



Remembering Dobber and The Days at Lake Shore

By Rob Schultz

The rear wheels of my lawnmower fell off before I had made one pass around my lawn. I looked at the mess of wheels, blades and broken bolts piled near the Norway pine growing majestically in my backyard and decided I needed help.

I called Scott Hagen. I figured if anybody could correct the problem, it was my 21-year-old nephew, who has spent much of his life tinkering with anything mechanical. About 30 minutes later he pulled up in front of my house in his little station wagon with the stereo pounding and a smile on his face. As he stumbled through the bolts, wheels and grease that I had moved to my front stoop, we talked about his summer job working on the grounds crew at Blackhawk Country Club.

Scott had a blast this summer. Monroe Miller made sure he gave him an honest day's work. Then his friends made sure he gave them an honest night's play. As he described his last summer before graduating from college and entering the world of suits and wingtips, my mind went back in time 18 years ago when I was doing the same thing.

At the time I thought it was a horrible summer because a girl broke my heart for the first time in my life and I worked a million hours as the "night water guy" at Lake Shore Municipal Golf Course in Oshkosh during a terrible drought year. And that was before the age of double-row irrigation systems. I watered greens and much of the fairways with those thick orange hoses. I ruined my back extending 30 of those 400-yard suckers each night over Lake Shore's front nine.

But looking back, I realize now it was one of the best summers of my life. The cast of characters that I encountered was long and colorful. There was Patty, Faith and Tam, who drove my mother nuts by writing love notes to me with stones on my driveway at home. There was Amy, the one who broke my heart. There was the Stoid, and Mike and all the other golfers/partiers who lived near the course and brought me a beer after they arrived home at bar time.

There was Lou Warobick, the crafty, legendary golf pro who finished his career at Lake Shore.

There were the men of the grounds crew, one of whom built a house near the course with the proceeds made from selling nightcrawlers, which he picked on the course every night.

There was my boss, the pudgy Greg Schuhart, who stood just 5-foot-8 but was stronger than Reggie White and Sean Jones combined. Greg had an attitude that turned off many golfers, but there was no question his heart was in his job. I admired Greg because he treated the golf course, and me, fairly.

We had an ongoing game that lasted throughout the three years I worked at Lake Shore. Greg kept trying to catch me doing something wrong; like when I held parties on the course at night when I was working. He'd drive that

goofy blue-and-orange Gremlin and hide it in the bushes on the far end of the course. Then he'd lurk into the dusk, scurrying behind trees trying to catch me in the act. He never did. I always held my parties after bar time when more of my friends were available and I knew Greg was asleep.

But the character who I will never forget, who will always keep a spot close to my heart, was my working buddy, Tim Dobish. We called him Dobber. We were complete opposites; Lake Shore's version of the odd couple.

I was the slob who drove around the course in anything that had a key in it. Dobber spent 30 minutes each night scrubbing out the same Cushman before he'd venture out to the course.

I was the partier who encouraged friends to venture out and find me in the dark with a few cold ones each night. Dobber would just smile, turn down every offer to join in and go on about his job.

We Stole Your Great Idea.



Now, for about the same price as a blend, Lebanon Turf Products is offering a homogeneous line of everything from greens grades to fairway grades that lets you use your choice of nitrogen, SCU or Nutralene™.

Thanks to a little market research help from The Center for Golf Course Management, GCSAA's research subsidiary, and more than 900 willing superintendents, the result is NX-PRO®.

For more on a homogeneous fertilizer that offers you the luxury of choice, contact your local Lebanon distributor,  or call 1-800-233-0628.

THE ONLY HOMOGENEOUS FERTILIZER THAT OFFERS YOUR CHOICE OF NITROGEN.

Frank Baden
Territory Manager
Bettendorf, IA
(319) 332-9288

NUTRALENE™ - NOR-AM Chemical Co. NX-PRO® - Lebanon Turf Products © 1993 Lebanon Chemical Corporation

I showed up late for work every night. Dobber would show up early every night, find Greg and explain why I would be late.

