

James B. Beard



AFFILIATE

Turf Times

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The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

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"We're only as good as the people that surround us"



President Jeffrey Holmes

The time approaches all of us when we need to realize that we are only as good as the people that surround us.

From a golf course superintendent's view point these are some of the key personnel: the assistant superintendent, mechanic, irrigation technician, foreman and a secretary.

As the golfing industry continues to grow, it puts more emphasis on all of these key people. With the golf environment growing it also causes each of us to act more professionally. The people who don't continue to grow and move forward professionally are going to end up being left behind along with the antiquated equipment that no longer does the job efficiently.

This brings me to the fact of discussing how important the mechanic is. It is this person or persons that keep all the equipment running to accomplish the day to day maintenance tasks on the golf course and around the grounds areas.

The mechanic is a person that is going to meet people from the work crew in inauspicious circumstances due to the fact that the equipment brought back no longer runs. The mechanic will be the front door to several sales people whether it be over the telephone or face to face. Certainly the superintendent will be conversing with the mechanic daily.

Once the superintendent and mechanic talk and set some standards that the equipment will be maintained at, it is then up to the mechanic to carry out the task.

At this point the real mechanic gets to roll up his sleeves and show the superintendent and all the rest of the crew that he can make that equipment run and look good.

The mechanic is the guy who should be able to bring in a piece of equipment, check it over and make a list of repairs to be done. Then carry out those repairs whether it be welding, painting, building an engine or simply putting the cap back on a tire valve stem.

The responsibilities of a true mechanic are endless. It is this reason that the N.M.T.M.A. would like to help organize a mechanic's association. The goal of this group would be to help one another grow in their knowledge. The areas of education can be unlimited. The learning can stem from one mechanic talking with another or by having technical people speak to the mechanic's group on a given topic. The motto of the mechanic's association will be "The Little Things Count." This is a small statement but has a lot of meaning to it. The last little detail finished on a job is just as important as all the major work. For example, a cushion is taken apart down to the frame, engine removed, frame sandblasted, welding done, epoxy primer and repaint the frame and rest of vehicle. The engine has been rebuilt completely and thoroughly. The brakes and transmission have been checked and the engine is put back in and started. The vehicle has a brand new paint job, new engine, brakes, etc. and now looks and runs like a top. To follow the motto "The Little Things Count" all the operational stickers are put in place to help the new employee remember what he has been told about this vehicle. This "little thing" of putting the stickers on may prevent an accident.

If you're a golf course superintendent, please encourage your mechanic to pursue this organization. If you are a mechanic reading this, please pursue the organization. If interested, please contact Jeff Holmes at (616) 938-9083 or Mike Morris at (616) 352-4241.

We have held a small meeting to kick off the mechanic's association. The second meeting will be held in June at Crystal Downs Country Club with more details to follow.

Hope to see several mechanics at the meeting in June. Don't forget the mechanics also need to go to continued educational seminars and this is a good start.



GCSAA breaks ground on building

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America broke ground January 12 for the construction of their new \$ 4 million headquarters complex in Lawrence, Kansas. GCSAA Immediate Past President Dennis D. Lyon, CGCS, said that the groundbreaking ceremony was an important step for the future of GCSAA.

"We're excited to see the building becoming a reality," Lyon said. "This new facility will allow us to keep meeting the needs of our growing membership for many years to come."

Joining Lyon in the ceremonial "first shovel" were President Gerald L. Faubel, CGCS; Vice-President Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS; Executive Director John M. Schilling and Mayor of Lawrence Robert Schumm. Part of the building's planned 40,000 square feet will be a state-of-the-art educational facility. An extensive periodical library and advanced audio/visual equipment will aid the GCSAA education staff in the growth and development of their programs and seminars. "It will allow us to bring GCSAA members here to Lawrence to attend educational activities in a facility that is custom-designed to meet our instructional needs," said Colleen Smalter Pederson, GCSAA Director of Education.

An eye-catching feature of the new headquarters will be the surrounding landscape. In addition to being situated on a championship golf course, the building will be highlighted by fountains and a wide variety of shrubs and flowers: approximately \$300,000 worth of professionally designed landscaping.

The landscape will tie in closely with the look of the neighboring golf course. "We wanted the landscape to reflect the professional quality that our members maintain on their golf courses," noted Schilling.

The building design was completed by PKG Design Group, P.A., a Lawrence architectural firm. At a ceremony, Schilling announced that R.D. Andersen, Topeka, had been selected as general contractor for the project. Construction of the building is set to start by the end of the month. Schilling said plans call for the building to be ready to occupy in about 13 months.

The new site is one mile west of the current GCSAA building, which has been located on the Alvamar Golf and Country Club since the association moved to Lawrence in 1973. Despite the relocation, the new headquarters will still overlook an Alvamar course: a new 18-hole championship layout being designed by architect Ken Kavanaugh and developed by Alvamar owner Robert Billings. The new course is also expected to be open in 1991.

Credit: GCSAA News Release, January 23, 1990



An artist's drawing shows the new international headquarters for GCSAA in Lawrence, Kansas. Ground was broken for the facility on January 12.

Bengeyfield honored with GCSAA Distinguished Service Award at conference in February

William Bengeyfield received the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award at the 61st International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando, Florida on February 22. Bill, as he is known to most of us, is a member of the NMTMA, and he owns and operates the Frankfort Golf Club in Frankfort, Michigan. We are proud to have such a distinguished person in our association and in Northern Michigan. Congratulations, Bill!

