

"I don't know if it's the people they have working for them," Al wonders. "They get them off the street and pay them minimum wage. I don't think they really have the instructions to do the job the way it should be done. They could do a much better job."

Even though the courses pay less for labor and the players pay less for a round of golf, Al believes that a better effort in golf course maintenance could go a long way. "They don't seem to cut the grass down the way it should be for golfers," Al says. "They must have mostly high handicap golfers around here because they don't notice. But I do. And I wish it was a lot better."

"They don't cut the grass often enough," he adds with emphasis.

Al did try to help with the golf courses at one time. "I really wanted to get involved. I thought I could help. But the superintendents didn't appear to want to be helped. So I just keep my nose out of it unless asked," he says. He was, however, instrumental in persuading the board to construct new greens at Bella Vista Country Club.

Although he's enjoying retirement, Al still takes some time to remember his 22 years at Meadowbrook. "A lot of times I think about just being out there in the open, overseeing the golf course," he admits. "It gives me a nice feeling."

He also has fond memories of a colleague, John Crewe, who used to be superintendent at Racine Country Club. "He helped me develop into a golf course superintendent," Al recalls. "He'd come over and help me with a lot of things. He's still alive and in a nursing home, I understand. He's 93 or 94 years old. There aren't many people who'd remember him."

Since Al never had any formal education in turf management, he seized every opportunity to learn from others. "I had more practical experience than education," he points out. "And I always tried hard at whatever I did."

"The education I had came through articles, symposiums, educational seminars and short course turf schools," he

continues. "I still remember O. J. Noer giving lectures at the UW short course. I also read a lot of articles and listened to people who knew. A lot of times people don't listen too well. I listen to anybody because anything they say might help me improve."

And Al, in turn, helped improve new mowers. While at Meadowbrook, he especially enjoyed working with Roger Thomas to test new mowing equipment from the nearby Jacobsen plant. "They would bring out new equipment and we would try it," Al explains. "We told them whether or not it was good for the turf or maybe what improvements could be made on it. They listened."

Al liked the new tri-plex mowers. "They saved a lot of time and a lot of effort," he says. "My idea was to always see if you could get the best job done in the least amount of time."

He's a little envious of the new equipment that has emerged since his retirement. "Your equipment is so much greater now, does the job so much better," he believes. "I wish I'd had it when I was a golf course superintendent."

"You've also got better turf management practices now," Al adds. "The demand for high class grass is there."

Since retirement, Al misses his involvement with the WGCSA. "Once in a while I'd like to go to a meeting. But I'd only know a few guys there now. A couple of years ago I went to a meeting over at Onalaska where Pat Norton was. I enjoyed that."

He has noticed one big change with the association's meetings. "When we had our meetings the host clubs used to recognize the golf course superintendents like they were real happy to have us," Al recalls. "There was no charge for golf or carts. The only thing we had to pay for was the meals."

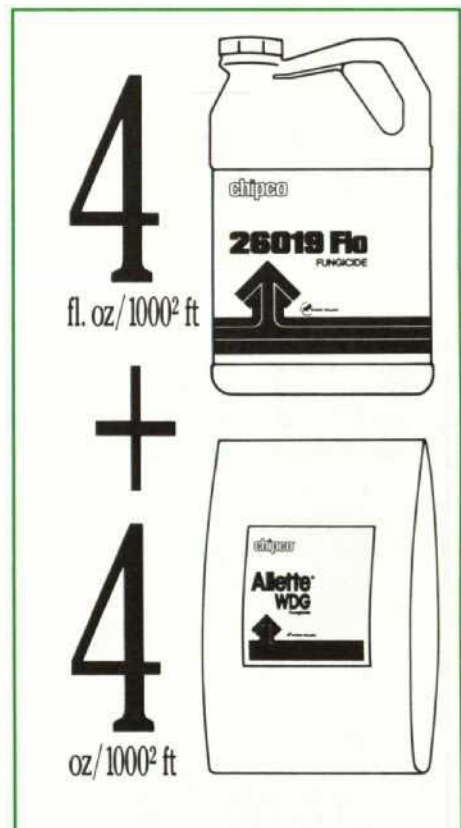
"Now it seems like you have to pay for the whole works when you go," he continues. "It really is a good thing for the clubs to have the superintendents there. They can look over the course and give good comments. I don't think the clubs see it that way."