But Dobber, who was one year younger than me, had his dark side, too. An incredible practical joker, he'd love to hide my tool box and then watch me go berserk after I'd find one of my hoses broken miles from the shed. He did this often. After one such occasion, I finally tracked him down on the part of the course where homes were located nearby. I let poor Dobber have it with a chorus of expletive deletives that would have made Buddy Ryan cringe. Unfortunately, one of the people who lived a nearby house was a former marine who heard every word as he sat on his front porch with his wife and shotgun.

Dobber enjoyed finding me about 10 minutes later and telling me I had a visitor who wanted to talk to me. These were his parting words: "Do you want me to phone your mother and have her meet you at the hospital?"

But what made Dobber so special is that he has a heart of gold and is a genuine human being; the kind I've rarely encountered since my days at Lake Shore.

One night I couldn't find Dobber anywhere. Finally, after searching the course for an hour, I found him in under a tree digging a hole with a shovel. There was a tear coming out of one of his eyes. He had run over a killdeer, one of those stupid birds who would rather run than fly and were constantly in the way as we drove down the fairways to do our jobs.

I howled with laughter because I had driven over dozens of those birds and had become comfortably numb about it. But Dobber never did. He buried every bird he drove over.

Dobber also put up with my desire to help him have more

fun in his life. I'd introduce him to my girlfriends and they'd immediately try to set him up with one of their friends. I'd demand he party with me. But Dobber didn't like to chase girls and he didn't like to hang out at bars. He was content to golf during the day, work at night and spend the rest of the time with his family. I thought that was downright sacrilegious at the time. Now I realize how strong he was to stick to his convictions.

I lost track of Dobber after I graduated from college and became a full-time newspaper guy. I learned he got married after graduating from college and moved to Washington, D.C.

During the past 18 years since working at Lake Shore I have met a myriad of interesting people ranging from superstar athletes to legendary coaches to members of the White House administration. When asked who have impressed me most, none of them come to mind. I always think of Dobber, the guy who stuck to his convictions, who never wavered under the pressure of his peers.

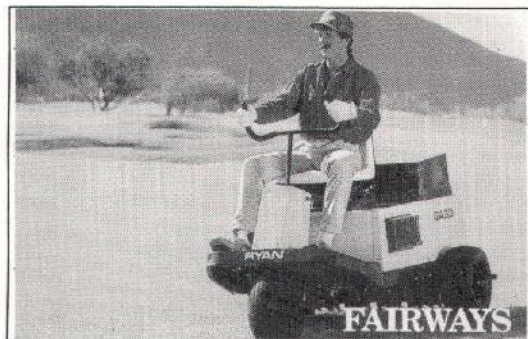
Scott finally gave up on my lawn mower and headed back to his car to find some friends with whom he could try to create a memorable Saturday night. As we stood by his car he told a few stories about his summer at Blackhawk. I smiled because I knew they would be stories he'd remember for the rest of his life.

He doesn't know it but he just had the best summer of his life.

After Scott drove away, I sat down on the stoop next to my broken mower and remembered my last summer working on a golf course. I thought of Dobber and wondered what he's doing now. Whatever is is, I'm sure he's content. It made me feel good knowing that. ♣

Entire Course gasping for air?

**Hanley's of Sun Prairie
will aerate it fast with
the *full course*
Ryan GA™ 30 Aerator.**



The GA™ 30 Aerator from Ryan can deliver green quality aeration to the entire course. Variable core spacing makes it as good on the fairways as it is on the greens and tees. You can aerate to a depth of 3 3/4" with this single piece of equipment. The 18 h.p. engine produces six m.p.h. speed for fast transport on and off the course.

Give your whole course the air it needs - Call Hanley's.

Hanley

Power Equipment & Turf Sales
641 W. Main Street • Sun Prairie, WI 53590
(608) 837-5111 • (608) 257-7815
Toll Free 1-800-279-1422



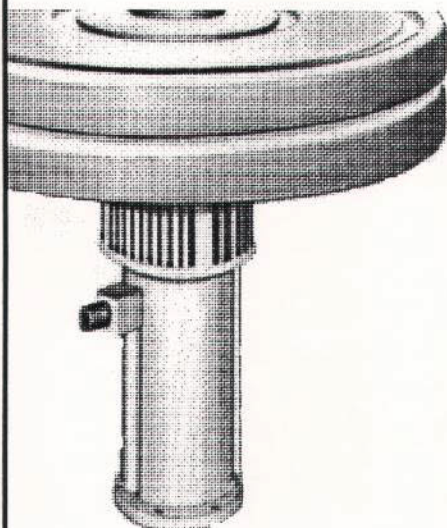
RYAN

Driven to be the best.

