

Rain, Rain (Go Away?!)

By Monroe S. Miller

It was a singular event — one of the players at our club was grouching and griping, and I was loving it.

We've placed metal yardage tags on the Toro sprinkler heads on both sides of our fairways. It's been a great thing for members — we were generous in the number of heads labeled like this. It's also a great service provided by Paul Becker and the WGCSA; he measured all the yardage with his laser equipment.

Anyway, the member was grumbling that these 650 series heads were so grown over with grass that the yardage tags were, in some cases, obscured.

They were obscured, of course, from lack of use; water pressure from each head keeps it trimmed free of turf quite nicely.

And they weren't being used because we've been receiving such generous rainfall! Beautiful, timely, wonderful, cool rain. Green paint from the sky; green gold for golf courses. Grown-over sprinkler heads are an easy problem to deal with when you consider the alternatives we've had for the past two years.

In fact, I couldn't believe my ears at the May WGCSA meeting when I heard a colleague complaining about "all the damn rain." There's a true ingrate; if I'd had a shovel I would have smacked him along side of his head with it. I've vowed not to ever again cry about too much rain.

On the weekend before the meeting I had visited with my dad, and he remarked how some of the farmers in his area were carping about the rain. He couldn't believe it, either. We concluded that some people must have been put on this earth primarily to complain.

Griping about ample moisture is even more incredible when viewed with the fact that the year started out so dry and warm. In fact, the federal Climate Analysis Center reported that the first three months of the new decade represented the second warmest start for a year since they began keep-

ing such records way back in 1895. Only 1921 was warmer during the first three months of the year.

So as far as this golf course manager is concerned, it can keep on raining; you won't hear a peep from me. And this despite some disease problems Dr. Worf can tell you about.

A report, called the "Green Index", released this past spring by the Durham, North Carolina-based Institute for Southern Studies ranked Wisconsin sixth on an environmental scorecard of the 50 states.

The report examined 35 indicators of pollution, public health and environmental safety. As in so many other independent surveys, our state came out on or very near the top. These kinds of reports make the constant haranguing from the granola bar types ring a little hollow.

Wisconsin is doing quite well in the "environmental responsibility" department. So are her golf courses.

There's a new secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. He's Alan Tracy, a Janesville native. Tracy had been serving as Secretary Howard Richards' executive assistant.

He brings good experience to the job. In addition to his native son status and his two years at WDATCP, Tracy's managed a seed farm near Janesville, served as an associate administrator of Foreign Agriculture in the USDA, and was a deputy assistant secretary for commodity programs, also in the USDA.

Tracy has named Joseph Tregoning as his executive assistant. Tregoning was a dairy farmer until 1967 when he left farming and was elected to the Wisconsin legislature. He has served on the Wisconsin Assembly Agriculture Committee since his first election.

Imagine that — in this day and age, a secretary of agriculture who knows

something about agriculture. I think he is going to be a good choice. The same can be said for Tregoning. It is certain Tracy has a large pair of shoes to fill. Howard Richards, his predecessor, did a good job in managing the state agency that has so much influence on our profession. Richards knew a lot about Wisconsin agriculture.

The state of Wisconsin, in mid- and late-May, used insecticides as part of its program to control the gypsy moth problem on Lake Michigan's scenic Door County peninsula. These moths have a tremendous appetite for tree leaves. The legislature, via the joint finance committee, approved \$286,000 for insecticide applications in Door and Kewaunee counties. The money also will be used for WDATCP tests and surveys for the moth in other counties.

Like some other golf courses in the WGCSA, we've had gypsy moth traps on our course every year for quite a few years. We've never trapped a moth. This is one time I don't mind being shut out.

Let's all hope these efforts to control the gypsy moth invasion work. I'd hate to see them get the upper hand.

David Fearis is the golf course superintendent at the Blue Hills Country Club in Kansas City. Many WGCSA members know him from the GCSAA and its activities. Others may have met him at the Badger chapter CMAA turf management seminar he presented at West Bend Country Club this past spring.

