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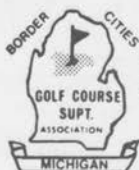
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A PATCH of GREEN

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



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GCSAA elects new officers

Charles H. Tadge, CGCS, South Euclid, Ohio was elected president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America today at their annual membership meeting. Melvin B. Lucas Jr., CGCS, Long Island, N.Y., was elected vice president. Each man will serve a one-year term. Michael R. Bavier, CGCS, Palatine, Ill., and Edward F. Dembnicki, CGCS, Myrtle Beach, S.C., were elected directors for three-year terms.

The election was held during the 50th International Turfgrass Conference and Show in Atlanta, the largest in GCSAA history.

GCSAA's new president, Charles H. Tadge, CGCS, has been a member of GCSAA for 19 years. He was vice president in 1978, and served as a director since 1974. He is golf course superintendent of the Mayfield Country Club, South Euclid, Ohio, where he has been for 12 years. He came to Mayfield from the Miami Valley Golf Club, Dayton, Ohio.

Tadge received his bachelor's degree in industrial management from the University of Cincinnati and did postgraduate work in agronomy at Purdue.

Melvin B. Lucas Jr., CGCS, GCSAA's vice president, has been a member of the association for 15 years. He has been a director since 1974. He has been golf course superintendent of the Piping Rock Club, Long Island, N.Y., since 1977, coming to the club from the Garden City (N.Y.) Golf Club.

Lucas is a graduate of the two-year turfgrass management program at Pennsylvania State University, University Park.

Bavier has been a director of GCSAA for two years and has been a member for 13 years. He is superintendent of the Inverness Golf Club, Palatine, Ill., where he has been for

nine years, coming there from the Calumet (Ill.) Country Club.

Bavier is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University Turf Management program.

Edward F. Dembnicki, GCSAA director, has been a GCSAA member for 14 years. He is superintendent of the Arcadian Shores Golf Club, Myrtle Beach, S.C., where he moved last year from the Country Club of North Carolina, Pinehurst.

Dembnicki studied Ornamental Horticulture at the Long Island Agriculture and Technology Institute and received a bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of Georgia, Athens. He also did postgraduate work at the University of Georgia in agricultural genetics.

Members also voted to accept two proposed bylaw changes, the first slightly changing the language of the secretary-treasurer's duties and the other stipulating that all meetings of the association be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

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GOLF MANAGER WANTED - \$16,355 to \$19,695. Education equivalent to two years of college (60 semester hours) specializing in turf grass management and three years experience as a Senior Greenskeeper (Supervises and participates in the maintenance of the greens and grounds of a municipal golf course). OR Education equivalent to completion of the 12th school grade and five years experience as a Senior Greenskeeper. Apply **City of Flint Personnel Office, 1101 S. Saginaw St., Flint, MI 48502.** For further details call **766-7280.** The filing deadline for applications is 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 6, 1979.

6,501 attend GCSAA Conference & Show

Registration totaled 6,501 when the doors closed today on the 50th International Turfgrass Show, held this week in conjunction with an educational conference, both sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

This year's show was the largest in GCSAA's history, and is the only national or international show devoted to the turfgrass industry. More than 100 visitors from outside the U.S. viewed the exhibits during the show's three-day duration.

The event has attracted considerable notice from foreign firms, many of whom have indicated interest in increasing their participation in coming years. A number of companies

also took advantage of the record crowds to unveil the newest additions to their product lines.

Superintendents attending the conference participated in 150 hours of educational programs designed to increase and enhance their skills in maintaining a golf course in peak player condition.

Speakers at the conference included USGA Green Section personnel, university professors, environmentalists, management consultants and other turf management specialists. Topics of discussion during the week covered water usage, turf management, landscaping, fertigation, pesticides, greens construction, dealing with flood damage and sand topdressing.

GCSAA golf tournament

February 1 and 2, two hundred golfers of G.C.S.A.A. and their guests braved cold and windy weather at Sea Island Golf Club, Sea Island, Georgia, for the annual golf tournament for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. In addition, A Ladies' tournament was held Feb. 2 at the nearby Sea Palms Golf Club. Winners in these tournaments were:

The Low Gross Winner - Dan Meyers, Temple Terrace, Florida.

Superintendent-Pro - Paul Schurtz, Hackettstown, N.J.

