



Be Sure To Read "After Hours," the  
Newest Feature of the GRASSROOTS. Irrelevant?  
Probably. Impertinent? No doubt. But also a little bit of fun!



# THE GRASS ROOTS

an official publication of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume XIV, No. 5

September/October 1987 Issue

## WOLF PRESENTED WGCSA "DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD"

By Monroe S. Miller

Dr. Gayle L. Worf, Professor of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has been presented the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association's "Distinguished Service Award". The award was given at the WGCSA July meeting at Lake Wisconsin Country Club and formally acknowledged his formidable contributions to Wisconsin's golf courses for nearly a quarter of a century.

The DSA is not given on a regular basis, but rather when the officers and directors deem an individual's work in the Wisconsin golf course industry merits extraordinary and special recognition. In fact, five years have passed since a DSA was last made. Conservative selection has added special meaning to the award for those chosen to receive it.

Gayle Worf is a most worthy selection. Few people associated with Wisconsin's land grant college have been extended a warmer welcome from Golf Course Superintendents than Gayle has, and with good reason. He epitomizes the image of an effective extension specialist who works tirelessly enforcing his strong belief in the "Wisconsin Idea". This concept that the University has to serve the outside world, not simply by studying problems but by helping to solve them has guided Gayle throughout his time here. In the words of a late UW President, "The boundaries of the campus are the boundaries of the world." We are fortunate to be in Gayle's world; he turns those words into reality.



His contributions have gone beyond our own industry; he has given significantly to both the University and his profession. Dr. Douglas Maxwell, Chairman of the Plant Pathology Department, feels the following are worthy of particular note:

1. He has developed outstanding education programs on the diseases of ornamental and woody plants and field crops, and improved control recommendations now used by commercial growers and home owners for a wide range of disease problems.

2. He has chaired numerous committees and projects at all levels both in plant pathology and extension dealing not only with phytopathological problems, but with all facets of exten-

sion operations and administration. Currently, he is the extension district director for the southeast region of Wisconsin.

3. He was one of the first pathologists to recognize and describe the significance of the susceptibility of Texas male sterile cytoplasm corn hybrids to a fungal disease.

4. He has provided the leadership in this geographic region in initiating and administering programs for the control of Dutch Elm Disease.

5. He has identified the fungal pathogen of necrotic ring spot (previously named *Fusarium* blight) as *Leptosphaeria korrae*.

6. He has provided the leadership for the initiation of a fee structure for specimens submitted to the UW Plant Pathogen Detection Clinic.

(Continued on page 21)

Worf Presented WGCSA Award .....	1
President's Messge .....	2
Editorial .....	5
The Other Plants .....	7
The Sports Page .....	11
Jottings from the Golf Course Journal .....	12
Wisconsin WGCSA Seeks Sites .....	13
Annual College Student Seminar .....	15
Wisconsin Pathology Report .....	17
After Hours .....	18
Dedicated to the Memory of O.J. Noer .....	21
From the Director's Desk .....	23
Wisconsin Soils Report .....	25
Shop Talk .....	29
June/July Meeting Review .....	31
Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Outings .....	33
News Clippings .....	35
Spreading the Breeze .....	36



Dr. Worf graciously filled in as a speaker at the July meeting. When this photo was taken he was unaware he was going to receive the DSA.



The look of a surprised man - Gayle Worf accepts the WGCSA "Distinguished Service Award" from Monroe Miller.



Gayle Worf accepts congratulations from WGCSA Director Randy Smith.

(Continued from page 1)

7. He has had the key responsibility for developing the concept for an Urban Agricultural Research Station and related integrated pest management programs for home owners in an urban environment.

8. He played a key role in the formation and development of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association.

Gayle's interest in the turfgrass industry was particularly helpful during the early years of the WTA. His leadership, guidance and encouragement were fundamental in getting that organization to the point it is today.

Dr. Worf has received many honors and awards during his years on the UW-Madison faculty. He was the first plant pathologist to receive the "Distinguished Service Award" in Extension, an award which is the highest recognition from Wisconsin's statewide extension service. He is the Vaughn-Bascom Professor, an honor detailed in the July/August 1986 issue of the GRASS ROOTS. The Wisconsin

Arborist Association, in 1982, honored him with their "Outstanding Service Award". Also in 1982, Gayle served as President of the North Central Division of the American Phytopathological Society.

Dr. Worf's popular and valuable feature in the GRASS ROOTS, "The Wisconsin Pathology Report", has demonstrated to WGCSA members his considerable writing skills. Very few realize, however, that the complete list of publications of Gayle's includes over 170 titles dealing with a myriad of subjects under the broad heading of Plant Pathology.

And isn't it curious that on the night we planned on presenting him with the DSA he graciously filled in as our meeting speaker. When the scheduled speaker called at the last minute to cancel, all thoughts turned to Gayle as a substitute. Once again, as he has done so often before, he bailed us out of trouble.

Kansas is Dr. Worf's home state. He was born there in 1929. Kansas State

University awarded him a B.S. degree and a M.S. degree in Agronomy and Plant Pathology. He served as County Agent in Ness County, Arkansas from 1955 to 1958 and then he decided to attend graduate school again and chose the UW-Madison. He completed his PhD in Plant Pathology and Botany in 1961. For the next two years he was an Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology at Iowa State University in Ames. In 1963 he was invited to return to Wisconsin. He advanced to Associate Professor in 1966 and full Professor in 1969.

Gayle has travelled to the far reaches of Wisconsin, visiting golf courses and offering help in solving untold numbers of problems. The quality of his work on turfgrasses for well over twenty years has directly benefitted the members of the WGCSA and the golf players of Wisconsin. There is great pride in presenting him our "Distinguished Service Award".

Congratulations, Gayle!

## Dedicated to the Memory of O.J. Noer

*The 22nd Annual Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium To Address "First Impressions"*

The 1987 Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium, sponsored by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association, will be held on October 28th and 29th. This 22nd edition of the Symposium is titled "A Memorable Golf Course - First to Last". Our conference, the only true symposium offered year in and year out for all these years, will focus on the aesthetics of golf courses, a sub-

ject important to golf players, club members and Golf Course Superintendents. Eye appeal, pleasant surroundings and first impressions will be studied in depth. The program includes speakers that are golf course architects, Golf Course Superintendents, landscape architects, golf professionals, plantsmen and our own Jim Latham, USGA Green Section Agronomist. Our luncheon speaker comes from the Crooked Stick Golf Club

in Indiana, Mr. Joe Luigis. He is an interesting and well known speaker on the subject of golf and golf courses.

Inspired by the memory of O.J. Noer, the Symposium Committee has arranged for another great meeting. The Pfister Hotel will again be our headquarters. Details will be in your mail early this fall.