



What do you do in the Winter?

By Rod Johnson



host "Hospitality Wisconsin Style". Reserve Sunday evening, February 10 for this gathering, to be held at the Riviera Hotel.

The 10th Reinders Turf Conference will be held on March 13 and 14. "Edge" Devinger, Turf Division Manager at Reinders, has promised a really big show. Look for specifics directly from Reinders, and plan now to attend.

On Thursday, March 21, WGCSA will sponsor a GCSAA Regional Seminar entitled, "Maximizing Pesticide Safety". Please consider your attendance, and the attendance of personnel who routinely make pesticide applications, a must. Contact Bruce Worzella should you not receive pre-registration materials.

The point is that winter opportunities exist to improve yourself, and thereby improve your golf course. Take advantage of them. I hope to see you all in January, in February and in March.

Winter is on my head, but spring is in my heart.

In the last issue of this newsletter, Editor Miller referred to the question most dreaded by Wisconsin superintendents. Holiday gatherings do not just spread the germs leading to the cold and flu season, but serve as a forum for friends and relatives to "pop the question".

I too gave up long ago, and have resorted to the standard retort, "I go to work at normal hours like a normal person." Most times this response will suffice to end the conversation. Should inquiring minds still want to know, I really blow them away with the fact that four other employees join me in this season of normality.

But what do you do in the winter? For most of us, winter duties include, but are not limited to, equipment maintenance, snow plowing, budget preparation and attendance at numerous club committee meetings.

Often downplayed is the amount of time we spend educating ourselves. Golf course superintendents exhibit an extraordinary drive to improve themselves through numerous avenues. We are quick to take advantage of every opportunity to reinforce and expand

our knowledge base.

This winter season's calendar presents us with many educational conference opportunities. The time period between New Years and the 1991 golf season is loaded.

January starts out fast with a can't miss opportunity at the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Winter Conference. This year's event is Tuesday and Wednesday, January 8 and 9. The conference headlines research reports and additional insights from UW Professors Kussow, Newman, Worf and Koval. Out-of-state expertise will be provided by Drs. Lehman, Perkins and Wilkinson.

Of note, but of deadline past, is a GCSAA Regional Seminar in St. Charles, Illinois on January 3 and 4 entitled, "Protection of Water Resources", and the Turf Management Short Course at UW-Madison the week of January 7-11.

The industry's main event—the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show—will be held February 5-12 in Las Vegas. Wisconsinites will be glad to know that WGCSA and Milorganite will again co-



February 5-12, 1991

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REAL Golf Course Superintendents Don't Wear Earrings

By Monroe S. Miller

One summer morning a few years ago, a young employee—a college student—came to work with a gold earring dangling from one ear.

David Noltner took one look at him and calmly offered this: "Jeff, I'm going over to my toolbox, get a pair of big pliers and walk back. If you don't have that jewelry out of your ear when I get back, I'm going to yank it out with those pliers."

The kid never moved on the golf course as fast as he did removing his earring. He was lucky Dave wasn't offering a haircut; his long blond locks needed trimming.

I was relating the story that night to my family. They didn't find it as humorous as I did. In fact, daughter Holly said, "I know, Dad. REAL superintendents don't wear earrings."

Some of Holly's friends do, though. The boys, I mean.

So, with thanks to Holly and apologies to the originator of "real men don't eat quiche", here's my REAL list for golf course superintendents.

- Real golf course superintendents don't wear earrings. Their employees don't wear them either. And they certainly don't wear gold necklaces.
- Real golf course superintendents wear work boots to the golf course. Not boat mocs and for sure not tennis shoes.
- A real golf course superintendent never wears \$75 slacks, especially to work.
- A real golf course superintendent owns at least ten pairs of blue jeans. He also still wears a belt, not as a fashion (mis)statement, but to keep his pants up. He doesn't believe wrinkles are "in vogue" either.
- Real golf course superintendents discard a shirt or pair of pants when it's worn out, not when it's out of fashion.
- A real golf course superintendent doesn't wear cologne to work; he would rather smell like the shop than a house of ill repute.

• A real golf course superintendent is never mistaken for the club's golf pro. Even less likely is being mistaken for the clubhouse manager.

• Real golf course superintendents will always list green as their favorite color. When you're from Wisconsin, red may tie green for first.

