

# NORTHERN MICHIGAN TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

*James B. Beard*

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## CHRISTMAS 1980



"Seasons Greetings" - May the years  
of your life be pleasant,  
May your beautiful dreams come true,  
And in all that you plan and prac-  
tice,  
May blessings decend on you,  
May the trail of your life lead  
onward,  
With many surprises in store, and  
the days that were happy and golden,  
Prove merely the promise of more.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Your Board of Directors would like to add to the above and wish everyone the finest Christmas ever and a very Happy New Year, filled with good health, good weather, good turf, cooperation with Mother Nature and very few problems in maintaining your beautiful green area in 1981.

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October 25th was our big Social Party at Shuss Mountain. We would be remiss if we did not thank the social committee for arranging one of the nicest evenings that we could have had. The people at Shuss did themselves proud by serving one of the best meals that this writer has had in a long while. Also special thanks to our hosts of our "Get Acquainted" party preceeding the dinner, W.F. Miller Co., Sandy-Mac Corporation, Spartan Distributors and the reps from O.M. Scott & Sons, Jim Bogart and Jim Brocklehurst. Also special thanks goes to our Master of Ceremonies "Andy" Bertoni who was at his best in keeping everyone rolling in the aisles with laughter. It was a memorable evening in spite of being a bit chilly.

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1981 is just around the corner and we must think in terms of what will happen then and the first big thing on the calendar will be January 13 and 14. These are the two days of the 51st Michigan Turfgrass Conference at Kellogg Center for continuing Education at Michigan State University. We hope that everyone of you will mark your calendars so that you will be there as a very special Turf Conference is planned with outstanding speakers from Michigan State and also from out of state. Dr. Al Turgeon, Texas A. & M. University, Dr. Tom Watsche, Penn State University, Dr. Don White, University of Minnesota and much, much, more!!!!

Some of the Conference topics will be:

Dormant Nitrogen Fertility -- Is It for You!  
Sand Top Dressing -- Pros and Cons After Another Year of Experience  
Pre-Emergence Herbicide -- How Thatch and Irrigation Effect Their Longevity  
Fairway Yellowing During The Summer of 1980

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Praise is priceless—and costless.

## Classic What?

In evaluating his decade-long swing-tinkering on the PGA Tour, it dawned on old friend **Allen Miller** that the legends of the sport, those who made indelible marks, almost to a man, had something less than what theorists would call classic swings. **Harry Vardon** and **Bob Jones** "broke" left elbows in the upswing. **The Halg** looked as if he were straddling a drainage ditch and lashed at the ball as if hitting a triple to right. **Ben Hogan I** was the model for the former **Bauer** sisters' backswing-touch-the-turf style, and **Ben Hogan II**, after the accident, was flat and did things with hand position within the swing still a mystery. Only **Sam Snead**, in this roll call so far, possessed a lyrical action. **Arnold Palmer** blocked from a dreaded hook to such an extent his followthrough was a corkscrew to accommodate.

**Gary Player** seldom is on balance, and he has had several swings in a distinguished and lengthy career, the latest and longest-lived being a violent turnover at impact. **Jack Nicklaus**, as everyone knew at the beginning, would have to rid himself of that flying right elbow. And now **Tom Watson**. His ultra-quick lower body action, when timed properly, produced such things as three rounds of 65 at Firestone. When timing is off, it causes a 75, as it did at Firestone this year.

"What does all this mean?" Miller asks himself. "The perfect swing is one that suits a particular player and gets the job done at the moment of impact. **Miller Barber**, **Doug Sanders**, **Gay Brewer** ... all winners ... but with, in order, a drastically-flying right elbow, an open-to-open swing, and a loop at the top of the backswing. One has to think, with this evidence, so what? Do your own thing if it gets the job done. Sure there is constant refinement and improvement and ongoing learning process on tour by all players. But it is obvious, don't you think, that these great players basically played with what they had going for them, and well? This may be a contribution to a sport I love. If a youngster has made the PGA Tour, then his swing need not be drastically altered. To become a winner, a player needs a swing he can trust, then he needs to understand what his nervous system is doing under fire and learn to control it. Lastly, he either needs to increase his arsenal of shots, or avoid shots that have not been practiced to a degree that they come naturally during competition."