Bill's contributions to the golf course industry are far reaching in the fields of communication, research and consultation. Bill has been with the USGA Green Section for 35 years, serving as the National Director and the editor of the *USGA Green Section Record*. Bill has headed the USGA/GCSAA turfgrass research committee which has made great progress in the development of new turfgrass cultivars requiring reduced cultural and chemical management practices.

Bill was the director of golf courses and park maintenance at Industry Hills in California several years before moving to Michigan. He recently completed a consulting project for the construction and maintenance of a privately owned golf course in Spain. We may begin seeing more of Bill in Northern Michigan as he takes on his own projects at the Frankfort Golf Club. Anyone would have to look far to meet a more friendly and personable individual than Bill Bengeyfield. He is truly deserving of the Distinguished Service Award. We all benefit



Bill Bengeyfield receives the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award in February.

Rubber Gloves: Who Needs Them?

Field studies have shown a primary means of applicator exposure to pesticides is skin contamination, primarily on the forearms and hands. The greatest risk of acute exposure comes from handling concentrated formulations.

The simple but often overlooked practice of wearing rubber gloves during mixing can reduce the potential dermal exposure to a pesticide by more than 95%. Couple this with good personal hygiene and other protective steps such as wearing a long-sleeved shirt and other protective clothing stated on the product label. Don't take chances with your health.

Taken from Pest News Alert, University of Kentucky No. 489, March 1989. Credit: The Mountain State Greenletter.

Complimentary Copies of Turf Times

Give us the name and address of your course's or company's owner, green committee chairman, or any other interested person, and we will send them complimentary copies of *Turf Times* for one year. Let these people know what we do and what we are about. Send address information to the NMTMA, 3733 Apollo Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684.

You May Be A Winner!

The winning ticket number in the NMTMA survey raffle is:
161208

Check your ticket stub (the one mailed to you in the NMTMA Survey). Mail the stub with your name, address, and jacket size to Tom Reed to claim your new NMTMA green jacket.

Letters to the Editor

You can communicate directly with the NMTMA and your fellow members by writing to:

Turf Times
c/o Mike Morris
P.O. Box 1575
Frankfort, MI 49635

Share your thoughts and feelings about our organization or the industry in general.

We've come a long way



Jim Inman

I'm not sure where I should begin with this article or if I'm even qualified to write it, however, just from my experiences let's look at golf starting in the '40's.

I was a caddy then – there were no carts (wouldn't that be a blessing or would it). A few people had hand carts, but everyone else carried or had a caddy carry their clubs. As a caddy I earned \$1.75 for eighteen holes single (carrying only one bag) or \$3.50 for doubles. We carried triples when boys were scarce. The club hired a keeper of the greens and lots of part time help.

The course was closed to play on Mondays. This time was turned over to the greenskeeper for extra work on the grounds, other than basic maintenance. On Mondays, new caddies were trained by the Caddymaster and the others were allowed to play golf. Greens were cut at 1/4", fairways 1" to 1-1/2", tees 1/2" and roughs 2" to 3". All the mowing was done with reel mowers and sickle bars. Most of the fairways had grass bunkers, with sand traps around the greens. Worms did the aerification and most of the top dressing. Spiking of the greens was a common practice.

In the 50's, T.V. brought the game of golf into millions of livingrooms. Around the nation, more and more jobs required less manual labor and more confinement to the indoors. With the appealing characteristics of golf, fresh air, sunshine and challenge, the game began to grow like never before.

Increased play and cost of maintenance in the 60's brought about new and more efficient equipment. Cushman with the truckster, Jacobsen and the Riding Triplex greens mower to name a couple. The 70's saw Toro introduce the front mounted riding rotary mower, Ryan with a new aerator, FMC with sprayers, Hahn, and the list goes on and on. Along with this came new types of irrigation, chemicals, golf carts, clubs, balls, fertilizers, grasses and hundreds of new courses.

What a long way this industry has come in a very short period of time, and believe me when I say it's only in its infancy. You, as Turf Managers, should be very proud to be playing such an important role in our nation's recreation and environmental program.

Keep up the great work! I'm wishing all of you a greener 1990!

Mechanic's Corner

Ed Eauclaire, Senior Equipment Technician, Grand Traverse Resort

When you have a winter rebuild program pay close attention to seals and bearings, as these small things can save you much down time in Spring and Summer.

Also, use good quality grease that has high tack qualities. Our tip means that the little things count and the big things follow.

On Toro and Jacobsen gang mowers, I have found that when the axles get bent just a little from trees, stakes and rough terrain that it will make the seal cut into the hub of the unit. To correct the problem without buying the new hub, we installed a Speedi Sleeve part number CR99274 with cost being approximately \$18.00. This solved the problem and saved money considering the new hub would cost \$60 to \$80.

Another thing that we did was use Conoco 1000 gear oil in the gear case. It has a very good kling effect on these mowers to the point that we didn't have any bearing failures last season in these units. This heavy grease did not leak out and still worked fine in the units during cold weather.

Attention NMTMA Member

You belong to an organization that is currently over 250 members. Let's keep our organization growing. Please share the following information with a crew member, assistant, mechanic, greenchairman, owner or fellow superintendent. (Someone who is interested in professional turf management.)

There's always room for more!

Please contact:

THOMAS J. REED, Executive Secretary
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Tom will gladly send an application and list of membership classifications.

