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"A PATCH OF GREEN"

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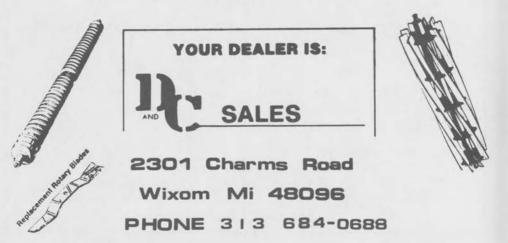
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What the U.S.G.A. is

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The United States Golf Association is an organization run by golfers. It was formed on December 22, 1894, a year which saw two clubs proclaiming different U.S. amateur champions. Realizing the need for a central governing body to establish uniform rules, to conduct championships and nurture the virtues of sportsmanship in golf, five clubs joined together to form the U.S.G.A.

This, from the beginning, the U.S.G.A. has been an Association of Member Clubs. Today, membership stands approximately 4,500 clubs and courses.

It is a non-profit Association solely dedicated to servicing the game of golf and individual golfers, and acts in cooperation with local and regional golf associations in areas of nutual interest. The Association is the representative of American golf in relations with the governing bodies in other countries. The U.S.G.A. is managed by an Executive Committee of 15 members, elected annually by the Regular Member Clubs. There are 24 standing subcommittees composed of nearly 600 men and women throughout the country. All U.S.G.A. Committeemen donate their services and pay their own expenses. To conduct daily business, the U.S.G.A. maintains a paid staff at its headquarters in Far Hills, New Jersev.

What It Does For Golf The U.S.G.A. is the national governing CONTINUED PAGE 17



PROPER TRANSITIONAL MANAGEMENT HALTS DISEASES, ENSURES EARLY GREEN-UP

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"Traditionally, leaf spot (Helminthosporium) has been considered a spring and summer disease," states Dr. Clinton Hodges, professor of horticulture and plant pathology, Iowa State University. "However, our research indicates that most leaf spot activity may occur in the fall. That's why it's important that your fungicide control program be extended until freeze-up to control leaf spot activity and other common fall diseases." According to Hodges, leaf spot may be potentially more devastating in the fall for the following reasons: 1) cooler temperatures and cloudy, wet weather, 2) shorter day length and 3) application of auxin-type preemergent herbicides. "Cooler temperatures and cloudy, wet weather provide ideal conditions for the development of leaf spot. And as CONTINUED PAGE 15



Destructive Turf Insects

By DR. HARRY D. NIEMCZYK

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Schilling Appointed New Executive Director



JOHN M. SCHILLING

President Robert W. Osterman, CGCS, recently announced that John M. Schilling has been promoted to the position of Executive Director of GCSAA effective September 7, 1983. Schilling, who was promoted to the position of Associate Executive Director last May, has been employed at GCSAA since 1978. He replaces James E. McLoughlin whose resignation was accepted earlier in the year. The decision on Schillings's appointment as Executive Director was made last week in New York city at a specially called meeting of GCSAA's Executive Committee.

In announcing the Board's decision, Osterman said the selection of Schilling was unanimous and was

based "on John Schillings's proven ability and initiative to direct, lead and manage people and resources to accomplish specific goals and objectives." Osterman pointed out that since Schilling had joined GCSAA, he had been involved in almost every aspect of the biness and operational affairs of the business and operational affairs of the Association.

"He has served as Director of communications and Editor of GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT and manager of Informational Services; as Dirctor of Marketing and Sales; as Director of Conference and Show; and most recently as Associate Executive Director.

"Prior to leaving the Association for a short time in 1982, the Executive committee had apporved a management recommendation that he be promoted to Assistant Executive Director in October 1981. Each time the Association has asked him to take on new and increased management responsibilities, John has successfully responded. His broad-based association management, marketing business exper ience and formal education are the qualifications GCSAA needs for its Executive Director position." CONTINUED PAGE 14



FOR GOOD GOLF & GOOD TURF ·USE LESS WATER

By JOHN A. ZOLLER

I grew up on a golf course located outside Hamilton, a small town in Ohio. My earliest recollection of going to the golf course was to tag along after my older brother, who had a summertime job of herding sheep on the course. I also have a second recollection. One day a passing motorist carelessly threw a cigarette out the car window, and a grass fire resulted that burned the entire golf course. Now, when you talk about not willingly wanting a brown golf course, I know what you mean!

