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November 1971



A Patch of Green

Official Publication of the
Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association

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New Frontiers: GCSAA Certification

Advantages of Certification

The opportunity for GCSAA certification opens a vast new frontier for the profession and offers many outstanding advantages not only to the golf course superintendent but also to his club.

GCSAA certification provides a yardstick by which the capabilities and qualifications of golf course superintendents can be measured and establishes defined levels at which he is expected to perform.

No longer will a club owner or club official have to rely on word-of-mouth reputation as a basis for selecting a superintendent. The fact that a superintendent is certified will indicate that he has the training and experience required by the position of golf course superintendent.

Above all, certification adds dignity and prestige to the profession of golf course superintendency and increases the prospects of obtaining tangible benefits such as career stability, higher income and increased opportunities.

Eligibility Requirements

Any GCSAA member is eligible to apply for certification if he: (1) is currently employed as a golf course superintendent; and (2) has been a Class A member of the GCSAA for at least three years.

Certification under a "tenure-and-experience" provision is also available to any member who: (1) is currently a Class A member; (2) has held that classification for 20 years; (3) is currently employed as a golf course superintendent; and (4) has been a golf course superintendent for a minimum of 20 years. This is not an "auto-

matic" provision; however, the only requirement is that a written request be sent to the Headquarters Office before September 1, 1973.

All eligible members in either category who want to participate in the program must complete an application (available from either Headquarters Office or their GCSAA Chapter secretary) and return it to Headquarters with the \$50 fee. Half of the fee will be refunded to those applicants who meet the requirements of the tenure-and-experience provision.

The Examination

An important aspect of the certification program is a comprehensive six-part examination. It covers these areas:

1. Knowledge of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, including the history, purpose and ethics of the Association and the profession of golf course superintendency;
2. Knowledge of the game of golf, including the official rules of the game;
3. Turf management procedures - consideration of practical problems in the major areas of irrigation, fertilization, equipment calibration, soil factors, cost analysis, drainage systems;
4. Pesticides - comprehensive questions on the selection, usage, safety precautions, and use protectant chemicals;
5. Business Administration - techniques of record keeping and application, budget preparation and methods of presentation;
6. Management - Human relations; recruiting, training, and supervising crews; public relations (officials, members, club department heads, community).

Continued on next page

GCSAA Certification Cont.

Applicants will be allowed up to six hours to complete the entire examination, although it is anticipated that less time will be necessary.

Each of the six sections will be graded separately. Thus, if an applicant passes four sections and fails two, he will be required to retake only the two sections failed. *There is no limit to the number of times an applicant may retake any failed section.* However, if all six sections are not oriented correspondence course in the the initial examination date, all six sections must be retaken at an additional fee of \$25.

Study Materials

After his application has been processed, the applicant will receive study materials to help him prepare for the examination. Information contained in the reference materials has been carefully written and edited to provide candidates with a timely and appropriate study source.

An applicant may take as long as he likes to prepare for his examination. Once he feels he is ready to be tested, a date will be set that is mutually agreeable to him and to an official monitor in his area.

Because applicants will be tested on an "open book" basis, they will be allowed to refer to any of their study materials during the actual examination.

Other Requirements

For certification to be truly beneficial and effective, it cannot be a "one-shot" affair. In order to keep informed on the developments in his field, the certified golf course superintendent will be required to be re-examined every five years. He must also maintain his membership in GCSAA and remain actively employed as a golf course superintendent. In addition, he must either complete one regional GCSAA workshop or successfully complete a GCSAA-approved turf-oriented correspondence course in the interim.

If a certified member should leave the profession for more than five years and then return, he must start the certification program over again from the beginning. If he is away less than five years, such time will be added to the stipulated reexamination requirement.

Certification Manual Available to All Members

Even though some members may not presently be eligible for certification, they still may purchase the Certification Manual for \$25. Only GCSAA members (regardless of classification (status) are permitted to do so.

This manual can prove particularly useful to superintendents in increasing their knowledge and providing a tool for training assistants and crew members. All requests must be accompanied by a check or money order made out to "GCSAA-Certification Program."

For any further information on the certification program, write GCSAA Director of Education, Dr. Paul M. Alexander.

RESIDENCE TAXABLE

From C. E. (Scotty) Stewart
in the "BULL SHEET"

It will probably come as a shock to some golf course superintendents to learn that a free house on the golf course grounds plus free utilities such as gas, light, water, telephone, etc. is not as free as they imagine.

