



# POA PROPAGANDA

By Robert Erdahl

See if you can relate to this incident: I'm in the pro shop talking to a group of members when the conversation turns to some aspect of putting green management. In order to make my point, I find it necessary to mention some of the differences between *Poa annua* and bentgrass. I try my best not to get too technical, but by the time I have finished explaining hairy ligules, crown hydration and the deadly threat of *Magnaporthe poae*, most of my audience is either confused or has already left for the first tee. I leave the pro shop frustrated and wondering whether my lecture was worth the effort.

I'm sure all of you have found yourself in almost the exact same type of situation with similar results. Why does this happen? Don't members care about the technical aspects of golf course maintenance? Sometimes yes, but most of the time they just want to tee it up and have a good time. After all, you are the one getting paid the big bucks to solve all the problems on the golf course; including those caused by *Poa annua*.

Ah, the problems caused by *Poa annua*! We could all write a book about how this turfgrass plant has shaped our lives. Some chapters would read like a romance novel and others like tales from a horror story. I don't think our books would be on the best seller list, but I do think that there is an audience that needs to hear our stories. It's that captive audience we refer to as our members. Now wait a minute! I just got done complaining that most members really don't care about the technical aspects of golf course maintenance; all they care to know is that green is good and brown is bad. So how do you get their attention and keep it when you discuss golf course issues?

Well, how about this for a really radical idea — Why don't you explain to your members how difficult it is to manage *Poa annua* on your golf course. No! No! Not just once like in the pro shop encounter. I'm talking about overloading them with the information that YOU want them to know about *Poa annua* management. You can call it public relations if you want; I'll call it what it really is — Propaganda. My dictionary defines propaganda as "a systematic effort to persuade a body of people to support or adopt a particular opinion, attitude or course of action." That's perfect; let's see how we can use it.

In order to develop your own "Poa Propaganda" campaign, you need to do two things. First, you have to formulate a strategy for managing *Poa annua* on your golf course. Since I'm sure all of you already have a plan in place, my suggestion would be to fine tune that plan so that your members can understand it. Start out by giving them some background information about *Poa annua*'s good and bad points. Be sure to explain whether your management strategies are pro or anti *Poa annua* and why. Throw in some technical jargon but don't get too carried away. Remember that this is your version of propaganda, so you want to sway your members towards your way of thinking. You don't always have to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth about *Poa annua*. You can give the truth a little bit of your own "Spin", but don't make the truth so dizzy that you may not be able to regain your balance — or keep your job.

Second, you have to use every possible means of communication at your disposal to convince your members that your program is the correct way to manage *Poa annua*. I've found that talking to members, no matter what the forum, is usually not a satisfactory way to explain something as complicated as the management of *Poa annua*. You have to get it on paper so that they can digest it and understand what you are trying to accomplish. Since only a small percentage of your members will probably read a one shot explanation, your strategy must be to keep after them. Put your propaganda in the club's newsletter, in memos to the board of directors and in special reports that are sent out with the monthly bills. In addition, you should have written information available at the annual meeting, in the pro shop, in the men's and women's locker rooms and in the club's business office. You get the picture, this propaganda strategy requires you to be aggressive. Heck, if you think it might work, you might even try dropping leaflets out of an airplane on men's day!

I think a key factor that is often overlooked in this whole area of communication with your members is how important it is that your members hear about golf course maintenance issues, such as the management of *Poa annua*, from you before they get their information from some other source. Never forget that you are their resident expert on golf course management. If they get their information from you first, chances are that they will be more inclined to agree with you rather than what they see on TV, read in *Golf Digest* or hear in the golfer's bar. This is definitely a case where a good offense is your best defense.

Let's look at an example of how this might work at your golf course. Imagine that you run into your green committee chairman and he is all pumped up about the bentgrass overseeding program that he saw on the fairways at Agrostis Country Club while he was on vacation. If you had not kept him informed about the pros and cons of a similar program at your golf course, you would have to defend your programs

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and it may sound like you were making excuses. If, on the other hand, you had kept your chairman up to date on all the latest bentgrass overseeding techniques and why they would or would not work on your golf course, you would have a much better chance at controlling the conversation and convincing him that your way was the right way.

