

will have to assume responsibilities with trees and ornamentals, as well as turf, and will have both research and extension responsibilities. However, on both the local (CALS) and national basis, there's an increasing cadre of collegial scientists with which to work, both within plant pathology and in re-

lated disciplines. One should not expect to work alone. And together, in a constructive collaborative setting, much more can occur, and with a lot more fun.

But what that person will come to enjoy and appreciate the most over time is the opportunity to work side by side

with that foremost of dedicated, supportive, loyal—and patient—group of individuals who make up the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents and other turf professionals in Wisconsin. If that person is at all perceptive, the chosen one will come to know that's what the work is really about!

Great Golf, Weather and Hospitality Highlight May Meeting

By Tom Schwab

You couldn't dream up a nicer day than the one that greeted the 35 golfers at our May 20th Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association meeting at Drugan's Castle Mound Golf Course in Holmen. The day was 80° with a slight breeze. Superintendent Mike Drugan had the course in superb shape. Castle Mound is set back in the coulees and bluffs of the Mississippi River. It would be hard to find a more natural place to build a golf course. Mike also had some greens, tees and sand traps under construction which added to the educational experience of the day.

The evening educational session was presented by Dr. Don Taylor of the U.W.-River Falls Soil Science Department. His talk was on green construction as related to soil moisture. He mentioned how greens are very different from other agricultural soils because of all the compaction they receive and because of the layers we purposely build into them. Dr. Taylor has done extensive research on four different layering or soil moisture management concepts. The most famous of these is the United States Golf Association perched watertable con-

cept. All four were made up of 12 inches of root zone mix on top and plastic tiling on bottom. The differences were in the middle layers. The first concept was rootzone over native subsoil; the second was over gravel rather than subsoil, third was over course sand over gravel over subsoil (this is USGA), and fourth was over course sand over subsoil. Three of them work as perched watertables because of the larger pore space underneath. The rootzone just over subsoil does not perch water.

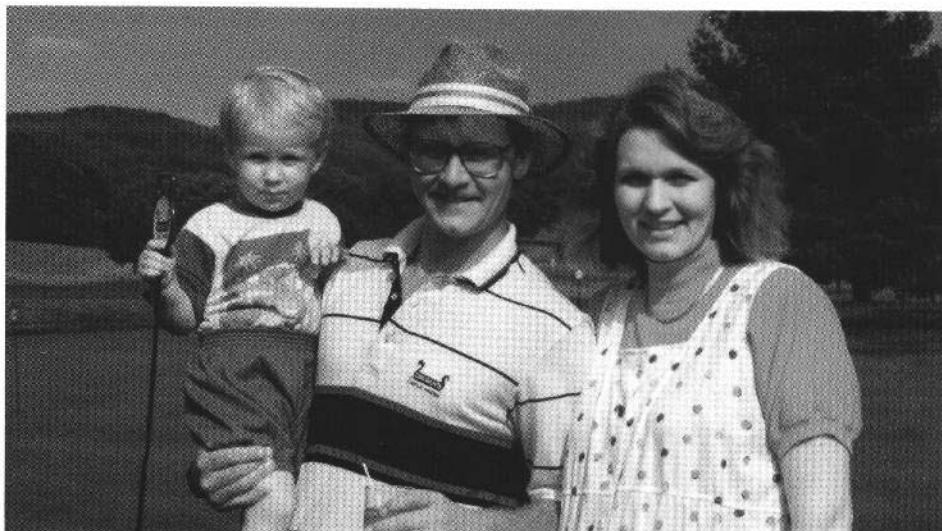
Based on his laboratory research, Don had a preference for one of the four concepts. It varied from the accepted USGA style. He liked the root mix just over course sand with it's drain tile in the sand. His research showed this to perch water but not enough water to hurt root growth. The USGA method perches so much water in the bottom of the rootzone mix that roots would not grow into it, according to his research.

Dr. Taylor had two warnings, though. One is his concept is based on lab research, rather than field research. Secondly, if a green failed, it's easier to blame the USGA than to explain why you changed the accepted construc-

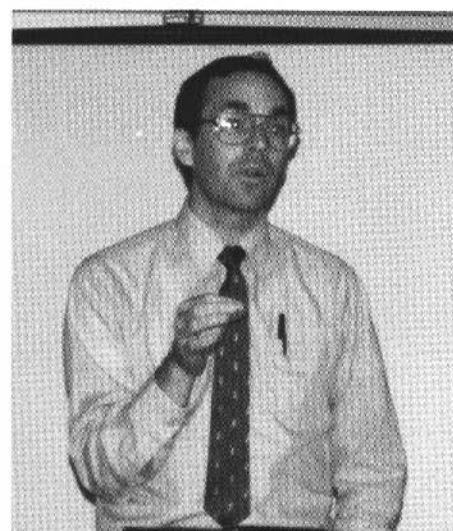
tion technique. Two thoughts are: 1. There are an awful lot of successful USGA greens out there, and, 2. with this black layer problem possibly being caused by excessive moisture, could perching too much water be a problem? Definitely more research has to be done.

The day ended with presentation of the golf prizes. The game was a yellow ball tournament. In this game one yellow ball alternates among each member of the foursome. The winner is the foursome with the lowest total using only the yellow ball scores from each hole. First place went to Wayne Horman, Pat Norton, Dave Smith and Andy Kronwall. Second place went to Bruce Worzella, Rod Johnson, Steve Schmidt and Greg Kallenberg. The flag prizes for long putt on #18 and closet pin on #4 both went to Joe Bahr. Norton and Bahr taking prizes demonstrates local knowledge won over skill at Castle Mound!

The Drugans hosted a perfect meeting. Mike and his wife Mary, the clubhouse manager, put a lot of hard work into making the day so enjoyable. We really appreciate that and their hospitality.



Keegan, Mike and Mary Drugan.



Dr. Don Taylor