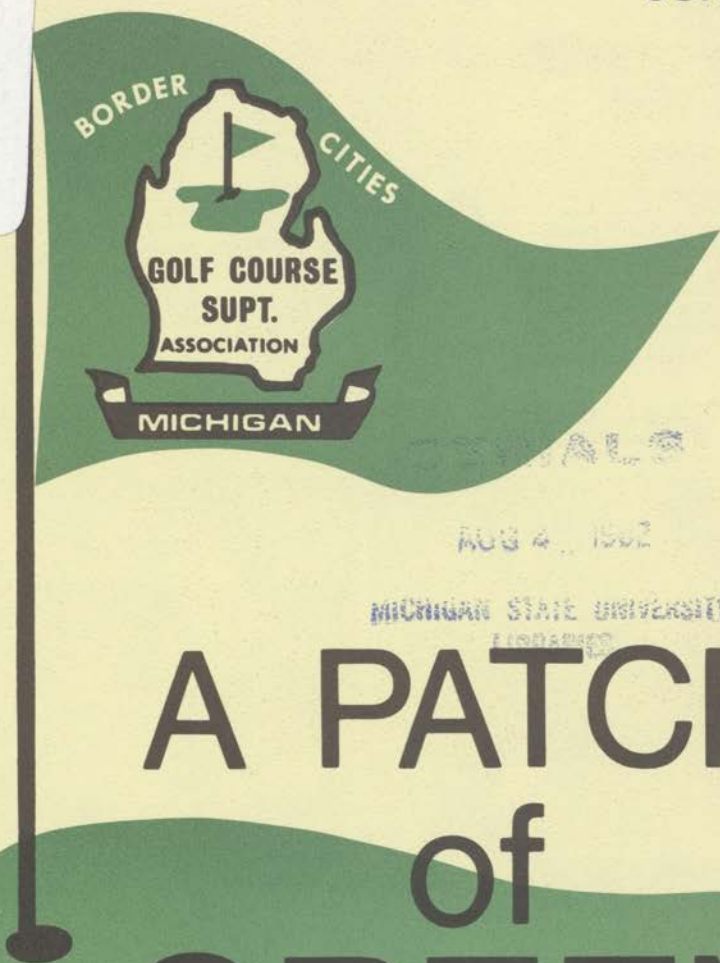


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# A PATCH of GREEN

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

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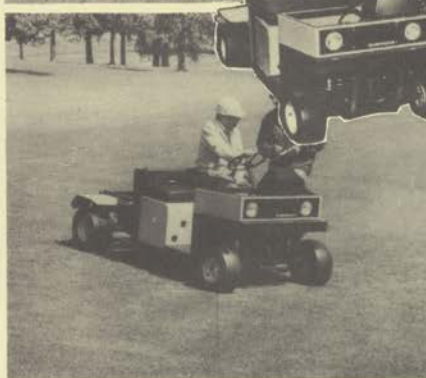
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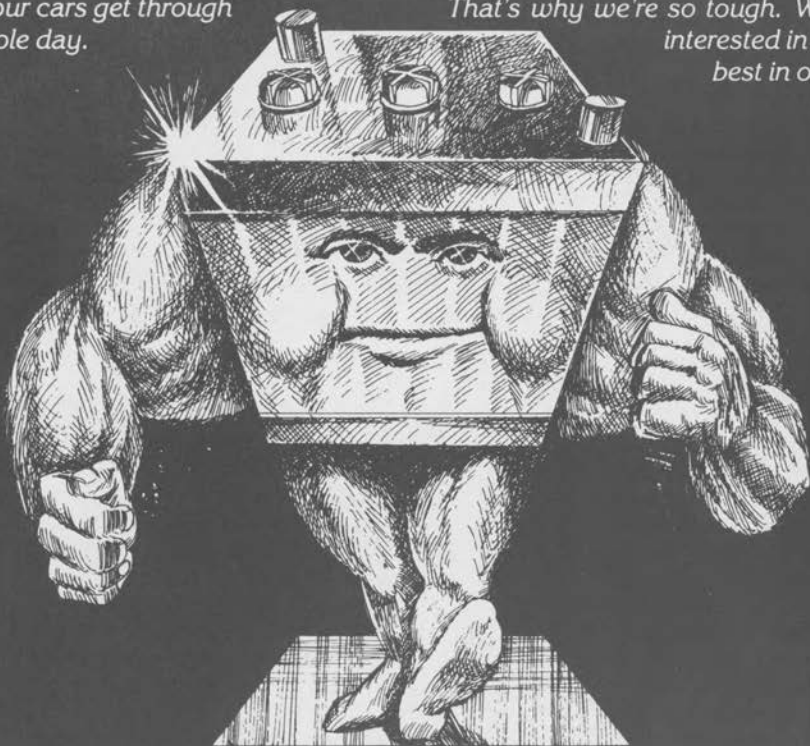
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# USGA Forms Turfgrass Research Committee

