

July 1978

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Vol. VIII, No. 6

#### MEETING NOTICE:

Date: August 7 Labriola Memorial Tournament,

> (sponsored by MGCSA) Proceeds go for The MGCSA Research and Scholarship Fund

Place: Whippoorwill Club Host: Charles Martineau

Golf:

All day long. Sign up for starting times. Golf

prizes for low net, low gross.

Available in grill (buffet) Lunch:

Cocktails: 6-7 PM Dinner: 7 PM

Program: Awarding of golf prizes-

Date: August 14, MGCSA Picnic

Woodway Beach Club, Darien, Conn. Place:

Host: Sherwood Moore

Program: Tennis, Volleyball, swimming

### COMING EVENTS:

July 26 U Of Mass Field Day

August 4 Cornell Turf Field Day

Cornell University Turf Research Plots

USGA Curtis Cup-The Apawamis Club August 4-5

> MGCSA members will be able to have free passes upon showing membership cards at the

Will Call Desk

August 14 Family picnic MGCSA August 16-17 Penn State Turf Field Days August 23 Rhode Island Turf Field Day

September 19 MGCSA Invitational Sunningdale G.C.

MGCSA meeting to be announced October

November Annual meeting

MGCSA Christmas Party, Greenwich, Conn. December 2

MGCSA News: It must have been the 4th of July lag. We had a light turnout for golf at St. Andrews. We did have 75 for dinner. Phil Santucci had his pump house burn down with not only the old pump but also the new, so his water supply was limited. The winter ice damage was still bothering 1 few holes on the front side but the backside had some beautiful turf with a lot of bent in the fairways. You certainly can never forget the 5th hole. It looks like you are hitting 300 yds. down and 300 yds. out. 115 steps down. Fortunately you don't have to climb that hill. Mel Lucas Jr. spent considerable time in the club house studying all the old clubs, balls, etc. They are dis-

played throughout the clubhouse. The history of golf was there to study, that's for sure. Phil Santucci was served peanut butter sandwiches to start, followed by spaghetti. Mr. Black the manager did an excellent job. We guessed at 75 and hit it pretty close. We still are guessing and it shouldn't

Superintendents Championship had a small field-Vinnie Pentenaro took all the marbles, followed by Mark Millet and Ted Horton, Bill Somers took the Class C Championship-Scott Niven took Class B Championship.

Dr. Ralph Engel-showed some interesting slides of his trip to Europe for the International Turf Grass Conference. Ralph showed us that there were a few Engels in Germany. Turf on golf courses on the main continent was not as refined as here in the U.S. Ralph did visit some soccer fields where money was spent freely to produce a well drained field along with turf. He felt they could utilize Rye grasses more. Even though some of the experiment stations were just beginning research in turf. The equipment they were using far surpassed anything we have in the U.S. Ralph enjoyed a few good German beers. Ralph also received a special medallion from the O.J. Noer Foundation for involvement in research for the Foundation.

Let's try to support the Labriola Memorial Tournament.



President Ted Horton with Garry Crothers, who was attending his last regular meeting before heading North.



#### **Editorial Staff**

Garry Crothers	Co-Editor
Ted Horton	Co-Editor

#### OFFICERS

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Not copyrighted. If there is good here, we want to share it with all chapters — unless author states otherwise.

MGCSA sponsors it and we do derive monies for Research from it.

Mike Caravella will be the new Superintendent at Apawamis starting Sept. 1.

