Northwest **TURFGRASS TOPICS**

Vol. 24, No. 2 PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON September 1981

PROGRAM

35th NORTHWEST TURF GRASS CONFERENCE

September 21-24, 1981
Tyee Motor Inn, Olympia, WA

CONFERENCE THEME: MAINTENANCE and INFLATION

MONDAY, September 21

Golf Tournament, Tumwater Valley Golf Course

3-5 p.m. Registration Desk Open for all Pre-registrants and others.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Session Chairman, Jim Pitman

7:45-8:30 Registration in Lobby

8:30-8:45 President's Welcome

8:45-9:45 "Approaching your finance committee (explaining and selling your budget program)" - William Campbell, Sahalee Golf and Country Club, Redmond, WA, and Richard A. Schwabauer, Waverly Golf and Country Club, Portland, OR.

9:45-10:20 "Topdressing large turfgrass areas" -Dennis Pagni, Superintendent of Grounds, North Clackamas School District, Milwaukie, OR.

10:20-10:40 Break

10:40-11:10 University of Idaho Research Report -Virginia Hickey, Research Technician, Moscow, ID.
Turfgrass Research Report - Dr. S.E. Brauen, Western Washington Research and Extension Center, Puyallup, WA.

11:10-11:40 "Reducing maintenance costs: experience in the field" - Donald D. Hoos, US Golf Association Green Section, Tustin, CA.

11:40-12:20 "Growing Turf in Shade" - James R. Frelich, O.M. Scott and Sons, Oregon Research Director, Gervais, OR.

12:20-1:00 "Turfgrass nutrition - fertilizer basics" - Robert Dixon, Manager, Agronomic Services, Occidental Chemical Co., Lathrop, CA

1:00-1:20 Questions and Answers, morning session*

1:20 Free time

There will usually be a short period for questions at the end of each subject. Additional questions should be written down, passed to the center isle where they will be collected, then read and answered during the question and answer wrap-up at the end of each session.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23

8:00-8:50 "Effects of inflation (voluntary and involuntary)" - Bob Berger, Washington State Department of Transportation, Olympia, WA.

8:50-9:50 "Beauty on a budget (use of annuals, perennials, and landscaping in parks and golf courses)" - Albert D. Angove, Director, Spokane County Parks, Spokane, WA, and Wallace Staatz, Owner, Hi-Cedars Golf Course, Orting, WA.

9:50-10:30 Turfgrass Research Reports: 1) Report on mercury fungicides, Dr. Steve Fushtey, Canada Dept. of Agriculture Research Station, Agassiz, BC; 2) Turfgrass Disease Research Report, Dr. Gary Chastagner, Western Washington Research and Extension Center, Puyallup, WA.

10:30-10:50 Break

10:50-11:30 "Control release fertilizers and effects of nitrogen sources on sod establishment and rooting" - C. Robert Staib, BFC Chemicals (Boots Hercules), Turf Specialist, Kansas City, MO.

11:30-12:10 "Fungicide resistance is a reality" - Joseph F. Niedbalski, Research Director, The Upjohn Company, Kalamazoo, MI.

12:10-12:30 Questions and Answers

12:30-1:00 Northwest Turfgrass Association General Membership Meeting

1:00 Adjourn Wednesday Session

6:30-7:30 No-host attitude adjustment

7:30 Banquet, awards, passing the gavel

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Session Chairman, Dick Malpass

8:00-8:50 "Selection and care of lower level landscaping" - Prof. Richard Unterman, Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

8:50-9:40 "Effective speaking (how to meet the challenge of speaking to committees, employees, and public)" - Mr. Larry

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Your 1981 NTA Turf Conference is coming up in September, so make your reservations now. The conference is to be held at the Tyee Motor Inn, in Olympia, on September 22, 23, and 24. Pre-registration and the Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, September 21.

Vice President Norm Whitworth has many new ideas for the golf tournament. He assures me the new format of competition will be enjoyed by all.

The Ladies' Program will be new and a little surprising this year. You ladies might want to bring your apron, your binoculars, and a camera.