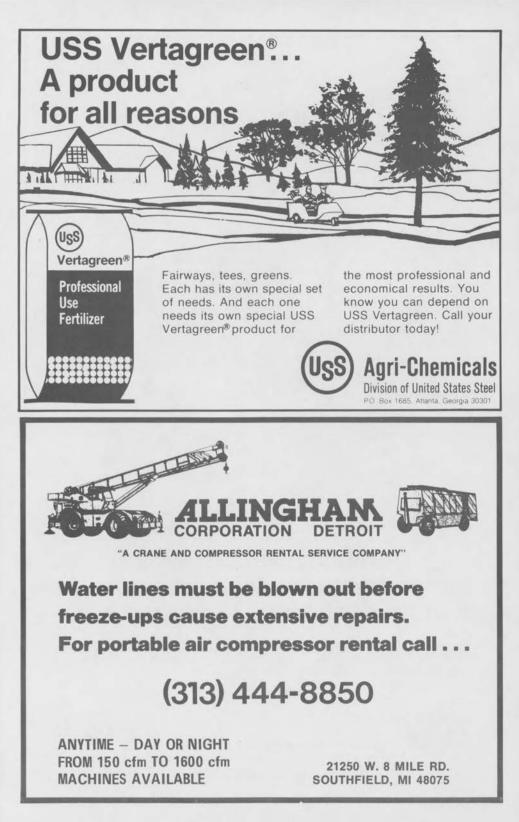
Nevertheless, the game that we played in those days was significanly different from the game we play today. To be specific, the game then was played much more on the ground than in the air, while not the opposite is true. To illustrate this point, it was not unusual at all for the stronger players to consistently drive the 350- to 400-yard holes, and, I assure you, the ball was not in the air this entire distance. I don't know if it still stands, but for the longest hole-in-one was something like 480 yards made by a baseball pitcher named Lou Kretlow, playing on a course in Oklahoma.

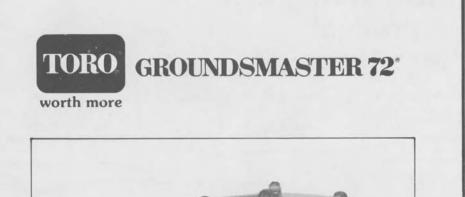
My first experience with a green gold course came when I went to school at Ohio State University and started playing on their magnificent Scarlet Course, which was designed by Alister MacKenzie. This was his last project: he passed away while the course was still under construction. Incidentally, up to this time I had never heard the words poa annua or annual bluegrass, nor had I ever heard of the controversy on the "holding quality of a green." Now for me, the nature of the game had changed. The Scarlet Course had a single-row, center-line irrigation system down the fairways and three or four quick coupler valves were on 100foot spacing with an enormous delivery capacity. I can tell you we could have put out the great Chicago fire in about three minutes with this system. When the grass showed any stress or the greens were a little firm, out went the man with the sprinklers and on came the water. Now it was necessary to learn a completely new game. No longer did we land a ball 20 to 30 yards short of the green and bounce it in; the game became Americanized. The good players learned to carry the ball a great distance in the air. Also, sad to say, we started hearing these new words in golf course maintenance: Poa annua, compaction, holding quality, and weed invasion.

The desire to create and maintain fence-to-fence, park-like conditions

CONTINUED PAGE 11









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Use Less Water, cont.

took over. More and more irrigation systems, were designed to cover the entire acreage; and, in a way, the game became easier. Balls that were struck off-line would no longer roll to the water hazard or to the sand bunker or out-of-bounds but would hit the ground and stop.

As a personal opinion, I see nothing wrong with having areas of great contrast on a golf course. As a matter of fact, I think it gives a very striking effect. I adhere to the philosophy that the playing areas of the course, namely greens, tees and fairways, should be absolutely perfect, but the other areas should not be improved and should be very penal in nature.

At this point, I think the superintendent should understand that the way he maintains his golf course has a strong influence on how the game is played. There is no denying this responsibility; it is the reason why some clubs have a large percentage of lowhandicap players while other clubs have very few. the quality and condition of the golf course produces good players.

The idea that a good fairway is one that is soft and covered with lush green areas is a misconception. Johning Dawson is one of the finest amateur players this country has ever produces, and I have never forgotten a statement he made in addressing a meeting many years ago. He said that he could care less about the condition of the green he is hitting a shot to; what was more important was the condition of the fariway his is hitting the shot from. Give him a firm, tight, well-knit surface to hit from, and he can stop the ball on concrete. There is an excellent article entitled "Firm Greens: Best for You and Your Course," written by Robert Ssommers in the April, 1966 issue of Golf Journal. In this article, a number of prominent people in the game make some very good points. Henry Cotton, who won the British Open three times, said: "The influence of the unknowing member has become notorious in American golf. Unfortunatley, there has been a tendency in recent years. to produce softer conditions for play by CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

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Use Less Water, cont.

encouraging more vigorous grass growth than is necessary. The production of fast-growing soft greens and fairways should be avoided. They result in unnecessary maintenance problems and are not really ideal for the game the truly proficient golfer relies on backspin to stop his shot, not a hose."

