

# The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation Wants You!

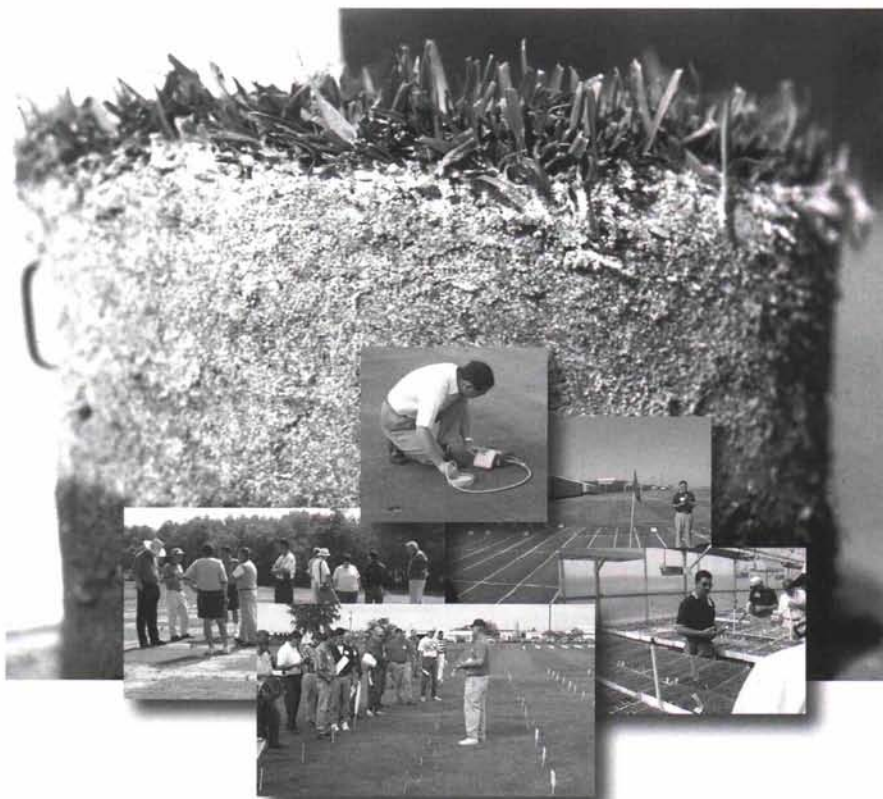
by Carl Hoppman  
Director of Development, ITF

I want you to become involved with the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation by hosting a public golf course turfgrass research day. Public golf courses and daily-fee golfers receive the benefits of turfgrass research just as private clubs do. Public links players have a responsibility to support Illinois turfgrass research. Their contributions ensure the best playing conditions on the courses they play.

We have proven that a small amount of effort and involvement on your part can create a way for the daily-fee golfer to be personally involved as well as invested in supporting Illinois turfgrass research. He or she is the real end-user of the great turf surfaces you provide. These golfers fully respect your professional knowledge and if you explain to them just how much you rely on turfgrass research to succeed, they will gladly contribute to such a worthy cause. You are the key!

Bartlett Hills G.C., Mount Prospect G.C., Orchard Valley G.C., Poplar Creek G.C., Prairie Landing G.C., Sportsman's C.C. and Woodbine G.C., sparked by their respective superintendents, raised a tidy sum this past summer. The trial-and-error method employed at turfgrass research days there has helped us develop several approaches to be success-

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**The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation . . .**

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ful, without requiring too much of your time and effort.

First and foremost, share your mission with your golfers. Our mission is to enable the daily-fee golfer to have the personal opportunity to contribute to turfgrass research that will preserve the near-perfect playing conditions he/she enjoys. Your golf club has joined hundreds of Illinois golf courses to raise funds for this worthy cause.

Next, publicize your event in advance. Tell your golfers that your club is joining hundreds of Illinois Turfgrass Foundation member clubs statewide to donate funds for turfgrass research. Let them know that for every round of golf played at the course on the appointed date, \$2 will be donated. Ask them to schedule their tee-times and support the cause!

A very popular contest during the event is a "closest to the pin" competition on a par-3 hole. Pick one that is fairly short (140-160 yards). This will enable even a less skilled player to be competitive. Sell chances to enter the contest for \$5 . . . allow multiple shots at \$5 per shot. A good prize for the winner is complimentary golf for four, with golf carts. Additional prizes, such as merchandise from the pro shop, will further entice golfers to participate. You can inform the winner by phone at the event's conclusion.


Another popular contest involves selling raffle tickets on a par-3 hole. Pick a hole on which it is fairly easy for golfers to hit the green. Sell raffle tickets for \$5

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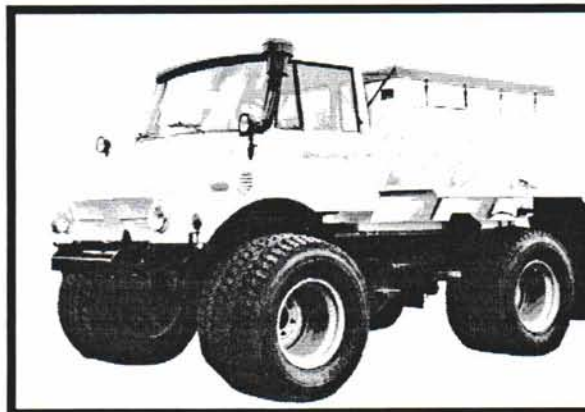
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apiece. If a golfer hits the green, he/she wins two more tickets. At the end of the day, draw the winning ticket and notify the winner by phone, or post the winning ticket in the pro shop. Again, complimentary golf for four with golf carts is a nice prize; additional merchandise is a great incentive.

As director of development for the ITF, I am willing to help you in any way to make your involvement in this program as simple as possible. Please sign up for a public golf course turfgrass research day during the upcoming 2000 golf season; together, we can make it work! 

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