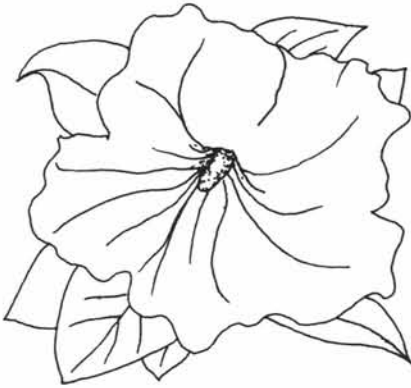


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My Friend Joe Duich

A long time ago at some now forgotten turf conference, I met a kindred spirit named Dr. Joe Duich. We had several things in common. I thought he was shy, interesting, brilliant, weird, and off the beaten path. He reminded me a bit of Jack Kerouac. I am sure Joe thought I was just weird and had a brick missing somewhere (that's why we got along so well).

I liked drinking beer with Dr. Joe because we didn't drink like yuppies, nourishing a clear beer for hours. No we talked fast and we guzzled our bottles of dark beer fast. It must be our ethnic backgrounds because we enjoyed every drop of it. What impressed me most about Joe was that no matter how much beer we consumed, he always was sober (like another beloved turf legend, O. J. Noer). Must be something in their genes. However, what I remember best about Dr. Joe was that he never picked up the tab ... not even once. This is not unusual because not picking up a tab is a common trait among professional athletes and college professors. This group is in that hallowed category known simply as "American guests". Look at Michael Jordan, he never pays for anything.

I probably got stuck for hundreds of dollars over the years drinking with my pal Joe Duich. Truthfully, I never gave it a thought because Dr. Joe, the Jack Kerouac of agronomy, made the hours go fast, made me feel good (he is a good listener), and most of all, he made good common sense about the art of green keeping.

For all that, and also the fact that once Dr. Joe let me mow the # green at the masters in Augusta just before the tournament (it had to be mowed three more times to straighten out my dipsy doodle linecuts), he will remain in my heart and mind as a good friend.

Good luck, Joe, and bring some cash the next time we meet.
Very sincerely,

Paul N. Voykin, your old pal

Dear Dr. Duich,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your recent retirement.

For many years you have been recognized as one of the leaders in the turfgrass industry. Both in research and in the classroom, you have excelled. I was certainly one of the lucky ones to be a recipient of your dedication to this field. The classroom experience was extraordinary. Your subtle combination of compassion and intimidation was exactly what we all needed. Future students at PSU will not recognize what they have missed.

I must thank you also for being so readily available over the years since my graduation. It has been very comforting to no that I could call with a problem, and you were always willing to help, even if you didn't call until 11:00 at night.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not mention the two most important lessons of all. The spelling tests were obviously very invaluable to me and learning to hold smoke in my lungs for extended periods of time has certainly enhanced my hole career. Words can't thank you enough for these all important traits.

Seriously — Good luck and enjoy every day of your retirement. You have earned it.

Sincerely,

Tom Rodems, Class of 1974

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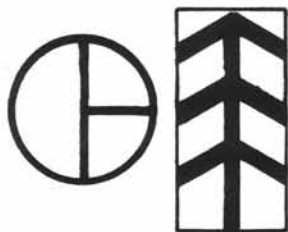


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Reflections

by Warren Bidwell

Upon completion of Joe's second year with me as a summer employee, he expressed a desire to return to Seaview, New Jersey, to become my assistant. As much as I would have welcomed him as my assistant, I knew he was destined to become more much, so I had to refuse and I explained why. Had I agreed, I would have benefitted but the field of turf and plant breeding and many future young turf students would have missed the opportunity to better serve the turf industries of their choice.

I have also benefitted from Joe remaining at Penn State because when I attended the Penn State conferences he often asked me to give slide talks to his students. I have had the opportunity to hire many of his students as my summer employees and many have remained to become my assistant before moving on to their own clubs. Also, because of Joe, I became involved with both Joe and Tee-2-Green, the growers of Penn Cross and other Penn State Bent grasses for the market place. By this time, Joe had become one of the successful turf grass breeders of the world. Imagine how proud I am because I didn't keep Joe to myself, but shared him with others.

Now — I wish all the best wishes to Joe and his family as he starts his new occupation "Retirement". Something new for him — time to do what he would like to do rather than trying to catch up with time to do the things that needed to be done for others. May he use it well for there is much to see and do in this country of ours.

Editor's note: Over 25 Penn State students have worked as Mr. Bidwell's assistants and are currently employed as golf course superintendents.)

DONALD J. MASKE
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January 4, 1992

Dr. Joseph Duich
116 Agricultural Science and Industry Building
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dear Dr. Duich:

Totally frustrating is the best way to describe my early recollection of you and your teaching method. How could a professor require me to think during a lecture by continually asking questions, rather than providing information through facts and figures? And then you threw a one-question, essay-type, final exam. Little did I know then how you were preparing me for life later on.

In travelling across the country, your impact on the turf industry is very apparent. One need only look at the number of Penn State graduates managing quality programs at some of golf's most prestigious clubs, or at those involved in other directly related business segments, in addition to the total number of courses using your Penn variety grasses. Yes, there are many who will benefit from your contributions, directly or indirectly, for years to come.

Congratulations on your well-earned retirement. May the years ahead be filled with good health and much happiness.