Hey, Allen, you left **Lee Trevino** off that list. "The best shotmaker on tour and uses a wedge stance. I rest my case."

## What Is Happiness?

**G**olf is happiness for  
Happiness is achievement  
The father of achievement is motivation  
The mother is encouragement  
The fine golf swing is truly achievement  
Man may lie, cheat, and steal for gain  
But, these will never gain the golf swing  
To gain the golf swing man must work  
Yet it is work without toil  
It is exercise without the boredom  
It is intoxication without the hangover  
It is stimulation without the pills  
It is failure yet its successes shine even more brightly  
It is frustration yet it nourishes patience  
It irritates yet its soothing is far greater  
It is futility yet it nurtures hope  
It is defeating yet it generates courage  
It is humbling yet it ennobles the human spirit  
It is dignity yet it rejects arrogance  
Its price is high yet its rewards are richer  
Some may say it is a boy's pastime yet it builds men  
It is a buffer for the stresses of today's living  
It cleanses the mind and rejuvenates the body  
It is these things and many more for those of us  
who know it and love it.

Golf is truly Happiness.

Paul Berthold

Patient: "Doctor, is there anything wrong with me? Don't frighten me half to death by giving it a long scientific name. Just tell me in plain English."

Doctor: "Well, to be perfectly frank, you are just plain lazy."

Patient: "Thank you doctor. Now please give me the scientific name for it so I can tell the family."

### The Famous Phrase

If 100 persons are asked who first said, "of the people, by the people, for the people," probably 99 out of the 100 will reply, "Lincoln"; and, in all probability, the hundredth will add, "in his Gettysburg Address."

The famous phrase, familiar to millions of schoolchildren and their elders actually is 578 years old, and once appeared in the Bible! In John Wycliffe's introduction to his translation of the Bible, published in England in 1382, these words occurred: "This Bible is for the Government of the People, by the People, and for the People."

## TROUBLESHOOTING YOUR CHAIN SAW

For many people, winter's onset means that it's time to lay in a supply of firewood. Others will take advantage of the slow season to clear away unwanted brush and dead trees. Whatever the reason, it's time to get your chain saw running right.

If yours doesn't sound quite right, or if it isn't cutting properly, the problem might be a simple one that you could correct easily. Check in your owner's manual for a troubleshooting guide which correlates symptoms with possible mechanical problems and corrections. If your manual is lost, refer to this guide prepared by the John Deere Company, Moline, IL.

1. *Poor Cutting.* First, check the chain. It may be dull or have been improperly sharpened. Also, while wearing gloves, check the chain tension by lifting the chain at the center of the guidebar until the bar itself lifts up. The bottom of the drive lug should be flush with the top of the guide bar. Is the guide bar damaged? Is the chain installed backward? Always put the chain on the guide bar so that the top cutting edges face the nose of the bar.

If the chain and guide bar check out, then the problem may be in the power supply. Check for dirt in the exhaust ports and muffler, and look for a dirty fuel filter. Finally, adjust the carburetor.

2. *Oiler not working.* Maybe it's simply out of oil, or the oil supply hole is plugged. See if the oil strainer is dirty. Perhaps the vent in the oil tank cap is plugged. BE sure the oiler is adjusted correctly.

3. *Engine won't start.* Read the operator's manual or call a dealer to check the proper starting procedure. It could be out of gas or simply flooded. If the sparkplug is fouled, replace it. Check the carburetor adjustment.

4. *Engine dies or accelerates poorly.* This problem can be caused by a fouled spark plug, a dirty air cleaner, or plugged vent on the fuel tank cap. Maybe the saw simply ran out of gas. The carburetor could be adjusted incorrectly.

If after you check the problems listed, the symptoms persist, take the chain saw to a dealer who offers repair service.

