



MID-TERMS

By Monroe S. Miller

Taking "The Wisconsin Golf Course Quiz" is a no-lose proposition: if you do well you can brag to your colleagues and friends; if you do poorly you can simply deny having ever subjected yourself to such silliness!

One thing is certain: the quiz isn't getting any easier. In fact, you may want to take this exam in the closet, lest someone see you!

Good luck on the mid-winter quiz.

1. What common turfgrass disease was first seen and reported in Wisconsin?

2. What is Wisconsin's northernmost golf course?

3. What was O.J. Noer's nationality?

4. Which organization is the oldest — the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Wisconsin PGA or the Badger chapter of the CMAA?

5. Have both a father and his son ever served as president of the WGCSA?

ANSWERS

1. Melting-out of Kentucky bluegrass was first reported in 1919 when the disease was observed around Madison. Considered a minor problem at first, Drechsler (*Helminthosporium vagans* melting-out) has since been recognized as one of the more important turfgrass diseases in the cool, humid areas of North America and Europe.

2. Madeline Island Golf Links, La Pointe. The course was designed by Wisconsin-Madison.

3. Norwegian.

4. The Wisconsin section of the PGA, according to their executive director Tony Coleman, was founded in 1921. The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association was founded in 1930. The CMAA's Badger chapter was organized April 6, 1952.

5. Yes. This unique situation has happened twice in our history. Frank Kress served as president in 1950 and 1951; Allen Kress presided in 1963. In 1958 and 1959 Frank Musbach was our president. His son Bob was WGCSA president in 1970.

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NOER CENTER NEWS



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ory of J. Cannestra)
Bay Ridge Golf Course

The 1990 Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Winter Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show, held on January 9th and 10th was used as a setting for some very generous additions to the NOER CENTER coffers.

Ed Devinger presented the UWF with a personal check for \$175, the result of a program he initiated a year ago and that was promoted by Rod Johnson. Then, in his role as Turf Division Manager for Reinders Brothers, he presented the UW Foundation the proceeds from a company promotion, a handsome gift of \$4,290!

"Reinders Brothers, Inc. is pleased to donate to the O.J. NOER Center for TURFGRASS RESEARCH again in 1989 from the sales of Daconil products," Devinger said. "We gratefully acknowledge the following customers who purchased Daconil during 1989 and have made this donation possible:"

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 Watertown Country Club
 Waukesha Country Park/Planning
 Westhaven Golf Club
 Westmoor Country Club
 Wisconsin River Country Club
 Woodland Golf
 Woodside Inc.

WTA director Bill Vogel had a similar promotion with a Spring Valley Product and that program contributed \$1,495.50 to the NOER project.

The new president of the Wisconsin

Golf Course Superintendents Association, Rod Johnson, took great pride in adding \$2,372.22 to the UWF for the NOER CENTER. That amount represented the income over expense for the operation of *The GRASS ROOTS* in 1989.

New WTA president Red Roskopf, representing the Wisconsin Golf Course Association, formally presented his group's second payment (\$2,000) on their \$15,000 pledge.

KERSHASKY TO HOST '90 GOLF OUTING

The 1990 Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Golf Outing will be held at Westmoor Country Club on October 9, 1990. Jerry Kershasky and Bill Vogel are handling the arrangements and have promised a premier event.



Red Roskopf added \$2,000 to the WGCA pledge to the NOER CENTER.



Ed Devinger presented a check to the NOER CENTER from Reinders and one from his own pocket.



The WGCSA president was pleased to give the WTA president over \$2,200 for the UWF from the WGCSA's *The GRASS ROOTS*!



WTA President Terry Kurth accepted Spring Valley's promotion proceeds from Bill Vogel.



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OLDS



Fungicide Use Patterns on Golf Courses — How Much Are We Using?