WGCSA Meeting Locations For 1994

| DATE | LOCATION | SPEAKER/TOPIC |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| September 12 (Monday) | LAWSONIA G.C. - Green Lake, WI Mike Berwick, G.C. Superintendent | Bob Vavrek (Dinner) "Year in Review - 1994" |
| September 19 (Monday) | WTA Golf Outing Beloit C.C. - Beloit, WI Don Ferger, G.C. Superintendent | — |
| October 3 (Monday) | PINE HILLS C.C. - Sheboygan, WI Rod Johnson, G.C. Superintendent | Dr. Frank Rossi (Lunch) "To Be Announced" |
| October 7-8 (Friday/Saturday) | WGCSA Dinner Dance Cold Water Canyon G.C. - Wisconsin Dells, WI | — |
| December 5-6 (Monday/Tuesday) | WGCSA / GCSAA Regional Seminar Ramada Inn - Fond du Lac, WI | "Preconstruction and Construction Management" |

Troubled waters

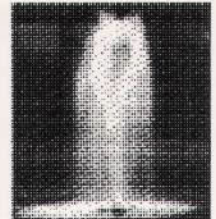
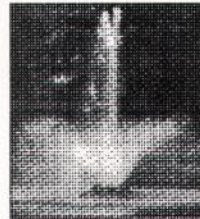


Reinders

OTTERBINE AERATORS

The prescription for troubled breathing, poor circulation and changing temperatures in ponds and lakes is practical engineering that is aesthetically pleasing. These aerators range in power, circulating from 600,000 to 20 million gallons of water in a 24-hour period. Each complete, turnkey system is delivered fully assembled; no special pumps or foundations are required.

Striking patterns begin with the Starburst, Rocket, Sunburst, Constellation, or Phoenix working alone or mingled together. Add the Otterbine Fountain



Glo™ lighting system for spectacular evening display as well as security or the Rock Float Cover for the illusion of natural spray.



Otterbine Aerators meet the water management needs of golf courses, parks, recreational lakes, office developments, and residential condominiums.

IRRIGATION SUPPLY

13400 Watertown Plank Rd.,
Elm Grove WI 53122-0825

800-782-3300

(Continued from page 51)

to the structure of the compound we can say degradation has occurred since it is no longer the same compound. The compound still looks very similar and it is probably just as toxic as it was originally, but the efficacy and water-solubility of the compound changed drastically. This is dependent upon what was rearranged on the structure, and where on the structure the rearrangement occurred. How many possibilities do you think exist? As you can see, scientists will be busy for some time to come.

Obviously a pesticide's efficacy for its intended pest is very important, but today's educated turfgrass managers must be just as concerned with maintaining a healthy environment as they are for "keeping it green". In conjunction with integrated pest management programs, we can choose pesticides based on their effectiveness and cost, but we can also consider the water solubility, half-life and toxicity of the active ingredients. This information may not be on the product label where it should be, but you can retrieve it from a reference library or the company that manufactures the product.

With this information, you will have some very specific/scientific answers for those who ask you those uncomfortable questions.

Editor's Note: Darin Lickfeldt has recently joined the turfgrass research team at the University of Wisconsin-Madison as a Research Assistant/Ph. D. Candidate for Dr. Frank Rossi and he will be a regular contributor to future issues of *Grass Roots* with his column "Ivy Covered Walls". *Ivy Covered Walls* will focus on explaining recent advances in basic research, and drawing a closer link between the scientific community and turfgrass managers.

