

SYMPOSIUM CRYSTAL BALL LOOKS TO FUTURE

by Monroe S. Miller

Wayne Otto was talking about rescheduling the 1994 Symposium as late as the eve of our annual event.

"It's Halloween. The Packers play tonight. Its raining cats and dogs in Chicago and heading this way. We are in big trouble."

Turns out Wayne had nothing to worry about. The "trick or treaters" couldn't find him at the Hyatt (unless you count Rod Johnson!). The Packers won. And the monsoons in Chicago were only sprinkles in Milwaukee.

The program, carefully crafted by the Symposium committee, also came through in fine style, either in spite of or because of worriers like Wayne Otto.

In retrospect, this was Jim Latham's Symposium. He served up the keynote address, a challenge that over the years has been offered only to the very best in our business. Like everyone expected, he handled it as well as anyone has. Maybe better, since he reminded us time and again of advice given by O.J. Noer fifty years ago. You couldn't miss the suggestion that basic grass management from O.J.'s time a third of a century ago will also be true in the year 2010. Invoking the advice of Noer a third of a century after his death at a meeting convened each year for the past 29 in his memory seemed more than appropriate, as well.

"Latham was hand picked by O.J. Noer before he retired to be a member of the Milorganite team," Charlie Wilson told us at the Tuesday luncheon. It was great for young and old and for Jim Latham that Charlie came back to the Symposium to pay tribute to his longtime colleague. They'll be colleagues again, now in retirement.

Wilson spoke of Jim Latham's work ethic and his abhorrence of shoddy research work. Both were good reasons for Jim Snow, USGA Green Section Director, to appoint Latham to the USGA Research Committee.

Dr. Nick Christians took a look at the year 2010 and saw lots of pressure to change all areas of golf course management. He predicted some pesticides would be banned, that the industry would develop alternative techniques and that safer pesticides would reach the marketplace.



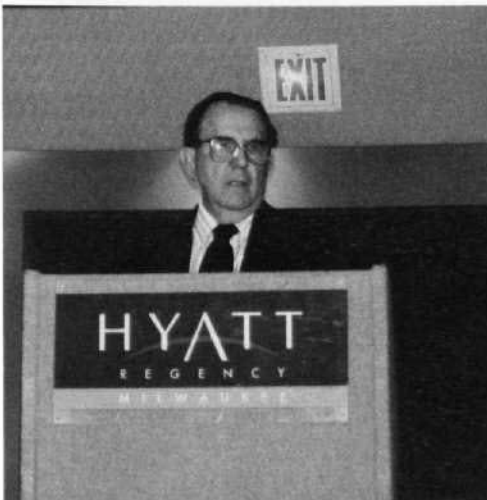
The Shaw brothers—1994 Session Chairmen—Charlie, Jim and Pat.

After an excellent review of bentgrass varieties, Rich Hurley predicted a trend for the remainder of the 1990s — regrassing greens with improved bentgrass varieties. Dr. Hurley spent considerable time on Penncross, discussing how it segregates on greens, its tendency to produce grainy turf and spike marks.

If the USGA's Frank Thomas had a message about what to expect in fifteen years, it was one developed by looking at the past. Going back to 1968, Thomas pointed out that statistics showed that scoring has not changed much, that greens reached in regulation has remained stable and driving yardage has pretty much been constant. His documented conclusion was that equipment hasn't changed anything over the past quarter century and it wasn't likely by the year 2010, either.

For David Stone and Joe Kosglov, the future is now. These two golf course superintendents, in separate yet similar ways, have turned their environmental stewardship to good advantage. Both were the earliest participants in the New York Audubon/USGA wildlife sanctuary program, and both appeared in a video explaining details.

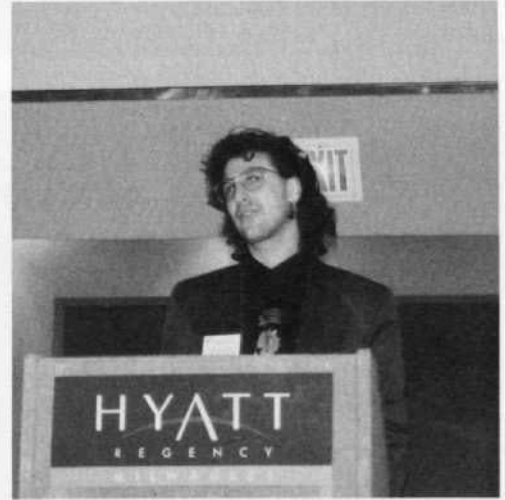
Kosglov shared the importance of wetland areas on the



A very special guest, Charlie Wilson.



Dr. Nick Christians



Wisconsin's own Professor Frank Rossi was the 1994 luncheon speaker, outfitted in Halloween finery!



Joe Kosgolov



Luncheon table (L to R)—Charlie Wilson, Bob Vavrek, Mike Semler, Terry Ward, Jim Latham and Al Nees.



Mike Semler, WGCSA president.

golf course he manages. Stone has developed extensive self-research areas at the Honors Course where he studies everything from bentgrass varieties to fungicide efficacy.