A recent court case was won by the Internal Revenue Service against a golf course superintendent who lives on the grounds and which now forces him to add a fair house rental value, plus the cost of all his paid utilities, to his *yearly salary* and he then must pay an income tax based on this *gross taxable income*.

The IRS stated that a superintendent's residence on the golf course grounds was not required as a condition of his employment for the majority of superintendents live off the grounds.

Officers Elected: MBCGCSA Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association was held at Idyl Wyld Golf Club, November 2, 1971.

After a delicious buffet style dinner prepared by Host, Don Patterson, the Class A and B members of the Association retired to an adjoining room to elect new officers.

Bill Milne presented the slate and conducted the election of officers. The results of the election are as follows:

President - Ted Woehle, Oakland Hills Country Club

Vice President - Gerald Gill, Tam O'Shanter Country Club

Secretary-Treasurer - Bob Hope, Knollwood Country Club

and two newly elected directors for a three year term -

Gary Bartsch - Pine Lake Country Club

Roger Gill - Royal Oak Golf Club

Ward Swanson of Plum Hollow Golf Club becomes President Emeritus.

Directors retiring from office are Andy Bertoni of Holy Greens Golf Course and Bill Madigan of Country Club of Detroit.



Bob Hope, newly elected Secretary-Treasurer, Superintendent of Knollwood Country Club.



Gerald Gill, Vice-President, Supt. of Tam O'Shanter C.C.



Newly elected Directors; Gary Bartsch, Supt. of Pine Lake C.C. on the left and Roger Gill, Supt. of Royal Oak Golf Club.

COMING EVENTS

1. Christmas Dinner Dance - December 3 - Edgewood Golf Club
2. Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show - December 7, 8, & 9, 1971 Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio
3. 42nd Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference - Kellogg Center, MSU January 18 & 19, 1972
4. 43rd International Turfgrass Conference and Show - Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio February 13 thru 18, 1972
5. 54th PGA Championship - July 31 thru August 6, 1972, Oakland Hills Country Club, Birmingham, Michigan



New Concept in Turf Aerification Introduced

"While we are hearing more and more about the importance of aerification in the maintenance of turf," said Martin Ford, president of Howard Rotator Co., Inc., "until now there has not been adequate equipment to do the total job."

Ford's comment was made in conjunction with his announcement of a new "total turf aerification" machine, called the Turf-Quaker, introduced by the Harvard, Illinois equipment company. The new unit is designed to relieve compaction, remove excess thatch, and open the soil for nutrients in a single pass. "It is highly effective in all turf aerification applications," says Ford, "including parks, cemeteries, golf courses, playing fields, and grounds maintenance operations."

The Turf-Quaker is a powered slicing type of aerifying machine (as compared with the "Spiking" and "Coring" types also in use) but, according to Ford, with numerous advantages that make it superior to other slicing and coring machines. Rather than mounting the blades straight across the power-driven rotor, the

Howard Turf-Quaker blades are mounted in a scroll, or corkscrew pattern to give it an auger-like action. In operation, this action results in one blade slicing down and part way through the ground before the adjacent blade touches the soil surface. Each blade is sufficiently thick that, in addition to parting the turf along the line of the cut, it also forces it to one side, while the next blade forces it back into position. This action shatters the soil around the grass roots and gives the turf full relief from compaction.

"While the problem of compaction is evident in most grounds maintenance operations," says Ford, "it is perhaps most serious in the maintenance of the turf on golf course fairways. Here the problems of compaction have greatly increased with the use of more and larger maintenance machinery, multiple pass mowing, more power-driven golf cars, and in general, increased traffic."

The new Howard Turf-Quaker is designed to answer all of the major problems of aerification in a single machine. It is designed to slice into hard,

Continued on Page 11

Irrigation Drainage Time

by Douglas A. Bruce, P.E., Vice President, Miller Sprinkling Systems

It's the time of year again to think about protecting your irrigation system against the damaging freezes of winter.

The deep frost of last winter caused more damage to irrigation systems in the Midwest than any two winters combined in the last 10 years. Frost damage to an irrigation system occurs from the following causes and in the following order of frequency:

1. Low temperature at periods of light or no snow cover.
2. Poor drainage procedure - drain entire system poorly.
3. Incomplete drainage - forgot to drain part of system.
4. Water standing on the ground surface above an open drain valve or sprinkler head.
5. Contraction of piping and ground heave due to temperature change.

