



TURF TIMES

Volume 18 No. 10

[Dec 1989]



*May you always
be blessed
with the true spirit
of Christmas.*

Your Board of Directors would like to wish each and everyone of you, a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR. They hope that your stocking will be stuffed with good health, good weather, beautiful green grass, cooperation by Mother Nature and very few problems in maintaining your green area in 1990.

The 60th ANNUAL MICHIGAN TURFGRASS CONFERENCE will be held Monday thru Wednesday, January 15 - 17, at the Clarion Convention Center, Lansing. Please reserve these dates on your calendar now. Key issues facing the turfgrass industry will be addressed. Highlights will come to you both direct from M.S.U. as well as another "Turf Times" issue before that date. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Saffel, Dept. Crop & Soil Sciences, MSU, E. Lansing, 48824. Phone 517/355-9022.

Winners at the 5th Annual Tuck Tate Golf Tournament played at Hidden Valley on October 4th, were Louis St. Amour from Roger City with the net prize and Paul Holmes, Gaylord as the gross winner. This is a net tournament so all can enter and possibly be the winner. Our congratulations to both of these fine players.

MOORE TO RECEIVE 1990 OLD TOM MORRIS AWARD

For the first time, The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) will bestow its highest honor -- the Old Tom Morris Award -- upon a member superintendent.

Sherwood A. Moore, CGCS, 50 year GCSAA member and past president of this association, will receive the award during the closing banquet of the 61st GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show on Feb. 26th in Orlando, Fla.

"Sherwood's a great superintendent, sure, but he is more than that," said Dave Marr, ABC Sports commentator, former PGA tour player and friend of Moore's for 35 years. "He is the kind of person I would assume young people at...all fine turfgrass schools would aspire to be like. Sherwood Moore is a worthy recipient of the Old Tom Morris award."



NORTHERN MICHIGAN TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

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BEHIND THE GREEN BY WM. BRENT NELSON

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This past year we asked our members to fill out a member survey profile. Well, our return was less than we had hoped for. Over one third of our returned surveys came back incomplete. In order to have a complete, accurate and up to date survey that is going to be useful to our membership, we have decided to resubmit our member profile. The form you will receive will be a shorter form which you should be able to fill out in 10 minutes or less.

To insure we get a better return on our profile, we are offering an N.M.T.M.A. green jacket in a raffle to all who return the survey. (If you already received a jacket you will be offered another prize, i.e. shirt). You will find enclosed with your survey two raffle tickets, keep one and mail the other one back to me with the survey. A drawing will be held after all the profiles are returned. Any surveys not complete will not be entered in our drawing.

This survey is for you. You can use it to see how you compare with your peers in salary, benefits, etc. This should be helpful in negotiating your future contracts.

WM. BRENT NELSON
Board Member

ATHLETIC FIELD SEMINAR

Feb. 12-13--Athletic Turf Management Seminar, East Lansing, MI. Contact: National Institute on Parks and Grounds Management, P. O. Box 1936, Appleton, WI. 54913. 414/733-2301

FOR SALE

Toro Reelmaster Hydraulic 7 gang, pull behind mower with 11 blade reels. Contact: Dan Pillard at High Pointe Golf Club. 616/267-5769. Traverse City area.

Two men were chatting and getting acquainted in the recreation hall of a development in Florida.

"It's good to be living in Florida," the first man said, "Tomorrow I'll be out playing golf. I play nearly every day. Of course, you play golf?"

The second man felt a bit intimidated when the first man said, "Of course." Since he did not want to seem out of things, he lied and said, "Yes, I play nearly every day myself."

"Then you must be pretty good," the first man said. "I play in the low seventies myself."

"So do I," the non-golfer said, "but if it gets any colder than that, I go back home and watch television."

