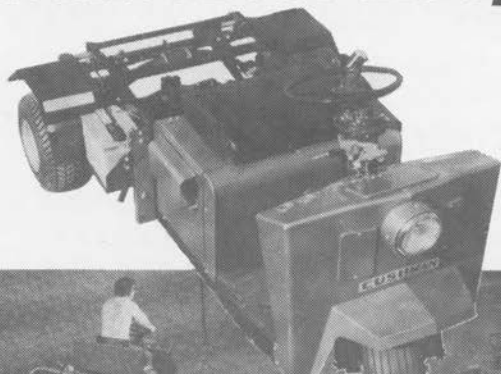
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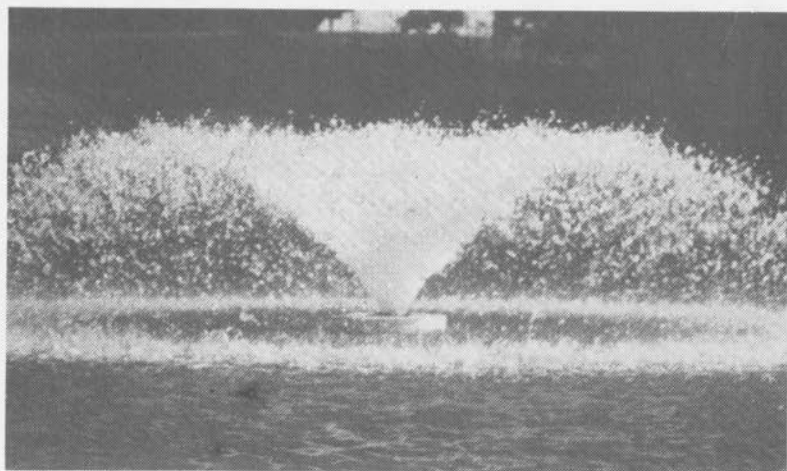
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Late winter ice storm — much of the turf damage was done about this time.



Jim Standish  
Executive Secretary, Golf Association  
of Michigan  
29563 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 10  
Southfield, Michigan 48034

Dear Jim:

There have been many questions raised this spring concerning the damage that occurred on golf courses during the past winter. This letter will hopefully explain the cause and what should be done now to promote recovery.

Most of the damage this spring was due to ice cover. It is often called ice damage or more correctly called crown hydration. Most of the damage appeared in the low areas or depressions in greens and fairways. The freezing rain fell on frozen ground and drained into the low areas and depressions. Little damage probably occurred during the winter period when the ice was still snow covered. Once the snow cover disappeared and the turf was subjected to the bright, sunny days of late winter the ice acted as a magnifying glass and heated up the soil below and causing the grass plants to prematurely take up moisture. When the temperatures dropped at night the

## ***Most winter damage result of ice cover***

water which was taken up by the grass plants formed ice crystals in the crowns of the grass plants and rupturing the plant cells causing many plants to die. Most golf course superintendents tried to remove the ice as soon as possible, but the ice layer was so thick that most attempts at removing it were futile.

Most golf courses had some form of crown hydration this spring in the eastern half of lower Michigan. It is impossible to predict when such conditions will occur and unfortunately there is very little that can be done after the ice forms to prevent damage. Most cultural practices, such as aerification, in the fall of the year which would help alleviate this problem would be disastrous during open winters. We can only hope it will be many years before we have such a winter again.

The other problem which was not as widespread was dehydration which

### Winter damage cont.

occurred on some high spots on greens and fairways. This was caused by the drying winds which occurred in late March and early April after the snow cover had disappeared.

The turfgrass which was most severely injured was annual bluegrass. In places where annual bluegrass occurs there is usually an abundance of seed in the thatch and soil which will replace the dead grass. To encourage the regrowth of the annual bluegrass the dead turf should be scratched up. Vertical mowing, hand-raking, spiking or coring will all aid in a quicker recovery of the turf area.

Some superintendents may wish to overseed with creeping bentgrass in areas that have been severely thinned. However, creeping bentgrass does not

compete very well with annual bluegrass when mowing operations are continued. For successful overseeding with creeping bentgrass it is suggested that the green be taken out of play and temporary greens played upon until such time as the creeping bentgrass has a chance to establish itself. We hope this letter will answer some of the questions which have arisen this spring even if it does not provide any permanent solutions to the problems.

