



# SCOOTERS

By Monroe S. Miller

I've got some friends who are members of the Rotary in town; a few of them have encouraged me to join one of the clubs. I really thought about it until I learned of how strict they are on attendance at their weekly noontime meetings, including those during our extremely busy summer months.

In at least one of the Rotary clubs there are tables for what are called "scooters". These members are those who, at a given meeting, will sign the attendance card, eat dinner and then scoot out before the program begins.

I am beginning to think there are some "scooters" in the WGCSA. There is no reason to hide our disappointment over the last report of donors and donations for the NOER CENTER from the University of Wisconsin Foundation. There sure aren't many golf courses listed. I'm struggling to find out the reason for this.

In the 20 years I've been close to this business, I have heard a fair number of complaints and quite a few criticisms about the turfgrass research efforts at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "Why don't they have a program like Penn State's or MSU's?" There wasn't much said about the educational program — most grads from the UW's turf management program went out to work on golf courses here in Wisconsin. The faculty worked hard at their extension responsibilities, sponsored some excellent seminars and were available for whatever help people in the field needed. But the resources for substantial research work just didn't exist.

Enter the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association. With the goal of supporting turfgrass research in the state, the organization provided the vehicle needed to focus on development of a facility and program for that research everyone agreed was needed. Sounds great, it has been and it should be.

The plan for the construction of the O.J. NOER CENTER for TURFGRASS RESEARCH was developed and presented (many times) to the turfgrass industry in general and the golf course management business in particular.

The response has been less than overwhelming.

Some who have complained the most and criticized the loudest apparently are "scooters". We haven't heard a word of commitment nor seen a dime of support from far too many golf courses and golf course superintendents. It's very disappointing.

How strange it is that clubs with great means in these times of great golf prosperity cannot find a way to support an effort that will help secure their future. I expressed that very thought to a good friend of mine and to most of the members of the WGCSA. His observation was, "Monroe, don't be upset with the clubs themselves. Most would be forthcoming with a donation and pledge, for the NOER CENTER, *if they were asked*. Your frustration should be directed toward your fellow golf course superinten-

dents. They either aren't even asking or are not presenting a very convincing case." The more I've thought about it, the more I believe he may well be right. Who is the "scooter" in cases like these?

Golf course superintendents are important in the decision making process of golf clubs. This fact gives us a perfect opportunity to ask a golf club or golf course to share what golf has given them. It gives a sense of satisfaction to them to participate, once they are made aware of how important a contribution would be *to them*. It is an easy thing to do, and one that is very obviously critical to the success of the NOER CENTER.

To expect a handful of golf courses in Wisconsin to provide all that is needed to finish the NOER CENTER is a bit like throwing popcorn at a battleship. They just can't do it by themselves. This is a facility that will benefit everybody, and everybody's help is desperately needed to make this dream come true.

Please, don't be a scooter. Give your club or golf course the leadership necessary to move it into supporting the NOER CENTER.

---

## GRASS ROOTS wins GCSAA Newsletter Contest Again!!

The GRASS ROOTS has again been honored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. It has been given the large chapter "Best Overall" award for the fifth consecutive year. Obviously, this award should be a source of great pride for all of the members of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association.

To this editor, thanks are due to many. The first thing to always remember is that without our advertisers we would not have a GRASS ROOTS. Simply stated, they pay the bills. That is greatly appreciated.

After the contest, the judges will send the editor an evaluation of his journal if he likes. This editor feels such an analysis is one of the best things about the contest. The analysis this year offered up a number of constructive criticisms to help make future issues a lot better than past ones. They identified problems like gray copy, re-

strained artwork, photos and even the need for a "cover." But on the second page of the evaluation were three words that said most of what needs to be said about the GRASS ROOTS. — "Outstanding writing throughout." That comment was directed to Dr. David Cookson, Rob Schultz, Dr. Gayle Worf, Dr. Wayne Kussow, Tom Harrison, Dennis Thorp, Dr. Lois Stack, Jim Latham and Rod Johnson. These people are our feature writers and are found in nearly every issue. They are creative, insightful and **dependable**. Mike Semler, Mark Kienert and Roger Bell serve as reporters on occasion. Their writing is appreciated, too. We recognize all of those others who write on request or on inspiration. The GRASS ROOTS involves a lot of people and maybe that is why it is so representative of the golf course business in Wisconsin.

Congratulations to everybody!