

# The Editor's Awards

By Monroe S. Miller

The year that is fast closing on us, like every year for God only knows how long, will experience an untold number of reviews by the time December 31st arrives.

I'm driven each year to do the same — capture the highs and lows, the good and bad, the memorable and forgettable and everything in between — for our business of managing golf courses in Wisconsin.

In an attempt to do that differently this year, I'm introducing the EDITOR'S AWARDS for 1990. Take a quick glance at the winners and see if you agree with the jury's selection!

**The MEA CULPA Award.** This award could be given for any number of incidents, decisions or remarks I've made in the past twelve months. One, in particular, deserves recognition.

On the afternoon of August 26th, while mowing fairways with a Ransomes Motor 180 for a Monday golf tournament, one of my employees was smacked in the back of the head with a golf ball.

Fortunately, he was wearing a hard hat!

I was pretty happy. Andy Phelps is the captain of Middleton High School's football team (so he's hardheaded anyway) and we wouldn't have wanted to interfere with that team's quest for yet another state championship.

Excuse me while I pull my foot out of my mouth.

**The OUTLAW Award.** Near the end of May, the two men from Arkansas who sold buckets and boatloads of the voracious grass carp to many WGCSA members pleaded guilty to doing so illegally. Supposedly, the fish caused more than a half-million dollars in damage.

I thought maybe the guys should have been given some sort of public service award instead of jail time. Those fish maintained some of the cleanest lakes and ponds in the history of Wisconsin's golf courses!

**The DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE YEAR Award.** After a lot of publicity

and advance press, the heralded invasion of the 17 year cicadas didn't happen. I didn't see or hear even one of them.

Let's see; the next chance to see a cicada of this variety will come in the year 2007. Hopefully, I'll be around to greet them.

**The RED SMITH Award.** Named in honor of a Wisconsin born and world famous writer, this award is given to the author of an article in a national journal that in a special way advances the profession we work in.

This year's selection was easy: Frank Hannigan's piece in the Vol. 32, No. 8 August 1990 issue of *Golf*. It was entitled "A Super Job".

Every one of us should write a thank you note to Frank Hannigan — the article was a super job by him.

**The WORZELLA Award.** Named in honor of the WGCSA's best golf player, this award goes to a Wisconsin golfer who accomplished something special or unusual during the year.

The 1990 Worzella plaque goes to our own Andy North, winner of two U.S. Open championships.

North tied a PGA Tour record during the second round of the Anheuser Busch Classic in Williamsburg, Virginia. He completed the round with only 18 putts, tying the tour record. Three others have done that — pretty amazing when you think about it.

**The CUTTING EDGE Award.** This prestigious presentation goes to the WGCSA member who, during the season past, has pushed golf course maintenance practices to new levels, levels not imagined possible ten or even two years ago.

The award this year goes to Ozaukee Country Club's venerable golf course superintendent Wayne Otto.

The new ground he's plowing this year is the cutting height of his putting greens. The cutting height, at one point in August, was 0.110! That height has to give new meaning to the phrase "fast grass"!

**The BIRDIE Award.** Recognizing

environmental efforts by those associated with golf is important. The 1990 "Birdie" winner(s) was an easy selection; it goes to the members of the Portage Country Club.

This past spring the club members erected 28 bluebird houses on their course. The houses, set back in the rough a bit, also serve as 150 yard markers!

By mid-June eight pairs of bluebirds had nested, 17 young had hatched and 16 eggs were being incubated by female bluebirds.

**The RIP OF THE YEAR Award.** Only the quick witted in our group will ever be eligible for this Editor's Award. The 1990 winner, Ed Devinger, is well qualified.

It happened at our Koshkonong Mounds meeting. Skip Wilms was our speaker.

Skip was discussing his new job in Illinois. He commented that he was "working 30% LESS than he ever had at Racine Country Club."

A gruff and gravelly voice from the back of the room said, loud enough for all to hear, "NOT POSSIBLE!" It was Ed.

Even Skip laughed.

**The RUBE GOLDBERG Award.** This prestigious honor, named after the noted American cartoonist/sculptor who was famous for creating intricate diagrams for contraptions designed to effect relatively simple results, goes to a British computer guru.