Now let me give you an example of how I use "Poa Propaganda" at North Shore Country Club. About two years ago, my frustration over explaining the *Poa annua*/bentgrass situation to my members had reached the boiling point. Rather than give up, I decided to develop a propaganda strategy that would both educate my members about the differences between *Poa annua* and bentgrass and also promote my point of view on how to increase our bentgrass populations throughout the golf course.

As part of my "Poa Propaganda" campaign, I prepared a report on *Poa annua* that I now get into my members hands whenever I get the chance. To date, I estimate that one third of my members have received a copy of the report. It they read it, great: if they file it in the garbage, at least they are aware that I must have had something important to say about the subject of *Poa annua*.

My report, which is presented at the end of this article, is titled simply "*Poa annua* at North Shore Country Club". In it, I attempt to accomplish three main goals. First, I explain what *Poa annua* is and how it compares to bentgrass. Second, I present my pro-bentgrass management programs. And third, I touch on the possibility of using new technologies to control *Poa annua*.

As you read my report, be sure to keep in mind that the target audience is my members; not my peers and certainly not the scientific community. I'll be the first to admit that the report contains some facts and figures that are not 100% accurate. I am also quite sure that many of you will disagree with some of my conclusions. But you see, that doesn't really matter to my members. They will read the report, believe most of what I tell them, and hopefully be convinced that I am right. Ah, the beauty of propaganda - no wonder the communist dictators lasted so long!

## POA ANNUA AT NORTH SHORE COUNTRY CLUB

### What is *Poa annua* ?

*Poa annua* is the scientific name for a species of bluegrass that is commonly called annual bluegrass. The genus *Poa* includes all 200 species of bluegrass. The species designation *annua* describes a bluegrass that displays annual growth characteristics in an otherwise perennial genus. These annual growth characteristics will be described throughout this report.

When the Scientific Name *Poa annua* is used, the P in *Poa* must be capitalized and the entire name must be written in italics or underlined. Articles found in golf magazines and television "experts" often refer to *Poa annua* as just plain *Poa*. Referring to *Poa annua* as just plain *Poa* is similar to calling a Bald Eagle just a bird.

### Where is *Poa annua* found on golf courses?

*Poa annua* is quite common on golf course greens, tees and fairways where bentgrass is usually considered the desirable turfgrass species. *Poa annua* can be identified by looking for the light green patches (usually 1"-4" in diameter) that are randomly dispersed throughout the bentgrass. *Poa annua* has a vertical growth habit and produces seedheads in May-June and again in August-September. Bentgrass, on the otherhand, is a darker shade of green, has a horizontal growth

habit and usually does not produce seedheads at low mowing heights. For those of you willing to take a closer look, *Poa annua* leaf tips have a shape similar to the bow of a ship while bentgrass leaf tips are flat.

### How does *Poa annua* get into greens, tees and fairways?

*Poa annua* is not an intended part of the grass seed mixtures used when golf courses are constructed. Instead, it tends to be ubiquitous in the turfgrass environment and waits for a weakness in the bentgrass population then invades just like any other species of weed. Opportunities for invasion include poor initial seeding, thin areas due to fungal disease, drought, heat stress or insect activity and damage due to the actions of golfers - divots, ballmarks and spikemarks. In addition, the heavy foot traffic and intense maintenance that greens, tees and fairways are subjected to both serve to increase the competitiveness of *Poa annua* against bentgrass.

### Why is *Poa annua* inferior to bentgrass?

1. It is susceptible to a greater number of fungal diseases.
2. It has a lower tolerance of heat and drought stress.
3. It is not as resistant to winter damage.

Items 1-3 result in *Poa annua* behaving more as an annual plant rather than a perennial plant when faced with environmental stress. For example: In a year with a hot, dry summer followed by a long, harsh winter, a large portion of the *Poa annua* plants will not survive. However, in a year with both a mild summer and a mild winter, the majority of *Poa annua* plants will probably survive.

