

# Professionalism Through Participation

BY Ted Woehrlé

Reprinted from *Turf Times* (Northern Michigan T.M.A.)

What is professionalism? How do we achieve it? How do we improve it? If we sit down and ask ourselves the question "what is professionalism?" some interesting thoughts crop up.

We all have images of people who are generally considered professionals in our eyes (doctors, lawyers, dentists, teachers, and ministers), and people who are not (tradesmen, office workers, farmers, etc.).

Next, we ask ourselves "are we professionals?" - we would like to think so. I think we appear to ourselves as professional, but does the general public consider us professional? Perhaps not.

"What makes one man profes-

sional and another a non-professional? In my opinion, it has to be the standards that one projects. Standards on conduct, standards of dress, standards of ethics and standards of behavior. There are others to be sure, but in the final analysis, it is a matter of the image that is projected. It is a matter of being viewed in a favorable light. To be sure, there are as many variations of this image as there are people, but throughout the years certain groups or job categories have become known to be "professional" and basically it is a matter of "image." And the standards they have met.

Professionalism and image are synonymous and if we project a

good image, we are far ahead. How was this image of us formed, and how can we improve it? Who sets the standards? The answer to all these questions is your professional association. There is, to be sure, some governmental involvement, but even the government has to reason with the American Medical Association and the American Bar Association.

So, in the final analysis, it is ones professional association that plays a big role in establishing the image that will prevail, that plays a big role in setting standards which will be acceptable, and that acts as a catalyst for all activities relating to a profession.

There are exceptions to profes-

# EMCO



THE NAME TO KNOW ....  
FOR:

- FLAGS • POLES • TEE MARKERS
- CUPS • CUP CUTTERS • SIGNS
- BALL WASHERS • SAND TRAP RAKES
- MARKING PAINT • TEE TOWELS
- SPIKE BRUSHES • BENCHES • ROPE
- ALUMINUM MAINTENANCE RAKES

FOR ALL YOUR ACCESSORY NEEDS



**EMCO**  
57 Cantee Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32204  
US 1-800-458-8873  
FL 1-800-342-0881



# CYPRESS MULCH

Economical Bulk Loads  
or  
Convenient Bags

Wood Stakes  
• SURVEYING  
• CONSTRUCTION  
• LANDSCAPING  
• FARMING

**DELRAY STAKE AND SHAVINGS INC.**

9500 W. Atlantic Ave.  
Delray Beach, Florida 33446  
(305) 737-6458

sionalism and that would be the rather rare person that projects a professional image because of special qualifications earned through experience or education.

What has participation in these associations done for the turf management industry and for the professional turf manager? Participation in the collective activities of an association by individual members has taken turf managers out of the shadows and into the sunlight. Participation in the collective activities by individual members has helped to move turf managers from tradesmen to professionals.

All of this has been accomplished by those in the turf industry giving of their time, money and efforts toward a common interest within a fixed code of rules and conduct, the purpose of which was focused toward the upgrading of the industry and the professionalism of the turf manager.

Fundraisers such as "Golf Day" are an important part of

upgrading the industry. The monies given to research help find answers to the many complex problems facing us today. The need for the superintendent to stay abreast of changes in the field has always been important. But the need is increasing with alarming speed. The superintendent who does not keep abreast of new developments in turf management, of changing technology in science, or of the restrictions and regulations in chemical usage will be about as effective as the man who tries to cut fairways with a hand push mower.

Every professional does not have to have a Ph.D. or have spent most of his life as a lawyer or doctor to earn the respect and esteem that comes with knowing his job. It was not too long ago that very few universities offered professional training for golf course superintendents. Today, numerous institutions offer some sort of training for those interested in pursuing a career as a golf course superintendent. (The

secret is the application of the knowledge gained from education and research.)

