



Meet Dr. Meyer!

Editor's Note: Dr. Julie Meyer is settled in her position as an assistant professor of plant pathology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Many WGCSA have heard Dr. Meyer lecture this past winter. Few, however, have had time to get to know her on a more personal basis. With that in mind, Julie very kindly agreed to share with us a bit of her personal history, some of her first impressions, and a few of her dreams and goals.

Read and enjoy. You'll certainly know her better if you do.

I grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota and still go back there often to visit my family. I didn't go to the University of Minnesota, however, I went to the University of California, Riverside for my bachelor's degree in Plant Science. The Riverside campus, located east of Los Angeles, towards the mountains and desert, is a small campus and was once an Agricultural Experiment Station for growing citrus. This gives you an idea of the biggest crop grown in that area.

It was during my studies in plant science that I was introduced to the field of plant pathology. I was always very interested in growing plants and it has been a hobby of mine since high school. It seemed I was always growing something—cacti from seed or some new houseplant I spotted in a greenhouse. So I taught myself what plants need to grow with health and vigor and I think it impressed me to learn that there was a discipline called plant pathology that was the study of how to keep plants healthy. I felt like I understood how plants grow and thrive and that I wanted to learn more of the biology of what was going on and how to protect plants from disease—in short, to be a plant doctor!

After my bachelor's degree I was fortunate to receive a Fulbright scholarship to work and study in Hannover, Germany. I'm not sure what compelled me to enter the competition, since I spoke very little German. I had been to

Germany once before, after high school when I participated in a "work-exchange" program in England and in southern Germany that gave me a chance to work in greenhouses in exchange for wages and a chance to live in these countries for a year. Perhaps it was my German heritage on my father's side (Meyer is one of the most common names in Germany, I found out) that I felt I wanted to spend more time there. It was also a way to travel the world for someone who didn't have much money. So I spent over a year at the Institute of Plant Disease and Plant Protection in Hannover, attended classes and completed a little research project on root fungi of lettuce.

When I returned from Germany I decided to continue in graduate school and chose Oregon State University because of a good program in soil microbiology and root pathogens and an opportunity to do my research in the USDA Horticultural Crops Research Station in Corvallis. From there I went back to Germany again, to the Institute of Plant Ecology, this time to work on the forest decline problem that they thought was being caused by acid rain. In 1987 I went to North Carolina State University and began work on my doctorate. I worked on an interesting project on soil fungi and how they are affected by chemical properties of the soil. One of the fringe benefits was that the field work was conducted up in the Appalachian mountains of North Carolina, which is a very beautiful part of the country.

I am happily married to a wonderful man, Wayne Thal, who is also a biologist and computer specialist. He is currently writing computer software for teaching biology in the Vet school at UW-Madison. We are expecting our first child late this summer and live in a pretty neighborhood close to campus and Lake Wingra. We walk in to campus every day.

I was adjunct assistant professor at NC State for two years before coming

to Madison. My appointment here at UW-Madison is 75% extension and 25% research, with responsibility for turf and for field crops. I find the extension/research a perfect mix of responsibility because it allows me to bring my research results directly to the people working in the industry and to steer my program toward the needs of the industry. It's very satisfying to know that what you find out about biology is of direct interest and use to the people of Wisconsin.

I have not yet had direct experience with turf pathology but am familiar with many turf pathogens—most are found on other crops, too. I'm very excited to learn how they behave on turf and I think turf will be a wonderful system to work on, with lots of opportunity for biologically-based disease management.

In the face of environmental concerns about the use of mercury-based fungicides, and the heavy disease pressure that especially northern superintendents face, the management of gray snow mold will be a major research focus in my program this year and in years to come. Cultivar trials, nonmercury fungicide evaluations, fungicide timing, evaluation of brewery waste extracts and other organic materials, and testing of potential biocontrol organisms will all be part of a long-term, integrated program on managing snow mold. This work will be conducted in both southern and northern locations. Frank Rossi and I will collaborate on some of this work since snow mold resistance and cold hardiness are closely related topics.

