

## Guest Editorial

It was my opportunity at the recent Florida Turf Grass Association and Conference in Gainesville to present a check for \$500.00 to the Scholarship and Research Fund of that association. The presentation was made in the name of the North Florida Golf Course Superintendent's Chapter. Our contribution, along with that of other chapters, clubs, businesses and the proceeds from the S & R Golf Tournament, totalled in the thousands of dollars.

Frequently, over the past years, the question of what we can do about EPA's systematic approach of removing our much needed chemicals from the market arises. Questions about how to afford fertilizing when the cost is so high, what we can do about the energy shortage and so on, have been and will continue to be discussed.

It appears to me that directing funds to scholarship and research hold the answer for us. With proper funding these people can find answers for us. Some of the problems that need to be addressed are: better mole cricket control, better grasses that need less fertilizer and less mowing, and better understanding of disease and other insect problems.

Many opportunities exist for channeling funds in this direction. At the recent conference one club contributed \$450.00 by assessing itself .01¢ for each round of golf played in the last year. This in itself would not go far but it is an example for the rest of us. If 600 clubs did this it would amount to \$270,000. Now that would do something!

It is time for us to quit waiting for someone to solve our problems for us. We have the mechanism for getting our problems solved if we can channel some much needed funds in that direction. Certainly discovery of better mole cricket control could save each of us thousands of dollars very quickly. The money for this research must come from those of us who stand to benefit directly from the discoveries.

Much discussion is needed on what should be a club's fair share but I think we should start in the \$500.00 per year range per 18 hole course. That is not much money when you really think about what is at stake. In the long run it could make the difference between us continuing to be capable of providing golf quality turf or playing on cow pastures.

I challenge each of you to give this some thought and discuss it with your management. If we can all come together on this we can control our destiny and we will not have to sit idly by and watch all of the tools we have to do our jobs with taken away from us with nothing to replace them.

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