Additional help for us comes from Universities and industry in the form of research. In many cases we control the direction of research through our requests. Our needs are attended to by those we support. The complexities of today's standards, which are always more demanding, cause us to look for all the help we can get. Some of the most active associations involved in the distribution of monies for research are GCSAA, USGA, O.J. Noer Foundation and Musser Foundation. Additional research is done by individual states. In all cases, the majority of the monies raised is the result of superintendent involvement in fund raising projects. Some states raise \$30-50,000.00 per year - Ohio and Michigan. Certain state legislatures support turf research if all turf interests are satisfied.

Projects presently being worked on include: Grass breeding (drought resistance); transition zone problem; soils; irrigation and drainage; aerification - compaction; nutrition; weed killers - selectively (*Poa annua* eradication); plant growth regulators; disease control; insecticides; development of disease models - in conjunction with computers; water shortage problems; new cultural practices; mowing - height of cut - picking up of clippings; cultivating; and sand use - top dressing - sub-soils - bunkers.

Examples of Turf Research include: USGA Green Section 1953 - GCSAA S & R Funds 1956 - Midwest Regional Turf Foundation originally provided professional guidance for seven states - Wisconsin; Michigan; Iowa; Illinois; Indiana; Ohio; and Kentucky. As the years went by, all six states outside of Indiana started their own turf grass research programs to solve individual problems. This holds true for all 50 states. Extension programs take care of most problems, but concentrated research must still

## Tifton Physical Soil Testing Laboratory

Specializing in:

- Developing Putting Green Topsoil Mixtures that meet USGA Specifications

- Recommending Topdressing and Trap Sands that meet USGA Specifications

1412  
Murray Ave.  
Tifton,  
Georgia  
31794



T. Powell  
Gaines  
(912)  
382-7292

be conducted in individual states.

Changing our "vocational occupation" to a professional occupation is important - become active. Your professional association is more important than ever, and your participation is necessary to support

**CONTINUE TO CHERISH YOUR MEMBERSHIP, CONTINUE TO GIVE OF YOURSELF, CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE. YOU AND YOUR PROFESSION WILL BE BETTER FOR IT.**

the programs that are proposed for the successful future of GOLF.

Some of these associations include educational opportunities at conferences, seminars, and through correspondence courses ultimately leading to certification, which most of you know will eventually lead to the equivalent of a college degree. By offering a Continuing Education Program, you will be able to earn a "Certificate of Professional Education." This, coupled with Professional Internship requirement for the apprentice superintendents, will insure quality in the next generation of superintendents.

By the year 2005, the requirement of a Bachelor of Science degree in an applicable major, or its equivalency, will be necessary for entrance into professional certification. College graduation or equivalency will be required. Completion of the GCSAA Continuing Education Program is considered as equivalent to a B.S. degree.

The association is making your

profession more recognizable with a strong public relations program. Their PR program was quite evident during some of the recent television broadcasts of ESPN coverage and on ABC covering the U.S. Open. Allied Golf Associations have recognized our profession and its importance to the well-being of the game of golf.

Your association is the catalyst. The forum for expression of your ideas. The source of your education, your growth.

Certain members in your profession will gravitate to leadership within your association and by representing the will of the other

members, will set the standards, the consensus, the image.

I charge you to allow your association to tell your story to the nation in order that your "image" will be established in the public eye. In turf management, professionalism is already here for some, near for others. You and your association are the only ones that can make it happen. Associations large or small, national or local, technical or social, give you an avenue to professionalism through participation. Continue to cherish your membership, continue to give of yourself, continue to participate. You and your profession will be better for it. ■

## **GOLF COURSE RECONSTRUCTION by BLACKROCK**

★ ASPHALT CART PATHS

★ TEES ★ GREENS ★ DRAINAGE

★ SHAPING ★ LAKES DUG

★ CONCRETE PATHS



Why do business long distance? Blackrock is right here serving: Palm Beach and Martin Counties.