Darin comes to us from his home state of Michigan where he was raised in the very small town of Stockbridge. Darin was a student athlete in high school and he took his first position on a golf course maintenance crew at the age of 15 (Barton Hills C.C., Ann Arbor, MI) where he worked for a total of four seasons. Upon graduation from high school in 1984, he entered the United States Army for a total of 3 years, and served at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and in

Germany as an artillery surveyor. After his term in the service, Darin enrolled at Michigan State University as a student of turfgrass management. While at MSU he worked 3 more years at Walnut Hills C.C. in E. Lansing until graduating with honors from MSU in 1991. Darin immediately entered graduate school at MSU under the direction of Dr. Bruce Branham and he completed his MS in May 1994 (Organic Compound Sorption by Kentucky Bluegrass Leaves and Thatch). While studying for his MS, he served as the Research Technician for Dr. Branham. As a technician, Darin evaluated many aspects of herbicide and plant growth regulator use in turfgrass, pesticide fate issues and bentgrass conversion strategies. In his free time Darin enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with his family.

Darin, his wife Jodi, and their son Jason are very pleased to be a part of Wisconsin's turfgrass industry and they look forward to future interactions with you. ♣



"I LIKED THE LOW-TECH SYSTEM BETTER."



CONGRATULATIONS TO...

By Monroe S. Miller

Clay Loyd — I've known Clay Loyd for the entire 11 years he has been with the GCSAA. There's no reason to deny I am sad to see him retire.

In October of 1983 Clay was hired as the GCSAA director of communications, a job he has held ever since then. My acquaintance with him has grown over the years because of my job as chapter editor. He has held court over the annual chapter publications seminars, and each year he has designed the publication judging format.

Clay has been at the helm while *Golf Course Management* magazine has grown, both in size and in revenues. He has had his hand in the initiation and development of several new publications and countless media products.

It has been a pleasure knowing this thoroughly professional journalist and learning from him. Friendly, witty and always helpful, he will be missed by GCSAA.

I am looking forward to reading his first book, now that he will have the time to write it. Congratulations.

Dennis Tiziani — You probably have to be over 45 years of age to really appreciate the latest accomplishment of this most accomplished golf pro.

No, I am not thinking of the two Big Ten golf championships—Men's and Women's teams—he coached this year. Or Cherokee's revitalization after a tough weather year last year.

I am congratulating a 51 year old PGA member for his victory in the

1994 WPGA championship. His 5-under par total of 211 gave him a 1-shot win. The field included many PGA pros half his age.

It wasn't the first time Tiz has won the championship; in fact, it was his fourth. The win made him only the second golfer to post victories in three different decades.

Quite an amazing accomplishment, worthy of our highest compliment.

Kevin Henriksen — I received a letter from John Turner announcing the winner of this year's NOR AM scholarship. He is Kevin Henriksen, a senior in Wayne Kussow's Turfgrass Management program at the UW. I can testify he is a worthy recipient.

(Continued on page 47)

COLUMBIA ParCar

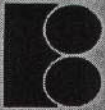


of WISCONSIN



- Gas & Electric Golf Cars & Utility Vehicles
- New, Used and Reconditioned
- Full Sales and Service
- Additional Cars for Special Events
- Lease Financing Available

(608) 764-5474



**the
bruce
company**
of Wisconsin, Inc.

Construction Services to the Golf Industry

Your source for Golf Course Construction, Reconstruction & Improvement.

*You have the Projects, Ideas & Needs. We have the Experience & Equipment to do the job **Right the First time.***

*Many Trucks
Equipped with
High Floatation
Tires to
Minimize
Damage to your
Golf Course*



- **Water Control Structures**
- **Pond Cleaning**
- **New Ponds**
- **Pond Lining**
- **Cart Paths**

- **New Construction**
- **Remodelling**
- **Irrigation**
- **Drainage**
- **Feature Shaping**
- **Trap Sand Replacement**



*Specialized
Equipment
suited to
Cleaning your
existing Golf
Course
Water
Features.*

CALL US TODAY!!

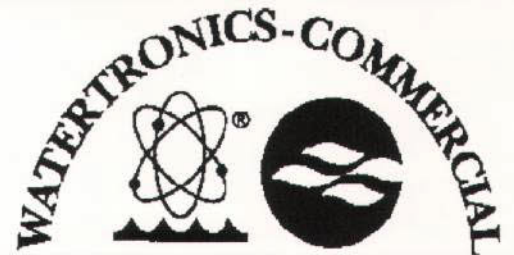
Lee Bruce

(608) 836-7041

Carl Dowse

Established 1953

Joining Together To Better Serve Our Customers



- Over 70 years of combined experience.
- The largest selection of pump station models and options.
- Vertical Turbine - Centrifugal - Submersible
- Constant speed hydraulic or electronic butterfly valve pressure regulation.
- Pump manager software.
- Smart pump controls.
- Variable speed VFD stations.
- Combined national service organizations.
- Existing station retro-fit upgrades.
- Deep well consulting services.

