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1981 COMMITTEES

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

About this time last year, we voted at our Annual Meeting to establish an office for the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association. We would then have a permanent mailing address, someone to send out meeting notices, an up-to-date membership roster, and someone to handle other clerical services necessary to any organization.

Being our first year, things went fairly smooth; however, we have found that our Membership Roster and By-Laws will have to be printed during the winter months. Mary, who performs all of our office work as well as that of the Wisconsin State Golf Association, does not have the time during the summer to do this extra work. She is just now finding time to start on our Roster and By-Laws. These of course, will be sent to our entire membership.

Many of our past problems have been solved and many more are improving. Our meeting notices have been sent at least 10 days in advance and our records are being updated.

Having a year "under our belt", we can look forward to better service to our members in the year to come.

I hope to see you all at our Annual Meeting in November.

Jim Belfield

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 Dave Murgatroyd
 Don Ferger

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 Bill Sell
 Mike Lees

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 Monroe Miller
 Randy Smith
 Tom Harrison

O.J. NOER FOUNDATION, INC. REPORT

By: James M. Latham
 Research Director
 O.J. Noer Research Foundation, Inc.

The Wisconsin G.C.S.A. has been one of the major contributors to the O.J. Noer Foundation since its beginning in 1960. It has donated over \$9,000 in two ways. One has been matching funds with the Milorganite Division of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District. The other is to assign a portion of excess funds received at the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium. This apparent generosity is deep seated in W.G.C.S.A. history, but that is a story for another time.



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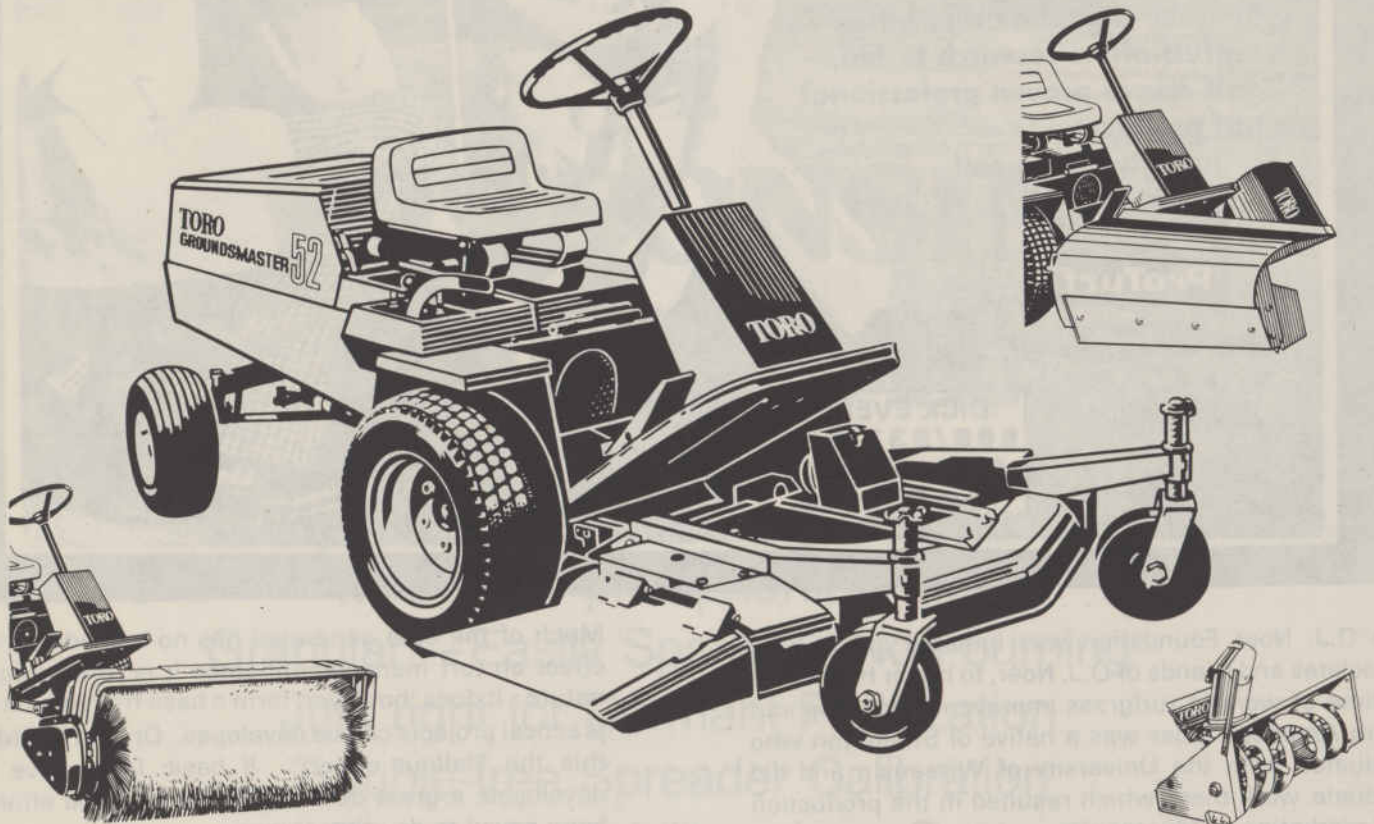
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The O.J. Noer Foundation was initiated in 1959 by associates and friends of O.J. Noer, to honor him for his lifetime of work in turfgrass improvement throughout North America. Noer was a native of Stoughton who graduated from the University of Wisconsin and did graduate work there which resulted in the production and marketing of Milorganite.