Sunshine Magazine

GOLF COURSE IMPACT ON WATER QUALITY

(Credit- THE MOUNTAIN STATE GREENLETTER-JULY 1989)

FINDING: Golf courses do not pose a significant pollution threat to the nation's water supplies. This conclusion is based on a review of the scientific evidence that is currently available. Neither groundwater nor surface water is threatened by golf course runoff. Further, studies show that stormwater runoff is near zero from golf courses.

GROUNDWATER: About half of all people in the United States depend on groundwater for their drinking water, and the figure is 90% in rural areas. Results from ongoing scientific studies show that the use of pesticides on golf courses does not threaten public drinking water. Because of the low mobility and quick biodegradation of most golf course pesticides, they simply do not reach groundwater in significant quantities.

One Environmental Protection Agency-funded study being undertaken on Cape Cod in Massachusetts provides for a "worst-case" estimate of groundwater contamination. To date, test results have been encouraging, demonstrating that golf courses and clean groundwater do co-exist.

Some experts argue that golf turf offers uniquely favorable control mechanisms to prevent groundwater contamination. Dr. Stuart Z. Cohen, a former Ground Water Team Leader for the EPA in Washington, notes that "the use of pesticides on golf courses poses less of a threat to the nation's groundwater than does the agricultural use of pesticides.

Additionally, turfgrass provides a "thatch layer" not found in row crop situations: Thatch binds up pesticide residues and increases degradation of some chemicals. Dr. Harry D. Niemczyk of Ohio State University has found that as much as 99% of recovered pesticides are found in turfgrass thatch.

In some areas, golf courses are also helping to mitigate the groundwater pollution effects of hazardous waste sites. Many of the nation's golf courses fertilize soil using sludge compost mixes prepared by urban waste recycling programs. These sludges might otherwise be disposed of in municipal landfills. Thus, potential groundwater leaching from dump sites is averted by careful community planning and recycling.

STORMWATER RUNOFF: Stormwater runoff from golf courses is not a significant environmental hazard. Research conducted by Dr. Thomas Watschke, a turfgrass specialist at the Pennsylvania State University,

indicates that thick, healthy turf reduces runoff "to next to nothing."

An average golf course of 150 acres effortlessly absorbs 12 million gallons of water during a three-inch rainfall. Dr. Watschke finds that thick, carefully managed turfgrass has 15 times less runoff than does a lower quality lawn. As a result, almost all of the pesticides applied to the grass remain in place after peak rainfall.

Dr. Richard J. Cooper of the University of Massachusetts argues that turfgrass cover "reduces soil erosion and prevents soil and chemical runoff into water sources."

By comparison, parking lots, streets and even residential areas load nearby waters with hazardous pollutants carried in runoff from road surfaces, gutters, and catch basins.

SURFACE WATER: Golf courses help decrease sedimentation pollution of rivers, streams and lakes by preventing topsoil erosion. The major polluter of U. S. surface water is sedimentation from soil erosion. However, turfgrass reduces erosion, as compared to alternative land uses.

For instance, studies show that grassland experiences 84 to 668 times less erosion than areas planted with wheat or corn. Construction has an even more devastating impact on topsoil, so golf courses can greatly reduce erosion effects as compared to other land users, like shopping malls or housing developments.

Sedimentation Pollution from Soil erosion costs society billions of dollars in increased transportation, shipping, and cleaning costs. Thus, by preventing soil erosion, golf courses serve a very beneficial societal purpose.

CONCLUSION: Golf courses do not threaten the nation's water supplies. Scientific studies show that pesticides used on golf courses do not seep into neighboring groundwater sources. Other studies demonstrate that stormwater runoff is greatly reduced by turfgrass. Finally, still more studies show that grassy areas reduce soil erosion, which is a major cause of sedimentation pollution in the nation's rivers, lakes and streams.

On the whole, a golf course makes an environmentally sound contribution to any community.