Chapter Team - Iowa G.C.S.A.

Seniors - Vaughn Barker, Murray, Utah.

Associates - Larry Vetter, Minneapolis, Minn.

Club Officials - John Haines, Hunt Valley, Md.

Ladies - Becky Tate, Frankfort, Michigan.

Other winners from Michigan:

George Prieskorn - 8th Low Gross Green Championship Flight.

Bob Prieskorn - 8th Seniors Low Gross

Andy Bertoni - 4th Seniors Low Net 146

Earl Prieskorn - 7th Seniors Low Net 150

Jeff Gorney - 5th Championship Flight (Black) Low Gross

Jay Delcamp - 4th Championship Flight (Black) Low Net

Kevin Dushane - 6th Championship Flight (Black) Low Net

Frank Forier - 2nd Associate Low Net.

Jim Timmerman - 10th Championship Flight (Red) Low Net

Jean Prieskorn - 2nd Ladies -Callo-way. Congratulations to all winners!

If You Don't Know The Answers,
At Least Know Where To Find Them.

GCSAA SEMINARS

MTF elects new officers at conference

The Michigan Turfgrass Conference at MSU, East Lansing, Jan. 16-17, 1979, was one of the largest in its 49 year history.

The four newly elected directors are: Keith Paterson, Superintendent, Spring Lake Country Club, representing the Western Michigan GCSA; Donald Benham, L&E Chemical, representing

the commercial suppliers; Gerald Gill, Superintendent, Tam-O-Shanter Country Club; and James Timmerman, Superintendent, Orchard Lake Country Club, elected as At-Large Representative. The Board of Directors elected C.E. "Tuck" Tate as President and James Timmerman was elected as Vice-President of the Turfgrass Foundation.



Above: Dr. Paul E. Rieke (left), Professor at Michigan State University is presented with a GCSAA Research Grant from Ted Woehrle, past president of Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Right: Fred C. Janke (left), Mayor of Jackson, Michigan accepts posthumously the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation Meritorious Service Award for Robert W. Hancock from James Standish III, Secretary-Treasurer, MTF and Executive Secretary, Golf Association of Michigan.





James M. Sparling (L), two-year student at Michigan State University from Caro, Michigan, is presented with a GCSAA scholarship by Ted Woehrle.



Gary K. Carls (L), two-year turfgrass student at MSU, is presented with MTF Norman W. Kramer Outstanding Scholar Award by Ward Swanson, Supt. of Plum Hollow GC, and member of the MTF Board.



Patrick E. Klein (left), two-year turfgrass management student at MSU is presented with MTF Outstanding Student Award by James Timmerman, Supt. of Orchard Lake CC, and Vice President of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation.

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Honestly, Can One Budget

At this time of the year when new budgets are being constructed we hear a lot about the comparison of golf course expenditures and the amount that they vary. The emphasis being on who spent how much and what did the members get for their money. This article by William H. Bengueyfield appeared in the USGA Green Section Record about two years ago, but a repeat is very timely.

Be Compared With Another?

by WILLIAM H. BENGEYFIELD, Former Western Director, USGA Green Section

Can the budget of one club really be compared with the budget of another?

The answer matters very little, because the plain truth is that budgets and golf courses *will* be compared. Man, especially in economic matters, must be logical. He must standardize; make a formula; figure the percentages. He must always compare. This is his nature.

How often have you heard something like this:

"Sleepy Links Golf Club only spends \$40,000 a year, has a crew of 4 men and the course is in good condition! Why do we have to spend so much money?"

The speaker is obviously not a member of Sleepy Links. He has only skimmed the surface. He doesn't know all the facts, and maybe he doesn't want to know them. But in all fairness, he should stop and ask himself:

1. How many rounds are played at Sleepy Links each year?

2. How often are the greens, fairways, and tees mowed?

3. Is the course closed for maintenance one day a week?

4. Does the maintenance crew stop work as members play through or does it continue to work?

And so on. Comparing two budgets or two golf courses is like comparing two of anything else. They may appear similar at the outset, but the more you know about them, the less similar they become.