I know David as the editor of *Heart Beat*, the newsletter of Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association. In the May issue of *Heart Beat*, he gave his members a preview of the 1991 GCSAA conference. He gave me permission to share it with *The Grass Roots'* readers.

So, some July or August evening when you are wondering if you or your

golf course can hang in there for another day, sit down and read what's ahead in six months.



1991 GCSAA Conference — A Preview

By Dave Fearis

On April 16 and 17, as a member of the GCSAA Education Committee, I visited Las Vegas — the site of the 1991 GCSAA International Conference and Show. This was my first visit to Las Vegas or "Lost Wages" as some call it. When the conference was there in 1984, I was working for Scotts. So, for you "veterans" who have frequented the slots, the tables, the shows, etc., many of my comments might be "old hat".

I might add that I am not much of a gambler. When I walked into the Riviera to check in, and then through the casino to my room, I was totally overwhelmed. I wasn't sure that I would like this atmosphere with all its glitter, glamor and fast pace. However, I soon adjusted and succumbed to the "clinking" of coins in the slot machines and the urge to win at the crap and blackjack tables. I'm ready to go back to Vegas February 6-13, 1991!

The first thing that I want to emphasize is that Las Vegas has exploded since your last visit in 1984. In 1984, Vegas was "giving away" items like room rates, meals, etc. Not so now, prices have risen, but all in all, Las Vegas is still a good bargain.

Airport

The airport has tripled in size since 1984. It still is a convenient airport as far as deplaning and retrieving your luggage. Security does check your luggage tickets, so don't lose them!

I noticed that Hertz, Avis and Dollar car rentals all have buses to pick you up at the airport. Their parking lots were very close. Alamo was a little further from the airport, but closer to town. "The Strip" is only 10-15 min-

utes from the airport, which translates into about a \$10 taxi fare.

Hotels

In Orlando, we had a lot of hotels with a small number of allotted rooms per hotel. In Vegas, GCSAA will have eight hotels with a large block of rooms in many of them. Before I describe the hotels, there is one very important point that needs to be emphasized. **Almost no hotels will allow Saturday check-in or check-out.** Vegas gets thousands and thousands of weekend gamblers. Therefore, if you don't have a room before Saturday, you're not going to get one until Monday morning — NO EXCEPTIONS!

All of the hotels, except the Las Vegas Hilton, are too far from the convention center to comfortably walk to. I stayed in the Riviera, which will be the headquarters hotel, and was in the casinos of the Mirage and Caesar's Palace. All the rest I was in a "drive by". I'll list them from most expensive in room rates to least expensive (rates are approximate).

Caesar's Palace: Allocated 400 rooms; \$105-\$115. If the rooms are anything like the entrance and the casino, they will be magnificent. A people mover (escalator) carries you at least 300 yards into the casino from the outside. When the Mirage was opened last year, Caesar's responded by spending \$1 million per suite on remodeling. Caesar's caters to the elite of Vegas.

The Mirage: 500 allocated rooms; \$95. I have never seen any hotel like it. After a construction cost of \$700 million, the Mirage opened last fall. There is a "forest" of specimen palm trees, costing on the average of \$5,000 per tree, greeting you as you enter the Mirage. The landscaping budget was in the \$2 million range. A volcano, located outside across from the lobby entrance, erupts every 15 minutes, starting at 7:30 p.m., weather permitting. Behind the registration desk is a huge aquarium with sharks swimming around in it. Also found in the Mirage complex is a large glass exhibit housing some white tigers.

Las Vegas Hilton: 500 allocated rooms; \$89. The only hotel within a short walk of the convention center. From the outside, it looks like a very attractive hotel.

Bally's: 1,000 allocated rooms; \$82. The 1984 headquarters hotel, formerly known as MGM Grand. Furthest from the convention center, but well recommended.

Flamingo Hilton: 500 allocated rooms; \$80. Like its counterpart, the Las Vegas Hilton, is attractive in appearance.

Holiday Inn: 300 allocated rooms; \$79. Described by one of the Education Committee members who stayed there in late February, "a much better quality Holiday Inn than most."

Riviera: 1,500 allocated rooms; \$72. Headquarters hotel; 15-20 minutes walking distance from the convention center. The Riviera has the world's largest casino, seven restaurants and everything else you can imagine. The rooms are spacious and clean.

