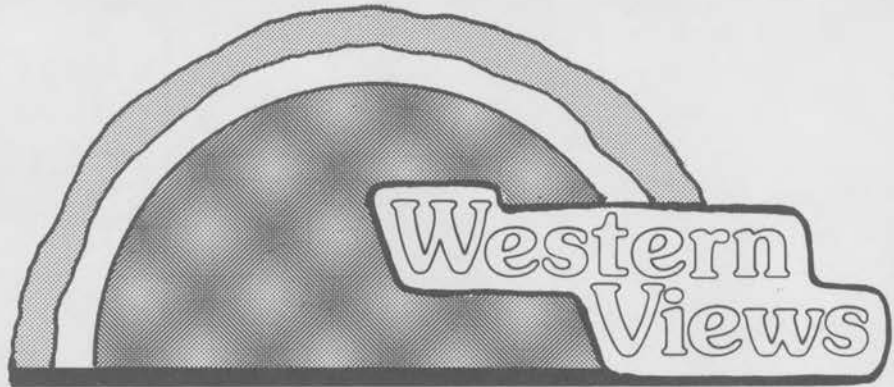




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JULY & AUGUST 1982

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Mark Magee

Preparations are underway for Golf Day 1982, our third Golf Day, which is just a month away. Our host, Superintendent Bob Hope and his committee, are right on schedule for a great day on September 13.

Although not every member is able to donate his time to the preparation of this fund raiser for turf research, we should take the time and initiative to participate in this event. The monies we raise during our Golf Day are ear-marked for research projects determined by our own members.

This is our opportunity to support the Michigan Turf Foundation and at the same time help research find the answers to problems we feel are relevant to us on a year-to-year basis. Each of us knows the valuable part turf research plays in our livelihood. Golf Day is an opportunity for our association members to insure that good turf research continues, but most important that it continues to be done on problems relevant to members of our association.

FIELD DAY

Michigan State University
Hancock Field Lab
Wednesday, September 1st
9:00 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING — ELECTIONS

October 5th — Scott Lake

FALL PARTY

November 5th — Gull Lake Country Club

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Meeting Schedule

Sept. 13 Golf Day - Kent Country Club
Oct. 5 Annual Meeting - Scott Lake
Nov. 5 Fall Party - Gull Lake Country Club

WHO'S NEW by Chris Fochtman

This year has been a big year for new members into our association. Palmer Park's L.E. Kaufman Golf Course has given us both superintendent Marvin Burger and his assistant Raymond Palmer. Marv was the assistant since 1980 until his promotion in February. I visited him just before he was about to host the Kent County Amateur and the course was in super condition.

David Sloncz is Bill Davis' assistant at Battle Creek's Marywood Country Club. Before going to Marywood, Dave was the assistant at Oakland Hills Country Club for three years.

I am proud to personally announce the acceptance of Scott Robertson, my assistant, into the WMGCSA. Scott worked for me the summer before entering MSU's turf program. His placement training was done at Blytheville Country Club. There was no doubt in my mind or Roger Barton's that Scott would work out well; and he has.

Last and certainly not least, we welcome Fritz Veldhuis into our association. Fritz, manager of Clearbrook Country Club, is familiar to our monthly meetings because he has frequently been Judd Smeenge's guest. Fritz has the nasty habit of fleecing me on the golf course. Now when he clips me at least I'll be emptying my wallet to a fellow member rather than just a "guest".

The Western Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association is proud to welcome these new members into our association.

NOTICE!

If anyone is interested in running for the Board of Directors please contact Charlie Scott (616) 731-4148. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting at Scott Lake in October.

WHO'S WHO by Kurt Thuemmel

Our May meeting was held at Battle Creek Country Club, with Harold Peck as our host. Everything about the day was great including the weather, hospitality, food and golf. Harold has served Battle Creek Country Club for 37 years. His predecessor was his father who started with the club when it was built in 1920. After serving as an assistant for 2 years, Harold became superintendent in 1947 and continues today at the beautiful and challenging layout. The course remains the same today as it was when it was built with the exception of a number of tees and bunkers. After losing about 800 elms in the 1960's, Harold has replanted 2200 trees of a wide variety. Harold began attending WMGCSA meetings in the late 1930's with his father and has been attending ever since. Back in the early days, many of the wives would attend the meetings, according to Harold. When not busy at his job, Harold enjoys hunting, fishing, and gardening. Thanks Harold, for a most enjoyable day.