Congratulations and a big thanks to Jim Chapman and his Program Committee for a good-looking and well-rounded Conference Program. A committee assignment like this takes a lot of hard work and dedication. Thank you, Jim and committee, for an outstanding program.

This Association, like any, needs new blood, new and fresh ideas, and new enthusiasm. If you, or if you know a member who you think fills one or all the above, please don't hesitate to contact the nominating committee. You may also nominate this person at the Regular Membership Meeting when nominations are called for from the floor.

Please Get Involved! This is your NTA and only you can make it grow.

	R. Christensen, Toastmasters International, Federal Way, WA.
9:40-10:20	Turfgrass Research Reports: 1) Tom Cook, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR; 2) Stan Brauen, Western Washington Research and Extension Center, Puyallup, WA; 3) John T. Law, Western Washington Research and Extension Center, Puyallup, WA.
10:20-10:40	Break
10:40-11:10	"Managing turfgrass stress and disease susceptibility with nitrogen fertilizer" - John T. Law, Western Washington Research and Extension Center, Puyallup, WA
11:10-11:45	Turfgrass Research Reports: 1) Dr. S.E. Brauen; 2) Dr. Roy L. Goss.
11:45-12:00	Question and Answers
12:00	Conference Adjourned

WOMEN'S PROGRAM

Check at Registration Desk

USGA APPOINTS NEW PACIFIC NORTHWEST GREEN SECTION REPRESENTATIVE

Timothy G. Ansett, an agronomist formerly in the Northeastern Region, has been transferred to the Western Subregional office at Vancouver, Washington. Tim opened the new Subregional office on April 15 of this year. The Northwest area was previously serviced by Donald D. Hoos, who also provided service to club members in Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii. The new United States Golf Association Green Section office in Vancouver will serve USGA member clubs in the northern sector of the Western Region. The southern sector of the Western Region will continue to be served by Don Hoos out of Tustin, California. Tim has reported that over 40 golf courses in the Northwest area will utilize the Turf Advisory Service in 1981. We hope that more courses will subscribe to the Green Section Service as they come to know Tim and his capabilities better.

Tim received his B.S. degree in Turfgrass Management from Michigan State University and His M.S. degree in Turfgrass Science at Colorado State University. He was most recently employeed as an instructor in Turfgrass Management and Horticulture at Mount Hood Community College and Clark College in Gresham, Oregon, and Vancouver, Washington. Prior to that he had gained valuable insight into helping golf course superintendents deal with management problems as Turf Advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension Service. With these experiences and having spent several summers working on golf courses in Michigan, Tim brings to the USGA a blend of education and practical knowledge in the field of turfgrass and golf course management. Tim's new address is 2001 Main Street, Vancouver, WA 98660, and telephone number is (206) 695-2181.

We hope that all of you with golf course interests will take the opportunity to get acquainted with Tim Ansett at the Northwest Turfgrass Conference at the Tyee Motor Inn in Olympia, Washington, on September 22-24 of this year.

INTERNATIONAL TURFGRASS SOCIETY MEETING IN CANADA

The International Turfgrass Society holds its International Turfgrass Research Conference every four years in different parts of the world. The First International Research Conference was held at Harrogate, England, in 1969; the second conference at Blacksburg, Virginia, in 1973; the third conference at Munich, Germany, in 1977; and the most recent conference at the University of Guelph, at Guelph, Ontario, Canada, in July of 1981. Twenty-one different countries made up the delegation for the most recent conference. Some 62 scientific papers were presented in a three-day period covering the areas of breeding and cultivar evaluation, establishment, and management, soils and plant nutrition, plant protection, and plant physiology. Dr. Reed Funk, of Rutgers University, presented a keynote address on breeding and cultivar evaluation, Dr. Roy Goss gave a keynote address on establishment and management of turfgrasses, Dr. W.A. Adams, United Kingdom, a keynote address on soils and plant nutrition, Dr. A.J. Turgeon, Texas A&M, keynoted on plant protection, and Dr. J.B. Beard, Texas A&M, a keynote address on turfgrass physiology. The total attendance was somewhat over 300 delegates made up of nearly all phases of turfgrass research and management.

