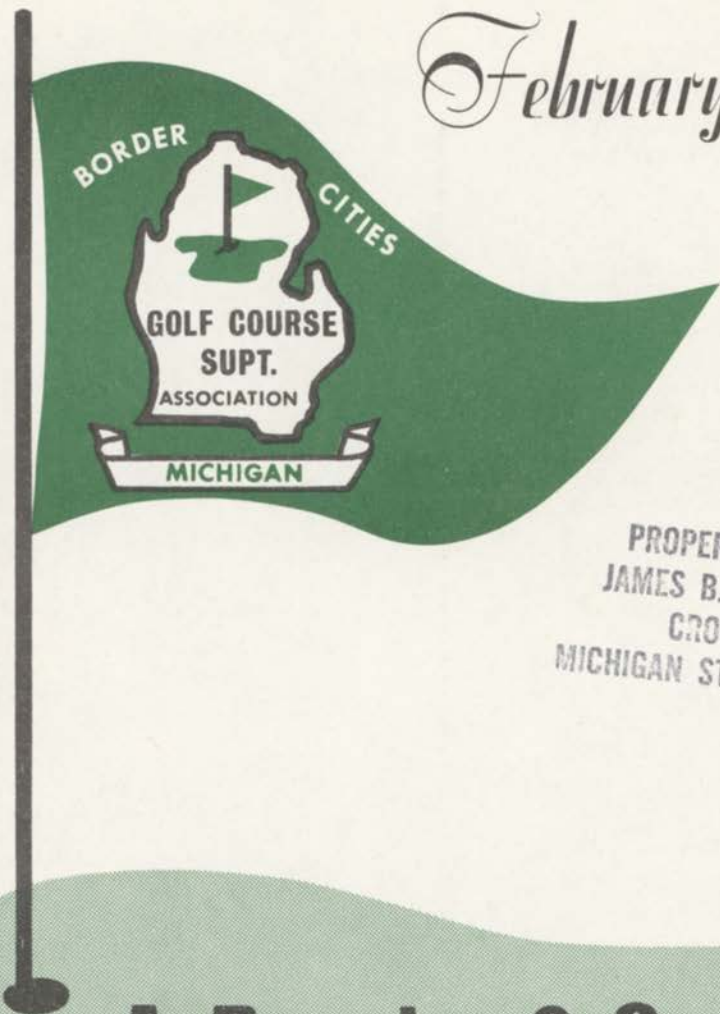


February 1972 ✓



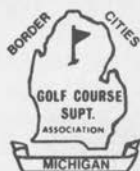
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A Patch of Green

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



During my four short years as a member of this association, I have noticed a remarkable change in the membership attitude. A change from apathy and complacency to enthusiasm and equanimity. This attitude is very refreshing.

Our newly appointed committees have jumped right in and organized

their programs for this coming year and from all indications it should be one of our finest years.

The arrangements Committee has been able to secure some of the finest clubs in the area and the educational Committee has been working on some of the top notch speakers in the field of turfgrass maintenance.

The Golf Association of Michigan has agreed to help us in organizing our Fall Turf Day. With their assistance we should have a most successful fund raising day.

Some of the other things that we will endeavor to accomplish are: A Spring Flower show—Ken McRae, Chairman, Renewed Membership Drive—Al Kaltz, Chairman (We should attempt to gather in some of the members that have fallen by the wayside) A concerted effort to support the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. (Clem Wolfrom is the new President) They have done so much for us that we as individuals should do more for them. If your Club is not a member of the MTF please see to it that they join.

A new roster and by-laws book. This project is long overdue. You will be receiving a questionnaire shortly giving us an update on your address, Club or job affiliation, telephone numbers, wife's first name and a few other tidbits of information.

Let's all continue to pitch in and help to make this year our best ever.

Proudly yours,

Ted Woehrle, President

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EUGENE D. JOHANNINGSMEIER
CONSULTING AGRONOMIST

THE GOPHER WRITES

Orchard Lake Country Club is constructing some new maintenance building facilities.

Wabeek Country Club is planning to open the first nine holes for play in June sometime as reported by Supt. Lee Schmidt.

Great Oaks Country Club in Rochester will be open and running this spring.

The new Superintendent at HillCrest is Pete DeVoss. Pete comes to us from Indiana.

Clem Wolfrom, Supt. Detroit Golf Club is the new President of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation and George Prieskom, Supt. of Burroughs Farms is the new Vice President. Gene Johanningsmeier is a newly elected Director.