Gayle Worf did excellent work in discovering the pathogen that causes necrotic ring spot on Kentucky bluegrass disease. I would like to continue studying the biology and management of this pathogen. We will attempt to establish a disease nursery of necrotic ring spot for demonstration as well as research purposes. There will be cultivar trials of several turf species at the

Noer facility, including the NTEP perennial ryegrass plots, with 96 cultivars. We know there are interactions between turf fertility and turf diseases, and this will be an ongoing area of study. This year we plan to evaluate the effect of acidic fertilizers on the management of summer patch on *Poa annua*, and if organic fertilizers have a suppressive effect on turf diseases. We have excellent weather data equipment at the Noer facility and I will begin to organize this data for use with disease forecasting models that are available for several diseases, including dollar spot, leaf spot, and Pythium.

The O.J. Noer Research and Education Facility is a researcher's dream. A field laboratory will be so important to turf research, and what a fine facility it is. I can hardly wait to get out and begin seeding the land. The building itself is so pleasant and comfortable and we are beginning to set up a wet lab with microscopes and lab equipment. I know I will spend lots of time there.

I'm impressed at how educated, informed and open-minded the members of the turf industry are. I get the distinct impression that they are inter-

ested to learn about the biology of turf diseases and that is very motivating to me. And I enjoy the friendship that seems to unite the group—it's a refreshing thing to see.

The UW turf team is a real team. This is a group that is ready, eager and willing to work together on turf and it's a perfect style for me. We've been on the road together all winter and we're full of plans and camaraderie.

Gayle seems to be enjoying his retirement very much but I have been able to get him to campus a few times to talk turf. I'm always full of questions. He is a generous resource person and I'm sure I will call on him many times. He is a storehouse of knowledge.

First Impressions

Wisconsin: diverse state. Like the rolling hills of the south, the northwoods, the many lakes

Madison: pretty city, friendly neighborhoods, great bookstores

UW-Madison: big, active institution, inspiring environment to work in

UW campus: can't wait to walk the path from Russell labs along the lake to the Memorial Union Terrace

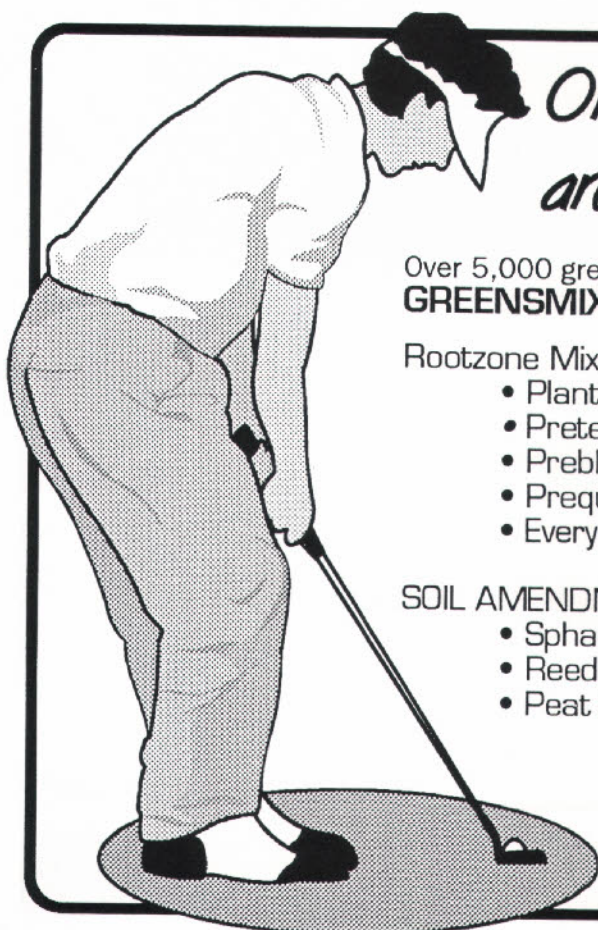
Wisconsin weather: long winters!

didn't miss one day of it either, arriving in December. Can't wait to see the grass grow!