Following the formal conference approximately 60 of the attendees continued on for a western Canada and western United States tour. They toured in the Calvary-Banff area and continued on west to the Kamloops and Harrison Hot Springs and Agassiz, B.C., area, then on the Vancouver. The tour left Vancouver and spent two nights and one day in the Tacoma area where they were shown a cross-section of sports fields, golf courses, and sod production. The tour ended at Portland, Oregon, after visiting seed production and processiong firms in the Willamette Valley in Oregon and Oregon State University.

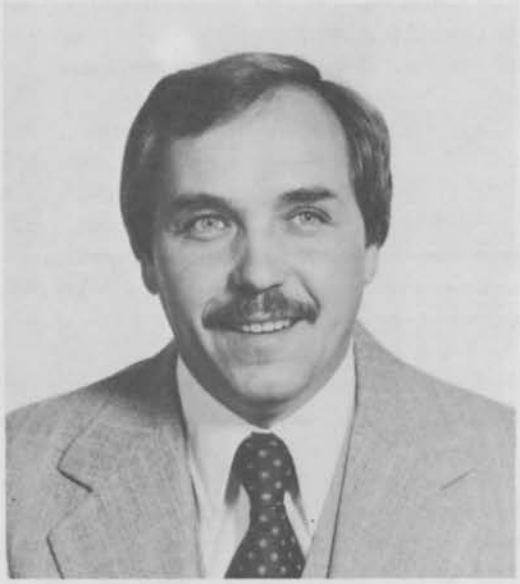
Sincere Thanks to our Contributing Friends

We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. Craig Calvert, Puget Sound Seed Company, Seattle; Mr. Harry Stalford, International Seeds, Halsey, OR; Mr. Robert Johnson and Mr. Richard Giffin, Emerald Turfgrass Farms, Sumner; Mr. Pete Baron, Cumberland Valley Turf Farm, Sumner; Mr. John Peterman, NuLife Fertilizer Co., Tacoma; Mr. Dale Kinyon, Elite Lawn and Turf, Richland; Ms. Cheryl Porter, Sinex Corporation; and Mr. Andy Anderson, E.I. duPont Company, for their financial support for the western Washington tour by the International Turfgrass Society Tour participants. Your generosity helped to make their visit to western Washington a memorable occasion.

SILENT FALL

'Author Unknown'

"Man learned to feed, clothe, protect, and transport himself more efficiently so he might enjoy life.
He built cars, houses on top of each other, and nylon.
And life was more enjoyable.
The men called Farmers became efficient.
A single Farmer grew food for 41 Industrialists, Artists,
And Doctors, and Writers, Engineers, and Teachers as well.
To protect his crops and animals, the Farmer produced substances to repel or destroy Insects, Disease, and Weeds.
These were called Pesticides.
Similar substances were made by Doctors to protect humans.
These were called Medicine.
The Age of Science had arrived and with it came better diet and longer, happier lives for more members of Society.
Soon it came to pass
That certain well-fed members of Society
Disapproved of the Farmer using Science.
They spoke harshly of his techniques for feeding, protecting, and preserving plants and animals.
They longed for the Good Old Days.
And this had emotional appeal to the rest of Society.
By this time Farmers had become so efficient,
Society gave them a new title:
Unimportant Minority.
Because Society could not ever imagine a shortage of food,
Laws were passed abolishing Pesticides, Fertilizers, and Food Preservatives.
Insects, Disease, and Weeds flourished.
Crops and animals died.
Food became scarce
To survive, Industrialists, Artists, and Doctors were forced to grow their own food.
They were not very efficient.
People and governments fought wars to gain more agricultural land.
Millions of people were exterminated.
The remaining few lived like animals.
Feeding themselves on creatures and plants around them.
And these were called Organic Foods."



DR. WILLIAM J. JOHNSTON JOINS WASHINGTON STATE FACULTY

Bill Johnston was appointed to Washington State University faculty on May 1, 1980, where he has taken over many of the responsibilities covered by Prof. Alvin G. Law.

