

A Passing Noted: William H. Daniel

William Hugh Daniel, 75, professor emeritus at Purdue University, died Friday, Feb. 25, 1995, at St. Elizabeth Hospital Medical Center, West Lafayette, Ind.

Dr. Daniel, a pioneer in turfgrass management, retired from the Department of Agronomy at Purdue in 1985, where he had been on staff for 35 years. He pioneered turfgrass research and educational methods, and was the developer of the PURR-Wick Water Management System and Prescription Athletic Turf (PAT).

He was the author of numerous articles in technical and popular journals and was senior author of *The Turf Managers' Handbook*. He was a leader in developing the International Turfgrass Society.

A graduate of Ouachita University, he earned a bachelor's degree in science from the University of Arkansas and a master's degree in soil fertility and a doctorate from Michigan State University. He was a Fellow in the American Society of Agronomy, and had received its Agronomic Service Award.

In 1975 Dr. Daniel received the GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award, and in 1984 received the USGA Green Section Award. He received the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation's Distinguished Service Award and in 1981 was inducted into the Indiana Golf Hall of Fame.

Cecil F. Kerr, Kalamazoon, Michigan

Dr. "Bill" Daniel was an inspiration and a motivating force in the lives of Turf Managers throughout the Midwest. He was a role model to us all! The early Midwest Turf Conference at Purdue was attended by the leading Turf Managers throughout the midwest states. Students of Bill Daniel became leading Superintendents, educators, and outstanding leaders in this vital industry.

Bill Daniel motivated me to become active in the Turf Industry. He helped me to become a better person professionally and spiritually. I appreciated Bill as a friend. We early turf workers owe much of our success to Bill Daniel. He was a fine leader we respected and followed. We will miss him.

Julius Albaugh, CGCS

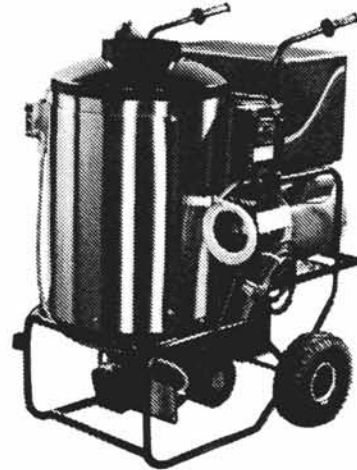
Westmoreland Country Club, Class of '63

It was at the GCSAA Conference and Show in San Francisco when I received word of the passing of Doctor Daniel. My initial feeling was of sadness and a great loss. But as a former student and Golf Course Superintendent, his memory will live forever in my heart.

As a Turfgrass Educator he gave me an occupation and direction. With his research and leadership of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation and Turf Conferences at Purdue he kept all in the turfgrass industry abreast of the need for continued education. Doctor Daniel was a special friend I could call on to help solve any problem.

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John Turner, Class of '80

I am honored to have known Dr. Bill Daniel, as a former student and through the profession in turfgrass science. His friendship was always genuine with an added touch of the "boilermaker" tradition. He greeted you as "friend" and inquired to know "how were you doing" and "what have you learned throughout your travels". When you would ask about his current activity, he replied, "I am keeping busy with my family and playing golf". Also, "So nice to allow me to share my time and work with you".

As my farewell to Dr. Daniel, thank you for allowing me to serve with you!

Joe Williamson, Burr Ridge C.C. Class of '69

Dr. W. H. Daniel, Professor of Turfgrass Management at Purdue University, recently passed away at his home in West Lafayette, Indiana. He was a very caring individual who took an extreme interest in each and every student who had the pleasure of being a part of his program. I can remember as a student in the Class of 1969, there was a total of four of us who went on to work in the turfgrass field in some capacity. He and his wife Gwen would have the four of us out to his house for a cookout at least two to three times per year.

Dr. Daniel will probably be best noted for his research with the arsenicals in an attempt to control *Poa Annuua*, as well as his involvement in the Prescription Athletic Turf (P.A.T.) system he developed for athletic fields. The PAT system is currently being used in Ross Ade Stadium, The Orange Bowl, and RFK Stadium, just to name a few.

"Doc" as we all called him, will be missed not only by his family, but by former students, friends, and peers. My sympathy goes out to Gwen and the entire Daniel family.