PRESENTED AT OHIO TURF CONFERENCE, December 1971

EVALUATION OF KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS, FINE FESCUE AND RYEGRASS VARIETIES

by ROBERT W. MILLER, Professor of Agronomy, Ohio State University
and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center

Continued from January issue

SOUTH DAKOTA CERTIFIED KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS was included in tests at The Ohio State University for the first time in 1969. Its performance is not expected to be greatly different from Kenblue.

FYLKING was developed at the Swedish Plant Breeding Station, Svalof. It has not been included in Ohio studies long enough to fully evaluate its performance. It is described as a low-growing variety adapted to close mowing with good resistance to leafspot and stripe smut.

PARK is a "synthetic variety" produced by interplanting 15 strains and harvesting the seed. This blending of strains is not greatly different from the natural blending of common Kentucky bluegrass. Its performance in Ohio studies has been no better and in some cases inferior to Kentucky produced common. It is susceptible to leafspot and moderately resistant to stripe smut.

NU DWARF is a bluegrass selected in Nebraska. Reports from Nebraska state that it obtains about one-half the size as other Kentucky bluegrass, makes a firm turf, and remains green late into the season. Research conducted in Ohio has failed to show any real advantages for this variety. It is susceptible to leafspot but has some resistance to stripe smut.

NEWPORT is a selection made on the Oregon coast. Seed of this variety has been on the market for several years. Its performance usually has been

inferior to common Kentucky bluegrass. *NEWPORT C-1* is a selection made from Newport and is difficult to distinguish from the parent variety. Much of the common Kentucky bluegrass seed on the market is actually Newport.

DELTA is a selection from Canada. It greens up earlier in the spring than most bluegrass varieties but appears to have no other significant advantage.

It is a good seed producer, therefore seed will likely be available for some time. The appearance of this variety is similar to common Kentucky bluegrass.

PRATO is a variety imported from Europe. It has been somewhat better than common Kentucky bluegrass in Ohio studies. Prato is fairly resistant to both helminthosporium diseases and stripe smut. It does not produce as dense a sod as Merion, Windsor, Pennstar or A-20.

ARBORETUM Kentucky bluegrass is composed of seed from a successful bluegrass stand at the Missouri Botanical Garden Arboretum near Gray Summit, Missouri. It is not greatly different in appearance from common Kentucky bluegrass. It is composed of several strains of bluegrass and in this way is similar to Park and common Kentucky.

DELFT has not performed well in Ohio studies. It is intermediate in disease resistance although it does have some resistance to stripe smut.

COUGAR has not performed well in Ohio mainly because of its susceptibility to leafspot. In studies at Colum-

Continued on Page 6

NOBODY GIVES A DAMN

Stop blaming the other guy. This doesn't mean we should be willing to accept low standards. Just don't expect more from others than you expect from yourself.

Let's encourage responsibility where we find it, praise the efforts and good work of others, show them that they are appreciated. On the other hand, when you are hit by a foul-up, really raise hell. Don't hesitate to carry your beef all the way to the top. If this fails, take your business away. It's better to do without than to live with second-rate products or services. It's a fact that people who run businesses today are more concerned about consumer complaints than ever before. You may find that hard to believe, but it's true.

Above all, let's cut out the rotten excuse that we are "only human", that we're entitled to some daily quota of error or indifference. Only human? What an incredible denial of the human potential. Only human? This is the ultimate insult.

Remember that man's greatness does not lie in perfection but in striving for it. Once we don't give a damn, we have lost everything.

WE'LL TRY AGAIN



Ted Woehrlé, left, presenting wall plaque to outgoing president Ward Swanson for his outstanding leadership during the past two years.



Golf Champ Don Ross and his wife, Bernice.

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bus leafspot has been more severe on Cougar than on any other variety tested. It has a low growth habit and wide leaf blades.

NUGGETT was released by the Alaska Agricultural Experiment Station and Crop Research Division in 1965. It is dark green in color and is reported to have good disease resistance and winter hardiness. Research in Ohio with this variety is not sufficient for evaluation.

CAMPUS in Ohio studies has been resistant to stripe smut and fairly susceptible to leafspot. It has not formed as dense a turf as varieties such as A-20, Pennstar, Merion and Windsor. The overall ranking of this variety has been superior to Park, Newport, common, Delta, Cougar and some other varieties.

SODOCO, a release from Purdue University, is a blend of dwarf types of Kentucky bluegrass. It was included in Ohio studies for the first time in 1969.

Other named varieties included in Ohio studies are *BARON*, *A-10*, *A-34*, *ARISTA*, *SOUTHPORT*, *PALOUSE*, *GEARY*, *PRIMO*, *BELTURF*, and *ZWARTBERG*. Inadequate information prevents comments about them.

