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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm happy to say the state of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendent's Association is very good. The dues structure of \$30 for golf course employees and \$90 for company memberships proved sufficient to run the association out of our new office, with enough left over to grant \$2,300 to turf research.

1982 looks equally as good. The board and committees have worked hard all winter and most of our goals are accomplished or in process. Our monthly meetings are already set and we are well on our way to having the speakers committed for each.

Our new roster is in its final stages, and almost ready for printing. The dues are coming in fairly well, with 85% in as of March 15th. Let's get the rest in so we can get our books in order.

Our first membership meeting on March 15, 1982 had a turnout of 47. This is an improvement over recent years, but should certainly be better. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 19th at Evergreen Country Club in Elkhorn with Dave Hills as our host.

Hope to see you there!

Jim Belfield

"COLLEGE DAY FOR TURF PROFESSIONALS"

150 Attend Meeting

The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association held its first annual meeting on January 14, 1982 at the University of Wisconsin Arlington Experimental Farm. Over 150 people attended the event billed as "College Day for Turf Professionals." The morning session included informal discussion with the University personnel present and casual browsing through the display material. After lunch and a very inspiring talk by Associate Agriculture Dean, Dr. Don Patterson, the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association held its first annual meeting. The interim Board of Directors was officially elected by the membership to guide the association through its second year. Officers of the association are:

David Payne, President
Egon Herrmann, Vice President
James Huggett, Treasurer
Thomas Harrison, Secretary

Other board members are: Monroe Miller, Ed Devinger, George R. Brandt, George P. Brandt, and Martin Schiebe.

The WTA has experienced a very successful first year in its efforts to raise research funds for the University of Wisconsin. Over \$6000 was raised in less than twelve months with a research grant of \$4500 going to Dr. Gayle Worf in April, 1982. Dr. Worf's work was on commercial sod, golf course turf and home lawns. At the WTA annual meeting Dr. Worf detailed his 1981 work.

The grants from the WTA have become an economic necessity for the University of Wisconsin turf personnel because of government cutbacks in funding. Turf research, being a specialized field, is of low priority to budget conscious administrators. Existing personnel, facilities and continuing research would be underutilized if not for support from private industry. Administrators tend to favor research programs that show public support. It is this public support for turf research that the WTA is trying to convey to the

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University of Wisconsin Administration.

The 1982 year has started out on a tremendous note for the WTA with double the interest of a year ago. It is anticipated a substantially larger grant will be given to the U.W. this year. Interested parties from all aspects of the turf industry have joined.

The one area that the association needs more input is from its many members. Feedback is needed on turf disease, insect, and soil problems. Also what educational activities that the members would like to see. Because of our vast cross section of members the possibilities for new education are tremendous.

Golf course superintendents have the opportunity to meet commercial sod growers, lawn care specialists and varied industry representatives, and exchange ideas on management, equipment and common problems. The learning potential at field days, seminars, etc., could be outstanding.

Presently for 1982, Dr. Gayle Worf is formulating his research plans. Input from interested turf managers is encouraged. Ed Devinger is looking into the possibility for a golf outing this summer and Bob Bolz is studying the feasibility of a field day. A field day to include demonstrations and discussion topics for sod growers, golf course superintendents and lawn care specialists would be a very interesting endeavor.

The 1982 membership drive is in full swing and anyone interested in furthering Wisconsin research and joining this very worthy organization should contact:

Thomas Harrison
1218 Winn Trail
Madison, WI 53037

Or any WTA Board Member.

To Open Or Not to Open . . .

Are you open yet? When are you going to open? These two questions are to be highlighting the conversations of superintendents and anxious golfers in the near future. With the subject matter close at hand, I decided to do some research to find some guidelines for the spring opening of golf courses.

The first step I took was to hit the Turf Books, unfortunately I found little or no direct information on the subject.

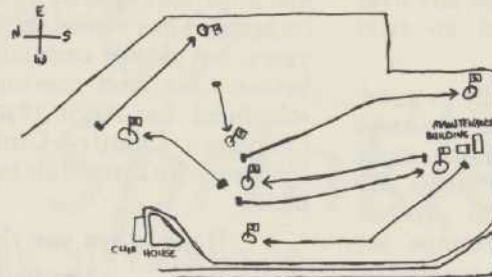
The second step I took was to ask about a dozen fellow superintendents and there was my answer. Each superintendent has his own way of determining when to open, but there are several common grounds, namely:

1. When the frost is out.
2. When green surfaces are firm enough so that tracking is not a problem.
3. When conditions are so that no damage will be done to the course.