Garry Crothers

## **Editors Comments in Regard to Rumors**

Right now I am going through a job change and I have been involved to some degree with helping the club find a Superintendent. I have showed each Superintendent who has been interviewed the golf course, which my chairman had asked me to do, and I was glad to do it. I also informed the committee of the candidates technical knowledge. I tried to be fair in my evaluation. All through the job opening, the word was, oh Harry Nichol has the inside tract, or so and so has the job, when they hadn't even decided or finished interviewing candidates. It should be pointed out that Mike Caravella was offered the job on his own merits, and that his father Al had absolutely nothing to do with any part of the interview or contact with any member of the committee. How these things get started is beyond me. I would just like to say unless you hear it from the horses mouth, don't say anthing. I think in regard to ethics, etc., we should all take a little moment and review a code that I try to live by as a Rotarian. The Rotary 4-way test goes as follows:

The 4-way test of things we think, say or do
First—is it the truth?
Second—is it fair to all concerned?
Third—will it build good will and better friendships?
Fourth—will it be beneficial to all concerned?
Garry N. Crothers

### Congratulations Dr. Virtuoso

Congratulations to Dr. Andy Virtuoso on the honorary lifetime membership given to him by the Sandpiper Country Club, Port St. Lucie, Florida. This honor was given for his services to the Florida Golf Course Superintendents and P.G.A. for his advice in setting up the Florida Open golf tournament in the past years.

Welfare: Please contact Pat Lucas 203-637-3210 or Edward Horton 914-699-2827 in regard to any hospitalizations etc. of members of MGCSA.

## MCGSA Research Fund Report: Hyperodes Weevil Project:

The monies are starting to come in from the various clubs. We still have a long way to go and certainly each individual member should be able to contribute also. There have been very few superintendents contributing to date and we should be the leaders. Please make your check out to MGCSA Research Committee and send to Box 37, Rye, N.Y. We must raise another \$5,000 to reach our goal for 1978. To date the following clubs and individuals have contributed to the 1978.

Hyperodes Research Project:

Clubs and Associations
The Apawamis Club
Blind Brook Club
Brae Burn Country Club
Burning Tree Country Club
Fenway Golf Club
Garden City Golf Club
Greenwich Country Club

Ridgeway C.C.
Rockland C.C.
Rockrimmon C.C.
Round Hill Club
Quaker Ridge G.C.
Wee Burn C.C.
Winged Foot Golf Club

Elmwood Country Club Woodway C.C.

Metropolis C.C. Wykagyl C.C.

Mt. Kisco C.C. Scarsdale C.C.

Mountain Ridge C.C. Waccabuc C.C.

Old Oaks Country Club Sleepy Hollow C.C.

Piping Rock Club MCGSA

Whippoorwill Club Sunningdale G.C.

#### Individuals and Commercial Firms

John Corsi	Dan Verille	Aqua Lawn
Roger J. King	Mel Lucas Jr.	Bill Somers
Anthony Grasso	Bryan Maker	Walter Androsko
John Hunt	Paul Caswell	I & E Supply
Garry Crothers	Edward C. Horton	Cloro Spray Corp.
Phil Santucci	Frank Bevelacqua	Frank Lamphier
Ted Joawick	Pat Lucas	Roger Hazen
Glen Moore	Terry Boles	

It sure would be nice to have 100% contributions by Class A members and 40 clubs at least to reach our total commitment to Cornell University.

MCGSA Research Committee

There are few, if any, jobs in which ability alone is sufficient. Needed also are loyalty, sincerity, enthusiasm, and cooperation.

## DR. ENGEL . . .

## INTERNATIONAL TURF MEETING PRESENTATION, JULY 6, 1978 Ry Rachel Therrien

By Rachel Therrien Winged Foot Golf Club

The highlight of the MGCSA July 6 meeting held at St. Andrews G.C., was a presentation by guest speaker Dr. Ralph Engel of Rutgers University.

The topic of the slide presentation, supplemented with Dr. Engel's commentary, was the *International Turf Meeting*. Those persons participating in the conference were involved in a tour of the following Western European countries: France, Great Britian, Scotland, Switzerland, and West Germany.

Preceding any discussion of the details pertaining to advancement resulting from turf research in these various countries, Dr. Engel reminded those in attendance that observation of local species and varieties of vegetation was an important element in one's attempt to determine and understand climatic conditions of a particular area or region.

