

WGCSA Honors Miller With Distinguished Service Award

"I do not deserve it, but I do accept it," remarked Monroe S. Miller after learning he was chosen to receive the WGCSA's coveted Distinguished Service Award. Those who attended the WGCSA spring business and education meeting witnessed a flushed and moved Monroe Miller as he accepted the DSA plaque from President Roger Bell. After a brief photo session, Monroe addressed the audience with some modest comments and thanked them for the award. The meeting was held March 14 at the Clarion Hotel in Fond du Lac. Monroe is the golf course superintendent at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison.

The Distinguished Service Award is not an annual occurrence. Rather a recipient is chosen at the conservative discretion of the WGCSA's officers and directors. One should ask "What kind of person receives the DSA?" It is someone who has given many years of dedicated, persistent service to the turfgrass industry. It is someone who demonstrates high standards of professionalism. It is someone who has strong leadership capabilities. Monroe's qualifications fit these criteria like the last piece of a jigsaw puzzle. He shares the DSA honor with the following past recipients:

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| 1. Les Verhaalen | 4. Bob Welch |
| 2. Bill Sell | 5. Jim Belfield |
| 3. Jim Love | 6. Gayle Worf |

Monroe's contributions blanket Wisconsin's turf industry. Some of his most notable contributions are:

1. Monroe has given considerable leadership to the WGCSA. He has held the positions of secretary and vice-president. He served as president for the years 1984 and 1985. He has served on a wide variety of committees.

2. Monroe's role as editor of the *GRASS ROOTS* is well recognized. The March/April 1984 issue was his first. Thirty-two issues later, Monroe continues to provide WGCSA members with this valuable service. The quality of the *GRASS ROOTS* speaks for itself. The journal has won numerous national awards.

- 1984 — Best overall and Best original editorial content
 1985 — Best overall, category C
 1986 — Best overall, category C
 1987 — Best overall, category C
 1988 — Best overall, more than 16 pages



The *GRASS ROOTS* has rightfully earned its reputation as "The Best in the Nation." Notice that the awards are consecutive; further evidence of Monroe's persistent service.

3. Monroe had major responsibility for forming the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association in 1981. He has served in the capacity of secretary, director and newsletter editor. He shares the credit for the association's high level of success over the past nine years. The WTA provides approximately \$30,000 annually to fund turfgrass research in Wisconsin.

4. The O.J. NOER CENTER for TURFGRASS RESEARCH is Monroe's most recent focus of energy. He has taken the idea from its conception to its present day fund raising campaign.

5. Monroe is a director of the Wisconsin Business Council's Forestry/Rights-Of-Way/Turf Coalition. Monroe's knowledge of pesticide issues is well respected. He has consistently worked hard to ensure that pesticide-use issues are discussed in equal light.

6. Blackhawk Country Club is well known by students as an excellent source for field training. Many internship papers can be traced back to work experience by students working for Monroe. The turf and grounds management program informally regards him as an "off campus advisor".

7. The WGCSA is not the only organization to recently honor Monroe. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences presented him their Honorary Recognition Award. Monroe accepted

the award April 7 at a banquet held in Madison. The award is part of the college's three day centennial celebration.

Some of Monroe's most significant contributions are subtle. He acts as a catalyst to stimulate others in our profession to react towards a particular cause or project. His work has increased the recognition of the turfgrass industry and profession significantly. He not only deserves recognition for his work, but for the way he does it. It is complete, articulate and professional. Some of Monroe's friends and colleagues have this to say about Monroe:
Leo Walsh — Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Science — "I have never met anyone with more energy and drive for one's industry and profession. A most effective Agri-business representative."

Wayne Otto — Superintendent, Ozaukee Country Club — "Monroe's communitive skills, broad scope of knowledge, involvement in organizations and abundance of energy put him in a class all by himself."

Wayne Kussow — Professor of Soil Science and Turf and Grounds Management program advisor. University of Wisconsin-Madison — "Practical experience is the strength of our turf management program. No one has trained more turf students than Monroe. Without him, the program would be in serious trouble."

James Latham — USGA Agronomist-Great Lakes Region — "Monroe's earnest enthusiasm about any project he takes on guarantees its success — if not today, tomorrow." All WGCSA members have benefited from Monroe's service. And for that service, it is our honor to present to him the **Distinguished Service Award**.

The author of this article is the Assistant Superintendent at a Milwaukee area country club. This humble young man has asked that his name be left anonymous in respect to its content. It is most impressive to note the skill and the accuracy with which it was written. Each carefully selected word shows the true respect that a young and relatively new member of WGCSA has developed not just for Monroe, but for our organization.

It should be noted that Monroe was not in favor of this article and that is understandable. It is very difficult for an editor to print anything about himself. The accounting of the honor which was given to him is most appropriate and served as a historical documentation. Again it is appropriate and much deserved.

— Rod Johnson