JUDICIAL

Wetlands Violation Prosecuted

Be extra careful if you contemplate any type of action which might affect wetlands near your course. In the first jury trial conviction under the Clean Water Act, a federal court fined a Pennsylvania developer \$202,000 and handed down a three-year prison term after the man filled in a 14-acre tract of federally protected wetlands

without a permit. The prison term involved should leave little doubt as to the commitment of the federal government to protection of wetland habitats. Currently, some of the most innovative and environmentally sensitive development of wetlands involves golf courses.

EPA Denies Diazinon Request

EPA's top judicial officer denied a motion by Ciba-Geigy to reopen an administrative hearing on Diazinon (see *Briefing*, August 1989). Ciba-Geigy is trying to convince EPA to adopt labeling terminology that would allow continued use of Diazinon in areas where

waterfowl do not graze. Charles Rock, Ciba-Geigy's state government relations manager, said, "From our perspective, the product should not be used on golf courses or sod farms unless we can resolve the labeling question with EPA."

Court Recognizes Broader State Powers

A federal appeals court continued the recent trend toward allowing more power to individual states in regulation of environmental matters. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va., ruled that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission cannot is-

sue licenses to companies that do not comply with state application procedures. The message for superintendents: get to know state environmental officials and use their expertise to ensure compliance.

REGULATIONS

EPA Sets Up Groundwater Task Force

EPA has set up a new groundwater task force to determine whether the agency should develop groundwater protection standards and whether it should consider national legislation to force states to develop pro-

tection plans. Plans call for the task force to establish an agency-wide groundwater protection strategy for the next five years.

Pesticide Office Releases Pollution Prevention Plan

EPA's Office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances has submitted their pollution prevention plan and it contains several items worth noting. One is a pesticide container study on which the agency hopes to report to Congress in December 1990. Another is a Turf Inte-

grated Pest Management Project, which involves developing a regional network of golf courses to assist with the IPM project. GCSAA has been in touch with EPA and plans to play an active part as the project unfolds.

GCSAA Researches Pesticide Fate

Recent testimony by an EPA staff member indicated that leaking tanks and the application of agricultural pesticides may account for up to two-thirds of groundwater contamination. GCSAA-supported research is currently studying the complex question of pesticide

fate and results of this research will be announced over the next several months. Preliminary indications are that good management practices can protect groundwater from contamination.

LEGISLATION

Bush Proposal Boosts Alternative Fuel Use

President Bush's Clean Air proposal introduces a new wrinkle in underground storage tank decisions. A section of the president's initiative calls for a portion of U.S. automobiles to accept alternative fuels by the mid-1990's. Larger urban areas where EPA air quality

standards are not being met would be targeted. Golf course superintendents gearing up to comply with UST regulations (see *Briefing*, August 1989) may want to confirm that new tanks can accept fuels like methanol, ethanol, or other blends containing alcohol.

More Recycling Bills Introduced

The recent spate of recycling bills in Congress continues. Rep. George Hochbrueckner (D-N.Y.) recently introduced a bill that would ban the landfilling or incineration of vehicle batteries and require distributors to take back used batteries for recycling. This year, Congress has already seen the introduction of a number

of recycling bills, including measures targeted at used oil, pesticide containers, used tires and volatile organic compounds. Superintendents might want to consider an area-wide "Disposal Day" in which a number of local courses coordinate a central collection point for disposing of recyclable and hazardous materials.

ENVIRONMENT

Build Positive Relationships With Local Regulators

by Tom Akins

GCSAA Government Relations Manager

The September issue of *Golf Course Management* features an article by noted Cornell University turfgrass expert A. Martin Petrovic, entitled "Golf Course Management and Nitrates in Groundwater." Petrovic examines nitrate leaching on greens and tees - a controversial subject - and concludes that solid management can prevent nitrate entry into groundwater.

That, from a government relations standpoint, is good news. Petrovic's article represents a golden opportunity for superintendents to inform regulators about the quality management practices on golf courses. In the face of increasing regulatory scrutiny and public attention on the safe use of pesticides, the challenge for today's superintendent is to play a visible part in demonstrating their long-standing commitment to the environment.

