

The TIC has had three main charges from the beginning:

1.) to provide access to the published materials covering turfgrass research and management. That effort is called the turfgrass information file (TGIF); 2.) to maintain the Noer Collection and expand it, and; 3.) to deliver documents or copies to those in need of the materials. Today, TIC has almost 20,000 references and most of them have been abstracted.

The USGA provided much of the money from the beginning to get the TIC operational and to keep it operating. The GCSAA has been an excellent cooperator and partner in this program.

Not enough can be said about the Noer Foundation and its generous contributions over the years.

It's been my view, unfortunately, that the TIC and the TGIF have been underused by all of us. I am guilty to the maximum. That guilt is overburdened with worry these days.

The free ride for us is nearly over.

The USGA Research Committee funding ends early next year. This subsidy has amounted to about \$70,000 each year.

What will happen when it's gone?

The USGA has been unequivocal in its expectations from the turf industry; we must assume the responsibility for this great resource. That simply means all of us have to extend our support when the subsidy ends.

As Peter Cookingham, TIC manager, has said, "the reality of funding for academic libraries in the current economic climate, combined with the explosion of information resources, means less attention for subdisciplines like turf culture."

He goes on to say that "the Noer Collection is the finest publicly-accessible collection of turfgrass literature in the world, and perhaps the finest of any. May it always be so."

The Noer Foundation, as noted, has supported the Noer Collection since the beginning and continues its generous

support. They want to do more. The void will be the USGA money.

So what can we do, individually and as a group?

The first is to become a subscriber to the TGIF. In the short-term, 500 new subscribers are needed. Jim Belfield and Jerry Kershasky are working on getting 30 new TIC subscribers from Wisconsin, and I'm trying to help them. You can help by becoming a new subscriber for a relatively small amount of money. When approached, please give serious thought to signing up. **AND YOU DO NOT NEED A COMPUTER TO MAKE USE OF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO TIC.**

Once an endowment is established by Cookingham, the WGCSA will have a great opportunity to contribute to this information resource that records our past and will play a major role in our future.

The fate of the TIC is literally in your hands and mine. We simply cannot let this tremendous resource slide away.

Wisconsin Golf Course Quiz



A SOILS TEST

By Monroe S. Miller

Look for the answers
to the WISCONSIN GOLF
COURSE QUIZ on page 33.

How could any golf course superintendent not be interested in the science of the soil? Soils are, after all, the stuff from which golf courses are made.

Logically, every human being should be a lover of the soil. Without soil, life on this earth would not be possible. Food, clothing and prosperity are all possible, ultimately, because of the soils of the world.

This issue's quiz for Wisconsin golf course superintendents is about Wisconsin soils. Before taking the exam you might want to walk your golf course as a reminder of their importance to you. Do some hand texturing to polish up your practical skills. Scoop up a container of fresh loam from somewhere on your golf course and enjoy the rich aroma.

Then, and only then, with a sharp pencil in hand, sit back and take this Wisconsin soils test.

1. *True or False.* Most often when Wisconsin golf course superintendents prepare topdressing or

rootzone mixes, the peat amendment is imported from outside our state borders. I have used peat from both Iowa and from Indiana.

The reason, obviously, is because Wisconsin doesn't have any organic soils of significance.

2. Speaking of peat and its value as a rootzone amendment, it is a fact that a cubic foot of peat, when dried, weighs about eight pounds. How much does that peat weigh when it is saturated with water?

3. *Circle the Correct Answer.* The soil texture covering the most area in Wisconsin is (silt, sand, loams/sandy loams).

4. *True or False.* A routine soil test for a turf area sample analyzed at the State Soils Testing Laboratory includes values for nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

5. *Circle the Correct Answer.* The average soil pH for the ten major soil regions in Wisconsin is (6.2, 6.5, 7.0, 7.2).

6. The Wisconsin state tree is the sugar maple. The state bird is the robin. The state flower is a violet. What is the state soil?

7. *Fill in the Blank.* When a peat undergoes decomposition it becomes a _____.

8. *Fill in the Blank.* The basic principle of soil science in the USGA Green Section putting green specifications is _____.