"Blowing out" of irrigation systems with an air compressor has gained in popularity in the last five years. Coupled with good procedure, blowing can minimize most of the above causes.

The following sequence for drainage should be followed in order and tailored to your particular installation:

1. Several days or a week before actual draining:

- A. Locate irrigation drawing.
 - B. Turn off water supply.
 - C. Open drains that flow directly into tile lines, creeks, or ponds.
 - D. Insert sprinklers at the high and low points to allow air to replace the water as the low head drains.
2. Connect suitably sized air compressor near the source of water. (Note) A piping system of 3" and less can be blown quickly with 1-125 cfm compressor. Piping systems 4"-8" can be blown faster with less chance for error with 2-125 cfm compressors.
 3. Beginning at the pumphouse, open each sprinkler outlet until you get air and no water, then close, on one branch of the main line and follow it to the dead end. Do the same on each branch of the main line until you have air and no water coming from each outlet. (Note) Several men "leap frogging" with golf carts makes this quite fast.

Be sure to allow compressor to build up pressure so the water will be moved with a large volume of air.

Continued on next page



Algae: The Spoiler

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Drainage Time Cont.

4. Repeat step 3 to check drainage.
5. Starting again at the pumphouse and working toward the end of each lateral, check the drain valves slightly to be sure air and no water escapes. Close the drain, wait a minute, and repeat. Water may have collected at the low points. (Note) Drains and standing surface water usually occur at low points in the terrain. Closed drains will prevent the surface water from entering the pipe line through the drain valve, along with stones from the drainage sump, and eliminate the drain closing chore during spring turn-on.
- E. Turn pump motors off and protect windings against possible rodent nesting.
- F. Drain water from pressure gauges, switches, tank sight glasses, tank air chargers, and other special items subject to freeze in the pumphouse.
7. Program automatic valves to operate once a day for 5 minutes to prevent the solenoid plunger from sticking and reduce the moisture in the solenoid coil and automatic controller contacts.

The basic piping system is now drained and special attention is needed to properly drain the pumphouse. One small slip at this state of drainage could be very expensive.

6. Pumphouse drainage:
 - A. Starting at the discharge line in the pumphouse wall, trace the flow of water in the piping through gate valves and check valves and open necessary drains.
 - B. Drain pump volutes by removing the bottom plug or opening drainage cock.
 - C. Remove or drain suction drop pipe.
 - D. Remove water from pressure reducing valve covers by blowing out or loosening cover bolts.

Before going out and renting an air compressor and blowing your system, take several hours with your blue print and the above procedure. Write down in sequence the steps you plan to take when you start actual drainage. The steps can be listed by thinking of yourself as entering the pipeline at the source of water and your job is to push the water out on top of the ground as you move through the pipe. What routes will you have to follow to push all of the water out the dead end of every line? What will you do when you come to a branch tee that feeds another fairway or splits and goes both ways at the front of a green? When do you get to the end of the line when the system is looped? The same routes you took entering the pipes at the source to get to the dead ends must be followed by the wall of air you will put into the system when blowing out.

Frost damage repairs have got to rate near the top of the bad job list. In addition, they occur at a critical time of year from a manpower standpoint, and can cause several weeks of anguish if the dirt is not properly flushed after the repair is made. Now is the time to think about any necessary pump and sprinkler repair required for next year's operation. Get the necessary parts on order and make the repairs conveniently in the winter rather than wait for the spring rush.

Good luck in your drainage this fall. The old adage "you make your own luck" was never truer.

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NAME OF INTERESTED PERSON

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Or you may contact the next golf course supplier that calls on
you and give him the information needed for application.

New Concept Cont.

compacted turf, cracking and breaking impervious layers of soil that prevent drainage. The topside of the turf is loosened with a firm shaking action resulting in a properly loosened and aerated turf that is open to air and nutrients deep down to the roots. The turf is thus softer and healthier in all seasons.

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Two models of the Turf-Quaker are now being distributed throughout the United States: the model 'P' for three-

point linkage tractors ranging from 20 to 40 horsepower, and the model 'E' for 35 to 60 horsepower tractors. Both models are available in 50-inch or 60-inch widths.