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Irrigation Maintenance

by Glenn Bereiter, Irrigation Specialist, Bob O'Link Golf Club

Like most projects we perform on the golf course, the way we approach and handle maintenance procedures differs from course to course. I do not claim to be an expert in the field of irrigation, but some of the ideas we use at Bob O'Link Golf Club could be applicable to your situation.

Although the pumping station may be turned off for the winter months, there are several things that can be done. With an automatic irrigation system we exercise the control clocks about once a week to keep the solenoids fresh. An inventory of parts can be made and the stock filled accordingly. Any pieces that are no longer of use can be discarded to reduce the confusion later in the year.

Prior to the beginning of the irrigation season there are several activities we try to accomplish. In the early days of spring when the system is still off, but when you can work outdoors, I like to do any work that may require opening up the underground pipe. For instance, any quick coupling valves or automatic sprinklers that need to be raised or lowered should be done at this time. A sticky valve from the previous season may be replaced now without the mess of pressurized water.

In the pumphouse, the oil can be changed in the pumps, the pumps greased, and new packing placed around the shaft of the pumps. The "Y" strainer and any screens should be removed and cleaned. Keep the pumphouse in a clean, neat and orderly manner. Every so often, we give the place a fresh coat of paint. Have plenty of light as it makes it much easier to spend the necessary time performing the daily tasks, if you are in a clean and well lit environment.

Out on the golf course the control boxes are cleaned out and inspected. Wires and fuses are checked. Rat poison and insect pest strips are replaced. When the system is being energized turn on several sprinklers at the furthest points from the pumphouse. This is done to remove most of the air from the system reducing air and water hammer within the system that may blow lines apart. Slowly opening the shut-off valves also helps reduce water hammer on the system. We crack open the valves and check the sprinklers to see if any water has reached the furthest points. Once water is being discharged at these areas the valves are opened gradually as sprinklers are turned off. Once the proper system pressure is approaching normal check the irrigation system for leaks. Keep checking for several days as some leaks are slow to appear.

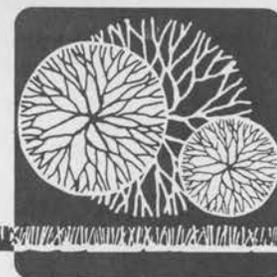
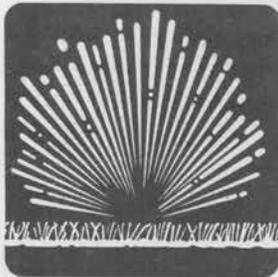
When the system is up and running check and set all of the clocks. Replace burned out bulbs in the pumphouse control panel. Before a night watering, run every automatic sprinkler on the course and check for rotation. Each head should be able to pop up, rotate, and turn off and go down.

Moisture requirements and system repairs are our major concerns. We use a mini-weather station of two thermometers, one for air temperature, and the other for soil temperature, a rain gauge and an evapotranspiration meter. The evapotranspiration meter consists of a row of sponges, placed vertically in a plastic tub, with a ruler on the inside wall.

(Continued on Page 6)

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Irrigation maintenance

(Continued from Page 5)

Every day at the same time we check the water loss rate and fill it to the same mark every day. The evapotranspiration rate is just a simple way to keep track of moisture loss. This information should be recorded in an irrigation diary along with any other pertinent information of the day.

Possibly the most important aspect of the irrigation specialist position is that of monitoring the day-to-day moisture requirements of the turf. My personal system is to walk on every green and tee, while driving on every fairway, making sure to notice moisture level, wilting and rotation of automatic sprinklers. The clubhouse area is checked first so that any water that need be added may be done so before any member activity takes place.

As I make my routine rounds I check the clocks in all five zone boxes to see that they have held the proper time throughout the night. Upon completion of this initial check any sprinklers that did not work properly are replaced and checked. Then, if any additional water is needed, automatic syringing or hand watering chores are performed.

Other responsibilities of this position that are done throughout the growing season, is edging around the quick coupling valves, automatic sprinklers, drains, valves, and yardage markers. This should be done every 3 to 4 weeks, or as needed, to keep these looking neat and trimmed.

In conclusion, the irrigation system is the most expensive tool we use on the golf course. During the months of July and August, it may be most often used piece of equipment we own. A proper maintenance program is a must, to insure optimum performance throughout the year.

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Golf course operations must supply information about hazardous chemicals

Credit: GCSAA News Release

Congress recently approved the largest appropriation to date – \$27 million for fiscal 1990 – for the US Environmental Protection Agency to implement the federal right-to-know act, specifically to encourage local emergency planning. Congress also has ordered the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to prepare, by March 31, a study on the major threats facing communities and local emergency management coordinators.

In 1986, the US Congress enacted the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) as a response to growing concerns about the effects of chemical releases on communities. The act (1) supports emergency planning efforts at the state and local levels, (2) provides citizens and local governments with information concerning potential chemical hazards present in their communities and (3) establishes enforcement procedures and civil, administrative and criminal penalties for non-compliance.

Subtitle A establishes the framework for emergency planning by state and local governments by calling for the creation of state emergency response commissions and local emergency planning committees. These local panels are designed to work on emergency response plans in cooperation with representatives of facilities – **including golf courses** – covered by the law.

