



USGA Environmental Study May Force Changes. Superintendents Can Handle It. *But What About Golfers?*

By Rob Schultz

When the United States Golf Association announces the results of its \$5.4 million research study in a few years, it doesn't expect golf course superintendents to howl at any changes that may have to be made. But getting golfers to react as positively as the superintendents may be a different story.

The USGA has directed \$3 million of that \$5.4 million research study toward an evaluation of how fertilizers and pesticides affect the environment. One possible result of that research may force superintendents to create more natural landscapes — or areas of brown, an ugly color to golfers who demand that their courses stay green.

"Part of the whole effort will be to get golfers to consider that you don't have to have everything perfect every day of every year," said Jim Snow, the national director of the USGA Green Section and chairman of the Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee. "There may be a few brown spots and some things let go to add natural landscape. It might be just as nice or as acceptable as what we've got now."

Snow admitted that convincing golfers that change is good may be one of the more difficult aspects once the study is finished. And he agreed that superintendents should be left alone to do the convincing.

"Some superintendents already agree that some of things they have to do are ridiculous. But that's what people want and pay for and if the superintendent disagrees, they're fired," Snow said. "So it's going to take an effort on the part of the USGA and many others to convince them."

"As we find out more, and if there are problems that need to be fixed, then

the more critical it will be for us to sell the alternative to the golfers."

At the moment, the study is in its infant stage. The USGA's initial announcement didn't occur until last June at the U.S. Open at Medinah Country Club. C. Grant Spaeth, the USGA's president, said the work will be done by land grant universities throughout the country. And besides examining the fertilizer and pesticide questions, Spaeth said the study will also be geared toward the development of alternative and non-chemical methods of pest control and the influence of golf courses on people and wildlife.

Snow said the USGA received 83 proposals from universities. (The University of Wisconsin did not make a proposal.) That number has since been whittled to 22. Final decisions concerning which schools will take part in the study will be made in December. Work will then begin shortly thereafter. But don't expect immediate results.

"We'll try to update information yearly," said Snow. "But it will take two to three years to finalize the work and publish the information. If we find there are definite problems, then we'll have another set of research programs to investigate the alternatives."

Snow said the completion of the study won't put to an end, once and for all, where golf courses stand in terms of the environment.

"It won't put it to rest, I can pretty much guarantee that, because no matter what is found there will be people who won't believe it," he said. "And there probably will be cases, even though we'll have all this work done at several universities located at all the

climatic regions of the country, where certain materials will always be a potential threat. You'll always hear that 'This site is different than the one that was tested.'"

The USGA fully expects some environmentalists to complain that this was a study funded by a golf association. Thus, it will be one-sided toward golf. To combat such accusations, Snow said the study will include a representative from the Environmental Protection Association, the Audubon Society and other environmental groups.

"In the end, I think the study will give us a lot more information than we have now and it will put an end to some of the concerns, but probably not all of them," Snow said.

Snow wasn't sure what kind of problems the study might find.

"What we know already is that in many situations, fertilizers and pesticides won't be a pollution problem due to the nature of the soils and the particulars of the situation," Snow said. "But in some sensitive areas or where there's a potential for runoff in some unusual conditions, you might find some runoff or leaching through sandy soil and into groundwater supplies."

Nevertheless, Snow didn't want to jump to any conclusions. That rubs against the grain of what this study is all about.

"We're going into this research program with an open mind," said Snow. "Whatever we find, we find. And we'll react to whatever we find."

The superintendents, meanwhile, can rest assured that the USGA will back them any way it can to help implement any of those changes that may have to be made.

WISCONSIN TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION
GOLF OUTING — OCTOBER 9, 1990
Westmoor Country Club

(Continued from front page)

explore stress on bentgrass greens, tees and fairways. Exploring current maintenance techniques used in different situations by superintendents may help turn some wheels.

The speakers include:

Kevin Dushane — Bloomfield Hills C.C.
Bill Whitley — Chicago Golf Club
Gary Grigg — Shadow Glen C.C.
Dr. Joe Duich — Penn State University
Tom Mascaro
Joel Jackson — Isleworth Golf and Country Club
Bob Vavrek — USGA agronomist
Jim Latham — USGA regional director

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Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium Anniversary Speaker Roster 1966-1990

This listing of the speakers featured on the programs of the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium over the past twenty-five years reads like a "Who's Who" of the turfgrass industry in America. These people have, in fact, made the symposium the singular, well respected educational event it has been for twenty-five years.

Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium Speakers from 1966-1990

Agnew, Dr. Michael — 1987	Jackson, Joel — 1990	Ranney, Frank — 1966
Allis, John W. — 1975	Jackson, Dr. Noel — 1984	Raynor, Gordon V. — 1972
Anderson, Arthur E. — 1968	Johns, James L. — 1975	Record, Lee — 1970, 1971, 1973
Auxer, Guy — 1989	Jones, Robert Trent — 1975	Rewinski, Thomas W. — 1978
Beard, Dr. James B. — 1966, 1973, 1979, 1981, 1986	Kaerwer, Howard — 1982	Rieke, Dr. Paul — 1970
Bengeyfield, William H. — 1967	Kane, Dr. Randy — 1986	Riley, Edward J. — 1968
Boatwright, P.J. — 1977	Karnok, Dr. Keith — 1982	Rulewich, Roger — 1987
Boegel, Bruce — 1985	Keen, Dr. Ray A. — 1972	Sargent, Harold — 1978
Brooks, James R. — 1982	Kerr, Cecil — 1968	Sartoretto, Dr. Paul A. — 1968
Buchanan, Billy — 1985	Kienert, Mark — 1988	Scheer, Dennis — 1987
Burdick, William — 1976	Killian, Kenneth — 1969	Schwartzkopf, Carl — 1973, 1975, 1978, 1979
Burgan, Hobart T. — 1977	Kirkpatrick, Dr. Donald — 1971	Sell, William T. — 1966
Burns, Robert J. — 1972	Koutsky, Dr. Karl D. — 1977	Shearman, Dr. Robert — 1986, 1989
Butler, Dr. Jack — 1986	Kozelnicky, Dr. George M. — 1977	Shiley, Charles — 1966
Christians, Dr. Nick — 1988	Kussow, Dr. Wayne R. — 1986	Shurtleff, Dr. M.C. — 1973
Clemans, Donald — 1986	Lardner, Lynford — 1967	Simmons, Cal — 1987
Cline, Dr. Van — 1988	Latham, James M. — 1966, 1967, 1974, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990	Skogley, Dr. C.R. — 1978
Cornish, Dr. Geoffrey — 1984	Lied, Delmar — 1987	Small, William A. — 1968
Daniel, Dr. William H. — 1966, 1968, 1980	Lobenstein, Dr. William — 1970	Smart, William S. — 1974
Dobie, D. Frank — 1979	Love, Dr. James R. — 1966, 1967, 1970	Stampfl, John — 1966
Duble, Dr. Richard L. — 1973	Lucas, Melvin B. Jr. — 1974, 1979	Stewart, Fred — 1975
DuBose, L.W. — 1973	Luigs, Joe — 1987	Street, Dr. John — 1985
Dudley, James — 1969	Lyons, William — 1978	Tizieri, Dennis — 1987
Duich, Dr. Joe — 1990	Madison, Dr. John H. — 1974	Troll, Dr. Joseph — 1981, 1989
Dushane, Kevin — 1985, 1990	Maples, Palmer — 1979	Turgeon, Dr. A.J. — 1973, 1978
Dye, Peter — 1966	Marshall, Donald — 1969	Unis, Carl — 1978
Ehlert, Robert — 1971	Martin, Herschel L. — 1975	Uzelac, Dan — 1977
Eller, Harold — 1977	Mascaro, Tom — 1973, 1990	Valentine, Richard E. — 1975
Elmer, Henry J. — 1968	Massie, Dr. Leonard R. — 1974	Vargas, Dr. Joe — 1981, 1985
Engel, Dr. Ralph E. — 1968, 1976	McGee, Bobby D. — 1978, 1981	Vavrek, Robert — 1990
Ferguson, Dr. Marvin H. — 1966, 1967	Metsker, Stanley — 1969	Verhaalen, Lester — 1966
Foehl, Stephen M. — 1980	Miles, Oscar — 1986	Villani, Dr. Mike — 1989
Frank, Donald F. — 1968	Miller, Louis E. — 1977, 1980	Voight, John — 1966, 1972
Fredericksen, Stan — 1979	Miller, Monroe S. — 1983	Waddington, Dr. Donald V. — 1967
Freeborg, Dr. Ray — 1984	Miller, Dr. Robert W. — 1972	Walsh, Dr. Leo M. — 1984
Fuchs, Walter — 1976	Milne, William W. — 1975	Warner, Daniel — 1980
Gipson, Carlton — 1971	Moncrief, James — 1969	Watson, Gordon — 1971
Glissman, Harold — 1969	Moore, Robert A. — 1974, 1982	Watson, Dr. James R. — 1967, 1981, 1983
Goss, John — 1971	Moore, Sherwood A. — 1968	White, Dr. Donald V. — 1970, 1976, 1980, 1983
Grasso, Anthony L. — 1972, 1976	Moote, David — 1971, 1974	Whitley, William — 1990
Greuten, Ray T. — 1972	Murphy, Garold — 1970, 1978	Wiley, Milton T. — 1976
Griffin, Holman — 1967, 1989	Musback, Frank — 1966	Williams, Robert — 1971, 1976, 1977
Grigg, Gary — 1990	Nees, Al — 1989	Williams, Bruce — 1987
Hall, Dr. John R. — 1980	Newman, Dr. Robert C. — 1970, 1972, 1976	Wilson, Charles G. — 1966, 1967, 1973, 1979
Hannigan, Frank — 1984	North, Andy — 1985	Wise, Dr. Louis N. — 1981
Hanson, Ray — 1971	Nugent, Richard — 1982	Witteveen, Gordon C. — 1983
Harkin, Dr. John — 1984	Nutter, Dr. Gene — 1969	Woehrlie, Theodore W. — 1973, 1978
Harrison, Tom — 1987	Perkins, Dr. Thomas — 1983	Worf, Dr. Gayle L. — 1983
Hodges, Dr. Clinton F. — 1982, 1985, 1989	Peterson, Douglas — 1977	Younts, Dr. S. Eugene — 1979
Holmes, James L. — 1966, 1967, 1968, 1975, 1980	Petrovic, Dr. Martin — 1983, 1988	Yuzzi, Joseph — 1971, 1984
Holyoke, Dr. Vaughn — 1976	Poincelot, Dr. Raymond P. — 1970	Zontek, Stanley J. — 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984
Horn, Dr. Granville — 1970	Quandt, C.L. "Bud" — 1988	
Hornung, Bob — 1966	Radko, Alexander M. — 1973, 1979, 1981	
Horton, Edward C. — 1983, 1988	Randall, Dr. Roscoe — 1984	
	Randquist, Robert — 1985	

