

THE CONN. CLIPPINGS



DECEMBER 1971

VOL. 4 NO. 5

CAGCS ELECTIONS

The Conn. Association of Golf Course Superintendents held its annual meeting at the Hop Meadow Country Club on November 9. Karnig Oviaan was the host superintendent at the meeting. The highlight of the meeting was the election of officers and directors for the coming year. The following slate of officers was elected:

President: Robert Viera
Vice President: Frank Lamphier
Secretary: David Stimson
Treasurer: James MacDonald
Directors: William Dest
John Lynch
Robert Tosh
Chairman of
Education: Gary Bryant
Public Relations: Harry Meusel
Golf: Roger Barrett
Past President: Charles Baskin

Following the meeting, President Viera announced the following committee assignments for 1972:

1. Membership Committee
John Lynch
2. Educational Committee
Gary Bryant
3. Public Relations Committee
Harry Meusel
4. Welfare Committee
Charles Baskin
5. Golf Committee
Roger Barrett
6. Social Committee
James MacDonald
7. Editorial Committee
William Dest
8. By-Laws Committee
Frank Lamphier
9. Employment Committee
David Stimson

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THE CONN. AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

In 1971 The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station celebrates two anniversaries; the 50th anniversary of the establishment of its laboratory in Tobacco Valley and the centennial of the first scientific research in America on tobacco fertilizers by S. W. Johnson in 1871. Thus, Johnson's work antedated the establishment of the Station by 4 years.

In 1892 E. H. Jenkins conducted the first field and curing experiments made by the Station, in Poquonock.

Jenkins first experiment in curing tobacco by artificial heat ended inconclusively. The barn and his crop burned a few minutes after he left for a vacation.

In 1900 Jenkins first grew Valley tobacco under shade. Without this technique, Connecticut Cigar wrapper tobacco might have lost out to competition long ago.

Shortly after the Station began research in genetics in 1905, scientists began selecting and crossing for improved leaf shape, and later for other qualities.

In 1920 the bacterial disease wildfire was found in the Valley. Growers persuaded the legislature to allocate funds, matched by the growers, to establish a new laboratory. A wood frame building and curing barn were completed in 1923 with funds from the Connecticut Valley Tobacco improvement Association. The present laboratory was completed in 1941.

In 1925 Dr. Paul J. Anderson was appointed director of research at the laboratory, a post he held for 28 years.

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THE GRASS CATCHER

by Charles G. Baskin

Our association Christmas Party will be held at Oak Lane Country Club on Friday, December 10. Reservations are coming in at a fast pace and all indications point to a gathering of over 100 persons for this gala affair.

Failure to yell "fore" cost a Danbury golfer \$2,000. He was made liable for damages in that amount under a judgment handed down in Common Pleas Court in Waterbury. The plaintiff claimed that a golf ball hit by the defendant cut his eyebrow and caused eye injuries. The plaintiff also claimed that the ball which struck him was hit by the defendant from another fairway and that the latter "did not observe the custom or usage of golfers to give an adequate and suitable warning."

You may or may not have heard about the guy who was such a consistent cheat in keeping his golf score that when he scored a hole-in-one, he couldn't keep from writing a "zero" on his score card.

The 1972 Annual Golf Tournament of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will be held at the beautiful and prestigious Killearn Golf and Country Club, Tallahassee, Florida, February 9-11, 1972. The par 72 championship golf course measures 7,029 from the blue tees, featuring challenging holes built into rolling and well wooded terrain. The course is the site of the annual Tallahassee Open Golf Tournament. All Conn. golfers that will be participating in the tournament should contact Frank Lamphier in order that we can place our four best golfers in the tournament on our chapter team (four-man team) to

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CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

President Robert Viera
 Vice President Frank Lamphier
 Secretary David Stimson
 Treasurer James MacDonald

Board of Directors

Roger Barrett	John Lynch
Gary Bryant	Harry Meusel
William Dest	Robert Tosh
Charles Baskin	

The object of this association is to promote research, education and an exchange of practical experiences in the field of turf grass culture so that the increased knowledge will lead to more economic and efficient management of golf courses and related turf areas.