Subtitle B, which was designed to provide information to appropriate local, state and federal officials on the type, amount, location, use, disposal and release of chemicals, includes three reporting provisions:

Section 311 applies to all facilities, such as golf courses, that are subject to the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and subsequent OSHA regulations. The owner or operator of a golf facility must submit material safety data sheets (MSDSs) or a list of the chemicals for which the facility is required to keep MSDSs to state emergency response commissions and local emergency planning committees and fire departments.

Updates are due within three months after OSHA regulations require the owner/operator to prepare or have available an MSDS for a specific hazardous chemical. A revised MSDS must be submitted for significant new information regarding a chemical for which an MSDS was previously submitted.

Also under Section 311, EPA can establish threshold quantities for hazardous chemicals, so that no reporting is required if a facility has a below-threshold amount of a hazardous chemical.

Section 312 requires facilities covered by Section 311 to submit a chemical inventory form annually by March 1. The inventory forms must contain an estimate of the maximum amount of the hazardous chemicals present at the facility during the preceding year, an estimate of the average daily amount of hazardous chemicals at the facility and the location of these chemicals at the facility.

Section 312 calls for two reporting "tiers". Tier I requires only general information on the amount and location of hazardous chemicals at the facility. Tier II information, which need not be submitted unless requested by the state commission or the local planning committee or fire department, re-

quires more detailed information about each chemical.

Section 313 requires EPA to establish an inventory of toxic chemical emissions from facilities that meet certain criteria. The information will be used to establish a computerized national database accessible by the general public.

Under Section 313, owners and operators of certain facilities must complete a toxic chemical release form for specified chemicals, reflecting releases during the preceding calendar year, to be submitted to EPA and state officials annually on or before July 1.

Facilities that use more than 10,000 pounds of a single listed toxic chemical or that manufacture or process more than 25,000 pounds total of any of the listed chemicals must submit toxic chemical release forms. These forms request information on the maximum amount present at the location; treatment and disposal methods; and annual quantity released into the environment for each listed chemical or chemical category.

The initial list of toxic chemicals subject to reporting requirements consists of 329 entries, including 20 categories of chemicals. EPA's administrator may add or delete chemicals on the list based upon an agency determination of health or environmental hazards. State governors and the public may petition the administrator to add to or delete from the list. Title III of EPCRA outlines trade secret protection and enforcement procedures:

Section 322 applies to trade secret claims under reporting requirements for emergency planning and Sections 311, 312 and 313. Even if specific chemical identity of an extremely hazardous substance or chemical is allowed to be withheld as a trade secret, the generic class or category of the chemical must be provided.

Section 323 requires that chemical information withheld from the public as a trade secret must be available to health professionals for diagnostic purposes and emergency assessment activities. In these cases, the person receiving the information must be willing to sign a confidentiality agreement with the facility.

Section 325 provides for enforcement procedures and penalties as follows:

- civil penalties for owner/operators not complying with emergency requirements.
- civil, administrative and criminal penalties for owner/operators not complying with emergency notification requirements following the release of a listed hazardous substance
- civil and administrative penalties for owner/operators not complying with reporting requirements in Sections 311, 312 and 313
- civil and administrative penalties for trade secret claims that are ruled frivolous
- criminal penalties for disclosure of trade secret information.

How EPCRA Works in Michigan

As a response to growing concerns about the effects of chemical releases on communities, the US Congress enacted the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act
(Continued on Page 9)

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How EPCRA works in Michigan

(Continued from Page 7)

(EPCRA) in 1986. The act supports state and local emergency planning efforts and provides citizens and local governments with information concerning potential chemical hazards present in their communities by requiring reports from businesses – **including golf courses** – that deal with hazardous chemicals.

In 1986, Michigan enacted an emergency planning law authorizing fire chiefs to collect hazardous material information from employers within their jurisdiction. Also in 1986, Michigan repealed a state community right-to-know law that had allowed for public access to information. Federal EPCRA provisions do apply, however.

The state fire marshal's office, a division of the Michigan State Police Department, administers the emergency planning law.

Under state law, golf course operations must provide the fire department, upon request, with the following information:

- workplace chemical list
- copies of material safety data sheets (MSDSs) for each hazardous chemical identified on the chemical list
- quantity of hazardous substances in the workplace
- workplace location of hazardous substances
- updates of any significant chemical substance information

The fire chief may exempt minimal and portable quantities of hazardous substances from reporting requirements.

Michigan's emergency planning law includes no penalty provisions for non-compliance.

Community Right-To-Know Contacts

For emergency release notification, call 800/292-4706.

For general information, emergency planning notification and document submissions, call the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Commission at 517/373-8481.

Submit follow-up emergency release notification, MSDSs, chemical inventories and annual toxic chemical release forms to Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Commission, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909.