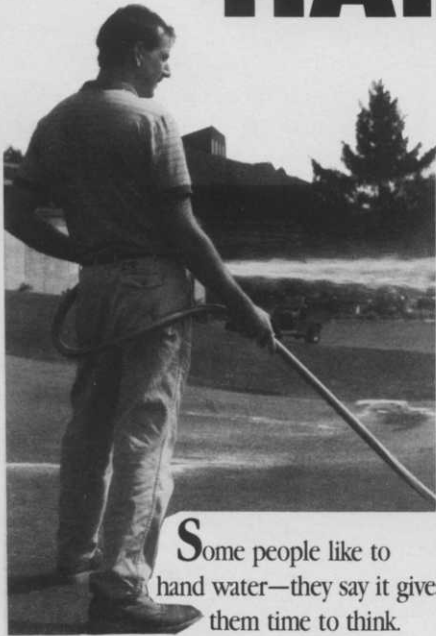
CONTACT:

**BLACKROCK PAVING CORP.**

BOYNTON BEACH, FLORIDA

407-499-2253

# DOES YOUR TURF PLAY HARD TO WET?



Some people like to hand water—they say it gives them time to think.

For most it's a necessary evil that takes valuable time away from more important things. Using AQUAGRO® soil wetting agents regularly will reduce hand watering, which will either cut into your daydreaming time, or free you and your crew to do other things...it depends on your perspective. *And that's not all AQUAGRO does for you.*

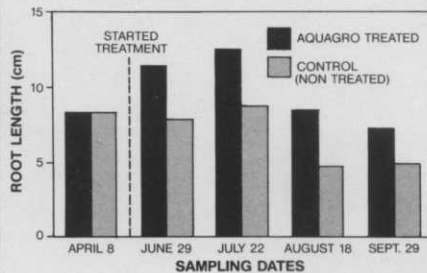
## The Difference is Quality Turf

AQUAGRO helps you maintain peak turf quality all season long, while cutting irrigation time and costs. It's a fact that AQUAGRO makes the most efficient use of available water by allowing it to penetrate deep and uniformly into the rootzone, before it has a chance to run off or evaporate. AQUAGRO alleviates localized dry spots and quickly drains puddles. It moves water through both thatch and compacted soils. And it keeps berms and slopes from drying unevenly.

## Getting More Water to the Root of the Problem

AQUAGRO doesn't work miracles, but used as part of a complete turf management program, AQUAGRO can solve water related problems and promote deep root growth. This means good playing surfaces that stand up better against traffic and stressful summers.

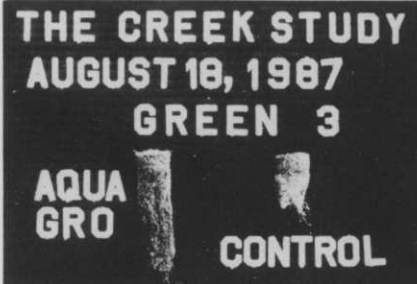
*In trials on bentgrass greens treated with AQUAGRO, the recommended program helped maintain significantly deeper roots and better looking turf than the control, all summer long.*



*In addition to making more moisture available to roots, AQUAGRO improves the distribution and efficacy of water soluble fertilizers and pesticides. It helps move them through heavy thatch.*

*University research shows AQUAGRO can reduce the severity of fungus diseases by eliminating surface moisture conditions that promote fungal growth.*

The photo shown here is part of a research field trial where AQUAGRO reduced water related problems caused by soil layering conditions. AQUAGRO allowed deep root penetration by promoting water movement through the layers.



## Demand the Proven Leader

For more than 30 years AQUAGRO has been the standard to which all other wetting agents have been compared. AQUAGRO is a 100 percent active ingredient blend of non-ionic surfactants. It works in all soil types...for up to four months. Available in Liquid or Spreadable formulations. And AQUAGRO is organic and non-toxic to plants and animals.

If you've got better things to do than spend your time hand watering and daydreaming, and need to get the most from available water, give your AQUAGRO distributor a call. If you don't know who they are, give us a call.