FAR HILLS, N.J. — The United States Golf Association has announced the formation of a Turfgrass Research Committee.

"We believe that this will develop into one of our most important undertakings," said USGA Senior Executive Director Harry W. Easterly, Jr. in making the announcement. "In time, the research compiled by this committee could lead to major breakthroughs in turfgrass maintenance."

The committee is comprised of some of the nation's leading turfgrass experts. The committee includes: Stephen J. Horrell, Chairman, USGA Green Section Committee; Harry W. Easterly, Jr., USGA Senior Executive Director; Dr. James R. Watson, Vice President, The Toro Company; Dr. Marvin R. Ferguson, Former National Director and Research Coordinator, USGA Green Section; Dr. Paul Rieke, Associate Professor, Michigan State University; Charles W. Smith, USGA Director, Administration and Services; William H. Bengeyfield, Committee Chairman, and National Director, USGA Green Section; Harold E. Neale, USGA Director, Development; and James B. Moncrief, Director, Southeastern Region, USGA Green Section.

The long-term program will be a multi-million dollar undertaking. The primary purpose of the program is to

develop minimal maintenance turfgrasses that are water conserving, salt tolerant, disease and insect resistant and will provide excellent playing surfaces.

One of the major efforts of the committee will be to form a computerized reference source for all turfgrass research literature. This will bring together every piece of literature dedicated to turfgrass research from throughout the world.

The committee will also fund overseas expeditions which will enable researchers to gather grasses from throughout the world. These turfgrass species, through various breeding programs, will be used to achieve the objectives noted above. An expedition for plant material search in Asia and South Africa has already been authorized.

The findings of this research will be of value to all applications of turfgrasses, including golf, athletic fields, lawns, parks, etc.

The committee, which met formally for the first time in West Palm Beach, Fla., on Feb. 22, includes three scientists (Watson, Ferguson and Rieke) with a combined 85 years experience in world-wide turfgrass research.

The committee expects to release funds in the very near future for this project.

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# AS I SEE IT!

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By Louis E. Miller

---

From Kentuckiana Klippings May 82  
Over the Easter weekend we were once again enraptured along with the candy and hard boiled colored eggs with the most sacred and prestigious of golfing tournaments, the Masters. Even this most revered of events couldn't escape the wrath of the Spring of 1982. Yet, with all of the hype and ballyhoo that preceded and accompanied this spectacle with the newly rebuilt and re-turfed greens from bermuda to bent, with the mention of one being "bionic" with the installation of heating pipes and the "waxed glass" putting surfaces that left players and spectators alike gasping in awe as putts trickled forty feet past the hole, one can't help but wonder that all is not well amidst the dogwood, redbud and azaleas on this consecrated piece of Georgia landscape.

I think that it is time that all of us involved in this business of the game of golf the GCSAA, USGA and the PGA, ask ourselves the question, is this the way the game of golf was meant to be played? Have we reached the level of other professional sports, and I do mean professional, because no amateur golfers play under these conditions, where we are one step away from a "shot clock" or perhaps a "designated hitter?" Jack Nicklaus made a statement during the Masters, he said, "This is the way Bobby Jones meant for this course to play." I disagree, because if Bobby Jones had intended for the course to play the way it did then he would have built it that way in the first place. Let's take a serious look at this business of converting the greens from bermuda to bent. The Masters has never been played on bermuda. It may have been played on Poa Annua, a mixture of rye grasses and some Poa Trivialis, but the bermuda was always dormant during the Masters, and very

