

Continued from page 29
 better quality greens that are easier
 and less costly to manage.

8. I've religiously aerified my greens twice a year for the past 20 years. Each time I've removed the cores and backfilled the holes with my own rootzone mix. It's gotten to the point now where the cores are of the same texture as the topdressing I'm hauling back on. Can I stop aerifying now or is there still value to the procedure? Would one time a year be enough? (I'm under a lot of pressure from our members to give it up altogether.)

KENOSHA COUNTY

ANSWER: The answers to your questions lie in the reasons for core aerification and whether or not one or more of these reasons still applies to your greens. Core aerification alleviates soil compaction, minimizes soil layering, crusting and localized dry spots and retards thatch accumulation. You indicate that there is no longer any evidence of soil layering, so we can strike this from

the list. If you rely on wetting agents to handle localized dry spots, the list becomes even shorter. I'm of the opinion that core aerification can be replaced by slicing plus topdressing to control thatch. Assuming you're willing to go this less disruptive route for thatch control, then all that remains to worry about is soil compaction.

It would be foolhardy for me to sit here and decide whether or not compaction is or could become a problem for you should you cease core aerification. All I can do is try to provide information that will help you make this decision.

Research has shown that soil compactability is minimal and essentially constant once the sand content of soil exceeds 60%. Thus, with greens that contain more than 60 percent sand, traffic rather than soil composition controls how much compaction will occur. The minimum traffic is, of course, that arising from maintenance equipment. To this you have to add the number of rounds of golf being played each year. The

heavier the play, the greater the potential for compaction and its associated problems.

I find it difficult to believe that there are any golf greens whose bulk densities do not slowly increase over time due to compaction. The difficulty is deciding at what point compaction requires remedial action. What compaction does is collapse the larger pores in soil. The responses are reductions in water infiltration rates and increases in water holding capacity that eventually provide a nearly continuously moist soil surface on which algae and moss can become established. These, then, are the initial indicators of soil compaction and the need to begin or intensify a core aerification program.

Can one core aerification per year prevent compaction from becoming a problem? Very frankly, I don't have any basis on which to answer this question. Perhaps this is feasible on relatively lightly trafficked USGA type greens. I'd sure like to hear a panel of golf course superintendents discuss this issue sometime!

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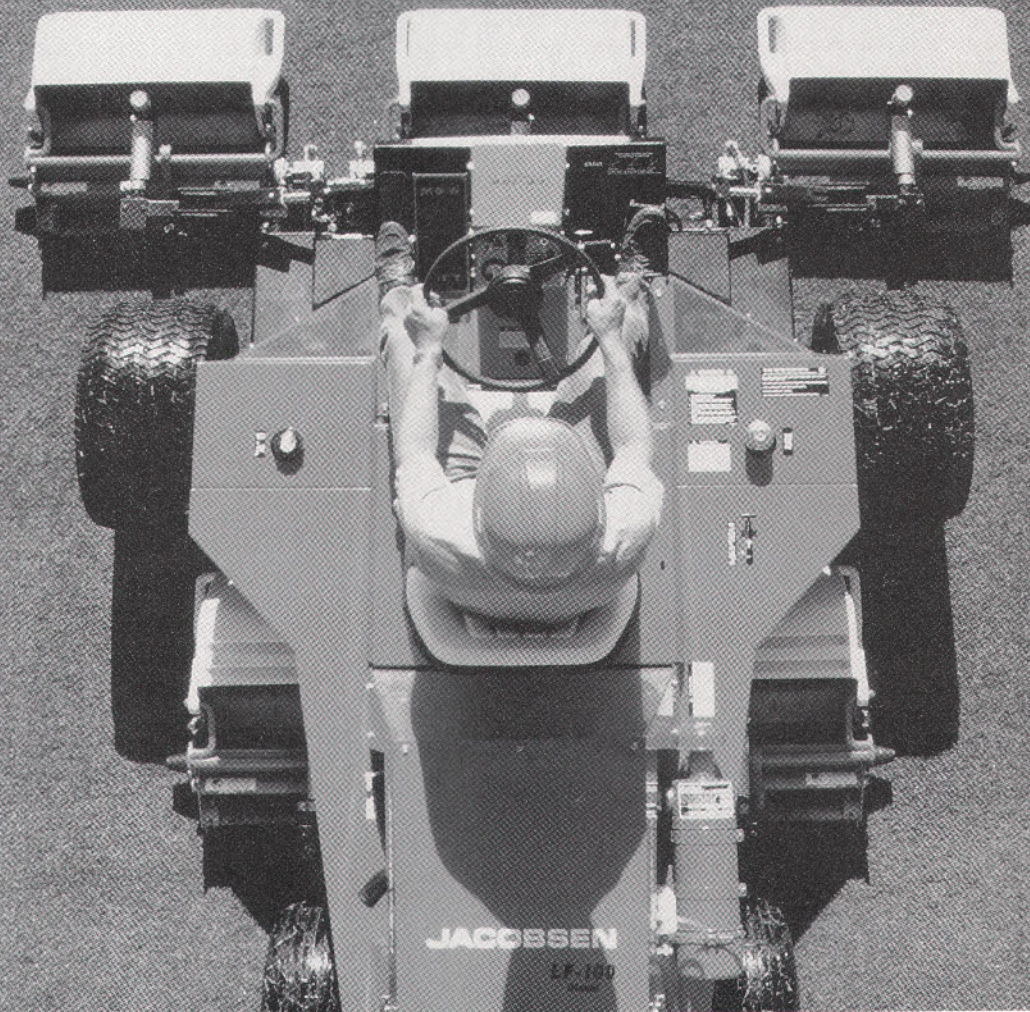
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REINDERS PRESENTS MAJOR DONATION TO NOER CENTER for TURFGRASS RESEARCH