Bill was born in Detroit, Michigan, on August 30, 1942, and is married and has one child. He received his B.S. degree in 1965 from Penn State University, his M.S. degree in 1974 at Auburn Univeristy, Auburn, Alabama, and his Ph.D. in 1980 from Auburn University. His major was in Agronomy and his minor areas were plant physiology and plant breeding. His thesis and dissertation for his Masters degree was "Effects of cold tolerance on several selections of centipedegrass" and his Ph.D. thesis was "Responses of tall fescue genotypes to ozone." Dr. Ray Dickens of Auburn University was his major professor.

Bill has authored or co-authored 17 papers for journals, proceedings, experiment station publications, and Agronomoy Abstracts.

Bill was appointed as Assistant Professor and Assistant Agronomist and is teaching and conducting research in Turfgrass Science as his major area and Forage Management as a minor area. Bill arrived just in time for the May 18 eruption of Mount St. Helens and jumped right in to help collect and assimilate valuable data on the properties of the volcanic ash and its consequences in agriculture production in eastern Washington.

Dr. Johnston is a member of Gamma Sigma Delta, Sigma Gamma Epsilon, Sigma Xi, American Society of Agronomoy, and Crop Science Society of America.

Dr. Johnston's position fills a much needed gap in both teaching and research for the eastern Washington area and we most cordially welcome him as a member of our turfgrass research and teaching team.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our apologies for the oversight in not having run this story on Bill Johnston previously.

IRRIGATION MALPRACTICE

by Roy L. Goss

As the Kansas farmer was once quoted as saying after a lengthy scientific discussion on farming practices by a County Agent, "We ain't farming half as good now as we already know how."

I'm afraid this is justifiably so also with turfgrass irrigation programs throughout the Pacific Northwest. Due to the extreme variability of soils within any given turfgrass area, with the exception of small areas like putting greens, it is virtually impossible to irrigate all areas accurately without a tremendous amount of labor available. We need to educate our clientele that wall to wall green is not always possible nor is it probably the best way to manage quality turfgrass stands. Isolated areas of water-stressed turfgrasses are certainly forgiveable if most of the irrigated area is properly maintained. Too often we try to keep every square foot of a large turfgrass area green while we are overirrigating 95 percent of the entire area. This is a serious misuse of diminishing water resources and an increase in energy consumption by pumping water that really wasn't necessary.

Homeowners are perhaps some of the biggest offenders. In times of water shortages where they are restricted to lawn watering on alternate days or on one or two days per week, many try to spread a small amount of water over the entire area. This is futile. Small amounts of water usually will wet no more than the thatch layer or the soil surface and is available for immediate evaporation. If plentiful water supplies are not available, the turfgrass area should be prioritized and give the most desirable area an adequate watering to the depth of the root zone whenever water is available.

The greatest malpractice occurs when adequate water, sprinkler heads, and pumping capacity is available, but we do not examine the soil profile to determine if we could stretch our water one or more days before watering. If wall to wall green is ordered, then we had better consider more judicious use of wetting agents to make steep areas accept water more freely, aerify, spike, or slice these trouble spots more frequently or employ more handsets with quick coupler hoses.

As compaction increases year after year on turfgrass areas under heavy traffic, the infiltration of water becomes slower and tends to remain on the surface for longer periods of time. Traffic following these frequent irrigations will cause additional puddling and compaction as well as soil structural deterioration and will result in the need for renovation of many areas.

Turfgrass plants with their extensive fibrous root systems are extremely efficient foragers for soil moisture. A soil probe may reveal profiles that appear to be almost completely dry while the turf is still green and with suitable quality. The important thing is to achieve adequate penetration without leaching and to try to achieve as high efficiency of application as possible by getting the water into the soil and not allow this water to run off into low areas.