In addition, *Poa annua* is a prolific producer of seeds. On greens, these seedheads cause little bumps that interfere with putting. The biggest problem with seeds, however, is their ability to maintain or expand the *Poa annua* population. Once produced, a *Poa annua* seed remains viable in the soil for years, waiting for the chance to replace a dead *Poa annua* plant or to fill in the space vacated by a bentgrass plant that died due to environmental stress or was damaged by the action of golfers — divots, ballmarks or spikemarks.

The combination of *Poa annua*'s tendency to die during periods of environmental stress and it's ability to replace itself and/or increase it's population through seeds presents one of today's most challenging golf course management problems.

### How serious is the *Poa annua* situation at NSCC?

Greens	Less than 10% <i>Poa annua</i>	10 Greens
	10-25% <i>Poa annua</i>	10 Greens
	26-50% <i>Poa annua</i>	7 Greens
Tees	Less than 10% <i>Poa annua</i>	15 Tees
	10-25% <i>Poa annua</i>	8 Tees
	26-50% <i>Poa annua</i>	4 Tees
Fairways	Less than 10% <i>Poa annua</i>	9 Fairways
	10-25% <i>Poa annua</i>	10 Fairways
	26-50% <i>Poa annua</i>	8 Fairways

While bentgrass remains the predominant turfgrass species on our greens, tees and fairways, the percentages of *Poa annua* have slowly increased over my 10 year tenure at NSCC. Because of this increase and the inherent inferiority of *Poa annua*, I feel it is time to take a more aggressive approach towards *Poa annua* control.

### Can *Poa annua* be controlled?

Yes and No. Certain management programs have shown limited success in controlling *Poa annua* and chemical con-

trols for *Poa annua* have been recently introduced that show definite promise. However, unsuccessful *Poa annua* control programs remain one of the most common causes of unemployment for golf course superintendents.

Before starting any program to control *Poa annua* in bentgrass, it must be understood that *Poa annua* and bentgrass are closely related members of the Grass Family and share many similarities in structure and physiological function. Therefore, it is difficult to develop a control program for *Poa annua* that does not also adversely affect bentgrass; just as it is difficult to have a pro-bentgrass program that is not also pro-*Poa annua*.

### How can NSCC control *Poa annua*?

A successful *Poa annua* control program at NSCC must be based on a two part plan. The first part of the plan will focus on all of the management programs that can be fine tuned so that they favor bentgrass over *Poa annua*. The second part of the plan will involve the testing of chemical controls for *Poa annua* through a series of experiments during 1994. The chemical controls that show the most promise in the experiments will be given expanded use in 1995 and beyond.

Under my direction, management programs at NSCC have always tried to favor bentgrass over *Poa annua* by taking advantage of the subtle differences in growth characteristics that exist between these close relatives of the Grass Family. Given the slowly increasing percentages of *Poa annua* in our greens, tees and fairways, it might appear that my maintenance programs have not had an affect on *Poa annua*. I strongly believe, however, that without my management programs, the increase in *Poa annua* would have been much greater.

### Highlights of My Pro-Bentgrass Program

#### 1. IRRIGATION

Differences in root growth characteristics between bentgrass and *Poa annua* make proper irrigation techniques the most important management tools available for the control of *Poa annua*.

Bentgrass is a deep rooted grass (12") that responds well to heavy and infrequent applications of water. A typical irrigation schedule for a week in July would involve 2 applications of water — 1/2" of water at a time. This provides enough water to wet the soil profile down to where the bentgrass roots like to grow and also allows time in between applications for the soil profile to dry out — another requirement for maintaining deep bentgrass roots.

*Poa annua* is a shallow rooted grass (2-3") that responds well to light and frequent applications of water. A typical irrigation schedule for a week in July would involve nightly applications of 1/8" of water at a time. This provides just enough water to maintain a consistently high level of moisture in the top 2-3" of the soil profile. This type of irrigation schedule also provides the perfect environment for both the germination of any *Poa annua* seeds that are present in the soil and the development of young *Poa annua* plants.