Al still reads *The Grass Roots*, which was developed during his tenure as president of the WGCSA. "After I left, it kept getting better and better until Monroe took it over. Then it really turned into something," Al says.

"Boy, he's one great editor," he continues. "Several times I've wanted to write him a letter to tell him how great the articles are. He has a lot of the same feelings that I have."

As we concluded the telephone interview for this Personality Profile, I asked Al if there was anything he'd like to say. "I can't remember what I already told you!" he admitted with a big laugh. But then he added:

"One thing for sure is that the WGCSA is made up of a great bunch of professionals. I have made many friends and cherish all of the great memories I have had with those friends." 🌱

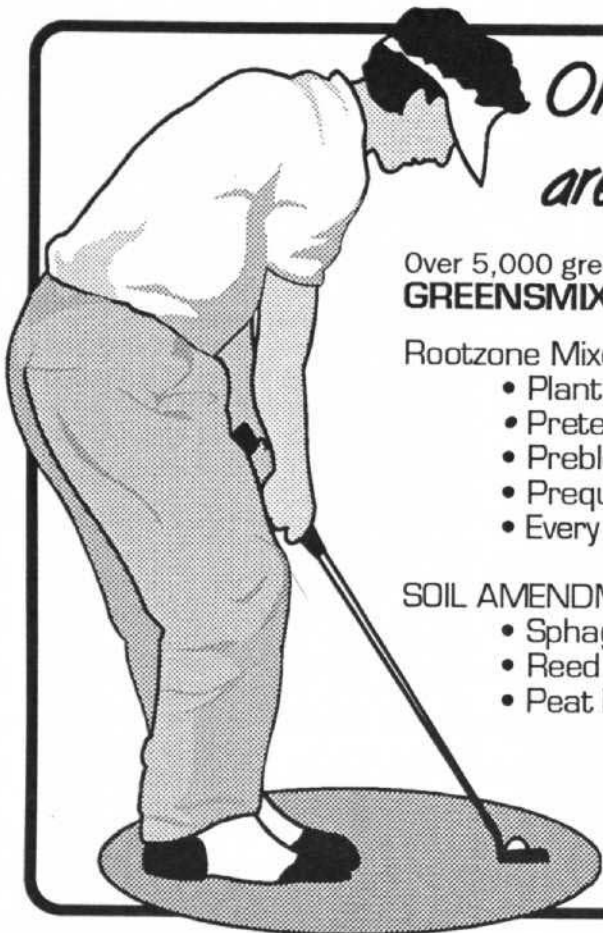


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REFLECTING ON TURFGRASS RESEARCH—1994

By Dr. Frank S. Rossi
Department of Horticulture
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Perspective

Each year for one week in November, turfgrass researchers from around the world (mostly from the US) gather at the American Society of Agronomy meetings. This year they were held in the wonderful *and wet* Emerald City of Seattle, WA. Our host turf person was Dr. Gwen Stahnke (of the other UW), who to my surprise is from the Midwest, and actually worked in Lawn Care in Wisconsin in the early 1980's.

As an interesting aside, there are a number of young turfgrass researchers from Wisconsin; Dr. Bridget Ruemmele of the University of Rhode Island is from Hudson, WI; Dr. Tom Fermanian of the University of Illinois is from Brookfield, WI; Dr. Milt Englke (oops I said young) of Texas A&M is from Platteville, WI. There might be others whom I have yet to uncover.

The turfgrass division of the society is considered one of the most active with regard to number of scientific papers submitted when compared to divisions that include agronomic crops, soil physics, resident education and crop physiology, to name a few. The last several years there have been consistently over 100 papers presented in turf alone! Contrastingly, in several discussions with my colleagues there was some concern that the quantity of papers does not always include quality.

The dual function of my work requires the generation of information through practical experiments and dissemination of the information through publications (like this one), conferences, seminars and field days. As an extension scientist I view my attendance at the meetings as a *sponge absorbing information like water*. Access to information in this forum is vital because many of these studies, for whatever reason, never make it to publication. As I Gaze this month, I will

interpret the work from my perspective. Please keep in mind that sometimes the intricacies of the work can be lost during interpretation, but, the essence of the work should remain.