Imperial Palace: 300 allocated rooms; \$55. The outside looks like a Chinese Imperial Palace. I heard some good and some bad comments about the quality of the rooms.

Food and Entertainment

You name it, Vegas has it! Let me just give you an example of what the Riviera has to offer. In restaurants, you could spend in the area of \$50-\$75 per person in Delmonico's for a fine French cuisine dinner, or \$2.50 for a Whopper at Burger King. The Riviera offers four shows. One called "Splash" has been voted the "best show in Las Vegas". It is a unique aquacade extravaganza costing \$22.50 per person, which includes two drinks. The other three shows cost \$9.95 per person, which also includes two drinks. A couple of us saw a show called "Crazy Girls — Fantasie de Paris". All I can say is that I have never seen 12 girls who are better looking and in better shape assembled in one place at any one time.

All the hotels offer excellent food and entertainment. The "big name" entertainers command big prices, so you might pay in the range of \$80-\$100 per person to see them. However, at the same time, you can see entertainers like Redd Foxx for \$14.95. There is a wide price range.

If you are a novice gambler, get a book explaining all the games before you go to Vegas. The best odds are craps, but it moves so fast and there are so many different bets that I found it intimidating. I played blackjack for about two hours and actually ended up winning the huge sum of \$20. One of the dealers was a golfer and was very friendly and helpful. Most of the blackjack tables at the main casinos are \$5 minimum bets. So, that's all I bet each hand. While I was playing blackjack, a gentleman sat down next to me, bought \$100 worth of chips and pro-

ceeded to bet \$50 per hand. He was gone in less than five minutes. While I was playing craps, some guy laid out at least \$5,000 in hundred-dollar-bills. I was gone in less than five minutes.

The slots are the worst odds. I noticed \$25, \$5, \$1, quarter and nickel slots. I made the initial mistake of playing the \$1 slots. I lost five dollars in a sneeze. So, the rest of the time, I played the quarter slots and did much better.

One last observation concerning Vegas. In my opinion, Vegas is adult entertainment and certainly not a place to bring your children.

Education

Now, let's get into the **real** purpose of my trip to Las Vegas — education. The first thing to note is that, normally, our conference starts on a Monday with seminars. The opening session is usually on a Thursday, with the trade show starting on Saturday. On the following Monday, the annual meeting and banquet are held. Well, in Las Vegas, everything starts a day later:

- February 6, Tuesday — Seminars in the Riviera
- February 7, Wednesday — Seminars in the Riviera
- February 8, Thursday — Seminars in the Riviera and Caesar's
- February 9, Friday — Seminars in the Riviera and Caesar's and opening session in the Riviera
- February 10, Saturday — Three educational sessions in the morning; three educational sessions in the afternoon; Distributor day for the show
- February 11, Sunday — Trade opens; no educational sessions
- February 12, Monday — Trade show continues; Golf Course Builders in the morning; Golf Course Architects in the afternoon; Major Speaker in the morning; Two Symposiums in the afternoon; Governmental Relations Forum; Computer Special Interest Group
- February 13, Tuesday — Trade show until 1 p.m.; USGA Green Section at 9 a.m.; Annual Meeting at the Convention Center; Banquet in the Riviera

The educational session themes will center on Golf Course Techniques I and II, which will include public golf topics, Southern Turf, Environmental Benefits of Golf Courses, Legal Aspects of Underground Storage Tanks and Labor on a Golf Course — hiring, firing, sources, etc. The USGA Green Section could center on public golf.

There is a 50/50 chance that Mr. William Reily, head of the EPA, could be the keynote speaker at the opening session.

Please note that all the seminars will be held in the Riviera or Caesar's. Both have excellent facilities. Also, note that the golf tournament will still be held on Monday, February 5 and on Tuesday, February 6.

