

James B. Beard

Northwest TURFGRASS TOPICS

Vol. 18—No. 1

PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON

APRIL, 1975

The President's Corner



The President's Corner

By Cliff Everhart

The Board of Directors of the Northwest Turfgrass Association held their last meeting December 6, 1974 at the Broadmoor Golf and Country Club. Progress was made on plans for the Turf Conference to be held September 17, 18 and 19, 1975 in Yakima, Washington. Also, several methods of raising money for research were reported on by previously appointed committees. Money has been allocated for the hiring of one research associate under special reserach funds to expand research at the Puyallup Station for a period of one year. *Poa annua*, in all of its scope, will be one of the first and major problems attempted in this expanded program. We still need all of your support to continue rounding up money to help support this program for another few years.

Our next Board of Directors meeting will be on May 12, followed by a Golf Course Field Day on May 13. We wish to extend an invitation to all golf course people interested in turf to attend this Field Day. On Thursday, May 15, a general Field Day will be held for all other turfgrass enthusiasts at which time everyone is welcome.

Remember, fellows, let's don't forget our supply of N, P and K. Shortages and higher prices have hit us all — and from the horse's mouth, I understand next year fertilizer will still be scarce and expensive.

Since the publication of the last Turfgrass Topics, I feel somewhat foolish for having bragged on our wonderful weather through December, 1974 — must have made "Mother Nature" mad.

From the newspaper: To all Superintendents — To get maximum attention, it's hard to beat a good, big mistake.

Turfgrass Field Days

Three turfgrass field days will be conducted at the Western Washington Research and Extension Center at Puyallup, Washington in the same fashion as they were held in 1974. On Tuesday, May 13, a special field day will be held for all golf course people including superintendents, green chairmen, presidents, golf professionals and industry who is closely allied with the golf course business. Since many golf course problems are different from those of general turfgrass management, this special field day has been designed to show turfgrass research that is directly oriented toward golf courses and to answer specific questions to turfgrass managers interested in this type of turf. The field day will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the main experiment station on West Pioneer, and it is anticipated that it will conclude at 3:00 p.m.

The second field day, on Wednesday, May 14, is designed only as a specific training session for all county extension agents whether they be from Washington, Oregon, or district agricultural agents from Canada, and other state and federal workers with direct interest and responsibilities in turf. This is not an open field day for other turfgrass managers.

On Thursday, May 15, a complete field day will be scheduled for all other categories of turfgrass managers in the allied areas of parks, schools, cemeteries and home lawn enthusiasts.

The station visitors on these days will view extensive turfgrass varietal research with bentgrasses, bluegrasses, fescues and ryegrasses, *Poa annua* investigations, turfgrass fertilizer trials, turfgrass disease control studies, topdressing experiments, advanced management studies for new bentgrasses, and a number of other areas to be discussed.

Please feel free to bring along any questions or problems that you wish to discuss, specimens you wish to have identified, or any other problems for which information may be desired.

Northwest Turfgrass Conference—2nd Notice

The 29th Annual Northwest Turfgrass Conference plans are right up to schedule and are running smoothly. The Conference will be held at Yakima, Washington on September 17, 18 and 19, 1975. Many of you will probably want to arrive on Tuesday, September 16, to participate in a pre-conference golf tournament. The exact location of the Conference and the location of the golf tournament will be announced in Turfgrass Topics which should be in your hands by September 1.

It has not been decided at this point whether there will be a product and equipment display show, but this decision will be made by the Board of Directors at their meeting on Monday, May 12.

Continued on Page 2, Column 2



Tom Cook Joins Puyallup Research Staff

It was a happy day indeed on February 1, 1975, when Tom Cook was officially appointed to the position of Research Associate in Turfgrass at the Western Washington Research and Extension Center at Puyallup. It is extremely gratifying to know that so many hard working and devoted turfgrass supporters are in the field working to raise funds in the support of the turfgrass research program. We are happy to tell everyone in the Pacific Northwest that the money going for the support of Tom Cook's position are private monies donated by the Turfgrass through our research programs. It would be unfair to single out any one particular individual for their efforts, but those of you close to this project know who these persons are who stayed with this project and did not give up.

