



USGA FOUNDATION, GCSAA INITIATE RESEARCH FUNDING PLAN

The USGA Green Section's 1984 Educational Conference, held at the GCSAA Convention in Las Vegas last February, featured a presentation by Mr. B. P. Russell, a member of the Baltusrol Golf Club in New Jersey. He spoke to the issue of turfgrass research and told of an initiative his Club had taken to encourage and support turfgrass investigations. The Baltusrol Board of Governors expressed a desire to be a strong and active partner "in the USGA mission to help preserve, protect, and promote the best interest of golf." They donated \$2.00 per golfing member to the USGA Foundation for turfgrass studies. This gesture precipitated an unprecedented joint fundraising venture between the USGA and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

The focus of this joint venture is the golfing member, the end user and ultimate benefactor of turfgrass research. In early March, many of you received a letter from the USGA Foundation, asking for your participation in this program. The formula is the same as that used by Baltusrol — a \$2.00 donation for each golfing member. This represents a very modest gift for an individual club, but with conscientious participation on the part of all of America's golf clubs, the goal of raising \$5 million over the next ten years is very realistic.

There is no intent on the part of the USGA or the GCSAA to impinge on the support of local, regional or other national research support organizations. Their request is in addition to these kinds of activities. The Foundation's effort is also removed from the Turf Advisory Service of the Green Section. It is a **new** program to raise

capital to insure the future well being of golf turf.

Can we afford to support the O.J. Noer Research Foundation, the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association, the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, and other deserving groups, as well as the new USGA Foundation program? Better to ask, can we afford not to? Let's use Enchanted Valley Country Club as an "average" Wisconsin golf club. They have 250 golfing members and an annual golf course maintenance budget of \$150,000. They have agreed to cooperate in the USGA program for \$500. They also belong to the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association at a cost of \$100. The \$600 they are directly contributing to turfgrass research represents 0.4 percent of their golf course operating budget. As GCSAA President Jim Timmerman pointed out in his President's message in the April issue of *Golf Course Management* magazine, "It is not uncommon for other businesses to invest anywhere from five to 20 percent of their budgets or earnings into research and development. Can golf do any less?" The answer is logical and obvious: we must do more. We cannot do any less.

The role of Golf Course Managers in the success of the USGA Foundation program is an important one. We have to inform our Green Committee members and Chairmen of the need. We need to convince Club Officials of its importance. We should begin to include monies for research in our operating budgets. And we must reaffirm, in our own minds, this crucial task we have before us.

The cost is small and the reward — the survival of golf as we know it today — will be great. If your Club has not yet decided to be a part of this undertaking, why not talk to your Green Committee Chairman today? The right time to get started is NOW!

The **GRASSROOTS** is a bimonthly publication of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association edited by Monroe S. Miller of Blackhawk Country Club and Danny H. Quast of Milwaukee Country Club.

WGCSA WEEKEND OUTING IS REVIVED

By Rod Johnson

After a few years of abandonment, the once very popular couples orientated weekend outing has been picked up, dusted off and revived!

Numerous conversations among fellow superintendents has led to the reformation of the WGCSA social committee with that committee's function to be the organization of a WGCSA sponsored weekend get-a-way. I have been named by our Board of Directors to head this committee and I have Red Roscoff helping me. R and R Construction is not dead; it's been renamed R and R Entertainment, Inc.

During the winter months we have been surveying the members for their ideas on the feasibility and the successful ingredients for this event. Using these membership ideas and a few of our own, we are setting up what we hope will be a well attended and enjoyable outing.

Devil's Head Lodge in Merrimac has been selected to host this outing on the weekend of October 12th and 13th. Devil's Head has been most cooperative in the planning of this event and is throwing out a huge welcome mat for our organization for this outing. Substantially reduced room rates have been negotiated for both two night and one night stays and the menu for a group dinner on Saturday night in the Devil's Den has been set.

Some organized activities are being planned for those who wish to participate in them and plenty of time has been left to relax and enjoy everything that this beautiful area has to offer.

In August everyone will get an invitational mailing containing more specifics and a reservation card, but for now put October 12th and 13th on your social calendar and be ready for a great weekend.

WGCSA JUNE MEETING
Quit-Quit-Occ
June 18, 1984