How? A good place to start is with the Petrovic article. Based upon exhaustive studies, Petrovic's conclusion is that nitrate leaching can be minimized, in fact kept near zero in many cases, through the use of best management practices. Research found several factors important in determining the leaching potential of a fertilizer applied to turf: the rate of application, the source of nitrogen and how readily soluble it is, the season of the year of the application, soil type and irrigation practices. A careful analysis of Petrovic's findings reveals that superintendents can and do minimize nitrate leaching on their courses.

Petrovic's article gains added significance when taken in concert with other findings. Prominent and respected academicians, including Dr. Richard Cooper from the University of

Massachusetts and Dr. Thomas Watschke from Penn State, continue on the cutting edge of pesticide fate research. And perhaps the most important study for golf course superintendents is yet to be released.

After a two-year study of golf courses on the sandy, "worst case" soils of Cape Cod, Mass., Dr. Stuart Cohen has now completed research indicating that groundwater under the courses was not significantly affected by 18 turfgrass pesticides tested. In fact, eight of the compounds were never detected. The remainder were present in amounts far below EPA's minimum groundwater standards. The final report on the "Cape Cod Study" is due this fall and GCSAA anticipates wide interest in this important piece of research.

All of this brings us back to the role of the superintendent in utilizing this research. Make a point of contacting key environmental regulators in your area and sharing these findings with them. Invite a local regulator to your next chapter meeting so that you can discuss current regulations. Establishing a relationship now with your local regulatory community can provide the network for sharing future research from Cohen and others.

Superintendents have a unique opportunity to play a crucial role in the increasing number of regulations that affect golf courses. A successful government relations program is built on

communication. And you can begin that communication process now by establishing relationships with local regulators to share relevant research. Once your local regulators get to know you and observe the professional manner in which you approach your work, they will begin to consult you before regulations are written.

By providing research and offering your assistance, regulators will know they can count on you to help develop environmentally responsible rules that recognize the safe practices used by golf courses. In this way, superintendents can help contribute to the making of sound and responsible environmental policies. ■

Through this toilsome world alas
Once and only once I shall pass.
For kindness I may show,
If a good deed I may do,
To a suffering fellow man,
Let me do it while I can.
No delay for it is plain
I shall not pass this way again.

Author Unknown

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE



Briefing, a publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, is intended to help superintendents stay informed about regulations and laws that affect the profession. For more detailed information on news contained in Briefing, contact the GCSAA Office of Government Relations at 800/472-7878 or 913/841-2240. Tom Akins, Editor.

Government Relations Terminology

Listed below are some of the abbreviations and acronyms you will find used regularly in *Briefing* and other publications dealing with government relations:

- CAA — Clean Air Act, federal law which sets emission standards for motor vehicles and stationary sources
- CFR — Code of Federal Regulations, the compilation of United States laws
- CWA — Clean Water Act, federal law which regulates the discharge of pollutants into surface waters
- EPA — Environmental Protection Agency, the federal agency responsible for enforcement of federal environmental laws
- FIFRA — Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, federal law which governs the registration, application and use of pesticides — probably the most important law affecting superintendents
- HazCom — Hazard Communication Standard, federal regulation which requires employers, including superintendents, to provide

employees with information and training on hazardous chemicals in their workplace

MSDS — Material Safety Data Sheet (Manufacturers and distributors are required to provide you with an MSDS for each hazardous substance you purchase. The MSDS contains safety, first aid and emergency information about the product.)

OSHA — Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the federal agency which oversees and regulates workplace health and safety

RCRA — Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, federal law which regulates the management and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes

TSCA — Toxic Substances Control Act, federal law which authorizes EPA to gather information on chemical risks

UST — Underground Storage Tank, a tank with 10 percent or more of its volume underground with piping attached to the tank (regulated by RCRA) ■

NMTMA MEMBER TO RECEIVE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

William H. Bengeyfield, member and owner of the Frankfort Golf Club will be honored for his dedication and outstanding service to golf course superintendents and the golf community at the opening session of the 61st International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando, Florida, Feb. 19-26, 1990. Bill is also the USGA Green Section National Director and Chairman of the USGA Research Committee. At the same time, Dr. Thomas Watschke, Penn State turfgrass researcher will also receive the same highly honored award.

