

## The Musser Foundation

The Musser Foundation is looking forward to the future. The need to plan for the future is now. Let me pitch the Musser group, but this time with a little background information.

The Foundation is into raising money to help students in the final year of their doctorate degree in turfgrass management or Agronomy. So what is the big deal? To my knowledge this is the only group helping these people. But more important is the need to get these people into the field. In the near future, we are going to need people to replace the Dr. Daniels, the Dr. Butlers and Ken Paynes. These people have already retired. The Musser group is doing something to replace these people.

Over the last fifteen years the group has built a nice little cash reserve. This has been accomplished by the help of many people. Frank Dobie, the President now of the Musser group has held a tournament at his club for fourteen years to raise money. Superintendent groups from Oregon, Maryland, Michigan and Minnesota have helped over the years.

Just this year the Midwest Golf Course Superintendents Association made a nice donation. The Nor Am Company has given the last couple of years. We are hoping to get more associations and companies to contribute. I must also mention the Tee to Green Company has been most generous over the years. Thanks, of course, to Bill Rose.

So what is the point to all this? If we are to continue to give scholarships like we have the last two years to the tune of two for \$6,000 and three for \$4,000, we are going to need help.

Remember those blue tags I keep asking you to send me from the Tee to Green group. Well, now is the time to go in your seed room and take those blue tags off the seed bags. You can send them or give them to Dudley Smith or me. You can find our addresses in the roster books.

Your help is needed and it is for the future of turfgrass. Our future.

**Mike Bavier**

P.S. Checks made to the Musser Foundation are acceptable, too.



## Information, Please

by James M. Latham, Director

Great Lakes Region, USGA Green Section

American golf courses are better than ever and I can prove it. If not, why does our office get more inquiries about sand bunkers and bunker sands than anything other than new construction. It seems paradoxical that course conditions can remain high when maintenance programs continue to be hampered by pressure to reduce the use of pesticides, fertilizers and water. Evidently, golf course superintendents have responded to the pressures by working smarter than ever with the high quality products which are available.

The pressures are not going to let up, though. Pesticide posting laws are in force in some states now and some versions will follow in others. There are other potential legalities regarding pesticides which could hamper our means of communication with golfers. A recent GAO publication evaluating EPA performance listed the things that lawn service operators **CAN-NOT** say about the products they apply to lawns:

- Any statement implying that a pesticide is recommended or endorsed by any Federal Agency
- A true statement used in such a way that is false or may mislead a customer.
- Claims about the safety of a pesticide or its ingredients such as 'safe', 'nonpoisonous', 'harmless' or 'nontoxic' to humans or pets, **with** or **without** phrase "when used as directed."
- Non-numerical or comparative statements on product safety, such as 'contains all natural ingredients', 'among the least toxic chemicals known' and 'pollution approved.'
- "Approved by" any federal agency
- 'Low in Toxicity', 'will not harm beneficial insects', 'no health hazard' or 'ecologically compatible'.

Just remember that EPA considers no pesticide safe since all of them are supposed to kill or adversely affect the growth of something.

To follow these guidelines, how would you answer Mr. and Mrs. Golfer when they ask if the stuff being sprayed by the Man From Mars is safe? What will they do when you hand them a label or MSDS and stand mute? Will this satisfy their Right to Know?

We have some information on this through the publications by Watschke, Petrovic and Cohen, but we still do not have the whole story. For example, we don't know what becomes of pesticides after they are applied to turf and run their course of action. What are the products of their decomposition in soils? In sands? Under aerobic or anaerobic conditions and at what pH? Several years ago when Milwaukee began applying a

## "Summer Parade"

Welcome Summer's great parade,  
Soak up Sunshine — hide in Shade.  
Yes! Good Ole Summertime is here,  
Thoughts go out to cold Beer,  
Beautiful Morning's, Breeze and Shade,  
A little Mint in Your Lemonade.  
Vacation time fever fills the air,  
State Fair spirit everywhere.  
How fortunate to be involved,  
With Golfer's and the Summer Crowd.

**Kenneth R. Zanzig**

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