



May 1983

DO NOT CIRCULATE

Published monthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association

Vol. XIII, No. 4

DON'T FORGET!!!!

May Meeting

Annual Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament

Thursday, May 12, 1983 at CC of Darien

Post Card Mailing contains details

Reservations are a MUST

Coming Events

May 12	MGCSA Green Chairman/ Superintendent Meeting Country Club of Darien, CT
June 1	Rutgers Turf Research & Demonstration Day, Adelphia, NJ
June 2	MGCSA Invitational, Fairview C.C.
June 6-12	Westchester Classic
June 21	Field Day at Cornell University
June 22	Turf Field day U. of Mass Exp. Turf Plots, S. Deerfield Mass. Raindate: 6/23/83
June 28	MGCSA Summer Social, Fairview C.C.
July 14	MGCSA Meeting - Tamarack C.C.
August	MGCSA Annual Family Picnic Woodway Country Club
September 12	Poa Annua Golf Tournament Cortland C.C.
September 20	MGCSA Meeting - Old Oaks
October 13	MGCSA Meeting, Sleepy Hollow
November 1-3	New York State Turfgrass Association Conference & Trade Show, Rochester
November	MGCSA Annual Meeting
December 10	MGCSA Christmas Party, Ridgeway C.C.
February 28, 29- March 1, 1984	53rd Mass Turfgrass Conf. & Industrial Show Springfield Civic Center, W. Springfield, MA



Ed Connaughton, recipient of the MGCSA Scholarship Award being congratulated by Dr. Bill Daniel at the Midwest Turf Conference.

President's Message

On March 24, 1983, the first MGCSA business meeting of the year was held. Prior to this time the Board met and discussed the feasibility of having a "C" member in an advisory capacity to the Board. We are pleased to announce and introduce Mr. Robert Mullane as the commercial spokesman/representative to serve in this non-voting capacity.

The reason behind this appointment stems from the fact that commercial membership in the past has been under-utilized as to creative input, therefore, their interest and participation in various association interests has not been reflected or expressed. We anticipate that Mr. Mullane, as representative for the commercial section of our Association, will assist us generally to promote the goals of the Association.

Many of the Class C members participate in other organizations such as civic and community groups. As businessmen they have varied interests; this Association could greatly benefit from an infusion of ideas, whether they are voted on, accepted or vetoed. The important criteria is additional input of information to be considered.

Mr. Mullane will be invited to participate on an invitational basis at Board meetings. The appointment is on a trial basis and

WELFARE: Please contact Craig Wistrand, 203-869-6477 (office) or 203-625-0319 (home) regarding any hospitalizations, etc. of members of the MGCSA.



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Publication deadline for *Tee to Green* is 21 days before the regular meeting.

will be reviewed and evaluated at our annual meeting in November 1983.

We look forward to Mr. Mullane's participation in our Association's activities this year and thus far his presence has been valued on our field day committee and at his first board meeting.

We, as a growing, progressive association must continue with new ideas and involvements if we are to gain those important objectives to which we ascribe and aspire.

In closing, I hope that the membership feels confident with the decisions and direction of this board. There are many areas and ideas yet to be explored, and your opinion and participation at monthly meetings would be most appreciated and valued.

— Charles A. Martineau
President

REMINDERS

- The Connecticut Water Diversion Policy Act requires that existing irrigation systems withdrawing more than 50,000 gallons of ground or surface water per day must register with the Water Resources Unit of DEP before June 30, 1983. (This was originally reported in the June, 82 issue of *Tee to Green*.)

For more information, contact Dennis Cunningham, Water Resources Unit, DEP, Hartford, CT (203) 566-7220.

- Dennis Flynn, Roster Chairman has asked the membership to notify him of any recent address changes or additions.
- In Connecticut, it's the law: *Call before you dig!* 1-800-922-4455.
- The Pesticide Emergency number is 800-424-9300.

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MGA 1983 Rules of Golf Quiz (continued)

11. A competitor putts a ball to the lip of a hole. The player walks up to the ball and, claiming that the ball is still moving, waits about fifteen seconds. The ball falls into the hole.