little if any golf is ever played on bermuda greens due to the timing of the golfing season at Augusta National. Over the years as the technology improved, with the longer balls the better clubs and perhaps even the better golfers, the scores started to drop. Was, or is that a disgrace? Is it a disgrace to run a faster time in the mile run? Did they do anything to the grass courts at Wimbledon after Bjorn Borg won five times to make it more difficult for him to win again? What about the Indianapolis 500 or Kentucky Derby, have they thrown anything on the tracks to raise the times in these events, simply because there is a feeling that records shouldn't be broken. Somewhere along the line a synthetic attitude has taken over this event like the polyester and dacron blends that make up the clothes that so many of the golfing industry wear. Must unnatural playing conditions be created amidst this esoteric acreage. The behind the scenes controversy that transpired among "conversion contributors" leads one to believe that "things ain't always easy in paradise." More than once during the tournament the comment was made that it had changed from a game of skill to a game of luck. But I guess that even a blind hog gets lucky once in a while and finds an acorn. So, too, must the directors of the Masters have felt that by sheer luck somebody would emerge with a lower score, though not lower than par, if that be the case then all would have been for naught.

If someone had shot the lights out of Augusta National and had had a tremendous subpar round than what would be the next step? Maybe the tournament officials would have forced the players to play with wooden shafted clubs and square dimpled balls.

*Continued Page 19*

## "WILL FIT" PARTS A THREAT

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The Golf Course Superintendents as a whole are getting better educated and more sophisticated. Their responsibilities dictate a daily up-grading to stay abreast of an ever changing and challenging profession. One of the many responsibilities is the preparation of a maintenance budget and then maintain the golf course within the approved budget. Herin presents a serious problem which the "will fit," "like original," "compared to original equipment," or "copy" can affect the superintendent's continued progress.

For some, it is hard to distinguish between a quick sale at a lower price and the long-range good of the industry. Some may offer a few items that are priced below the brands of reputable manufactures with local stocking distributors. Their company did not share the cost of product development and testing and can conceivably offer a "copy" or "will fit" at a slightly lower

price.

A golf course superintendent and GCSAA past president stated, "As superintendents, we are charged with the responsibility of spending our club's monies wisely in the maintenance of their golfing facilities. Much of our work and the results produced by it

*Continued Page 9*

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## Charles G. Wilson named Recipient of 1982 USGA Green Section Award

Far Hills, N.J. -- Charles G. Wilson, of Milwaukee, WI, the man who pioneered the Green Section Regional Turf Service in 1952, has been named the recipient of the 1982 Green Section award, presented by the USGA in recognition of his distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass.

Wilson will receive the Green Section Award during the 26th annual USGA Green Section Educational Conference at the New Orleans Hilton, in New Orleans, La., Wednesday, February 3, 1982. Stephen J. Horrell, of El Cajon, CA, Chairman of the Green Section Award Committee, will make the presentation.

The theme of the Conference will be "The Good Earth Needs Good Golfing Turf". For the second consecutive year, the Conference will be held as part of the GCSAA International Turfgrass Conference and Show, at the invitation of the Golf Course Super-

intendents Association of America.

The USGA established the Green Section Award in 1961 to honor those who have made immeasurable contributions respecting the arena upon which the game of golf is played. Their contributions and services may be evidenced by their achievements over a number of years or by a single act.

In presenting the Green Section Award, the USGA wishes to identify, celebrate, and hold up for emulation individuals, such as Charles G. Wilson, who exemplify outstanding dedication to golf through their work with turfgrass.

Wilson also serves as a consultant on Wisconsin turfgrass problems and is involved in setting up the very successful Wisconsin Turfgrass Conference, which he founded 16 years ago in cooperation with the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association. The literature of turfgrass management is richer for many contributions

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Wilson has made throughout his career. He has authored a chapter in the Turfgrass Science Monography, published by the American Society of Agronomy. Furthermore, he has co-authored several bulletins on turfgrass management and maintenance practices. Wilson also has written and presented numerous papers dealing with all phases of turf culture at local, regional, and national golf course superintendents meetings throughout the United States and Canada.

Wilson is a member of the Alpha Zeta and the Sigma Xi Honorary Agricultural Fraternities, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and an honorary member of several regional superintendents and turfgrass associations.

Wilson's career has been one of a lifetime devotion and dedication to the turfgrass industry, marked by a special concern for improving turfgrass growth and playing conditions for this country's golfers.

### "Will Fit" Parts, cont.

would not be possible without the invaluable help we receive from reputable manufacturers and their salesmen."