We've had several prospective graduate students visit the department this spring and I hope to take one on to work on turf. I'd like to get them going on snow mold projects.

I love to spend my free time, what there is of it!, with my husband at home—we are great friends. I like to cook, garden, and love to settle down with a good book (not always about science!).

I think *THE GRASS ROOTS* is a first class publication and admire its style, readability and the amount of useful information each issue contains. I look forward to contributing to it. Later in the season I thought it would interest the readers to get a update on the first year of plant pathology research at the Noer facility. By this fall, I would like to write a more in-depth article about snow molds and snow mold management. I would love to hear from the readers what pathology topics they would like to see—I would be more than happy to do some background work and write it up! 🌱



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WGCSA PHOTOGRAVURE

This issue's quiz is a photo test. Identify each photograph, its location and its significance to our Wisconsin golf courses or personalities in our industry.

Have fun! And extend thanks to those who helped gather the pictures and information seen and written here.



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2



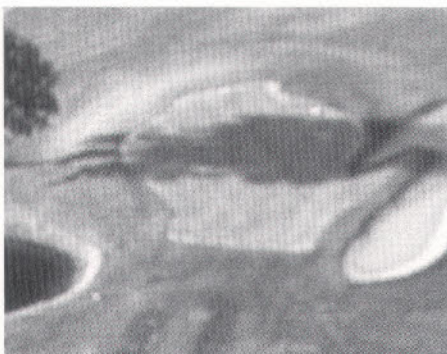
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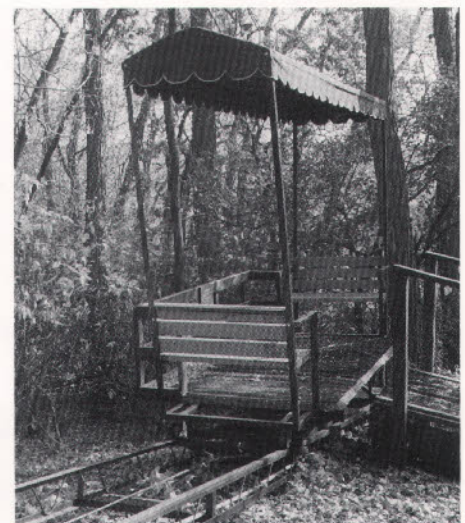
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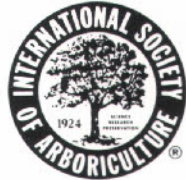
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8

**Answers to The Wisconsin Golf Course Quiz
can be found on page 54.**

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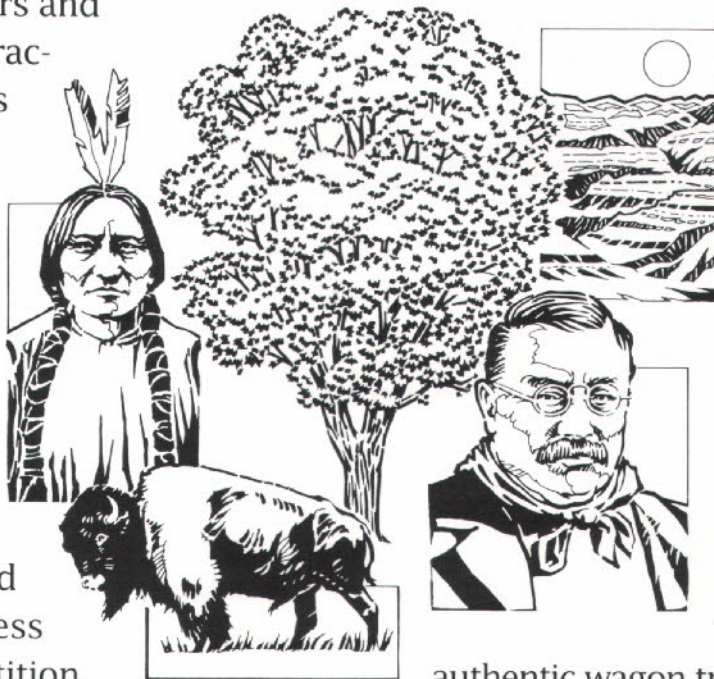
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People of the USGA: *STAN ZONTEK*