- A. The ball is deemed to be holed on the first putt, without penalty.
- B. The ball is deemed to be holed on the first putt, but the player incurs a two-stroke penalty.
- C. The player waited more than the few seconds permitted under the Rules and the ball must be replaced on the lip of the hole without penalty.

12. In stroke play, a competitor putts her ball off a putting green and into a bunker. The player declares the ball unplayable in the bunker and places the ball on the putting green on the spot from which the original putt was played, taking a stroke-and-distance penalty. She putts again

- A. Player must drop the ball in the bunker, within two club-lengths, for a one-stroke penalty. The ball shall come to rest no nearer the hole.
- B. Player may drop out of the bunker for a one-stroke penalty, keeping the spot where the ball lay between herself and the hole.
- C. Player has proceeded properly.

13. In stroke play, a player pressed down a pitch mark in the fairway made by the impact of his ball. The pitch mark was two inches to the side of the line to the hole.

- A. Player incurs a two-stroke penalty.
- B. Player incurs a one-stroke penalty.
- C. There is no penalty.

14. A competitor hits a ball from the tee toward a heavily wooded area. He declares the ball lost and immediately puts another ball into play from the tee under a stroke-and-distance penalty.

- A. Player has proceeded properly.
- B. Player must not declare a ball lost and must search for it for five minutes.

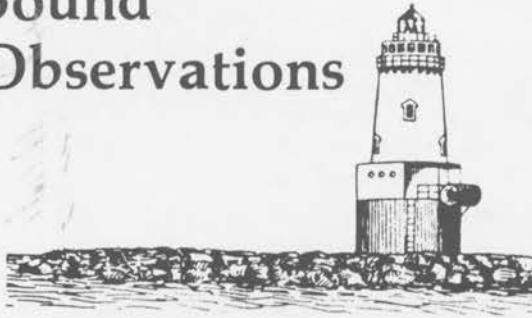
Answers on page 10

Golfing Outing

The Antioch Baptist Church of Bedford Hills, NY is having their Annual Golf Outing May 16, at the Salem Golf Club, North Salem, NY. Shot gun 10:00 a.m. Package is \$38.00 per person which includes continental breakfast, lunch, dinner and golf cart. 3 hours open bar. All are invited.

Reservation deadline is May 11, for further information call: Bob Bruce, Supt. (914) 669-5959 or 669-5485.

Sound Observations



By Pat Lucas, Superintendent
Innis Arden Golf Club, Old Greenwich, CT

At this point, I find it hard to believe that this weather is for real. As this is being written on April 26th, we've had a record rain totaling some 24 inches for the combined months of March and April. This was the EIGHTH straight weekend of rain.

Everyone's spring maintenance program has suffered; some more than others, depending upon the drainage conditions of the individual course. Many courses were closed for extended periods, reporting water buildup where there has never been water before. Routine practices, such as mowing and spraying, have been crippled along with many Capital projects being delayed. Innis Arden is no exception with its unique combination of blue clay, ledge, and sea level elevation.

Thinking of how we can best handle the situation we are in and prepare for this eventuality in the future, I offer some observations for the "what it's worth department:"

Pumps: At Innis Arden we have two small gas pumps and a small portable electric sump-type pump which works off a generator. They proved their worth in pumping small lakes off our fairways. We could have used more and plan to get more, along with extra hose, gaskets, hose wrenches, etc. We were fortunate to have some 2" PVC pipe left from our irrigation system conversion project. Many lengths of this pipe were laid together on top of the ground, pump discharge hoses connected to the lengths of pipe, and the pipes then were used to carry water away from the wet areas, in some cases 100 yards or more.

These extra lengths of pipe have just become part of our permanent inventory.

Equipment: Or, how do you get some work accomplished without causing damage? Here is where triplex fairway mowing really helped out. With our light Toro 84, we were able to cut fairways while sustaining only minimum damage. If we tried to take our Parkmaster out, it would have been a sure disaster.

The Jacobsen 22" greenmowers were worth their weight in gold. These have been the only equipment to cut greens up until now at many courses.