Ed Devinger, Manager of the Turf Division of Reinders Brothers, used the occasion of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Winter Conference and Annual Meeting to present a check for \$5,425.00 to the O.J. NOER CENTER for TURFGRASS RESEARCH.

Reinders had a program in 1988 that was a partnership between them and their customers. They donated a given amount to the NOER CENTER for each case of Daconil 2787 purchased during the year. Ed has indicated that the program will be continued in 1989.

Devinger wishes to publicly acknowledge those who participated in Reinders' program. Below is an alphabetical listing of the program participants:



Ed Devinger presents WTA President Terry Kurth with a check for \$5,425.00. It was so large that Kurth couldn't hang onto it!

American Baptist Assembly
Auburn Bluffs Golf Course
Black Wolf Run Golf Course
Blackhawk Country Club
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Butte Des Morts Golf Club
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Cedar Springs Golf Course
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Hon-E-Kor Golf Club
Indian Lake Golf & Country Club
Ishnalla Country Club
KI Sawyer Air Force Base
Kenosha Country Club

Koshkonong Mounds Resort, Inc.
La Crosse Country Club
Lac La Belle Golf Club
Lake Arrowhead Golf Course
Lake Geneva Country Club
Lake Ripley Country Club
Lake Wisconsin Country Club
Lakeside Lawn Service
Ledgewood Country Club
Little River Country Club
City of Madison
Maple Birch Golf Course
Maple Bluff Country Club
Maple Valley Golf Club
Maplecrest Country Club
Mascoutin Country Club
Marquette Golf & Country Club
Maxwelton Braes Resort
Merrill Hills Country Club
Milwaukee County Parks
Monroe Country Club