• A real golf course superintendent always considers a "MADE IN AMERICA" tag as an important criteria in purchase decisions.

• Real golf course superintendents never drive those little pickups made by Nissan or Toyota or Isuzu. They drive either Fords or Chevys (½ ton or larger). Occasionally you'll see a real superintendent in a Dodge truck, indicating one of his members owns a Dodge dealership.

• When it comes to cars, you won't see a real golf course superintendent (from Wisconsin, at least) driving a Saab, Peugeot, Volvo, Audi, Fiat or BMW. He doesn't drive Japanese or Korean cars, either.

• And speaking of vehicles, real golf course superintendents, at least those from Wisconsin, use real turf trucksters on their golf courses. They wouldn't have those little white imports with the skinny tires and no traction. We don't care how popular they are in California. In fact, that is reason enough NOT to run them!

• A real golf course superintendent never "does lunch" nor participates in "power lunches". Lunch time was meant for eating. In fact, real superintendents have lunch at mid-morning and eat dinner at noon. The evening meal is called "supper".

• A real Wisconsin golf course superintendent drinks real beer, not lite beer, not wine and for sure not ice cream drinks. Real cheese is his favorite snack. He drinks milk at every meal and feels unsatiated if he hasn't had beef for either dinner or supper. Really.

• A real golf course superintendent decides on how long to run his irrigation system himself and never leaves

that duty to a "weather station".

• A real golf course superintendent decides on the radio stations allowed play time in his shop. No station featuring music by "Jeb and the Haystacks" is permitted. Neither is one playing tunes by "Dougie and the Druggies". A real superintendent listens to light rock or 'the music of your life'.

• Real golf course superintendents don't fertilize their lawns more than once a year. They simply do not need the extra work. When mowing is required, each does his own. No riding mowers and no self-propelled mowers allowed.

• A real golf course superintendent doesn't fib about 1) how much nitrogen he applies on his putting greens each year, 2) the stimpmeter readings for his putting greens, 3) the height of cut of his greens and fairways, 4) how much *Poa annua* he really has, and 5) his salary.

His ego isn't tied to any of the above.

• A real golf course superintendent doesn't like flowers on his golf course. He'd rather use the time and money spent on pansies and petunias for trees. They're a real man's plants. Flowers are reserved for clubhouse landscapes.

• Given his druthers, a real golf course superintendent would do away with all tee and green equipment—the furniture, the signage, ballwashers, rakes, club cleaners, scorecard boxes, water coolers, etc.

"Give 'em a flagstick to shoot at and let 'em play," says the real golf course superintendent.

Many golfers feel the same way.

• A real golf course superintendent greatly prefers reel mowers to rotaries. He understands the difference between cutting and mowing. He likes cutting better. He knows that rotary mowers are hackers to be used only when the ground isn't suited for reel (real!) cutters. Rotaries finish a distant second to reels.

• A real golf course superintendent realizes that *Poa annua* is one of the best golf turfs growing; he is perfectly capable of maintaining it in a superb playing condition.

• Real golf course superintendents are morning people, and they greatly prefer dawn to sunset. They subscribe

(Continued on page 5.)

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(Continued from page 3.)

to Ben Franklin's creed—Early to bed, early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise. Except for the "wealthy" part.

• A real golf course superintendent doesn't jog. After 10-12 hours of work each day on the golf course, he doesn't have to. He likely wouldn't have the energy and absolutely wouldn't be seen in a cute, tight little jogging suit.

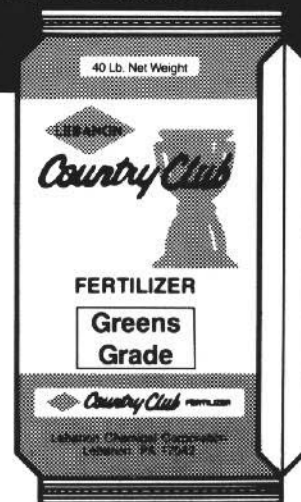
Before anyone gets his nose bent out of shape, let me confess I don't meet all the qualifications and criteria of a real golf course superintendent, either. I only own six pairs of blue jeans and proudly maintain flower beds on the golf course.

But make no mistake: this golf course superintendent doesn't wear earrings!

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REFUND POLICY: Registration fees will be refunded only by WRITTEN cancellation received two weeks in advance of seminar.