1-800-257-7797, in N.J. (609) 665-1130

# AQUATROLS

The Water Management People

1432 Union Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ 08110 FAX: (609) 665-0875

# All in a day's work...



1. 3, 5 or 7 Gang Tractor Mount Mowers



2. Turf Rollers 130, 224 & 235



4. Sod Cutter MK.2™



5. Triplex 376-A



6. 3, 5 or 7 Gang Hyd. or Manual Lift P.T.O. Mowers



7. Brouwer Greens Mower



8. 5 Gang Vertical Mower



9. Large Capacity Brouwer-Vac™

## for the Brouwer turf maintenance team.

The team to make easy work of your turf maintenance program. For golf courses, school boards, municipalities, highway parks and recreation departments, airfields and landscapers, there is a Brouwer product for you.

Brouwer builds rugged dependability and superior quality into every product, and that means value - not only when you buy but also in the "second to none" after sales service that will

keep your machinery down-time low, and you happy to have Brouwer on your side. Check the products above, from the rugged, economical tractor mount mowers with unbeatable 4-WD traction and the high capacity Brouwer Vac to the turf renovating team of the Sod Cutter MK2 and one of those turf rollers, no matter, the Brouwer team can fit the bill ... and your budget.

For a live or Video demonstration of Brouwer products contact your area Brouwer dealer...TODAY

**BROUWER™**  
**TURF EQUIPMENT LIMITED**  
 An Outboard Marine Corporation Company

7320 Haggerty Rd./Canton, MI. 48187 Telephone (313) 459-3700

Woodbine Avenue/Keswick, Ontario, Canada L4P 3E9 Telex 065-24161 Telephone: (416) 476-4311

# Working On The Fifth Major

by DON KOOYER, CGCS  
Willow Lakes Golf Club



*Nicklaus takes aim.*



*Crews start at daybreak as fishermen try their luck.*

**A**S a golf course superintendent and reporter for *The Florida Green*, I had the opportunity to cover a major P.G.A. golf event in March of this year. As I put on my T.P.C. media badge and loaded my 35mm and the minicam, I was proud to be a part of this event known as the fifth major, the Tournament of Champions.

As I followed the entrance pathways to the events gates, it was a walk down memory lane for me. I remember in years past when volunteering with the North Florida Golf Course Superintendents Chapter, we had prepared these areas for the spectators entering the T.P.C. tournament. The rustic fencing guiding the crowds through the Florida marsh lands to the T.P.C. stadium club was still stand-

ing proudly. I could smell the pine straw lining the edges of the pathways and scattered throughout the spectator areas and flower beds.

As I remembered our involvement in these areas, my camera lens was focusing on the most well known par 3 hole on the P.G.A. tour, number 17 island green at T.P.C. Sawgrass.

As the Shark (Greg Norman) takes his shot at the island green, the ball hit the green surface and backed up. My camera was clicking, the crowd applauded and the Shark moved toward the island of grass surrounded by the moat of water. There would be no confrontation between Shark and an alligator this year. The alligators that had watched along with the spectators on the 17th green had been

removed this year for the safety of the fans and golfers alike.

Alligator removal is just one of the many preparations that are part of this major event. Working with the Florida fish and game department for the proper handling of these Florida species is the law and must be handled through these agencies.

Mr. Fred Klauk, C.G.C.S., is the superintendent for the T.P.C. at Sawgrass. As Fred was responsible for the course preparations for the tournament, I asked if he would afford me an interview. The following is an interview between myself, the media superintendent, and Fred, the course superintendent.

**Don:** How far in advance do you start



# Blazon®



SPRAY PATTERN INDICATOR

By Milliken Chemical

## All Spray Pattern Indicators Are Not Created Equal.



“I’ve just put my finger on the difference between Blazon® and the dyes being sold for spray pattern identification. Can you guess which finger?”

Blazon® is the only **NON-STAINING** and **INERT** spray pattern indicator in the world.

Your spray pattern indicator should be the least of your worries.

- \*Blazon® will not stain.
- \*Blazon® will not interfere with your pesticides.

There are many imitations, but only one original ... Blazon® by Milliken Chemical.



Milliken Chemicals, Division of Milliken & Company  
P.O. Box 817, Inman, South Carolina 29349, (800)845-8502 or (803)472-9041



*No. 17, the most feared Par 3 on the tour.*

special grounds preparation for the championship?