Bengeyfield and Watschke have been selected as recipients of the 1990 Distinguished Service Award. The selection was made by the board of directors of Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), the organization that sponsors the annual conference and show.

Under Bengeyfield's leadership, the USGA/GCSAA Turfgrass Research Committee has seen more than \$2.8 million raised and distributed for research to develop turfgrass cultivars that will reduce water usage and maintenance costs. The USGA/GCSAA Advisory Service, a consulting branch of the Green Section, has been an increasingly valuable resource for superintendents during Bengeyfield's tenure as national director. Bengeyfield, a long time GCSAA member, operates and maintains Frankfort Golf Course, in Frankfort, Mich., as his time permits. For almost 20 of his 35 years with the Green Section, Bengeyfield has also served as editor of the Green Section Record.

Watschke is coordinator for Penn State's Landscape Management and Water quality Research Center, synchronizing all field research for the five departments that cooperatively use the facility. He also serves on the Technical Resource/Advisory Committee for Golf Course Management, the technical and professional journal for golf course superintendents.

His research has led to the use of growth regulators to control poa annua, the development of new post-emergent crabgrass control and, most recently, to a better understanding of surface run-off on turfgrass. Many of Watschke's former students are now turfgrass scientists, perpetuating and extending his commitment to turfgrass advancement.

SUPERINTENDENTS TO ELECT LEADERS IN ORLANDO

Gerald L. Faubel, CGCS, has been nominated for the presidency of the Golf Course Superintendents ASSOCIATION OF America (GCSAA) for 1990-91. Faubel, superintendent at Saginaw Country Club, Saginaw, MI., currently serves as Vice president of the professional association. The organization's officers and directors will be elected during its annual meeting at the 1990 GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando, Florida, on Feb. 26.

Vice presidential candidates are Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS, of the Netedeconk National Golf Club in Jackson, N.J., and WM. R. Roberts, CGCS, of the lochmoor Club in Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.

Three candidates for director will be elected for two-year terms. Nominees for director are Jos. G. Baidy, CGCS, of Acacia Country Club in Lyndhurst, OH; Charles A. Clarg, CGCS, of Broadmoor Golf Course in Colorado Springs, CO.; Cecil C. Johnston, CGCS, of Avila Golf & Country Club in Lutz, FL.; Charles T. Passios, CGCS, of Hyannisport Club in Hyannisport, MA.; and Randall P. Zidik, CGCS, of Rolling Hills Country Club in McMurray, PA.

SUPERINTENDENTS TO ELECT LEADERS IN ORLANDO continued:

GCSAA's current president, Dennis D. Lyon, CGCS, City of Aurora Golf Division, Aurora, CO., will continue to serve on the board of directors as immediate past president.

FORMER RESEARCHER JOINS GCSAA

David M. Bishop has joined Golf Course Management (GCM) magazine as technical editor. Clay Lloyd, publications director for GCSAA, announced the appointment today. GCM, the monthly journal for golf course superintendents and turfgrass managers, is the association's official publication.

Bishop comes to GCSAA from UAP Special Products in Fremont, Neb., where he served since 1985 as technical services manager/agronomist. Previously he spent five years with the University of Nebraska extension service specializing in turfgrass integrated pest management.

GCSAA will be able to further expand technical editorial content of GCM for the benefit of its readers, especially member golf course superintendents, with the addition of this newly created full-time position, Lloyd said. "David Bishop brings to the magazine the background, contacts, skills and talents to help in that effort".