The Foundation is dedicated to the generation of original research through grants to universities and experiment stations. Most of these projects, being basic in nature, would have no "commercial" support. But being basic research, the information will have value over a broad range of interests.

Much of the data generated has no immediate, direct effect on turf management since it is fundamental in nature. It does, however, form a base from which more practical projects can be developed. Dr. Jim Beard calls this the "fallout effect". If basic facts have been developed, a great deal of time, money and effort has been saved to do other things.

An example of this fallout effect can be illustrated by thatch studies. The Foundation established grants at Michigan State and Texas A & M concurrently to study the Identification, Cause and Effect and Control of Thatch on cool- and warm-season grasses. Since then, there have been many projects on thatch dealing with subjects like insecticide effects, disease generation, etc., all based on data accumulated by the initial projects.

The very first project was at the University of Wisconsin by Dr. Jim Love. This was the first time anyone had shown visible nutrient deficiency symptoms in turfgrasses. The paper by Love and the photographs are classics in the field. The color plates, by the way, can be found in Dr. Beard's forthcoming book.

Wisconsin does not have the extensive turfgrass research facilities found in other states. It is incumbent upon superintendents, however, to put money into research since they will be the beneficiaries in the long run. To do this on an orderly basis, an organization such as the O.J. Noer Research Foundation, Inc. is the best vehicle to use.



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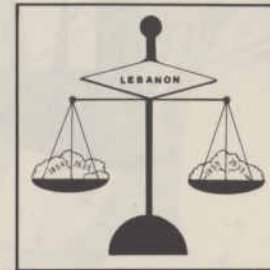


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Most of the monies contributed to the Foundation comes from Milorganite distributors, who have a self-assessed fee on tonnage sold each year. Superintendents' Associations across the country also make gifts along with interested individuals and companies like Jacobsen and Toro.

Noer grants have been made toward worthwhile projects in all sections of the country, from New Jersey to California and from Florida to Washington. The following list provides a partial view of the range of subjects covered.

University of Wisconsin

Visual symptoms of plant nutrient deficiencies, major and minor.

Iowa State University

Effect of fertilization on turf diseases.

University of Wisconsin

Effect of cutting height on root growth and chemical composition of Merion bluegrass.

Iowa State University

Nutritional influence on dollarspot disease in bentgrass.

Michigan State University and

Texas A & M University

Thatch on golf greens, North and South --its cause, composition and control.

University of Florida

Fertility problems with sandy soil mixtures.

