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THE GRASS ROOTS

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NOER FOUNDATION AWARDS KUSSOW MAJOR RESEARCH GRANT

By Monroe S. Miller

Following through on its long held and publicly stated desire to fund the first research at the new O. J. NOER Turfgrass Research and Education facility, the O. J. Noer Research Foundation has announced that Dr. Wayne R. Kussow has been awarded a major study grant. The announcement was made on February 14, 1992 at the GCSAA Conference in New Orleans.

Kussow submitted the proposal to the Noer Foundation Research Committee in August 1991. Entitled "Performance Standards For Amendments In Sand Matrix Putting Greens", the project proposal covers something more than three years of work.

The research project as proposed by Dr. Kussow has three interrelated objectives. They are:

1. To develop laboratory methods for organic amendment characterizations that have potential value as performance standards.
2. To assess in simulated putting greens the impact of various organic amendments on putting green performance.
3. To confirm in a long-term field trial which organic amendment characteristics relate significantly to the sustained performance of sand matrix greens.

"The ultimate goal of this research," according to Dr. Kussow, "is to develop performance standards for rootzone amendments. Emphasis will be placed on organic amendments, but new and promising inorganic materials will not

be ignored."

"There is also great anticipation that early steps of the research will generate information that enhances understanding of the properties and processes that govern the performance of sand matrix greens."

The proposal was initially solicited from Kussow by the Noer Foundation. The first part of the project is a greenhouse study, and the money—some \$40,000—is already available. The amount of further funding and its timing is dependent on the amount of money that can be raised from other sources.

One of those other sources may well be the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association. Most WGCSA members are greatly pleased by this grant from the Noer Foundation. The membership meeting in March saw a lot of interest in adding money to the efforts of the Noer Foundation.

The Foundation move to fund the first research at the Noer Facility touches its own history. O.J. Noer himself, who was alive when the Foundation was formed, asked that the very first funded research be conducted at his alma mater, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Soil Science. Professor James R. Love was the recipient of that first grant.

Over three decades later, history has, in a sense, repeated itself with this research grant.

We couldn't be happier or more pleased.

SPRING BUSINESS MEETING FEATURES IRRIGATION

By Pat Norton

Eighty interested and dedicated attendees came to Fond du Lac on Monday, March 23 for a day of education, discussion, some heated debate and a bit of healthy disagreement. No, this wasn't a political caucus for George Bush or Bill Clinton. This was the spring business meeting of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Three great speakers filled the morning hours with a thorough discussion of golf irrigation. Bob Emmerich of Watertronics led off the morning program with an interesting lecture on water, water rights and water conservation. Bob is the elder and more composed of the famous Emmerich Brothers!

Be thankful, Wisconsinites, that we do not live in many of the water starved areas of the Sunbelt. Bob suggested that other states may someday want access to Great Lakes water. Wouldn't that shake the citizens of Wisconsin out of their political apathy immediately? There would be a deafening outcry of public protest from normally very docile citizens.

That futuristic idea would certainly accomplish political activism. Bob also stated that, in the future, the golf industry must be able to state that water conservation is a priority and part of our mission.

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