The CONN CLIPPINGS is an official publication of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

Charles G. Baskin, editor
 22 Lee Street
 Waterbury, Connecticut 06708

THE CONN. AGRICULTURAL . . . (continued from page 1)

In 1942, Anderson showed that the fungicide ferbam controlled blue mold without injury to seedlings, and in 1952 that zineb gave control of the disease in the field.

The effectiveness of activated charcoal in "blotting up" unwanted residues in soils was discovered at the Laboratory in 1948.

The Valley Laboratory has had various names during its lifetime of a half century. These names reflect the changes in agriculture and the need for plant science research in the Valley. It was first called the Tobacco Substation. With the rise of cigarette consumption and decline in cigars, vegetables and potatoes entered more into the Valley economy and the laboratory became the Tobacco-Vegetable Substation. As its reputation and scientific stature grew, it was renamed the Valley Laboratory.

The proliferation of housing and industry in the Valley increased the pressure for research on shrubs, lawns, and flowers for the new residences, golf courses, and parks. The need for research on vegetables, potatoes, and tobacco continued.

During the last 10 years the laboratory has become known for research on chemical control of weeds in many crops. Other studies have shown better ways to produce container-grown nursery stock. Air pollution investigations have brought new knowledge of pollutants as they affect plants.

The laboratory serves the area as an information center on plants, soils, and insects. More than 5,000 soil tests are made annually, and non-farmers as well as growers receive advice on plant problems.

HOLLY FOR CHRISTMAS AND LANDSCAPING

Few plants used in home decoration at Christmas equal the holly in showy beauty. Its stiff, shiny, dark-green leaves and brilliant red berries make its boughs outstandingly attractive when fashioned into wreaths and sprays. Use of holly during the Yule season dates back many centuries and, like some other Christmas customs, is associated with ancient legends and beliefs.

To the Druids, a religious order of about 200 B. C., holly was a sacred plant; they believed that its evergreen leaves were proof that it was never deserted by the sun. To the ancient Greeks, holly was a symbol of foresight, and to the Romans it meant defense. In his writings Pliny the Elder advocated planting a holly tree near the home to ward off evil spirits, and it has been said that North American Indians planted holly for the same reason. It was an old Teutonic practice to hang boughs of holly in the house to serve as a refuge for friendly sylvan spirits during cold winter weather. According to tradition if the holly brought into the house at Christmas is smooth, the wife will rule the home through the following year; if it is rough, the husband will rule.

In addition to furnishing Christmas greenery, holly is an excellent ornamental and, in recent years especially, has been used extensively in landscape plantings. It is said there are some 300 or more species of holly in the world, of which about 25 are natives in North America. Some are shrubs, and some are trees that grow to a height of 40 to 50 feet. Some are evergreen, and some are deciduous. Varying with the species, the berries are black, red, or sometimes yellow. The American Holly (*Ilex opaca*) is the species which supplies most of the Christmas decorations.

While most of the hollies are found in warm climate regions, some species and

recently developed varieties are hardy as far north as the Great Lakes States and southern Canada. Generally preferred in landscape plantings are the evergreen species that produce red or yellow berries. These include English Holly (*I. aquifolium*), American Holly (*I. opaca*), Chinese or Horned Holly (*I. cornuta*), Long-stalk Holly (*I. pedunculosa*), Perni Holly (*I. pernyi*), Japanese Holly (*I. rugosa*), and others. In purchasing holly plants it is advisable to buy from a local nursery; this is the best assurance of obtaining a variety that is climatically hardy.

Hollies, in general, are dioecious; staminate or pollen-bearing flowers, and pistillate or fruit-producing blossoms are borne on separate plants. To assure the production of berries, both sexes must be planted in a group; it is generally recommended that at least one staminate holly be planted for every ten pistillate plants. Most of the hollies are relatively free of disease and insect pests, and stand pruning well. While not exacting in soil requirements, holly grows best in well-drained, fertile loam.