Muskego Lakes Corp.
Mystery Hills Golf Club
Nakoma Golf Club
City of New Berlin
North Shore Golf Club - Menasha
North Shore Golf Club - Menominee,
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Oak Hills Country Club
Oconomowoc Golf Club
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Pinewood Country Club
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Rhinelander Country Club
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Ridgeway Country Club
Riveredge Country Club
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Riversbend Country Club
Riverside Country Club
Rock River Country Club
Royal Scot Country Club
St. John's Military Academy
Sandalwood Country Club
Scenic View Country Club
Sentry Insurance
Sheboygan Pine Hills Country Club
Sheboygan Town & Country Corp.
Silver Spring Country Club
South Hills Country Club - Franksville
City of Sparta
Stevens Point Country Club
Stoughton Country Club
Traceway Golf Club
Trout Lake Golf Course
Tuckaway Country Club
Tuscumbia Golf & Tennis
Tyranena Golf Course
Ville Du Parc Country Club
Walsh Golf Center
Wander Springs Golf Course
Watertown Country Club
Waukesha County Parks
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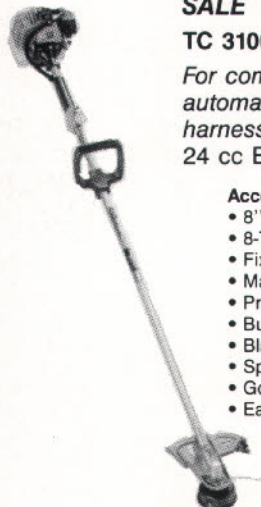
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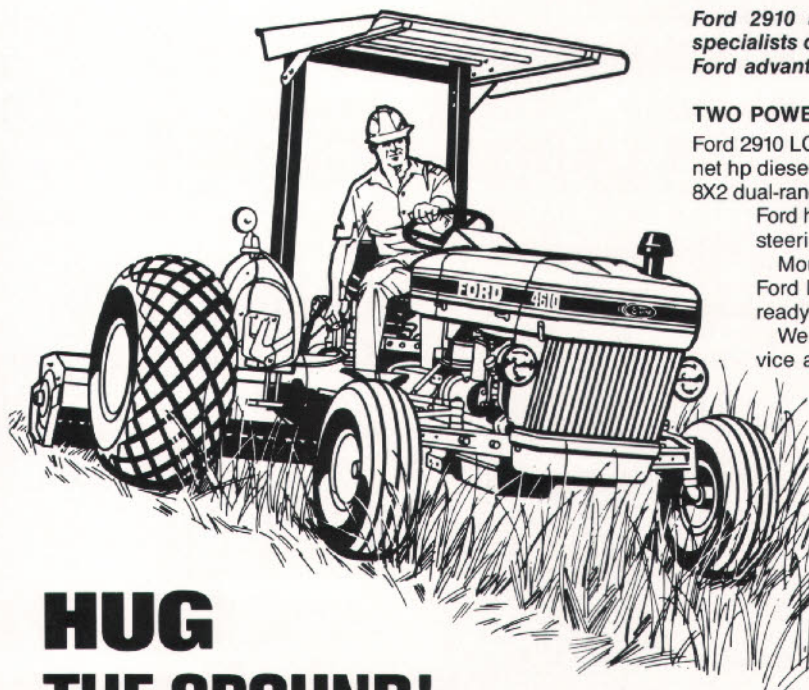
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EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

By Monroe S. Miller

If you decide to call UW faculty members Kussow, Worf, Newman or Koval at their offices anytime during the first half of March, you likely won't get an answer. They're all "on the road."

Late winter/early spring is conference time in Wisconsin, one of the surest signs that the golf season is just around the corner.

The first event, scheduled for March 8th and 9th, is the Reinders Turf & Irrigation Conference, Equipment Show and Service Clinic. A biennial conference, the Reinders show features professors Joe Vargas (MSU) and John Street (OSU) in addition to the UW faculty. They'll be joined by Ed Bergman (WOATCP), Kent Broyhill, Graham Curtis, John French, Fred Greening, Les Heinemann, Jim Linna, Elliot Maras, Bob Merner, Don Parker, Jerry Pepin, Ed Sprague and Bill Wise. The impressive roster of speakers is complemented by Wisconsin's largest indoor equipment show. It will convene,

as usual, at the Waukesha County Expo Center. If you haven't received a mailing, call Ed Devinger.

The week following the Reinders meeting includes the dates of 1989 UW Turfgrass Conferences. This year's theme, *LIVING WITH DROUGHT*, will be presented in Madison on March 14, Eau Claire on March 15 and in Appleton on March 16. The fee for any one of the three is \$13 and includes lunch.

Again, if details haven't reached you, contact Dr. Robert C. Newman, c/o Horticulture Department, UW-Madison, Madison, WI 53706.

Finally, the month is wrapped up with a PLANT NUTRITION AND FERTILIZERS seminar co-sponsored by the GCSAA and the WGCSA. It will be held in Milwaukee at the Holiday Inn-West on March 23-24. Call Carl Grassl at Bluemound Country Club or the GCSAA at 1-800-472-7878 for more information.

NOER Center Receives Major Donation From WGCA

The Wisconsin Golf Course Association took advantage of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Winter Turfgrass Conference to present the WTA with a three-year, \$15,000 pledge for the NOER CENTER. WGCSA members Red Roskopf and Dewey Laak were especially important in leading the WGCA to this significant commitment to turfgrass research.



Stephanie Jack presented Terry Kurth with a \$15,000 pledge to the NOER CENTER for Turfgrass Research.

Stephanie Jack, an officer of the WGCA and manager of the Chaska Golf Course in Appleton, made the presentation to WTA president Terry Kurth.

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