Golf courses cannot be standardized. They do not fit any formula. Their value, beauty and enjoyment depends on their individuality. The variation in size of tees and greens; the length of the course; the types and location of trees; the size, outline and

Continued on page 13

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ENGINES

Small but strong! Honda general purpose engines bring what's best in Honda technology down to size: models are available from 3.5 to 8 hp. Again, all are of the four-stroke design, which contributes to smooth, economical operation without fuel pre-mixing.

Built tough. Honda engines feature many long-life engineering characteristics such as cast-iron cylinder sleeves and ball-bearing supported crankshafts. All feature the Honda Automatic Decompression System for easy starting. Honda engines are ideal for many replacement applications and are enjoying increasing popularity. Check the specs chart in this brochure and consult with your Honda dealer for your particular requirements.

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Budget comparison cont.

number of bunkers, the topography - these are the wonderful differences. This is their nature.

Can categories be standardized? I wonder what is meant by "categories"? If it means can we develop a standard method of recordkeeping and place particular jobs in certain categories, then the answer is probably "yes."

However, if it means allocating a fixed percentage of our budget for each category - and thereby permit comparison in dollars of one course budget with another, then I must answer an emphatic NO! There are just too many variables. The personality of an individual golf course, its membership and staff are all involved, and no one can standardize personalities. One can't compare a \$10,000 fertilizer item at one course with \$2,000 for the same item at another.

To digress for just a moment, I think we do ourselves and our profession an injustice by constantly referring to the rising cost of golf course maintenance. Of course it's rising - and so is everything else! Ours is not the only rising curve in golf course operations. Inflation eats at all of us, but we grass growers didn't invent inflation, nor did we start it. In fact, because of improved methods, equipment, and materials, the golf course maintenance operation is far more efficient today than it has ever been. We are doing a better job than 20 years ago, and usually with

less labor. Compare this with other phases of club operation.

If it is the nature of man to compare, and if it is the nature of the golf course to defy comparison, have we then reached an impasse? Not, I think, if we wish otherwise. Golf is only enjoyed to the fullest when the course provides the best possible playing conditions and pleasant surroundings. Emphasis of these points in relation to the money being spent is therefore important and the main point. In fact, it is the *only* point. It's not what one spends, it's what one receives for it that counts.

More next month on budgets and a standard chart of accounts.

INTERESTING FACTS

To find diameter of a circle multiply circumference by .31831.

To find circumference of a circle multiply diameter by 3.1416.

To find area of a circle multiply square of diameter by .7854.

To find surface of a ball multiply square of diameter by 3.1416.

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To find cubic inches in a ball multiply cube of diameter by .5236.

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How to succeed as a Greens Chairman

by C. MICHAEL DUNN

Commodore Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club
Boca Raton, Florida

Next to being a major league umpire I can think of no job as thankless as a Greens Chairman's. A Greens Chairman needs a thick skin, a green thumb, a soft heart, a hard head, a refillable prescription for sleeping pills and an unlisted telephone number. In a club with 400 golfing members he has 400 assistant chairmen, not including the wives, some of whom should count double.

The Greens Chairman must produce greens that will stop a flyer out of the rough within two feet of the hole. He must engineer the fairway grass long enough to make the ball stand up as if it were teed and yet roll 50 yards after it lands. It's his responsibility to limit the rainfall between the hours of

9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. and never let it rain hard enough to close the course. He's expected to make a greens mower last indefinitely and a fairway mower even longer. Gadgets such as trucksters, weed eaters, sodcutters and rototillers are looked upon by the Board of Governors as unnecessary frills.

Now I hate yard work. I have always hated yard work. I don't see eye to eye with things that grow. When I look at flowers, they wilt. Born on a farm in Northern Michigan, I've always been grateful to my father for having the good sense to move to Chicago where most of the land is covered with concrete. So, when the Commodore of our club tapped me for the Greens Chair-



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manship I rebelled.

"Look, Mr. Commodore," I said with all the persuasiveness I could muster, "I couldn't make a petunia grow in the Garden of Eden."

"That's O.K." he said, "we don't need petunias. All we want is some nice green grass on the fairways and some even nicer and shorter grass on the greens."

"But," I pleaded, "I don't really know a . . ."

"You'll learn," he said, and so, I became the Greens Chairman.

Feeling sorry for myself, I took a walk around the course. It made me feel worse. Robust beds of weeds nodded defiantly in the afternoon breeze. The grass looked tired, except for the vigorous growth that was taking over the cart paths and the shapeless bunkers stared at me like so many craters on the moon. "I must need a Greens Superintendent," I mused.