We can help solve your water pumping requirements!

Watertronics Pumping Systems

Hartland, Wisconsin

800-356-6686

Commercial Pump Services, Inc.

Swanton, Ohio

800-426-0370

(Continued from page 45)

What a perfect opportunity to thank NOR AM and J.T. for the unflagging support. It has gone on uninterrupted through a number of corporate changes. It was John who worked out the details of including Wisconsin on the list of schools that receive the award.

It is interesting to look at the list of past winners and note that most are still in our business.

Kristi J. Monahan — Kristi, the daughter of Vince and Vicki Monahan, was recently awarded one of the ten 1994 GCSAA Legacy Awards Scholarships. She is a student at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

The awards, which honor academic excellence among children and grand-

children of GCSAA-member superintendents, are underwritten by Ciba Turf and Ornamental Products.

Recipients are chosen by an independent panel based on the student's academic achievement, extracurricular activities and an essay about our profession of golf course management. This is the fourth year of the scholarship, but the first with funding from Ciba.

Peter Cookingham — Pete, manager of the Turfgrass Information Center, is the editor of Volume I, No. 1 and 2 of *The Turfgrass Index*. The index is a major accomplishment, one he deserves a lot of credit for completing. With its 270 pages at your fingertips, you can search the turfgrass literature from the period January-June 1993.

It's arranged with both an author index and a subject index, making your search even easier. It is a terrific resource for whatever purpose you might have—problem evaluation, green committee report, background reading or research for a *GRASS ROOTS* article. It will make the already invaluable TIF even more accessible, less time consuming and more useful. In fact, it reminded me of a catalog. I started writing down articles I wanted copies of and in a short time had a list way too long! There is no doubt in my mind that this will greatly increase the use of this information source for golf course superintendents. Once again, Peter has performed an invaluable service for all of us. 🌿

WISCONSIN GOLF TURF SYMPOSIUM

NOVEMBER 1 and 2, 1994

Hyatt Regency Hotel • Milwaukee, Wisconsin



*Only the best greens
are built from the roots up...*

Over 5,000 greens across the USA, Asia and Mexico are rooted in **GREENSMIX®**

Rootzone Mixes are available for immediate shipment—

- Plant locations throughout Illinois and Wisconsin
- Pretested
- Preblended
- Prequalified
- Every load guaranteed to meet 1993 USGA® recommendations

SOIL AMENDMENTS:

- Sphagnum moss peat
- Reed sedge peat
- Peat humus


GREENSMIX

A Division of Faulks Bros. Construction, Inc.

1-800-537-1796

A revolutionary leap in the evolution of mowing.

To see where rotary mowing is headed, take a good look at the sleek new Jacobsen HR-5111.™ It delivers an 11'-plus, high-production cut and exceptional trimability in a rugged four-wheel-drive package.

Built for long life in rough country.

Hydrostatic 4WD, a heavy-duty axle with differential lock, and a reliable, fuel-efficient, 51-hp diesel let the HR-5111 confidently tackle tough hills that stall the competition.

Our new box-channel steel, straight-line frame takes the pounding of tough conditions like no other mower in its class. Plus, the full-fiberglass body keeps its good looks for years, even in the harshest environments. And it's all backed by a 2-year, 1,500-hour warranty.*

No belts. No pulleys. No kidding.

Our revolutionary, fully hydraulic cutting system eliminates the maintenance and adjustments of belt-driven units. It incorporates individual, lifetime lubricated spindle motors which deliver more power to knock down tall, heavy grass, for a clean 1" to 5½" cut. The decks



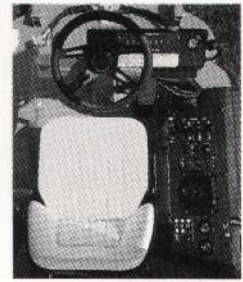
*See your Jacobsen distributor for full warranty details.

have a unique, counter-rotating spindle configuration producing the smoothest rear discharge going.