Environmental Management Program (EMP)

This doesn't directly relate to the conference in Vegas, but you will be seeing this educational program strongly emphasized this year, so I thought that I would mention it. The EMP consists of five distinct specializations certificate programs — Integrated Pest Management, Employee Safety and Right to Know, Storage Disposal and Recycling, UST, and Water Quality and Application. A potential specialist will choose to complete one or more of the programs of study. The first programs to be implemented this year will be IPM and UST. Coursework for EMP will be conducted by whatever method is most efficient and effective for the given subject. Thus, it might be a correspondence course, videotape or a seminar. Obviously, there are a lot more details which pertain to this program. You certainly will get all these in the near future.



Gambling #1

There is a tremendous amount of behind-the-scenes work which takes place by the GCSAA staff in putting together the annual conference and show. For example, this 1991 Las Vegas site was booked clear back in 1984 when we were there before. "Booked" is the word to mention versus "contract". Because of our size, there are only six to seven cities large enough to accommodate us. Thus, there are numerous other conventions competing for dates and sites. The amazing

fact is that because of legalities and other circumstances, the actual contract for the 1991 conference and show was not signed until the afternoon of April 17, 1990. Las Vegas cares about one thing — gambling. It could care less about educational conferences, especially if they are in town on the weekends. So, the Las Vegas Convention Bureau has been giving the GCSAA staff fits. They don't like you there on the weekends; there is another convention sharing the center when we are there; construction at the center is scheduled to be going on while we are there, etc. All these factors contributed to our conference being moved back a day.

Convention Center

A spacious one million square-foot facility. You ask if it is so big, why are they going to be under construction? The reason being is that the rotunda area is obsolete and will be converted into more exhibit space. This is why we will not have any seminars in the convention center. The construction will affect the area where the seminars would have been held. However, the educational sessions are in a different part of the center and will not be affected by the construction. We will be sharing the exhibit space with another convention — the Divers' Convention. They come every year to Vegas. Thus, our total exhibit space will be approximately 10,000 square feet less than that in Orlando.

Spouse Program

Tentative, as is all the information presented thus far, but subjects like "How to Gamble", "Behind the Scenes of a Las Vegas Show" (I want to see that one), and tours to Hoover Dam are being planned. Watch out, guys, because I saw a shopping mall on "The Strip" with Saks Fifth Avenue, Nieman Marcus and Dillards — \$\$\$\$\$.

Shuttle Buses

Shuttle buses will run every 15 minutes between the various hotels (Imperial Palace will board at the Holiday Inn). However, because of the large number of persons staying at hotels like the Riviera and Bally's, buses will run direct from these hotels to the convention center.

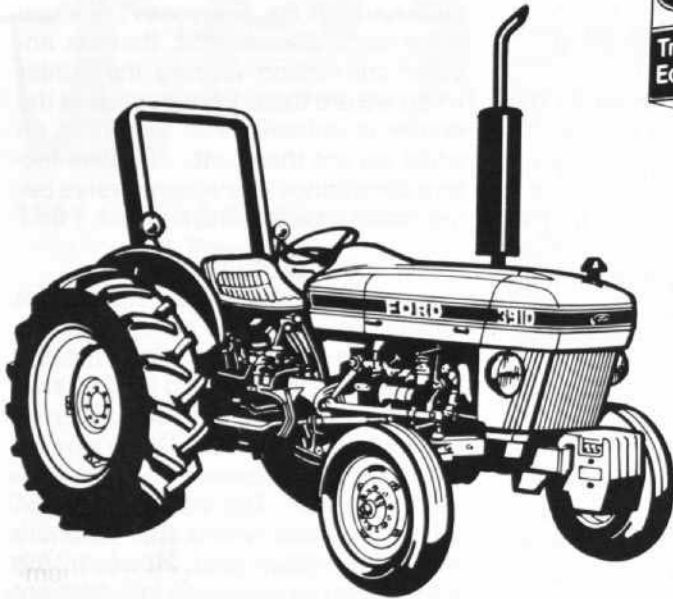
Although it might sound like a real mess right now, I can assure you that the 1991 GCSAA International Conference and Show will be a great success. Why? Because of the hard work and dedication of the GCSAA staff.