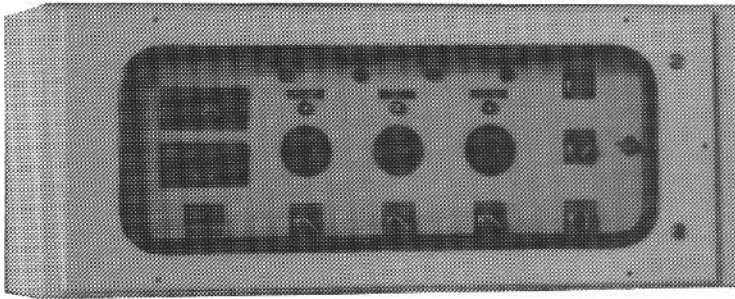
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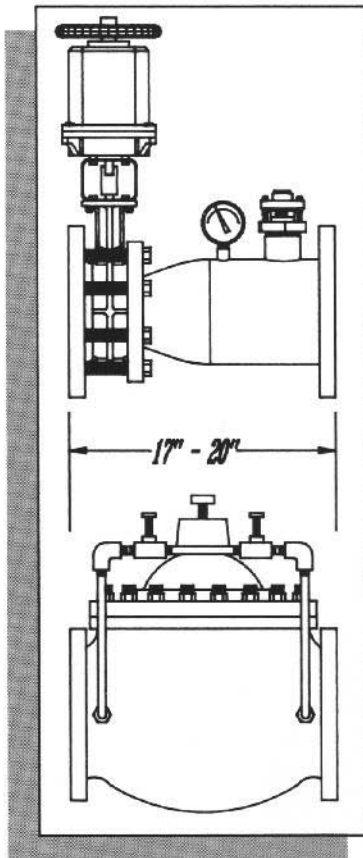
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NOTE: The date is **March 21, 1991** and not the date announced by Bruce Worzella at the November business meeting.

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(Continued from front page.)

But biotechnology, like many new technologies that affect agriculture, has been controversial. The college's proposed research on the efficacy and safety of bovine somatotropin—also called bovine growth hormone—set off a firestorm of farmer, consumer and political protest, and a nation-wide effort by some to stop the new technology.

"The college has been and should be embroiled in problems, opportunities and public policy issues that excite and move the people of Wisconsin," Walsh said. "This college is an institution born of the needs of people and will remain vital and strong only if it continues to address those needs."

Walsh's administration was keenly aware of the evolving context of the college and its historically important strengths, accomplishments and obligations. While he was dean, the college celebrated a host of centennials, including those of the Wisconsin Experiment Station in 1983, the Farm and Industry Short Course in 1985 and the college itself in 1989.

While celebrating the college's past accomplishments, Walsh appointed in 1986 a long-range planning committee, which focused attention on the college's future. A second major faculty group is currently reassessing the college's curriculum and programs to strengthen faculty instructional skills.

Born and raised on a farm in Moorland, Iowa, Walsh earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural education from Iowa State University. He received his master's and doctoral degrees in soil science from the UW-Madison and joined the faculty in 1959. His major research and extension interests were in the areas of soil fertility and management.

As an extension soil scientist, Walsh urged farmers to adopt practices that would protect soil and water resources. Shortly after becoming dean, Walsh took a strong stand against continuous row-crop farming practices that result in excess soil losses. In 1982, he called for tougher sanctions against farmers who blatantly disregard soil conservation practices.

The 1980s brought a new intensity to environmental issues and growing interest in minimizing agricultural chemicals and conserving soil and water resources. Special interest groups demanded that the college work harder to develop farming systems that maximize profits and reduce purchased inputs while protect-

ing the soil and water resources that sustain agriculture. Walsh worked with these groups in establishing the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems—a program designed to help develop farming systems that will improve the sustainability of Wisconsin's farms, rural communities and environmental resources.

The social and economic devastation of the farm crisis prompted Walsh to propose a special program—the Farm Financial Analysis Program—to monitor better the financial health of Wisconsin farms. In 1990, he also supported creation of the Agricultural Technology and Family Farm Institute. This program will analyze the implications of new technology to agriculture and rural development, and help public policy makers and others respond appropriately. In 1984, Walsh helped form and guide the Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program, which promotes the development of leaders from rural communities.