It's obvious that the ill effects on too much water can cost you a great deal in terms money, but let's take a moment to look at this from the positive side. What are the desirable results of underwatering?

The best illustration of underwatering that I am aware of, since the courses like the one in Hamilton 40 or 50 years ago, were the courses in California during the droght we "suffered" through in 1977. I use quotation marks for the word "suffered" because as you will understand in amoment, our golf courses didn't really suffer. How many of you have ever turned the water off on a fairway for an extended peroid during the warm months or have been unable to water your greens other than a small amount of hand watering? Obviously, if we made a radical move such as this with our Americanized country clubs and green committees, we wouldn't have a job for long. The point is that the best method of learning the advantages is by first-hand experience. Someone could speak to you all day about what occurs when the water is cut back, but until you actually see it happen, you probably wouldn't believe some of the positive things that take place.

What first occurs, when a fariway is put under stress, is that Poa annua will disappear in a very short time. But what is most remarkable is how well the more drought-resistant strains hang on with practically no moisture at all. If this isn't enough incentive, other moisture-loving weeds, such as daisies and clover, will be unable to survive and no new seedlings will germinate under these conditions.

The basic pattern follows when the greens receive a minimum of water. The Poa begins to suffer while the bent becomes more aggressive and begins to fill the voids. Another welcome ben-

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efit comes in the way of a lesser susceptibility to spike marking and heel prints. Remember, as mentioned before, the greens will still hold a wellstruck iron shot — the backspin makes the ball hold, not guy with a hose or irrigation clock.

William H. Bengefield is quoted as saying: "Too often the superintendent comes under heavy pressure to water the greens so that they will hold a shot. This unfortunate advice must frequently be followed. Wet greens are easily damaged by spikes, ball marks and mowing equipment. Shallow grass roots develop, annual bleugrass invades, and before long, all damaging consequences of poor water management catch up with the turf, the superintendent, and the membership."

I encourage everyone to get a copy of this article for his files — the comments are timeless.

So far we have considered the effect of soft, lush playing conditions on how the game is played. Now let's look at the effect it has on maintenance. In some ways, the technology of the automatic irrigation system has been a major factor in the Americanization of golf. Rather than being certian as to how much water is required for greens, tees, or fairways each day, it becomes far too easy to push a pin or a button on an automatic controller and be assured that no part of the course will become too dry for another day. To make matters worse, the irrigation controllers have capabilities to be programmed for weeks in advance, so any superintendent who can do an effective job of irrigation for more than a day ahead of time has missed his calling. With ever-changing conditions and weather daily monitoring of clocks and controllers is essential if we are to avoid becoming too heavily reliant on the automation of these systems.

It is safe to say that during the growing season, no single responsibility of the superintendent has a greater impact on maintenance budgets and practices than the amount of water he uses. At the basic level of this idea is the fact that in many areas, water and electrical power for pumping have become so expensive they can consume as much as 20 percent of a budget. Consider the amount of your maintenance budget that you could save by cutting back on the practices necessary to combat Poa annua, disease, weed enroachment, and compaction. Conservatively, your maintenance budget would be reduced by as much as 25 percent.

Because of the more favorable variety of grasses and the lower moisture levels, you may also notice far less incidence of disease throughout the course, and with the rising costs of fungicides, we all know how important this can be.

I can't think of a single routine mowing practic e that isn't made easier by avoiding wet spot and an overall soft condition. Areas that are scarred or rutted by mowing equipment and golf carts are no longer a problem with prudent watering.

The most significant aspect of all that we noticed during the drought was that our golfers enjoyed the game as much as ever. Ladies and senior men were thrilled with the added vardage on their shots while the better players found the tight, firm fariway lies ideal for hitting their approach shots to the greens. With the amount of backspin they could put on the ball, they could stop it even on the firmest of greens. After this duscussion, many people would argue that a greener golf course is aesthetically much more pleasing, and I agree that a drought condition is an extreme. But green is a poor excuse for overwatering. With proper levels of well-timed fertilization, the grass will maintain a very attractive color and will be much more durable and vigorous than a grass that gets its color primarily from water.

Certainly we have come along way from that course I played on in Ohio. Our knowledge and technology have taken us great lenghts from having a brown, dry golf course. There must also be a happy medium; the part of the game we have lost can easily be found again. No one could suggest that this brown, dry course would provide the best in playability or looks, but at the same time, with prudent management, we can provide an aesthetically beautiful course suitable for good golf. Credit: "Greensward", Hoosier Turf-

grass Association, May, 1983



Schilling, cont.