Smooth operator.

From the easy-to-read, full instrumentation, to the ergonomic controls, the HR-5111 redefines operator convenience. What's more, power steering, tilt wheel, cruise control and the adjustable high-back suspension seat keep the operator comfortable, for a more productive day.

For high productivity, 4WD mobility, heavy-duty durability and operator comfort, there's nothing like the HR-5111 on turf. So be sure to ask your Jacobsen distributor for a demonstration today.



**JACOBSEN
TEXTRON**

Jacobsen Division of Textron, Inc.

THE SHARPEST THINKING ON TURF.



**THERE'S NOTHING
LIKE IT ON TURF.**

HORST DISTRIBUTING, INC.

P.O. Box 110, 444 N. Madison St. • Chilton, WI 53014-0110

Phone 414-849-2341

Turf Maintenance Equipment & Supplies
Serving N.E. Wisconsin & Upper Michigan



Compatibility in the Spray Tank

By Dr. Paul Sartoretto
 Technical Director, W.A. Cleary Chemical Corporation

Editor's Note: Julie Meyer's column will be back next issue. For this one, it seemed a good opportunity to reproduce Dr. Paul Sartoretto's widely distributed and frequently followed guide for pesticide compatibility. For those who haven't seen it or who have lost track of your copy, here it is. Dr. Sartoretto has been a speaker in Wisconsin at a WGCSA meeting in the past. His recommendations are offered for your file; no endorsements are implied.

1. Never tank mix emulsifiable insecticide concentrates with other chemicals, but insecticides can be tank mixed with each other for better control.

2. All insolubles can be tank mixed without incurring phytotoxicity, provided the products are sprayed at recommended rates.

3. Only one soluble chemical can be tank mixed with one or more insolubles. If two soluble chemicals are tank mixed with or without insolubles, avoid phytotoxicity by cutting the rate of each soluble in half.

4. Soluble fertilizers and trace elements can be added individually or mixed, provided the amount will not exceed 2 ounce solid per gallon of tank spray mix in hot weather, or 4 ounces per gallon in warm weather. Six ounces per gallon can be used in cool weather.

Tank Mixing Different Products

A. Check for Compatibility

Fill a quart jar $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water. Add 12 teaspoons of dry product or 1 teaspoon of liquid product. Cover jar and shake. Let stand 15 minutes. Check the mixture for separation, formation of globules, or formation of films. If compatible, the mixture should appear uniform.

B. Adding Different Product Formulations to the Tank

Fill $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Begin agitation and add products in this order:

1. Wettable Powders FIRST: allow for full suspension before adding other products.
2. Add Flowables next.
3. Add EC's (Emulsifiable Concentrates) last.

| Solubles: EC, S, SP | Insolubles: WP, F | Soluble-insoluble combination (Treat as solubles) |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| FUNGICIDES | | |
| Subdue | Tersan 75 | Bayleton |
| BANOL | Tersan SP | Fore |
| ALLIETTE | Spotrete | Maneb |
| BANNER | Bromosan | Zeneb |
| RUBIGAN EC | Spectrol | Captain |
| | 3336 | Daconill 2787 |
| | 1991 | Fungo |
| | Rubigan WP RP2601.9 | |
| | Scotts fungicides I, II, III | |
| INSECTICIDES | | |
| Dursban | Malathion | Oftanol |
| Diazinon | Proxol | Diazinon |
| Chlordane | Dylox | Dursban |
| Sevin | Triumph | Sevin |
| | | Malthion |
| HERBICIDES | | |
| Dacthal | 2, 4-D | MCPA |
| MCPP | DSMA | Tupersan |
| Dicamba | MSMA | Balan |
| ACCLAIM | AMA | SURFLAN |
| | Betasan-EC | |
| FERTILIZERS | | |
| urea | | Nitroform (Powder Blue) |
| ammonium nitrate | | IBDU |
| ammonium phosphate | | Fluf (flowable ureaform) |
| ammonium sulfate | | |
| potassium nitrate | | |
| muriate of potash | | |
| Formolene | | |
| Cleary's Water Soluble N-P-K's | | |
| <p>The ideal fungicide tank mix is a three-way combination of soluble contact/insoluble systemic chemicals. To get broader coverage than the single soluble at full rate, two soluble contacts can be mixed, each at half rate.</p> | | |

THE NORTHERN WISCONSIN TURFGRASS RESEARCH PROJECT

By Dr. Frank Rossi

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Turfgrass Group has begun a research project in the northern part of Wisconsin (above 45 degree latitude) to address the needs of turf managers in that part of Wisconsin and the rest of the upper midwest. In fact, the work is designed to serve turfgrass managers in Minnesota and the UP of Michigan, too.

