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President's Message

Bruce R. Williams, CGCS
MAGCS President

The month of June has a number of important dates to keep in mind. It signals the end of the school year. Can you remember the anticipation that led up to the final days before summer vacation? It seemed like summer would never come. Likewise it seemed like the summers passed so quickly when we were young. Before you knew it, summer was over and it was time to return to school. The suburban scene provides some outstanding recreational opportunities for our children that will keep them busy during the summer months. What the recreational programs won't provide is the love and attention that our children need. The demands of our profession are such that we usually allocate the majority of our time to work and then we take the balance and use it for family and recreation. That surely doesn't leave a lot of time to spend with the children during the summer months.

The best way to avoid a summer slipping by without spending time with the kids is to put them on your calendar and make a point to go to their baseball games and soccer games. Most of us don't really feel like going to the beach after a long day at the golf course under the hot sun but that doesn't mean that the family doesn't appreciate going. The nature of our business provides us with the opportunity to schedule our days as we see fit. Most superintendents work 60 plus hours a week and I doubt if their employers would begrudge them for spending an afternoon with their family. The time is there, we just need to place a priority on family outings.

I can assure you that I understand what summers are like as the child of a golf course superintendent. My father worked long and hard to become one of the outstanding leaders of our profession. I admire him for what he has accomplished and credit him as the driving force that has most influenced my life. But I can tell you that I was confused as I was growing up. I couldn't understand why my father worked from sunrise until sunset. I always wondered why my father worked weekends and holidays. The profession of the golf course superintendent often prevented many families from spending time together. It wasn't until I had grown up that I realized what my father's job was all about. At that time I began to understand the long hours and dedication needed to be successful in our business.

Later in the month of June we celebrate Father's Day. I try to use this as a reminder that I have an obligation to my children and that being a parent is just as important as any Member-Guest Day you will ever prepare for. I hope that I will have many more memories of the time I spend with my family than the number of compliments (or complaints) that I receive after a club function. So many of my fellow superintendents tell me

that they wished they had spent more time with their family along the way. By the time they were established personally and professionally, it was too late as their children were grown up and gone. Take the time now to be with your children. Be an active part of their development. Being a kid isn't easy. Be a friend to your children and be someone that they can love and respect. Use Father's Day as a reminder to be the best father you can be.

For those of us who grew up in the business, don't forget to remember your own fathers and the opportunities they have provided us. The heritage of multiple generations in our profession is quite unique. Aside from my own family, we have the Dinelli's, the Stewarts, the Lapps, the Hophanns, the Byrnes, the Breens, the Braunskys, the Burdetts, the Clesens, the Fuchs family, the Gerbers, the Hubers, the Bob Johnson family, Dudley Smith & Rick Wilson, the Nels Johnson family, the Nugents, the Kensingers, the Kronns, the Meyers, the Mirkes family, the Nadlers, the Reeds, the Schmitzes, the Wollenbergs, and the Zolmans, I am sorry if I have forgotten anyone. Quite an impressive list of Chicago families in the turf industry. When you start adding the Koelper brothers, the Miles brothers, and the Voykin brothers, you can see that the golf industry in Chicago is truly a family affair. For many of us it has become more than a profession, it is a way of life we are all proud to be a part of.

Enjoy your family while you can. Take time to smell the roses. Take the kids to a baseball game. Visit the many attractions we have here in Chicago. Go to the zoo, the museums, the Shedd Aquarium, the Planetarium. Take a walk through the miles of trails in our many forest preserves and parks. Teach your children to play golf. Take a weekend occasionally for the family to get away. Remember that we all have the same amount of time in a day, week, or year. It is merely a matter of how we use it. Devote some of that time to your family.

Turf Foundation News

O. J. Noer Research Foundation Election

At the recent O. J. Noer Directors' and Membership Annual Meeting, William Schmidt was elected Vice President for the Foundation and Alan Nees was elected as a Director. Mr Schmidt is General Manager and Sales Manager of E. H. Griffith, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA; Mr. Nees is presently Acting Manager of Sales and Agronomy in the Marketing Division for Milorganite, Milwaukee, WI. The membership meeting was held in Las Vegas during the recent GCSAA Conference. Dr. James Watson, Vice President of Toro Manufacturing Co., and a member of the foundation was the featured speaker, giving his views on the future of the turfgrass industry.

The O. J. Noer Research Foundation is a not for profit, tax deductible foundation dedicated to financial support of scientific research in turfgrass. It was founded in 1959 by associates and friends of O. J. Noer to honor one of the most widely known and respected turfgrass agronomists. His lifetime's work was the improvement of turfgrasses. Golf courses have improved dramatically over the year due, in part, to Noer's pioneering work.

The research projects are basic in nature, assuring usable information wherever turf is grown. In addition, data provided by some projects has stimulated other research activity on related subjects to further benefit users and growers of turfgrass.

Grants are made in all geographic areas in the U.S. in order to utilize the knowledge and facilities of outstanding scientists and universities. Advanced degrees gained through Noer grants help assure a continuing source of turfgrass specialists for all facets of the industry.

The Noer Foundation is also involved with helping library collections that are important to the turfgrass business. Libraries at Michigan State University and Texas A & M receive support in the establishment of and book acquisition for their turfgrass collections. The O. J. Noer Turfgrass Collection has been incorporated into the USGA Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) at Michigan State University. TGIF is a computer data base of turfgrass research reports and abstracts. Many historical projects, research reports, conference proceedings, etc., have been acquired, with the help of many prominent resources.

Noer Foundation grants are made from investment profits. Thus, any donations made to the Foundation continue to bring dividends from that time forward. The Officers and Directors receive no compensation, no transportation or living expenses at meetings.

Current projects are being funded at Cornell University, Georgia Coastal Plains Experiment Station, Iowa State University, University of Kentucky, and the University of Minnesota.

Contributions may be sent to:

O. J. Noer Foundation, Inc.
c/o Robert Welch, Exec. Sec. & Tres.
301 S. 61st Street
Milwaukee, WI 53214

Genetic Work Wins \$12,000 Musser Scholarship for Tennessee Turf Student

Developing techniques to transfer desirable traits from one plant to another has earned a \$12,000 scholarship for a 26-year old doctoral candidate at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

James E. Bond, a native of England, was awarded the 1991 Musser International Turfgrass Foundation's graduate scholarship to complete studies that are "of tremendous benefit to turfgrasses," according to Dr. Lloyd M. Callahan, a University of Tennessee professor in charge of a DNA research program in the department of Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design.

As a direct result of Bond's work, "highly desired traits such as cold-hardiness, herbicide resistance, disease resistance, among others, can be introduced into desired turfgrasses that do not possess this trait," wrote Callahan in nominating Bond for the scholarship.

"This technology is essential for genetic engineering of plants and the related improvement of crop species," echoed Dr. Peter M. Gresshof, who holds the Racheff Chair of Excellence in plant molecular genetics at the University of Tennessee. "(Bond's) progress has been excellent despite the intellectual and scientific challenge of the research."

(cont'd. page 4)