## GCSAA GOLF TOURNAMENT TO BE PLAYED AT INDUSTRY HILLS GOLF CLUB

On site registration and the posting of scores will be set up at the Inn at the Park Hotel. Practice rounds may be played on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 20 & 21. The GCSAA golf tournament will be played on Thursday and Friday, January 22 & 23, at Industry Hills Golf Club. The participants will play on two eighteen hole courses, the Babe Zaharias and the Dwight D. Eisenhower. There will be a 10:00 a.m. shot-gun start for both days. Bus transportation to and from the hotel to the golf course will be provided on both days. There will be a luncheon on Thursday and a banquet on Friday, both of which will be held out at Industry Hills.

The ladies will be playing their tournament out at Anaheim Hills C.C. on Thursday, January 22. There will be starting times from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. They will also have a practice round on Wednesday, January 21. Bus transportation to and from the hotel to the golf course will be provided for both days.

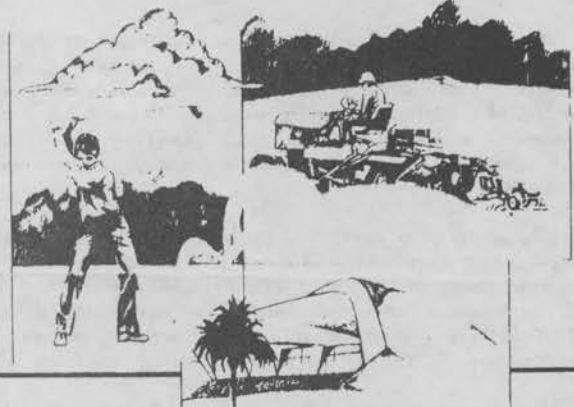
"MEETING GOLF'S CHALLENGES EFFICIENTLY"

JANUARY 25-30, 1981

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA



## 52nd International Turfgrass Conference & Show



Golf course managers, educators and industry representatives from around the world will gather in Anaheim, California Jan. 25-30 for the 52nd International Turfgrass Conference and Show. Join them for this once-a-year opportunity to learn about the latest developments in turfgrass management, services and equipment.

Non-GCSAA members may use the coupon below to request materials. Please complete and send to GCSAA Headquarters, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

Send to GCSAA Conference and Show materials to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Firm \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

### Conference Highlights Include

- Pre-conference Seminars
- Four Days of Education Sessions
- Turfgrass Industry Show
- Annual Meeting & Election
- Ladies Program
- Certification Examination
- Social Events
- Golf Course Tour

## Convention Costs Deductible

Information from Society of American Florists:

Travel, hotel and meal expenses incurred while attending business meetings such as conventions are deductible on your tax returns, but record keeping and documentation requirements must be followed. Records must be kept of:

1. The amount of expenses
2. Dates and distances traveled
3. The business purpose of the trip

The first two requirements will be satisfied if records are retained in a diary - with an accurate listing of all expenses. Each expense item must indicate date, place and business purpose.

Mileage, gas, tolls and other out-of-pocket expenses are also deductible. IRS agents customarily scrutinize travel expense deductions which appear to be "vacations in disguise."

It's good insurance to retain general documentation (such as a convention program book) to demonstrate the serious business nature of the meeting. The final indication of business purpose is the motivation for a participant's attendance at a meeting or convention.

The true test - and the one generally accepted as valid by IRS agents - is whether attendance advanced or benefited the business interest of the individual attending the conference.



# Golf Course Superintendents Association

## PRO OR AM?

Patrick Smartt

It would not be inaccurate to say that golf architects (I know three, though not closely) in general view golfers, in particular committees, as morons. Golfers, in their turn, incline to regard the architect as an invention of the devil, and the committee morons for calling upon him. They dislike paying out money for a task they consider could be carried out by themselves.

I have in mind alterations to existing holes. It should be obvious that the planning of a new course out of virgin woodland, or using to their best advantage the sweeps and folds of commonland can be left only to the professional designer. He has three primary qualities: knowledge, experience and imagination. He can see the wood for trees.