Because of the geographical location of the UW-Madison and the O.J. Noer Turfgrass facility, it is difficult to mimic conditions experienced in the Northwoods. Additionally, it is challenging to conduct research projects that require highly controlled conditions and regular environmental monitoring. Therefore, the first few studies in the Northern Project will include turfgrass species and cultivar evaluations and low-temperature disease management, specifically the snow molds.

We have selected the Gateway Golf Course in Land 'O Lakes on the Wisconsin-Michigan border. Todd Renck is the golf course superintendent and part owner. Gateway was selected because of its location; the primary requirement was a commitment for ten years to allow the plots to be maintained.

The other significant aspect in the planning of the project was to garner support for the use of a putting surface for green research. Plans are underway to construct 5,000-10,000 square feet of additional putting green area at Gateway for projects such as the influence of traffic and management systems on putting green quality.

The first experiment installed was the Northern Fairway Turfgrass Evaluation. This study includes 75 species of cultivars of turfgrasses with potential for use as fairway turf. The majority of the species (60) are part of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) Fine

Leaf Fescue Trial. The NTEP trials are conducted throughout the United States and Canada and are funded through the USDA and seed companies. We have included nine selections from a turfgrass breeder in Sweden as well as several other species, including *Poa supina* and commercially available Kentucky bluegrass cultivars that have performed well in our fairway trial in Madison. Also included are some experimental fine-leaf fescues from Medalist America and Dr. Eric Nelson's breeding program. The trial is part of the second fairway at Gateway and will receive typical fairway maintenance practices, including traffic and divots from golfers.

Our objective is to evaluate the use of fine-leaf fescues and other alternatives to bluegrasses for fairway turf in the north. The motivation behind evaluating these grasses emanates from my interest in the use of fine-leaf fescues on golf courses. These grasses are able to provide good quality under lower fertility than the bluegrasses (e.g. 2#N/M/yr vs. 4#N/M/yr) and usually tolerate poor growing conditions—wet or dry or shady.

Additionally, I have had the opportunity to visit golf courses throughout New England, the Maritime Provinces of Canada and more recently the Traverse City, Michigan area (High Point Golf Club) where the fine-leaf fescues have been planted tee to green. In most cases where there is significant play, the fescues cannot hold up on the greens. However, tees and especially fairways have been providing superior conditions for many years. A quick look at the maintenance budgets also adds a nice feature to the fescues. In general, pesticide applications are about 30% to 50% less than other courses in the area.

We do not expect the fine-leaf fes-

cues to be without their problems, notably the lack of wear tolerance and slow recuperative ability. Also, diseases such as red thread and leafspot could be devastating. Still, traffic patterns can be managed successfully to limit excessive wear, and conditions that are conducive to severe disease outbreaks are not common. We have also observed some cultivar difference in snow mold and leafspot susceptibility; however, these are only preliminary observations.

We are very excited about the opportunity to evaluate species under "real world" conditions. A Northern Turfgrass Research Project would not be complete without disease evaluations. Dr. Julie Meyer will be conducting extensive long-term disease evaluations.

Steve Millet, a PhD candidate working under Meyer's direction, is investigating the biology of gray snow mold and could be conducting experiments as part of the project. Dr. Meyer will be evaluating commercially available and experimental fungicides for effectiveness, as well as several composted and microbial-based products as part of the biological disease management program.

We are currently planning on holding a field day at Gateway sometime in 1995 to view the progress of the project and provide an open forum for input for future efforts. We have been in contact with many seed companies interested in evaluating their materials for our project. Also, turfgrass research programs in Manitoba and Alberta, Canada has expressed interest in collaborating on projects that affect their turfgrass managers.

The future looks bright for the Northern Project. We will keep you informed of its progress and results. ♣