



These Guys Can't ALL Be Wrong

By Monroe S. Miller

The invoice for our 1995 USGA Green Section Turf Advisory visit was in my file for payment in February. It is a good value that our club and I have taken advantage of for years and years. We have not been disappointed, either.

It is rare for any subscribers to express disappointment after a TAS visit. Since we are at the season the USGA agronomists are scheduling, it is time to give serious consideration to enrolling for a stop by Bob Vavrek this year. You won't regret.

But why take my word for it? Lots of WGCSA members use the Green Section service. I called a number of them to find out just how they feel about the TAS. Here goes.

Vince Monahan: The Green Section visit is extremely important to me. It is a third party critique of our golf course that is offered without prejudice. The agronomist isn't influenced by either the golf course superintendent or by the members. His advice is unbiased, and we need that.

Roger Bell: I use the Turf Advisory Service because it carries with it the great respect the members at our club have for the USGA. It is an opportunity to harvest that good will for the good of the golf course. That kind of credibility is unusual.

Tom Harrison: I think the Green Section visit is significant because it is such a good value. I like the presence of an outside opinion of our golf course, both during the visit and later

on in the report. I also like the information the agronomist shares with regard to what he has seen elsewhere on his visits. And this is an excellent opportunity for me and any members of the Green Committee who are present to ask questions.

Randy Smith: The visit by the Green Section is one of the ways that helps me keep up with new products and how they are successfully being used. It also alerts me to new problems that may be out there that I haven't heard about yet. Also, the agronomist often gives us new insights on old problems. Frequently the agronomist is able to back me up in some of my programs, if that is what they feel. No matter who makes the visit, he is a ready source of information on just about any golf course subject, and players at our course like that. The report is a good communication tool between me and the membership. It is a good deal all around.

Mike Semler: I like the Green Section visit best because it is that second or third opinion that is so often needed and frequently invaluable. It is an outside opinion that is credible. The agronomists see so much in their travels and they share that wealth of information openly. It is a good value in anybody's budget and I recommend it highly.

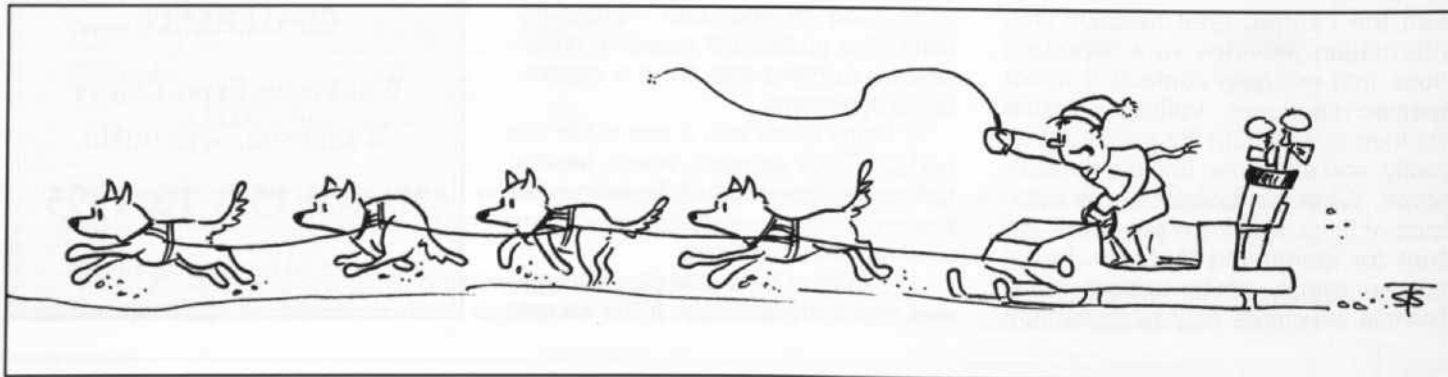
Mike Handrich: The Green Section has helped me most in getting projects approved and problem solutions underway. I think it works so well

because the USGA carries so much weight. The TAS serves me well as back up support and information and help justify programs, if they are worthwhile. I look at the Green Section as the golf course superintendent's helping hand.

Mark Kienert: The Green Section helps golf course superintendents by supporting our goals and mission and management plans, IF they are good ones and well thought out and likely to succeed. A recommendation from the agronomist can push a decision concerning irrigation system, contour program, a new shop or whatever, over the edge. The TAS is a trump card in your favor. The agronomist is willing to go to bat for your golf course, and he isn't afraid to tell members what they need to hear, whether they want to or not. The visit is a yardstick of measurement of progress, and it helps meet standards of the business.

Scott Schaller: Let's face it—the Green Section staff are THE experts on golf course management and everybody I know can benefit from advice given by an expert. The Green Section has given me positive direction and the agronomists offer added support for my ideas and plans and programs. They offer a good critique of the golf course. The membership involvement with the visit is a big plus.

Jeff Parks: The Green Section is a very supportive vehicle, especially when you are having any kind of problem. The credibility they have



doesn't exist anywhere else, and they never abuse it. I have also enjoyed having an outside visitor to bounce ideas off of and to get some additional input for things happening at my golf course.

Rod Johnson: The report reinforces my program and its details. It gives comfort to the members that we are on the right track. The visit is essentially an annual golf course report that they like to read. Also, if you are a subscriber, you have freedom to call the regional Green Section office and expect prompt attention to your questions. The

whole operation works very very well for golf course superintendents.

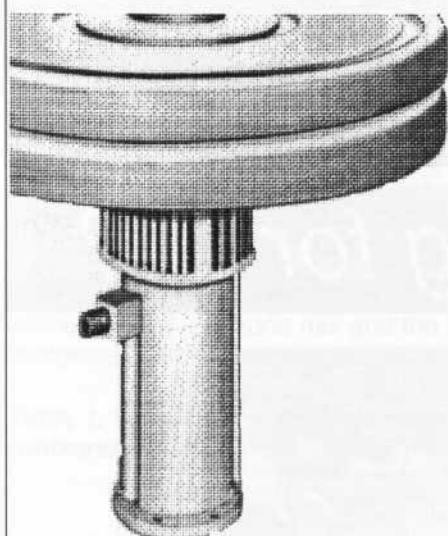
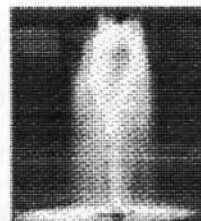
Jerry Kershasky: Tremendous! The Green Section visit is a check and balance of programs and progress at our course. The membership respects the USGA input and they make practical use of the report. The agronomist can support you in your fertility, aerification, seeding and any other management program. If deserving, you will earn a favorable report. But the agronomists aren't YES men and won't go against their own good judgment. That fact adds to their credibility. The report is used for our "State of Westmoor"

review. I find it useful at budget time and at my annual review. I absolutely wouldn't be without it!

You couldn't get that kind of unanimity if you'd ask the same guys about ice cream or football or apple pie! Their collective comments sound like an ad for the Green Section, and who could be surprised. It is pretty easy to sell something you believe in. And they believe in the Green Section Turf Advisory Service.

Make your job easier and get some good advice you will be able to use in the next year. You will become one of the believers, too. ♣

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