Pennsylvania State University

Special soil testing techniques required in turfgrass areas.

Iowa State University

Influence of herbicides on turf diseases.

University of Washington

Fertility levels in Poa annua control.

New Mexico State University

Development of new grass varieties requiring less water and fertilizer.

University of Illinois

Management practices that influence thatch development on golf greens.

Rutgers University

Improvement of root growth on golf greens.

Texas A & M University

Water management in relation to heat and drought stress.

University of Nebraska

Nitrogen-fixing organisms for cool season grasses.

Ohio State University

Microscopic time lapse photographic studies of root nematodes.

There are four national-level funding agencies for turfgrass research: the U.S.G.A. Green Section provides the most money, followed by the G.C.S.A.A. Research and Education Fund, the Noer Foundation and Musser Foundation. Most G.C.S.A.A. projects are, and rightly so, on a more practical plane, such as the Toronto bent problem in Chicago last year when G.C.S.A.A. and the Green Section went to the aid of members to try to solve a local, but vexing problem.

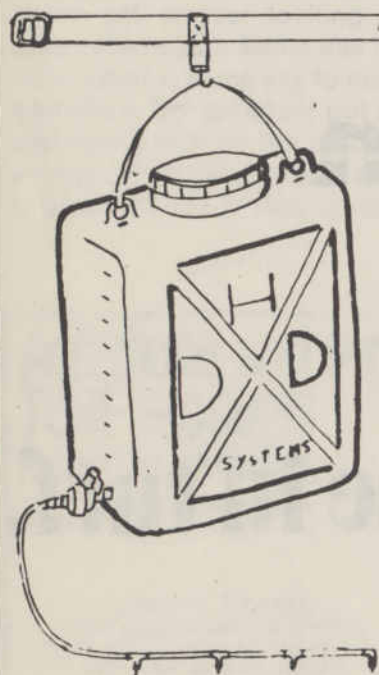
There are many local or regional support systems for research. Michigan and Ohio are nearby examples of strong local support. The Midwest Turf Foundation gives regional support to Purdue. The South Florida G.C.S.A. primarily supports the South Florida Experiment Station now that a strong research staff has been assembled there.

One final word. Noer Foundation grants are made from investment profits. Thus, any donations continue to bring dividends from now on. In addition, since there are no paid employees, there is a minimum overhead. In 1980, the management cost of managing the \$164,000 fund amounted to only 2%. Officers and Directors receive no pay, no transportation or living expenses at meetings. They serve because of their remembrance of O.J. Noer and their commitment to the field from which their livelihood comes. That's how the Foundation has generated \$180,000 for turf research in the last twenty years. The outlook for the future is even brighter, with the continued support of organizations like Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents and individuals like Danny Quast and Wayne Otto who are Foundation members.

This is the Week That Was — Greenkeeper's Diary

Monday — Want to spray bad dollar spot on greens. Cushman won't work. Sprayer won't work. I don't want to work. Nobody else wants to work. Two of the crew stayed home and did not work. Just had a phone call that the Junior Golfers are to have a shotgun start on both nines at 8:30. Hung up in the caller's face. Should not have had that last beer last night. Mowed greens and tried not to notice that the cups needed changing and the dollar spot is even worse than I thought. Did not mow 13. Hate it. Between the winterkill, oil-spillkill and the disease, we ought to tow it to the SPCA and have them put it to sleep. Chairman left message at the Pro Shop to get in touch with him at once. He better not hold his breath. Hit 95 by late afternoon. Late for supper, wife mad, supper lousy, I'm mad. Watered 'till dark. Showered and went to bed. Wife sexy — I'm not.

Tuesday — Went in at daylight — the air feels like a police dog's breath. Got the sprayer working. Can't figure out why the chemical companies package dusty chemicals in bags that are impossible to open without getting it all over yourself and the sprayer, not to mention breathing it. The cheapest cereal on the market is packaged in easy-to-open-and-close containers. We all should go granular — that would snap their eyes open. Fairway



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