Sincerely yours,

J. M. Vargas Jr.

Associate Professor

Dept. of Botany and Plant Pathology  
and

K. T. Payne

Professor

Dept. of Crop and Soil Sciences

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## A salute to National Golf Day

The USGA Green Section salutes the PGA of America for its annual contributions to turfgrass research. Through its National Golf Day Fund, the PGA has contributed over \$275,000 to the USGA Green Section Research and Education Fund since 1952. This generous support has made it possible to conduct vital research on important turfgrass projects and to train many of the present day leaders in the field of turfgrass management.

Projects that have resulted from funds channeled through the USGA Green Section Research and Education Fund include studies on *Poa annua*; thatch control; the control of regular crabgrass and silver crabgrass (goosegrass); effects of 2,4-D on weeds and grasses; physical properties of putting green construction; bermudagrass selection and breeding; bentgrass selection and breeding; Kentucky bluegrass selection and improvement; selection and breeding of the fine and tall fescues; the effects

of management practices on the speed of putting greens; disease, insect and weed studies, to name a few.

These are the important reasons why we encourage all USGA Member Clubs to make a special effort to sponsor a National Golf Day competition during May, June or July, in which golfers have an opportunity to match cards against the 1978 U.S. Open, Women's Open, PGA and LPGA Champions. See your club professional about details.

Some of the other beneficiaries have been caddie scholarship funds; programs for amputee golfers; junior golf; the Education and Benevolent Funds of the PGA of America; Veteran's Rehabilitation through United Volunteer Services; the Women's Western Golf Foundation; and the *Golf Superintendents Association of America Scholarship Fund*. While the sums raised have been substantial, the entry fee per player is only \$2.



# GCSAA and the golf course architect

Presented at the Golf Course Architects' Annual Meeting

Pinehurst, North Carolina, March 12, 1979

by Charles Tadge

GCSAA is primarily devoted to improved education for its members and much of our efforts are concentrated on our educational programs, but we also have other objectives including improved professional status and better public relations.

One recent development is GCSAA activities was the revision of our monthly magazine and the changing of its name to GOLF COURSE MANAGE-

MENT to better reflect the role of the superintendent. Many of you are GCSAA members. I would encourage more to join. We hope you read our magazine which should provide some useful information for you. We are always looking for good articles.

One of the biggest problems superintendents, as with everyone, are facing is inflation and increased expenses. We seem to be caught in the middle with equipment, supplies and labor costs rising sharply and the golfer also fighting inflation seemingly unwilling to accept increases in his dues or green fees. The current and projected oil shortages are not going to help the situation. Fuel costs will rise significantly which will also bring increased prices for all sources of energy and subsequently most products we use. Resultant inflation will no doubt push wages even higher. Superintendents will have to continue to seek more efficient equipment, products and methods to help reduce course maintenance costs.

Golf Course Architects can help

Continued on page 15

## GCSAA budget manual available

GCSAA's Budget Manual is scheduled to be ready for mailing around the middle of June. The manual will be mailed, free of charge, to all Class A, AA, B, Associate, Affiliate and Retired members of GCSAA. Additional copies will be available to members and non-members for an amount as yet undetermined.

The manual is full of information designed to aid golf course superintendents with their budgets and includes sample forms that are used in the budgeting process. These forms will also be available separately from Headquarters for a nominal fee.

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# Over watering American golf courses

Melvin B. Lucas, Jr., CGCS  
Credit - L.I.G.C.S.A. Supernews

How often is it heard, from players returning from a golf sabbatical, how clubs such as Shinnecock Hills, Winged Foot, Baltusrol, and Pine Valley played so well with fast, firm greens and tightly cut fairways.

It has been my pleasure to have chatted with the men in charge of maintaining these courses, all of whom echo the same water-management theme: "Keep the golf course as dry as possible."