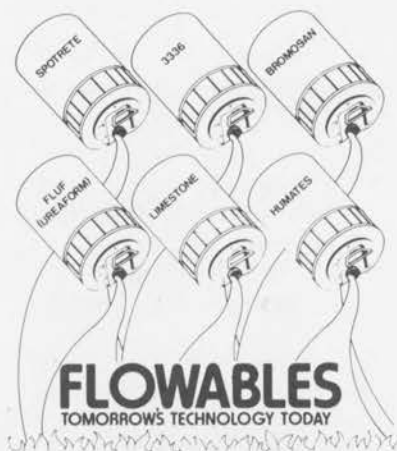
General transportation around the courses has been a problem. The three wheeled, heavier vehicles definitely caused damage, especially the single, front tire type which causes ruts. The lighter, four wheeled, golf car type vehicles were the best for minimizing damage.

Golf Cars: Many of us felt the pressure here. The course is soaked, the members want transportation, and the club needs the revenue. Between the devil and the deep blue sea.

If the golf car revenue is so important to the club, which it usually is, perhaps a path should be constructed from each tee to each green. The golf cars would then be allowed out, even if the course was wet, provided they stayed on the path (curbed maybe); of course, with the understanding that the course was playable in all other respects. How is something like this funded? One solution is to take the money from the revenues which the golf cars produce. If this paving approach is not feasible, then the course must be closed to cars when deemed necessary by the Superintendent in order to avoid damage and preserve the course for the entire membership for the remainder of the season.

Reprinted in this issue is the article "Landon's Turf Tips," which describes exactly what happens with traffic on saturated soils. Distribution to the right people in the power structure might be helpful.

Spray Applications: Many spray programs have been postponed due to the rainy weather. With leaf spot now having a field day, perhaps late fall chemical applications, such as the one recommended by TUCO against leafspot, might have been helpful. This could reduce the spring incidence of leafspot, especially in



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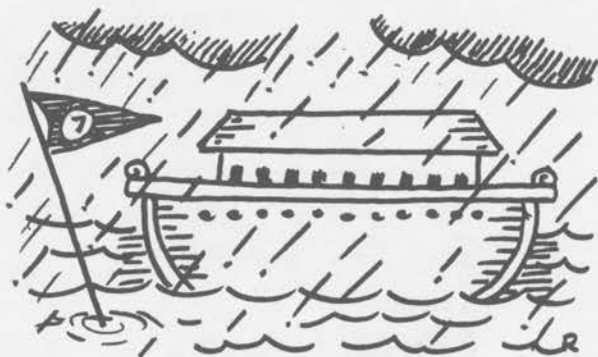


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springs like this where spraying is not able to be done. Maybe too, we have to get our chemical materials in stock earlier in the season. I would have loved some wetting agent out there working for me right now. And with all this rain, the soil nutrients must be depleted.



Water Levels: At Innis Arden, we are wet and under water, but it could have been worse for us. Something to consider . . . a few years back we had an engineering firm devise a bypass system at our spillway which enables us to lower the level of our lake some 14 inches. Now we can lower the lake level before heavy rains hit, giving us more retention capacity before fairway flooding.

Random Thoughts: Some photos on your club bulletin board might be helpful to show members just how bad it was, or is, out there. These also might highlight poor drainage areas, subject for discussions at subsequent budget meetings.

Squeegees, again more are needed for this type of emergency. Irrigation systems must be cranked up earlier to check for leaks. The present high water table and soil saturation makes it impossible to check for leaks.

Perhaps the USGA Green Section will issue a special bulletin regarding the current conditions, and their future ramifications for the remainder of our growing season.

Landon's Turf Tips . . .

Wet Soil and Carts

With all of the wet weather this winter, someone called to discuss effects of cart traffic on fairways. The superintendent had made a decision to close the course to all cart traffic. Rain twice a week for several weeks and the night before had saturated the soil. The members called two area clubs and found their carts running, then confronted the superintendent with this information. The superintendent realized the two area clubs had paved cart paths from tee to green. His club did not.