The USGA Environmental Research Symposium

Several projects funded through the USGA Environmental Research Program were presented. This work was designed and funded to generate a database of information regarding the fate of nutrients and pesticides applied to golf turf. The studies were conducted in various regions of the country including Washington, Georgia, Florida, Michigan, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and New York. A variety of experimental approaches were taken to investigate volatilization (gaseous loss of pesticides), dislodgeable residues after application, runoff and leaching. A large portion of the data suggests that the biological activity in the turfgrass system is a significant factor in minimizing off site nutrient and pesticide movement. And management factors, especially irrigation, can influence the risk of exposure and leaching.

Volatility Study

If we start at the surface immediately after application, data from Dr. Rich Cooper investigating volatilization indicates that insecticides such as Dylox, Proxol and Triumph can volatilize up to 13% of applied material. Only 1% of the herbicide MCPP volatilized. All levels of volatility were significantly reduced when irrigation followed pesticide application. When the label says water the pesticide in—do it!

Human Exposure

One of the more innovative studies was conducted in Florida by Drs. George Snyder and John Cisar. This work was published previously in a

recent USGA Green Section Record. The researchers simulated an 18 hole round of golf immediately after a pesticide application. To simulate potential exposure they knelt on the green to align the putt, cleaned their spikes after the round, handled golf grips that had been laid on the green and analyzed a ball that was putted 36 times over a 12 foot distance to assess the risk of licking a golf ball. To assess the total risk of this activity they assumed a person was exposed this way everyday for 70 years and compared the exposure to the Chronic Reference Dose (RfD). The RfD is the highest dose of a chemical that causes no effects to the most sensitive lab test subjects. Further, the researchers lowered the RfD and increased the potential sensitivity of the study to account for unusually sensitive individuals.

The results of the exposure work, in this worst case scenario of playing everyday for 70 years on recently treated turf, were fascinating. Simply, the calculated exposure was one-third of the RfD exposure limit. A golfer is more likely to be hit by a ball than be affected by pesticides.

Science Predicts Disaster

Another aspect of the same study was more sobering. The researchers in Florida investigated the leaching of herbicides, insecticides and a nematicide. As expected with many of the pesticides, upwards of 90% was retained in thatch layer. Now while this may suggest minimized risk, consider the actual thatch layer found on putting surfaces.

The nematicide used in the study was monitored somewhat differently than the other materials. The scientists analyzed for the highly water soluble active ingredient as well as a soluble metabolite. A metabolite would be found following the breakdown of the

(Continued on page 25)

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(It's about time.)

(Continued from page 23)

active compound. In the case of this nematicide, the metabolite was extremely toxic to fish.

What was considered to be a significant amount of metabolite of the nematicide leached through the soil into the water detection area. Less than 1 year after the research was completed, a golf course was fined for a large fish kill. It was determined that the nematicide was applied, as was typical, from fence post to fence post one week prior to the kill followed by a significant rainfall. While this rainfall was substantial it was not considered uncharacteristic for that part of the country. Ironically, the data existed that could have prevented the environmental damage and now these fence post to fence post applications of nematicides are restricted in Florida.

Fortunately in Wisconsin there is no use of nematicides in turf situations. Still, I wonder how many other metabolites could be found if they were analyzed for?

Nitrogen Movement

One of the most fascinating bits of information that I retained from this symposium was from my friends Drs. Bruce Branham (Michigan State University) and Eric Miltner (now at Utah State University). The study of interest was conducted in large cores of undisturbed soil. The construction of these core was presented at the GCSAA meeting last year. Basically they drove a 3-foot diameter steel pipe into the ground and capped off the bottom to collect leachate. They applied N15, a form of nitrogen that is easily detectable. The objective of the study was to monitor the fate of a single nitrogen application over a two year period. The nitrogen was applied as a dormant feed or in the early spring.

Results indicate that while slightly more N was found from the dormant feed, the amounts from either application were considered negligible. Interestingly, two years after the applications the N15 is still being collected on the order of 0.20% of applied. Looking at the data, the numbers are just beginning to come in. The relative amounts being collected are slightly increasing, two years after application!

Preferential Flow

Several pesticides were applied in the study conducted by Branham and Miltner. The materials represented a

range of solubility, from highly soluble (high potential for leaching) to insoluble (low potential for leaching). Triadimefon (Bayleton) is considered to have a relatively low potential for leaching. However, it was detected on multiple occasions two to six months after application. The researchers concluded that the chemical moved downward by preferential flow.