My irrigation programs for greens, tees and fairways have always tried to favor bentgrass without putting too much stress on the *Poa annua*. I think the time has come, however, to tip the balance even more in favor of bentgrass. What this will mean is firmer playing conditions, especially on greens. The complaints about hard greens that do not hold a shot are bound to increase. This is because golfers have grown accustomed to overwatered greens that perform well as landing areas rather than firm greens that perform well as

putting surfaces.

#### 2. RATE AND TIMING OF FERTILIZER APPLICATIONS

Over fertilization with nitrogen has long been known to favor *Poa annua* over bentgrass; that is why it is important to understand the nitrogen fertility requirements of both grasses.

Bentgrass and *Poa annua* differ in their requirements for both the amount and the timing of nitrogen fertilizer. *Poa annua* prefers a moderate level of nitrogen fertilizer (4 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per growing season) that is applied evenly throughout the growing season. Bentgrass, on the other hand, responds well to lower levels of nitrogen fertilizer (2 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per growing season) applied mainly in September-November.

For the past 10 years, my nitrogen fertilization program has been based on the needs of bentgrass. I believe the program has been a success and should be continued. The only problem with this program has been some complaints about the many different shades of green that bentgrass can display under a low nitrogen fertility program. This is caused by the slight variation in genetic material from one patch of bentgrass to the next. When this occurs, it is important to remember that the color of the bentgrass will not effect the speed or trueness of the putting surface.

#### 3. AERIFICATION

Greens, tees and fairways are aerified to relieve compaction that has been caused by foot traffic, golf cart traffic and maintenance equipment traffic. The primary response of any turfgrass area to aerification is an increase in the number and depth of roots. Additional benefits include increased water infiltration, increased movement of air into and out of the soil and the creation of openings for overseeding.

*Poa annua* has the ability to compete successfully against bentgrass under compacted soil conditions because of its shallow root structure. Once the soil is aerified, the bentgrass roots are able to grow deeper in the soil and give bentgrass the advantage over *Poa annua*.

At NSCC, I try to stay ahead of soil compaction by aerifying the greens, tees and fairways at least twice every year. Despite the inconvenience this level of aerification causes the golfers, it must be maintained in order to insure the long term health of the bentgrass.

#### 4. OVERSEEDING

In conjunction with the aerification of greens, tees and fairways, bentgrass seed is often placed in the aerifier holes. This process is called overseeding and it is important for basically two reasons:

1. If bentgrass can be overseeded into areas dominated by *Poa annua*, then subsequent application of management programs that are pro-bentgrass (and possibly some chemical control of *Poa annua*) can lead to a gradual reduction in the *Poa annua* population.

2. Areas dominated by bentgrass can be improved through the overseeding of new and improved bentgrass varieties that are more upright in growth and more resistant to disease. Here at NSCC, our 28 year old greens are dominated by Penncross, a variety of bentgrass that is prone to a horizontal growth pattern that requires special maintenance practices to control it's growth — verticutting, sweeping and frequent topdressing. If some of the newer, more vertical growing bentgrasses can be introduced into our greens, the need for some of these special maintenance procedures may eventually decline.

(Continued on page 45)

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(Continued from page 43)

Unfortunately, overseeding is not as simple as placing bentgrass seed into aerifier holes and watching it grow. In order to survive, overseeded bentgrass must overcome the following pitfalls:

#### 1. Germination

When a bentgrass seed is trying to germinate, it must compete for space, light, water and nutrients with the existing population of turfgrass. More often than not, this competition is too great and the bentgrass seed does not germinate. The best chance for successful germination occurs when the existing turfgrass has been thinned due to winterkill, disease or some other factor. Knowing this, the chemicals controls for *Poa annua* will be tested to see if they can limit the growth of *Poa annua* enough to allow overseeded bentgrass to become established.

#### 2. Development

Once a bentgrass plant begins to grow, its short term survival (2-3 months) depends on the weather. Bentgrass overseeded in the Spring may not develop roots fast enough to survive the heat and moisture stresses of the summer. Bentgrass overseeded in the Fall may not mature enough to withstand the rigors of winter. The ideal time to overseed bentgrass in our area is around mid-August when the stresses of Summer are subsiding and there is plenty of time for the young bentgrass plants to prepare for winter.