This guy had so much spare time that he invented a sod-laying machine. Stuart Mills' "machine" is a track implement that unrolls one roll of sod at a time. But it offers "hairline precision" for abutting sections.

It looks as though it would take longer to load the roll of sod into the machine than it would to manually lay it.

Rube would have loved this guy. And Rod Johnson has ordered a pair of the machines.

**The BULLWINKLE Award.** We are giving the 1990 Bullwinkle to that crazy moose that got loose while searching for a mate during the height of this fall's rutting season. His search carried him to the Golden Sands Golf Course in Cecil, just east of Shawano.

His appearance on the golf course scared the bejesus out of the players, and reports said the 1000 pound beast left some pretty big tracks across the 12th green.

**The WOLF Award.** Few things catch Professor Worf's fancy quicker than reports of a disease outbreak. In honor of this outstanding turf pathologist, the WOLF award acknowledges the worst disease outbreak during the past season.

The 1990 WOLF goes to the Rhizoctonia brown patch that seemingly infected at least half of Wisconsin's golf courses in the third and fourth week of August. I had a severe outbreak on fairways, but some colleagues had greens and tees infected, too.

Many of us hadn't seen brown patch in years; its appearance reminded us of how frightening and devastating it can be.

**The PELLITTERI Award.** Similar to the WOLF, the PELLITTERI is named

after Phil P., a man who truly loves bugs. This award recognizes the worst turf insect problem of the past season.

No, the PELLITTERI is not going to the cutworm, the black turfgrass ateniens grub, ants or any other classic turfgrass insect.

It goes to the mosquito!

The above-normal rainfall created near optimum conditions for them, especially about the time of the GMO. They were driving the tour players and the spectators crazy.

Golf course superintendents in Wisconsin were buying insect repellent by the five-gallon pailful this year; OFF! will be a significant item in next year's budget for many of us.

**The GREEN INDUSTRY Award.** This category is competition for all the

excellent non-golf turf writing that is appearing these days. We'd be remiss if we didn't recognize the great article our own Lori Bocher wrote in the September 1990 issue of *Turf* (central edition).

It was entitled "The Packers' Turf — They love their field".

I am extremely pleased that this talented writer's craft appears in each issue of *THE GRASS ROOTS*. Her feature adds a lot to our journal. And as it is turning out, she is adding significantly to quite a few others, too.

So there you have them — the 1990 Editor's Awards. The competition for the 1991s begins immediately on January 1st. Choose your category and go for it!

# THE GENTLE GIANTS

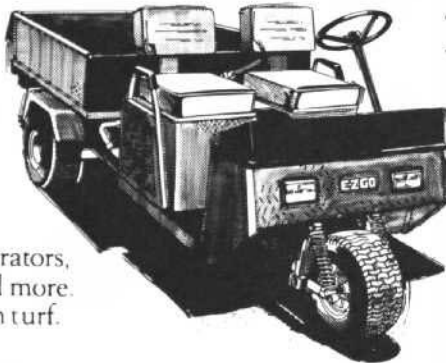
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## The GXT-1500

Here's the heavy-duty workhorse in the line. Powered by an 18 H.P. engine for payloads of up to 1500 pounds. For golf course or public grounds, its large load bed has sides and tailgate. Options include a hydraulic dump, PTO, and range changer. The GXT-1500 adapts to many accessories: sprayers, spreaders, top dressers, and aerators to handle any job.

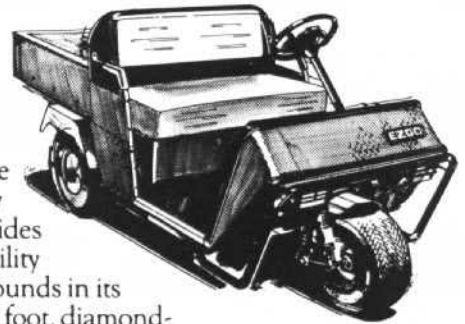
## The GXT-800

Reliable, economical, this mid-size hauler more than pulls its own weight. It has a two-cycle, 244cc engine with rack and pinion steering, heavy-duty springs, and hydraulic shocks, plus a whopping 1000-pound load capacity. Options and accessories such as cabs, bed covers and loading ramps make it an ideal all-around utility vehicle.



## The XT-300

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