Preferential flow is the movement of water through macropores (large pores) where water moves essentially by the force of gravity. This situation might be expected in a coarse sand substrate, but was somewhat surprising in the native soil. It suggests that earthworm activity could have created channels for the materials to move further than would otherwise be expected.

A study conducted by Dr. Marty Petrovic from Cornell University (an EXPO-95 speaker), investigated this phenomenon in sand based greens. In conversation with Marty, his work demonstrates that when sands are allowed to dry, finger-like channels are created that could provide an opportunity for pesticides and nutrients to leach. This would be substantially influenced by irrigation rate and frequency.

Anthracnose on Annual Bluegrass

Several other studies were presented that were equally as interesting and important as the above work. Dr. Peter Landschoot from Penn State demonstrated predisposition of annual bluegrass to anthracnose by wounding the crown. He either punctured the crown or abraded it. In either case symptoms were more severe when the crown was wounded. It was speculated that topdressing and core cultivation could increase anthracnose symptoms on putting greens.

Fans

A study conducted in North Carolina investigated the influence of wind velocity on several plant and soil

factors. Wind velocity was simulated by fans that are widely used on golf courses throughout the south where bentgrass is grown. The greatest influence of the fans was found on the moisture in the leaves as well as soil moisture potential. In other words, fans dry the area. However, before buying a fan, take a look at the methods used in the study.

The fans were positioned within 5 feet of the putting surface. Therefore, the lowest velocity measured away from the fans would still be more than that measured from where fans are normally positioned (off to the side some, 15 to 20 feet from the putting surface).

The graduate student presenting the information made a comment that the fan selected had a habit of throwing more wind from the right side than the left. He overcame this variability by installing baffles to direct the wind. My impression was that the use of fans is still a questionable practice, even in North Carolina.

The Search Continues...

As a scientist I am constantly amazed at the ability humans have to uncover new information. The volumes of scientific information, just in turf, is overwhelming! And more overwhelming is that what may be a truth today, might be found differently with new technology tomorrow.

As a turfgrass manager, the single most important use of this information lies in the decision-making process you go through each day you manage the course. The dynamics of biology are out there, science tries to simplify it, and hold factors constant, to isolate an effect. Ultimately it is up to you to interpret the information for your own benefit. I feel my job is to continue the search for new information and help your decision-making process be a little easier. ♣

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THE NATIONAL

By Monroe S. Miller

Wouldn't you know it. The first really ugly, brutal winter weather of the year came the night before and the morning of our departure for the annual GCSAA conference and show.

Bogey Calhoun, Tom Morris and Ed Middleton stood at the window rail in the airport, looking out at the blizzard that raged all across Wisconsin and closed the airport for the immediate few hours. I was with them, and my state of mind was as glum as theirs.

"Let's go to the restaurant and get some black coffee," Tom suggested. "If we hurry we might be able to get a table by the window and watch all the planes that AREN'T taking off!"

"Real funny, Tom," said the normally chipper Bogey. "Here we are, stranded in an airport on one of the most exciting days of the year, and you're making a joke about it."

Tom was a little taken aback by Bogey's bitterness. But almost as soon as the words were out of his mouth, Bogey apologized.

"Sorry, guys," he said, "but I can't help myself. I'm so damned disappointed I could cry."

We all understood. The four of us, grown men all, had been going to the National for years. This one was my 23rd consecutive. Tom had been to a similar number, and both Steady and Bogey hadn't missed the chance to attend in their less long careers.

The waitress brought our coffees, along with a carafe of refills. I knew it wouldn't go to waste. The snow swirled outside the window by our table, showing little sign of relenting.

"Winter weather has raised havoc with travel to and from the National any number of times," I told the guys. "I'm almost to the point of expecting it."

"Not that experience makes it more tolerable," I added. "I'm just not surprised anymore."

"In fact, a delay because of a winter storm a number of years ago gave Kick Logan and me one of the most interesting experiences either of us will have at these meetings anywhere."

"Keep going, tell about it," Bogey said, with a little less aggravation than a couple of minutes before.

"Well, the plane left here four hours late because of — you guessed it — a snow storm. We were diverted to another airline with a hub WEST of here. But we were going to Washington, D.C.! We arrived at our next stop farther from D.C. than when we left. That stop was two hours long and we were finally boarded on a flight that would take us halfway to the coast. We waited a couple of hours before we finally boarded a plane for Washington.