#### 3. Physical Damage and Disease

Young bentgrass seedlings are more susceptible than the surrounding mature turfgrass plants (bentgrass and/or *Poa annua*) to the physical damage inflicted by equipment and golfers. Greens are the most difficult areas to overseed due to the tremendous amount of foot traffic and the constant wear and tear of mowing equipment.

In addition, young bentgrass seedlings are also more susceptible to fungal pathogens, insect damage and any other environmental stress factor.

Even though the survival rate of bentgrass overseeded into greens, tees and fairways is relatively low under most conditions, it is important to realize that if only 5-10% of the overseeded bentgrass plants survive to maturity, the shift in the turfgrass population can be quite significant in only a few years. Thus, NSCC will continue to overseed bentgrass whenever the greens, tees and fairways are aerified.

#### 5. Harvesting Clippings

Harvesting (catching) clippings has been practiced for many years on greens and tees simply to get rid of the clippings so they do not interfere with play. Two hidden benefits to harvesting clippings have also been shown to help control *Poa annua*. First, harvesting clippings removes *Poa annua* seeds so they can not build up in the soil and form a source of future *Poa annua* plants. Second, harvesting clippings lowers the nitrogen level in the soil by removing plant material that would otherwise decompose and recycle its nutrients.

Many golf courses are now harvesting clippings on fairways to take advantage of these two hidden benefits that help to control *Poa annua*. In the past, the time and labor expense associated with the harvesting of clippings from fairways have prevented NSCC from using this technique to control *Poa annua*. Starting this year, clippings will be harvested on all of the fairways on the Blue Nine from May 15-September 15. During the course of the golf season, I will be closely monitoring these fairways to determine if the benefits are great enough to justify expanding the program to the Red and White Nines in future years.

## Testing of *Poa annua* Control Chemicals

Pesticide manufacturers have searched for years to discover a chemical that would control *Poa annua* without harming bentgrass. In the last few years, four such chemicals have become available for use on golf courses. Three of these products are growth regulators that effect both the vertical and horizontal growth of *Poa annua* and bentgrass. They are Turfgrass Regulator from O.M. Scotts, Cutless from ELANCO and Primo from CIBA-GEIGY. The fourth product, Progress from NORAM, is a true herbicide that selectively kills *Poa annua*.

The manufacturers of all four of these products can produce dozens of testimonials from satisfied golf course superintendents. The problem is that you never get to hear from golf course superintendents who had problems with the products.

In order to reduce the risk of using these products at NSCC, I am going to test all four products on some experimental plots this summer. The work will be done in conjunction with Dr. Frank Rossi, Turfgrass Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who will be gathering data for his research.

Some of the questions that I hope to have answered by this work include:

1. How do these products effect the comparative growth rates of *Poa annua* and bentgrass under the soil and environmental conditions found at NSCC?
2. Will the use of these products slow the growth of *Poa annua* enough to allow for the successful overseeding of bentgrass?
3. Can these products slow the growth rate of *Poa annua* and bentgrass enough to reduce the number of required mowings?

The experimental plots will be located on the first half of 7 White fairway and on the nursery green near the golf course maintenance facility. My hope is to gather information about these products that will help me decide what level of chemical control for *Poa annua* can safely be used on the greens, tees and fairways at NSCC.

## Summary

The gradual increase of *Poa annua* in our greens, tees and fairways is cause for concern, not cause for alarm. I believe that the management programs I have described above form a solid foundation upon which to build a chemical control program for *Poa annua*. The details of such a program will be worked out after the results of this year's experiments have been analyzed. 🍷

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## A Symposium Test

By Monroe S. Miller

How close were you paying attention during this past Symposium? Here is a short quiz to help you answer the question.