by David Earl

Editor's Note: One of the most capable, personable and popular individuals to ever grace the Wisconsin golf scene was the USGA Green Section's Stanley Zontek. David Earl's excellent piece in the August 1992 issue of the *GOLF JOURNAL* updates us in the personal and professional life of a guy who will be in our hearts and minds for many years. It is reprinted here for your enjoyment with permission.

Stanley James Zontek, in his own phrase, grew up along with the grass. The USGA's longest-serving employee — he came on board in February of 1971, at the tender age of 21, after a degree in turfgrass management at Penn State — Stan, a West Virginia native, was only five years old when he first played golf. By the time he was eight, he was helping his father, club pro and course superintendent, mow the greens; in another four years he had a full-time job on the golf course crew, and, in his words, "by the time I got out of school, I really had a lot of on-course experience working for my dad and other superintendents."

To some people, agronomy — the science and art of turfgrass management — might sound a bit prosaic. Not for Zontek; not by a long shot. He's aware of the ultimate importance and the value of playing conditions for all golfers, be they competitors in a national championship or weekend players.

"The great common denominator of the game of golf is grass, but you never see two golf courses that are alike," he says. "No matter how you try to compare them, you really can't. I look at something new every day. It keeps my mind active. It's a challenge to overcome all the different problems."

Of course, the requirements for a USGA championship and day-to-day member play are different. As Zontek's cart traversed Saucon Valley Country Club, site of the 1992 Senior Open, he pointed to Superintendent Terry Laurent and some USGA officials, who



were checking green speed. "Our focus changes when there is a championship," he commented. "There is more emphasis on greens and green quality. But championship work is only a small part of what I do — the glamorous stuff."

*"The great common denominator
of the game of golf is grass, but you never
see two golf courses that are alike."*

"A typical day in the office involves a lot of phone work and paperwork. We are basically consultants to the clubs that subscribe to the Turfgrass Advisory Service. We do tremendous amounts of phone work. When a club calls with a problem and they want to know right away what they can do about it, it's helps if you have an ongoing relationship with the club. You remember the course and the greens, and you can answer them on the phone.

Don't get the impression, however, that Zontek rides his desk. "I only spent 60 days in the office, including weekends, last year," he said. "I fly and drive to many locations. In fact, last year I did about 175 eight-page

long turf reports for individual courses. I also do a fair amount of public speaking, and probably give 20 talks a year to superintendents, club officials, and golf associations. I'm occasionally asked to speak internationally at turf conferences. Last year I went to England to talk about USGA course specs. You go outside the country because the USGA and the American superintendents set the standards for the world. The USGA is the largest funder of turf research in the world.

"Like golf, turfgrass has become an international game," he said, lighting a cigar. "The international players come over here to play, and they go back home and say they really love the American grass. They hunger for information."

The Green Section office in West Chester, Pennsylvania, where Zontek is based, actually turns out to be a family operation. Stan met Marti, his wife, while he was attending high school in the Philadelphia area. Now, if you were to phone Stan, it'd probably be Marti Zontek who'd answer the phone. "She's the most senior secretary at the USGA," says Stan proudly.

Ultimately, it all comes back to ground level. "You've got to have the grass, and that's what the Green Section is here for. If you look at how good the golf courses are today, to a

large extent we've had something to do with that. It's a number of factors — the new turfgrasses, maintenance techniques, higher budgets, or even better communication between clubs. We tell people, 'Hey this is what we need to do to have a better golf course.' We are educators."