"No surprise that when we got close to the D.C. airport we were put into a holding pattern, circling around the city, over the ocean and back. Our turn to land came up and by some miracle our luggage was there, too. That was a genuine shock.

"Kick and I hustled a taxi to the hotel and were happy to see a subway station across the street. We figured, despite the late hour and the total darkness, we could get downtown and still see some of the historic sights. I checked in and Kickapoo tracked down details on how to use the subway.

"Washington probably has the best subway system in the country — clean and safe and efficient. It's probably the ONLY efficient thing in Washington! We boarded the nearly empty train and got off at the station closest to the Capitol building. There wasn't a soul on the street when we got out of the stop."

"You two are lucky to be alive," Bogey said. His mind was now more on my tale than on the snow outside.

"Well, remember, this was quite a while ago and D.C. hadn't yet wrestled the Murder City USA title from Detroit."

"Kick and I hustled up to the Capitol, rattled the doors until a cop asked what we were doing. He was no kinder after we told him 'tourists looking for an open door to our Capitol!'"

"Come back tomorrow," he told us.

"We could see nothing was open and that before long safety could be a concern. The Supreme Court building was closed, too, so we walked back toward the Capitol on the way to the subway station.

"Along the sidewalk we saw a cameraman setting up lights at the same time a man in a coat and tie and overcoat was patting his hair in place. We stopped to watch and it was pretty obvious we had stumbled onto a national TV report from "the Hill". The reporter was Brit Hume, reporting live for ABC-TV News.

"Every year Kick and I talk about how close we were to live national TV."

"Well," Tom said, "it was at that same National that I shook former president Jerry Ford's hand. He was at the annual banquet to receive an award from GCSAA. I was in a back hall behind the hotel ballroom where the banquet was being held, and there he was."

"What did you do?" queried Bogey.

"Well, I said 'good evening, Mr. President.' He was very cordial and interested when I said I was from Wisconsin. Since he was from Michigan, we talked a bit about the Badgers and the Wolverines. He signed my program and I still have it."

We were impressed. Ed started recounting the famous people he'd met at the National.

"In my time, I have discovered that the National attracts lots of people because of its importance to golf. The meeting is fertile ground for rubber-necks like me," the steady one observed.

"Like all of us," Bogey offered.

The conversation started me thinking about the times I'd met Arnold Palmer, once getting him to sign a Palmer ryegrass ad and another time a can of Pennzoil. When he received our highest award, I got him to sign the program.

We visited about all the great players we'd met at conference. Among us we'd seen Lee Trevino, Byron Nelson, Jack Nicklaus and Ben Crenshaw. Somebody mentioned Johnny Miller, and then remembered Chi Chi Rodriguez. There was Gene Sarazan and Patty Berg. We knew we were forgetting some players; the point that really set in was that each of us, to varying degrees, had been close to those at the core of golf's history and tradition. Because of the National.

"Let's remember the other sports names who have appeared at the National, as keynoters or speakers or as company representatives," Tom advised. "Bart Starr was on stage when Dr. Jim Love received the distinguished service award. Terry Bradshaw and Johnny Bench have been there in recent years. And once I had dinner with retired San Francisco 49er quarterback John Brodie, who also is an outstanding golfer."

I chipped in with the story about my early morning visit with Pat Summeral. It was back during the period when the opening session was right away in the morning. I was to be on stage to get an award for our chapter publication. All of us were to meet ahead of time in a room behind the auditorium. As is typical with me, I was early, by a lot. First one there, but not by much. Pat Summeral wandered in, curious if he was in the right place. We visited for 10 or 15 minutes before anybody else showed up. It was great fun. I got him to talking about Vince Lombardi, who was an assistant coach for the New York Giants when Pat was a defensive back for them.

It looked like the snow was letting up a little. We could see the lights of the snowplows on the runways. Bogey motioned to our waitress for some more black coffee. We kept talking.

"The National has given members a great chance to learn from world famous designers — Cornish and Jones, for example — and to get advice from the world's best grass scientists," Bogey said. "They are all at the National one time or another, and every one of us can approach them if so inclined. It is a neat deal."

"I'll say," Bogey replied. "I spent almost an hour once talking with Jim Beard. Where else would you get that chance?"