1. Name the club that holds an annual Fescue Open.
2. What do Dr. Nick Christians and Dr. Frank Rossi have in common in their professional history?
3. What year was Penncross introduced?
4. What varieties of creeping bentgrass did University of Wisconsin - Madison alumnus Dr. Milt Engelke develop? Where were they developed?
5. The GCSAA officers and directors gave Steve Mona and Joe O'Brien three mandates when they were hired. What were they?
6. One of our speakers works at one of the five founding clubs of the USGA. Name the speaker and the club.
7. In the best years, how many golf courses are built? How many in the worst years?
8. What golf course was the first to be certified as a wildlife sanctuary of the New York Audubon Society and the United States Golf Association? Who was the golf course superintendent?
9. True or False. The USGA has come out strongly in favor of soft spikes.
10. O.J. Noer had a special relationship with the GCSAA. How was that relationship best expressed?
11. On the average, what percent of a golf course is putting green turf?
12. Of the bentgrass varieties discussed by our speakers, which one comes from Manitoba, Canada?
13. According to Nick Christians, corn meal is a natural
  - (a) selective insect control
  - (b) slow release organic nitrogen source
  - (c) pre-emergence weed control.
14. The Job Saver is
  - (a) a consulting service
  - (b) a sterol inhibiting fungicide
  - (c) an overseeding attachment.
15. The Marine Corps lists a soldier's priorities as God, Corps, family and country. According to Jim McLoughlin, what should be the golf course superintendent's priorities and what is their order?
16. Who are the new WGCSA directors elected at the membership meeting in Milwaukee?
17. Wisconsin had 168 people at the Symposium. Illinois had the second most with 18. Which state came in third?
18. The fungicide Aliette is not a traditional pesticide although it offers systemic pythium control. What makes it different?
19. Why might some older courses shudder at the thought of the presence of *Xanthomonas compestris* on their turf?
20. What drew attention to Dr. Frank Rossi at his first state chapter meeting of golf course superintendents while he was a student in New York State?

Answers to the quiz are on page 49.

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# SYMPOSIUM CRYSTAL BALL LOOKS TO FUTURE

by Monroe S. Miller

Wayne Otto was talking about rescheduling the 1994 Symposium as late as the eve of our annual event.

"It's Halloween. The Packers play tonight. Its raining cats and dogs in Chicago and heading this way. We are in big trouble."

Turns out Wayne had nothing to worry about. The "trick or treaters" couldn't find him at the Hyatt (unless you count Rod Johnson!). The Packers won. And the monsoons in Chicago were only sprinkles in Milwaukee.

The program, carefully crafted by the Symposium committee, also came through in fine style, either in spite of or because of worriers like Wayne Otto.

In retrospect, this was Jim Latham's Symposium. He served up the keynote address, a challenge that over the years has been offered only to the very best in our business. Like everyone expected, he handled it as well as anyone has. Maybe better, since he reminded us time and again of advice given by O.J. Noer fifty years ago. You couldn't miss the suggestion that basic grass management from O.J.'s time a third of a century ago will also be true in the year 2010. Invoking the advice of Noer a third of a century after his death at a meeting convened each year for the past 29 in his memory seemed more than appropriate, as well.

"Latham was hand picked by O.J. Noer before he retired to be a member of the Milorganite team," Charlie Wilson told us at the Tuesday luncheon. It was great for young and old and for Jim Latham that Charlie came back to the Symposium to pay tribute to his longtime colleague. They'll be colleagues again, now in retirement.

Wilson spoke of Jim Latham's work ethic and his abhorrence of shoddy research work. Both were good reasons for Jim Snow, USGA Green Section Director, to appoint Latham to the USGA Research Committee.

Dr. Nick Christians took a look at the year 2010 and saw lots of pressure to change all areas of golf course management. He predicted some pesticides would be banned, that the industry would develop alternative techniques and that safer pesticides would reach the marketplace.