Though, to adapt the words of P. G. Wodehouse (I think in reference to bishops), the incidence of insanity among architects is not high, two of these gentlemen, of different firms and editors of different journals, have accepted my effusions. I put that forward as the reason for my presumption in discussing the make-up of golf holes. I have been on both sides of the fence. During 25 years in the colonies (an archaic word), in the absence of anyone else I was invited on three occasions to 'improve' holes, thus becoming, may I be forgiven, an amateur architect. The bush had already been cleared, inevitably in dead straight tram-lines... no imagination.

A good golf hole is one that makes the useful player scratch his head a bit when on the tee. His drive must be placed so that the green, if not the flag, should be 'open house' for the second. But, *and this is important*, the ordinary club member who is not looking for and unlikely to achieve a four, must have an alternate route so that he may enjoy his game; which when all is said and done, is the reason why he pays a subscription. And that surely is the practical idea of a hole. It is possible for a single, intelligently sited bunker to govern the tactical play of a hole.

In this discourse I should mention, with the purpose of my editor retaining his reason, that there is a clause in most journals to the effect that the editor does not necessarily agree with his contributors' opinions.

It is interesting to take a look at some old courses that have not altered over the years. It can be that even the old diehards would agree with certain changes. I believe that the first act of an architect would be to abolish a large number of bunkers. These in the old days were placed to punish the poor players. A stupid policy, for in that category he has quite enough on his hands in reaching the hole at all. Those pointless bunkers, those ancient barrows planted with primness on either side of the fairway - catch the sliced or pulled drive, and repeated some way from the green to trap the inferior second. They are, so far as the good striker is concerned, redundant. Today he can carry them. Fill them in. They cost money in upkeep. Let the long-handicap player when he errs,

which is often, finish in the rough; that will give him plenty of food for thought. The erasing of bunkers should be left to an architect, otherwise you have conflict in the club between the habitual slicers and the habitual hookers.

It is the good player who should be challenged, both in his thinking and his strokemaking. He must be forced to calculate risks: by how much dare he cut off a corner, will it or will it not pay him to go for the pin with his next? He should be made to think on every stroke in the round.

There is a school, small, may Allah be praised, who wish to replace rough grass, heather or bracken -- with trees. In earlier days a ball in the rough could be counted as costing half a stroke. With trees it depends which side of the tree the ball strikes.

The only bad hole is one that is featureless and dull. Luck? We hear too much of so-called unfairness. Bernard Darwin when writing on this asked: "Do we wish to raise the game to the bloomless heights of chess?" I confess to a weakness for blind holes -- fun and luck. I can, however, picture what would happen to the professional designer who introduced one into his plan. And yet life consists of wondering what lies on the other side of the hill.

There is a delusion that a good player can lay out a good hole. There was a famous amateur international, a good friend of mine now dead, who for no apparent reason layed down a green close to the existing one. I paced its area one day. Seven paces wide, 12 from front to back. He did me the honour of asking what I thought of it. My reply was that given a medium or long iron to this unwatered green, I would bet against Henry Cotton at his best leaving the ball on that green more than three times in 20 attempts. It was never used.

I recall a course which was altered by a famous professional. The members, who contributed to the cost, now find it takes half an hour longer to complete the round. There is a new short hole, a feature of which I cannot fathom. The teeing-ground is at the top green defended immediately in front by a stream. An out-of-bounds fence on the left. Just over the water hazard and a sentinel over the left entrances to the green stands a tree. The right-hand side is open, calling for a downhill chip. So far, so good. But just beyond that tree is a bunker. What for? One or the other is dispensable. That is an isolated case. If alterations are to be made, I come down heavily on the side of the Pro architect against the Am.

There remains one question. Provided the course is not one of those that caters for professional tournaments, or upkeep is a burden, why not leave things as they are? In short, committees are not elected to change a course.

*The British Golf Greenkeeper*

A judge asked a man why he had not spoken to his wife for three years. He replied, "I didn't want to interrupt her."

## THE FERTILIZER FACTS AND FICTION OF BLENDED VERSUS GRANULATED

For those who make a livelihood by maintaining fine turf, as well as the do-it-yourself homeowner who is particular about his picturesque lawn, high quality fertilizer is indispensable. This means the right nutrients must be present. It also means good storage, handling and spreading properties. Here is where the manufacturer's skill and integrity are paramount. As it is with most things, there is the right and wrong way to manufacture fertilizer.