Sincerely yours,

Don Maske

Don Maske
Class of 1965

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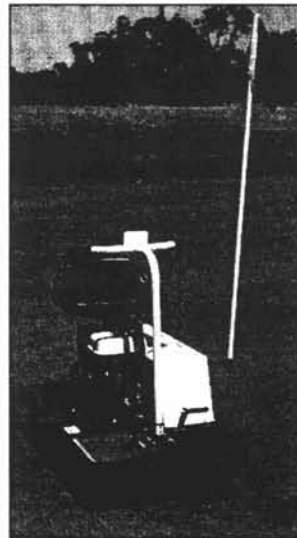
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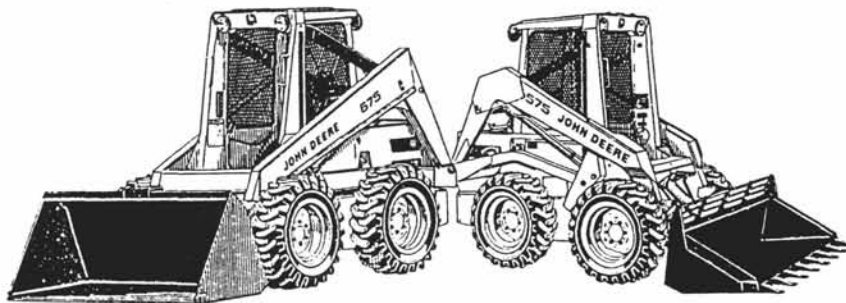
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Dear Fred,

As per usual, you are right on target in taking the time and making the effort to recognize the retirement and accomplishments of Dr. Joe Duich of Penn State University.

My appreciation for all of Dr. Joe's achievements goes back to the late 1950's when he was assisting Professor Burt Musser with their turfgrass program. I was providing golf course internship experience to turf students from Purdue University. Joe & Burt was anxious to find on-the-job experience for the Penn State boys new two year program, and asked me to cooperate with them. Now remember, back in those days most established supers frowned upon the idea of these young "whippersnappers" coming from the universities and ending up taking their jobs away from them. It was extremely difficult finding golf course experience locations for turf students.

As I recall, I hired a few "student supers" in 1959 from Purdue, U. of Mass. and Penn State. All worked well and by 1960 Dr. Joe called and asked me to take on a couple more which finally ended up with seven Penn State boys plus other schools. That year the entire Penn State class numbered 21 so we had 33% of the class at Bob O'Link G.C. — Fortunately, more followed in subsequent years.

All of Joe's students were exceptional young men, well educated, disciplined and are presently prominent in the golf industry. Incidentally, the editor of the **Bull Sheet** is included.

Dr. Joe's contributions as a turfgrass plant breeder has made the superintendents' job much easier than many of us recall back in the "old days". From Merion Bluegrass, to the perennial ryes and the new bents, the list is long.

We in Chicago well remember how he put Butler National Club back on the map after the highly publicized Toronto Bent decline hit the midwest and the Western Open golf tourney. However, we must also recall that Oscar Miles, a "Penn Stater" deserves part of the credit too as Supt.

Yes, all of us in the turfgrass and golf industry owe unending gratitude to Dr. Duich's lifelong dedication in helping us reach the highly efficient goal for golf and golfers around the world that we are experiencing today.

Thanks, Joe, from all of us!

Sincerely,

Bob Williams

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Dear Dr. Duich:

First off I would like to thank you for all of the information you gave me at Penn State, you know, the grass stuff. I would also like to thank you for retiring. I hope that you won't take this the wrong way but now that you're retired are you still going to make those ridiculous presentations at the annual Penn State Breakfast. You know, the doom and gloom report from Happy Valley.

I always thought you were kind of wacko, until the time I saw you at the turf plots at 6:00 A.M. on a Saturday. I was coming back to campus from one of Dave and Mike's excellent adventures. Being that we had to park our cars on the other side of the world I caught a glimpse of you sitting on the split rail fence at the Valentine Research Center sucking on a Cool. What the hell were you doing! After returning to the beautiful confines of Nittney we had a discussion on the topic, we resolved that you were talking to God giving Him some tips on Turf.

But seriously, Joe, none of us ever liked you. We were always afraid of being damned to hell if we crossed you in any way. Now that you can no longer congre-up the turf gods from high upon AG Hill to destroy our golf courses, we can speak freely about our true feelings.

Oh, by the way, is it really true that you have invented a new tobacco product. I am told that you've been moonlighting for the American Tobacco Company and crossed a tobacco plant with a white crystalline organic compound. The results are a Menthol Smokeless Tobacco. No, wait just a minute, I saw that product in 1977, in turf class.

Best of luck in your retirement!

Warmest personal regards,

Michael Vogt, Class of 1978

Dear Joe,

Congratulations on your retirement. However, I really wish to congratulate you for your dedication and outstanding contribution to the turf industry.

Best wishes and good health for your retirement years, which I hope will be another adventure in life.

Sincerely,

Jack Maurer

Dear Dr. Duich:

So "Pal", after all these years you have decided to take it easy. We both know that you will never take it easy, and certainly never retire.

I remember best a talk one day on facultative apomixis about two weeks into my first semester. You were talking about sexual and asexual reproduction of grass plants, while most of us were still thinking about the girlfriends or wives we had left behind and would not be seeing for two months. We certainly did not need to hear about sexual or asexual reproduction!

Over the years I have written to ask for advice, looking for a job opening, or bemoaning my current situation, and could always count on a response. Thanks for all your help over the years, and continued success in your retirement. My closing line has got to be your all time favorite, "Hey, you see how the system works?"

Dave Louttit, Class of 1981

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