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Christmas Party Huge Success

Once again the Edgewood Country Club and its staff are to be congratulated for their gracious hospitality. Ken McRae and his wife Elizabeth were the acting Hosts for the evening welcoming the largest crowd ever. Over 150 guests participated in the festive occasion. Past President, Gerald Gill and his wife Mary were the Chairmen of the Christmas Party Committee. They are to be thanked and

congratulated for organizing such an enjoyable evening for our membership.

We were happy to see so many new faces in the crowd. It is obvious that the swing to youth is present. I hope that these fine young people will continue to carry on this tradition during the Holiday season. Our Christmas party is one of the highlights of the year and has been held for fifty years.

Christmas Party Sponsors

The Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association wishes to thank the following

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Three new Superintendents, L to R; Mike Edgerton, Meadowbrook CC, Don Ratcliff, Birmingham CC, Kevin Dushane, Wabeek CC.



Jim Vlassis and his fan club: L to R; Janet Wolfrom, Jean Prieskorn, Kay Prieskorn.



Some of the crowd of 150 enjoying the dance music at Edgewood CC.



Co-Editors of *A Patch of Green*. Left, Clem Wolfrom, Vice President, MBCGCSA, Supt. Detroit Golf Club; Right, Ted Woehrle, Supt. Oakland Hills Country Club.



President George Prieskorn (right) presenting outgoing President Jerry Gill with a wall plaque for his loyal and dedicated service as president for the years 1974 and 1975.

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A Patch of Green 5th Celebrates Anniversary

With this issue of "A Patch of Green" we complete five years of service to the Golf Course Superintendents of the State of Michigan. It has been a pleasure gathering and presenting the news of the industry to such a fine group of people.

We only hope that the next five years are as rewarding to the golf course superintendents of Michigan as the past 5 years were. This magazine will continue to present the latest information to its readers in hopes of keeping those interested in the future informed about their profession.



We need your support. Please do not hesitate to send us news and information that you feel should be printed in the Magazine. This is your voice so please feel free to help.

"We, the willing, led by the unsure are doing the impossible for the ungrateful. We have done so much for so long with so little we are now qualified to do anything with nothing."

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Golf Course Superintendents Merit Respect as Turfgrass Doctors

Golf Course Superintendents are professionals, not magicians. An analogy between superintendents and medical doctors can be drawn to illustrate the point.

After years of training and experience, both superintendents and doctors are prepared to examine ailments and prescribe treatment. Both are dealing with living objects. Both are concerned that the life continue. A great deal of mystery and misconception surrounds both occupations and their practices. Often the cost of their services is considered too high, in some instances exorbitant. Appreciation is expressed only when the "patient" approaches some near tragedy and is "saved," to be useful and complete again.

One major difference between superintendents and doctors (other than income) is that superintendents must work to keep their "patients" at the verge of death, through extremely close cutting, followed by an armada of golfers and carts. The "intravenous bottles" of fertilizer and other soil conditioners can never be turned off, and should some virulent "infection" invade the course in the form of fungus, insects, drought, etc., the superintendent cannot let the "patient" recover through bed rest. He is lucky if he can keep carts on paths, let alone golfers off the course to let it recover naturally.

Each year stories circulate of how a superintendent has been fired because the "Course didn't measure up." Seldom do we hear of those who overcame tremendous odds and did keep the course in great condition, and almost never do we hear of course

officials recognizing what may have caused the course not to measure up without pointing a finger at the superintendent. The common cold can remain uncured, but superintendents can have nothing short of perfection.

There are those who contend that all of this is what the superintendent gets paid for, and few superintendents would argue that particular point. What they might like to add, given the opportunity, is that should the "patient" suffer a setback or lose some vitality, conditions other than the superintendent's abilities and actions should also be given consideration. Superintendents are professionals not magicians and they can only perform minor miracles, regardless of budget golfers' desires and demands or other factors.

Although there may be a few charlatans in the business, superintendents over-all are more interested and aware of the conditions of their course than any golfer, professional or amateur, could ever pretend to be. If you wouldn't tell a doctor how to remove an unsightly wart, why should golfers assume so much knowledge and tell the superintendent how to perform his responsibilities?

CENTURY RAIN-AID SPONSORS TRADE SHOW

Century Rain-Aid will sponsor the 2nd Annual Irrigation Trade Show, in conjunction with Educational Seminar Meetings, at the Ramada Inn, Southfield, Michigan. (See page 7) By invitation only, call Robert Neumaier, 543-7730, for details.

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NAME OF INTERESTED PERSON _____ **DATE** _____

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

How to plant a tree

Because of shortage of space these directions will be in outline form and somewhat brief. Bare root trees should ordinarily be soaked in water for 24 to 36 hours before planting.

1. Remove any sod from the planting area and discard.

2. Dig a round hole 12 to 24 inches wider than the wall or root spread. Make sure it is as wide or wider at the bottom as it is at the top. Dig deeper than the ball or roots and backfill as needed with good loose soil. Divide the good and bad soil and discard the bad.