BLUEGRASS VARIETIES

Because of an unusual reproductive system found in Kentucky bluegrass and some other plants the majority of seed produced by a single plant will produce offspring identical to the parent. If a particular plant is selected because of a desirable trait or traits, plants produced from the seed of that individual will all have the same traits. Likewise, any undesirable characteristic will also be produced in most of the offspring. Such a homogeneous population might serve well for a specific purpose but some genetic variance may be better for average conditions. This diversity can probably be best attained by blending different varieties.

Blending of several inferior Kentucky bluegrass varieties will not improve quality. If blending is to serve a useful purpose, varieties must be

selected because they have desirable characteristics. For example, Merion might be blended with common Kentucky so that part of the grass present would be resistant to stripe smut and helminthosporium diseases. Much more information is needed about blending before a specific blend can be recommended for a particular purpose.

RED FESCUE VARIETIES

Red fescue is used for home lawns, golf course roughs, and other turfgrass areas where minimum maintenance is desirable. It is well adapted on sandy soils, is fairly shade tolerant, will not stand close mowing, and will deteriorate under a high fertility program.

Named varieties of fine leaf fescues are Wintergreen, Pennlawn, Illahee, Jamestown, Ruby, Rainier, Golfroad, Arctared, Duraturf, Oasis, Highlight, Boreal, Brabantia, Reptans, Barfalla, Sceempter, Durlawn, Erika, Cascade, Fortune and Dawson. Many of these have not been evaluated for any length of time. Illahee and Pennlawn are superior in performance to common red fescue.

PERENNIAL RYEGRASS VARIETIES

Perennial ryegrass has been used extensively as a so-called 'nurse crop' with new turfgrass seedings, as a temporary grass, to overseed damaged football fields, tees, etc., and to overseed Bermudagrass greens. Common perennial ryegrass does not produce quality turf. It has a coarse appearance, produces a thin turf especially in hot weather, and is unsightly after mowing. It is often included in cheap seed mixtures. In Ohio studies perennial ryegrass persists in turf.

Of several newer varieties Manhattan has better mowing quality, is finer in texture, and produces a better turf than common. Norlea, NK 100 and Pelo are other varieties that are superior to common. Pennfine is new from Pennsylvania.

CAPITALISM: Freedom.
SOCIALISM: Feed'em.
COMMUNISM: Bleed'em.

42nd ANNUAL TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

The attendance was over 500, the weather was ideal (at least better than the Blizzard last year) the speakers and the subject material, and the hospitality was all outstanding. Our hats are off to the staff at MSU.

Powdery Mildew, Fusarium Blight, Stripe Smut and Dollars spot can all be controlled with DuPont's 1991 at 4 to 8 ounces per 1000 sq. ft. in two applications two weeks apart. It is important to get the material into the soil so you should drench the lawn area after application. 1991 is good for Dollars spot control at one ounce per 1000 sq. ft. every three to four weeks on fairways.

An interesting side note. In all cases of Fusarium Blight investigated researchers found that damaging Nematodes were also present. Therefore, a good Nematicide should also be applied or included in your preventative maintenance program.

With this information, it is felt that Bluegrass can be successfully grown in the shade if we control these diseases and other pest. One *Warning* however, we should learn to alternate fungicides. An occasional application of a contact chemical, between applications of systemic type chemicals, will help to prevent a resistant strain of disease from developing. If we don't alternate

fungicides we may create a real *MON-STER*, one that might develop resistance to all chemicals.

The density of turf is increased at lower heights of cut. This holds true all the way down to onehalf inch. Hard to believe isn't it? There is little noticeable difference in turf quality when cut with a rotary type or reel type mower except when the grass is very lush and heavy, then a slight tip browning occurs with the rotary.

Earthworms are very important creatures in preventing thatch accumulation. There will be more on this subject in a later issue.

The incidence of fairy ring is increased with higher rates of Nitrogen. Especially the *Tricholoma* fairy ring.

Coring and wetting agents in combination make good cure for hydrophobic conditions in soil. Wetting agents alone do little for localized dry spots, but in combination with coring it does a good job.

Top dressing rates for winter desiccation control were found to be somewhere between .3 and .4 of a cubic yard per 1000 sq. feet. This should be applied after your snow mold prevention material has been applied. Top-dressing does nothing to prevent low temperature kill.

Next Page

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Arsenical responses on *Poa annua* control are influenced by soil pH, Phosphorous levels in the soil, Soil structure or texture and the Organic matter in the soil.

A new term for "Cocktail Party" as coined by Dr. Charles W. Laughlin, is a Social "Attitude Adjustment Hour".