Dick Trevarthan, Prestwick Country Club Class of '59

As a freshman at Purdue University, I wandered into Dr. Daniels office looking for a part time job. Previous to this I was an animal husbandry major with no experience of any kind in the turf field. Dr. Daniels not only gave me a job, but helped line up my first summer job working at Louisville Country Club. In turn, he influenced me into joining the turf management field which at time proved to be rocky at best. It took me until about my first semester junior year to realize that I was in college. He paid us \$1.10 per hour and always had work scheduled for us on the office board. That famous board! Upon graduation (yes, I graduated), he was just a phone call away to help solve any problems. Dr. Daniels was always looking for interesting topics and speakers to put on the annual Midwest Turf Conference. (I always liked the way he ran the annual Midwest Turf election for directors). Dr. Daniels to me is the father of all turf conferences. People in all parts of the turf industry would attend the annual spring conference at Purdue.

His legacy is not just the conference, but his students, the university and all people connected with the turf field. My sincere sympathies go to Mrs. Daniels, the family, and all Dr. Daniels' friends. I can only hope the best for them in the future.

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Mike Bavier, Inverness G.C.

Bill Daniel was a real gentleman and a true professional. He will be missed by many of us that had the good fortune to know him.

If there was a conference I looked forward to attending each year, the Midwest Regional Conference at Purdue was the one on the top of the list. Bill always had the best speakers. His keynote speaker was inspirational, maybe not so much in turf but in life in general. His conference programs were very progressive and the banquet made the trip to Purdue a pleasure. The after dinner speaker was usually someone from the Lafayette, Indiana area. Bill did not need to go out of the area to secure a top notch speaker. To complete the evening the boys choir would come running through the side doors and on to the stage. Their melodies of song were a delight to listen to the rest of the evening.

These thoughts will be with me for years. My thoughts of him will be always cherished.

**Don Cross, Skokie C.C.
Class of '78**

I first met Dr. Daniel in a class titled Ag. Lectures. It was required of all first year students in the School of Agriculture at Purdue and was simply an overview of each of the specialized options available in Agriculture. Each class was taught by a different instructor from each option. I was initially interested in Farm Management but keeping my career options open, I listened intently to all the presentations from Animal Science, Crop Science, and Entomology to Fruit Production, Genetics, and on through Veterinary Medicine. I believe there were about 30 different options.

Toward the end of the semester, Dr. Daniel made his presentation for Turf Management and thereafter my career goal was quickly established. While I watched and listened I became impressed by his ambition and knowledge, and his obvious passion for his "field", for Superintendents and other Turf Managers, and for his students. He affected a great influence on me that day and I soon learned and experienced the influence he made on the entire "Green Industry".

"Doc" was much more than the average professor whom lectures from the same notes class after class. No, he addressed the various known theory, then stimulated his students to think of other options, methods, and possibilities. He was always looking for more efficient and improved procedures to perform tasks.

He thoroughly enjoyed his students and continually challenged them. His door was always open and it wasn't uncommon to be asked to join in a phone conversation with a Superintendent or other Turf Manager seeking information about disease or weed control, fertilization, or other strategies. He took us on field trips to various sites including Muirfield Village C.C., O.M. Scott Co., Meridian Hills C.C., Elanco Chemical Co., and others, to broaden our education and see the theories in practice. Our senior year we were given the responsibility of editing and suggesting possible changes in his, and Ray Freeborg's book "Turf Managers Handbook". It was an excellent learning experience. "Doc"

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also had us perform a senior project. I remember doing my study, now 17 years ago, on regulating turf growth with various hormones. I used products such as IAA, GA, and IBA, and others like PP-333 and EL-500. Some of you may remember these designations and many of you are using these products today known as Cutless and TGR. I'd say "Doc" was a true visionary and realized the value of these products long before their "time".

Space does not permit me to continue to list the many contributions that "Doc" made to our profession but they were numerous. He was a great educator, researcher, advisor, and friend. He made a difference in my life twenty years ago, and has probably made a difference in yours. He will surely be missed.

Phil Taylor, Illinois Lawn Equipment, Inc.

Is it just human nature that causes us to think of all the things we wish we had said to someone after they are gone? If Dr. Bill Daniels were standing here in front of me right now, I would thank him for being the mentor I needed during my college days at Purdue. The man didn't necessarily know a lot about the golf business, but he sure knew about grass! As I sit here and reflect, I can visualize the man's face with his silvery, curly hair, his gentle smile, and his soft-spoken but confident demeanor. He taught us the basics of turfgrass management that would become the foundation that our careers would be built on. I can remember the pride that I felt coming out of Purdue University having been associated with Dr. Daniels and the turfgrass program that he had built. Although it has been nearly 17 years since my graduation, I am confident of the fact that many doors in this turfgrass business have been opened to me because of Bill Daniels; and for that, I and my family will be forever grateful.