**Fred:** We start several months ahead in the planning but the actual ground work starts four to five weeks in advance.

**Don:** Do you work directly with the P.G.A. in setting of tees and cups

placements?

**Fred:** Cup placement schedules are set by the P.G.A. staff. My assistants Tim Webb and Bob Clarkson supervise the setting of the tees and cups.

**Don:** I noticed while filming the practice rounds that your staff was moving some netting on the teeing areas.

What was that for?

**Fred:** The netting is put into place to protect our par three's and short par four's teeing areas one month in advance to ensure well maintained turf and level teeing areas during the tournament.

**Don:** What type of greens mowers do you use and what is the height of the cut?

**Fred:** Don, we use walking greens mowers set at one-eighth of an inch to mow our bentgrass greens. During the tournament our greens will stimp at around nine feet.

**Don:** Your greens are excellent for the championship this year. What is part of your successful bentgrass greens program?

**Fred:** I use proper turf cultural practices that include timely aerifications and a proper fertilization program to ensure healthy, strong turf grass.

**Don:** I have heard that the infamous #17 green seems to be a bit easier (when the wind isn't a factor) for the pros. Have you heard of any changes there?

## ONE MAN DRESSING OPERATION



- ★ 3 YARD DUMP TRAILER
- ★ DOUBLE ACTION TAILGATE
- ★ METERED DOOR
- ★ HYDRAULIC LIFT

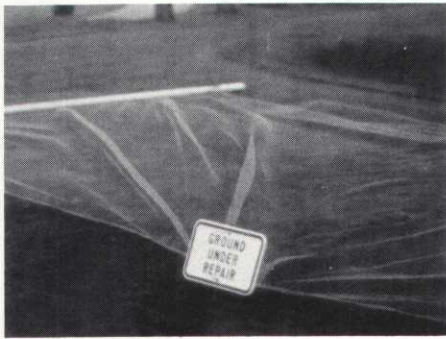
- ★ 12 VOLT ASSISTED
- ★ QUALITY CONSTRUCTED
- ★ CHOICE OF COLORS
- ★ LABOR SAVING



2983 SOUTH MILITARY TRAIL  
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33145  
(407) 965-7950

*"South Florida's Truck Equipment and Trailer Place"*





Netting is put across rear tees to protect them for the tournament.

**Fred:** No, the better turf on the greens are letting the balls hold better. This will let you hit to the spot on the green you want and your ball will work better for you.

**Don:** When the tournament was called because of lightning and rain, who makes the decision to stop play and resume play again?

**Fred:** The P.G.A. rules committee makes the ruling to stop and start the play. During the tournament delay the rules committee stays in constant contact with me as to the condition of the course and we make the decision to cancel or resume play.

**Don:** Do you have a good weather service?

**Fred:** During our tournament I stay in constant communications with the National Weather Service at the Florida Mayport Naval Air Station.

**Don:** Having your course so close to the ocean, is there any resource you can utilize?

**Fred:** We use the natural coquina from St. Augustine in some of our bunkers.

**Don:** Are there any special maintenance practices you use on the palm trees in Florida?

**Fred:** We do special trimming for the protection of the spectators.

**Don:** Do you feel the communications between you and the P.G.A. tournament chairmen are satisfactory?

**Fred:** Yes, communications before and during a major tournament are very important and we have worked well together.

**Don:** What special help is your assistant to you during this event?

**Fred:** I assign the front nine to one assistant and the back nine to the other. Tim and Bob take full charge of their



Fred and crew — pride is a job well done.

respective nine and have done an excellent job. We could not make it work without the outstanding job all of my grounds staff have done this year. I want to make sure to thank them all.

**Don:** When I was taking pictures of the course in the evening I saw spot lights coming down the fairways as I was interviewing a few of the pros on the 18th green. Is this when you perform your maintenance during this tournament?

**Fred:** As the last foursome tees off we wait until they are two or three fairways ahead then we start to prepare the course for the next round, working well into the night.