To expand the demand for farm products, Walsh provided leadership in developing the Center for Dairy Research on campus in 1986. The

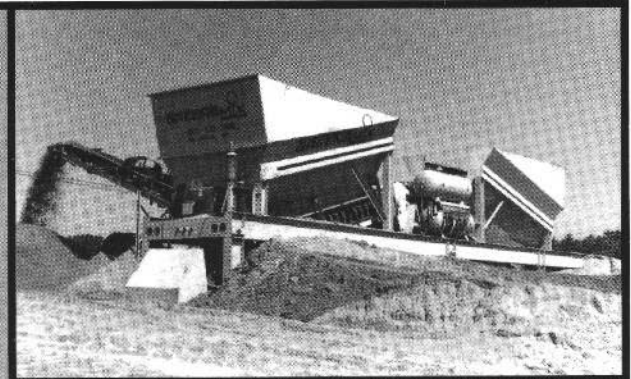
center is devoted to enhancing dairy product sales through new and improved products and processing and marketing techniques.

In an effort to meet the demands of an every-growing urban agriculture presence, Walsh strongly supported the formation of the O.J. NOER CENTER for TURFGRASS RESEARCH. That facility is currently under construction.

Walsh also continued his personal interest in international agriculture, begun with his involvement in agricultural development projects in Egypt and Brazil. While dean, he appointed the college's first associate dean for international studies and nurtured the college's international efforts on trips to China, Indonesia, Germany, France, Peru and Brazil.

In 1987, Walsh's commitment to international development brought him an appointment from President Reagan to the U.S. Board on International Food and Agricultural Development, a policy advisory group to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

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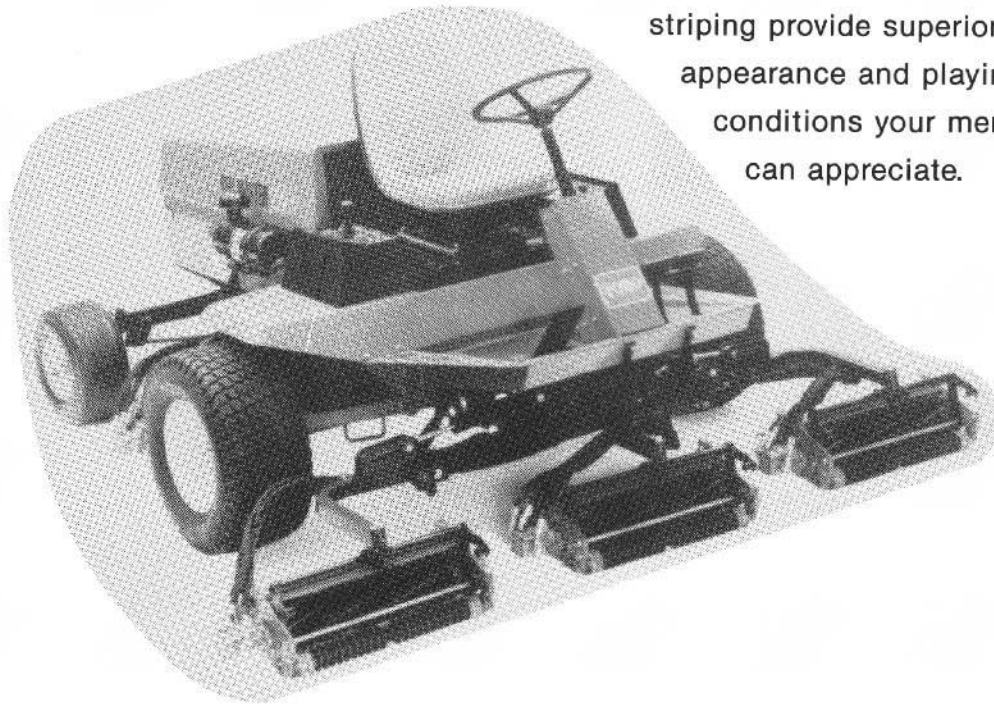
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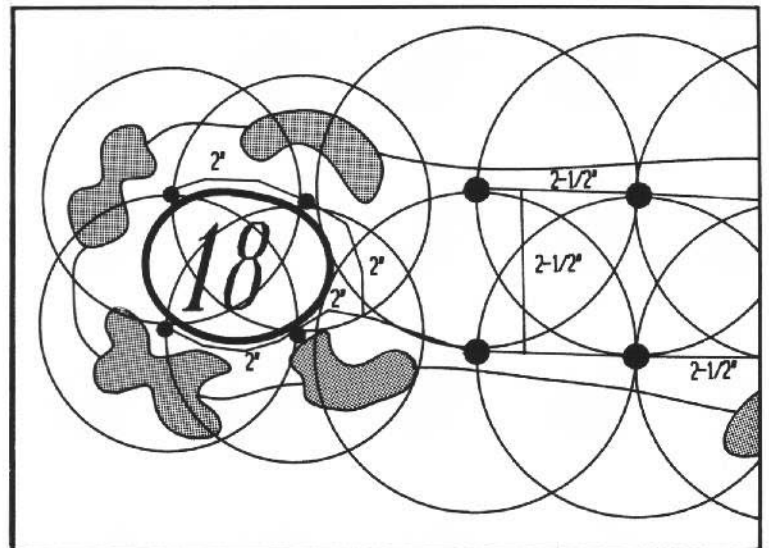
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He's Made A Difference