By Dr. Gayle L. Worf
Department of Plant Pathology
University of Wisconsin-Madison

I recently attended a two day workshop dealing with the concern for preventing possible buildup of resistant fungi to the sterol inhibitor fungicides in turf diseases before it happens. Uses of such products as Banner, Bayleton and Rubigan are increasing rapidly, and several new and somewhat different compounds with the same mode of action are due to appear within the next 18 months.

Both the concern over potential resistance and the emerging new fungicides are important topics which we'll discuss at a future time. I really became intrigued by several incidental conversations that emerged, however, and one of them was the amount of fungicides we are using today on the nation's golf courses! No one knows how much that is, but in this day and age, it's a question that is going to surface, and I'm wondering whether we ought to set about finding an answer before we are asked!

The chemical industry has a pretty good perception of what is going on. But there is no organized system to accumulate such information, and in fact the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) precludes their being asked such a question. It's regarded as "privileged information". That same question is being asked for all pesticides on all food crops today, and if you have a chance to read the details of the new farm bill, you'll likely see plans and budget that will solicit such information from production agriculture.

On what crops in the U.S. would you expect the greatest use of fungicides to be? How about potatoes? Or maybe apples or tomatoes? Well, on a worldwide basis, it is cereal crops, mostly wheat, which is produced under very intensive management in Europe. Regarding pesticide use as a whole, it is probably corn first, then soybeans — and this is primarily herbicide use. Cereal crop fungicide use is in third place among all pesticides.

But according to "closet comments", fungicide use on turf ranks first among all crops in the United States!

I hope you will treat that statement as "privileged information", too, something not to be bandied about loosely. My perception is that it's both good and bad at the same time. Their rapidly increasing use is a recognition of the important role they play today in providing and assuring quality turf. It also increases our chances substantially in encouraging the Chemical Industry to devote more attention to the needs of the Turf Industry. I believe this has been happening, and that's why we can expect some more useful chemical tools to assist us with our jobs.

But there's the economic issue to be considered. What has your own fungicide bill been lately? Some superintendents tell me it has doubled over the last few years, in some cases considerably more. The biggest reason for that in Wisconsin is our increased attention to quality fairways, and our recognition that quality Poa can be grown and maintained under intense management, including fungicide use. Warmer summers and more Pythium and Rhizoctonia have also had their impact.

Environmental and human health issues probably are even greater concerns that we are going to be required to have answers for. Not that we are causing problems with our use, but can we convince others of that? I'm told that a Congressional Hearing is scheduled sometime this spring relating to pesticide use on turf (same hallway source of information!). And the Environmental Protection Agency has announced a pilot project dealing with IPM on golf courses. I've tried to follow up on that announcement, and my information says that is likely to occur in or around Maryland.

Should we be gathering information now — before anticipated headlines — that support our contention

that golfers are still healthy after playing Wisconsin's courses? Should we be voluntarily posting our courses when they are treated? Can we obtain reliable information telling us about "dischargeable residues" that remain on the grass blades after spraying?

Should we also be gathering some data regarding Wisconsin pesticide use on our golf courses? If so, how would we do it, and how should the information be used?

Is it possible that we are using more fungicides than we really have to? What can be done about doing a better job about diagnosing the problems we see, and predicting disease outbreaks? We don't have really good tools to do either of these right now. You might keep your ears open to a bill being introduced in Wisconsin's legislature this month having to do with efforts to increase IPM research and use. Perhaps there's something in that for golf courses.