Tom Cook received his B.S. degree in Agronomy at WSU in 1972. During his undergraduate work, he was awarded a GCSAA scholarship grant in 1971 and 1972. He was accepted into the graduate school at the University of Rhode Island in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences and completed his Master of Science degree January 1, 1975. His major professor while at Rhode Island was Dr. D. T. Duff, and Tom also worked with Dr. Dick Skogley, Dr. Noel Jackson, and John Jagschitz. His thesis problem was Cold Tolerance in Tall Fescue, *Festuca arundinacea*.

Tom took on other work while at the University of Rhode Island and worked specifically with the selection for a desirable *Poa annua* types and evaluation for their performance as putting green turf.

In addition to his undergraduate and graduate studies, Tom has been a devoted student of the turfgrass field and has worked for practical experience at every possible opportunity. This includes three years at the Okanogan Valley Golf Club at Omak, Washington and one season at Hi Cedars Golf Club at Orting, Washington.

As indicated in other articles in this paper, Tom will be devoting a good share of his responsibilities in bringing together all of the *Poa annua* work which has been accomplished here in the past and integrating this with a number of new approaches for selection and control of *Poa annua* and to investigate many areas that time has not permitted the present research staff to attempt.

In addition to *Poa annua* work, Tom will be cooperating on a number of research areas where needed and as time will permit without diluting his efforts in the *Poa annua* investigation.

At the present time, through our staff efforts, Tom has sampled *Poa annua* from many sites in the Portland, Oregon area to north of Seattle. He is propagating these selections in the greenhouse and will be part of the foundation for continued studies with respect to genetic and morphologic variations and a number of other characteristics of *Poa annua*.

It is through your continued efforts that we will be able to maintain this position and to continue with the expansion of our research program in turfgrasses. We know what our responsibilities are in the research area and know that we must produce significant progress to warrant your continued support of this program.

We should like to make it clear that the results of this research program and the efforts that go into it extend not only to the boundaries of Washington, but to all neighboring areas in the Pacific Northwest. This is your program, and we do appreciate your support.

Continued from Page 1, Column 2

Your program committee, whose chairman is Bud Ashworth from Spokane, has a well-balanced and interesting full slate of speakers and events. At this time, all speakers have confirmed their participation in the program, so all we have to do now is get the papers in and the Proceedings published.

Don't forget to write these dates down and call on a friend or two to bring along to the Conference. Remember, the weather is absolutely delightful in Yakima at that time of year and the Yakima Valley and surrounding areas are beautiful and the fruit harvest will be in full swing.

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The Thatch Patch

By Jim Chapman

Did you know that 25 years ago Sam Zook (now superintendent at Overlake Country Club in Medina, Wa.) was golf superintendent at Eugene Country Club? One of the young men he hired was named Bill Norman. Bill was named superintendent of Eugene Country Club this year and no one can say he hasn't served his apprenticeship. John Zoller, after 17 years at Eugene, is now superintendent at Monterey Peninsula Golf and Country Club in California.

Stop for a minute now and think how many superintendents worked and learned along with John Zoller: Louie Schmidt, Sam Zook, Harvey Junor—just to name a few. Many proteges of these superintendents have gone on to help others into turf careers. For example, Jerry Walker is superintendent at Ocean Shores Golf Course. Paul Stokke has left Everett Parks to become superintendent of parks for Bellevue. Paul and Jerry both worked under Mike Barnes at Bellevue Municipal. Mike got his training under Ken Putnam.

Don Cooper has moved from Kelso Elks Golf Course to Juniper Golf Course, Redmond, Oregon. Don's replacement at Kelso is Bill Webster, moving over from Tokatee where he worked with Ray Telfer. Ray worked under John Zoller years ago. Both Bill Webster and John Cooper started under Chuck Nolan, as did John Hooper, now superintendent at Salishan and Don Scott, superintendent at Grays Harbor Country Club.