Each superintendent is as unique as the golf course at which he is employed and each superintendent uses his own expertise and experience to make this sometimes politically explosive decision.

Several courses have set up alternatives to the normal openings. Reversing the course is a popular solution. By that I mean cups are cut in the fall, in the tee-off areas and tee markers are set in a level area off to the side of the green. Golfers then play the course in reverse using the tee-offs as



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5	5 GREEN TO 4 GREEN	148 yds	3
6	4 GREEN TO 4 TEE	497 yds	4
7	3 GREEN TO 3 TEE	510 yds	5
TOTAL		2341 yds	28

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TEE BETWEEN MARKERS

USE EXTRA CAUTION

AND CARE FOR COURSE

temporary greens. If your course layout and terrain lends itself to this practice it might be well worth the effort. This practice not only buys time for the regular greens to be ready for play but temporarily appeases the anxious golfers.

Here at Pine Hills the course layout does not allow me to follow this practice to the letter so I have taken the practice one step further. I have set up a seven hole course, called the Pine Hills Temporary Tune-Up Golf Course. I have included a map and score card which I composed for this purpose. I use our regular tee-offs as the greens where it is feasible. Where the terrain does not lend itself, I have been painting temporary greens with Vitalon Dark. I, too, reverse the holes from their norm, thereby avoiding the temptation of the golfers to use the regular green. This practice has been very well received by the membership, especially the green paint.

THE END OF THE STORY:

When the question to open or not comes up, each individual must decide what is best for his own situation. The decision may be unpopular to the golfer but with proper explanation or alternatives mutual satisfaction can be reached.

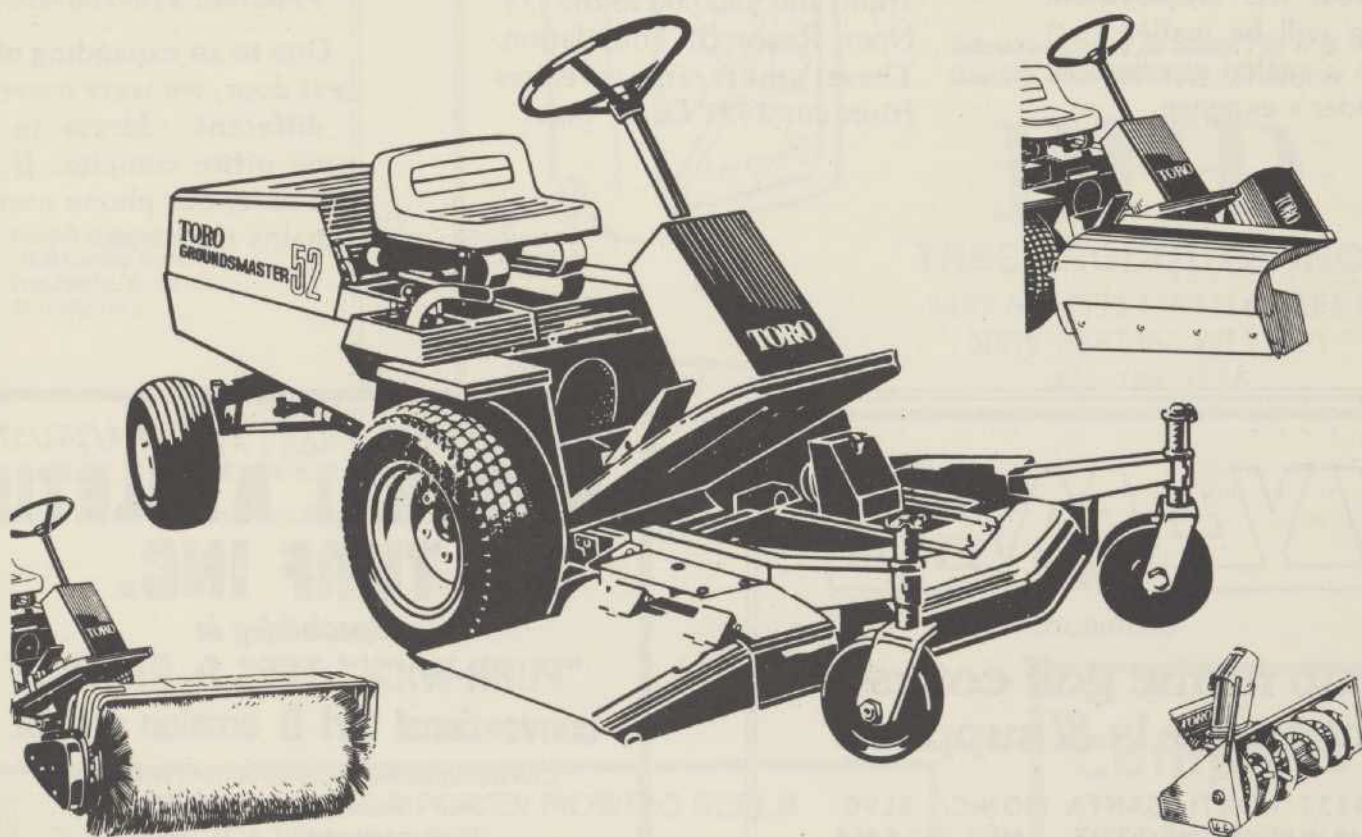
It helps greatly to communicate your guideline for course openings to the membership either through an article in your club's newsletter, or an open letter to the golfers hung in your Pro Shop or locker room, or any other means of communication which you may have at your disposal.