Unlike plumbers or doctors, Greens Superintendents don't list themselves in the yellow pages, so I decided a good place to look would be on someone else's golf course. All Greens Superintendents are nocturnal; just why they can't sleep like normal humans escapes me at the moment; but armed with this bit of insight I arrived at a nearby country club at dawn. The place was a beehive of activity. "How the hell did I get involved in this slave labor business," I wondered just as a tractor whizzed by.

"Watch yourself there, Buddy," the driver yelled over the roar of the engine. He was pulling what looked like a heavy farm disc cutting deep slits in the soil. In places it tore up big chunks of turf making the fairways look like great green noodles laid side by side.

I caught him the next time around. He turned off the engine and swung around on the metal seat. "I'm the Greens Chairman of the club down the road. You the Superintendent here?"

Continued on next page

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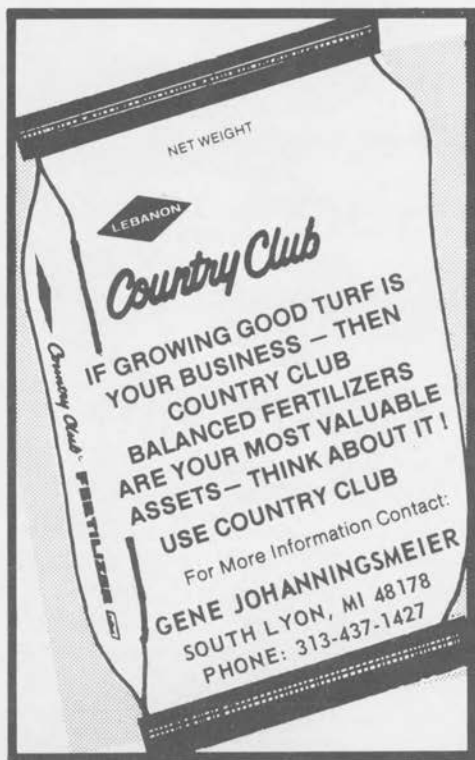
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"You'll find him over on the next fairway," he said.

"Tell me," I said, my curiosity getting the best of me, "How come you're tearing up the course? Are they gonna make a subdivision here?"

"Nothing like that," he said, "I'm wiping out the nematodes."

"What are nematodes?"

"Did you say you're a Greens Chairman?" He looked at me and sighed, cranked up the tractor and continued his ripping operation.

I found the Superintendent studying a break in the main sprinkler line. He told me he had an outstanding assistant who was overdue for a top job. "I'd hate to lose him but it's not fair to hold him back any longer. His father is a Greenskeeper, his grandfather was a Greenskeeper, and so was his great grandfather."

"Sounds like the whole family is demented," I said.

"Probably so," he answered, "but you don't have to be to get into this business because it'll drive you there soon enough. You'll find out. Lot's o' luck."

The new Superintendent arrived two weeks later, on the first of the month. We toured the course together. "Do you think we have any nematodes?" I asked.

"Well," he said, "I don't want to hurt your feelings the first day on the job but it looks to me like this is the international headquarters for nematodes and I'd say right now they're holding their annual convention."

"We have some weeds, too," I said weakly.

"Yeah, and bermuda mites."

"Let's go back to the barn," I said. "Maybe we can contrive a plan to deal with the whole problem."

We poured ourselves some black coffee from a pot that simmers all day on the far corner of a workbench. Then we sat down to drink coffee, argue, make notes, and draw sketches until late into the afternoon. I knew what the members wanted, or at least

I thought I knew. To translate that into a golf course that would make them happy we decided to retain a recognized golf course architectural firm. This would assure us the needed course changes would be done professionally. Fairway bunkers, from years of raking and maintenance work, had become uninteresting, round, cavities, and the shape of the greens had lost their character. The lethal yellow epidemic had taken a toll of over 700 coconut palms, so there was plenty for an architect to do.

Then we decided to retain one of the leading agronomists in the Southeast to make monthly visits of inspection. Our abundant crop of goosegrass and other assorted irritants added to the nematode and bermuda mite population gave him plenty to do, too.