(Roster compiled by Al Nees and Monroe S. Miller)

Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposia 1966 - 1990

First*	1966 Winter Injury (Bulletin No. 5)	Seventeenth	1982 Getting to the Roots of the Matter
Second	1967 The Physical Nature of Soils	Eighteenth*	1983 The Facts and Fallacies of <i>Poa annua</i> Management
Third	1968 <i>Poa annua</i>	Nineteenth	1984 Directions in Golf Course Management
Fourth	1969 Satisfying the Golfer	Twentieth	1985 Grooming — The State of the Art — New Problems for New Times
Fifth	1970 The Chemical Nature of Soil	Twenty-first	1986 The Micronutrients — Who Needs Them?
Sixth	1971 Where are We Going in Golf Course Management?	Twenty-second	1987 Impressions — A Memorable Golf Course (First to Lasting)
Seventh	1972 Recycling Golf Course Wastes	Twenty-third	1988 Water Management — A Cultural Practice for all Conditions
Eighth*	1973 Thatch	Twenty-fourth	1989 Optimizing Pest Management — Strategies to Maximize Results
Ninth	1974 Water Movement in Soils	Twenty-fifth	1990 Beritgrass — New, Old, Right or Wrong
Tenth	1975 A New Deal for an Old Course		
Eleventh	1976 Living with <i>Poa annua</i> Species		
Twelfth	1977 Keeping Your Head on Straight		
Thirteenth	1978 Fast Grass		
Fourteenth	1979 Research		
Fifteenth*	1980 Sand-On and In Golf Greens		
Sixteenth*	1981 Management Requirements for Sand Greens and Sand Top-Dressed Greens		

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(Continued from page 2)

ball's chance. The real issue is the entire GCSAA "Political System".

Please, GCSAA Board, allow us as involved members to add to the organization through the present committee structure. Take it upon yourselves to help "clean-up" the politics. Police yourselves. Continue to take steps to take the politics away from those Delegates with large numbers of votes and even larger egos.

Most of all, give us credit as GCSAA members to smell a rat. We have been active, concerned, and involved members by choice. Please give us the opportunity to continue.

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Walking or Riding Greensmowers For Putting Greens?

By Wayne Otto

It was decided by the green committee and approved by the board of directors last fall that we would go back to using the walking greensmower on putting greens in 1990. The greens at Ozaukee Country Club are quite large (averaging 6,000 square feet), so we planned on using at least four mowers and possibly five on certain days.