On and on the conversation went, all about what a great week for golf course superintendents the National was.

Tom and I have been around long enough that we can remember when the National was held 'up north'. In fact, one of those northern meetings was an omen for me, a clue that I was really going to like my new employer. It was 1973; I had been on the job three or four days and I left for Boston where my first National was held. I'll never forget it. While everybody else was griping and complaining, I thought I was in heaven. I spent free hours checking out Beacon Hill, the Park Street Cemetery where John Hancock

and Paul Revere were buried, the Old North Church and a dozen other historical places. It was a meeting I could never forget. The room I had was even special — it overlooked the Boston Common. Only those with thin blood complained about the cold, and it was cold; I didn't even notice.

"How about the week in Minneapolis?" Tom asked me.

"I liked it. Did you?"

"Sure," came Tom's reply. "But lots of others didn't. The attendance wasn't that great and GCSAA hasn't been back to snow country since."

Bogey had been quiet all this time, disappointed more than the rest of us that we weren't halfway to California by now. He finally spoke up.

"The National trips have taught me a lot. Seminars, lectures and all that are the meat and potatoes of the week. The huge show, which I still can barely comprehend, is dessert. But the experience of getting there and back, the new friends made and all the rest that goes on are important, too."

"I've heard you tell about the year you drove down with Scott Fennimore and Bill Flagstick," Ed said, hoping to bring Bogey out of his blue funk.

Bogey smiled. "That trip had every misadventure imaginable, from flat tires to going to the wrong course for the annual tournament to the night Scottie and Billie slept together."

"Whoa," Tom interrupted. "Details, please."

"We drove hard the first day, hoping to get reasonably close to the tournament golf course so the second day had more golf than driving. But we were making less progress than we'd hoped — bad weather, flat tire, detours, you name it. All three of us were in a bad mood and tired."

"We pulled into a motel, late, and registered for a double room with two beds. We figured we'd draw straws to see who got the couch."

Bogey was grinning.

"We unlocked the door. No couch. We looked at one another and Bill blurted out — 'I'll sleep in the car before I'll sleep with either of you guys.' Scott and I said in unison 'nobody's sharing a bed.' "

We leaned into the table, wondering where Bogey's story was going. He continued.

"There was a large chair in the room. We drew straws and Scott lost. He got the chair.

"We found a restaurant, ate supper and unpacked the car. It was decided

to move the chair to the edge of one bed for Scott. He got a blanket from each bed and assured us he'd be fine.

"Since we were all tired, it didn't take long to shower and hit the hay. I was in one bed, Bill in the other and we had Scott set up so he could put his feet under the covers of Bill's bed. It seemed fair and there was no complaining.

"I was really tired and sound asleep as soon as my head hit the pillow.

"I don't know how much time had passed, but in an instant I shot straight up in bed like a bolt of lightning; going from deep sleep to wide-eyed awake is enough to cause a heart attack. A blood curdling scream had pierced by ears; it was Billie.

"He was screaming and swearing at Scott." Bogey was enjoying the memory.

"Scott was half asleep and didn't have a clue as to what the commotion was all about. Neither did I," Bogey continued. "I was in a panic and asked Bill 'what's the matter?'"

"That s.o.b put his arm around me. And that's not all.' Bill was pale as a ghost."

Bogey was laughing now. "Scott was sound asleep but still slid out of the chair and onto the bed where Bill was sleeping. Quite normally he eventually rolled over and tried to cuddle up with Bill, just like he would have done at home. Only it wasn't home nor was it his wife. Poor Bill. He still hasn't recovered! The would have made a good scene in a movie."

The weather was improving. Announcements about reschedules

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were being given continuously. We would make it out today and most likely find ourselves in California by nightfall.

