



Three Cheers for...

By Monroe S. Miller

Too often, as we hustle along the path of daily life, we fail miserably in the acknowledgment of good works done by folks all around us.

In an effort to overcome the short shrift given them, I am going to offer up thanks to some of those people who contribute mightily to our profession.

Terry Ward and Al Nees

Without the yeoman efforts by these new generation staff people at Milorganite, there either wouldn't be a Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium or it would be a shadow of what it is now. Terry and Al work hard, they work smart and the work conscientiously on this important Wisconsin event.

Result? A continuation of the great traditions of the Symposium.

MMSD-Milorganite Division

This organization is deserving of our deepest gratitude for its generous support of Symposium. I doubt many know just how generous that support is; I don't.

And frankly, I don't want to know. It would probably make me nervous.

I strongly suspect that MMSD makes the Symposium affordable to everyone who attends. That is greatly appreciated.

What I respect most, however, is their strong commitment to the turf sciences through the Noer Foundation. To this day they show deep respect for the memory of O.J. Noer. Mr. Noer would, I am certain, be very proud of them.

Wayne Kusow

It's a pleasure to see this man work, quietly and unassumingly, in our industry.

Suddenly, it seems, his program at the university is very significant. He's got nearly 25 undergraduates and will soon have another graduate student in turfgrass management.

More and more he is in demand as a speaker. His writing is getting attention across the country. And yet, he's still carrying a major teaching load in his department.

Without his tireless effort this past year, the Noer facility wouldn't be where it is.

The thing that you notice most, in the midst of his busy and hectic schedule, is his modesty.

Quick to give credit to others, he still is the driving force representing us at our land grant college.

For these things, plus his chronic good mood, his popularity among student and his great intellect, three LOUD cheers!

USGA Green Section Staff, Great Lakes Region

These people never get enough praise. After another very busy golf season, which for them runs about nine months because of the southern and western reaches of their region, you'd think that Jim and Lois and Bob could relax a bit.

Sorry. Speaking engagements, writing obligations and rapidly approaching national and regional conferences keep them running. Even during their "slow" season.

Hurrah for these unsung heroes of our business!

Gayle Worf, Larry Binning and Craig Grau

Everyone in Wisconsin's grass business knows Dr. Worf. Professors Binning and Grau are chairmen of the Department of Horticulture and the Department of Plant Pathology, respectively. Binning, by the way, was in graduate school at Michigan State University with GCSAA director Gary Grigg.

These are very difficult times in the University of Wisconsin system. Downsizing is taking place everywhere, and one of the easiest ways to accomplish that is by not filling positions vacated by retirements.

Gulp. Newman and Worf just retired from their departments.

Because of the work by these three men, the turf industry will see the open positions in Horticulture and Plant Pathology filled.

There will be some rearrangements and accommodations and sharing, but we will continue to be well served by the university.

And I've been told, throughout this trying process, that our chances of maintaining the positions were greatly enhanced by the presence of the Noer facility.

Can you imagine trying to function as a golf course superintendent in Wisconsin without a plant pathologist?

Scary. NINE cheers for these three professors!

The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Officers and Directors

Now that the Noer facility is completed, except for a few niggling details, the board has moved quickly to deal with problems our industry is facing and to help with the times we are living in.

Meeting in the conference room at the Noer facility on December 5th, they reaffirmed the WTA commitment to education by adding two undergraduate scholarships. The recessionary times we face, along with the significant increase in the numbers of turfgrass students at Wisconsin, made this a wise decision.

To address the need for research, the board agreed to fund a research assistantship starting in the fall of 1992. Not only will it assist the research program there, it may well be an aid in the hiring of a quality person to fill the vacant positions in Horticulture and Plant Pathology.

The board deliberated for hours over matters of research and demonstration work to start with the spring season, with an eye at least cast on the 1992 field day.

These guys really care and display exceptional dedication to the turfgrass industry in Wisconsin.

So, there you have it; appreciation owed for this issue. The more I think about it, the more I am convinced this could and should be a regular feature.

We'll see.