Through many turf organizations, associations, and university research people, findings show that grass will grow in the spring when it is ready. If man tries to push the grass in the spring this will usually result in poor golfing conditions in late July and August. During the late spring and early summer it is sound to allow a golf course, with majorities of bent-grass and bluegrass varieties, to go on the dry side. This enables the roots to go deep, thus making a plant independent. An applicable adage is that it is easy to put water on, but is almost impossible to take it away. I know in the case of the Garden City Golf Club, the course, in 1965, used 55-plus million gallons of water. Last year's water use was 12-plus million gallons.

was "burned out;" Why isn't the the course being watered more - it's dying; and, Why do they (greens crew) have to renovate during the prime time of late August and early September?

In answering these comments, I begin by noting that giving the greens "a good soaking" can sometimes lead to weed encroachment, disease, and deep, difficult-to-repair ball marks. Also when talking about the holding qualities of a green, one must consider the condition of the fairways.

Simply put, you can not "pinch" the ball from a soft, lush fairway, and to pinch the ball means to give it the needed spin to hold the green.

Water may be free for some golf courses, but the cost of electricity to pump that water is not. The self proclaimed agronomist who sees, on TV, a golf course at its peak, does not view that same golf course two weeks later after the trials of big-time tournament play. Additional costs from the overuse of water come in the form of extra fertilizer, chemicals to control disease, and, naturally, mowing more often. Of course, when overuser of

Continued on page 17

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## GREENS CHAIRMAN Mayfield Country Club

As a member of the Board of Directors of the club, I thought it appropriate to define a "Board Member":

A Board Member is said to be a person who knows a great deal about very little and who goes along knowing more and more about less and less until finally he knows practically everything about nothing;

Then you become chairman of the Greens and Grounds Committee. This is a person who knows very little about a great deal and keeps knowing less and less about more and more until he knows practically nothing about everything;

And then the Greens Superintendent starts out knowing practically everything about everything, but ends up knowing nothing about anything, due to his association with Board Members and the Chairman of the Greens and Grounds!



# Seven ways to increase your personal productivity

From FORE FRONT, May 1979

Increasing your personal productivity does not mean working harder or longer. It means working smarter. Here are 7 ways to accomplish more of what's most important to you with less time and effort.

1. *Manage your time the way you manage your business.* A successful business budgets, controls, and regularly evaluates its use of its assets. To increase your productivity, you must manage your most important asset - your time - in a similar way.

The first step is deciding what your most important goals are. Ask yourself: What do I most want to accomplish for my employer - and myself - in the next several months? Concentrate on the most important goals.

Next, you should outline, in writing, the steps you must take to accomplish these goals. Again, focus on the most critical steps. Also try to set out a timetable for completing each of these steps.

Reevaluate your goals frequently. Get in the habit of asking yourself: Is this still the best use of my time?

2. *Focus each day's activity on your important goals.* Each day, you face a collection of things you have to

do, would like to do, want to avoid, can't forget, and so forth. How do you sort these out?

An effective way is to list these activities and rank them according to how much they help you accomplish your important goals. You can categorize it: A, if it is urgent or a significant step toward achieving your goals; B, if it is of lesser value; and C, if it can be postponed.

Use your list to manage your discretionary time. Try not to work on any B's or C's until you have finished all your A's. At the end of the day, you can use the list to evaluate how effectively you spent your time.

3. *Audit your personal activities for several days.* Like many busy executives, you may be unsure of where the time goes each day.

The first step in the audit is to make a simple chart and record how you spend your time throughout the day. Try to account for all your time - "missing time" is often wasted time.

At the end of each day, review your chart and see how much time you spent on your important goals and tasks. Ask yourself questions like these:

Continued on next page

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## Increase your productivity cont.

What kept me from spending more time on my A and B activities?

What was my most frequent distraction or interruption? How can I avoid it in the future?

What steps can I take tomorrow to spend more time on my A and B activities?

What activities could I have delegated, postponed, or dropped completely?

4. *Learn from mistakes.* You can turn mistakes to your advantage by trying to learn from them. Take whatever you think was your biggest mistake in the last week or month and ask yourself:

What should I have done differently?

What can I do now to prevent the mistake from recurring?

A less painful way to learn from mistakes is to learn from the mistakes of others. When you do this, ask:

Could the same thing happen to me?

What can I do now to avoid having the same problem?

5. *Be careful about taking work home.* Sometimes you have no choice but to take work home with you. But don't forget that the possibility of working at home can be a crutch that keeps you limping through the day. It's easier to fritter an afternoon away if you think, "I'll do my important work tonight." Try to work for a week on a no-homework rule. If you can't do that, set a limit on the work you do at

home.