3. Place tree in the hole and at the same time or before, correct the depth by loose soil backfill as noted above. Set from 0 to 2" deeper than it originally grew. Start backfill of soil around ball or roots with good soil. Borrow some if necessary from

other places or haul in.

4. Water can be started anytime - at least before hole is filled with soil.

5. Ordinarily water will settle the soil around the bare roots or ball but in some cases bare root trees may need to have the soil settled by "walking it down" around the roots with the feet.

6. After watering, fill the hole on up to level with soil and form a wide shallow basin for future water holding.

7. Mulch with peat, straw or similar litter two to four inches deep.

8. Stake bare root trees.

9. Water regularly but avoid continual saturation to avoid drowning of the roots.

10. Some pruning should be done on bare root trees ordinarily, (perhaps remove 1/4 to 1/3 of total buds on the tree.



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GUIDELINE FOR HIRING A SUPERINTENDENT AVAILABLE

Suggestions for properly locating and hiring a Golf Course Superintendent are contained in a new publication of GCSAA. The 20-page booklet, written for the person charged for hiring a superintendent, carefully details the ins and outs of filling this important position. Included in the booklet are samples of contracts and GCSAA's Employment Referral Service form. This latest booklet was designed to augment an earlier publication, "How to find a new position," which has been distributed to all members. Superintendents are invited to present this new booklet to their employer when leaving a position, thereby assisting the course, and helping to insure a qualified Superintendent is hired.

COMING EVENTS

1. 46th Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference
MSU Jan. 21-22, 1976
2. 47th Annual International Turfgrass Conference and Show
Minneapolis February 8-13, 1976
3. Midwest Turf Conference
Purdue March 1-3, 1976
4. 1976 Canadian Open
Essex Golf & C.C.
July 19-25, 1976



'MAC' RETIRES

Longtime Superintendent "Mac" McElheny of Birmingham Country Club enjoys his retirement party held recently at the country club. We all wish him well in his new life of leisure.

EPA COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR GUIDE AVAILABLE

The "Core Manual" is a 48-page booklet designed to help pesticide applicators meet the general certification standards. It is reported that the guide does not include information to meet specific standards required by Federal regulations or state law. Copies of "Apply Pesticides Correctly - A Guide for Commercial Applicators," are available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.



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— John James Ingalls

From 'The Golf Superintendent'

43 Attend Pesticide Seminar

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America presented

THE 'RED FOX' OF OAKLAND HILLS C.C.



their Pesticide Seminar at Michigan State University on December 16 and 17, 1975. The material presented to the participants was aimed at providing them with the latest information available in pesticide usage and safety. A great deal of time was spent in calibration of equipment and measurement of land areas. The information was geared to meet the Michigan laws and regulations to help Golf Course Superintendents prepare themselves for the examination and licensing for pesticide applicators. The deadline for this examination is October of this year.

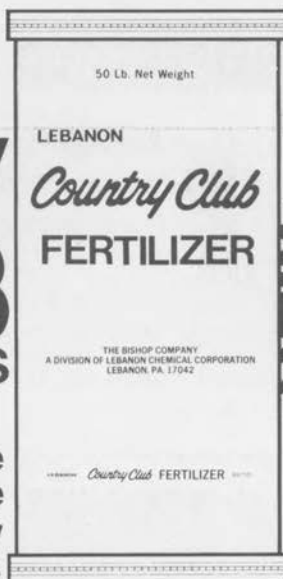
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George Champion Receives Award

Mr. George E. Champion, President of the O. J. Noer Research Foundation, Inc., was honored on November 15, 1975 with a Distinguished Service Award for his leadership in guiding the Foundation as President.

The award was presented by the Board of Directors of the Foundation.

During his years of leadership, over \$100,000 was collected and expended for 14 research projects at six (6) universities which led to eight (8) advanced degrees in turf-grass management.

The O. J. Noer Memorial Library Collections was also established at Michigan State and Texas A & M Universities.

We of the Michigan & Border Cities G.C.S.A. would like to add our congratulations to George Champion, a real Champion!

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Scholarships Awarded as Fund Drive Commences for new Scholarship and Research Monies

Scholarship award letters have gone to 36 students for this academic year while another 51 were notified they would not be receiving awards, at least for this year. Checks in the amount of \$500.00 per student will be presented in the near future. Contributions to the Scholarship and Research Fund Inc. totaled \$36,961.40 which represents a new all-time high for a single fiscal year.

Nearly the same time awards were being announced, a special fund drive was getting underway from GCSAA Headquarters. All members received an invoice, addressed to their employer, in the amount of \$50. Funds received thru this drive will be held in an interest earning account until such time as the Executive Committee determines that continued interest could finance a reasonable number of awards for research and scholarships, without disrupting the interest earning principal.

Research grants for the coming year will be announced after the Minneapolis Conference and Show where the results of previously funded projects will be reported for the membership.



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