Recipe Motivation Cake

MIX TOGETHER:

- 3 cups favorable environment (friendliness, good working conditions, interesting work, good communications)
- 1 teaspoon tactfulness (suggestions without intimidation)
- 2 cups self-satisfaction (evaluations, increased responsibility, recognition of performance, involvement in decisions, listening to problems)
- 1 tablespoon loyalty (it has to go both ways)
- 1 tablespoon togetherness (be accessible)

BAKE:

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- 1 cup benefits
- 1 tablespoon incentives and bonuses

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—Author unknown

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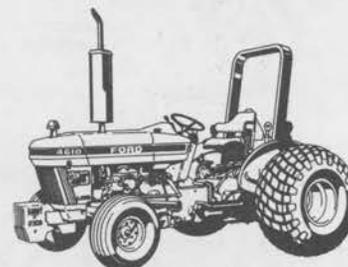


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NMTMA Proposed Budget 1989-90
Fiscal Year: November 1 to October 1

Income:

Advertising	8,000
Dues	7,000
MTF Fund Raiser	16,200
NMTMA Fund Raiser	8,000
Meeting Income	1,600
Soft Good Sales	200
Special Gifts & Misc.	-0-
Interest	100
Total:	41,100

Expenses:

Secretarial	500
Speakers	-0-
Meeting and Mini-Conference	20,000
Board Meetings	450
Research & Professional	7,000
Scholarships	1,500
Prizes, Awards, Recog.	300
Office Supplies	300
Postage and Mailing	800
Membership Directory	3,000
Newsletter	5,500
Membership Cards	500
Soft Goods	1,000
Insurance	150
Service Charges	100
Misc.	-0-
Total:	41,100

Michael Morris, Finance Committee Chairman

Account Descriptions

Income:

Advertising: All Publication Advertising Income
Dues: All Dues Income
MTF Fund Raiser: All Income from Golf Fees and Sponsors
NMTMA Fund Raiser: All Income from Golf Fees and Sponsors
Meeting Income: All Money Collected at Regular NMTMA Meetings
Soft Good Sales: Income from Membership Paraphernalia
Special Gifts & Misc.: Miscellaneous Income
Interest: Interest Earned on Checking Accts.

Expenses:

Secretarial: Executive Secretary's Compensation
Speakers: Cost of Meals & Travel Paid for Educational Speakers
Meeting & Mini-Conference: Room, Meal, and Golf Costs Paid for All Meetings
Board Meetings: Room and Meal Costs Paid for Winter Board Meetings
Research and Professional: NMTMA Donations for MTF, GCSAA, and other Research and Professional Promotion.
Scholarships: NMTMA and GCSAA Scholarship Contributions
Prizes, Awards, Recognition: Golf Prizes, Plaques, Interment Flowers, Etc.
Office Supplies: Envelopes, Labels, Letterhead, etc.
Postage & Mailing: Postal Fees Paid
Membership Directory: Printing Costs of Membership Directory
Newsletter: Printing Costs of Turf Times Newsletters
Membership Cards: Cost of Printing Plastic Membership Cards
Soft Goods: Membership Paraphernalia Purchased
Insurance: NMTMA Liability Insurance
Service Charges: Cost of Checking Accounts
Misc.: Miscellaneous Expenses and Contingencies



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THE BULLETIN

of the

UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION GREEN SECTION

Vol. 8

Washington, D. C., October, 1928

No. 10

Winter Rules

The winter and early spring months always give those in charge of golf courses in the northern half of the United States the unpleasant task of dealing with some unreasonable members who feel that membership in a club should carry with it absolute freedom in the use of all parts of the house and grounds. There are, of course, many ways of restraining such unbridled enthusiasts, but it is doubtful that any method has proven entirely effective while still preserving "peace and good will".

Our attention has been called to a method used at the Columbia Country Club, Chevy Chase, Md., which may appeal to others faced with this problem. An appeal by the green committee to the golfing members of the club was distributed in the form of an attractively printed folder. The purpose was to educate the players to a better understanding of the whys and wherefores of one of those mysterious actions of the ever-puzzling green committee. The folder reads as follows:

"Owing to the adverse conditions, from a maintenance standpoint, to which the golf course is subjected under our climatic conditions in the late winter and early spring, it may be found necessary at times to close the course for a day or two in order to protect the turf and the soil and preserve a satisfactory surface for subsequent play.

"It is desired that you be acquainted with the reasons for closing the course at such times as you may find the "Golf Course Closed" sign posted in your locker room though the weather is fine overhead. It is the desire of those charged with the maintenance of your golf course, not restrict your privileges thereon but to protect the course from injury that may be caused by play during the infrequent intervals in which the turf is very soft.

"The alternate freezing and thawing of the soil during the late winter and early spring months is one of nature's greatest aids to golf course maintenance in this latitude. The weathering process restores the natural granular structure of the soil by breaking up the hard, packed mass that results from the heavy play and the trampling by laborers and packing by equipment during the summer and autumn months. This granular condition of the soil is very essential to the proper development of the turf grasses and to the durability of the turf, and if the course is allowed to rest from the time the frost leaves the ground until the soil settles naturally and the surface moisture has evaporated, the surface will be left smooth and the soil in deal condition for growing grass when the season for growth begins.

On the other hand, if the course is used while the frost is leaving, and the soil is very soft and soggy, this newly restored granular structure will be broken down before the grass has gotten the benefit of it. Aside from the interference to this natural turf expedient, many of the grass roots that serve to feed the grass and bind it into the mass known as

(Continued on Page 13)



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NMTMA changes:

Publications and financial management



Mike Morris

Your Board of Directors of the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association is always taking steps to increase the pride and professionalism of the turfgrass management industry in our area. This year the NMTMA is moving ahead with some new and exciting projects which will benefit all of us directly and indirectly.

Two of these projects are the new "Turf Times" publication format and Membership Directory, and a new financial record keeping system for the NMTMA.

New Publications

Right now you are looking at the NMTMA's most recent attempt to add some style and class to our organization. The new publications format includes four quarterly newsletters like this one which will come out in April, July, October, and January; nine monthly "Turf Times Updates" which will come out March through November; and a new "Membership Directory and Resource Handbook" which will be mailed out in April.