Confusing? Perhaps, but rewarding and comforting to work with professionals so interested in helping others get started.

Here is a potpourri of the changes that I have seen these past few months. Choice Dalton, moving from Meadowmeer to Landscape Supervisor for Calvary Cemetery. Ray McIlhove moving from Sudden Valley (Assistant to Ray Schmidt) to Tam O'Shanter. Dick Jennings is now superintendent at Three Lakes Golf Course at Wenatchee, Wa.

Ray Morgan has sold Oaksridge Golf Course, Elma, Wa., and now devotes full time to his Green Oaks Landscape Service.

Golf Management Properties (Tye Valley Golf Course and Highlands Golf Course in Tacoma) now operates Enumclaw Golf Course, just recently expanded to 18 holes. Tim Cosgrove is supervising superintendent for all three courses.

Chris Dowd is superintendent at Snoqualmie Golf Course and Ted Straub, at Tall Chief, both in Fall City. John Miller is superintendent at Mint Valley Golf Course, City of Longview, but construction has been slowed down by heavy winter rains and drainage problems.

David Brown, most recently superintendent at Capitol City Golf Course in Olympia, was just named assistant manager for Waikoloa Golf and Country Club in Hawaii (one 18 hole course in and another under construction).

Al Neeland is now superintendent at Delphi Country Club, Olympia, Carl Kleivan at Port Townsend's Chevy Chase Golf Course, and Dean Hanson at Linden Golf and Country Club at Puyallup.

Bob Wick, Milt Bauman's former assistant at Seattle Golf Club, has left the country — to assume the superintendency at Capillano Golf and Country Club, West Vancouver, B.C. Bob replaces an old friend of many, Art Donaldson. Congratulations, Bob.

Ken Putnam's back nine is coming along very well at

Sunland. Dick Schmidt reports Port Ludlow is in excellent condition and should open mid-year. Irvin Marlow is now manager of College Golf Course, Parkland, Wa. Tom Smith has moved from Rock Island to Lewiston Municipal Golf Course as Pro-Superintendent.

Ben Benedict left Hidden Valley Golf Course in Cottage Grove, Or. to take a turf management position with the South Lane School District. Rusty Gosser replaces Ben as superintendent at Hidden Valley. Allen Morris is now superintendent and Buck McKendrick, pro-manager, at Emerald Valley Golf Course in Creswell. We say goodbye to Gene and Jim Russell who built and maintained this challenging course.

Nick Hoogendoorn, Laurelwood Golf Course, Mark Shephard, Oakway Golf Course, and Dave Landing, Greenacres, were all named superintendents in the past few months making a clean slate of new names in Eugene this year.

Bob Wolsborn is now handling the reins at Gresham Golf Club, Rick Malpass (name familiar to you?) superintendent at Grants Pass Golf Course, Skeets LaFluer, building and caring for Crooked River Ranch in Terrebonne, Max Fletchall running King City Golf Course, Tigard.

At least eleven of the names above stated in this business of ours were apprentices under superintendents still active and still teaching. The apprenticeship route has proven itself, seems to me. See you next trip.

Turfgrass Field Days

Golf Course Superintendents—Special, Tuesday, May 13, 1975, 10 a.m.

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Northwest Turfgrass Association Advisory Committee Meeting

Allen C. Blair, chairman of the special committee to raise funds for research called an advisory committee meeting at the Western Washington Research and Extension Center on Wednesday, April 2, 1975. Members of this special advisory committee include Dr. James Nielson, Director of Research, WSU, Pullman; Dr. D. F. Allmendinger, Superintendent of Western Washington Research and Extension Center at Puyallup; Ed Dunn, U.S. Golf Association Green Section Committeeman; Bill Bengeyfield, Western Director, U.S. Golf Association, Green Section; and Dr. Ritchie Cowan, Department Chairman, Department of Agronomy, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon.

