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Mike Bavier - President

The President's Message

Turf Research is on the upswing in Illinois. Many of you were part of the Illinois Turfgrass Day (August 25th) at Indian Lakes Golf Club. The enthusiasm that was shown was outstanding. I guess when you have two fine people like Dr. Turgeon and the Dean of Agriculture, Orville Bently, who, by the way, took time out from his busy schedule to show up for the day, working for their cause becomes a little easier. The committee, headed by Roger LaRochelle, did a superior job of making arrangements for the day with everything running like clockwork. The weather even cooperated—in fact, it was a cool day, something we had little of this summer.

Many people get a little put off when asked to make contributions—not so this time. The generosity was phenomenal as shown by the numerous gifts given by clubs, the Chicago District Golf Association, and even by the distributors who so heartily dug into their pockets for donations. I feel a little discouraged, however, that we got such poor coverage from many of our local papers. Possibly they missed the importance of the day. Every one of us will benefit from the research that will be carried on—the home owner, apartment dweller, and the like. Without turfgrass, the state would be pretty desolate, not to mention the oxygen given off for each of us.

The swing of the pendulum to putting monies in research rather than towards scholarships is very much to my liking and that of many of my friends. The continuous flooding of turf scholarships must come to an end. I didn't say to discontinue the giving of scholarships entirely, but we should use some discretion in how many are given out. Just as children become accustomed to receiving candy for no reason other than to keep them from crying, we should refrain from giving out an abundance of scholarships that would encourage people into a profession that is as demanding as ours. We need good people but giving too many of them a chance doesn't really get me excited.

Illinois has started a research fund that seems to be a step in the right direction. This shows some foresight in that we are looking after the interest of our clubs and the people of our state. Now the turf researchers must take over and give us some quality information and maybe something within a year, not twenty years down the line. The continued success and fine results of the program, I'm sure, will depend on continued enthusiasm by the researchers and ourselves.