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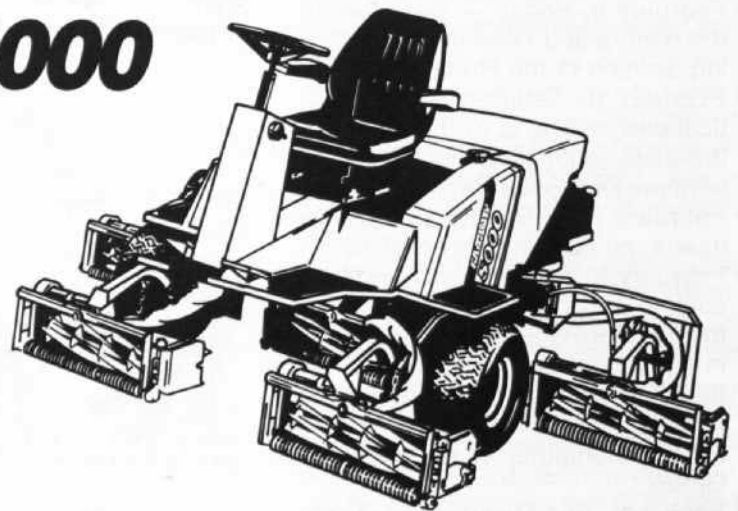
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Golf Course Operations Must Supply Information About Hazardous Chemicals

By Michael Semler

AUTHOR'S NOTE: "This is not legal advice. Lawyers are not writing this column. If you want specific opinion(s) about your own operation, contact your club or golf course legal counsel."

Community right-to-know laws, which are designed to protect communities from chemical hazards in the event of emergencies such as fire, flood or spills, involve a complex network of legislation and regulation at the federal and state levels. The next couple of columns deal with these laws, rules and regulations. The first, which appears below, deals with the federal level; in the next issue we'll examine Wisconsin-specific requirements.

REMEMBER: If you have questions involving your own situation, contact your organization's lawyer.

The following information comes from the GCSAA.

— Michael Semler

Congress recently approved the largest appropriation to date — \$27 million for fiscal 1990 — for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to implement the federal right-to-know act, specifically to encourage local emergency planning. Congress also has ordered the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to prepare, by March 31, a study on the major threats facing communities and local emergency management coordinators.

In 1986, the U.S. Congress enacted the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) as a response to growing concerns about the effects of chemical releases on communities. The act (1) supports emergency planning efforts at the state and local levels, (2) provides citizens and local governments with information concerning potential chemical hazards present in their communities and (3) establishes enforcement procedures and civil, administrative and criminal penalties for non-compliance.

Subtitle A establishes the framework for emergency planning by state and local governments by calling for the creation of state emergency re-

sponse commissions and local emergency planning committees. These local panels are designed to work on emergency response plans in cooperation with representatives of facilities — including golf courses — covered by the law.

Subtitle B, which was designed to provide information to appropriate local, state and federal officials on the type, amount, location, use, disposal and release of chemicals, includes three reporting provisions:

Section 311 applies to all facilities, such as golf courses, that are subject to the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and subsequent OSHA regulations. The owner or operator of a golf facility must submit material safety data sheets (MSDSs) or a list of the chemicals for which the facility is required to keep MSDSs to state emergency response commissions and local emergency planning committees and fire departments.

Updates are due within three months after OSHA regulations require the owner/operator to prepare or have available an MSDS for a specific hazardous chemical. A revised MSDS must be submitted for significant new

information regarding a chemical for which an MSDS was previously submitted.

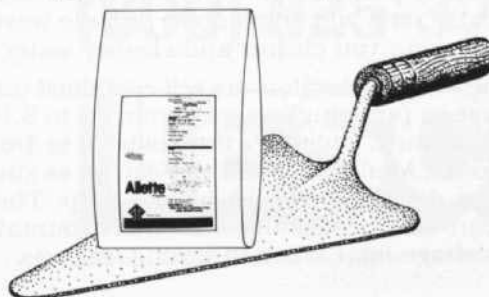
Also under Section 311, EPA can establish threshold quantities for hazardous chemicals, so that no reporting is required if a facility has a below-threshold amount of a hazardous chemical.