There are only a few ways that we can more efficiently practice irrigation, and may be summed up as follows:

1. Examine the soil profile with a soil probe. If it is moist, don't water until the available water has gone down to 50 percent or below the water holding capacity.
2. Apply the water in short repeated cycles to achieve greatest efficiency and infiltration.
3. Use wetting agents to enhance infiltration rates through thatch layers.
4. Increase aerification programs before the onset of hot, dry weather to induce greater infiltration rates in the soil.
5. Check the output of the sprinklers to determine if they are delivering water rates for which they were designed.
6. Reduce water output in areas that normally stay wet for

(Continued on page 10)

TO OUR RESEARCH FUND DONORS

by Dick Malpass

Funded thirty-three years ago, in 1948, and incorporated in 1953 as a non-for-profit corporation, the Northwest Turfgrass Association has had a great impact on the development and maintenance of all types of turf in the Pacific Northwest. The objectives and purposes of this Association are as follows:

(a) To conduct or sponsor research studies and experimentation related to the development and maintenance of all types of turf.

(b) To conduct or sponsor experimental laboratories related to the growth and improvement of turfgrasses, pest control (weeds, insects, diseases, etc.), development of new grass varieties, and soil and nutritional studies.

Members of the Association include municipalities, seed growers, sod growers, school districts, park districts, golf clubs, and individuals. Membership dues and donations are utilized for research work in the form of grants to non-profit educatioal institutions. A very small portion of revenues is used for mailings to the membership and no salaries are paid to officers or employees of the association.

For many years much of the experimental research has been carried out at the Western Washington Research and Extension facility at Puyallup, Washington. Other projects have been carried on at other locations in the Northwest, but most of the work is done at Puyallup.

A special "THANK YOU" is due our members who have donated of their funds to help in the experimental research financed by the Association. There is not a golfer, a user of parks or athletic facilities, or a homeowner who has not benefited from work done by the Association. New grass varieties, disease control, insect control, soil and nutritional studies, we have all gained by this research. There is always a shortage of research funds and we solicit your help in this matter. Incidentally, donations are tax deductible. We wish to sincerely thank the following persons and firms who donated money for the Northwest Turfgrass Association special research fund in 1981. When you contribute to this fund you are helping insure the future of fine turf.

Contributors to the Northwest Turfgrass Association Research Fund for 1981

Agate Beach Golf Course
Newport, OR 97365

Alderbrook Golf & Yacht Club
Union, WA 98592

Bend Country Club
Bend, OR 97701

Broadmoor Golf Club
Seattle, WA 98112

Lakes Golf Club
Kennewick, WA 99336

J.R. Chapman
Bellevue, WA 98008

Coos Country Club
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Corvallis Country Club
Corvallis, OR

Emerald Turfgrass Farms
Sumner, WA

Eugene Country Club
Eugene, OR 97401

Everett Golf & Country Club
Everett, WA 98201

Fircrest Golf Club
Tacoma, WA

Ronald Fream Design Group, Ltd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Great Western Seed Co.
Albany, OR 97321

Hayden Lake Golf Club
Hayden Lake, ID 83835

Hi-Cedars Golf Club
Sumner, WA 98360

Don Hogan
Seattle, WA 98109

Inglewood Country Club
Kenmore, WA 98028

International Seeds, Inc.
Halsey, OR 97348

Jenks-White Seed Co.
Salem, OR 97308

Kah-Nee-Tah Resort
Warm Springs, OR 97761

Kellogg Country Club
Pinehurst, ID 83850

Carl Kuhn
Mercer Island, WA

Lake Tapps Development Co.
Seattle, WA 98109

Lakeside School
Seattle, WA 98125

Lil Augusta Golf Club
Redmond, WA 98052

Meridian Valley Country Cub
Kent, WA 98031

Nile Country Club
Seattle, WA 98109

Northshore Golf Club
Tacoma, WA 98422

Oakbrook Golf Club
Tacoma, WA

Oregon Turf Farms
Hubbard, OR 97032

Overlake Golf & Country Club
Bellevue, WA

P.G.A. - Western Wash.
(Pro-Ams)