Companies selling ammoniated or granulated turf fertilizers sometimes point an accusing finger at blended products and claim they are inferior. In many cases, this has been a fair accusation but with others it was a way to divert scrutiny of their own products.

Generally, dry blended fertilizer is made specifically for bulk farm spreading and crop use. Farm fertilizers tend to be high in phosphorous and potash and low in nitrogen. Almost the opposite is required by turf. As a consequence, most blenders combine Ammonium Nitrate (33½-0-0) or Urea (45-0-0) with Triple Super Phosphate (0-60-0), Diammonium Phosphate (18-46-0), Muriate of Potash (0-0-62), and limestone. Some of these raw materials are high in salt content and are immediately available. Because of the large volume of fertilizers needed by farmers, cost is an important consideration. Blenders tend to buy the best deal in price and sometimes sacrifice uniformity in particle size. Fertilizers lacking particle uniformity would not be recommended for turf.

The quality and analysis accuracy of ammoniated or granulated fertilizer is almost entirely dependent upon the manufacturer's facilities and the plant superintendent. The best superintendents or ammoniating foremen are those having the experience and know-how of when and how much of each ingredient to add to get an acceptable granule. It is a skill learned over the years that not everyone can master. If ammoniated products are not dried properly in production or are not able to "cure" (chemically react) in bulk storage they may harden after they are bagged, thus making application difficult and tedious.

It is very rarely true that each granule in an ammoniated product contains the same analysis as printed on the bag. The larger granules tend to be high in phosphate and the smaller are high in potash. Many times, the fines are 100% potash. Most farm grades are easy to ammoniate because they are high in phosphate content. Phosphoric acid helps the granulation process and produces a harder granule. An easy analysis to ammoniate would be a 1-2-1 ration, such as 5-10-5. The higher the nitrogen and potash and the lower the phosphate, the more difficult the ammoniation process.

The home lawn analysis, 20-10-5, has been popular for a long time, not because it is a good ratio for grass, but because its high phosphate content makes it easier to granulate. A 25-5-10 analysis would be a very difficult fertilizer to manufacture and in some plants it would be impossible. A high concentration analysis like 25-5-10 or 33-3-10 doesn't allow room in the formula for the chemical reaction needed to create the necessary granulation action. That is why a low analysis high phosphate product can be hard, free flowing, uniform and dust free. On the other hand, a high analysis, low phosphate fertilizer might be inconsistent in particle size with a soft surface that cannot withstand transportation and wears down causing a dusty product. Some companies will make a base grade and blend nitrogen with it to form a high nitrogen analysis with better spread-ability. In this case, you have a blended product of nitrogen and base.

The key to a good blended product is uniformity in particle size. If the manufacturer buys raw materials with uniform screen size as a prime consideration, uses good judgment and housekeeping to eliminate dust, and screens the finished product, an excellent non-segregating free flowing fertilizer can be the result. A company that uses these practices had a better analysis test record in one state than its ammoniating competitors.

Certain unique forms of nitrogen such as I.B.D.U. and sulfur coated urea as well as chelated sources of iron and other trace elements cannot be ammoniated because the heat of the process destroys their slow release and available properties. These important nutrient sources have to be blended with a base product to be available in a complete fertilizer. Careful planning of a blended product can produce a beautiful combination of uniform prills that will be dust free, hard surfaced, nonsegregating and excellent for broadcast application.

Because of environmental controls and the high cost of building and maintaining a large ammoniation plant, fewer are in existence. Today there are only 200 ammoniating plants versus 5,000 blend plants in the USA.