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**HISTORIC KENT COUNTRY CLUB
TO HOST GOLF DAY**
by Jim Bogart

On Monday, September 13th, the Western Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association will sponsor its Third Annual Golf Day for the benefit of turfgrass research. This year's event will be held at the Kent Country Club in Grand Rapids. The choice of this fine club adds to the prestige of the event due to Kent's role as the birthplace of golf in Western Michigan.



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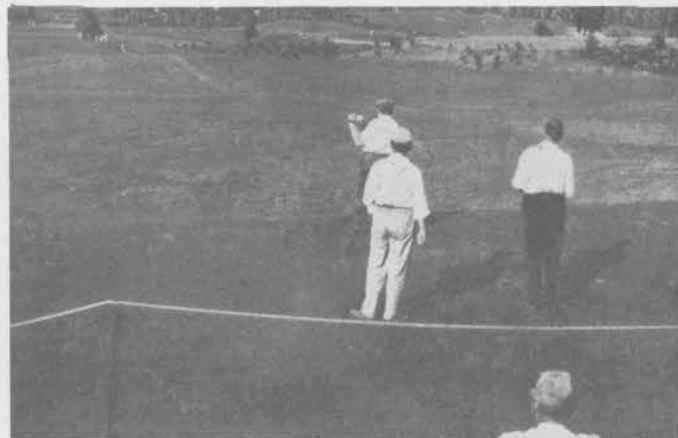
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It was during a dinner party at his home on February 1, 1896 that Mr. Ed Lowe described a new game to his guests. All of those present became intrigued by this game called golf. It was decided to proceed with the development of a golf club in the Grand Rapids area. The name selected by the group for this undertaking was The Golf Club.

After searching out possible sites for the course, a property located at the corner of Plymouth and Wealthy Streets (near the current Blodgett Hospital) was selected. Arrangements were made to lease the land from its' owner, Lumen Jenison, for \$75.00 per year.

James Foulis, a young golf professional recently immigrated from the St. Andrews Golf Club, was chosen to lay out the first course. His original 9 holes ranged in length from 83 to 187 yards; the total yardage being 1,181 yards. For this project Foulis was paid a fee of \$25.00. Additional land was later leased and the course was lengthened to 1,400 yards. Following completion of the layout, Ed Lowe hit the first golf shot in Grand Rapids. He was accompanied in the first three-some by Dudley Waters and William Gunn.



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The Golf Club furnished clubs for its' members as no one owned their own. The club had purchased six sets, thus limiting play to six golfers at a time. Dues for the first members were set at \$5.00 per year for men and \$2.50 per year for women. The first employees of the club were two groundskeepers, hired at a rate of \$12.00 per month. In 1898 another young Pro from St. Andrews, Dave Macintosh, was hired as Club Professional.

this time the winners will be turf managers of Michigan who benefit from Michigan State University's research program.

We wish to thank Kent Country Club not only for their hospitality in hosting the Golf Day, but for introducing golf to Western Michigan as well.

It soon became evident that the original 9-hole course was inadequate for the membership and a committee began looking for a new site. After rejecting a site along the Grand River as too soggy, attention turned to the Martin L. Sweet dairy farm. The 133 acre farm was purchased and on April 12, 1900 Kent Country Club was incorporated. Mr. E.C. Simonds was selected to design the 18-hole layout. To provide capital for the land purchase and construction, 100 members each purchased \$250.00 worth of stock.



The quality of Mr. Simonds design was readily recognized by the Western Golf Association. They selected Kent Country Club as the host for Western Opens in 1904 and 1911. In addition, the 1914 Western Amateur was contested at Kent as was the 1916 Women's Western Open. And now on September 13th this historic course will again be challenged during The Annual Golf Day. However,

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SAND TOPDRESSING - AN UPDATE

by Tim Eagon

The process of sand topdressing greens is becoming more and more an accepted practice on Mid-Western greens. In the following article, I will try to give you a short history of sand topdressing, the types of sand which might be used, and a compendium of pros & cons which have been brought to my attention in the last five years. I would also like to state that the learning process is still going on, both in our industry and for myself.