**Don:** Thanks, Fred, for taking your time

**southern turf nurseries**  
The Professional Turf People

Florida Grown: Georgia Certified  
Sod and Sprigs  
Tifdwarf\* Tifgreen (328)\*  
Tifway (419)  
\*greens quality

Golf Course Sprigging  
Golf Course Row-planting  
Athletic field renovation, construction and planting.  
Prescription Athletic Turf (P.A.T.)  
Your source of Terragreen®—calcine clay

**southern turf nurseries, inc.**  
The Professional Turf People  
P.O. Box 1459  
Lake Wales, FL 33853  
Tracy Hyde, Sales Representative  
813-537-2149 or 1-800-282-4635 in Florida

From the Lake Wales Farm, each circle represents 50 miles.

to talk with me and sharing your thoughts and insights on preparing your course for the Tournament of Champions, and I would like to congratulate you and your staff for having the course in such condition that the professional golfer and media alike consider this Tournament of Champions at Sawgrass the 5th major.

The opinion of the players was unanimously that the course was in excellent playing condition. Commentator Lee Trevino stated that the course had matured into the best condition he has seen.

Even though the course was in outstanding shape there were certain areas that the superintendent could not help, as Haas, Strange and Love discovered. P.G.A. pro Curtis Strange had signed his scorecard, which wasn't correct, for the opening round, resulting in disqualification. Love's disqualification came as a result of using a bent putter, the same error Haas made earlier. Ethics remain high in our profession, as these P.G.A. pros acknowledged they had made mistakes and brought them before the tournament committee.

As play continued, defending champions kept falling on the challenging sta-

dium course. First Jack Nicklaus, then Tom Watson, Steve Ballesteros, Lyle, and on . . .

As the wind picked up the players dug in, with Payne Stewart leading 71-65-136. Mark McCumber 65-72-137, hometown boy on Stewarts' heels. The rest of the pros, Don Pohl, 2 strokes away, Curt Byrum, 3 strokes out, Calvin Peete, past T.P.C. champion chasing the leaders at 3 back, and the Shark, Norman, lurking at just four out. Any one of these champions could jump from the pack, but as the pros have stated, course greens are putting excellently. However, the course can become Mother Nature's own with her swirling and gusting winds off the coastal waters of Florida.

The winds can make a difference of 15-25 yards off the tee, and on the 17th at the T.P.C., this can mean wet or dry. The birdies and pars started dropping to bogies and double bogies, then quadruples. I don't think the 17th has to be changed by man; Mother Nature does a good job all by herself. After She cooled everyone off on Saturday with heavy rains and winds, She displayed Her beauty again on Sunday.

As the pros took to the links for the last

round, Mark McCumber said it takes patience and well executed shots to play the stadium course. Well, Mark's professional golf style and play paid off. As the tournament came to a close, Mark walked off the 18th green showing he is a true Tournament of Champions Champion.

**The superintendents of the North Florida Golf Course Superintendents Chapter congratulate Mark on his victory over the champions.**

**We would also like to commend Fred Klauk, C.G.C.S., and his staff at the Tournament of Players Club at Sawgrass 1988.**

This type of sporting event can only be provided by a complete and professional organization working side by side with professionals of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and our local North Florida Golf Course Superintendents Chapter and the Professional Golfers Association of America. We will provide superb events of this magnitude throughout the golf industry. ■

**DUDA SOD**

**CertiTurf™**  
THE QUALITY GRASS

**Bermuda**  
**Floritam**  
**Raleigh**  
**Bitter Blue**

Zellwood  
904-383-6111

Cocoa  
305-636-3966

Ft. Pierce  
305-461-0962

Oviedo  
305-365-2189

Ft. Lonesome  
813-633-1447

La Belle  
813-675-0545

**A. Duda & Sons, Inc.**

**Lakes have feelings too.  
Treat 'em right.**

**WE PROVIDE:**

- aquatic weed and algae control
- lake clarification
- fountains, parts and installation
- fish stocking
- aquascaping
- free estimates

**Service Locations Statewide**

**1-800-637-5240**

**The Lake Doctors, Inc.**  
Aquatic Management Services