



The Questions Keep Coming

By Monroe S. Miller

Thanks to Dave Smith and Dave Van Auken from me. Their kind responses to earlier questions demonstrated at least two people had given thought to them and thought they merited a response. They're a couple of great guys. I know others who had at least discussed some of the dozens of queries put forward. I even caught some grief for asking a few. That's the way it goes.

Since I'm not the brightest guy around, my head is always full of questions. Here are some more:

1. Why is it so difficult for Wisconsin golf course superintendents to complete the research rebate forms from Ciba Geigy? It's been estimated that we left between \$5,000 and \$10,000 on the table in 1993 that could have been dedicated to the bentgrass/putting green research we are supporting at the NOER Facility. I mean, how dumb can we be? One distributor even mailed the form and copies of invoices to each of his customers. All that was required was about 90 seconds time to generate hundreds of dollars from individual golf courses. Let's vow not to let it happen again in 1994.

2. Do you have a NO SMOKING policy in your shop?

3. Have you read about the fine meted out to Merrill Hills because of the shop fire a few years ago? The state, one would guess, was trying to make an example of them.

4. Which reminds me—you did complete your SARA Tier II paperwork, didn't you? It was due on 3/1/94, but in this case "better late than never" applies.

5. After the Symposium, the EXPO 94 and the Northern Great Lakes meeting in Rhinelander, do you ever wonder why you attend the GCSAA conference?

6. Do you have employee procedures and guidelines that pass legal muster?

7. Why does confusion still reign among the O.J. NOER **Research Foundation**, the University of Wisconsin **Foundation**, the O.J. NOER **Research and Education Facility**, the

Symposium, and the **Wisconsin Turfgrass Association**? Can you imagine the chaos if we changed the name of the WTA to the Wisconsin Turfgrass Foundation, as some have suggested? Some people wouldn't know what the hell was going on! (Some don't right now).

8. It may be that only an editor would wonder (or care) if greens mower and top dressing are one or two words. Or whether the machines we use are aerators or aerifiers. Or whether triplex should be hyphenated. Or whether there is such a word as fiveplex, and if there is, should it be hyphenated? Maybe, in the last instance, the word should be quinplex.

9. Why do monthly WGCSA meetings have to cost so much? Ask yourself this question: if the money had to come out of my pocket, would I pay to go to our monthly meetings?

10. Were you either surprised or frightened by the results of the GCSAA Mortality Study?

11. Speaking of the GCSAA study about what makes superintendents die, do you feel the association should have released the results to the public? The question, obviously, is inspired by the negative reaction by the likes of Paul Harvey.

12. When does your course usually open—last week of March (or sooner), first week of April, second week of April (or later)?

13. How can you possibly get even distribution of fertilizer through an irrigation system—the techniques of fertigation? Look at coverage of fairways, even with a double row irrigation system—there are areas of 1X, 2X, 3X and 4X coverage. I can't imagine applying fertilizer that way.

14. How do you feel about custom application of fertilizer or even fungicides?

15. Speaking of contracting services, have you either used or been tempted to use any of the many aerification—from deep tine to hydrojet to Greensaires—operators available?

16. What's your reaction to the first contracted maintenance of a golf

course in Wisconsin—the Bruce Co.'s relationship with the new Bishops Bay golf course?

17. Do you have any opinions—pro, con or neutral—about including an advertising piece in the envelope that brings you your copy of *THE GRASS ROOTS*? P.S.: Keep this in mind—it's profitable to do so.

18. Did you ever think how nice it would be if sprinkler heads were made of clear plastic? It would make troubleshooting a whole lot easier.

19. How many of you have hired your own kid(s) to work for you on the golf course? Is this nepotism or just plain good business? Did it work out well? Were other staff members affected by it, one way or the other? How did course officials react? Or didn't they know? Any advice for me?

20. Do you recognize Tom Schwab without his mustache? (He hadn't seen his upper lip in over 20 years!)

21. Didn't you really enjoy having the spring business meeting on February 28th, a time when there was NO chance of interference with the golf course and opening preparations?

22. How do you determine the playability of your golf course?

23. What will be the hot topic of discussion in the area of golf course management this year? Let's see—we've recently had rollers, walkers, rain, rain, rain, winterkill (is that one word or two words?), fast grass, short fairways, pesticides, and on and on the list goes. What will this year add to the list?

24. When will golf players ever learn that their golf course is supported by and growing on **SOIL**? Are they unable to say that beautiful word? Go on your own personal campaign to educate those ignorant of the proper language regarding the growing medium that blankets our globe.

25. He's done it for so long now that we take it for granted: therefore, won't you join me in thanking Randy Smith for the superb job he did again this year in preparing and distributing the WGCSA Directory? Nice work, R.J.! 🍷