Osterman said.

In addition to completing course work on a Master's degree in business administration at the University of Kansas, Schilling has continuously added to his professional development with educational pursuits in the areas of negotiations, marketing, sales, organional management, association managmenet, advertising, magazine publishing and conference and show managment. He graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in Journalism including an emphasis on advertising and minors in the areas of economics, psychology and English.

Schilling began his association management career in 1974, working for an assocation of electric utilities where he was charged with responsibilities in the public relations, education and communication areas.

Schilling, who weill retain his responsibilities as Director of Conference and Show, said he felt honored by the Board's decision.

"Since joining GCSAA several years ago, I have always been proud to work for golf course superintendents and the golf course industry. I've had a keen respect for the position that every member of GCSAA holds in the golf world. Golf is a very special game, and superintendents have the most important and challenging positions in golf management.

"GCSAA plays a very strong and recognized leadership role in the golf and truf industries. However, the key to this role is the strength and ability of each individual superintendent who chooses to join GCSAA to collectively continue to development of the profession and fulfillment of the management responsibilities the superintendent has in golf.

"Economically, the members of GCSAA have temendous clout. This is evident in the longstanding, excellent support GCSAA has received from literally hundreds of top corporations and companies that provide products and services in the golf course management marketplace. I belive that the relationships between these businesses and GCSAA and its members CONTINUED PAGE 16

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Proper Transitional Management, cont.

the day length becomes shorter, the aging process of leaves is accelerated. This can increase disease incidence and severity on older leaves," explains Hodges.

In late spring and summer, leaf spot causes small lesions or spots while in the fall, extensive yellowing of leaves can occur. One infection point may cause an entire leaf to yellow, notes Hodges.

A third factor, which Hodges believes may contribute to the severity of leaf spot, is the common, cultural practice of applying auxin-type pre-emergent herbicides for broadleaf weed control in the fall.

"Although we don't know how frequently this occurs, our studies show that the level of disease development from a single infection will be greater on the plant that has been exposed to auxin-type materials than on a plant that has not been exposed," states Hodges.

He concedes that although the use of these herbicides is part of a superintendent's normal cultural practices, he may counteract some of the possible negative side-effects by extending his fall fungicide control program.

"Disease-causing fungi such as Helminthosporium are present year round in the soil and thatch", states Joseph Niedbalski, TUCO plant health specialist, product/field development. "Because numerous disease organisms are very active in the fall, they directly affect the condition of grass as it enters dormancy."

For this reason, Niedbalski recommends using an effective fungicide, such as Acti-dione . . . the first in late October and the second in early November. However, if disease pressure is severe, earlier and more frequent applications may be necessary. According to Hodges, the fall leaf spot symptoms are less severe in the Midwest than in Eastern states where the transitional period from fall to winter is longer and freeze-up occurs later. "Undercover leaves will show a distinct, severe yellowing in the fall and some mistakenly believe it's senescence. Actually, it's disease," he CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Schilling, cont.

will continue to flourish and grow in the years to come," Schilling said.

[']Under the direction of the GCSAA Executive committee and its various standing committees, the management and staff will contiue a critical review of all Assocation programs and policies. There is abundant opportunity for the Association in the years ahead simply because there is abundant opportunity for the golf course superintendent. It's our responsibility to deliver to our members.

"I sense an overwhilmingly demonstrated mandate from the mebership to set new standards in program development, membership services and fiscal management. All of these areas are of high priority and I urge every member to take an active and participative role in shaping the future of the Association. The Association is accountable to its members. Now is the time — not for long speeches — but for results."

Schilling and his wife, Pamela, reside in Topeka, Kan., with their sons, John and James.

Proper Transitional Management, cont.

states.

In addition to an effective fungicide disease control program, superintendents must follow the proper cultural management practices during the transitional period to: maintain good surfaces for fall play, prepare turf for winter and ensure healthy turf for spring.

Niedbalski recommends using a balanced fertilizer to maintain adequate but not excessive grass growth for a good playing surface. Also, encourage root development by maintaining a proper watering program.

Don't let your turf enter the transitional management period unprotected. "By extending your preventative fungicide control program, you can control leaf spot and other fall diseases and protect your turf from the ravages of the winter season," emphasizes Neidblaski. "A fungicide control program is more economical than turf renovation, and ensures early green-up of healthier turf for early play."

