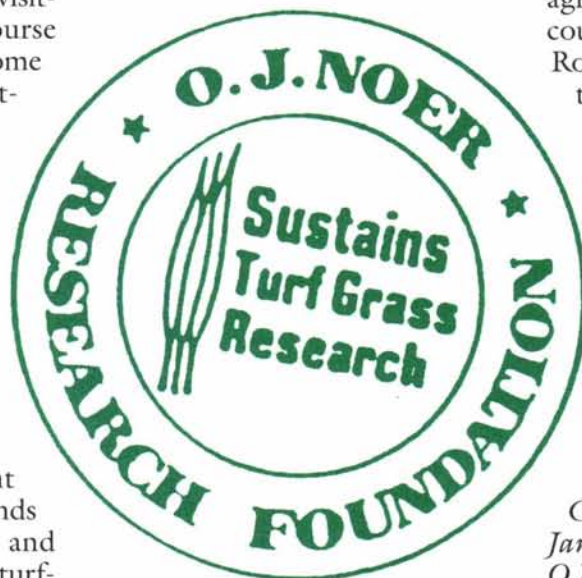


# O.J. Noer Research Foundation to Mark Its 40th Anniversary in Orlando

The O.J. Noer Research Foundation will mark its 40th anniversary during the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's International Conference and Show in Orlando, FL. The Foundation was established to honor Mr. Noer, who was the leading turfgrass agronomist of his day. He was agronomist at the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, producer of Milorganite fertilizer. During his long career, he traveled throughout North America, visiting with golf course superintendents on their home turf. In addition, he participated in many local, regional and national superintendents conferences and wrote numerous articles for popular and scientific publications.

Since its inception, the Foundation has supported some 54 turfgrass research projects at 19 universities and experiment stations. It also provides funds for the purchase of rare and important books related to turfgrasses to expand the O. J. Noer Memorial Collection housed at Michigan State University. Funds are generated by the income derived from the investment of contributions. Contributions come from individuals, superintendents associations, turf supply manufacturers and from Milorganite distributors and buyers who wish to "put something back" into the turfgrass industry. The Foundation is an all-volunteer organization in order to maximize funds available for research.

O.J. Noer was a 1926 graduate of the University of Wisconsin, with a degree in Soil Science. His many honors include having the GCSAA Conference in Houston (1960) dedicated to him. He received the USGA Green Section Award in 1963 and was a three-time winner of the GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award (1952, 1959, and 1960). His name was also listed in the Wisconsin State Golf Association Hall



of Fame in 1985. He was an honorary member of many local and regional superintendents associations in the United States and Canada.

Noer was one of the first to utilize visual aids in his presentations. His first slides predated color film, using black and white positive prints on glass and then hand tinting them. He also was a pioneer in using motion pictures to illustrate golf course opera-

tions, which were annual features at GCSAA conferences. His connections with turfgrass manufacturers and suppliers, coupled with Dr. Fred Grau's Green Section influence, enabled them to encourage many universities to establish turfgrass programs. His scientific prestige and ethical posture prompted his appointment as the only "commercial" member of the USGA Green Section Committee. Following his retirement from Milorganite, he served as agronomic advisor to renown golf course architects Dick Wilson and Robert Trent Jones. Most of all, though, he is remembered as friend of any golf course superintendent he ever met. 

*For more information on Mr. Noer, The Foundation and the O.J. Noer Memorial Collection, check the World Wide Web at <http://www.li.msu.edu/tgif>.*

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