Complete information on the new Howard Turf-Quaker may be obtained from Wm. F. Sell & Son, Inc., 16555 So. Telegraph Road, Taylor, Michigan 48180, Phone: 282-5100.

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Golf Course Architect

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MATURITY IS MANY THINGS

MATURITY is many things. First, it is ability to base a judgment on the Big Picture - the Long Haul. It means being able to pass up the fun-for-the minute and select the course of action which will pay off later.

Maturity is the ability to stick with a project or a situation until it is finished.

Maturity is the capacity to face unpleasantness, frustrations, discomfort, and defeat without complaint or collapse.

Maturity is the ability to live up to your responsibilities, and this means being dependable. The world is filled with people who can't be counted on. People who never seem to come through in the clutches. People who break promises and substitute alibis for performance.

Maturity is the ability to make a decision and stand by it. Immature people spend their lives exploring endless possibilities and then do nothing. Action requires courage. And there is no maturity without courage.

Maturity is the ability to harness your abilities and your energies and to do more than is expected. The mature person refuses to settle for mediocrity. He would rather aim high and miss the mark than aim low - and make it.

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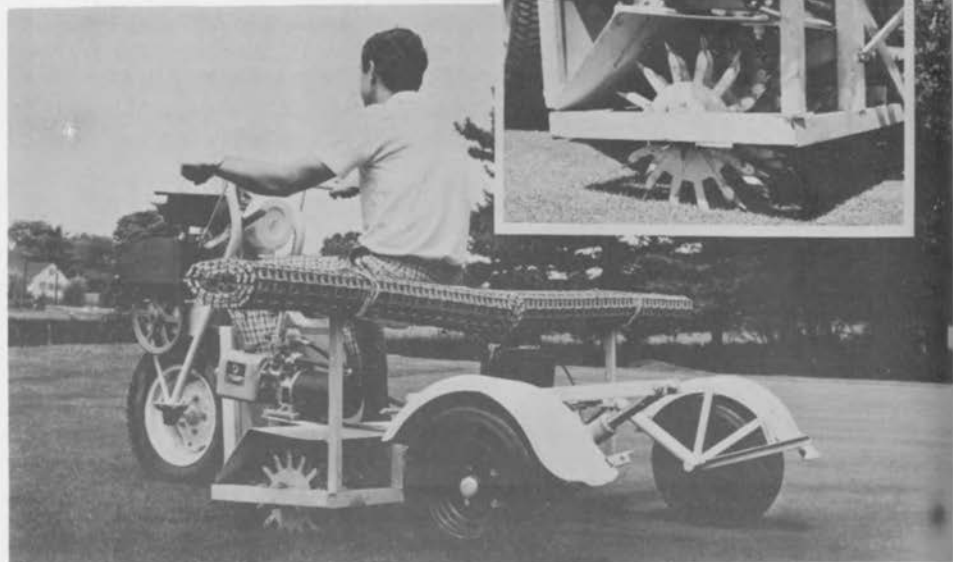
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CONTROLLING MOSS IN LAWNS

Moss occasionally becomes a problem in Michigan lawns. It is commonly associated with the following conditions: (a) low fertility, (b) acidic soils, (c) poor drainage, (d) soil compaction, (e) heavy shade, and (f) sites with restricted air movement. Any one or a combination of these may be the determining factor in a moss infestation reports Robert Shearman and J. B. Beard, Michigan State University Turfgrass Scientists.

Moss can be controlled by spraying with copper sulfate. It should be applied at a rate per 1000 square feet of 5 ounces in 4 gallons of water. After the moss has been controlled, steps should be taken to correct any of the above conditions that may encourage the moss to reinfest the area. A soil test would be beneficial in determining soil fertility level and soil pH. The following Michigan State University and Cooperative Extension Service publications are available:

1. Lawn Establishment, Extension Bulletin No. E-673.
2. Lawn Care, Extension Bulletin No. E-646.
3. Lawn Weed Control, Extension Bulletin No. E-653.

These bulletins contain information that will be beneficial in correcting the existing factors that have led to the moss invasion.

Choosing the proper turfgrass species, improving turfgrass nutrition, and correcting poor drainage and soil compaction will minimize conditions favoring the development of a moss problem in the future.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE - Bob Main, of Loch Lomand Golf Course informs us that he has a 40 HP Electric Pump for sale. It is a 300 gpm pump & motor, used approx. 8 times. Cost \$1,875 new - will sell for \$1,200. For additional information call Bob at 742-1434 in Flint, or write 65191 S. Dort Hwy., Flint, Michigan 48507.