By Monroe S. Miller

When Jim Love retired, his former students hosted a party in his honor at the Nakoma Golf Club. Among those we invited to participate in the formal program was a member of Nakoma—Professor Leo Walsh.

Dr. Walsh was a colleague of Jim Love; both were members of the faculty in the Department of Soil Science. They started their careers as faculty members at about the same time. Walsh later became department chairman. When Jim retired, Leo was the dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

Lots of nice things were said about Jim Love that night. For me, the most memorable was a simple question posed by Dr. Walsh about Jim Love: "During his career at the university, did this man make a difference?"

Of course, Walsh and everyone there on that wonderful evening answered with a resounding "yes."

The answer is an easy and obvious I pose the same question: "During Leo Walsh's time as dean of the college, did he make a difference to us?"

The answer is an easy and obvious: YES. The man made a big difference to all of us.

I recall how, early in his administration of CALS, he and Gayle Worf hosted a meeting of the newly formed Wisconsin Turfgrass Association in the second floor conference room in the Russell Labs building. He used the forum to offer encouragement to the organization and to detail how the WTA and the college could best merge their interests.

I recall how he travelled to Las Vegas in 1984 to attend the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America conference and show. He also met with the CALS alumni in attendance. We were all quite flattered and honored by his interest. That meeting comes up in conversation occasionally yet these days.

I recall how, again in 1984, he accepted an invitation to speak at the

Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium in Milwaukee. He was the lead speaker of that meeting.

So it's gone through the nearly dozen years Dr. Walsh has guided the college. He has been available, accessible and very supportive.

The University of Wisconsin Foundation Dean's Club meeting and luncheon this spring was held at our club, as a tribute to our turfgrass industry in Wisconsin and the success we have had with the NOER CENTER project. Dean Walsh was, of course, our host.

It continued right through this fall. There he was at the WTA Field Day, visiting with everybody, kicking tires on the equipment, examining the research plots and having lunch with the group.

And when we really needed him—to move the NOER project through a maze of rules and regulations in late September—he was there for us, shepherding it in the right direction.

In fact, the Sunday before he announced his resignation from the

dean's position, Leo had driven out to the NOER CENTER to check on the progress of the building construction with his own eyes.

It's been a good time for us under Walsh's leadership; they've been our salad days, in a way. This has been a time of easy access to the highest office in the college, an access we have used to our advantage.

Walsh is equally comfortable around U.S. senators or golf course staff. That trait of humility that he has extended to us, that feeling of being sincerely glad to help, has made him a real favorite among those in our business who have known him.

I personally cannot help but feel a little sadness that this wonderful era is over. No matter who the chancellor selects to fill the dean's office, it seems unlikely that person will be able to fill Walsh's shoes. He's simply done too much for us.

The man has made a real difference.

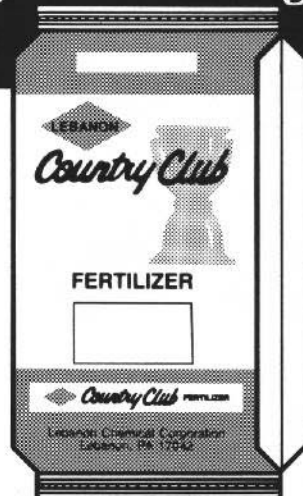
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