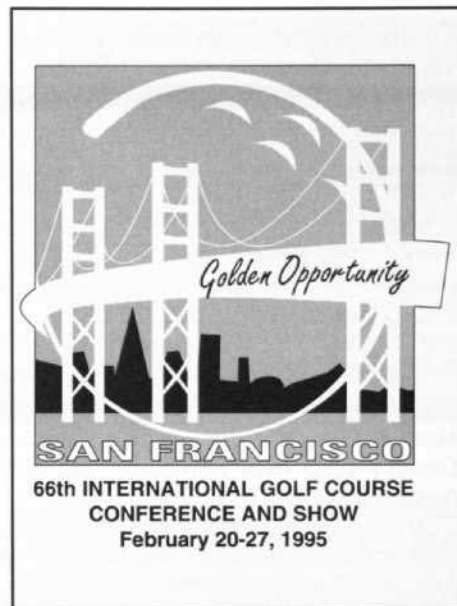
It was good for us to sit together for awhile, four friends — good friends — who were also colleagues in the same business. Once every now and then we all need to stop and share experiences and recognize how important some events are over time. We were all grateful to clubs for sending us to the National and really should thank those who have planned the meeting carefully for so long. Each one was full of memories and somehow those memories hadn't faded with time.

The National had gotten us to many of America's great cities. It had put us in the classroom with our best

educators, given us time with the game's best players. We'd seen all the equipment in one place, talked to architects and consultants like we couldn't have otherwise. We had come to know those who had a big hand in making the profession what it is today — Tom Mascaro, Eb Steiniger and Tuck Tate were three I was proud to have met and gotten to know.

We have been entertained by everyone from Anna Maria Albergetti to the Beach Boys and that's been lots of fun. And where else can you go to get those Jacobsen hats for your collection?

We all agreed. Despite the snow, this year's National would probably be the best one ever. Until next year. 🌿



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The 1994 U.S. Open at Oakmont

By David L. Finney

Editor's Note: At the PSU Golf Turf Meeting I attended in November of last year, I had the pleasure of listening to Mark Kuhns, the golf course superintendent at Oakmont Country Club near Pittsburgh, tell about his experience of hosting the 1994 U.S. Open.

He was very kind in his comments about the job his colleague David Finney did in photographing and recording the events of the tournament.

I had enjoyed reading David's account of the Open at Oakmont in Vol. 9, No. 3 issue of THREE RIVERS GREEN. He is the golf course superintendent at Lakeview Resort in Morgantown, West Virginia. He is also the editor of THREE RIVERS GREEN, the official publication of the Greater Pittsburgh Golf Course Superintendent's Association.

I called David to ask permission to reprint his article for your enjoyment. He not only granted that permission but he offered to select some pictures from the hundreds and hundreds he took during Open week. I thanked him for all of us. This is some reading you will enjoy because he so clearly understands the things that would interest us.

This would have been a great article for GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT to share with superintendents all across the country.

PHOTOGRAPHING THE U.S. OPEN

I imagine that most golf course superintendents have attended at least one PGA Tour or USGA sponsored golf tournament at some time in their lives. It couldn't be much easier to attend, simply show the people at Will Call your GCSAA gold or green card, collect your two complimentary daily/grounds passes, and you're in. I've been fortunate enough to spectate at the Masters, the World Series of Golf,

the MCI Heritage Golf Classic, the Hilton Head Seniors International, the Memorial Tournament, the Women's Kemper Open at Princeville, the Hawaiian Open, the U.S. Senior Open at Laurel Valley, the '78 PGA Championship and the '83 U.S. Open when they were held at Oakmont, and most recently the '94 U.S. Open, also played at Oakmont Country Club.

That's a lot of golf tournaments to go to, and you'd think that after a while one was pretty much the same as all the rest. But at this year's U.S. Open at Oakmont I had a most unique perspective on the tournament. By prior arrangement with Oakmont's superintendent Mark Kuhns, I became a member of the working press, covering the U.S. Open as a photographer. I was issued press credentials, a photographer's bib, given complete access to everything available to the working press, and the opportunity to photograph the U.S. Open from inside the gallery ropes.

I was working for Mark as Official Photographer of the Oakmont Golf Course Maintenance Staff. All of my photographic work would be used to illustrate the writing about the Open, and then eventually be turned over to Mark and Oakmont Country Club for their use exclusively.

My job at the '94 Open was to document on film the monumental effort that goes into preparation for a major tournament. I was to shoot pictures of the mowing, the cup changing, bunker raking, greens rolling, hand syringing, divot seeding, anything and everything that the maintenance staff does to prepare the golf course for the best players in the world. I was also shooting pictures of the players, the gallery, the television crews, even the USGA officials.

If you want to feel really inadequate, just stand next to the photographers from Sports Illustrated with their 600 mm



The players' view of Oakmont in 1994.



One of the better known U.S. Open Competitors.



Typical U.S. Open rough—literally up to your knees.