March 1980

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A PATCH of GREEN 83

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MICHIGAN

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



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The Role of the GCSAA in Michigan Turfgrass Development

by Ted Woehrle

Members of the GCSAA have always diseases were of primary concern also been strong in their support of the and they desperately needed answers turfgrass development and research to help them in this new science. programs throughout the entire United States state of Michigan.

of Greenkeepers of America) the their own well before the founding of original name of the Association the golf course Superintendent asso-which was founded in 1926 at the ciations. We can credit the majority Sylvania Ohio. Its early members came from to the game of Golf. The USGA and the the golfing center of America - Ohio, GCSAA have been striving for years Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Pennsyl- to achieve the impossible dream - a vania, New York and Canada.

The NAGA was founded and formed to promote the art and science of Greenkeeping.

Michigan, Herb Shave (the first President of the Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association - 1924), Vern Sincerbeau, Willie Smith, John Gray (the ninth President of the National Association, from Windsor, Ontario, Canada) Leroy Dustin of Benton Harbor and Ford search Foundation was established to Goodrich to name just a few that I help promote the Research Programs recall. They recognized a need for that were so necessary and meaningful turf research so they prevailed on the to the success of our profession as staff at MSU to do work on the develop- well as the scholarship program for ment of new turfgrasses (Bluegrasses deserving students enrolled in turf Bentgrasses primarily). Turf and

The leadership in turfgrass developand especially here in the ment by the golfing community also included the United States Golf Asso-The NAGA (National Association ciation who started turf research on Country Club, Sylvania, of the turf grass research in America perfect turf. You will hear more about the role of the USGA from your next speaker, Al Radko.

The leadership by the Golf Course Many Charter members came from Superintendents has continued thru the years. Four National Presidents have come from the state of Michigan: John Gray, Ward Cornwell, Norm Kramer, and myself. Andy Certoni and Bruce Mathews also served on the Executive Committee for several years.

> In 1956, the Scholarship and Re-Continued on page 7

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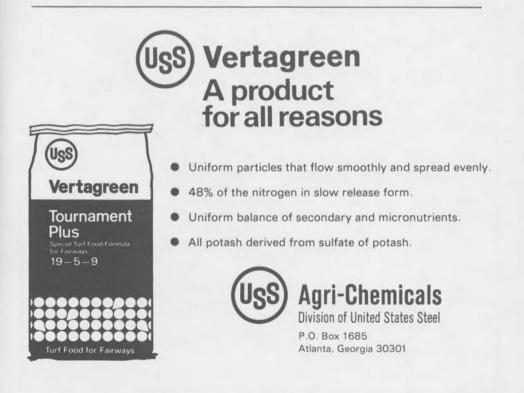
This issue of "A Patch of Green" is the first one in our tenth year of publishing. We have just completed nine years of production. It seems like yesterday since putting together our first issue.

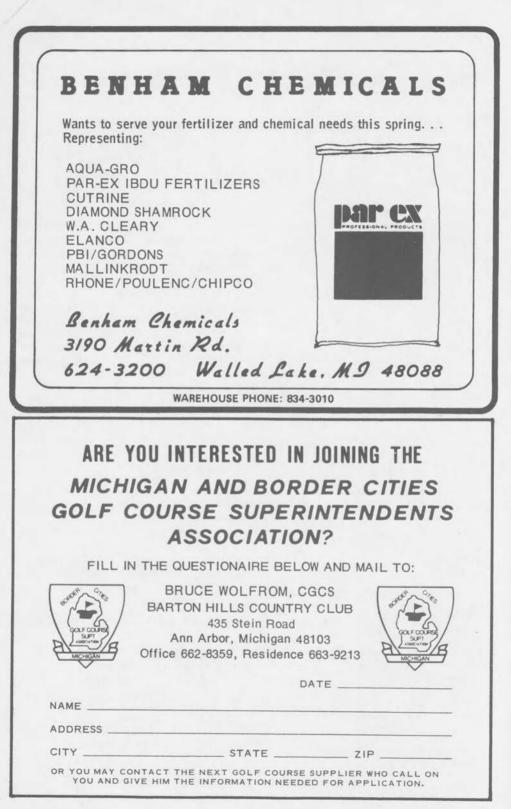
As we look ahead to our tenth year, we see some difficulties in our profession staring us in the face. It is history. For it is characteristic of generally influences will concern us in the next test our people. They tend to show decade. These are energy and economics. The scarcity of energy will

bring about changes in our life style and in our golf course maintenance practices. The ever-tightening noose of inflation will affect everybody. It will also affect the game of golf as we know it today.