The first stop of the tour was France, a country which appeared to have a lot of contrast in the degree of maintainence received by certain public areas. Despite its inconsistency in landscape maintenance, France has become a leader in European turf research during the 70's. A great deal of emphasis has been directed to soil research, especially pertaining to compaction treatment and soil nutrition which has been a problem with agricultural grain fields. According to Dr. Engel, the French research programs involving soil compaction and soil amendment studies was more advanced in their methods and results than comparable studies undertaken in the United States. Facilities, such as greenhouse, were better equipped for turf research and utilized more automated equipment.

It seems that some agricultural practices have influenced methods employed in turf maintenance. Manure appears to be the main source of fertilizer but, fertilization is kept to a minimum. It is believed that by doing so the occurrance of thatch in highly maintained areas can be reduced. Many areas in Europe do not have turf problems resulting from the presence of thatch. In England, thatch or fiber is allowed to accumulate in an attempt to relieve turf problems which flourish under wet conditions. This method is incorporated in

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Wimbledon's maintenance program. Diseases such as pythium or dollar spot are practically non-existant. There is an extensive disease problem, most notably—Pink Patch, involving various species of ryegrass. In the milder European climates, the incidence of crabgrass becomes less.

In the area of roadside stabilization, France again, has been a European leader. Many slopes along the highways are stabilized by terracing the landform.

A A Market Market

This design also assists in handling and directing surface run-off drainage. Hydro-seeding is also practiced.

The use of Lombardy Poplars along the roadside shoulders is also a common practice in most of the European countries visited.



Finally, turf paving blocks are extensively used, especially in automobile parking lots. A concrete form is the basic block material with an open center for vegetative material. There are debates over the maintenance and practicality, in economic terms, of its use but it is a beginning in solutions that are needed in order to make our asphalt dominated landscape more verdant.



In conclusion, turf research in Europe is less extensive then in the United States. Granted there is a difference in certain maintenance practices but that may possibly be due to differences in knowledge or technology available. The demands for good turf and efficient land use is steadily increasing the world over. Therefore, agricultural research and exchanging of information should continue. The *International Turf Meeting* can be interpreted as being a device for this reciprocity to continue.



Left to right: Ralph Engel receiving madallion from Tony Grasso (board member of O.J. Noer Foundation) for his involvement in research for O.J. Noer Foundation.

#### February 1 and 2

## SEA ISLAND, GA., WILL HOST 1979 TOURNAMENT

The 1979 preconference golf tournament will be played at The Cloister Hotel, Sea Island, Ga., Feb. 1 and 2. This location, approved by the Executive Committee, was chosen after consideration by the tournament committee of clubs in the Atlanta area and on Jekyll Island.

The 36-hole Sea Island Golf Club, where GCSAA member James M. Hildebrand is superintendent, is known an an excellent golf complex. The course is located on the south shore of St. Simons Island, about five and a half miles from the

The ladies' tournament will be at one of the other two courses on Sea Island or at the nearby Brunswick Country

Sea Island and St. Simons Island are part of the beautiful semitropical Georgia coastal islands, about halfway between Savannah, Ga., and Jacksonville, Fla.

The Cloister is the only hotel on Sea Island, and is an outstanding resort complex. In addition to its widely known golf course, it offers tennis facilities, a riding stable, skeet and trap shooting and excellent dining rooms and cocktail lounges.

Group rates, including all meals, will be offered to GCSAA tournament players. In addition, the hotel will extend complimentary green fees to players staying at the hotel during the two tournament days, plus a practice round on Wednesday.

Sea Island and St. Simons Island are linked by a causeway to Brunswick and can be reached directly by air via Air South from Altanta.

Complete information about the tournament will be distributed the latter part of October, along with conference and show information.

Credit: GCSAA

## CARIBBEAN CRUISE WILL FOLLOW ALTANTA CONFERENCE AND SHOW

GCSAA members will have a chance to visit the sunny Caribbean following next year's conference and show in Altanta. Arrangements have been made to offer members a seven-day tour package aboard a cruise ship, sailing from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Feb. 10.

The ship will visit the Caribbean ports of Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic, San Juan, St. Thomas and Nassau. There will also be many opportunities for fun and relaxation on board the luxurious cruise ship.