9. About 70% of Wisconsin soils are derived from two primary sources. What are those sources?

10. Name the most famous graduate of the Department of Soil Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



GOLF COURSE FEVER

By Pat Norton

Right now I'm parked in front of the television set watching the Tournament Players Championship and I'm starting to shake. Pretty soon I'll be sweating and eventually mumbling to myself. I'm looking at that beautiful TPC course at Sawgrass—challenging Pete Dye design, lots of water and Florida sunshine so warm I can feel the heat coming right through the TV set.

Now I'm starting to drool. I get out my note pad and feverishly begin taking notes. My ten month old son, Tommy, looks up at me as if to say, "what's wrong with you, Pops?"

Well, I'll tell you what's wrong, friends. I'm getting a bad case of the "fever". The only difference is that for myself and thousands of other "turf addicts", this is not the normal fever. This strain is known as "golf course fever".

Type G, or common "golf fever", is the affliction affecting millions of Americans each spring. It builds slowly, with symptoms worsening as network coverage of the PGA Tour progresses during the months of March and April.

Symptoms of this fever include constant talk of golf, impulsive buying of golf equipment, and endless visits to the local PGA professional. If the superintendent has the misfortune to be present when these fever stricken souls wander into the golf shop, things usu-

ally go from bad to worse.

Then begins the litany of innocent, misguided questions: When will the course be opening? How much winter-kill did we have on the golf course? What about these new prices and policies for 1992?

My personal favorites are the left field suggestions for improvement of the golf course. Recently a member asked me if we could build a practice green and sand bunker area.

"Great idea," I said.

Then she asked if we could remove a target green to enhance vision from the range tees.

"Not a great idea," I said.

The conversation ended when I suggested that she approach the managing owner of Cedar Creek with her ideas. If he approves any funding, I'll eat my hat. These suggestions are always so simple in their minds.

Type T fever, or "golf course fever", is much more rare, but no less intense. Its symptoms do include the shaking, sweating, mumbling and drooling mentioned earlier. Similarly, it is characterized by wild thoughts of course modifications and improvements triggered by the visual feast of Augusta National seen at its most pristine. These thoughts tend to build into a virtual improvement frenzy, each idea better, and more ex-

pensive, than the previous one. This fever continues all spring, sometimes raging, sometimes smoldering, in one's mind.

Type T fever differs in that I couldn't care less who wins the weekly tour event. I'm glued to the tube to see the golf course, not the golfing. Show me those mowing patterns, those retaining walls and the exotic plantings. Give me a gander at those greens and fairways from the MetLife blimp—that's what we Type T sufferers want to see.

And who the heck cares about playing golf at this exciting time of the year, anyway? Playing golf in the spring only serves to ruin the experience of being out on the course and enjoying it!

As springtime warms into summer, Type T fever begins to cool off. Real world limitations, namely money and weather, bring on the realization that it's not all possible this year. Some of these great ideas may never be implemented. Improvements, especially on a public golf course, always need to be justified.

Solace is taken in the projects that do come to fruition. Small improvements become huge, at least in the superintendent's mind. Ideas fade into obscurity as other priorities emerge.

Better, improved variations of these ideas will reemerge when the fever begins to heat up again. Next spring.

Answers to the WISCONSIN GOLF COURSE QUIZ from page 30.

1. *False.* About 5% of Wisconsin soils are organic (peat or muck). Amendments generally aren't available because of a lack of economic incentive in the past to develop the harvest, preparation, packaging, storage and marketing facilities. Although that can change, the reality is that wetlands and bogs are likely to become even more difficult to develop, either for agricultural or commercial purposes.
2. 70 pounds! No wonder peat is a favored amendment for what is normally very droughty-sand.
3. Silt.
4. Nitrogen is not part of a routine soil test.
5. 6.5.
6. Antigo silt loam.
7. Muck.
8. Perched water table.
9. About one third of the soil area of Wisconsin comes from glacial outwash sand and gravel, and another one third of the soil area of the state comes from glacial till loam. This says a lot about the influence of ice on our soils!
10. A *gimmee*—O. J. Noer of Stoughton, Wisconsin.