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The "will fit" parts offer no product training or maintenance helps. He offers a mail order form without local distributor inventory and delivery. Do a few low parts prices mean that much compared to the threat it may create? The golf course superintendent can ill afford to waste the progress of the past or slow developments of the future. Consider the total difference on your parts or equipment purchase and only purchase genuine original manufacturers' products.

Georgia Turfgrass News

# You're Using Sulfur-Coated Fertilizer?

by ART WICK

While traveling the United States over the last few years I have had the goof fortune to attend more than 40 turf and nursery trade shows. I can only make an estimate, but I'd venture to say I've spoken to at least 3,000 individuals at these shows. A surprising number of these people have claimed they are using or have used sulfur-coated urea or sulfur-coated fertilizers. My immediate reaction to this claim is to inquire what product or brand was used. The next question is how much sulfur-coated urea did the product contain. The answer in a vast number of cases is confused. Generally the individual indicates that he purchased a product because it contained sulfur-coated urea, but does not know how much sulfur-coated urea it contained. It seems that the "sulfur-coated urea" ingredient, in many cases, is the reason the individual tried the product, but did he get what he thought he bought? Unfortunately, in some cases the customer has been misled. This is not a new routine. It's happened before in the fertilizer business with other slow-release nitrogen sources the names of which have been prominently displayed on a package or a piece of literature when actually only present in such an insignificant amount in the product that the ingredient was diluted beyond recognition. Such is now the case with some products containing sulfur-coated urea.

Sulfur-coated urea (SCU) has received national recognition from many research institutes over the past 15 years as being a fine, economical source of slow-release nitrogen. SCU is rapidly becoming the leading economical source of slow-release nitrogen in turf and nursery fertilizers. The acceptance is due to the recognition that the "contains SCU" tag on a product adds to a product's acceptance. But how much of the nitrogen in a product

should be SCU in order to be considered a significant amount? Is five percent enough? Don't laugh! I've seen turf fertilizers that claim to contain SCU in which I was hard-pressed to find a sulfur-coated granule in a handful of the product. How about a 30% nitrogen product contains three units of SCU in 30 units? Do you really think that this small amount provides a significant effect? I'd challenge anyone to prove this effect.

And how about the individual who uses a turf fertilizer containing six units of SCU out of 28 units (28%) total nitrogen and applies the product under less-than-desirable weather conditions at a relatively high rate and burns his turf and blames the burn on the SCU? Obviously, he says, the SCU was the new ingredient at fault, right? Baloney! Let's get back to reality and place the blame where it belongs.

If you wish to use any controlled-release nitrogen (CRN) source and derive a significant benefit from the CRN source, let's get at least 33 1/3% of the nitrogen to be CRN. Better yet, set your sights on 50% CRN for more desirable results. Then, if you are into more critical weather conditions on turf or are dealing with sensitive ornamental shrubs, boost the CRN content toward 75% of total nitrogen. Another frustrating scenario is the individual who "tests" a slow-release nitrogen product such as 100% Sulfur-Coated Fertilizer (which is 75% controlled release nitrogen) against a product which contains 25% CRN (such as 31-3-10 with methylene urea) and finds the sulfur-coated fertilizer to green up slower! Yes, sir, it sure will. A 100% sulfur-coated fertilizer is designed to release more slowly, to have less flush growth, to release more consistently and to last much longer. If a quick green-up is preferred, use a