The golf course superintendents come in for praise, too. "In England, for example, the superintendents are called greenkeepers, keepers of the green. In most cases, they're essentially foremen, workers on the staff. Here, the superintendent is a true professional. We aren't flamboyant — we just try to grow better grass." If you've played golf for any time, you should certainly appreciate that...🌱

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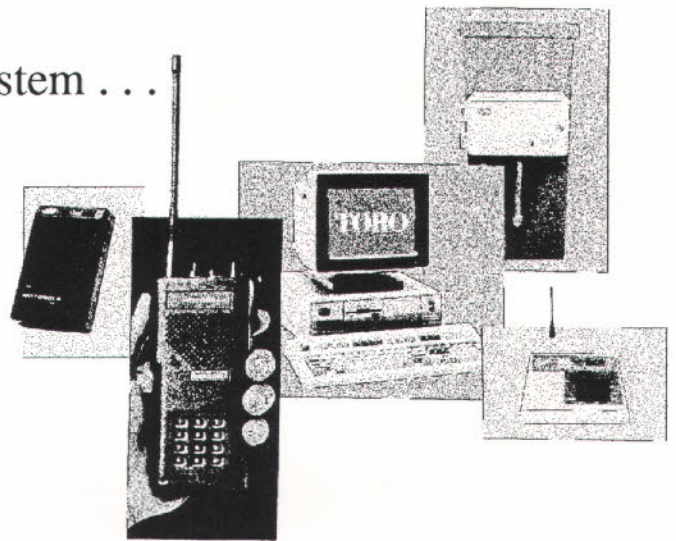
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THERE'S CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM

By Monroe S. Miller

Like lots of other golf course superintendents, I invested a fair amount of off season time in education this winter. The investment is essential in this day and age, just like it has been in every other.

It was time well spent. There's a lot of activity in this dynamic business and the smart manager listens a lot and reads even more.

I am coming out of the education season with a great deal more optimism than I have in recent years. I am convinced that there really is a chance for our business not only to survive but to prosper in the upcoming years.

The reasons for such an upbeat attitude breaks out into fairly obvious categories.

The first is the emphasis on and emerging possibilities presented to us by biocontrols. Endophytes, bacterial control of grubs, non-parasitic nematode control of diseases, compost teas and any number of organic byproducts offer potential for reducing "chemical" inputs in golf turf management. That's exciting.

Secondly, you'd have to be deaf and blind not to recognize the good research being done to determine the actual fate of pesticides and fertilizers we use in turfgrass management. Some very encouraging and positive results are turning up. Mostly we are

finding out that ground water supplies and surface water resources aren't being contaminated by golf turf inputs. In fact, some studies indicate that turf is highly beneficial, something we've always known. It's good that the benefits are being quantified.

Attitudes among golf course superintendents have really changed for the better. The reluctance to embrace an "environmentalist" approach to management is fading fast. Only idiots will continue to resist; their fate, unfortunately, will likely be unemployment.

Many of the regulations we now operate under have had a positive influence. Underground tanks rightfully had to go. Recycling of resources helps all in our society, including us and our families. Better packaging—minibulks, for example—makes sense and will continue to improve as a result of new laws.

Regulations that will affect mixing/loading operations in all of agriculture, including us, probably are necessary.

The WGCSA and the GCSAA have used an intelligent strategy in dealing with regulators, environmentalists and politicians—establishment of dialogue. Both of our groups have given good lessons in "building bridges instead of walls." It really works.

Irrigation system improvements continue to be more efficient in our use. Also, effluent

water is becoming a significant source of water for golf courses. Pumping stations advances are leading to energy efficiency.

More diesel power, longer lasting fungicides, lightweight equipment, improved grass varieties and a hundred other things will help us continue to keep golf courses an environmental asset. That is cause maybe not only for optimism but celebration.

It may be that the most formidable task lies ahead. When we are able to convince the golfer of the value of compromise, we will have arrived. Slightly higher heights of cut, acceptance of a few weeds, "slower" grass and a few other tolerances will be the capstone to an effort to position golf positively as we move into the next century.

When it's done, the cause for celebration will be overwhelming. 🌿



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CROSSWORDS and PUZZLES

By Kevin Dushane

Answers can
be found on
page 38.

Editor's Note: Thanks to our good friend Kevin Dushane, you are going to have the opportunity to have some fun with this feature.