To a man who was always a gentleman, with fondest memories.

Dudley Smith, Silver Lake C.C.

Dr. Bill Daniel, professor emeritus of Agronomy, Purdue University, passed away while we were at the Conference in San Francisco. My initial meeting with Dr. Bill was for a cocktail at the Nittany Lion Inn in 1955 when I inquired about graduate study at Purdue. In 1973 he installed me as president of the Midwest Turf Foundation, an honor usually reserved for boiler makers. Later he brought a bus tour of worldwide agronomists to Silver Lake for a pit stop, they stayed four hours and were late for their dinner engagement. Our most recent meeting was lunch in January at the Indianapolis Conference. Dr. Bill always read every page of the **Bull Sheet** and often phoned me to compliment an article he liked. In January he lauded the pen of Tony Rządski. A humble Christian man, Dr. Daniel said hello by calling you "friend". He always said thank you for "Sharing with us".

Bill Daniel was a leader to his students; but an inspiration to all of us.

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(A Passing Noted continued)

Phil Hargarten, Arthur Clesen, Inc.

I was an agronomy major at Purdue for four years, but I was not one of Dr. Bill Daniel's turf students. I became one of "his students" after I got out of the Army in 1973 and went back to Purdue to check the job market. Bill helped me get started in the turf industry by putting me in touch with the George A. Davis Company in Chicago for a sales position.

Even though most of his thirty-five years at Purdue were devoted to golf course turf, his later years after retirement were devoted to consulting with his famed athletic field PAT System that many of the NFL and other fields are constructed today. He also became one of the founders of the national Sports Turf Managers Association.

Over the years Bill always had words of encouragement for myself and everybody else who came in contact with him. I saw him last at the MRTF luncheon during the Midwest Turf Expo this past January in Indianapolis. Even though he was very weak, he wanted to be at the conference and he greeted everybody with a big smile. I think it was a very happy day for him even though his health was failing. He was a very knowledgeable, dedicated, and caring man. As he did with me, he considered a lot of people "his students" even though they may never have had a class under him, nor did they have to go to school at Purdue.

Bret Rush, CIBA-Geigy

It was a beautiful fall afternoon at the Purdue agronomy farm as I feverishly wrote numbers down while running after Dr. Daniel. I was helping him rate turf plots and, as he was moving at warp speed "6, 8, 4, 9, 8, 2", he stopped cold in his tracks and said, "Okay Bret, I want you to rate the next set of plots". I had always struggled with self confidence in college and the insurmountable pressure of collecting data that was influenced by MY judgement was "killin' me" so I said, "Gee Doc, I can't do it". He looked at me and said, "Sit down, I have a story I want to share with you". He explained, "Bret, when they installed the heating system for athletic fields that I developed up in Green Bay, Wi., I made a visit to see how it was going. The Packers were taking the field for practice and one of the city officials asked if I would like to meet Vince Lombardi. After meeting Mr. Lombardi he asked, "So your man who invented this heating system, is it going to work?" I said, "Well ... I think so." Lombardi replied, as he tossed down his clip board, "You think so? If you don't know, who does?!!!"

The moral of the story Dr. Daniel explained, is that you have to believe in yourself. The fear of failure had no place in Docs life. Many days have come and gone since then and there have been many times I think, "Can I do this?" What if I fail?" and it NEVER FAILS, I always see him on that beautiful October afternoon saying, "Bret, you can do it! You have to believe in yourself". His warmth, compassion, integrity, and experiences has served as a foundation and guide for many people, young and old, throughout the years. He will remain in my heart forever.

We can all rest assured that he is with the Lord now where "The grass is always Green and there is no (pwannia)".

God Bless.

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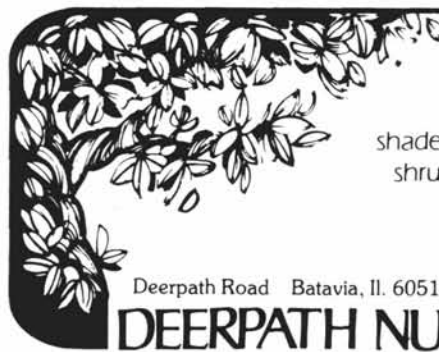
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