

NORTHERN MICHIGAN TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

C. E. "TUCK" TATE, PRESIDENT
FREDERICK J. POWELL, VICE PRESIDENT

BEARD
COLLECTION

FRANK HEMINGER, SECRETARY-TREAS.

1147 SANTO
TRAVERSE CITY, MI. 49684
PHONE: 616-947-9274

On behalf of our Board of Directors, we would like to wish everyone a "Very MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR" filled with good health, good weather, good turf and very few problems in maintaining your beautiful area.

This being our first message since our social party on October 23rd held at Michawye Hills Country Club, we would like to say that any of you that missed this affair have left a void in your life. It was delightful in every respect, starting with a "happy Hour", thanks to Ferguson's, W.F. Miller Co., Sandy Mac Corp. and Spartan Distributors. This followed by an excellent dinner of prime roast beef cooked as only Michawye Hills can do with a followup of three hours of dancing and entertainment by a wonderful two piece band that really had rhythm, beat, song, who could ask for more. All in all a very delightful evening regardless of the fact that there was inches of snow on the golf course. It was an evening to be remembered.

The next big date on your calendar should be January 18 and 19th, 1977, the dates of the 47th Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference, Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. An excellent program with out of state speakers:

Dr. Ralph Engel, Turfgrass Management, Rutgers University
Dr. James Latham, Agronomist, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission
Dr. Robert Shearman, Turfgrass Specialist, University of Nebraska
Dr. James Wilkinson, Director of Research, Chem-Lawn Corp. and formerly at Ohio State University

Registration begins Tuesday morning - January 18th, 8:00 A.M. and Conference starts at 9:00 A.M. Any further question, please contact Dept. of Crop & Soil Sciences, M.S.U., E. Lansing, Michigan 48824.

Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association membership for 1977 will soon be going to press therefore anyone that has not paid their 1977 dues, given any change of address, new telephone number or club affiliation change, could come up with a wrong listing or no listing at all if 1976 or 1977 dues have not been paid at the time of printing. Please bring yourself up to date without further notice by sending your check to our Sec.-Treas. Frank Heminger, whose address is listed above.

Pesticides made easy for superintendent

If you are preparing for federal or state tests leading to certification or licensing as a pesticide applicator, a new publication may be just the thing you need to get ready.

Entitled *Pesticides: An Auto-Tutorial Approach*, the book was written by George W. Ware, professor and head of the entomology department at the University of Arizona.

Fundamentals of pesticide chemistry are thoroughly covered, along with how various pesticides work and how they can be handled safely. Ware also studies the applicator's appreciation for the "super chemicals" of the 20th century. The book is available from the W. H. Freeman Co., 660 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94104.

Michigan Department of Agriculture will conduct the "Pesticide" examination at Traverse City Golf & Country Club for N.M.T.M.A. members, May 9th, 1977. Further information will be forthcoming in future letters to you.

Are you drowning your own course?

George Blake of the Soil Science Department, University of Minnesota, passes along this tip to superintendents about overwatering your course. According to Blake, too much water is wasted on golf courses these days.

"Plants normally grow if watered thoroughly, but less frequently," says Blake. "Healthy roots aren't developed in wet soils. They develop during the drying out cycle."

Some overwatering problems are due to poor system design. A good shop drawing is one thing, but more often than not systems are set up without taking into consideration the contours and low ground areas on the course.

Cut down on your sprinkling time. See how little irrigation you can get away with. Adjust down till you border on the lean side. Your turf should respond with greater health and vigor.

1977 GCSAA Conference To Explore Synergism; Tournament in Monterey

The 48th International Turfgrass Conference and Show, sponsored by GCSAA, will attract some 5,000 members, exhibitors, speakers and representatives of allied associations, government, industry and education to the gem of the Pacific Northwest, Portland, Ore., Feb. 6-11, 1977.

The theme of the Conference is "Turfgrass Management: A Synergistic Approach," and the educational program will focus on the interdependence and interrelationships among the many parts of golf course management. More than 70 speakers will address 20 educational sessions and four preconference seminars. The keynote speaker will be Heywood Hale Broun, CBS sports essayist and commentator.