*Continued Page 18*



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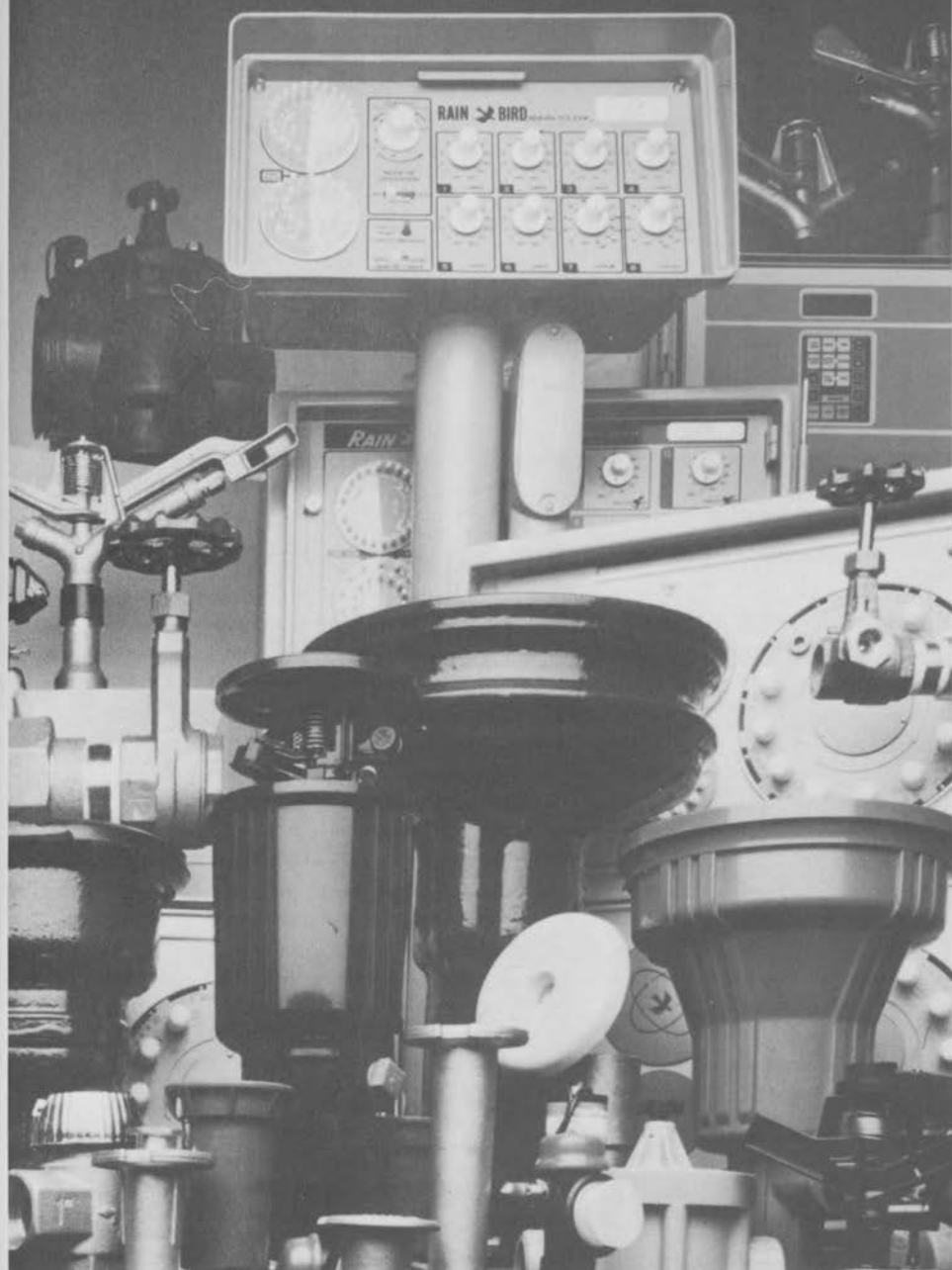
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# A WASTE OF \$

The purpose of this article will be to analyze the somewhat controversial general manager concept as it applies to country clubs.

Initially we must define exactly what is meant by the terms "country club" and "general manager".

A "country club" is essentially a service organization comprised of:

1. A golf course involving extensive land acreage providing golf facilities for a specific membership.
2. A club house comprised usually of a restaurant, coffee shop, locker room, and administration facilities and normally an outdoor recreational pool.
3. A "pro" shop with a teaching professional who co-ordinates golfing activities and events as well as merchandising related golf equipment and clothing.

A "general manager" normally is the authoritative head of an organization comprised of several departments.

The role of the general manager is to co-ordinate and streamline the activities of the various departments with the specific purpose of promoting efficiency of operation and production.

With regard to the two definitions, the initial conclusion might be that if a country club is made up of several departments and that the job of a general manager is to co-ordinate various departments — why not put them together.

A deeper analysis of the exact nature of a country club would cast doubt upon such a conclusion.

To use an analogy, suppose a successful business man owned severally, a restaurant, a farm, and a clothing store. Would he hire a general manager to run them all? The knowledge necessary to operate each business successfully is so divergent that the answer would be obvious.

*Continued Page 18*

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## The Winter of 81-82

This past winter will be long remembered as one of our longest-coldest winters on record. We missed the "total snowfall" record by one inch - 75 inches.

To complicate matters - a heavy thick layer of ice was formed on January 4 after a warm period had melted the snow from Christmas week plus a heavy thunderstorm added to the problem. This water and slush layer - froze and was promptly covered with heavy snow for the remainder of the winter.