Cost per person is \$850 for an outside cabin and \$771 for an inside cabin (double occupancy). Included in the package are:

- · Air transportation via a commerican line one-way between Atlanta and Fort Lauderdale.
  - Seven nights accommodation aboard the Cunard Princess.
  - · All meals on board.
  - · All entertainment on board.
  - · A special cocktail party.
- · The services of a tour escort who will attend to travel details.
- · Transfers roundtrip between Fort Lauderdale Airport and the pier, including luggage.

Credit: GCSAA



Left to right: William Knoblock, assistant golf professional; Roland Eaigle, Green Chairman and Phil Santucci, host golf superintendent of St. Andrews Golf Club at our July meeting.



Bob Lippman

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## CORNELL TURFFIELD DAY

Cornell Turf Research Plots
On Warren Road Near Moakley Field House and
the University Golf Course

—RAIN OR SHINE— 9:30 A.M.-2:30 P.M. FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1978

Preregistration \$3.50

Lunch will be available only to those who preregister.

9:30 A.M.—Coffee and Registration

## FIELD DAY FEATURES

VERONICA CONTROL—John Cisar, Graduate Student UPSTATE VARIETY TRIALS-IN SUN AND SHADE—

Howard Pidduck, Cornell

1978 TURF INSECT RESEARCH UPDATE—

Professor H. Tashiro, Cornell

LONG ISLAND VARIETY TRIALS-WEED CONTROL—

Robert O'Knefski, Cooperative Extension Agent

TURF FUNGICIDE EVALUATIONS AND NON-TARGET EFFECTS OF FUNGICIDE APPLICATIONS\*—

Professor Richard Smiley, Cornell

\*Clipping weights
\*rooting depth

\*pH changes

\*thatch accumulation

\*nitrification changes

George L. Good Associate Professor

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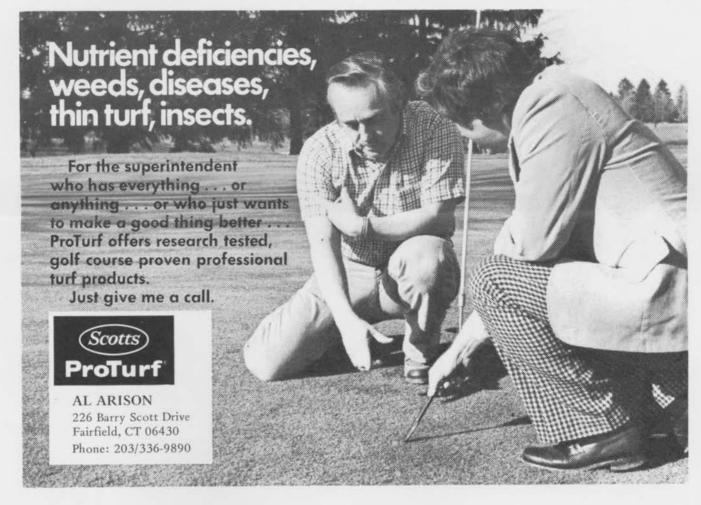
# UPDATE ON COOL WEATHER BROWN PATCH A CONTINUING PROBLEM

H. Cole, Jr., L.L. Burpee and P.O. Sanders

A Brief History

For years Brown Patch has been recognized as a warm temperature, humid weather disease of colonial bents and the older mixed creeping bentgrasses of greens and tees. Typically the disease would smolder causing patches of brownish discolored grasses until the weather became especially "muggy" and warm when smoke rings and active patches would appear overnight.