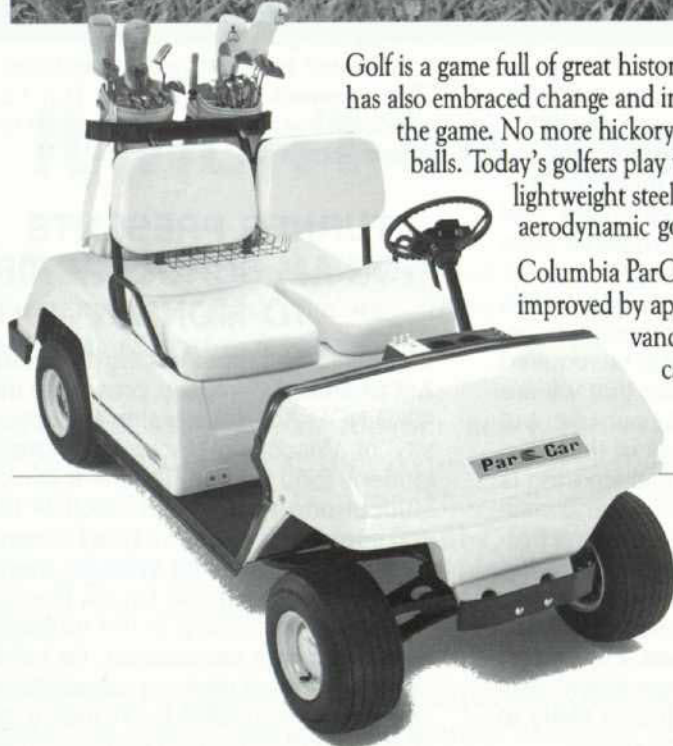
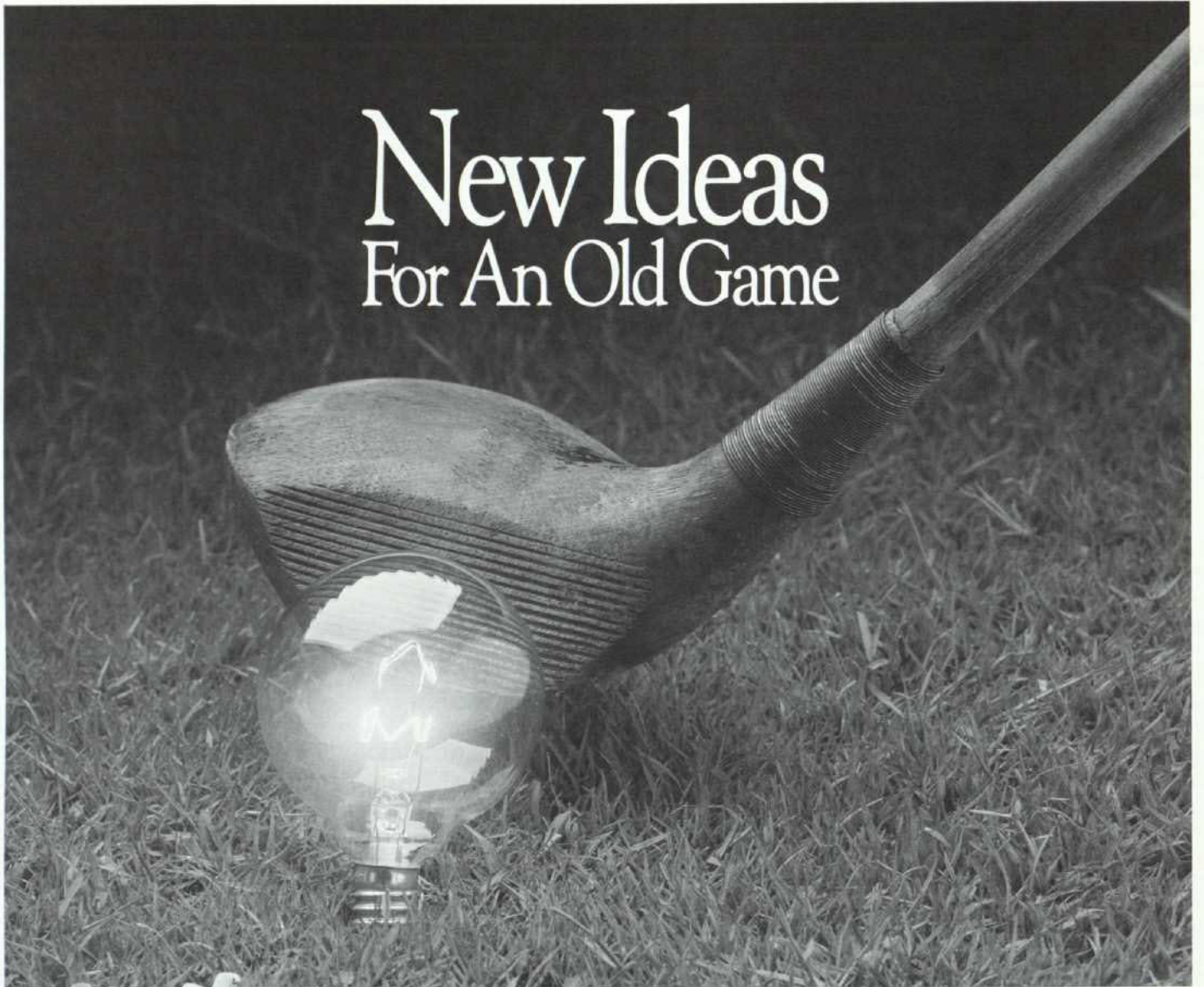
It's easy to raise these questions. The answers come harder. But I'd welcome any comments you wish to share with me!