My assignment was to hold the membership at bay and to persuade the Board of Governors to supply the funds we needed to do the job. Being Vice Commander and a member of the Board helped some, but it's not easy to explain to an owner of a super-market chain, a criminal lawyer, a C.P.A. from Detroit, an industrial architect, a business consultant turned college president, and a vice president of marketing for an international oil company, why it costs so damned much to mow the lawn!

"Ye GODS!" they'd cried in unison, "All you gotta do is mow some grass, rake some sand and kill a bunch of weeds! How in hell can that cost a quarter of a million dollars?" So, I too, had plenty to do. When I asked for (and finally got) \$50 an acre to kill the nematodes they almost accursed me of personally infestating the course.

"We never heard of nematodes before you took this job."

My first victory over the Board came when I pried a Triplex greens mower, and 100-gallon sprayer out of them in spite of their claim that I already had more equipment than the Florida State Highway Department. Sand to refurbish all the fairway



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bunkers, \$6,500 worth, came a little easier. I delayed my request for \$10,000 to install a liquid fertilizer system until the House Committee Chairman planned a request for new chairs for the country club dining room. We formed a coalition and maneuvered both through successfully.

But the big problem still lay ahead. Golf course beautification doesn't come cheap, especially when an extensive tree planting program is a part of it. Using reverse strategy when it came my turn to make the Greens Committee report at the November meeting I stated, simply, "The Greens and Grounds Committee makes no request for funds." I received a standing ovation.

Meanwhile, thanks to my Greens Superintendent, the nematodes were gone along with the bermuda mites. The crowfoot was dead and so was creeping charlie and there was a thick carpet of bright green grass on the fairways. The greens were smooth, putted true and were newly shaped. Some of the bunkers had been rebuilt and there was fresh sand in them and in all the bunkers around the greens.

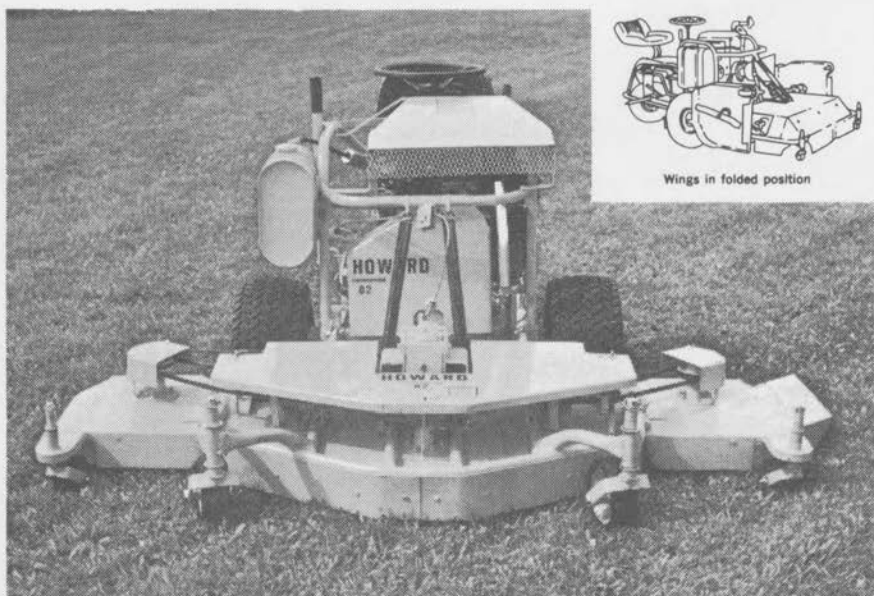
So, in the December meeting I hit them for \$40,000 to beautify the course. There was hardly a whimper.

I'm the Commodore now, so I appointed myself to the job for another year. I know goosegrass when I see it; in fact it haunts my dreams at night. I can distinguish between dollarweed and dichondra. And I know what MSMA will do and why, sometimes, we add a little 2-4-D. After we spike the greens, if I see a little brown grass around the hole I know there is a tiny worm down in there just awaiting evening so he can come up and feast on those tender leaves of Tiftdwarf. So I'm gonna apply for the job again next year. After all, I wouldn't want all that hard earned knowledge to go to waste. Besides, it's easy when you've got a top quality Greens Superintendent calling all the shots.

But I still hate yard work.

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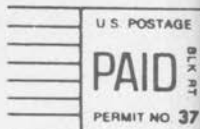
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