Rodney Johnson

Superintendent, Pine Hills Country Club, Sheboygan



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On Scholarship and Research:

Approval was given by the membership at our March 15, 1982 Annual Meeting to grant \$1,500.00 to the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association, and \$500.00 to the O.J. Noer Research Foundation. These grants are revenues from our 1981 Fiscal Year.

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CHARLES G. WILSON WINS 1982 USGA Green Section Award

FAR HILLS, N.J. — Charles G. Wilson, of Milwaukee, WI, the man who pioneered the Green Sectional Regional Turf Service in 1952, has been named the recipient of the 1982 Green Section Award, presented by the USGA in recognition of his distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass.



Charles received the Green Section Award during the 26th annual USGA Green Section Educational Conference at the New Orleans Hilton on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 1982. The presentation was made by Stephen J. Horell of El Cajon, CA, Chairman of the Green Section Award Committee.

“The Good Earth Needs Good Golfing Turf” was the theme of this year’s conference, which was held, for the second consecutive year, as part of the GCSAA International Turfgrass Conference and Show at the invitation of the Golf Course Superintendents’ Association of America.

The USGA established the Green Section Award in 1961 to honor those persons requiring special recognition for distinguished service to golf in any phase of work with turfgrass, i.e., research, education, extension, superintendence, maintenance, management, etc.

The USGA believes there are many individuals who have made immeasurable contributions respecting the arena upon which the game of golf is played. Their contributions and services may be evidenced by their achievements over a number of years or by a single act.

In presenting the Green Section Award, the USGA wishes to identify, celebrate, and hold up for emulation individuals such as Charles G. Wilson, who exemplify outstanding dedication to golf through their work with turfgrass.

Charles was born in Port Jervis, N.Y. and trained for his profession at the University of Maryland, where he earned his bachelor of science degree in agronomy in 1950.

While still an undergradute, Wilson joined the USGA Green Section staff in 1947 as a research assistant and field agronomist in the Beltsville, MD office.

In 1952, the USGA announced that the Green Section, which had been an instrument of research for over 30 years, would take an entirely new direction. From that time on, it would emphasize direct service to USGA member clubs and courses through personal visits by the Green Section staff who would advise them on their turfgrass problems.