In determining which type of fertilizer is best - the blend or the granulation, the following are the important points to use in making your judgment:

1. Who are you buying it from? Are they reputable? Do they stand behind what they sell?
  2. Who is the manufacturer? Will they be here tomorrow? Are they capable of producing a consistent quality fertilizer?
  3. Does the product meet your nutritional requirements? Does it have the desired ratio of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash? Does it include water insoluble nitrogen? Does it contain the secondary and micro or trace nutrients you need? Does it contain the type of nitrogen and potash you prefer?
  4. Will it spread properly? If for golf greens, are the particles fine enough so that the mowers will not pick them up? If for large turf areas, are particles uniform and large enough for broadcasting?
  5. Is it manufactured in such a way that it won't segregate and streak the turf? Is it uniform in particle size? Will the product flow easily through the spreader?
- If all the above questions are answered with "yes" then compare the cost. If the product meets all of the above requirements to your satisfaction and the cost is competitive, then buy it whether it is a blend or granulated.

MAKE GRASS STAND UP FOR IT'S ROOTS!

Roger A. Brown  
The Andersons, Lawn Fertilizer Section

If you think you are beaten, you are;  
If you think you dare not, you don't.  
If you'd like to win, but think you can't,  
It's almost a cinch you won't.  
If you think you'll lose, you're lost,  
For out in the world we find  
Success begins with a fellow's will;  
It's all in the state of mind.  
Life's battles don't always go  
To the stronger or faster man;  
But soon or late the man who wins  
is the one who thinks he can.

Success is often a matter of form: reform, conform, perform.

Harry C. Mabry

The 1981 membership booklet will soon be going to press and we would like to make it as current as possible. If there has been any change in your address, position, club affiliation, telephone numbers, now is the time to inform our editor, Tuck Tate, 1216 Whitfield Ave., Sarasota, Fl. 33580. A note with the correct changes is all that is necessary. We want to also inform you that if you have not paid 1980 or 1981 dues, your name will be dropped and not listed. If you do not know if you owe dues and everyone should be aware, however to be sure, you will have to contact our Sec.-Treas. Frank Heminger. His telephone is listed on page 1 as well as his address. You will not get another notification therefore your cooperation will be appreciated.

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OFFICIAL SLATE OF CANDIDATES DETERMINED:

The GCSAA Nominating Committee has announced the official slate of candidates for the 1981 annual election.



President	Michael R. Bavier, CGCS
Vice President	David C. Holler, CGCS James A. Wyllie, CGCS
Director	Eugene D. Baston, CGCS Riley L. Stottern, CGCS Cary L. Tegtmeier, CGCS Robert R. Wilson

An old and homely story tells of a father who, in guiding his son, told him to drive a nail into a post every time he did an evil thing, and to withdraw one nail every time he did a good act.

The son did as he was told, and after a time, while he had driven many nails into the post, he had succeeded in doing enough good deeds to be able to withdraw all of them. So he proudly called his father, to show him that all the nails had been withdrawn.

"But," said the father, "why those holes in the post?"

"That's where the nails have been," meekly said the son.

"And so it is with life, son," admonished the father. "You may do good deeds, turn over a new leaf, or correct your mistakes, but the nail holes of wrong-doing are still there."

*The Kleinknecht Encyclopedia*

The kindergarten lad rushed home from school and insisted his mother buy him a set of pistols, holsters and gun belt.

"Whatever for, dear?" his mother asked. "You surely would not need anything like that for school, would you?"

"Yes, I do," he replied. "My teacher said that tomorrow she's going to teach us to draw."

The development of a new product is a three step process: first, an American firm announces an invention; second, the Russians claim they made the same discovery twenty years ago; third, the Japanese start exporting it.

## Liming neutralizes acid content of soil

The primary reason for liming turf is to neutralize soil acidity. Limestone neutralizes acidity because of its carbonate content, not its calcium or magnesium content. Therefore, to neutralize acidity, you want a limestone that is high in carbonate content.

Limestone also has other benefits. It is a source of two essential plant nutrients, calcium and magnesium. If your soil needs both calcium and magnesium and if it is also acid and needs to be limed, select a limestone that contains both calcium and magnesium carbonate. This is called a dolomitic or high-magnesium limestone.

If, however, your soil is very high in magnesium and needs only calcium and is not acid, use a limestone that contains only calcium carbonate. This is called a calcite limestone.

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If you have not paid your membership dues for 1981, now is a good time to get out your checkbook and include it with a Christmas message to our Sec.-Treas. Frank Heminger.