A gloomy look ahead? Not necessarily, if one looks at the lessons of agreed that two major America that times of trevail like this

Continued on page 16





Role of the GCSAA cont.

grass curriculums.

There are now 12,000 golf courses in America, over 600 of these are in Michigan. Because of the support from our S&R programs there has been a tremendous technological boom which allowed this growth in recent years. Much of the advancement in the remainder of the turfgrass industry can be attributed to projects supported by the GCSAA.

Money for the S&R Foundation comes from many sources:

- 1. Manufacturers and commercial suppliers.
- 2. The National Golf Day Fund
- 3. Golf Associations (GAM and GAM Seniors)
- 4. International Turfgrass Conference and Show
- 5. Individuals
- 6. Chapters of the GCSAA
- 7. Advertising in our magazine (Golf Course Management)

Since the Foundation was founded, \$433,130.00 has been disbursed -\$280,550.00 for 704 scholarships and \$152,580.00 for 134 research grants. Michigan State University has always shared in these grants and scholarships as you witnessed yesterday.

After the disastrous ICE SHEET damage incurred during the winter of 1962, the GCSAA presented a Climate Control Chamber (growth chamber) to MSU and Dr. Jim Beard to study winter damage to turf. You are all familiar with the fine results of the work. Other grants were given for soil science projects, plant nutrition, turf diseases and plant selection and

other cultural practices for proper turfgrass management.

The entire industry benefits from these projects. The GCSAA is proud of its affiliation with the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation and MSU.

Other areas of support include such things as the Educational Advisory Council which is made up of educators from the leading turf schools in America. MSU has been well represented on the Council. This is where programs are developed for Turf Schools and Conferences. They give us input from the academic field.

The Certification of Superintendents was instituted in 1972. Superintendents in Michigan are strong supporters of this program. Seminars in Pesticide Usage, Landscaping, Business Management, Personnel management were all well attended by our members. Educational manuals have been written for the Superintendent that wants to improve his skills in turfgrass management.

The GCSAA has been a leader in writing Position Papers on the Fertilizer Crises of 1974. Remember when a House Bill was proposed to ban the use of fertilizer on ornamental turf? They came to our aid. Other papers involved Water Impact Studies and the use of Restricted Chemicals.

The only museum of old and antique turf equipment is housed right here at MSU. A restoration program operated by the turf students is supported by funds from the GCSAA.

When OSHA and ERA became threats to our profession we developed Continued on next page



Role of GCSAA cont.

a guide on OSHA regulations.

As you can see, The GCSAA has been supporting Turfgrass development in Michigan for a long time. We intend to remain a major force in the future. We are proud of our efforts and we are proud of the work done here at MSU.

Remember, to achieve all that is possible, we must attempt the impossible. To be as much as we can be, we must dream of being more.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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A SOBERING THOUGHT

A billion seconds ago was Pearl Harbor. A billion minutes ago Christ was still alive. A billion hours ago man had not yet appeared on earth.

Yet nobody thinks much about a billion dollars any more.

I've seen boys on my baseball team go into slumps and never come out of them, and I've seen others snap right out and come back better than ever. I guess more players lick themselves than are ever licked by an opposing team. The first thing any man has to know is how to handle himself.

CONNIE MACK

Isn't it funny - when the other fellow takes a long time to do something, he is slow. But when I take a long time to do something, I'm thorough.

When the other fellow doesn't do it, he's too lazy. But when I don't do it, I'm too busy.

When the other fellow goes ahead and does something without being told he's overstepping his bounds. But when I do something without being told, that's initiative!

When the other fellow states his side of a question strongly, he's bullheaded. But when I state a side of a question strongly, I'm being firm.

When the other fellow overlooks a few rules of etiquette, he's rude. But when I skip a few of the rules, I'm being original.

When the other fellow does something that pleases the boss, he's polishing the brass. But when I do something that pleases the boss, that's cooperation.

When the other fellow gets ahead he sure had the lucky breaks, but when I manage to get ahead, man! it was hard work that did it!

Funny, isn't it - or is it!



We accept without thought the existance of things whose absence would incredibly change our lives.