In addition to more than 500 hours of educational opportunities, the Conference and Show will offer more than 100,000 square feet of exhibits, tours of the Oregon seed industry and five Portland area golf courses, a women's program featuring a tour of the Pacific coast and inland forest areas, social events and the GCSAA annual meeting and election.

Before the Conference begins, a maximum of 200 persons will play in the 1977 GCSAA Golf Tournament, Feb. 3 and 4, on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula in California. The tournament courses will be Spyglass Hill and the Dunes Course at the Monterey Peninsula Country Club. No practice rounds will be played at either course because of extensive advance bookings, but there will be practice rounds at other courses. Details will be available at check-in at the Monterey Holiday Inn on Feb. 2. The women's tournament will be Feb. 3 at the Rancho Canada Golf Club. The tournament registration deadline for both men and women is Dec. 31.

Conference brochures and registration materials have been sent to all GCSAA members. Nonmembers may request materials from GCSAA Headquarters, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, Kan. 66044.

A little girl was watching her mother spread cold cream on her face. "What's it for, Mummy?" she asked.

"That's to make me beautiful, darling," replied the mother.

The little girl watched her mother in silence until the mother began to remove the cream. Then in a tone of sadness she whispered, "It didn't work, did it?"

BIRD LIST - If you are going out for some bird watching this holiday season, you might check with DNR Wildlife Division, Box 30028, Lansing, Mi. 48909 and ask for their free pocket size checklist of all bird species seen in Michigan since 1965.

HB 6139 - The Governor of Michigan signed into law this bill which allows homeowners a property tax exemption for up to \$4,000 worth of repairs each year, such as painting, new plumbing, roofs, or driveway and/or sidewalk repair. Write your Representative for a copy of the House Bill.

There's one good thing about having an unlisted number. If you get an obscene call, at least you know its from a friend -----?

Maples Directs GCSAA Education

Palmer Maples Jr. has been appointed director of education for GCSAA, according to an announcement by the executive director, Conrad L. Scheetz. Maples, a past president of the Association, will begin his new duties the first of December.

His qualifications are impressive: He has been a golf course superintendent for 17 years, first at the Charlotte (N.C.) Country Club and most recently at The Standard Club in Atlanta. He is a certified golf course superintendent, he completed a two-year turf course at Abraham Baldwin College in Tifton, Ga., and he studied agronomy at North Carolina State College and Texas A & M before graduating from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Science degree in agronomy.

As director of education, Maples will produce and disseminate teaching aids, coordinate the educational program for the International Turfgrass Conference and Show, oversee GCSAA's certification program, develop educational seminars and assist with the Association's Scholarship and Research Fund.

A member of GCSAA for 16 years, Maples served as secretary-treasurer in 1973, as vice president in 1974 and as president in 1975. He is currently serving as a director in his capacity as immediate past president, but he will resign when he joins the GCSAA staff.

Maples also has been a member of the Carolinas GCSA, which he served as vice president and president, a member of the Georgia GCSA, which he served as a director, and a member of the Southern Turfgrass Association and the USGA Green Section Committee.

He is married and the father of six children.

Several elderly church members were being asked to what they attributed their longevity.

"Anna, why do you think God has permitted you to reach the age of 92?" one wealthy old lady was asked.

Without hesitation she responded: "To test the patience of my relatives."

Standing Still Is Falling Behind

Johnny Miller, sometimes called the pro tour's thinking golfer, commented recently that many golfers reach a certain level of perfection and then can't seem to progress any further. That's because they don't keep learning constantly, in spite of how much they already know.

The good golf course superintendent is much like those golfers. He often has reached an admirable level of perfection — his course is in great shape, he knows what to watch out for and how to treat problems, and things generally are going along quite well.

But then something happens. Maybe it isn't noticeable for a while, but slowly, almost imperceptibly, things begin to go downhill compared to other courses. That isn't because the once-expert superintendent has lost what he already knew. It's often because he has failed to keep up with new ideas, products and methods in golf course management.

Those superintendents have become confident and satisfied, and with good reason. But in today's world where things move rapidly, standing still is really the same as falling behind.

How can the superintendent keep up and progress? First he can consciously think about and work at learning new things. It's easy to get caught up in the day-to-day operational decisions and problems and not find the time or the motivation to look into new developments, including some that might not directly apply to him and his course.

Where can a person look for new ideas? There are the obvious answers — books, papers, magazines, literature about new equipment and products, GCSAA Conference and Show, seminars, and chapter meetings.