The ice was out of site and soon out of mind. Several of the old times and MSU turf specialist remembered the winter of 61-62 when similar conditions existed. They notified the GAM headquarters about the problem and an ALERT letter was sent to all GAM member clubs warning them of the potential problem. In most cases the letter prompted superintendents to investigate for the presence of ice and the thickness and density of the ice layer. Many became concerned and removed the snow that was covering the ice. In many cases the snow was over two feet thick. Various methods were used to remove the snow.

Snow blowers

Snow Plows

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and bull dozers

little turf damage was experienced because the ice was thick enough to support the weight of the heavy equipment.

The melting of the ice was speeded up with the application of Milorganite - 2-3 bags per green was usually enough to promote melting (the dark color caused the melting - not the fertilizer).

Some courses failed to provide drainage thru the wall of snow that was caused by its removal. This water was trapped and refroze, causing the crown to damage (crown hydration).

In most cases where the snow and ice was removed the damage was minimal, usually just selective.

Poa annua kill-

Once again the mystery of the severity of damage arose. Just as in 1962 there still are some unanswered questions.

*Continued Next Page*

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Winter 1981-82, cont.

Why were some greens injured more than others? Was it the strain of grass? Thatch thickness?

Nutrition?

Soil structure – sandy or clay?

Compaction?

Drainage – good or bad?

Density of ice – clear or honey combed?

What caused the terrible odor?

Whatever the answers, we are grateful to those that were responsible for the warning. They saved a lot of greens.

Thanks.

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU RAISE OR LOWER YOUR PRICES?

We all are in the business to make money, and pricing often determines the volume of business, and directly influences the net profit.

Pricing is used to move inventory, to promote sales, and to attract the impulse buyer. If pricing is to be used for these reasons, the seller must keep in mind what happens to net profit. He should also be aware of the volume of sales necessary to realize a satisfactory level of profits. For example, a 20% price cut means that a 400% increase in volume is necessary to make the same profit obtained before the price was lowered. The following table will serve as a guide for price changes:

Price Cut Necessary Increase In Sales

3%	13.6%
5%	25.0%
7¼%	42.8%
10%	67.0%
15%	150.0%
20%	400.0%

The following table shows what happens when you reverse the process or increase prices.

A 3% increase means the same profit on 90.0% of the same volume

A 5% increase means the same profit on 83.5% of the same volume

A 7¼% increase means the same profit on 77.0% of the same volume

A 10% increase means the same profit on 71.5% of the same volume

A 15% increase means the same profit on 62.5% of the same volume

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\*Daconil 2787 is a registered trademark of Diamond Shamrock Corporation.

Tank mixing brings other advantages, too. With TERSAN 1991 in your tank, you get systemic action for protection from within the turf plant. Disease control is longer-lasting and is less affected by rainfall or frequent irrigation. Tank mixing fungicides with different modes of action also reduces chances of benzimidazole resistance. You help insure the long-term effectiveness of TERSAN 1991 in your disease control program.

This year, plan on using TERSAN 1991 in combination with Daconil 2787. It's the tank mix turf diseases can't match.

With any chemical, follow labeling instructions and warnings carefully.



#### **A Waste Of \$, cont.**

The three departments of a country club are just as disparate in their operation.

The ideal management solution to such an operation is a competent triumvirate management, overseen by an executive committee of the club membership to determine extent and quality of the services desired.

The most important goal of the country club in its three departments is quality and efficiency, and experience has shown that neither are attained under a general managership.

In the event that an individual is hired and placed over the three departments; aside from the financial burden of a fourth salary, we must face the realistic and psychological fact that competent superintendents, club house managers, and professionals who are highly trained in their specialties will resent deeply a hired overseer who can not possibly be knowledgeable in these three divergent areas. In those cases where a general manager directly oversees one of the departments the lack of quality management still applies to the other two departments.

In conclusion, it is hoped that country club executive committees when confronted by the general manager concept will show the same astute "sales pitch" resistance at their country clubs as they do in their own places of business.

Roy W. Nelson

#### **THE BULL SHEET**

##### **Sulfur-Coated Fertilizer?, cont.**

50% sulfur-coated, 50% quick release product. This type of product will not only come closer to the release rate you're looking for, but will also significantly reduce the cost of the product. Compare apples to apples when comparing performance as well as cost. What's the point of all this discussion? The point that, to be a knowledgeable fertilizer buyer, one must be inquisitive. Ask questions. Ask to see a sample label or proof of contents. Read the research reports showing performance comparisons of various products. Don't be confused by manufacturers who promise, in big print, to have products containing ingredients, which, in actuality, are only contained in insignificant amounts.