Spray for Knotweed Control Before May 1, anytime after that may be harmful to the desirable grasses.

Mr. Don Rossi, National Golf Foundation's Executive Director, stated that 50% of all golfers play on 15% of our courses. Most of these courses are Public or Municipal. The trend in construction is to the shorter courses because of the shorter playing time, low maintenance cost and easier playing conditions. Many courses are being built in conjunction with housing developments.

Generally speaking the Private Clubs are financially in trouble. The operational cost are up and the memberships are getting smaller. High taxes are also hurting.

Speaking of Chuck Laughlin, have you noticed how all nematologists are excited about their work? Remember Jim Holmes? He was just as excited.

The hit of the conference was the discussion on the Superintendent-Salesman Relationship. The panel was moderated by Clem Wolfrom, Superintendent, Detroit Golf Club.

Here are some of the points stressed by the Superintendents:

1. I would like to see an enthusiastic salesman, one that is concerned about my needs.
2. A salesman should have knowledge of service bulletins.
3. He should represent the product for what it is.
4. Prices should be posted in a catalogue.
5. Salesmen should stress precautions on labels of the product.
6. A salesman should disseminate new ideas, after approval of the innovator of course.
7. The Salesman should demonstrate the equipment and not just drop it off.

8. He should use Superintendents time wisely and conduct himself in a business like manner.

9. A salesman should strive for professionalism.

Next we heard from Dave Moote, Superintendent, Essex Golf and Country Club, Windsor, Ontario. Dave stressed integrity and honesty and mentioned that these two things are both two way streets.

1. A salesman should demonstrate knowledge and experience.
2. He should be a teacher and show his ability
3. We should work together on new product usage on our courses for the betterment of both of us.
4. Get to know each other — so I can ask a question and I can expect an honest answer.
5. The worse thing that can happen is misrepresentation of a product.
6. A salesman should have the ability to make decisions, to problems can be solved immediately.
7. He should be more than a delivery boy or an order taker.

Now the Salesmen. First Gene Johanningsmeier, Turfgrass Inc. of South Lyon. Gene stressed courtesy.

1. If a Superintendent is busy he should say so. This way neither wastes the others time.
2. A customers resources must be respected.
3. Sell only what a club needs.
4. We shouldn't be afraid to say "I don't know", but offer to help find the answer.
5. Don't name-drop about courses using our product.
6. Don't knock the competition.
7. We have to be good listeners.

Next, Hal Vogler, President, W. F. Miller Co., Birmingham, Michigan. Hal, mentioned honesty and sincerity. The biggest problem as Hal saw it was one of communication.

1. A Superintendent should give details of his problems.
2. If an emergency exists—Say so!
3. It is the Superintendent's responsi-

Continued on Page 11



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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.

bility to inform the Salesman if a needed part is causing an emergency. Emergencies are handled differently than a normal order.

4. A superintendent should always use a parts book for numbers when ordering. This will eliminate misunderstandings. The use of maintenance manuals is also a must.
5. A Superintendent should discuss problems about equipment failures so the problem can be corrected.
6. We need all the assistance that we can get in collecting over-due bills.

A question from the floor. How do you feel about making appointments? Jerry said that it wasn't necessary, Dave would like a call to make certain that the salesman doesn't make an unnecessary trip. Gene and Hal said they would be happy to, if the customer would be happy to, if the customer wanted appointments. Just so the appointments are not on the same day and at the same time.

The big question was: What do you do about the salesman bearing gifts? No concrete answers were given but one word of advice was given. **BEWARE!**

Dr. Jim Beard mentioned that excessive Nitrogen restricts root growth but this could be overcome with an

The big question was: What do you do about the salesman bearing gifts? No concrete answers were given but one word of advice was given. **BEWARE!**

Dr. Jim Beard mentioned that excessive Nitrogen restricts root growth but this could be overcome with an application of Carbohydrates (glucose) It is not a practical operation at this time, it could get a little sticky.

The use of Sulfate of Potash is recommended because it is safer. It is used for building up the acidity in the soil. It has a lower salt index.

We were all glad to see Dr. Al Turgeon again. As you know he is now at the University of Illinois continuing his work in turf. We wish him the best of luck.

Dr. William Carlson spoke on the

importance of annual flowers and the low cost of providing colorful displays around our Clubhouses and out on the course.

These are only a few of the highlights of the Conference. MSU is printing the entire proceedings in the near future. If you don't belong to the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, join now and get your copy.

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NORMAN W. KRAMER AWARD

The Norman W. Kramer, Outstanding Scholar Award, a newly established award for the Outstanding Scholar in the Turf School at Michigan State University was presented to Christopher E. Fochtman of Sparta, Michigan.