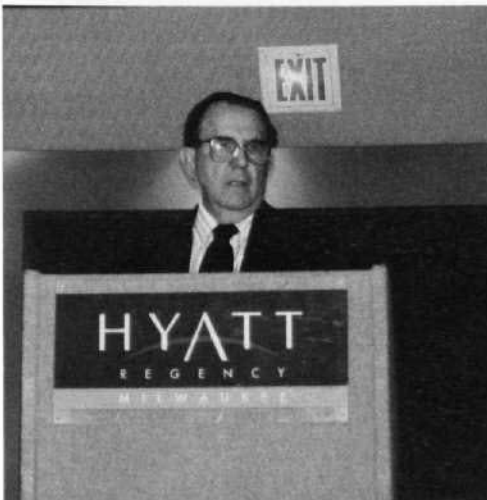
The Shaw brothers—1994 Session Chairmen—Charlie, Jim and Pat.

After an excellent review of bentgrass varieties, Rich Hurley predicted a trend for the remainder of the 1990s — regrassing greens with improved bentgrass varieties. Dr. Hurley spent considerable time on Penncross, discussing how it segregates on greens, its tendency to produce grainy turf and spike marks.

If the USGA's Frank Thomas had a message about what to expect in fifteen years, it was one developed by looking at the past. Going back to 1968, Thomas pointed out that statistics showed that scoring has not changed much, that greens reached in regulation has remained stable and driving yardage has pretty much been constant. His documented conclusion was that equipment hasn't changed anything over the past quarter century and it wasn't likely by the year 2010, either.

For David Stone and Joe Kosgolov, the future is now. These two golf course superintendents, in separate yet similar ways, have turned their environmental stewardship to good advantage. Both were the earliest participants in the New York Audubon/USGA wildlife sanctuary program, and both appeared in a video explaining details.

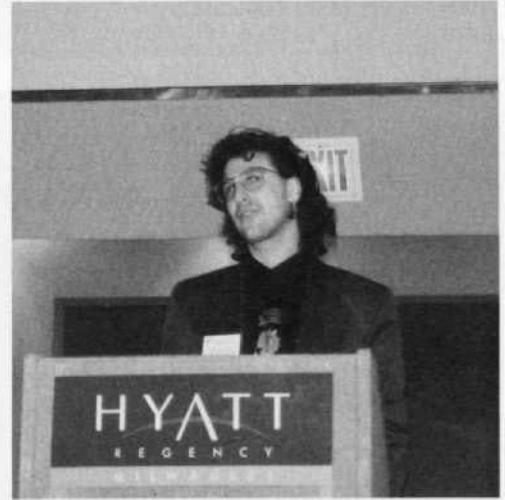
Kosgolov shared the importance of wetland areas on the



A very special guest, Charlie Wilson.



Dr. Nick Christians



Wisconsin's own Professor Frank Rossi was the 1994 luncheon speaker, outfitted in Halloween finery!



Joe Kosgolov



Luncheon table (L to R)—Charlie Wilson, Bob Vavrek, Mike Semler, Terry Ward, Jim Latham and Al Nees.



Mike Semler, WGCSA president.

golf course he manages. Stone has developed extensive self-research areas at the Honors Course where he studies everything from bentgrass varieties to fungicide efficacy.

Jim Gilligan had the courage to talk about a difficult subject — losing one's job. He was in an especially difficult position since he was past the age of fifty. His story is pertinent as more and more of us will be working later in life. Jim's advice was to stay in close communication with your employer and make clear the value of your experience and patience.

The GCSAA expects to be at the leadership front of golf in the year 2010. Steve Mona, CEO of GCSAA, gave a well organized and thoughtful look at how our jobs will change and what we will have to do individually and collectively to prosper.

Many of us didn't know what to expect from Jim McLoughlin. He is remembered as a past executive director of the GCSAA during a somewhat controversial time in the early 1980s. What the audience received was a wealth of information — all useful — that could have filled a day long seminar. He tied together the future of golf and what golf course superintendents have to do to remain in a prominent position in the golf industry.

If you still wondered whether Jim Latham was really retiring or not, Bob Vavrek's Symposium roundup gave more evidence. Bob assumes this traditional task for our USGA Agronomist. As is now known, he will handle the task very well.

In the back of the Symposium program is a list of all the subjects covered during the past 29 years. What do you think would be a good topic to explore next year, our 30th anniversary? We have all winter to think about it.