The "Turf Times" quarterlies, like this one will include calendar information, NMTMA information, a "Mechanic's

Corner," reprinted articles and information, original articles from members at large and researchers – in short, the professional and technical information you need to keep up with the times. The monthly updates will include meeting information and other timely and important announcements. The Membership Directory and Resource Handbook will contain the usual member addresses, and phone numbers and vendor information . . . but keep your eyes open for some new and useful information in the resource section of the book.

The changes in our publications format are made in response to many members' desires to have a more professional looking publication representing our organization and profession. All members are encouraged to participate by writing letters to the editor and contributing feature articles of projects undertaken at your own course. Looks are not everything – the success of our newsletters will rest on their ability to effectively communicate the business of our organization.

A special thanks goes out to all the vendors who have generously helped support this undertaking with their advertising.

Financial Record Keeping

The business of the NMTMA is growing – through our fund raising for research and scholarships, our publications undertaking, ever larger meetings and golf outings, etc. – and in response to this growth the Board of the NMTMA has instituted a new finance committee. It will be the responsibility of the finance committee to record all business transactions of the NMTMA in a standardized ledger format, and to report to the members of the NMTMA about how we raise and disburse our money. Note the 1990 NMTMA budget printed in this newsletter.

The NMTMA is currently investigating the possibilities of incorporating and achieving a non-profit status. To do this, we must compile financial records from the last three years, and up until now there has been no standardized system of record keeping. The Finance Committee will keep you informed of progress in this area.

Financial record keeping and reporting is a large responsibility for each of us in our own businesses, and the Finance Committee hopes that our organization will demonstrate utmost professionalism in dealing with the NMTMA financial responsibilities.

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Dress for success . . .



Tom Brogger
Public Relations Chairman

Does everyone remember those expressions, "you are what you eat" and "a chain is only as strong as its weakest link"?

Certainly these two cliches could easily relate to all of us as Turf Managers. Wait a minute, "you are what you eat?" Yes, of course or rather, "your turf is what it's fed."

Anyway along with these extremely appropriate expressions, I would like to add one more. "Dress for Success."

Dressing for success is becoming more and more important to us as we continue to evolve within the turf industry. Oh, I realize that the guts are far more important than the garb but I think we'd be naive in thinking that the garb doesn't have an effect on how we feel and how we are perceived by others.

In recent years, the demand for higher quality turf has become widespread. Turf managers have responded and are now providing conditions superior to those then at any other time in history. The programs to manage these systems can often become more complex. You might even say we are like doctors with the golf course being our patient. In many locations club officials have recognized the Turf Manager as the most crucial individual on staff. This has not always been the case. We've come a long way from where it

Winter rules

(Continued from Page 11)

turf are broken by pressure of the foot as it sinks into the soft soil, and a considerable period of the early growing season is required for nature to repair this injury.

"Another matter which is of more concern from a player's standpoint is the rough, bumpy surface of the putting greens and fairways resulting from deep foot impressions made by the players and caddies when playing on the course immediately after a thaw. A few players and their caddies at such times may leave the putting greens in very bad condition for themselves and others who may wish to play after the ground has dried out. A bumpy surface on a putting green is difficult to overcome, and usually when such a condition occurs in the late winter of early spring a good part of the best golfing season has passed before that very desirable true surface can be restored.

"These are some of the reasons why the unwelcome sign "Golf Course Closed" may be found at your club occasionally; but be assured that this will not occur more often nor for any longer periods than is deemed absolutely essential for your maximum enjoyment of the course during the golfing season.

"When in doubt as to the condition of the course, a telephone call to the club may save a disappointing trip or a wasted day.

"Yours for the best golf course possible, and for you the best golfing season ever!"

all began both in our expertise and in the recognition of its importance.

Hopefully, remuneration is not far behind.

So what's the deal? Well, I'm getting there. Now, I'm sure you realize that I'm not suggesting we all start showing up for work in three piece suits. I just think that anything we can do to reinforce the professionalism of our industry can only help us in the long run. How then does one dress for success when the medium we work in includes so much dirt and grease? One suggestion might be to keep a pair of coveralls handy. This way if you need to meet with someone the cleanup is quick and easy. You're also sure to be taking

(Continued on Page 14)

Golfumor . . .

All his life, a dignified English Barrister-widower, with a considerable income had dreamed of playing Sandringham (one of Great Britain's really exclusive golf courses), and one day he made up his mind to chance it when he was traveling in the area. Although he was well aware that it was very exclusive, he asked at the desk if he might play the famous course. The Club's secretary inquired, "Member?"

"No sir."

Guest of a member?"

"No sir."

"Sorry," the secretary said.

As he turned to leave, the Lawyer spotted a slightly familiar figure seated in the Lounge, reading "The London Times". It was Lord Willoughby Parham. He approached and bowing low said, "I beg your pardon, your Lordship, but my name is Higginbotham of the London Solicitors, Higginbotham, Willingby and Barclay. I should like to ask your Lordship's indulgence. Might I play this beautiful course as your guest?"

His Lordship gave Higginbotham a long look, put down his paper, and asked,

"Church?"

"C of E, sir, as was my late wife."

"Education?" the old gentleman asked.

"Eaton, sir, and Oxford, with a Blue and Honors."

"Sport?"

"Rugby, sir, spot of tennis and Number Four on the crew that beat Cambridge."