Chris attended High School in Grand Rapids and then spent three years at Western Michigan Univ. He worked three summers at Alpine Golf Course. His placement training was spent with Roland Sullivan and Tony Tridente at Blythefield C. C. in Grand Rapids.

During his two years at MSU he was able to maintain an outstanding 4.22 average. Congratulations to Chris! Here is a real sharp man for the industry.

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COMING EVENTS

MSU Turf Conference

Questionnaire about information needed for new Roster.

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GREEN BELT PLANTING

by JAMES W. TIMMERMAN, Greens Superintendent, Orchard Lake C.C.

Here at Orchard Lake we were faced with the problem of possibly losing many trees along a road that cuts through our course. The county's future plans call for widening of this road. This would have spoiled the natural beauty of a number of our fairways.

We were forced to decide what to do if this occurred. Fencing was looked into as an alternative but because of cost and the fact that fencing would destroy the natural landscaping of our course it was ruled out.

After careful investigation it was decided to initiate a planting program along the fairways that would be affected by the tree removal. This planting we have called the 'Green Belt'. When finished it will provide an effective screen and sound barrier against traffic along the road. However, its strongest asset is that it will enhance and blend with the existing beauty of our golf course.

We attacked this considerable screening program by first consulting a professional landscape architect to guide us in design and selection of plant material. I would recommend this procedure for and club undergoing a large planting program such as ours. If we try and do it ourselves we may find we overload on one particular species because it is our or someone on the greens committee's favorite. By using trained personnel you achieve the desired results.

Our green belt was designed on a modular system. We use two modules of different characteristics. Each module is 100 yards long and up to 55 yards in width.

The design is of a free flowing nature. Nothing ever planted in a straight

line except a few hedges. We are after a natural setting. Plant material of varying heights are used. Each module is designed so the larger trees serve as back drop for the smaller flowering trees and shrubs. The following is a list of the plant material used:

Small Trees and Shrubs

- Acer ginnala - Amur Maple
- Ameranchier canadensis
- Juneberry - Cornus mas
- Cornelian Cherry
- Euonymun alatus
- Winged Euonymus
- Malus Snowdrift
- Snowdrift Crab
- Malus dorothea
- Dorothea Crab
- Prunus serrulata kwanzan
- Kwanzan Cherry

Large Trees

- Acer rubrum - Red Maple
- Acer P. Norway - Norway Maple
- Acer saccharum - Sugar Maple
- Gleditsia "Sunburst"
- Sunburst Locust

Conifers

- Pinus nigra - Austrian Pine
- Pinus sylvestris - Scotch Pine
- Thuja occidentalis
- Dark Green Arborvitae

Hedge Plant

- Rhamnus frangula colmnaris
- Tallhedge

When planting along a fairway we take into consideration how each hole is played. The narrowest parts of the modules are planted to coincide with the most popular landing area for each shot. The wider parts are near the tee and green. Also, the smaller shrub material is kept out of narrower parts.

The plant material selected is such

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Since 1925

that we have good spring and fall color. The flowering crabs and cherries provide the spring color and the foliage of the trees and shrubs, especially the Euonymun, give fall color.

The modules are unique in that they can be inded or another module attached anywhere without disrupting the continuity of design.

The cost of each module, including labor for planting, averages \$600 per module. We have been planting 6 module a year for the past 2 years. Through careful buying, however, cost can be kept lower to some degree. For example, bare root stock is cheaper than balled and burlapped stock. We try to buy as mature a plant as our budget will allow.

All material is planted in the spring. The architect and myself will stake a module, taking into consideration the character of the hole. Any existing trees are blended into the planting.

We found the fastest way to plant is by the use of a 24-inch soil auger. This is mounted on the back of a tractor and two men can easily dig all the holes in a few days. All trees are wrapped but only a few of the taller ones are staked.

Maintenance costs the first year or two will be quite high. In dry periods the plants will need watering. Last summer as we all know was very dry and we found we had to water at least once a week. We also will fertilize the first few years and spray for any diseases or insects.

Our green belt program has been widely accepted by the membership. The women especially like the flowering crabapples. We will continue to plant six modules a year until the project is completed.

The one point I particularly like is the module concept. This gives a thorough plan from which to work and can be easily maneuvered to fit any area.

Finally, if we are forced to fence in future years we will have an excellent boundary planting that will hide any fencing that would have detracted from the natural beauty of our golf course.

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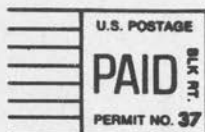
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