MEMORABLE QUOTES FROM THE 1994 SYMPOSIUM

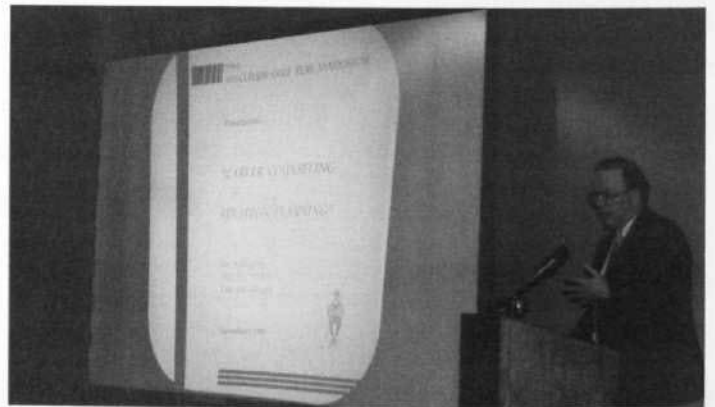
"The most underutilized phrase in golf is Rub of the Green." Jim Latham

"Close cutting does not consistently provide good golf turf." O.J. Noer (1934)

"In Wisconsin, the Symposium marks the end of the golf season. Our lives become more normal." Mike Semler

"In the eyes of too many, turf equals pesticides. This misconception needs to be overcome." Dr. Nick Christians

"You wouldn't take a 1950s car to a car race. So why would you seed a new golf course with older bentgrass varieties?" Dr. Rich Hurley



Jim McLoughlin



Dr. Rich Hurley



Steve Mona, of GCSAA. CEO



Jim Shaw, Al Nees and Jim Gilligan.





USGA's Frank Thomas.



A very articulate golf course superintendent, David Stone.

"Grass grows." Jim Latham

"What we are becoming is more important than what we are accomplishing." Steve Mona

"Lack of communication may be the most frequent reason golf course superintendents are fired." Jim Gilligan


"You will never be more than you perceive yourself to be." Jim McLoughlin

"Good grief, Jim. Why are you moving to Texas? Wisconsin is civilized!" Charlie Wilson

"Mystique is an important part of the game of golf. We must leave in the magic." Frank Thomas

"The closer we come to perfection, the more obvious our imperfections become." Dr. J.B. Beard (Offered by Jim Latham)

"We have always done a good job with environmental matters, but now we are doing even better. The Audubon Program is evidence of that." Joe Kosgolv

"Golf course superintendents need to provide a check area for either on-site research or evaluation of turf management programs." David Stone 

## Answers to The Wisconsin Golf Course Quiz

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. The Atlantic Golf Club on Long Island, New York.                         | 11. 2.6%.   |
| 2. Both professors are former golf course superintendents.                  | 12. 18th Green.   |
| 3. 1955.  | 13. c.  |
| 4. Crenshaw and Cato.   | 14. c.  |
| 5. (a) Get the headquarters office in order.                                | 15. Self, family, career. In that order.  |
| (b) Restore relationships with other associations.                          | 16. Kris Pinkerton and Dave Brandenburg.  |
| (c) Increase member involvement.  | 17. New Jersey.   |
| 6. Jim Gilligan from the Richmond CCC.                                      | 18. It doesn't kill the invading fungus. Rather, it strengthens the host plant.   |
| 7. 350. 225.  | 19. X. c. is a biological control of <i>Poa annua</i> . It colonizes in the xylem, causing wilt and eventual death of P. a. plants. |
| 8. The Honors Club in Chattanooga, Tennessee. David Stone.                  | 20. Pink polo shirt, earring and long flowing hair led to his mistaken identity as a female!  |
| 9. False. The USGA has not taken any position on this question.             | Frank's story was the best one heard at the Symposium.  |
| 10. Mr. Noer was awarded the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award three times. |   |

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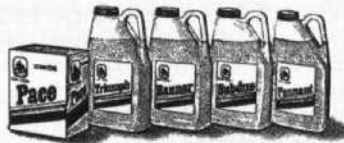
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