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What The U.S.G.A. is, cont.

body for golf. Its single most important goal is preserving the integrity and values of the game. In attempting to accomplish this, the U.S.G.A. is active in many areas. Perhaps formost among its activities is its Rulesmaking responsibility. Through years of painstaking development, the Rules of Golf, as approved by the U.S.G.A. and the Royal and Ancient Golf Culb of St Andrews, Scotland, have been refined into a judiciously balanced code, rich in logic and common sense, that carefully



guards the traditions of a great sport. The Rules of Golf are used in every golf playing country of the world.

The U.S.G.A also developed and now maintains the national system of handicapping. Every golfer is critically concerned that he or she can compete on an equitable basis with other golfers. The U.S.G.A Gold Handicap System provides the means to do so. The U.S.G.A. is also devoted to preserving the element of skill in golf. This calls for constant resting of new balls, clubs and other equipment so that the traditional character of the game remains paramount. Without this rigorous maintenance of standards, "freak" balls and implements could make a mockery of individual skills and change the very nature of the game.

Of course, amateurism is at the heart of the U.S.G.A., which actively pursues its obligation to support the Rules of Amateur Status that defines who is and who isn't an amateur.

Competition is the incentive for playing the game. In that interest, the U.S.G.A conducts nine national championships annually. Foremost among them are the United States Open Championship and United States Women's Open Championship. All other U.S.G.A. competitions are reticted to amateur golfers. The U.S.G.A also sponsors four international amatuer events:

- With Great Britain, the Walker Cup for men; the Curtis Cup of women.
- With the World Amateur Golf Council, the Eisenhower Trophy for the Men's World Amateur Team Championship, and the Espirito Santo Trophy for the Women's World Amateur Team Championship.

Another of the important functions of the U.S.G.A. is its work in turf and turf management. It provides on-thecourse visits by experienced agronomists to U.S.G.A. Member Clubs subscribing to Turgrass Service. These visits cover the entire range of golf course maintenance, including soil testing, turf culture, seed, fertilizer, watering and control of pests, diseases and weeds. Assistance by correspondence and telephone is available at no charge. The U.S.G.A Green Section Research and Education Fund, Inc. awards grants to universities and other recognized experimental centers to insure better turfgrasses, better maintenance and management practices, better playing conditions, and better golf courses for the future.

U.S.G.A. Green Section

In 1920, the Executive Committee of the United States Golf Association recongized the need for a turf research and advisory group - a single, strong, centralized agency, free from commercial connection, which would be dedicated to developing scientific information for all courses to use to bring about improved playing conditions. The Green Section was created because U.S.G.A. member clubs needed a turf research and advisory agency, impartial and authoriative. The need was first recognized by E. J. Marshall, a Toledo attorney. As Green Committee Chairman of the Inverness Club, he was in charge of preparing his course for the 1920 United States Open Championship. He brought together the U.S.G.A. and the United States Department of Agriculture, which agreed to collaborate. The result was the U.S.G.A. Green Section.

Over the years, the U.S.G.A. Green Section has helped pioneer developments in every phase of golf course maintenance and management, all the way from the control of insects, disease and weeds to the release of such improved grasses as Merion Kentucky bluegrass and Meyer zoyziagrass. The U.S.G.A. Green Section also developed specifications for putting green construction, and it continues to be involved with the search for better grasses, cultural practices, equipment materials and construction methods.

Much of this work has been ac-

complished through the U.S.G.A. Green Section Research and Education Fund, which annually distributes money realized from dues of member clubs from tax-deductible contributions from individuals and organizations. The funds are distributed to a wide range of turfgrass institutions, to support research and to help train the educators, researchers, and innovators who will continue to develop more efficient means of maintaining golf courses.

By 1953, the U.S.G.A Green Section had helped raise the general quality of golf course conditioning and began emphasizing direct assistance to member clubs and courses. The heart of this second major aspect of the U.S.G.A Green Section's mission is the Turf Advisory Service visiting program, conducted by a field staff strategically located in regional offices throughout the United States. These men are highly trained agronomists who specialize in golf course maintenance and management. When for a normal fee, they consult with club officials and management personnel (generally the golf course superintendent and the chariman of the green committee), they bring not only their own expertise, but also the accumulated knowledge and resources of the entire Green Section of the U.S.G.A. Each Turf Advisory Service visit is followed by a written report: the prevailing course conditions, progess that has been made since previous consultations, and suggestions for continuing course development. Further consultation by telephone or mail is always available. In addition, each member club and course receives the Green Section Record, the U.S.G.A 's bi-monthly magazine devoted to golf course management.

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* Heavier Duty Construction
* "Straight-Thru" 2-Stage Design
* 5 HP, 20" Cut; 7 HP, 24" Cut; 8 HP, 28" Cut

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