Section 312 requires facilities covered by Section 311 to submit a chemical inventory form annually by March 1. The inventory forms must contain an estimate of the maximum amount of the hazardous chemicals present at the facility during the preceding year, an estimate of the average daily amount of hazardous chemicals at the facility and the location of these chemicals at the facility.

Section 312 calls for two reporting "tiers." Tier I requires only general information on the amount and location of hazardous chemicals at the facility. Tier II information, which need not be submitted unless requested by the state commission or the local planning committee or fire department, requires more detailed information about each chemical.

Section 313 requires EPA to establish an inventory of toxic chemical

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emissions from facilities that meet certain criteria. The information will be used to establish a computerized national database accessible by the general public.

Under Section 313, owners and operators of certain facilities must complete a toxic chemical release form for specified chemicals, reflecting releases during the preceding calendar year, to be submitted to EPA and state officials annually on or before July 1.

Facilities that use more than 10,000 pounds of a single listed toxic chemical or that manufacture or process more than 25,000 pounds total of any of the listed chemicals must submit toxic chemical release forms. These forms request information on the maximum amount present at the location; treatment and disposal methods; and annual quantity released into the environment for each listed chemical or chemical category.

The initial list of toxic chemicals subject to reporting requirements consists

of 329 entries, including 20 categories of chemicals. EPA's administrator may add or delete chemicals on the list based upon an agency determination of health or environmental hazards. State governors and the public may petition the administrator to add to or delete from the list.

Title III of EPCRA outlines trade secret protection and enforcement procedures:

Section 322 applies to trade secret claims under reporting requirements for emergency planning and Sections 311, 312 and 313. Even if specific chemical identity of an extremely hazardous substance or chemical is allowed to be withheld as a trade secret, the generic class or category of the chemical must be provided.

Section 323 requires that chemical information withheld from the public as a trade secret must be made available to health professionals for diagnostic purposes and emergency assessment activities. In these cases, the person

receiving the information must be willing to sign a confidentiality agreement with the facility.

Section 325 provides for enforcement procedures and penalties as follows:

*civil penalties for owner/operators not complying with emergency planning requirements

*civil, administrative and criminal penalties for owner/operators not complying with emergency notification requirements following the release of a listed hazardous substance

*civil and administrative penalties for owner/operators not complying with reporting requirements in Sections 311, 312 and 313

*civil and administrative penalties for trade secret claims that are ruled frivolous

*criminal penalties for disclosure of trade secret information.

See your attorney for specifics on how this law affects your golf course.

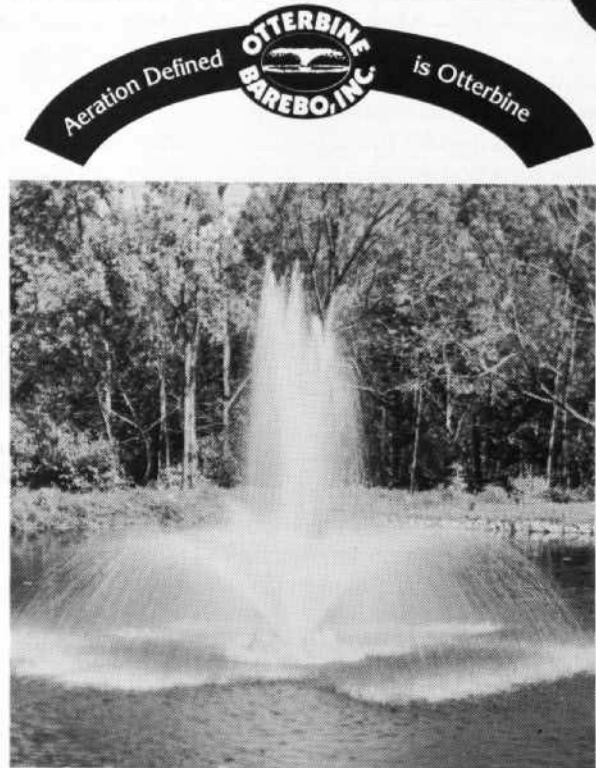
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ENVIRONMENTALISTS

By Mike Vogt

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mike Vogt is the golf course superintendent at the Illini Country Club in Springfield, Illinois. He is the current president of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation.