In addition to the advisory committee, the following members of the liaison committee of the Northwest Turfgrass Association were also in attendance and participated in the meeting: Dick Haskell, treasurer, Northwest Turfgrass Association; John Monson, vice president and research committee chairman, Northwest Turfgrass Association; Louie Schmidt, superintendent, Sahalee Golf and Country Club; and Al Blair, Puget Sound Seed Company, Seattle.

The advisory committee and liaison committee members responded to the presentation of Dr. Roy Goss and Tom Cook of present, past and summary plans for future planned research and they asked a number of questions to the research team. Questions arose and discussions were held regarding extension of turfgrass research programs to adjacent states and areas outside of the State of Washington to both satisfy turfgrass research needs and to stimulate participation in the turfgrass research program. It is anticipated that discussions will be held with key people from these areas to determine ways and means of implementing research into these areas in the future.

No date was set for the next advisory committee meeting, but all members of this committee will be contacted well in advance of the meeting.

The Northwest Turfgrass Association expresses its appreciation to these persons for their time, consideration and participation in this capacity.

Inland Empire Association of Golf Course Superintendents

The Inland Empire Association of Golf Course Superintendents meets regularly on the second Monday of each month at various locations in eastern Washington. Al Law and Kenneth Morrison, both of the Agronomy Department at Pullman, are major contributors at these meetings as well as a number of other speakers the superintendents bring in from time to time.

On Monday, May 5, one week ahead of the regularly scheduled meeting, the superintendents will meet at Spokane Golf and Country Club where Roy Goss, Chuck Gould and Al Law will discuss the turfgrass nutritional experiment initiated there in September, 1974. The purpose of this experiment is to determine fertility levels and balances which may influence for better or worse, *Typhula* snow mold disease and *Fusarium* patch.

The experiment is being conducted on a practice putting green which is built on sand and should give us good results and point out future fertility needs in that area. Fertilizer levels were designed for both high and low applications. High nitrogen plots will receive 10 lbs. of available nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. per season, and the low nitrogen plots will receive 5 lbs. Several combinations of phosphorus, potassium, sulfur and minor elements will also be incorporated in these tests. All persons interested in this type of work in eastern Washington are cordially invited to attend this meeting.

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Membership—Membership

Milt Bauman, chairman of the membership committee, has asked the editor to enclose two membership applications with this issue of the Northwest Turfgrass Topics. I think we must all agree that this is not asking very much of each one of us to try to bring in one or two new members into the association.

Did you know that well over 90% of the funds that the Northwest Turfgrass Association brings in from membership dues are pumped directly into research programs? An individual member, through his \$30 per year dues, may not appear too significant, but when we consider that we have over 200 paying members at this time and a potential of over twice this many, you can see that the amount to be generated is considerable.

We are sure that most of you know one or two people who do not belong to the Northwest Turfgrass Association and would be happy to join if you will give them an application and a little sales pitch. Be sure to tell potential applicants that the very fact that they have attended the turfgrass conference in the past does not necessarily make them members of the association. All members of the Northwest Turfgrass Association are issued membership cards and updated annually when dues are paid.

Editor's Note: As a challenge to all of you, Milt Bauman has informed me that he has already obtained two new members this year and is continuing his effort. This is your opportunity to outdo Milt.

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Spring Is Here

By Roy L. Goss

At least, that's what the calendar says, although various persons around the Northwest may wish to argue the point. April has blown in like a tiger. Although we have had a number of nice days, we continue to get snow flurries, hard frosts and the dying struggles of winter. Nevertheless, whether we have much of a spring or not, summer will surely come, and if so, the usual host of problems. In order to avoid some of these problems, turfgrass managers should take into consideration a number of things at this time and have plans well laid to make your turf more beautiful, greater serviceability, or at least with fewer problems.

