

The Call For Help! Part Two

By Kris Pinkerton, Golf Course Superintendent, Oshkosh Country Club



In my *President's Message* from the May/June 2000 issue of the "Grass Roots," I extended a challenge to each of our members to make a difference! A difference, if realized, that would keep a talented, enthusiastic group of scientists busy solving major turf and environmental problems that we have here in Wisconsin each day!

This challenge I speak of was to get golfers, the end users or beneficiaries, to donate toward turfgrass research. Again, convincing our golf course patrons to donate just \$5.00 each, would alone generate more than \$250,000 per year for turfgrass research.

We continue to have an outstanding cooperative group of researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. But failure on our part to raise adequate funds leaves the door wide open for recruitment of our scientific talent by other states and universities who have and will raise the funds. Has anyone accepted the challenge? Have you asked your board of directors, owners, or powers that be, to assist in raising dollars for research?

As promised, I have followed suit and am proud that Oshkosh Country Club will be making yearly contributions to research. I share with you this information not to receive recognition or a pat on the back, but rather to suggest how easy it can be to just ask!

Before receiving approval at our club's March 20th board meeting, I had only spent one hour researching and writing the proposal. Jerry Kershasky, superintendent at Westmoor Country Club, was happy to share with me the "optional billing statement method" they have used since 1989. This is also the method we chose to use in the amount of \$10.00 per member, designated to go to the Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in Turfgrass Research.

Along with writing a short note to be included in our member's June 30th billing statement, I will also use OCC's monthly newsletter to further explain the Fellowship and what these funds will be used exactly for. Sounds fairly easy, doesn't it?

Please give something back to your profession by helping to solidify future research funds. We have the "state of the art" research facility with some of the best research faculty in the country! Let's keep them busy!

Congratulations go out to our 25 year members Glen Gerth, Jeffery Parks and Fred Fabian Jr. It is with great pride that we honor these fine gentlemen for their long time commitment to our association and profession. Great job! 🌿