Next question: It isn't raining now. Why can't we take the carts now? Answer: Water-saturated soil is much more easy to compact than damp or dry soil. The water acts as a lubricant between soil particles. Weight from above forces soil particles into empty spaces. The soil particles move easily, forcing out free water and any air in the spaces. Granular structure of a good soil is ruined. Pore space for air and water is taken by soil particles, making the soil more compact and dense. Reduced pore space means less room for roots to enter the soil. Result: poor grass growth. A day of running carts on saturated soil could require several years of cultural practices, such as slicing, core aeration and tilling, to correct the soil for good grass growth.

— Credit: Carolinas GCSA Newsletter

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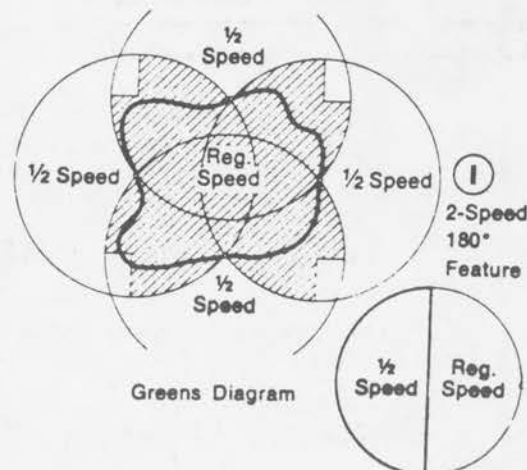
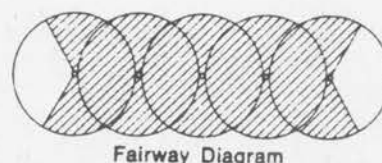
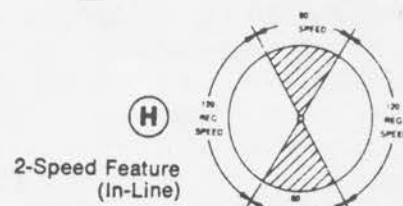
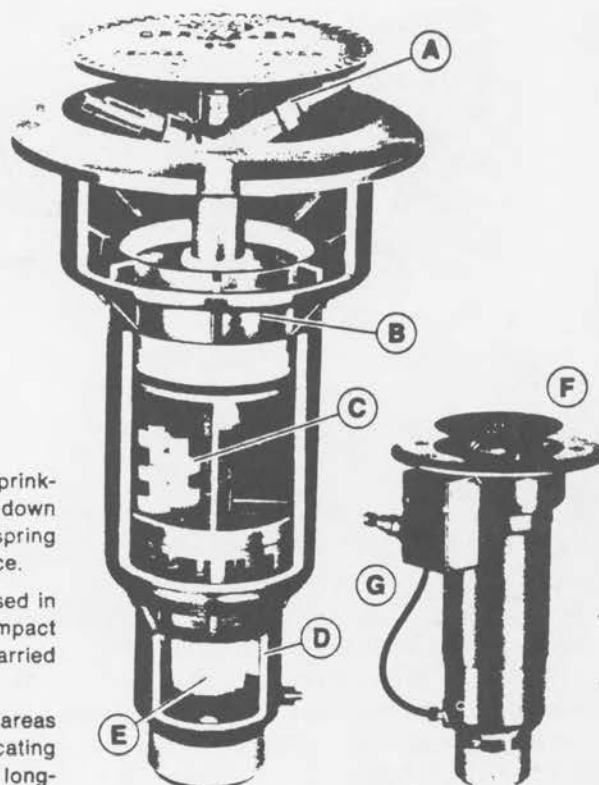
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"Additional Information and Specifications Available Upon Request"

Rutgers Field Day

Rutgers Turf Research and Demonstration Day will be held on Wednesday, June 1 at 10:00 a.m. Its location is Adelphia, New Jersey Research Station (left off Route 9, onto Route 524, south of Freehold, NJ.) Ralph E. Engel, chairman has announced the following program:

- Rye grass varieties
- Kentucky bluegrass varieties
- Tall fescue varieties
- Leafspot control on ryegrasses
- Diseases of the day (dollarspot, red thread and striped smut)
- Turf insects of the day
- Ryegrass fertilization
- Growth regulators on turf
- Demonstrations of turfgrass procedures

Superintendent Biography –

Tim O'Neill

By Patrick Vetere
Superintendent
Canyon Club

The Country Club of Darien will be the host Club for the May meeting of the MGCSA.