Older writings about golf course diseases contain references to winter Brown Patch but these brownish rings or patches were little more than curiosities. In the mid 1970's, however, persistent reports of brown rings or yellowish brown rings or patches were being made from golf courses throughout the East. Often these symptoms occurred when temperatures were in the 50's, 60's, or 70's. Superficially, they resembled typical Brown Patch, but in many instances symptoms were not controlled by the common Brown Patch fungicides or at best were checked for only a few days. As the reports filtered in, we were about to blame the disease on fungicide resistant low temperature strains of Rhizoctonia solani and we were going to publish a note about the resistance problem. Fortunately, Dr. Robert Sherwood of the U.S.D.A. Pasture Research Laboratory asked a most important question: How do you know the fungus is Rhizoctonia solani, the cause of the common warm temperature Brown Patch? To make a



long story short, we didn't and it wasn't. The fungus superficially looked like R. solani, but there the relationship stopped. After much literature and laboratory searching the fungus turned out to be a Ceratobasidium sp., a Rhizoctonia relative to R. solani but completely different in temperature requirements and fungicide sensitivity.

The Current Situation

As more samples and reports of disease occurences rolled in, it became apparent that we were not dealing with a curiosity but with a problem of consequence on golf turf. Symptoms have been reported on fairways, greens, tees, and aprons.

We could isolate the Ceratobasidium fungus from many of these turf areas; from some we could isolate neither Ceratobasidium nor R. solani but still other unidentified fungi. At present we believe that the disease is not going to become the scourge of turfgrass but merely another problem to be solved on the way to quality turf. It would appear that humid, cool weather is most favorable for disease development.

Where did the problem come from: Why Ceratobasidium now and not 10 years ago?

Any new problem always stimulates the question of why now? and not before? Answers have ranged from: the discontinuance of growing season use of mercury to the introduction of the benzimidazole systemic fungicides in wide use. Others have blamed shifts in the weather towards cooler, wetter summers. At this point there is no correct answer and there may never be one. The best we can do is speculate based on the facts on hand. Our best estimate is that the same shift towards cooler, wetter summers that has brought on increased Red Thread prevalence and severity has also brought Cool Weather Brown Patch to prominence. Fungi respond to their environment. Those that are favored by a change in the environment become more common; those that are less favored become less common.

Where do we go from there?

The major practical problem that the turfgrass manager faces is disease control to a level compatible with the uses of

the area in question. At present we just do not have enough information about the disease to make clear recommendations for either cultural or fungicide control. Environmental manipulation does not seem to offer promise, especially for the golf course superintendent who is locked into a multitude of other concerns dealing with irrigation and culture. From a fungicide view the best recommendation would be to stick with success. If Cool Weather Brown Patch does appear and your current program is not holding it, then try shifting to other fungicides labeled and registered for Brown Patch until you meet with at least partial success. We are attempting to work out the fungicide situation. Dan Loughner, who is working on his M.S. in Plant Pathology with us, will be evaluating fungicides in the laboratory, greenhouse, and with luck, in the field. We will be screening both the Rhizoctonia solani warm temperature Brown Patch group as well as the Ceratobasidium cool temperature group of fungi.

Credit: The Keynotes, PTC, Inc.



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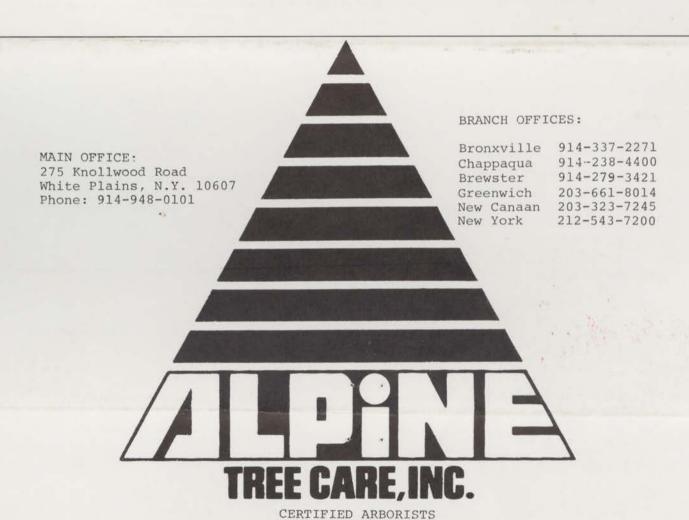


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