Jim Gilligan had the courage to talk about a difficult subject — losing one's job. He was in an especially difficult position since he was past the age of fifty. His story is pertinent as more and more of us will be working later in life. Jim's advice was to stay in close communication with your employer and make clear the value of your experience and patience.

The GCSAA expects to be at the leadership front of golf in the year 2010. Steve Mona, CEO of GCSAA, gave a well organized and thoughtful look at how our jobs will change and what we will have to do individually and collectively to prosper.

Many of us didn't know what to expect from Jim McLoughlin. He is remembered as a past executive director of the GCSAA during a somewhat controversial time in the early 1980s. What the audience received was a wealth of information — all useful — that could have filled a day long seminar. He tied together the future of golf and what golf course superintendents have to do to remain in a prominent position in the golf industry.

If you still wondered whether Jim Latham was really retiring or not, Bob Vavrek's Symposium roundup gave more evidence. Bob assumes this traditional task for our USGA Agronomist. As is now known, he will handle the task very well.

In the back of the Symposium program is a list of all the subjects covered during the past 29 years. What do you think would be a good topic to explore next year, our 30th anniversary? We have all winter to think about it.

MEMORABLE QUOTES FROM THE 1994 SYMPOSIUM

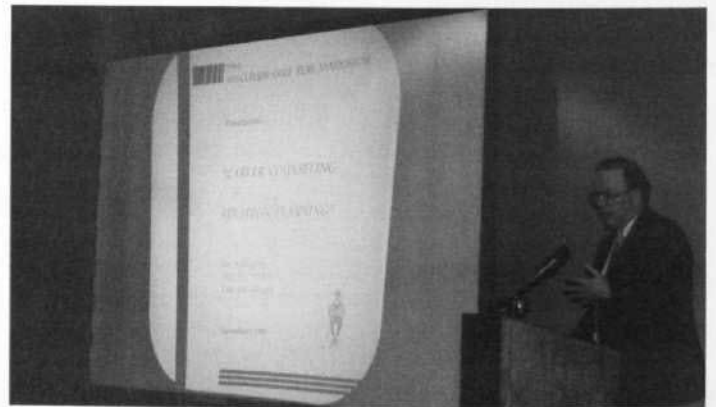
"The most underutilized phrase in golf is Rub of the Green." Jim Latham

"Close cutting does not consistently provide good golf turf." O.J. Noer (1934)

"In Wisconsin, the Symposium marks the end of the golf season. Our lives become more normal." Mike Semler

"In the eyes of too many, turf equals pesticides. This misconception needs to be overcome." Dr. Nick Christians

"You wouldn't take a 1950s car to a car race. So why would you seed a new golf course with older bentgrass varieties?" Dr. Rich Hurley



Jim McLoughlin



Dr. Rich Hurley



Steve Mona, of GCSAA. CEO



Jim Shaw, Al Nees and Jim Gilligan.



USGA's Frank Thomas.



A very articulate golf course superintendent, David Stone.

"Grass grows." Jim Latham

"What we are becoming is more important than what we are accomplishing." Steve Mona

"Lack of communication may be the most frequent reason golf course superintendents are fired." Jim Gilligan


"You will never be more than you perceive yourself to be." Jim McLoughlin

"Good grief, Jim. Why are you moving to Texas? Wisconsin is civilized!" Charlie Wilson

"Mystique is an important part of the game of golf. We must leave in the magic." Frank Thomas

"The closer we come to perfection, the more obvious our imperfections become." Dr. J.B. Beard (Offered by Jim Latham)

"We have always done a good job with environmental matters, but now we are doing even better. The Audubon Program is evidence of that." Joe Kosgolv

"Golf course superintendents need to provide a check area for either on-site research or evaluation of turf management programs." David Stone 

Answers to The Wisconsin Golf Course Quiz

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The Atlantic Golf Club on Long Island, New York. | 11. 2.6%. |
| 2. Both professors are former golf course superintendents. | 12. 18th Green. |
| 3. 1955. | 13. c. |
| 4. Crenshaw and Cato. | 14. c. |
| 5. (a) Get the headquarters office in order. | 15. Self, family, career. In that order. |
| (b) Restore relationships with other associations. | 16. Kris Pinkerton and Dave Brandenburg. |
| (c) Increase member involvement. | 17. New Jersey. |
| 6. Jim Gilligan from the Richmond CCC. | 18. It doesn't kill the invading fungus. Rather, it strengthens the host plant. |
| 7. 350. 225. | 19. X. c. is a biological control of <i>Poa annua</i> . It colonizes in the xylem, causing wilt and eventual death of P. a. plants. |
| 8. The Honors Club in Chattanooga, Tennessee. David Stone. | 20. Pink polo shirt, earring and long flowing hair led to his mistaken identity as a female! |
| 9. False. The USGA has not taken any position on this question. | Frank's story was the best one heard at the Symposium. |
| 10. Mr. Noer was awarded the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award three times. | |

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