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## As I See It, cont.

We have a two-fold problem with this as an industry. When referring to industry here I'm referring to the GCSAA, and USGA and the PGA. The first question we have to ask ourselves is, are records really meant to be broken; The second question is if we are an "industry" think that they shouldn't be broken then what type of criteria are we setting up for the entire sport of professional and amateur golf. I really don't recall that anybody cried "foul" when Johnny Miller shot his record score at Oakmont. At the same time I don't see any changes being made in Merion Golf Club when a tournament is hosted there. The premise of the officials at Merion is, to play the course the way it is. If it rains then that means that the players can go for the pins. If not then they are left to play the course the way it has always been with the glass smooth greens that are a tradition there.

Let's take a look at the conditions that exist between a course such as Merion and Augusta National. Three words can describe the greens at both places, fast, firm and fair. I don't think that the word fair can be used properly to describe the greens at Augusta National. In theory, a green should not have more than a three degree slope in the putting surface. Some of the greens at Augusta National have slopes much in excess of that. Combine the slopes of the greens that were meant to be turfed with bermuda and a blend of over-seeded grasses with super slick bent grass surfaces and you remove the skill factor and replace it with luck.

Where does all of this stop, or will it stop. Will the situation at Augusta National force the directors of other clubs to take a look at their course's and come to some type of proud conclusion that it would be embarrassing to have a subpar round scored as the winning score for a tournament on the tour or worse yet one of the majors? We have been experiencing the ramifications of television golf on the average club and club golfer for a number of years. Does it mean that the situation is going to worsen or does it mean that someone will see the difference be-

*Continued Page 21*

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# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS TO PRESENT DONALD ROSS AWARD TO GEOFFREY CORNISH

Geoffrey S. Cornish, one of North America's leading golf course architects and co-author of "The Golf Course", has been named the 1982 winner of the Donald Ross Award presented annually by the American Society of Golf Course Architects to a person who has made significant contributions to the game of golf, especially golf course architecture.

Cornish received the Donald Ross Award, named in honor of the "father of American golf course architecture", at a special dinner during the ASGCA annual meeting at the Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida Feb. 22.

Previous recipients of the Donald Ross Award include Robert Trent Jones, Herbert Warren Wind, Herb and Joe Graffis, Joe Dey, Gerald Micklem, and Gov. James Rhodes of Ohio.

Although "The Golf Course" has just been published, it already has been hailed as the most comprehensive book on golf course architecture, primarily because it includes biographies of several hundred golf course architects and a list of 10,000 golf courses and their architects.

Cornish was president of the ASGCA in 1975, is an honorary member of the British Association of Golf Course Architects, and received the Distinguished Service Award from the Golf Course Superintendents of America in 1981.

A native of Winnipeg, he received a bachelor's degree from the University of British Columbia and a master's degree from the University of Massachusetts, both in agronomy. His interest in golf course architecture was generated in 1935 when he was hired to evaluate soils and find topsoil on the Capilano Golf Course under construction in West Vancouver, B.C.

He then trained for four years with golf architect Stanley Thompson. During World War II Cornish served with the Canadian Army overseas, returning to become an associate of Stanley

Thompson in 1946-47. He then associated with Lawrence S. Dickinson, pioneer turfgrass scientist, at the University of Massachusetts until 1952, when he entered private practice as a golf course architect. He now resides in Amherst, Mass.

By 1980 Cornish has planned more courses in the New England area than any other designer in history. He had also designed and remodeled layouts in other parts of the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Among his most famous golf courses are York Downs Golf and Country Club, (The New Ashburn), Nova Scotia; The Connecticut Golf Club, Easton, Conn.; Cranberry Valley Golf Club, Harwich, Mass.; and Blue Rock, South Yarmouth, Mass.

Cornish is the author of numerous articles on course design and turfgrass subjects.

## Annual "Special Olympics"

Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents had a golf outing May 17, 1982, at Detroit Golf Club. It was a fund raising day for the "Special Olympics". 115 golfers participated on this beautiful golf course. There were golfers from around the state and Canada. Clem Wolfrom, superintendent, had the course in fine shape. All were treated to a fine lunch and dinner. Prizes and gifts were donated by sales representatives from around the Detroit Area.

