



# PUT IT IN YOUR BUDGET

By Monroe S. Miller

Few things unnerve a board of directors (or an owner, for that matter) than unbudgeted expenditures or even a request for an unbudgeted item.

I've seen frustration over mid-year requests for computer systems, ice machines and cash registers. They seem a bit more understanding when asked for money to repair a roof or an air conditioning unit or money for an extra application of a pythium control product. Emergencies do happen, but even these legitimate surprises seldom please them.

As I've searched around for reasons why so few golf courses and golf clubs have given or pledged money to the NOER CENTER (at last count, that number was less than a dozen of the nearly 400 golf courses in Wisconsin), it dawned on me that maybe this trait of boards that seems to be universal is the reason. We officially started the NOER CENTER fund drive late in 1987, too late for most Golf Course Superintendents to include any money for it in their 1988 budget.

So as the 1989 budget preparation descends upon us, the opportunity to include the NOER CENTER in your financial plan for next year presents itself. This worked for me and a couple of others last year. Quite frankly, if you pledge \$1,000 and it comes from a \$300,000 budget, the club's support amounts to three-tenths of one percent of the golf course budget. As a percent of a club's total budget, that \$1,000, which is extremely important to turfgrass research, becomes so incredibly and infinitesimally small it barely merits serious or lengthy discussion. This is especially true at budget time.

During the budget process, a NOER CENTER gift or pledge is taken in the context of everything else relating to golf turf management for a year. It becomes a little unreasonable for committee members to focus on that number when they may be dealing with labor accounts of \$100,000, fungicide costs that can crowd \$200 per gallon and astronomical irrigation system re-

placement or upgrading expense.

I believe the period of time Golf Course Superintendents in Wisconsin are planning for costs for 1989 is the best time to present a case for research. My argument has been that this is more than just a legitimate expense for us; it is an obligation we all must accept. In my budget not only do we budget for the NOER CENTER, but we also decide on our level of support for the USGA research efforts, the Agri-

business Council, the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association and the Forestry/Rights-of-Way/Turf Coalition. All of these are specific line items in my budget, out front for all to see.

The rationale for the fund drive for the NOER CENTER is powerful but simple. Please keep it in mind as you prepare your plan for the next fiscal year. It is an easy, straightforward proposition. And best of all, it adds up!

## F/ROW/T LEGAL FUND NEEDS HELP

The relief felt from the judgment in favor of our industry in the Town of Casey suit was short-lived. As noted in Russ Weisensel's story elsewhere in this issue of *The Grass Roots*, the state of Wisconsin Public Intervenor's office is appealing the Washburn County Circuit Court's decision. F/ROW/T asked for contributions way back in May to pay for the legal expenses relating to that successful court hearing. It must have fallen on deaf ears and blind eyes. To date, only one-fourth of the expense money has been raised and that has come from only 19 responses. The expense to defend the turfgrass

industry's position in this appeal looms large and that is going to have to be paid for somewhere along the line.

It baffles this editor that our golf courses in Wisconsin seem so unconcerned about problems of this nature. THIS COURT SUCCESS MADE YOUR LIFE A LOT EASIER. YOU WON. WHY NOT HELP PAY THE LEGAL BILL?

The F/ROW/T Board is asking for \$50 from each golf course in Wisconsin. Please fill out the form below and return it today with a check. Thanks in advance.



Name _____	
Firm (Golf Course) _____	
Address _____	
1988/1989 Annual Support of F/ROW/T	\$ _____
Casey Legal Expenses	\$ _____
Mail to: Forestry/Rights-of-Way/Turf Coalition 1400 E. Washington Ave., Suite 185 Madison, WI 53703	
Total	\$ _____