This Club is owned by Edgars S. Auchincloss, who converted the 140 acre layout from a dairy farm approximately twenty-five years ago.

Tim O'Neill presides as host superintendent of this beautiful layout. Tim was born in 1957 and raised in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. At a young age Tim got his first taste of golf courses and learned the game of golf by caddying at Pawtucket Country Club. Before Tim knew it, he was raking traps and learning the work of a grounds maintenance man. Tim spent seven summers working at Pawtucket Country Club. It was during this time that

Tim attended and earned his Bachelors of Science degree (specializing in Turfgrass Agronomy) from the University of Rhode Island in Kingston. From there Tim moved on as an assistant superintendent under Paul Caswell at Greenwich Country Club. He spent two years at Greenwich before landing the superintendent's job at the Country Club of Darien. This will be Tim's second growing season coming up and already he has quite a few interesting projects going on. Tim is currently overseeing construction of a new eighteenth green in a new location.

This is being done to expand the adjacent practice area, provide greater safety to the course golfer because of the close proximity of the range and existing eighteenth green, and provide a more appealing finishing hole. Other projects Tim and his staff have undertaken are a serious fairway overseeding program using Rye and Bent grass, mowing the tenth fairway with smaller, lighter machines, contour mowing of fairways, extensive tree work to trim undesirable branches and provide greater air circulation, enlarged annual and ornamental plantings around the clubhouse and on the golf course, and a gradual change-over of all irrigation heads and controls to a more desirable model. Tim uses pictures extensively to show and update his green committee to the results of his new programs and hard work.

When asked what Tim feels is the most important quality in being a successful superintendent today, Tim replied: "Total dedication to the golf course during the growing season." By this, Tim feels being on the golf course as much as possible. Many a day Tim leaves the course at 3:30 p.m. only to return at 5:30 p.m. checking, mowing, doing whatever has to be done. Time feels if the condition of the course pleases him then it will surely please the members because as superintendent he is the most critical and knows the course's potentials and limitations better than anyone. And when the course's potentials are being revealed and everything looks great, Tim feels this is the only reward a golf course superintendent needs.

Tim is currently single and resides in Darien, Connecticut. His hobbies include racquetball and golf.

Note: Many thanks to Tim for taking time out for this interview!



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"How Fast Is Fast?"

By Sherwood A. Moore

Superintendent of Golf Courses, Winged Foot Golf Club

In the English language the word fast has many meanings, such as you can run fast, hold fast, go on a fast, have fast women and have fast greens.

The topic of conversation around the locker and grill rooms of golf clubs these days is "how fast are the greens today?" In some areas of the country it is referred to as "the roll of the green." It all boils down to the speed of the ball on the green. Lost is the art of stroking the ball — today a tap is all that is required. I think some of the golfers want the ball to roll into the cup just by looking at it. At some clubs they post the speed of the green on the bulletin board for the day.

Are we becoming victims of the stimpmeter, fast greens and tournament play? When big tournaments are on T-V all we hear about is how fast the greens putt, that they double cut the greens daily, even triple cut, and yes, on some greens quadruple cut to increase the speed.

Whenever a group of golfers or superintendents congregate, golf and turf are naturally discussed, greens speed for the average club is a favorite topic. Seven, eight, nine, ten or more feet is suggested.

Has the superintendent contributed to the dilemma? Yes, in a way. He probably has perfected his course to the point where only incredible fast greens will save par. Also the competition to have faster greens than your neighbor is not helping the situation in any way.

In any event, an increasing amount of pressure is put on the Superintendent to increase the speed of the greens. Every Superintendent has heard the following remarks: "Are the greens going to be mowed today?" "When are you going to lower the height of cut?" "The greens at such and such a club are faster than ours."

Seriously, I am concerned about this trend of "fast greens." Can we afford to maintain greens of this caliber — that require frequent topdressing; frequent verticutting; daily cutting or double cutting of greens; close, close mowing — even to the point of grinding the underside of already thin bedknives.