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CUTWORM PROBLEMS ON TURFS IN MICHIGAN

Robert Shearman, Michigan State University Associate Turfgrass Extension Specialist, reports that cutworms have caused an increasing amount of damage to bentgrass putting greens during the past few years. These dull-brown, gray or almost black larvae range in length from 1.0 to 1.5 inches. They cause small, irregular brown spots in the turf due to the cropping of the grass plants near the soil surface. Quite often the injury symptoms on greens are difficult to differentiate from old ball marks. Cutworms feed on the shoots during the night and may be found curled up in the thatch layer or holes in the soil near the damaged areas. They also remain in aeration holes during the day where it is cool and damp.

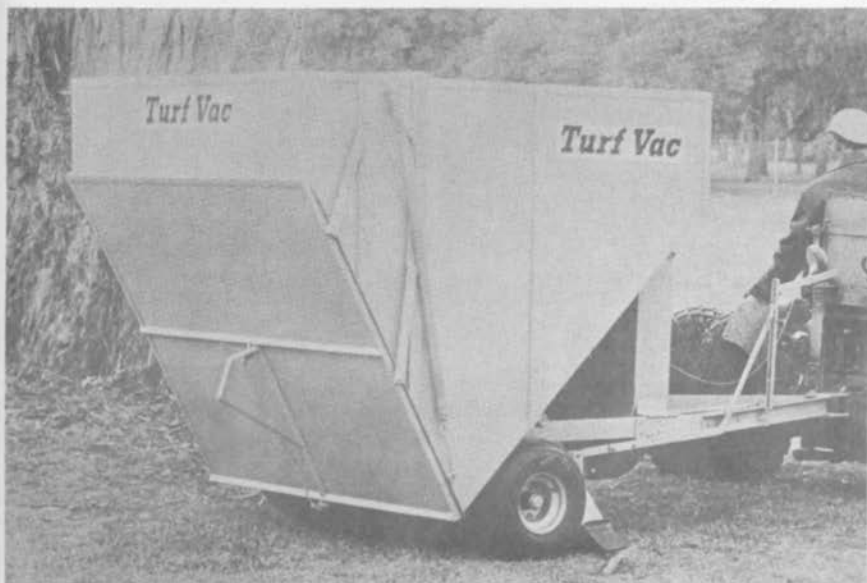
Cutworms can be controlled with several of the commercially available insecticides. Since cutworms feed primarily on the grass leaf blades, insecticides that are applied as a drench to the turfgrass foliage and the underlying soil are most effective in controlling cutworms. Sprays have generally proven more effective than granular applications.

The preferred time of year for controlling cutworms varies with their abundance. The period of May through July is when the highest populations normally occur and the turfgrass damage is the greatest.

Dr. W. E. Wallner, M.S.U. Extension Specialist in Entomology, recommends the use of Diazinon, Sevin, Ethion 4E, or Dylox for controlling cutworms. These should be applied as a drench in the late afternoon to obtain the best control. If possible, the grass should not be mowed for 2 days after treatment, especially where clippings are removed, this will allow the larvae to feed on the treated blades.

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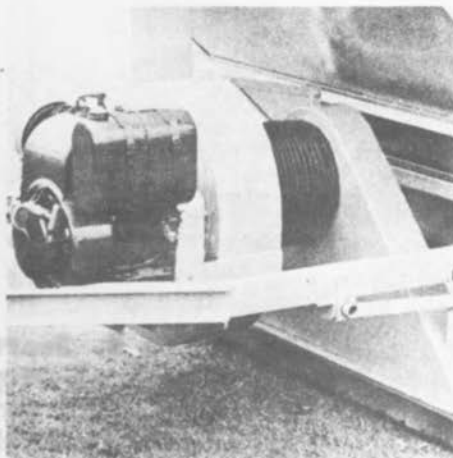
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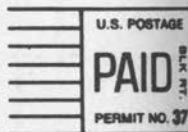


Season's Greetings

Hal Vogler

from Hal Vogler and the W. F. Miller Staff

"A Patch of Green"
31823 UTICA ROAD
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Dr. James H. Beard
Department of Crop Science
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