"Service?"

"Brigadier, sir, Coldstream Guards, Victoria Cross, and Knight of the Garter."

"Campaigns?"

"Dunkirk, El Alemain, and Normandy, sir."

"Languages?"

"Private tutor in French, fluent German, and a bit of Greek."

His Lordship considered briefly, then nodded to the Club secretary and said . . . "Nine holes."



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Getting along with people

To get along with others:

- **Don't say** everything you think. And watch your body language. It may say more than you intend or want to say.
- **Make few** promises, but keep the ones you make if you want to be trusted.
- **Have empathy.** Make merry with those who rejoice, mourn with those who suffer.
- **Keep an open mind.** If you are the only one coming up with the right answers, something is wrong. Discuss, don't argue.
- **Let your** merits speak for themselves but be ready to discuss them when asked. Do not talk about another's weaknesses unless necessary.
- **Treat everybody** with importance.

SOURCE: Joseph P. Cangemi, Western Kentucky University, writing in *Psychology*, SUNY, Morrisville, NY 13408.
CREDIT: The Mountain State Greenletter.

Dress for success . . .

(Continued from Page 13)

home less dirt each day and will probably get more life out of those work clothes.

Another place where our dress is so important is at the many different turfgrass related meetings and seminars. Of special interest is how we project ourselves while being the invited guests at one of our NMTMA members clubs. Picture it. Here's our host who along with his peers is being observed from close range by those repsective bosses and other interested parties. If we come across like a bunch of "BOZO's" :Credit Charlie, it certainly won't credit our host in his future negotiations with these individuals. On the other hand, you put us all in monkey suits and an entirely different opinion is formed. Subconsciously these judgements are made and good or bad, it can't be helped.

On a whole, our organization has done a very good job of presenting itself at various clubs throughout the north. There have been very few occasions where golf attire has been less than acceptable. Periodically, though, we do run into problem where the host club already has a specific dress code in effect. So for this and the aforementioned reasons the NMTMA has decided to adopt the following dress code: " For golfing events, proper golf attire is required. This includes golf slacks or tailored shorts with a collared shirt. Not allowed are blue jeans, gym shorts, cut offs, tee shirts, tank tops or any other improper dress. For dinner, sport coats are strongly recommended with neckties optional. For luncheons, where golf will follow, golf wear will be fine. Finally, members will be responsible for themselves and their guests." There will be a reminder of this in each *Turf Times Update* throughout the season.

As each year passes I tell myself I'm going to upgrade my workclothes a little and see if I can't find a way to keep my "uniform" somewhat neater throughout the day. It's been a slow process but you know when I do this I find myself cleaning up the shop and organizing my desk more than ever before. When I get sloppy, my work area follows close behind. I'm sure it must be an attitude. Well, anyway it's something to think about and look forward to as we move into a new season. As I look ahead and vision how well dressed our organization is going to become, one final cliché comes to mind and that is, "A stitch in time saves nine."

Integrated pest management and the golf course

Credit: GCSAA News Release, November, 1988

FINDINGS: Golf courses are increasingly using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to control pests through a variety of carefully planned methods. This trend will increase in order to meet industry concerns over reliance on chemical pest control strategies. IPM has proven effective in a variety of contexts and represents an environmentally sound means by which golf course superintendents can harmonize course requirements with nature.

DEFINITION OF IPM: According to Dr. Victor A. Gibeault of the University of California at Riverside, "IPM is defined as multiple tactics used in a compatible manner in order to maintain pest populations below levels that cause economic or unacceptable aesthetic injury without posing a hazard to humans, domestic animals, or to other nontarget life forms. Integrated means that a broad interdisciplinary approach is taken, using scientific principles of plant protection, to fuse into a single system a variety of management strategies and tactics."¹

Fulfilling this definition requires the pest manager to establish measurable tolerance levels for pest populations, monitor turf areas for pest incidence, maintain accurate records of monitoring data and select appropriate actions in response to changing pest populations.

The range of tactics available in an IPM system include the following:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| • Regulatory | Quarantines, seed certification, pesticide laws; |
| • Physical | Trapping, screening, hand destruction, harassment; |
| • Chemical | Attractants, repellents, sterilants, growth inhibitors, soaps, synthetic pesticides; |
| • Cultural | Water management, sanitation, aeration, thatch control, fertilization, mowing height |
| • Biological | Use of resistant varieties, natural enemies, propagation of pest disease/parasites, release of sterile pests. ² |

In addition to these control strategies, construction techniques which utilize proper drainage, birthing, plant selection and so forth are important contributors to effective IPM.

One of the objectives of IPM is to use chemicals only when necessary, but it is a misconception that IPM programs always replace chemical control. Rather, IPM encourages the pest manager to use chemicals wisely, which can mean less often.