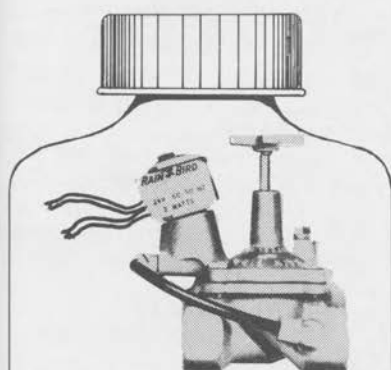
Brian Tinnion, Coach of the Detroit Express Soccer Team, was the guest speaker.

John Walsh was presented with a check for \$2,200.00 and thanked everyone for their generosity.

M & B C G C S A hopes to have this as an annual event. This association in the past 10 years has raised over \$100,000.00 for turf research. It proves Golf Course Superintendents raise more than just fine turf.



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## As I See It!, cont.

tween tournament courses and club courses. A large problem that exists is that most club golfers aren't aware that the playing and putting conditions exist on tournament courses only during the tournament.

Nowhere, and I do mean nowhere are the greens cut three times in three different directions at  $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an inch basis. Nor are the roughs as deep or the fairways cut quite as short. The tournament ends on Sunday afternoon and on Monday morning things start to return to some degree of normalcy. The tour moves on to the next tournament site and the whole procedure starts all over again.

In essence what we have come to develop over the past several years are two entirely different types of golf course. We are all aware that no two courses are the same, but certain conditions can be stabilized to a degree of consistency. Perhaps it is the acute inconsistency that we are starting to see that is affecting the game. Maybe this entire article is just wasted words, because when you stop to think about it, nothing is really going to change. The "pride" of too many golf courses, club officials and even golf course superintendents is at stake. If one course is maintaining their greens at  $\frac{1}{8}$ th inch than what is to keep the next superintendent or club officials to want to go to 7/64ths or even 3/32nds for their tournament? Maybe all of us have too much pride and are out to show that we can do it as well or maybe even better. What the hell why not have a song written for each club that hosts a tournament like they do for the Masters, and even go so far as to have Simon and Garfunkel write it and record it.

When you really put this thing in perspective we are just like the marathon runners and everyone else out to break an established record. We now talk of moving heights in the 64ths for putting greens when 16ths used to be sufficient.

We as an industry are trying to establish our own records. We shave the bottoms of bedknives, topdress with pursand on a weekly basis and push our ability and luck to the virtual limits, only to get

*Continued Next Page*



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As I See It!, cont.

up the next day and do it all over again. Maybe we want to see the short six foot putts slide by the hole and leave a forty footer to come back on. Maybe that is the thrill that we get insofar as accomplishment is concerned. Then does that make us any different than the people who go to a NASCAR race with the only thought of seeing someone go through the wall or a multi-car crash?

"When you walk down my firways that are green and lush and your drive lands somewhere in my jungle rough, take your wedge from your bag and hit to the green and watch the ball slide back into the bunker. Hear the gallery oooh and aaaah as you four putt the green, and the architect, superintendent and officials howl as your score keeps creeping up."

(sung to the tune of You'll Never Walk Alone).

### "THE BALL"

In my hand I hold a ball,  
White and dimpled, rather small.  
Oh how harmless it does appear,  
This innocent looking little sphere.  
By its size I could not guess,  
The awesome power it does possess.  
But since I fell beneath its spell,  
I've been through the fires of hell.  
My life has not been quite the same,  
Since I chose to play its game.  
It rules my life for hours on end,  
A fortune it has had me spend.  
It has made me curse and cry,  
And hate myself and want to die.  
It promises me a thing called "Par",  
If I can hit it straight and far.  
To master such a tiny ball,  
Should not be very hard at all.  
But my desires the ball refuses,  
And does exactly as it chooses.  
It hooks and slices, dribbles and dies,  
Or disappears before my eyes.  
Often it will have a whim,  
To hit a tree or take a swim.  
With miles of grass on which to land,  
It finds that tiny patch of sand.  
Then has me offering up my soul,  
If it would first drop in the hole.  
It's made me whimper like a pup,  
And swear that I will give it up.  
And take to drink to ease my sorrow,  
But "The Ball" knows I'll be back tomorrow.

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