Mike's activities in professional associations are considerable. He is past president of the Central Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association and is the long time and successful editor of their association journal, "The Ballmark". Mike has served on numerous GCSAA committees. In his free time you'll find him wind surfing on some lake, working on one of his BMWs or off to some far land for a downhill ski trip.

This article appeared in the May/June 1990, Vol. 10, No. 2 issue of "Illinois Turfgrass Update". It is reprinted here with Mike's permission. Curt Larson drew my attention to it.

Have you considered just how fast the laws of our land are changing? Perhaps you do keep pace with new laws and the effects they will have on our livelihood. The newly-passed federal clean air act moved through Congress like a steamroller. There are not many politicians in their right mind that will vote against an environmental bill. Don't get me wrong. I am for a clean and healthy environment, but it seems to me we are now at the mercy of what I call "ENVIRONMENTALISTS." Webster's dictionary does not have a

definition for this group of people, so let me try to give you my best shot at a definition.

en•vi•ron•mo•tion•al•ist (en-vi-ron-mo-shan'-al'-ist) *n.* 1. A person who seeks to protect the environment without being informed of the facts. 2. A person running for public office that uses environmental issues to give the illusion that he or she will save the world for future generations. 3. Those in the news media that always report bad news and half truths for the purpose of increasing public fear of the unknown.

I guess if given a couple more pages I could further elaborate, but by now I'm sure you get my meaning. This knee-jerk group will, if left uneducated, make fine turf, as we know it, something for only the super rich (new compliance laws are very costly). I can see it now, Robin Leach explores fine turf on "LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS." Robin comes on the screen surrounded by fairway-type turf. He opens the show saying, "Once every man's dream, a beautiful lawn is now only available to the super rich. We will now whisk you away and dedicate the whole show this evening for visiting the top turf in the U.S.A."

By now I must sound like I am leaning on the panic button, calling for every able-bodied Turf Person to mobilize on their riding mowers. As soon as the Right-to-Life (anti-abortionist) and the

Pro-choice groups get off the steps of the capitol we can...wait a minute, wait a minute. There is already a major effort to inform, educate, and affect the lawmaking process. Below is a list of groups that already have begun, or will begin shortly, working with lawmakers on the issues that are important to us:

- Central Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association
- Chicago District Golf Association
- Illinois Turfgrass Foundation
- Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association
- Illinois Coalition of Responsible Pesticide Users
- Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents
- Professional Lawn Care Association of America

This list is not complete, but it's like the commercial for joining the Army, "it's a great place to start." Now, more than ever, we need YOUR involvement in YOUR profession. If laws are passed taking fine turf away from all but the wealthy, at least we can say we went down swinging as a group.

In closing this message, I'm sure you're all aware of the elections this fall. Many issues are being discussed in the political arena. The number one issue is the **environment**. Why, it's such a good-guy thing to be for. Think about it, at least the number two issue (and a very touchy one at that), abortion, has some politicians polarized.

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INFORMATION, PLEASE

By James M. Latham, Director
Great Lakes Region
USGA Green Section



American golf courses are better than ever and I can prove it. If not, why does our office get more inquiries about sand bunkers and bunker sands than anything other than new construction. It seems paradoxical that course conditions can remain high when maintenance programs continue to be hampered by pressure to reduce the use of pesticides, fertilizers and water. Evidently, golf course superintendents have responded to the pressures by working smarter than ever with the high quality products which are available.

The pressures are not going to let up, though. Pesticide posting laws are in force in some states now and some versions will follow in others. There are other potential legalities regarding pesticides which could hamper our means of communication with golfers. A recent GAO publication evaluating EPA performance listed the things that lawn service operators **CANNOT** say about the products they apply to lawns:

- Any statement implying that a pesticide is recommended or endorsed by any Federal Agency.
- A true statement used in such a way that is false or may mislead a customer.
- Claims about the safety of a pesticide or its ingredients such as 'safe', 'nonpoisonous', 'harmless' or 'nontoxic' to humans or pets, **with** or **without** phrase "when used as directed."
- Non-numerical or comparative statements on product safety, such as 'contains all natural ingredients', 'among the least toxic chemicals known' and 'pollution approved.'
- "Approved by" any federal agency.
- 'Low in Toxicity', 'will not harm beneficial insects', 'no health hazard' or 'ecologically compatible'.