TURNER PRESENTS NOR-AM SCHOLARSHIP TO MONGE

John Turner, representing the NOR-AM Chemical Company, presented the 1989 NOR-AM Scholarship to University of Wisconsin-Madison turfgrass student Todd Monge. Todd is a senior student and has gained much of his golf course experience at the Nakoma Golf Club, working for WGCSA members Randy Smith and Chuck Frazier.

Turner's leadership in the turfgrass industry is well established; he holds several offices in midwest associations. He is also responsible for including the University of Wisconsin in the scholarship program sponsored by NOR-AM today and earlier by TUCO Division of Upjohn.

New Ideas For An Old Game



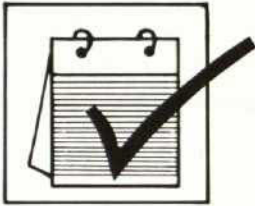
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WHO DECIDES ON GREEN SPEED?

By Monroe S. Miller

Although somewhat less fervent than a few years ago, green speed is still a favorite topic of conversation among golfers, at green committee meetings and among golf course superintendents. Green speed (or the lack of it) has fostered the reputation of some superintendents ("His greens are really slick") and caused the downfall of some others ("He lost half his greens last summer — cut them too close.")

It's an important subject since half the game's scoring (ideally) is done on the putting greens. They usually are the most important features on a golf course and, after a round of golf, commonly spark the most comments from players. Speed is one of the important components of a putting green, probably the single most important trait. Arguments swirl around the discussions about what the speed should be.

So, it seemed natural to ask a simple question of a random group of Wisconsin golf course superintendents: "Who determines the speed of the greens of your golf course — 1) the players, 2) the green committee/green committee chairman or 3) you (course superintendent)?"

Bob Erdahl and I put the question to 44 of the golf course superintendents who attended the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Winter Turfgrass Con-

ference in early January. The WTA program, curiously, included an excellent lecture by Dr. Don White (University of Minnesota turfgrass faculty member) entitled "ULTRA FAST GREENS — THE PRICE YOU PAY".

Here is how the question "who determines the speed of the greens on your golf course?" was answered:

1. Players — 0
2. Green Committee/Green Committee Chairman — 12
3. Golf Course Superintendent — 32

Are you as surprised by the results as I am? It's worth reporting that many superintendents added that they set green speed themselves, but in response to player wishes, demands, whining and complaints. Hindsight tells me to interpret those remarks to mean we could have worded the question better or asked only the question without offering any answers.

Regardless of any of that, I think one can safely conclude that we do have a lot to say about how fast our greens are. In turn, it follows we should pay a lot of attention to Dr. White's advice given on January 10th on the risks we run trying to provide ultra fast greens (stimpmeter reading of 9.0' or more) on a daily basis.

This is another article for another day.

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