

holes. The catch was excellent on virtually every green! The holes filled in quickly, and I do not have to worry about possible desiccation this winter due to unfilled holes.

Quad-tines also work great in correcting isolated dry spots that show up during the hot summer months. The plugs should be picked up, and no topdressing is needed because the small holes fill in so quickly. I do not recommend incorporating into the hole a mixture of wetting agent and Milorganite. The area should then be thoroughly watered and promptly forgotten about.

In conclusion, I believe that quad-tine aeration, when used in conjunction with other sound turf management principles, can be a very beneficial tool for the golf course superintendent. I've

had success with using the quad-tine aeration in conjunction with the Toro Hydroject. The quad-tines do a great job in relieving surface compaction,

while the Hydroject fractures the sub-soil allowing root growth deep into the green profile. 🌱



The green surface is very acceptable immediately after topdressing.

Environmental Issues Seminar Held

by Tom Schwab

A GCSAA regional seminar entitled "Environmental Considerations in Golf Course Management" was held on November 9th and 10th in Fond du Lac. The very qualified presenters were Winn Hock, a plant pathologist and Director of Pesticide Education at Penn State University, and Tom Thomas, an environmental attorney.

A theme running through the seminar was for us to become proactive in our communities. Preach the benefits of healthy turf and other advantages a golf course provides. Another theme was to keep educated on current regulations of employee training, emergency contingency planning, community "Right to Know" laws, storage tanks, pesticide handling, and other issues. Keeping educated about environmental issues is not only good management, but may get you recognized as the local environmental expert in your community.

We heard many examples of public relations problems the green industry is suffering from. The nightly news presents blatantly flawed reports on hazards of Daconil and Milorganite. Prominent papers and periodicals like the Wall Street Journal, Family Circle, and Great Outdoors, write headlines like "Poisons in your backyard—The pesticide scandal", "Killer Courses", and

"Lethal Lawns". No wonder the public views any pesticide user as an abuser. Another article they told us about was by the National Audubon Society. In it the Audubon expressed praise for the GCSAA and its members' "care of the land". We can't leave it to that organization and the GCSAA alone to tell about the environmental stewardship superintendents provide. We have to get out and tell the public how golf courses provide greenspace, O₂/CO₂ exchange, wildlife habitat, water purification, erosion control, and temperature, noise, dust, and glare modification not to mention all the economic benefits such as providing jobs, raising the tax base, and raising charity donations.

Tom and Winn showed us many examples of how pesticides can be abused and result in hurting the environment, wildlife and even us. Part of their seminar focused on hazard communication, emergency contingency planning, and proper pesticide handling. Although our association is looked upon favorably by associations like the Audubon Society, the potential for mishandling chemicals within our profession is possible. That's why Winn and Tom reinforced the importance of us staying educated and practicing what we learn.

The seminar gave many good tips

on how to deal with the press if they should happen to call on you someday. One good tip is—not to assume the press is always out to make a negative report. Speaking with them might be a golden opportunity to stress the positive aspects of a golf course mentioned earlier. Also explain to the press how the borders of your course provide excellent wildlife habitat. Show them your native grass restoration, bluebird houses, or even a dead tree you're leaving stand for bird nesting. Just look around on each of your courses. You all have these positive environmental facets. In fact Tom and Winn suggested that if the local paper doesn't call on you, then you should call on them.

A lot of education was had by the thirty-five superintendents that attended this seminar in Fond du Lac. We all know we work hard in doing great things for the environment. The seminar just taught us, among many other things, that we should be getting out and teaching the public about our "care of the land." Tom and Winn told us we have to be persistent in getting this message out. It's much easier to do this than to try to correct the misinformation the public often hears. They said don't underestimate the intelligence of the public. The community will get the message if you tell it. 🌱