Just remember that EPA considers no pesticide safe since all of them are supposed to kill or adversely affect the growth of something.

To follow these guidelines, how would you answer Mr. and Mrs. Golfer when they ask if the stuff being

sprayed by the Man From Mars is safe? What will they do when you hand them a label or MSDS and stand mute? Will this satisfy their Right to Know?

We have some information on this through the publications by Watschke, Petrovic and Cohen, but we still do not have the whole story. For example, we don't know what becomes of pesticides after they are applied to turf and run their course of action. What are the products of their decomposition in soils? In sands? Under aerobic or anaerobic conditions and at what pH? Several years ago when Milwaukee began applying a digested sludge to farmland a consulting engineer subjected some of the treated soil to delicate testing for nonmetallic compounds. He found none of the toxic organics he anticipated, but did see the presence of some "unidentified compounds" which **might be harmful**. The bottom line was a recommendation that application be suspended until further tests were conducted to identify the material and determine its toxicity. Of course, **he** would do the testing (at a tidy fee) for a few years.

Charlatans abound whenever an emotional issue arises which deals with unknown, potentially hazardous materials. These folks are usually better speakers and writers than knowledgeable scientists and do not have to prove anything. When faced with data from University research, they simply say that it is tainted by the influence of the anti-environmental agrichemical combine. Period.

To cope with this kind of reaction and to provide factual information for those truly interested in environmental issues, the USGA Executive Committee has charged the Research Committee, now headed by Dr. Mike Kenna, with another national-level research program. The three-year project will develop information to help us.

- Understand the effect of turfgrass pest management and fertilization on water quality and the environment,
- Evaluate alternative pest control

measures in Integrated Turf Management Systems, and

- Determine the human, biological and environmental factors that golf courses influence.

The proposed budget for 1991 is almost a million dollars, with similar amounts planned for 1992 and 1993.

The intriguing thing about this project is that it seeks the unvarnished truth. If our present practices are faulty, golf will have to clean up its act; if not, we will have full confidence in any statement we make to Mr. and Mrs. Golfer or anyone else. In addition to information gathering, a manual will be developed by USGA and GCSAA staffs to provide consistent information on integrated turfgrass management practices that ensure environmental quality, to be updated as field tested research results become available. The program is not meant to cast doubt on recent research efforts, but rather to expand the scope of research and involve all areas of the country.

In the meantime, how are we to cope with accumulated grass clippings, tree trimmings and the like? Will manure spreaders (for clipping dispersal in roughs) become standard equipment on golf courses?

Now that mudholes and swamps have been upgraded to protected wetlands, what shall we call the mosquitos?

We will need more and more information to stay current with questions already asked and those which are to come. It comes from research programs on state, regional **and** national levels which must be supported by **all** individuals in golf as well as organizations.

Local-level research is necessary to help us cope with problems unique to specific areas as well as those which can be useful to a general audience. These programs need and deserve the support of golf and golf course superintendents associations within their sphere of influence. National level funding is more difficult since we expect some sugar daddy to kick in

enough for all of us. Perhaps this is the time for everyone to become involved on a more personal basis.

The USGA Associates Program is a way to support this research as well as other programs benefitting golf. Membership is affordable to anyone, beginning at only \$25. The Associates are for everyone in golf, superintendents, agronomists, sales people and researchers as well as golfers. After all, our livelihood depends on the viability of golf as an industry. The alternative is akin to those good ole days of weed pickers in bib overalls or something equally depressing.

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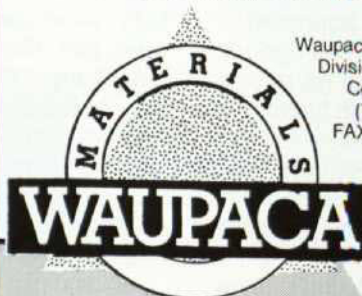
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