Pacific Agro
Renton, WA 98055

Port Ludlow Golf Club
Port Ludlow, WA 98365

Puget Sound Seed Co.
Seattle, WA 98119

Riverside Golf & Country Club
Chehalis, WA 98532

Riviera Country Club
Anderson Island, WA 98303

Royal Oaks Country Club
Vancouver, WA 98662

Sahalee Golf Club
Redmond, WA

Salishan Golf Links
Gleneden Beach, OR
Seattle Golf Club
Seattle, WA
Seattle Parks & Recreation Dept.
Seattle, WA 98104
Shaughnessy Golf & Country Club
Vancouver, BC., Canada
Shelton-Bayshore Golf Club
Shelton, WA 98584
Similk Beach Golf Course
Anacortes, WA
Skagit Golf & Country Club
Burlington, WA 98233
Sun River Properties
Sun River, OR
Tacoma Golf & Country Club
Tacoma, WA 98498
Turf-Seed, Inc.
Hubbard, OR97032
Turfgo Northwest
Seattle, WA 98133
Madrona Links Golf Course (Ken Tyson)
Gig Harbor, WA 98335
Vancouver Island Golf Club
Nanaimo, BC, Canada
Waverley Country Club
Portland, OR 97222
Willamette Valley Country Club
Canby, OR 97013

A BOUQUET FOR THE MAN WHO DARED TO TRY

Bob Lee, Superintendent of Stoneridge Golf Course in North Idaho, wins this month's bouquet for his accomplishments of *Poa annua* control on his bentgrass putting greens. There is no question as to the effectiveness of endothall for *Poa annua* control when applied from a properly calibrated sprayer at the proper rate and with the proper timing of application. The program has generally been most successful for the few who dared to try. It is obvious that the individual who has turfgrass areas that are dominated by 70 percent or so of *Poa annua* has a very difficult task of converting these to desirable grasses, but it still can be done. It takes total cooperation, a good selling job, and perserverance.

Bob Lee reported that he had a number of small spots in his Penncross greens and was not willing to let nature take its course and eventually end up with very high percentages of *Poa annua*. He, therefore, treated his greens this summer and reports that as far as he can tell, he has 100 percent Penncross bent in his greens. I have personally had comments from the various Inland Empire superintendents that Bob's greens are superb in all respects for quality.

Bob Lee is also a good student of the science who also practices reduced phosphorus applications, the judicious use of sulfur, and sparingly uses water on his greens.

Many superintendents of golf courses are finding at the

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

present time that *Poa annua* is very difficult to manage during the heat waves that we have experienced. They have also found out in the past and will find also in the future that *Poa annua* is unmanageable as far as Fusarium patch disease and Typhula snow mold diseases are concerned. Winter desiccation is one of the best killers of *Poa annua* as well. For these reasons, I sincerely feel that our goal should be increasing the bentgrasses in our greens continually and then eradication through the use of selective herbicides that we have at hand.

Again, Bob, our compliments to you and for the good advice you have taken from some of your fellow superintendents.

(Continued from page 6)

longer periods of time.

A number of other factors could be listed, but if we would do a good job of practicing the ones above, we would have healthier turfgrass stands with better root systems and many fewer soil related problems.

TURFGRASS FIELD DAY AT PUYALLUP

The Turf Field Days at Puyallup on June 23, 24, and 25, drew approximately 225 people from golf courses, parks, cemeteries, schools, county, state, and federal workers and homeowners. The weather cooperated nicely considering the previous and following bad weather. The field day participants were shown experiments concerning slow release nitrogen tests, management studies with 29 bentgrasses, sand-constructed putting green, N,P,K, and S studies, fungicide evaluations for Fusarium patch, parasitic nematode studies, low maintenance studies on fine fescues, Kentucky bluegrass, turftype perennial ryegrasses and bentgrasses, and regional adaptability of turfgrass varieties. Also viewed were some extensive studies on a number of growth regulators, some of which are marketed and others still in the experimental stage. Some of the growth regulators show remarkable tendencies to inhibit seedhead formation of annual bluegrass and bentgrasses as well, while showing little or no phytotoxicity and good growth suppression. It is hoped that some of these growth regulators will find their way to the marketplace. It should be pointed out that some problems do exist with even the best growth regulators in the sense that diseases such as Fusarium patch, Corticium red thread, and perhaps rust may be increasingly significant due to the restricted growth. Furthermore, these materials should not be used on areas receiving heavy traffic such as sports fields, putting greens, and tees where faster growth is necessary to replace worn tissue.