THE GRASS CATCHER (continued from page 1)

participate for the Chapter Team Championship.

One of our present troubles seems to be that many adults and not enough children believe in Santa Claus.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will hold its 43rd International Turfgrass Conference and Show from February 13-18, 1972 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The program will include 5 days of educational programs and idea sharing opportunities with top golf course superintendents and educators, plus exhibits of the latest and best in turf maintenance equipment and supplies. This conference is a "must" for the progressive superintendent.

In closing, we all should remember that the most precious gift that is given during the Christmas season, or any time of year, has no price tag — it costs nothing and its value is inestimable. It is a simple act of thoughtfulness, of kindness. Saint Francis expressed the following:

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 Where there is injury, pardon;
 Where there is doubt, faith;
 Where there is despair, hope;
 Where there is darkness, light;
 And where there is sadness, joy.

PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER'S PART IN WATER POLLUTION

Agriculture is being blamed for more than its share of water pollution, Terry J. Logan of the Ohio State University Department of Agronomy reported at the annual meeting of the American Society of Agronomy. Logan just completed a two-year project investigating fertilizer contributions to phosphate pollution of water. Prompted by Ohio's contribution to the eutrophication of Lake Erie, this research determined the effects of rainfall, varying soil types, leaching, and erosion on phosphate movement from the soil to water.

Eutrophication is a natural process whereby algae in a lake grow, die, and are decomposed by oxygen-using bacteria. However, increased amounts of phosphates and nitrates in water provide enough nutrients to speed up this process; then algae reproduce so fast that the bacteria decomposing them take too much oxygen from the water, causing the death of fish and other life forms in the lake.

According to Logan, phosphates may enter the water in two ways - they can reach underground water tables by leaching through soils or they can be carried by eroded soil particles. The main conclusion of his research was that the amount of phosphate that leaches through soil is very minimal. Most soils, especially mineral soils, have a high capacity for holding phosphates, so they reach water tables only in negligible amounts.

Thus, the major contributor to agricultural pollution is erosion. Moreover, soil particles that contain phosphates may wash into streams and lakes but do not necessarily release phosphates into solution. Sometimes the phosphates remain part of the sediment in the water and are unavailable as nutrients for algae. Furthermore, Logan said, if the concentration of phosphate is already higher in the water than it is in the soil particles, the soil may actually absorb phosphates from the water, rather than release them into the water.

These results were obtained using a highly soluble phosphate fertilizer called monocalcium phosphate, or more commonly, super phosphate. Soil samples were representative of Ohio soils in general, and covered a range of textures. A silt loam from southern Ohio had the most phosphate-holding capacity. A fine, sandy-loam from the Fremont area showed the least phosphate-holding ability while a clay loam from near Castalia had a holding capacity in between.

Rainfall did increase the amount of phosphate leaching through the soil, but Logan emphasizes that it was not the amount of rainfall, but the intensity of the rainfall that made the difference.

Since the research for this project was done in the laboratory, Logan said, the quantitative results are not exactly the same as actual field performance. But he adds that qualitatively the lab performance can be expected to be accurately repeated in the field. And although his is the first research set up to study this specific problem, other researchers' projects have yielded evidence that supports Logan's results.

In regard to agriculture's contribution to phosphate pollution, Logan said, "There is no doubt that fertilizing practices cause some pollution. But a common error often results in agriculture being blamed for more than its share. Statistics on agricultural pollution are all too often the result of an estimated amount of industrial and urban sewage pollution being subtracted from a total phosphate figure. This does not take into account the phosphate pollution from woodlands, construction sites, and more sparsely populated areas that are all part of total pollution, but instead are lumped into the figure given for agricultural pollution.

UCONN TO GET NEW HOOP FLOOR

A new wooden portable basketball floor will be installed in the University of Connecticut Field House by time of the Huskies' fourth home game, Dec. 21, against Columbia.

The University Board of Trustees accepted at its meeting Wednesday night the surface to be donated by the Alumni Association. The portable floor will cost approximately \$20,000.