6. *Don't overcommit yourself.* There is a limit to what you can accomplish in a day or week. Don't commit yourself to doing more than you can successfully handle.

7. *Overcome mental blocks.* Many people are occasionally hampered by mental blocks that keep them from starting some important work. You can often overcome these blocks by analyzing them. Here are some examples:

Do you lack facts? Then start with some research.

Is the task overwhelming? Then divide it into smaller tasks and begin with just one of these tasks.

Are you tired? Take a break.

Are you afraid of something? Figure out what you fear. You'll often find that it doesn't merit your concern.

Do you lack conviction. Think about what you're trying to accomplish and be sure it's really worthwhile.

Make a habit of productivity. These 7 ways of increasing your productivity will work if you use some of them every day. Making them part of your work habits will improve your production, which will benefit both you and your employer.

The average person these days is a guy who was born in the country, worked hard so he could live in the city, then worked even harder to get back to the country.

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## If you must fire an employee

Now and then, every supervisor must face the unpleasant task of firing an employee. When that time comes for you, prepare as carefully as you did when you interviewed that employee for the first time.

Before the meeting, think carefully about the specific nature of your complaints and whether you have given the employee ample warning and an opportunity to improve. Don't throw away a potentially valuable employee just because you have not adequately communicated your desires to him.

If no improvement takes place, make the termination interview clean and quick. Now is not the time to dwell on past failures, especially if there is nothing that can be done about them. Get to the point and end the meeting quickly. Be sure that the employee understands your decision is final and you will not be swayed by pleas for "one more chance."

Finally, give some serious thought to why your employee failed. Firing unsatisfactory employees should never become easy and, if your termination rate is high, it probably reflects a flaw in your training system and management of employees.

Reprinted from *Fore Front*

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IF WE LEARN FROM OUR MISTAKES,  
EVERY FAILURE CAN BE TURNED INTO  
A SUCCESS

## Golf course architect cont.

in this cost crunch by designing golf courses which are not any more expensive to maintain than logically necessary. Contours and bunkers should be designed to facilitate the use of the most efficient mechanized equipment, eliminating as much hand maintenance as possible. Some areas might be set aside to retain a natural look with very little, if any, maintenance required. Bunkers might be designed which would look better left shaggy and untrimmed in contrast to the costly trimming and edging now characteristic of the well-groomed courses found throughout the country. Certainly, courses should not be streamlined so much that they become uninteresting and unchallenging to the golfer.

The future of the game of golf as we know it today may depend upon maintenance cost reductions without loss of appeal to the golfer. A formidable task indeed.

One aspect which may become very critical in some areas is the need for water conservation. The recent seminar on the use of effluent water in which both of our associations were participants, along with N.G.F. and U.S.G.A., is a good example of constructive thinking which could help solve some future problems. Automatic irrigation systems should no longer be looked upon as luxurious toys, but as necessary tools for the conservation of water and energy.

Continued on next page

*The man who does things  
makes many mistakes,  
but he never makes  
the biggest mistake of all —  
doing nothing.*

*Benjamin Franklin*

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### Golf course architect cont.

GCSAA has been concerned about some of the misunderstanding created by some articles written on watering of golf courses which has given some golfers the impression that *all* golf courses are overwatered and that brown is better than green. I would readily agree that golf is not played on color, but golf is played *on grass* and the natural color of healthy grass is not necessarily conducive to permanently healthy turf or good golf. I will have to admit that agonomically speaking, many courses are overwatered, but in most cases the condition is in direct proportion to the golfer's desire for lush green conditions. The superintendent is sometimes caught in the middle. He is capable of maintaining the course in any condition that his golfing employers desire, but the directives must come from them.

Many times, the architect is in a

position of hiring or helping the new course owners find a superintendent. We hope that you are aware of GCSAA's employment referral service. GCSAA members seeking a change of employment receive notices of job openings as soon as they become known to us. Any prospective employer can have their job listed by contacting GCSAA Headquarters.

We have for some time encouraged the hiring of the superintendent very early in the construction process for new golf courses. There are obviously many advantages for all concerned when this procedure is followed.