Volunteering to teach someone else is a way for some superintendents to progress professionally. The students' questions and the superintendent's preparations to teach open up areas the superintendent might not have thought about for a long time. Everyone who teaches also learns.

Some superintendents continue to grow by speaking at meetings, offering to teach their specialties to younger superintendents and working more closely with their crews. Some take on handicapped workers and teach them useful skills. At the same time, the superintendents learn more about their own courses, themselves and turf management procedures.

Taking extension courses through a university is another way to increase knowledge, and so is delving deeply into a subject that has been interesting for years but that there has never been time to really study. To understand turfgrass physiology, for instance, a superintendent could take advantage of the many excellent books on the subject and he could also talk with university, extension and industry experts who are nearby or accessible.

Sharing knowledge enriches the sharer doubly, and writing an article for a magazine is one way to share. How about THE GOLF SUPERINTENDENT?

Challenging yourself and your knowledge through testing is another way many people have chosen to improve themselves. While it soon will be a requirement in all states for superintendents to be tested if they use restricted chemicals on their courses, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has offered superintendents the professionalism yardstick of a certification program since 1971.

Preparing for any test will require you to at least refresh your knowledge if you want to perform acceptably on the test, and it usually will reveal new areas of knowledge you may have overlooked. Similar to most professional association certification programs, and like the

licensing requirements of other professionals (teachers and pilots, e.g.), the GCSAA certification calls for continued demonstration of improvement at least every five years in order to renew certification. Certified Golf Course Superintendents demonstrate their abilities and knowledge and they thereby challenge themselves, for their personal betterment and that of the profession.

Most of all, growth can come from listening to what others have to say. Johnny Miller put it this way: "I'm not afraid to listen to anybody ... because I feel that if you're smart and know what you're doing, then another guy might say something that's not even right but it will spur you to think about something that is right. Or he may trigger some thought. You might be able to take a primary level thought and go ahead and put it up at the ... level in your own mind. If it's not a good thought you can just say it doesn't work for you. So I don't mind listening to anybody. I love to talk to people."

Cultivating the skill of listening makes it possible for even experts to learn from other experts and from amateurs. Being an expert in one's field today doesn't necessarily mean that a person will be an expert in that field tomorrow. Stagnation is negative, no matter at which level it sets in, and it can be avoided by concentrating and making continued efforts to grow and progress. Remember, no one really stands still, because those who stand still are quickly passed by others.

FORE FRONT
published by the
**Golf Course Superintendents
Association of America**
1617 St. Andrews Drive,
Lawrence, Kansas
Executive Director — Conrad Scheetz
Director of Communications —
Douglas Fender
Associate Writer — Diane M. Wilson

Endurance is the best
success insurance.
ARNOLD GLASOW

G.C.S.A.A. Executive Committee has just announced that the proceedings of the 1977 Conference at Portland will be published and available at a cost of \$3.00 per copy to GCSAA members and \$4.50 to non-members. Orders will be taken during the Conference in Portland and through GCSAA Hdq. in Lawrence, Kansas. The deadline for orders is Feb. 14, 1977. Payment must accompany all orders.

1977 G.C.S.A.A. Membership Directory to be mailed Dec. 1st or very shortly thereafter to current members. Non-members can obtain a copy by sending \$25.00 to GCSAA Hdq. at Lawrence, Kansas. Members wanting additional copies may get them at a cost of only \$2.00 by forwarding payment to Hdq.

Due to a tax reform law, exhibitors will be allowed to take over the counter orders for the first time at Portland. Bring along your checkbook and make your deal on the spot for new equipment.

**"Do more than exist ---live
Do more than touch--- feel
Do more than look --- observe
Do more than hear --- listen
Do more than listen - understand
Do more than talk -----
SAY SOMETHING."**

John H. Rhoades

*When we are young—
and some of us never get over it—
we are apt to think that applause,
conspicuousness and fame
constitute success. But they
are only the trappings, the
trimmings. Success itself is
the work, the achievement that
evokes these manifestations.
The man or woman who values the
applause more than the effort
necessary to elicit it is not apt
to be deafened—at least not for
any length of time. Concentrate
on your work and the applause
will take care of itself.*

B.C. FORBES