Bishop holds a master's degree in horticulture, with a minor in entomology, from the university of Nebraska, Lincoln. His research focus at Nebraska was the distribution and life cycle of the black turfgrass beetle, ataenius. Meantime, Colleen Smalter Pederson, GCSAA director of education, has been serving as technical editor in addition to her regular duties. Pederson will continue to concentrate on GCSAA's growing educational programs and other new programs assignments.

SUPERINTENDENT NEEDED

Cheboygan Country Club is looking for a new superintendent. Further details can be had by contacting Tom Reed, our Executive Secretary.

NMTMA OFFICERS FOR 1990

At the October meeting of this association at Hidden Valley, the following were elected to the Board of Directors;

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| | Tom Brogger |
| Class A, B & E | Paul Holmes |
| | Dave Little |
| Class G | Kim Olson |

Jim Inman was appointed to fill out the term of Jim Bogart who resigned.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| President elected was | Jeff Holmes, Grand Traverse Resort |
| Vice-President | Paul Holmes |
| Executive Secretary | Tom Reed |
| Recording Secretary | Kim Olson |
| Treasurer | Tom Reed |

News From

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

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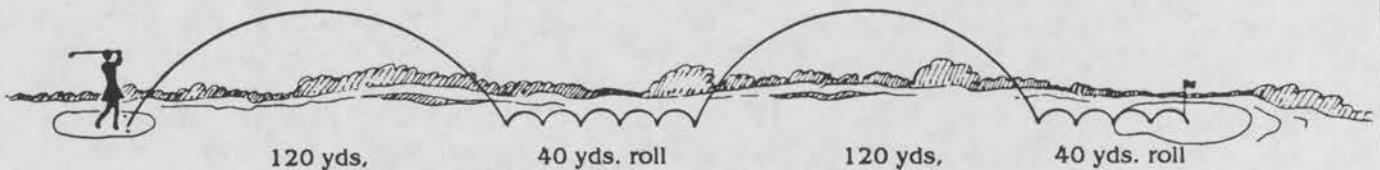
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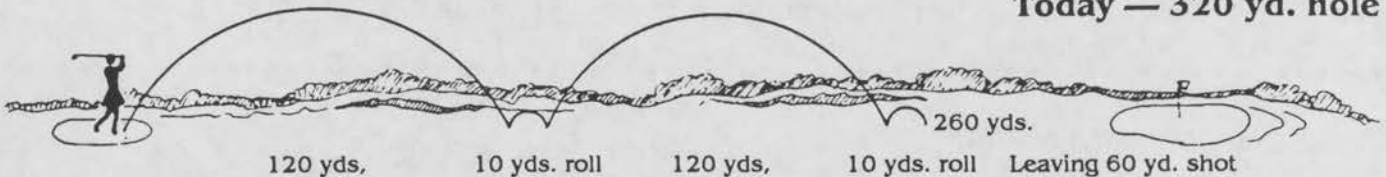
It's Time To Move Forward!

Yesterday — 320 yd. hole



Formerly an average woman player could reach a 320 yd. hole in regulation with the additional roll when fairways were more firm.

Today — 320 yd. hole



Today the average woman player will need three shots to reach a 320 yd. hole with today's lush fairways

Women are making their presence felt in golf, and now golf courses must be adapted to their game, according to the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

With one in four golfers a woman, and 41% of all new golfers women, the Society's members are designing forward tees on most of their new and remodeled courses.

Alice Dye, the only woman member of the Society, points out that research shows the average woman golfer drives the ball about 130 yards. She says that the low handicap woman golfer is most comfortable playing a course that is approximately 5,440 yards long, while the average woman golfer would find a 4,800 yard course most enjoyable.

The ASGCA architects note that today's lush, watered courses have reduced the roll of the ball. On firm fairways, 33% roll previously was expected and designed into the hole. The two illustrations above show that the average woman golfer could reach a 320-yard hole in regulation with 40 yards of roll, but cannot when the roll is reduced to 10 yards.

Those interested in how forward tees can enhance the playability of a golf course may obtain further information and illustrations by sending a \$5 check to the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601.