It is my personal feeling that it is to the architect's personal advantage to encourage the course owners to hire the best man they can and to pay him adequately. Over the years after the course is built, usually it is the superintendent's ability which is going to make the course look good or bad

Continued on next page

### Golf course architect cont.

in the eyes of the golfing public. A good superintendent could be a good public relations tool for the architect.

What I'm trying to say is that we need each other. We need the architects to provide interesting playing fields for the game of golf, while keeping in mind the ultimate maintenance costs which will be borne by the players. We need superintendents to maintain these courses efficiently so that they are appealing and the game is not priced out of existence.

We must all work together and GCSAA is willing to cooperate and do anything it can to help keep golf the greatest game ever.

Charles H. Tadge, CGCS  
GCSAA President

### Over watering cont.

As a Golf Superintendent and one who has had a peripatetic golf-history heart, I have observed how membership requests can sometimes detrimentally influence the nature of a golf course, and its Golf Superintendent. Many of these wants/desires are: The greens don't hold a shot - give them a good soaking; We want everything green and lush to impress guests; We have our own well and water is free and unlimited - let's use it; Our course doesn't compare to the one seen during the televised tournament; Our foursome was out this morning and we noticed an area on the seventh fairway which water has finally drowned all turf out, then out comes the aerifiers, thatchers, slicers, spikes and assorted other machinery to try to bring the golf course back. By adding this additional work on a greens crew which may already be overextended, much of the normal, everyday work is left to wane, thus, making a course look even worse.

The water-management program for

Continued on next page

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## Over watering cont.

any golf course must take stock of the different types of soil varieties which are present on the course. These vary from sandy soil, which requires heavier amounts of water; clay soil which needs little water, but which needs to be constantly kept moist; heavy, rich loam soil, which needs water but never too much at one time; and a mix of sand and rich loam that is found in many parts of this Met area, especially on the older links, and which requires only moderate watering. On most of this area's golf courses practically all types of soil varieties can be found. This means that no set program can be made for everything getting exactly the same amount of water.

Probably the major concern that must be had at most Met-area courses is not to go into August with overly wet soil. As we all know, August days are generally hot and humid, and just bloody uncomfortable for man and, yes, grass. So as to give our courses the best chance for survival, we should gear out watering efforts for these dreaded Augusts.

Should your golf course be cutting back on the amount of water being used? Let me answer this in the following gashion.

The alarming problems of conserving water just tapped us on the shoulder last year. We saw Monterey Peninsula and Marin County of California brought to its knees for lack of water. In the Midwest, many golf courses were cut off from water use. On Long Island, a municipality whose own water supply was polluted took over a golf club's well for city use.

With the improper management and wasteful consumption by everyone, it clearly documents the severe shortage in all areas of our nation. We all must share the burdens of water conservation for if not, we only have ourselves to blame if the water runs out.

Melvin B. Lucas Jr., CGCS  
Credit - L.I.G.C.S.A. Supernews



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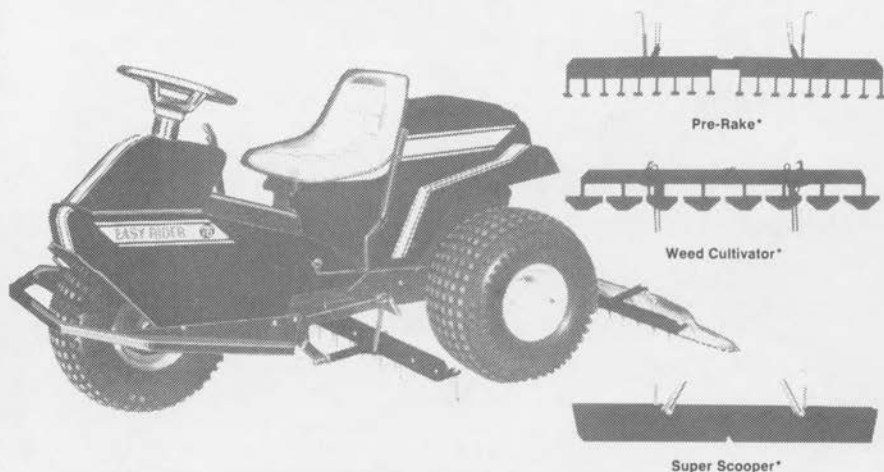
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