

# Think Globally, Act Locally\*

BY DEMIE MOORE

The headline of this column is one of my favorite lines — and certainly pertinent to the focus of the Water Wise series. For all of the big world and life topics, at some point it boils down to questions like: How does this affect me?; what can I do about it?; and, what will I do about it? I like the “think globally, act locally” guidelines in this regard.

Regarding wise-water use on golf courses — the first and third of the above questions can only be answered by us individually. However, answers to the middle question — What can I do about it? — abound for every and anyone who touches the golf course industry. Some of the answers have already appeared in the previous two issues of this series, and more will appear in this issue.

The challenge to each of us, as golf course superintendent, owner, manager, supplier, adviser and/or golfer, is to match the first question — How does this affect me? — with the second question — What I can do about it? — and then select some of the options and put them into practice (“act”) locally.

While I'm looking forward to reading about the issues faced by superintendents around the country, and the results from the survey (Thanks to all who replied!) — I'm also going to take this opportunity to mention something that many *Golfdom* readers can do (and some have done) that's fundamental to maximizing



irrigation efficiency on golf courses. That something is to take the Golf Irrigation Auditor course from the Irrigation Association (IA). Regardless of whether you take the exam and fulfill other requirements to become certified, just taking the course will provide you with information and skills that you can use to assess and help improve irrigation efficiency on any golf course.

While the course reviews principles of irrigation, which is useful even if you already know a lot of it, the real value is in learning how to conduct the audit to find out if the irrigation system is operating as intended. This is no judgment of designers, installers or irrigation managers — it's simply a good idea to check actual performance from time to time, and make adjustments to improve where possible. The water and energy savings that can be realized by increasing the efficiency of irrigation delivery can be astounding. Taking the IA Golf Irrigation Auditor course will further equip you to have those answers.

The (Certified) Golf Irrigation Auditor course will be offered again as a 1.5-day seminar at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's Education Conference (Feb 8, 9 — seminar 289-01) during the Golf Industry Show. In addition, a golf course association chapter, industry supplier or both can host the 1.5-day seminar (two full days if people also want to take the exam) through the IA, which

is very happy to work with you to make that happen. Those of us at Aquatrols who have taken this and other IA courses have found them very valuable for reinforcing and expanding our understanding of irrigation, and how to assess and manage efficiency. While our focus is primarily on water efficiency in the soil — this goes hand in hand, and is influenced by, irrigation system performance. We encourage you to find or host a Golf Course Irrigation Auditor course in your area(s).

Water is vital to life on earth and to golf; golf is great for life on earth and can be good for water, too. Being part of helping golf use water as efficiently as possible — from irrigation system design, performance and management to managing soil wettability — is providing a great service to a wide community.

At Aquatrols, we're pleased to be part of the total solution in many localities worldwide. We invite you to look at what you presently and/or in the future can do to contribute to golf being a role model for wise water use. Think globally, act locally. ■

*Moore is an Aquatrols' Director, involved with Corporate Relations, Education and Training.*

\* Attributed by some to Scot town planner Patrick Geddes in the early 1900s. Also claimed as original by various others in the 1960s and 1970s and is now popular as a bumper sticker.

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