EFFECTIVENESS OF IPM: IPM has proven effective in a wide variety of contexts. In a study of tree care reported by Dr. Michael J. Raupp, an entomologist at the University of Maryland, pesticide use was reduced by more than 90 percent when IPM was utilized.³ Dr. Don Short, extension entomologist at the University of Florida, recently reported that in a three-year study in south and central Florida, spot treatment with pesticides and weekly monitoring of the turf resulted in good control of chinch bugs and webworms. "This is primarily due to the fact that we are not killing off beneficial organisms that may be providing more control than pesticides," Dr. Short concluded.⁴ As Christine Casey, an IPM agent notes: "Landscape IPM programs have shown great potential, having reduced pesticide usage up to 70% while improving plant quality. When monitoring costs are included, this corresponds to a cost reduction of 20-30%."⁵

An IPM plan that could serve as a model for other courses was recently adopted by the Sherman Hollow golf course in Vermont after negotiations between the Sherman Hollow management and the Environment Protection Agency. The plan provides for the monitoring of the course by a turfgrass expert, the limited use of chemicals when necessary, and the keeping of precise records.⁶

Another IPM method that has proven effective is the use of pests to control pests – biological agents that attack pests and that are more effective than chemical agents.⁷ This method can be as simple as building bird houses on golf courses that will attract insect-eating bird species.⁸ Computers are also being used at a number of golf courses to monitor pests, predict future infestations, and arrive at balanced solutions to pest problems.⁹

ROLE OF GCSAA: In addition to the training required under federal and state laws, GCSAA sponsors an extensive education program to assure that professional golf course superintendents are well-trained in safe pesticide application techniques. While these techniques have not always been understood as part of an IPM approach, many existing practices are easily assimilated within IPM. GCSAA supports IPM at another level through funding for basic research on turfgrass. The joint USGA/GCSAA research project on turfgrass stress is designed to develop hardier plant materials capable of withstanding pests and stresses with lesser materials.

CONCLUSION: Golf courses increasingly are relying upon IPM in their operations. In fact, many IPM techniques have been used for years without explicitly being labelled IPM. Integrated Pest Management is a proven method that can help minimize reliance on chemicals while effectively controlling harmful plant and animal pests.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Victor A. Gibeault, et al., "Integrated Pest Management for Turf", California Turfgrass Culture, Spring, 1981, p. 13
2. Zachary Grant, "What is Integrated Pest Management?" Golf Course Management, Nov. 1987, p. 12
3. Michael J. Raupp, et al., "The Concept of Key Plants In Integrated Pest Management for Landscapes," Journal of Arboriculture, Nov. 1985, p. 315
4. Zachary Grant, "Why IPM? Some Advantages to Consider," Golf Course Management, Nov. 1987, p. 81
5. Christine Casey, "IPM And The Golf Course Superintendent," J.J. GCSA March-April 1988, p. 8.
6. Zachary Grant, "IPM Update: The Sherman Hollow Story," Golf Course Management, Nov. 1987, p. 6
7. Scott S. Warren, "Controlling Nature with Nature," USAIR, Sept. 1987, p. 10.
8. "Working With Nature's Own To Achieve Insect Control," Golf Course Management, April, 1987, p. 28.
9. Jeff Chaltas, "Of Growing Interest: IPM Usage Today," Golf Course Management, Feb. 1987, p. 94.

1990 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

- 5-8 The Masters, August National G.C. (GA) USA/CBS
 9 MSU Mini-Conference, Grayling Holiday Inn
 20 GCSAA Regional Seminar, *Calculations and Practical Mathematics in Golf Course Management*, Renton, Wash.

MAY

- 8 GAM Handicap Seminar, Sylvan Resort
 11 Michigan and Border Cities, Michigan Special Olympics Benefit, "Links", Pinewood
 22 NMTMA at Lost Lake Woods Club, Nick Clifford, Speaker, *Wetting Agents, Soluable and Organic Fertilizer*

JUNE

- 7 GAM, Michigan Amateur Qualifying, Hidden Valley Golf Club
 7-10 MASDA Seniors, TPC, Dearborn, MI ABC
 11-12 Spaulding Michigan State Pro-Am, Boyne Highlands
 14-16 U.S. Open, Medinah CC, ILL ESPN/ABC
 19-23 GAM, Michigan Amateur Championship, Meadowbrook CC
 25 NMTMA, MTF Benefit Day, "Donald Ross Memorial" Boyne Highlands
 25-27 Michigan Open, Grand Traverse Resort

JULY

- TBA NMTMA at the Rock, Drummond Island, *Speaker - TBA*
 16-17 ITT Michigan Golf Classic, Schuss Mountain Resort
 19-22 British Open, St. Andrew's, Scotland ESPN/ABC
 20-22 Ameritech Senior Open, Grand Traverse Resort, CBS
 26-29 Buick Open, Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club, Michigan
 30 GAM Championship Qualifying, Michaywe Hills

AUGUST

- 9-12 PGA Championship, Shoal Creek GC, Alabama ESPN/ABC
 10 GAM, Club Relations Day, Bay City CC
 13 NMTMA at Fox Run Golf Club, *Speaker -TBA*
 13-15 GAM Championship, Travis Pointe
 (Tentative) 20 Mid-Michigan Turf Association Benefit Day, Flint Golf Club
 24-26 Michigan Bell Showdown (Skins Game), Grand Traverse Resort
 30 MTF, Michigan State University, Field Day

SEPTEMBER

- TBA NMTMA at High Pointe Golf Club *Speaker-TBA*
 10 Michigan Superintendent's Championship, Timber Ridge
 14-16 Greater Grand Rapids Open, Elks Country Club

OCTOBER

- 1 Michigan and Border Cities Benefit Day, Several Clubs Participating
 1 West Michigan Golf Course Superintendent's Association Benefit Day, "Highlands" Grand Rapids Elks CC
 2 NMTMA at Gaylord CC, Annual Meeting/Supts. Championship

DECEMBER

- 1 MMTA Annual Christmas Party, Garland Resort