The Uni-Turf surface currently covering the entire Field House floor has presented a problem because of air bubbles which have appeared on the surface. The Uni-Turf floor was installed four years ago at a cost of \$90,000. American Biltrite, manufacturer of Uni-Turf, had to replace the surface two years ago because of bubbling. The problem recurred recently, prompting the Alumni Association to make its generous offer. Ed. Note:

American Biltrite is the same company that manufactured the Poly-Turf surface that is on the Orange Bowl, causing it to be dubbed "Funny Field." The Orange

Bowl surface is now pale blue and very slippery. In the first two home games this year for the Miami Dolphins, no fewer than 114 slips were recorded by the Dolphins and their opponents. Reports state that the polyester fibers had melted under the brilliant Florida sun, causing the field to become as slick as ice.

WINTER WORK WITH TREES

In work pertaining to shade trees there are at least two kinds of jobs that can be done to advantage during the winter months — removal of dead wood, and transplanting large trees.

REMOVAL OF DEAD WOOD. This includes entire trees that have been killed by disease, drought or other adversities, individual dead branches on living trees, and stubs left from branches broken during storms. Dead trees and dead branches detract from the beauty of home landscaping, may fall and cause bodily injury or damage to property, and often provide snug winter quarters for insects that are harmful to living plants. In living trees, dead branches and branch stubs are invaded by wood-rotting fungi which may pass downward and cause cavities in the trunk.

Removal of dead wood in the winter is advantageous in several respects: (1) Service by competent arborists is more readily available than at any other time of year since winter weather conditions usually inhibit many phases of arboricultural work. (2) Harmful insects and, in some cases, fungus diseases that overwinter in or on dead wood are destroyed. (3) Potential "entrance gates" for woodrotting fungi are eliminated. (4) Usually the soil surface is firm during the winter; therefore the felling of dead trees and removal of large dead branches can be accomplished with a minimum of damage to the lawn. (5) Unsightly and hazardous wood is removed before the spring and summer seasons when the beauty of the landscaping is at its peak, and the lawn area is most used.

TRANSPLANTING LARGE SHADE TREES. In transplanting large trees they are dug and moved with a ball of earth tightly bound and kept intact around the roots. This procedure is followed to keep disturbance of the root system to a minimum, an extremely important factor in the establishment of the tree in its new location.

While large trees, in general, can be moved successfully at any time of year if given proper care during and following the transplanting operations, winter is the

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WINTER WORK WITH TREES
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preferred season for this work. When trees in full leaf are moved, materials must be used to retard transpiration; this expense is eliminated in winter transplanting, for at that time the trees are dormant and little moisture is given off into the atmosphere from the stems. A large tree moved with a ball of earth is heavy; earth weighs more than a ton per cubic yard, and to the weight of the ball must be added the weight of the tree. Necessarily, heavy equipment is used in moving large trees. Obviously, the firmer the soil surface, the less damage there is to the turf when a tree is planted in a lawn area.

There is much to recommend the planting of large trees. Specimens well along in their growth pattern may be selected. The season after transplanting they will provide the shade and beauty associated with mature trees.

ORIGIN OF SOME CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

During the Christmas season the lovely strains of "Silent Night, Holy Night" echo in every city, village and home throughout the land. This popular Christmas carol is said to have been written in December, 1818, by Joseph Mohr, a priest of the church of Saint Nicola, in the village of Oberndorf, near Salsburg, Austria, and set to music composed by the church's assistant organist, Franz Gruber.

The first Christmas greeting card was

designed in England, but there is some uncertainty as to the artist and the date. Some say the first card was designed in 1842 by W. M. Engley, Jr., while others credit a card drawn by John Calcott Horsely in 1843 as being the first. It is said that the first lithographed, hand-colored Christmas cards were sold in 1846 in London. Greeting cards were introduced to America when in 1874 Louis Prang, a Boston lithographer, placed his cards on the market.

CAGCS ELECTIONS
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Robert Tosh
- 11. National Affairs
Frank Lamphier
- 12. Scholarship & Research Committee
Harry Meusel

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