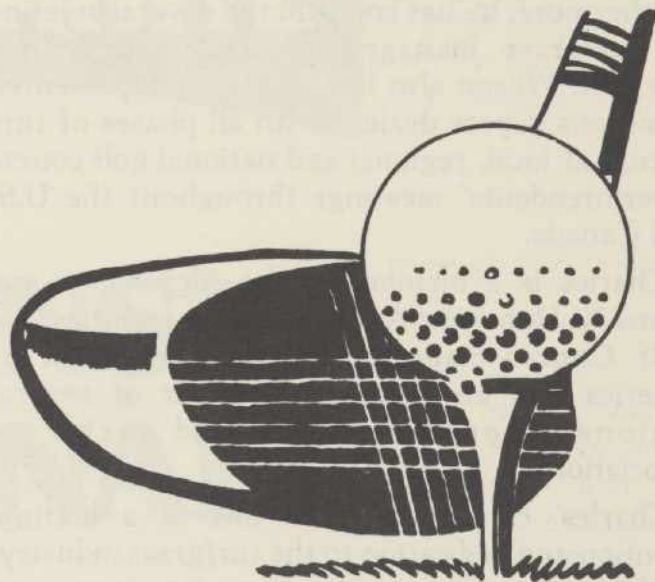
The plan called for the establishment of a number of regional offices so that every member club throughout the United States would be within easy reach of a Green Section regional director. Each regional director would be a practical scientist — a trained agronomist who specialized in golf course problems.

Before establishing the first regional office, the USGA assigned Wilson to make a first-hand survey of the West Coast conditions during the spring of 1952. His survey of more than 50 clubs

Charles Wilson was the first full-time turfgrass consultant the USGA had in the field. As a result of his tireless efforts . . . the Turf Advisory Service was able to develop a strong foundation.

from Los Angeles to Seattle showed a strong desire for a Green Section office there. And so, the first regional office was established in June, 1952, in Davis, CA. Charles Wilson, as the Western Director, was the first full-time turfgrass consultant the USGA had in the field. As a result of his tireless efforts in the Western Region, the Turf Advisory Service was able to develop a strong foundation. It is basically the same format used today by the 13 Green Section agronomists

stationed in six regional offices. They now travel over 200,000 miles annually in service to member clubs.



Charles left the USGA in June, 1955, to become an agronomist with the Sewerage Commission of the City of Milwaukee. Later on, he became head agronomist, sales manager, and finally director, succeeding O.J. Noer, who had been with the commission for 35 years. Noer, by the way, was the recipient of the Green Section Award in 1963 for his many contributions to the turfgrass industry.

Although he retired as director of the Sewerage Commission two years ago, Wilson has remained active as the research director of the O.J. Noer Research Foundation, Inc. In addition, he is a member, past chairman and historian of the Turfgrass Division (C-5) of the American Society of Agronomy.

Wilson also serves as a consultant on Wisconsin turfgrass problems and is involved in setting up the very successful Wisconsin Turfgrass Conference, which he founded sixteen years ago in cooperation with the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association.

(Continued on page 10)

Charles Wilson Wins (Continued from Page 9)

The literature of turfgrass management is richer for many contributions Charles has made throughout his career. He has authored a chapter in the Turfgrass Science Monography, published by the American Society of Agronomy. Furthermore, he has co-authored several bulletins on turfgrass management and maintenance practices. Wilson also has written and presented numerous papers dealing with all phases of turf culture at local, regional and national golf course superintendents' meetings throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Charles is a member of the Alpha Zeta and Sigma Xi Honorary Agricultural Fraternities, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and an honorary member of several regional superintendents and turfgrass associations.

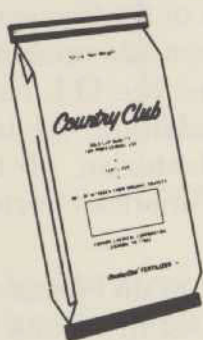
Charles' career has been one of a lifetime devotion and dedication to the turfgrass industry, marked by a special concern for improving turfgrass growth and playing conditions for this country's golfers.

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS OF THE USGA GREEN SECTION AWARD

1961	John Monteith, Jr.
1962	Lawrence S. Dickinson
1963	O.J. Noer
1964	Joseph Valentine
1965	Glenn W. Burton
1966	H. Burton Musser
1967	Elmer J. Michael
1968	James L. Haines
1969	Fred V. Grau
1970	Eberhard R. Steiniger
1971	Tom Mascaro
1972	Herb and Joe Graffis
1973	Marvin H. Ferguson
1974	Howard B. Sprague
1975	Fanny-Fern Davis
1976	James R. Watson
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