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Without grass there would be vast and constant dust storms, erosion problems of tremendous magnitude, a rise of sea levels, a change of climatic and atmospheric conditions, the immediate demise of a half million species of animals, and the virtual destruction of agriculture and possibly mankind.

Turfgrass represents a large, practical and aeshetic portion of the industry of grass. Those who have the good fortune to be caretakers of these humble plants understand with both pride and

reverance the given responsibility. The joy of life springs from our heritage of the grasses of the earth.



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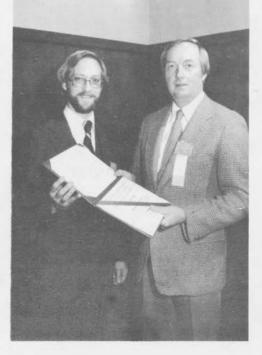
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Patrick J. Berger (left), 2year turfgrass management student at Michigan State University from Sioux City, Iowa, is presented with Michigan Turfgrass Foundation's Outstanding Student Award by "Tuck" Tate, President of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation.

Patrick J. Berger (left), 2year turfgrass management student at Michigan State University from Sioux City, Iowa, is presented with a Golf Course Superintendents Association of America scholarship by Ted Woehrle, past president of Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.





Dr. Paul E. Rieke (left), Professor at Michigan State University in Crop and Soil Science is presented with a Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Research Grant from Ted Woehrle, past president of Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Leonard M. Debuck (right), 4year turfgrass management student at Michigan State University, is presented with the Burton C. Bradshaw Outstanding Student Award. Presenting the award is Gordon La Fontaine, Lawn Equipment Coarporation.



6 ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WE NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D ASK

(BUT DECIDED TO ANSWER ANYWAY)

Yes, GCSAA can help you become a better superintendent. One way it does this is through educational seminars and conference sessions it sponsors each year to help you become better informed about turfgrass diseases, pesticides, landscaping and management practices.

2 Yes, GCSAA is helping to further the advancement of the turfgrass industry. Through the GCSAA Scholarship & Research Fund, Inc., GCSAA provided more than \$13,500 last year in research grants to leading turfgrass programs. GCSAA also provides educational opportunities to turfgrass students through annual turfgrass scholarships. **3** Yes, GCSAA provides a meeting ground for superintendents. Each year, GCSAA sponsors an annual conference and show for its members. Last year more than 6,500 educators, industry representatives and members from all over the world attended. GCSAA's executive committee decided at its last board meeting that the conference experience is so valuable that first-year members should be encouraged to attend by being given free admission.

Yes, GCSAA offers recognition for superintendents. Through its public relations efforts, its magazine, and its award programs, GCSAA helps promote the image and the professionalism of the superintendent. GCSAA also provides information to superintendents about how they can use public relations to promote their own image to their course, their community and their association.



Yes, GCSAA provides each member with a life insurance program. Supplemental insurance, disability and pension programs also are available.

No, GCSAA can't help you with your golf handicap. You'll have to work on that yourself.



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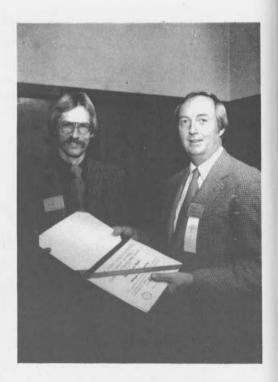
Jim Brocklehurst

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Michael J. Newell (left), 2year turfgrass management student at Michigan State University from Alpena, Michigan, is presented with Michigan Turfgrass Foundation's Norman W. Kramer Outstanding Scholar Award. Presenting the award is James Timmerman, Superintendent of Orchard Lake Country Club, Orchard Lake, Michigan, and Vice-President of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation.

Michael J. Newell (left), 2year turfgrass management student at Michigan State University from Alpena, Michigan, is presented with a Golf Course Superintendents Association of America scholarship by Ted Woehrle, past president of Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.



Thomas M. Smith (left), graduate student in turfgrass management at Michigan State University, is presented with a Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Scholarship by Ted Woehrle, past president of Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.



year student at Michigan State Uni- Awards by Russ Tiller, Area versity, and Jeffrey A. Crean Sales Representative, The (right), 4-year turfgrass manage- Upjohn Company, Kalamazoo, ment student at Michigan State Michigan.

Dennis B. Meyers (left), 2- University, are presented with ar turfgrass management the Upjohn Company Scholarship





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their toughness and true character and we come out of tests like this a stronger nation.