And in all my conservation and reading and listening, I have never heard anyone mention a thing about the little grass plant. How is it standing up under all this abuse? I was tutored under the late Professor Lawrence Dickenson of Massachusetts and one of his often quoted phrases was "Give the grass plant half a chance. It wants to live." Under these conditions of shaving the grass plant to 1/8" or less are we giving it "half a chance?" I do not think so. We are giving it very little chance. Sooner or later we are headed for trouble.

We all know that the root growth of the grass plant is in proportion to the top growth. That the grass plant needs leaf surface for survival — for transpiration, respiration, the manufacturing of carbohydrates to maintain life and growth. It also needs nitrogen and other nutrients that we are withholding so as to increase speed by limiting plant growth.

I predict that in the not too distant future we will get back to the basics of a good putting green surface — that the demands of the grass plant will be given equal or more consideration than the demands of the golfers. A *firm, true, healthy green* with reasonable speed is much more pleasurable than putting on dead grass and plain soil. We will return to stroking the ball, not tapping it.

NYS Turfgrass Field Day

A turfgrass Field Day co-sponsored by Cornell University and the New York State Turfgrass Association will be held on Tuesday, June 21, 1983 at the Cornell Turfgrass Field Laboratory, Ithaca, NY.

The all-day Field Day starts with a morning review of various aspects of turfgrass research in New York. Topics included will be turfgrass management, diseases, fungicides, insect problems, insecticides, growth regulators, wetting agents and weed control. Following lunch and refreshments sponsored by NYSTA, the afternoon will consist of self-guided tours of the turfgrass plots and displays and demonstrations of turfgrass equipment.

For more information, contact Dr. A. Martin Petrovic at the Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.



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Bob Bruce Is Named Licensed Preacher

By Dennis Petruzzelli
Assistant Superintendent
Brae Burn Country Club

The progressive climb in becoming an ordained preacher is just one step away for Bob Bruce. Bob, the golf course superintendent at Salem Golf Club in North Salem, New York, has recently earned the title of licensed preacher. As a licensed preacher, he can deliver sermons to any parish where called, but can not administer sacraments or matrimonial services.

Bob has been an ordained deacon (an assistant to the pastor), for three years. He estimates that it will take approximately three more years of schooling to become an ordained preacher. Bob currently attends school part-time in Manhattan for his religious training.

Preaching wasn't something Bob just decided to do. He feels that he was called by God to preach. It was shown to him in his dreams that preaching was something he must do. It was very difficult for Bob to explain the situation since it was an inner feeling which lead him towards preaching. He did everything possible as a layperson in serving his church and was shown by his pastor that he must become more than a parishioner.

Bob's wife, Eva and the family were skeptical of his intentions from the start, but they gradually understood what he had to do. His family has given him enormous support since and Eva has even trained to become a deaconess.

The ultimate goal that Bob is striving for is "to be able to preach the word of God to any group, any place, any where, so the people will realize what he is conveying through Christ." He especially would like to "reach" people outside of church, motivating them to come to Christ to see what He is really all about.

As far as being a superintendent and a preacher, Bob believes both roles are very similar. To do such tasks, you must work very hard at each one to become exceptional. Learning to accept weaknesses or troubles and developing the ability to overcome them helps reinforce one's self as well as securing one's position.

Bob achieves much satisfaction through his studies and the

Bible. "The Bible never becomes outdated or grows old. God gave the authors the inspiration to write what they did," said Bob. "What makes it the greatest book ever written is that it contains so much meaning." He says by reading one paragraph many times he can realize a different message conveyed each separate time.

An influential force guiding Bob has been God. However, he claims his pastor, Reverend Rufus Strothers, has been the main driving force. Reverend Strothers has helped Bob "find" himself and direct him to the correct path to follow according to the Lord. Bob's teachers have also lent great guidance as well as his family.

Will Bob's religious contacts and studies help lower his golfing handicap? Learning to cope with bad shots and increasing composure and relaxation has helped his golf game. He now shrugs off those aggravating, poor shots and has become a different man out on the golf links.

Bob and his family reside in the quiet, country-like confines of North Salem, New York.

Note: A gracious thank you to Bob for making time to be interviewed and good luck with your studies!

