



GET SMART

By Bruce Worzella



The early 70's sit-com, about a secret agent starring Don Adams, came to mind when deciding my president's message title. Educating himself and staying ahead in an ever-changing world was part of Don Adams' solution to staying alive. Golf course superintendents are not spies, but do need to stay in touch with what is confronting us.

This time of the year we concentrate on our continuing education. We have enough time so that we can now read more than one article per publication. We have time to attend various seminars and conferences. A good example was the past WTA winter conference.

Wisconsin turf managers proved that they want to absorb as much education as possible by breaking the all-time attendance record. An excellent job was done by the WTA to focus the meeting on education.

What really concerns me, though,

are the government regulations that are coming. As everyone knows, or should know, pesticide regulations, storage, loading and mixing, and application are big issues.

The posting of a golf course also is not very far away. Our neighboring states are already complying. A positive note has been the involvement of Rod Johnson with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). He has given us a voice and a chance at some workable solutions.

Do not be too discouraged about pending Wisconsin regulations; we are not alone. On January 21 and 22, I attended a Government Relations Liaison seminar at the GCSAA headquarters. Thirty-one other concerned chapter officials discussed many topics relating to golf courses and government regulation. The excellent involvement

of GCSAA at the federal level has now given us working at the state level a direction for consistency throughout the country.

Some of the subjects that were addressed were: understanding the media and not being afraid of an interview; knowing exactly how bills are introduced from a state legislator and how you can affect them; communicating with your local government; and legally addressing your concerns to the proper people.

The intent of this seminar was not to move mountains, but for golf course superintendents to learn how to professionally approach issues that have impact on their everyday duties.

In conclusion, educating ourselves and becoming involved with circumstances that affect our work and our surroundings will only make our profession stronger in the eyes of everyone.

Table of Contents

Roberts Rules	1
President's Message	2
Editor's Notebook	3
The Wisconsin Golf Course Quiz	7
Wisconsin Pathology Report	9
Wisconsin Soils Report	12
The Public Golf Course Superintendent	13
Personality Profile	17
1992 WTA Winter Conference & Show	24
The Sports Page	27
Life in the Northwoods	29
Jottings from Golf Course Journal	33
Shop Talk	35
Wisconsin Golf Course Survey	36
Notes from the Noer Facility	37
John Deere Championship	39
Editorial	41
From Across the Country	42
1991 Article Index	43
The Sporting Green	47



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