Kevin put his resourcefulness to work and designed a crossword puzzle and a seek and find puzzle for you to solve. Although you will see an occasional reference to Michigan (overlook them!), the overwhelming emphasis is on our business of turf-grass management.

Kevin, of course, is the golf course superintendent at Bloomfield Hills Country Club in suburban Detroit. Along with frequent attendance at our Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium, Kevin has served as a speaker.

The puzzles and crosswords below are reprinted with the permission of their designer and architect, Kevin Dushane. To him, our thanks! 🌱

SEEK AND FIND

Find the following words in the grid to the left.

A K Z E N I B S U R A V E S A E S I
B R O W N P A T C H U W K R J S D F
L E O K Q L A C I M E H C S T D K U
D I L C J F E I U J L S A R W Q C N
Z O K V M A N I L D I S E A S E N G
L I W H G J L G E T W S L H R Y D I
A W N O Q E S L H T S W U R B U H C
C I D E C K M V O O Y W Q C Z F N I
I A T Y B I P D S A T H J P Q C G D
G R M P I N M K T M W V P G L H V E
O K A V P R M E C J U Y R O W A F S
L S C R E L I W T E D D Z T R O C G
O D T J S K B E U S Q F B G B P U M
I G M S W O V P H W Y D A Y B R A J
B K C G U R O M F S K S Y X E J A S
N W B U P R F W A N E G O H T A P V
T Y E S A G R A W T S O N S S E T W

Biological
Brown Patch
Chemical
Detwiler
Disease
Fungicide
Host
Mycelium
Pathogen
Rust
Saprophyte
Stress
Systemic
Vargas
Zineb

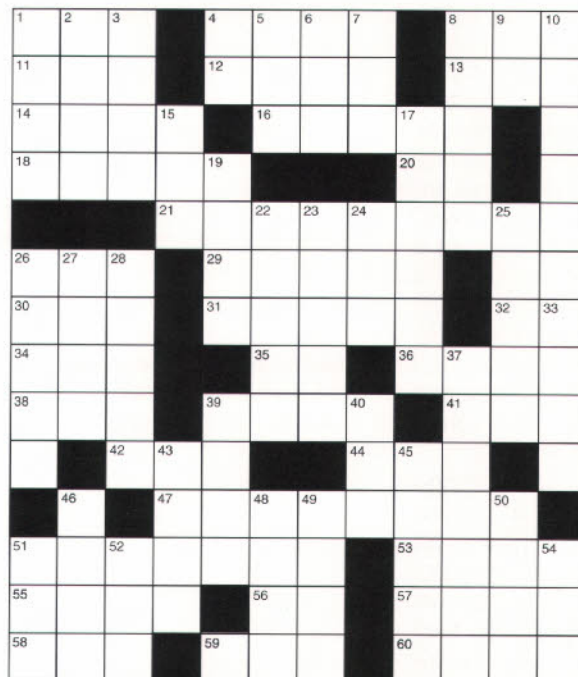
Across

1. Type of Fungicide
4. Dollar _ _ _ _
8. Your favorite turfgrass
11. Unclose
12. What's used to repair equipment
13. Type of thread
14. Exigency
16. What 95° temperatures make you
18. Chemical compound
20. That is
21. Plant food
26. Mr. President
29. Rieke's speciality
30. This is to Billy Joe
31. What you do when turf disease occurs
32. Mr. Heineman
34. You left your putt here
35. Superintendent at Plumbrook
36. Type of velvet bentgrass
38. Opie's aunt
39. Water _ _ _ _
41. Atomic Energy Commission
42. A sitting golf ball
44. Cereal grass
47. sane
51. Herd's grass
53. What you do when it rains for the first time in 3 weeks
55. Shortly
56. Teetotaler's convention
57. Squabble