The total cash outlay for six putting green mowers would be in excess of \$20,000.00, about the same cost as two riding mowers. I had anticipated the man-hours to increase from 40 to 80 hours per week which would not increase the budget too much. At \$5.50/hour, it would amount to an added cost of \$220.00 each week, which only would add one full-time person to our crew. However, since we were looking for people to work about three hours a day, we thought we would need three or four additional people. This didn't originally seem like it would be too difficult to accomplish. All winter we eagerly looked forward to the upcoming golf season.

My first step in early March was to place an ad in the "help wanted" section of a couple of local newspapers,

which said, **ATTENTION: Housewives, semi-retirees or anyone interested in getting paid for a 5-7 mile walk every day in the early morning on a beautiful golf course, please call.**

My thought was to get some hard-working personnel who would pay attention to detail and not need too much supervision. Hopefully, these same people would return year after year, rather than as in past years having students who we would train and most likely only see for a couple of years at the most. We had many female and male applicants.

I was very pleased with the response and thought that we had solved our normal early season help problems. Unfortunately, it didn't turn out exactly as I had planned.

First of all, there was much more training involved than I remembered. Before we could get the productivity that we needed, we had to spend several weeks of practicing and, even then, some mower operators had trouble mowing a green without leaving strips of uncut grass.

Our tees at OCC are mowed with two or three walking greensmowers. If we

were to mow greens with walking mowers, we would need an additional five mowers. I could see that we were going to need at least eight people walking greens and tees on certain days. Taking into consideration the fact that there would be people taking days off and "no shows", we felt that at least 10 to 12 people needed to be trained to operate walking greensmowers.

In contrast, by using the riding greensmower on greens, walking the perimeter (clean-up cut) on greens, mowing tees with walking greensmowers, and using a walking greensmower for collars, we only needed to train about six to eight people, so we opted to use the riding mowers.

What about the future? I think the idea of finding crew members that would return year after year was a good one which would solve a lot of problems. However, this first year did not go as we anticipated. We plan to continue to use the riding mowers until we can adequately train the number of crew members we need to implement our program of using walking mowers.



Schwab, Monroe Country Club Team Win John Deere Tourney!

By Monroe S. Miller

On July 23, Monroe Country Club and J.W. Turf (the distributor of John Deere Turf equipment for the southern half of Wisconsin and northern Illinois) played host to Wisconsin's first ever John Deere Scramble Golf Championship. This will surely become an annual event in Wisconsin. It teams up the club golf course superintendent, president, golf pro and clubhouse manager in a scramble best ball event. The superintendent, president, and clubhouse manager play a scramble, and the pro plays his ball straight. Then you take the best ball of the two on each hole.

Local knowledge may have played a role on this beautiful July day when host team of golf course superintendent Tom Schwab, professional Mike Muranyi, clubhouse manager John

Van Blarcum, and president Curt Schwerin led the field of 18 teams with a combined score of 53. Other factors that may have played a role are Muranyi's shooting of a course record 62 and Schwab's sloppy chip shot into the hole on #18. As the winning team, the foursome earned the option of competing in November in La Quinta, California. Each also won a \$200 gift certificate.

The second place team was Oakwood Country Club from Franklin. Superintendent Steve Bailey said they had a great time and were knocking them in from all over the green. Their score of 55 earned them \$120 each.

In third place, led by golf course superintendent Tom Schaller, was Northbrook Country Club of Luxemburg. They carded a 56 and each earned \$80.

In the individual pro competition Muranyi came out on top with a 62 and earned \$350. Billy Brown of DellView in Wisconsin Dells was second with 67.

Monroe Country Club was proud to host this first John Deere Scramble. Everyone enjoyed the excellent playing conditions of the golf course. The team format was a nice way for the superintendent, pro, clubhouse manager and president to get out and enjoy a round of golf together. This tournament is sure to grow to become a big part of Wisconsin golf, especially with such gracious hosts as J.W. Turf.

There is one more winner to announce: J.W. Turf donated \$50 for each team entered to the O.J. NOER CENTER for TURFGRASS RESEARCH. This generosity moves the NOER CENTER \$900 closer to reality.

HYDROJET TOUR STOPS IN MILWAUKEE

The Toro Company chose Wisconsin as its first stop for their "Aeration World Tour."

The tour pulled into host Steve Blendell's golf course — Brynwood C.C. — on August 6th. The major emphasis was on the newest and most exciting concept in aeration in the last fifty years — the Toro Hydrojet 3000. This is the unit that was introduced at the

GCSAA conference and show in Orlando last winter.

Also included in the "World Tour" semi was the Toro fairway aerator, the Toro greens aerator with an Olathe core pulverizer, the Olathe topdresser and core pulverizer for a Grounds-master.