Like Grandpa always said adversity builds character.

Our character will be tested perhaps as early as this year. We hear rumors that our gasoline allotment for this summer may be rationed or curtailed some 15%. Are we ready to cut back 15% of our mowing, spraying, cart usage (if you have gas carts), etc. Where could you save 15%? Will you eliminate some of the rough mowing? Maybe you would mow tees, greens and fairways less frequently. Or perhaps you would consider hand raking of bunkers again. Your crew may have to walk more and ride less.

If we fertilize less we would water less and mow fewer times. This would make the USGA happy. They advocate less water to firm up the fairways.

This all makes sense, BUT! What happens to our *Poa annua* (which is the result of golfer demands)? The term "Green is Beautiful" will have to change to "Maybe a little brown isn't ugly". *Poa annua* is a high maintenance turfgrass. It is green most of the time. That is as long as we make it green by over watering among other expensive practices. *Poa* is the result of close mowing. We mowed our old Bluegrass - Fescue fairways to satisfy the golfer demands and they soon failed and the result was *Poa Annua*.

We can't reverse this process until the golfer has been educated to accept this new, less than desirable condition. The fairway lies will be different and the color of the turf will not necessarily be green. Golf has been played on this type of turf far longer than what we have today. Golf in other countries is being played on this type of grass and the golfer enjoys his game in these countries as much as we Americans.

Once we all realize that this change will have to take place then the Plant breeders can go to work and develop a grass that can withstand this new maintenance concept. They

Continued on next page

Write or call direct

"A Patch of Green" cont.

will be able to produce a grass that will survive under these new conditions and still provide the golfer with a playable turf.

The plant nutrition experts will have to work along with the plant breeders to help select a turfgrass that will grow vigorously without the high rates of fertilizer. This will also save some of our Natural resources (Most Nitrogen is made with Petro Chemicals).

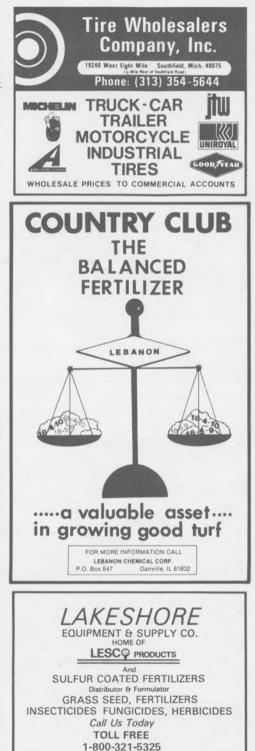
The irrigation equipment manufacturers, designers and installers must provide us with better control of our water. We still need better application and distribution methods.

We will have to improve our cultural practices to help provide healthier turf with less money. I failed to mention earlier in this editorial that we may have to cut back a six-day-a-week-maintenance to operation. During WW II many courses eliminated Sunday maintenance except for cup changing and the movement of the tee plates. This not only cut back on energy consumption but cut back on over time, saving thousands of dollars. At most Private Clubs, this wouldn't be as noticeable as on the Public Golf Courses because the average Sunday Golfer at the Private Club is not as observant as the week day golfer. They are usually the Husband-Wife combination that will be out enjoying the course as they find it. The more intense golfer plays during the week and usually brings out several guests that he is trying to impress. These are the big spenders at the club and they should receive special care.

Cart income will become more important as inflation continues to spiral. More and more clubs will be installing continuous cart paths, for all-weather golf. A rainy season will still produce the much needed income. The paths will also help to preserve our precious turf.

Once we learn to live with less energy and less water we can continue to provide pleasurable golf for a lot less.

Think about it - it could be a real challenge. Let's do our Share!



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IN MEMORY

Richard Sincerbeau passed away on December 16, 1979. He was Superintendent of Dunham Hills Golf & Country Club.

Richard was a Past President of the Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association in the late 1960's. We will miss him.



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ground, not the tractor. The Howard Commercial Mower with hydrostatic transmission enables you to set your cutting speed to an infinite range, between the speeds of 0 and 6.2 M.P.H., depending on your mowing conditions. The heavy duty transmission and differential allows for a responsive, yet smooth, operating forward and reverse action in open or congested areas. The transmission is backed by the strongest warranty in the field. The outstanding versatility of our tractor is evidenced by the attachments which are available. The attachments are quick change and may be run off our live P.T.O.

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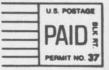


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