For Your Consideration

This letter is being sent to official representatives of GCSAA affiliated GC superintendents and related turfgrass groups. Each group is asked to consider the proposed plan carefully. Money realized will be used in a way that will cooperate with other research agencies so as to minimize duplication of effort.

The Musser International Turfgrass Foundation
P.O. Box AA
College Park, MD 20740-1014
Telephone (301) 864-0090

Dear Colleague:

Golf course superintendents have the rare opportunity to be the No. 1 fund raisers in the nation for turf research. The plan is

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simple and uncomplicated. It conflicts with no other fund-raising plan.

Among the millions of golfers, there are those who rarely get the chance to play on a fine course. Many would be glad to pay a fee for the opportunity. Many private clubs are closed on Mondays.

A request from the superintendent, backed by the pro, made to the Board of Directors through channels, would result in many clubs opening the course for one afternoon (or a day) to non-member golfers for a fee. It would not be a tournament. There would be no frills, no food — just golf. Arrangements and publicity (invitations) would be wholly in the capable hands of the superintendent and the pro. They would set the fee and collect the money.

No cost to the club would be incurred. The superintendent and the pro would be doing their regular jobs. It could be an opportunity for concerned club members to play with paying guests. All should be informed that the urgent reason in back of fund raising is that research funds at experiment stations are drying up. Budgets have been slashed severely. Turf research is at the crossroads.

The benefits of the research projects funded by this plan are many. Here are a few:

The club can expect better turf at a lower cost.

Members can look for better lawns around their homes.

Members' children can expect fewer sports-related injuries by virtue of better turf on the playing fields.

Biological control of pests will be investigated.

The superintendent and the pro would be responsible for collecting the fees and sending the money to Dr. Fred V. Grau, President of the Musser Foundation at the above address. The money preferably would be sent in the form of a single check.

The money would go at once to our treasurer to be invested in high-yield safe securities for maximum sustained income which will be used to encourage and support graduate students doing turf research under competent supervision. Graduate students are security for the future of turf. The Musser Foundation is dedicated to this concept.

Projects in which The Musser Foundation have been involved financially through grants to graduate students include:

Control of the black turfgrass atenium. Ohio.

Etiology of Fusarium on bluegrass. New York.

Microclimate in turfgrass. Pennsylvania.

The physiology of water stress and drought tolerance in turfgrasses. Texas A&M.

Many other urgent projects await investigation.

Please present this plan to your group and ask for volunteers who would enjoy being foremost fund raisers for turf research. Call or write me for the answers to questions which may arise. This plan has the backing of the Musser Foundation Boards of Directors and Advisors which met in Atlanta on February 24. The Research Committee is considering new projects which involve graduate students at universities.

Sincerely yours,
Fred V. Grau, President

**Keep
this card
handy.
It could
save you
time
and
money.**



Ladies

... COME JOIN US for our second meeting, an informal dessert and coffee get together. We are a group of superintendents' wives who will meet each month on the evening of the scheduled superintendents' meeting to share what we have in common and discover together some new interests.

WHEN: May 12, 1983 at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Home of Mary Pat Millett
Old Oaks Country Club
Purchase Street, Purchase, NY
RSVP

Mary Pat Millett (914) 761-5570 Ginny Di Marzo (914) 723-0137
Kim Alonzi (203) 531-1930 Betty Wistrand (203) 625-0319

On Wednesday, April 20th a few of us met for the first time at Kim Alonzi's home. We shared a delicious pot-luck supper, exchanged ideas and discussed ways of supporting each other and the MGCSA.

The agenda for our May 12th meeting will include a discussion of the annual family picnic, held each August.

This is a great chance for us to get to know each other better. Please join us.

Answer Sheet — 1983 Rules of Golf Quiz

Question	Answer	Applicable Rule/Decision	Comment
11.	B	Rule 35-1(i)	The 'few seconds' allowed under the Rules is certainly no more than ten seconds. Player is penalized two strokes for delay of play. The ball is deemed holed.
12.	C	Rule 29-2b (i)	Player may return to the spot where the stroke originated.
13.	A	Rule 17-1	Player has improved his line of play.
14.	A	Definition 6	A ball is lost if the player has put another ball into play under the Rules.

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