The demonstration, held between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., was attend-

ed by a nice crowd of Wisconsin golf course superintendents, a green committee chairman or two, and other golf course staff people. Everyone had a chance to operate each piece of equipment.

Ed Devinger tells me that the Hydrojet 3000 will be available in the spring of 1991.



Toro Aeration pulled into Brynwood C.C. on August 6th.



Left to right: Karl Wehausen, Ozaukee C.C.; Gary Watschke, Toro; Brian Schmidt, Reinders; Wayne Otto, Ozaukee C.C.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

John Turner, sales representative of the NOR-AM Chemical Company, has announced that Bob Schmidt has been selected to receive the NOR-AM scholarship for the 1990/1991 academic year. Bob is a senior in Professor Wayne Kussow's turfgrass management program at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. A check for \$1,000 will be presented to Bob at the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association winter meeting in January of next year.

As if that wasn't enough good news for Bob, the press release announcing the 1990/1991 WTA scholarship winners included his name again. Bob was joined by another UW senior — Tom Vlach. Tom is also a student in Wayne Kussow's program.

The recipients of the WTA scholarship are chosen by WTA faculty advisors Worf, Newman, Koval and Kussow. Each award is worth \$500.

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Edgewood Golf Course

Drugan's Castle Mound Golf Course

Dole Fresh Fruit Company

Ed Devinger

Devil's Head Lodge

Brynwood Country Club

Margaret L. Bell

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Belfield (in memory of J. Cannestra)

Bay Ridge Golf Course

APOLOGIES, AGAIN

An inattentive editor has egg on his face again. I've discovered a name that was left off the last several NOER CENTER honor rolls in *THE GRASS ROOTS*. This time I short changed a person whose eminence in the golf course industry is singular. He's a WGCSA past president, a current WTA director, an outstanding golf course superintendent, and a friend to all of us.

I don't know how I happened to leave Wayne Otto's name off the honor roll, but somehow I managed.

I'm really sorry.

CENTER UPDATE

As August sweeps to a close, we are moving closer both to reaching our fundraising goal and to starting actual construction of the NOER CENTER facility.

I'd like to give everyone a bit of information on the later.

By the time you read this, my hope is that two things will be done. First is the survey and site engineering of the land where the facility will be located. An engineering firm is working on this right now, in concert with the UW-Madison Department of Campus Planning and Construction. Ed Hopkins, the key person in the new UW golf course project, is handling this matter for us. From this engineering work will come a grading plan (among many other things), a critical element that will allow actual earth moving.

The second is a zoning change from Dane County that will, in fact, permit this unique use of the land donated by the University of Wisconsin Foundation. No problems are anticipated; it simply takes time for the bureaucracy to turn a decision.

Tom Harrison is working closely with a contractor who will build the NOER CENTER headquarters, and is nearly set with plans. Scheduling is being organized so concrete can be poured yet while the autumn weather is good.

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ACADEMIC YEAR 1990/1991: The First Semester

By Monroe S. Miller

Well, well. Here we are in the classroom again. New clothes, new school supplies. Same students. Same teacher. Let's see how you do on the first exam of this new academic year, the first one in the new academic decade.

Write neatly. No notes allowed. No calculators allowed. And absolutely no talking. Show me what you know about Wisconsin's golf courses.

1. What percent of Wisconsin's golf courses are nine holers?
2. When the University of Wisconsin golf course is completed and given to the state of Wisconsin by the UW Foundation, how many golf courses will the state then own. Name them, please.
3. What Wisconsin golf course is the

site of one of the state's largest group of Indian burial and effigy mounds?

4. What golf course in the state is home to one of Wisconsin's champion trees? What kind of tree is it?

5. Who first photographed the primary and secondary nutrient deficiency symptoms of bluegrass, bentgrass and fescue?

5. Dr. James R. Love, professor of Soil Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The work was done in the early 60s under a grant from the O.J. NOER Research Foundation. It was a classic piece of research that is referenced time and time again, even in today's journals and textbooks.

1. 48%.

2. Three. The UW golf course will join the Peninsula Park golf course and the UW-Green Bay golf course as those owned and operated by the state of Wisconsin.

3. Koshkonong Mounds Country Club in Fort Atkinson. This is the home of 36 effigy and burial mounds. They are known as the Hoard group, named after a former Wisconsin governor and world renown dairy scientist, W.D. Hoard.

4. Blackhawk Country Club is home to the largest Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*) in the state of Wisconsin. It was discovered by Mr. Walter Scott, a DNR employee.

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