58. Recommended Daily Allowance
59. Douglas _ _ _
60. Bangladesh currency

Down

1. Pine _ _ _ _
2. Mimics
3. Ingredient in mosquito repellent
4. Compass direction
5. Well
6. Mineral
7. Bo Derek
8. Pre-emergent for Flower beds
9. Faroe Island wind
10. Type of apple
15. Animal house
17. Your workers take these quite often
19. Puccinia spp.
22. Lake in Northern Michigan
23. Soils expert
24. Bantu language
25. Topic
26. P.O.G. editor
27. Adams or Gorme
28. Home of Himalayas
33. Type of mower
37. Tree variety
39. Chair
40. _ _ _ Dah
43. Mashie, for one
45. A feeling of anxiety
46. Weed seed transportation



48. Far East native
49. 2nd month on the Jewish Calendar
50. Hydraulic oil dilemma
51. Feather partner
52. Extinct bird from New Zealand
54. Airline Jargon



WE NEED MORE WRITERS

By Mark Kienert

It was a privileged honor for me to serve our GCSAA this past year. Specifically, I represented the Wisconsin GCSA by serving on the magazine committee for *GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT*.

It was a duty I did not take lightly, for each and every issue was read cover to cover. Ads were reviewed to insure golf course managers were shown in a positive manner and on a consistent basis.

Notes were taken and questions were drawn up for the discussion that I was sure we would have once the committee met in Kansas. I had over five pages of questions that I wanted answers for and story lines for the 1993 editorial calendar.

It is important for me to take this time to thank everyone I was able to contact for his or her specific views of GCM. Those "likes and dislikes" were taken to Lawrence and they were heard by the editors and the support staff that attended on that day.

It shouldn't come as a surprise to you that our views were consistent with those coming from other parts of the country. Opinions like 'we spend too much time plugging the upcoming Conference and Show, and promoting the golf tournament. Then we spend too much time and ink reporting on the post conference follow-up' was just one of the many subjects placed on the table for discussion. Only time will tell whether or not those views will do any good and result in magazine changes.

There was one thing that developed in this committee work that disturbed me greatly. It is the reason I am writing these lines.

Part of the GCM committee's responsibility is to review, evaluate and score all golf course superintendent written articles published during the past editorial calendar year.

As you know, the winner receives the GCSAA Leo Feser Award. This award is one that any golf course superintendent would be proud to win.

Here is the sad news: this year's Feser Award boiled down to four articles. Yes, you read it right! Four lonely articles. This comes from a membership of over ten thousand! Such a response is disappointing, to say the least.

I know how difficult it is for the editor of *THE GRASS ROOTS* to get Wisconsin golf course superintendents to write articles for our journal. But I still wasn't prepared for just four articles on the national level. I am still in a state of disbelief.

I have read articles in *THE GRASS ROOTS* that, if forwarded to GCM, would have been classified "hands down first place winners." What baffles me about this phenomenon is that consistently year in and year out, the most popular educational offerings are those of the "thinking superintendent". We enjoy and place high value on what our peers have to say.

How many times have we tried something that another superintendent has told us about, yet scoffed at the same idea when it was advanced by an educator or a salesman?

The reason has little to do with educators or salesmen and more to do with the trust we have in our peers. We share a professional bond and have common experiences.

The same thing might be true with member written articles. When I pick up GCM, I look for those article written by my colleagues. They usually are more of the nuts and bolts variety, easy to read and filled with common sense and good advice. We are rarely disappointed by these articles.

I have written three articles for GCM. Every one of those articles generated correspondence from colleagues, asking for the "hows" or "whys" of a particular task. The best part is that I come away learning something from the caller. I also enjoy these moments of self esteem.

Enough said. We are our best teachers. We are a diverse and highly educated group of professionals. We

all do our jobs differently, with some very unique twists. There is always some idea that I can embellish or change to make my job easier or my golf course better.

In some respects, we owe our success, in part at least, to those around us who have influenced us and who have prompted us to think.

Put your thoughts down on paper. Consider such an action as a "pay-back". The results you will receive will be both satisfying and rewarding. Those emotions will last longer than the delight attained from any award you might receive.

Publications like our *GRASS ROOTS* and *GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT* need the support of people like you. 🌿

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