FERTILIZER— Prices continue to stay high, and in many cases, shortages of various components are with us. Carefully analyze your fertility management program and reduce applications wherever possible without sacrificing turfgrass quality. Research at the Western Washington Research and Extension Center has shown that excellent quality bentgrass turf can be maintained when nutrition is well balanced with phosphorus, potassium and other elements with as low as 6 lbs. of available nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. per year. The winter color is nothing to brag about, but spring, summer and fall color is acceptable. Many of us like to see greener turf, but if we have to, we probably can get by on a little less. Phosphorus is rapidly becoming one of the more expensive fertilizer elements and is probably one of the most overused in the turfgrass field. Spend \$5 for a soil test to determine your phosphate requirements, and you may be pleasantly surprised that you can eliminate this costly ingredient for perhaps a year or more. Those of you who are on coarse sandy soil may not find this to be the case; therefore, light, frequent applications of all nutrients will produce better quality, less rapid growth, and a considerable saving in scarce fertilizer materials.

Color can be enhanced in nearly all turfgrasses on a moderate nitrogen program with the use of iron compounds. Too little research has been done with the ferrous materials to determine optimum amounts for turfgrass programs. It is generally believed, however, that levels between 4 and 8 oz. per month of materials such as ferrous sulfate will produce a better turf and maintain good color characteristics. No doubt, we could apply more, but until we learn more about it, these are some reasonable guidelines.

TOPDRESSING PROGRAMS— We have a few golf courses around the Pacific Northwest started on the program of intensive topdressing. This program has been readapted to Northwest conditions from the program originally outlined by Dr. John Madison, University of California, Davis, Ca. Persons participated in this program to date generally report significant improvement of turfgrass conditions from this program. It is very important to select the right quality sand (particle size ranging from .125 mm. to 1mm. or 16 to 80 mesh). The writer feels that this is a definite solution for better surfaces and perhaps for the solving of other problems as well on putting greens, athletic fields and certain playgrounds. No doubt, many home lawns will benefit from the same program, but the logistics of accomplishing the task are a little more difficult due to specialized equipment necessary to maintain the program. Those of you who attend the Turfgrass Field Days will be able to observe a trial where this program has been in operation intensively for one year. At this time, I would definitely have to endorse the merits of the program.

WEED CONTROL— A number of people have reported the scarcity of certain herbicides. In particular, Bensulide (Betasan, Presan or Prefar) has been reported very scarce. Materials such as Dacthal, Baylan and Tupersan are also available for the control of crabgrass and *Poa annua*. Be sure to read the label to determine that the product is labeled for the use you intend. Most broadleafed weeds in turfgrass areas can be eliminated at least for this year, with mixtures of dicamba (Banvel) and 2,4-D or MCPP. Silvex is still an excellent herbicide for most broadleafed weeds in turfgrass areas, although more care must be exercised to prevent drift and volatilization problems. You should be particularly watchful for the downward movement, however, of Banvel particularly where tree roots or susceptible tree varieties may be in the turf area.

WETTING AGENTS— Probably over 50% of the problems in the turfgrass areas in the Northwest from May to September are caused from localized dry spots. If your turfgrass area has a history of localized dry spots, begin wetting agent applications near the first part of May before the first hot weather strikes. Nine out of ten years May is a deficit rainfall month although we generally experience considerable cloudy and showery weather. It is a simple matter that consumptive use exceeds precipitation. We tend to think that because it is cool and sometimes showery that little water is being used, but this is the time when our problem begins. Excellent quality turf can be maintained throughout the summer with judicious use of surfactants and timely and proper applications of irrigation water. Mechanical treatments such as aerification, slicing and spiking will help to enhance infiltration of water through the surface of soil and thatch and prevent excessive runoff.

Mechanical treatments should be avoided after July wherever possible since any disturbance of turfgrass surfaces will provide excellent invasion routes for *Poa annua*. Most of us have been on a *Poa annua* promotion program by late summer or early fall aerification and verticutting or thatching operations. It is more important to promote strong, vigorous and dense turf which will favorably compete with *Poa annua* and to practice our mechanical programs at a time which is least favorable to *Poa annua*, the late spring and early summer months.

These are only a few ideas which I feel will help you to maintain better turf in 1975.

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