Our first involvement with sand topdressing came in the 1975 season at our Milwaukee dock facility. A few courses were looking for a sand that would be compatible to topdressing. The definitive works on the subject, at that time, were done by Dr. William Daniel of Purdue University, Dr. Douglas Hawes of the University of Maryland, and Dr. John H. Madison of the University of California. In each of their position papers, they believed that the use of sand would benefit the greens by reducing the thatch buildup and creating a deeper rootzone. Those Milwaukee courses took the plunge and that is how we entered this field.

Why topdress? - By and large the vast majority of courses have thatch problems on their greens. When sand is introduced into the existing soil, it tends to "open" this layer. This "opening" is simply a ratio of

voids in one degree or another and has a direct relationship to root penetration and infiltration. In his most recent article on analysis of 170 sands, Dr. Daniel addresses this topic as follows:

1. The finest 10% of the sand is all important. The fine particles settle into openings between larger fractions. He believes that as little as 5% if silt and clay, or as much as 25%, if very fine sands, actually describes this predominance. These fine particles:

- determine pore space
- control the rate and extent of capillary action
- permit increased rootzone moisture capacity
- increase surface stability
- improve ease of managing turf

2. The coarsest 10% particles:

- form a filter for slits and narrow openings
- tend to reduce moisture retention
- tend to provide a less stable surface
- appear more obvious
- may collect and cause dry spots
- may adversely affect equipment and putting surface
- occupies space-does little work

3. Uniform particle sand is preferred. Naturally occurring sands seldom provide uniform texture, but a "good" dune sand may provide 40%-44% pore space. Washed "pit" sands provide 26%-32% since all particle sizes are often included.

For the Michigan superintendent, the proximity of the dune (wind Sorted) sand is definitely a first choice, but there are alternatives. There are outcroppings of bank sands throughout the state, which may lend themselves to topdressing. The major thing to look for is grain size distribution and any

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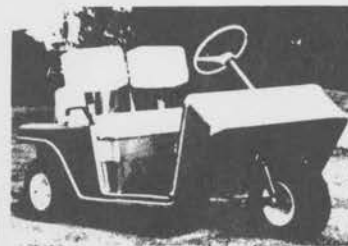
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silts and clays they may contain. The other alternative might be a mortar or No. 8 sand. Generally, this sand will be of a "course" nature but a few courses have used it successfully after screening out the larger particles. If you find a sand which you believe might be suitable for topdressing - please take the time to do a screen analysis.

Pros & Cons:

1. Sand topdressing has shown the capacity to reduce thatch buildup.
 2. Root penetration is increased.
 3. Infiltration of water and nutrient is increased.
 4. Green speed (strike test) is usually increased at first and then tends to stabilize from green to green.
 5. Less compaction of surface.
1. Bed knife wear is increased.
 2. Isolated dry spots may occur.
 3. ph of soil may increase.
 4. Ball marks may be more noticeable with the contrasting color of the sand.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this subject. If you have any questions please feel free to write or call.



Bill Madigan and John Gilson on the practice tee at the Point O Woods meeting.

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Gene Johanningsmeier and Roy Peck debating over whether to take on the Point.

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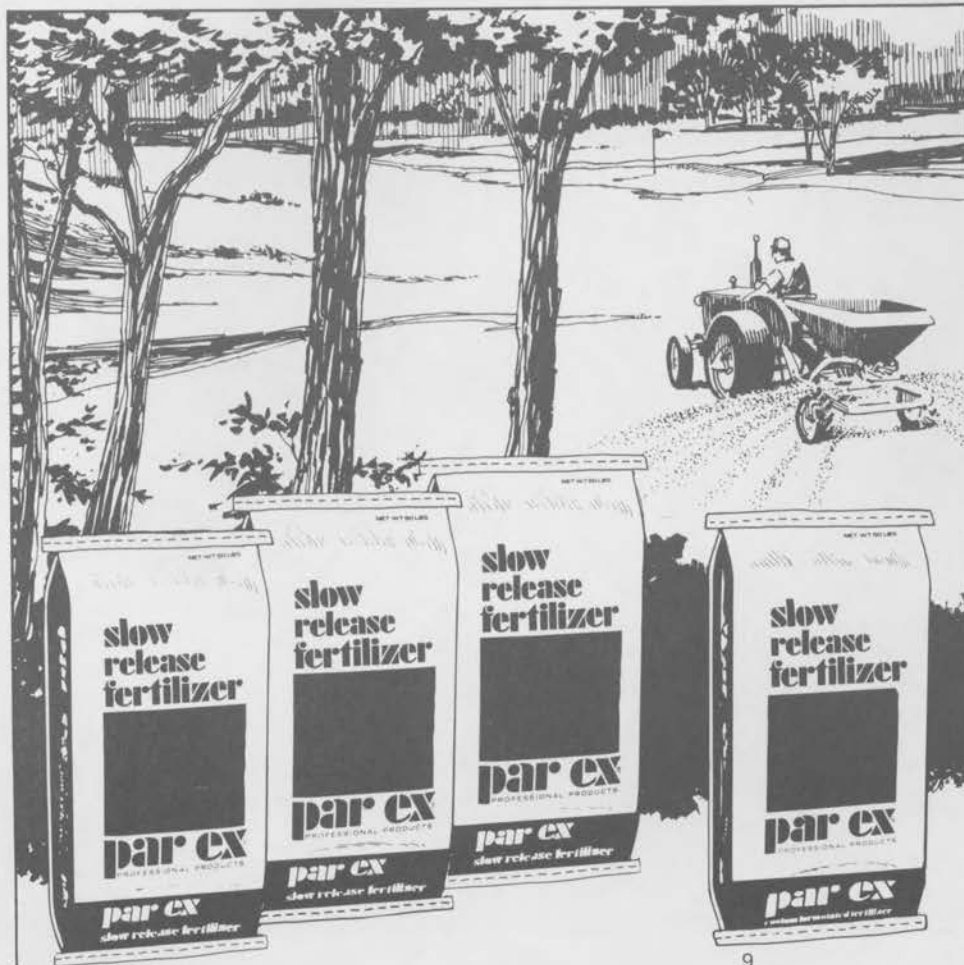
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1 Yes, GCSAA can help you become a better superintendent. One way it does this is through educational seminars and conference sessions it sponsors each year to help you become better informed about turfgrass diseases, pesticides, landscaping and management practices.

2 Yes, GCSAA is helping to further the advancement of the turfgrass industry. Through the GCSAA Scholarship & Research Fund, Inc., GCSAA provided more than \$13,500 last year in research grants to leading turfgrass programs. GCSAA also provides educational opportunities to turfgrass students through annual turfgrass scholarships.

3 Yes, GCSAA provides a meeting ground for superintendents. Each year, GCSAA sponsors an annual conference and show for its members. Last year more than 6,500 educators, industry representatives and members from all over the world attended. GCSAA's executive committee decided at its last board meeting that the conference experience is so valuable that first-year members should be encouraged to attend by being given free admission.

4 Yes, GCSAA offers recognition for superintendents. Through its public relations efforts, its magazine, and its award programs, GCSAA helps promote the image and the professionalism of the superintendent. GCSAA also provides information to superintendents about how they can use public relations to promote their own image to their course, their community and their association.

5 Yes, GCSAA provides each member with a life insurance program. Supplemental insurance, disability and pension programs also are available.

6 No, GCSAA can't help you with your golf handicap. You'll have to work on that yourself.



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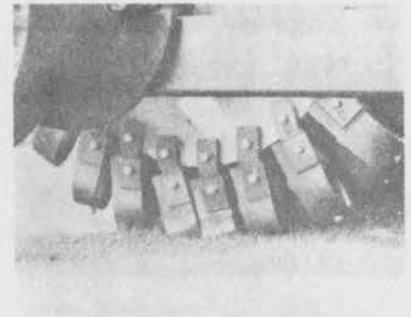
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