me again, so I wrote a brief, 68-page autobiography." He made copies for all the grandchildren.

"Then I started working on family roots. I worked quite steady at that for four years," he explains. He learned a little German so he could write letters in search of family records in Germany. He utilized the genealogy information compiled by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Salt Lake City, Utah. And he took trips to lowa, where his ancestors first settled in the U.S.

"After I finished the project, for the next six months I went nuts," Bill admits. "I didn't have anything to do." So he went to work part-time at an auto parts store. "That worked out real well because it broke up my week.

"But then one morning I woke up when it was snowing," he continues. "I said to myself, 'What in the hell am I doing this for? I don't have to work.' And so I gave my notice and quit a few weeks later."

Since retirement, Bill continues to golf and the Sells have taken several short trips. Bill's eyes light up when he tells me about a trip to a golf course in Danbury, Wis.—a small town along the St. Croix River and Minnesota border in Burnett County. "They have sand greens. That's why I wanted to play there," he explains.

"Sand greens?" I ask. "I've never heard of that."

"You haven't? They're made of a compacted, oil-based sand," he explains. "Lots of courses used to have them. Going there took me back to my childhood. It was like somebody pulled a shade, and it was the 1930s again. Everyone who plays golf should go there once to play on those sand greens. It would make them appreciate what we have now."

Bill remembers the sand greens. But he doesn't remember the name of the course. So he goes to the closet and pulls out a notebook that reveals still another collection—golf course score cards. "I have one from all but three of the established courses in Wisconsin," he points out. "I request them by mail, but I have played a lot of the courses, too."

His finger runs down the list of golf courses. "Yellow Lake Golf Course. That's the course with sand greens," he adds.

In retirement, Bill also likes to read a lot—autobiographies, early American history, Mark Twain, and golf magazines—including *The Grass Roots.* "It's always the first thing I read when it comes," he admits. "Monroe is an excellent writer and editor. The awards from the national association prove his ability. Plus, he's a good friend."

And Bill continues to do something he started 32 years ago—attending the reunions of his Army division. Once a year there's a seven-state reunion in LaCrosse with about 120 people attending. The national reunion, which moves from state to state, attracts 600 to 800 each year. Not surprisingly, Bill has won the golf outing three times at the national reunion.

"The reunions are real nice," Bill says. "When you're in the service, those men are the best friends that you ever had in your life. It's nice to see them again. But we very rarely talk about the combat days."

"Why?" I ask.

"We want to forget about it. When I came home from Europe I prayed to God that I could forget it," Bill says as his eyes mist over.

And so we change the subject. "What do you miss about your job?" I ask.

"What I miss most isn't about the job but about the fellowship and camaraderie with other superintendents," Bill admits. "I don't miss the stress of the job, making decisions. I don't miss that a bit.

"There have been a lot of changes in golf course maintenance," Bill continues. "The results are much better than when I got into it in 1947. Maintenance has improved greatly. Equipment is better. There's more knowledge.

"Our association has greatly improved in its organization and management," Bill says of the WGCSA. But he has problems with one change. "I strongly object that the officers go along with allowing members to be charged to play golf at the meetings. The greens fee has gotten so high that many of those superintendents who pay their own expenses have been priced out of attendance."

"Did any changes take place with the WGCSA while you were its president (1968-69)?" I ask.

"The greater changes came after I was out of office," he answers. "We were at a plateau. But those younger kids they've got now, they changed it for the better (except for the greens fee charge). The association has some real nice, intelligent kids."

There also was a change in attitude among the younger superintendents in the mid 1970s, Bill believes. "For the older superintendents, our idea of the job was that we had to work seven days a week, 14 hours a day," he says. "The younger ones don't work as many hours—which is a good change.

"The profession was good to me, and I like to think I was good to the profession," Bill adds.

"What do you feel were your contributions to the profession?" I inquire.

Bill pauses for a moment and shifts in his chair. "I was raised and trained not to be boastful." And then he returns to the closet and pulls out some scrapbooks. Apparently it's easier to show me what he has done than to tell me.

While paging through the scrapbooks I notice that Bill was one of four people to receive the Distinguished Service Award from the WGCSA in 1982, so he must have contributed (Continued on page 33)



Bill Sell has more time to read now that he's retired.

Your Course Plus Our Putter Creeping Bentgrass Equals Happier Golfers. Really.



Distributed By: P.O. Box 684 Milwaukee WI 53201-0694 Tel: 800-527-5495 Fax: 414-276-2769



Golfers appreciate beautiful turf. And from fairway to green, **Putter** Creeping Bentgrass from Jacklin Seed offers great looks. But the real test is on the green. Putter offers a true-line putting surface that outperforms the competition in test after test.

A rich, dark, bluish green in color,

Putter is a hearty variety with fine leaf texture and improved

disease resistance. **Putter** features a dwarf growth habit and high shoot density. And, it's very aggressive against Poa Annua.

Find out more about how **Putter** can improve your game. Call your Jacklin Seed marketing representative at 800-688-SEED and we'll send you a free, information-packed booklet and a half pound sample of **Putter** for you to test on your own. Call today!









800 W. Riverbend Avenue • Post Falls, Idaho 83854-9499 773-7581 • 800/688-SEED • TWX 5107760582 Jacklin PFLS

The Green Seal marks Puter as a world premium lungrass variety



Call 800-688-SEED for a free, information-packed booklet and a balf pound sample of Putter.

(Continued from page 31)

something to the association and profession even if he wouldn't tell me!

He shows me pictures and drawings of some things that he designed —a new shop, a hydraulic work bench and a contraption that he used to lay electric lines on a golf course. I've never been very mechanical, so I don't quite understand what they're all about. But I am sensitive, so I can easily feel the pride with which he tells me.

The scrapbook reveals that Bill had a massive heart attack in 1982, but he informs me that his health has been quite good lately. "I can do most everything as long as I don't overdo it," says this 75-year-old.

And I learn that he attended the University of Massachusetts winter turf school in 1959. "I believe my field training was just as important, but sometimes it helps to have that piece of paper," he adds.

"What does it take to be a good superintendent?" I ask.

"Dedication. Of course, you have to have some knowledge. But, if you've got the dedication, you'll acquire the knowledge."



It's the personal letters in the scrapbooks that mean the most to Bill. One, in particular, comes from a former crew member who wanted to quit when things didn't go as he expected on the golf course. Years later, upon Bill's retirement, the man wrote to thank Bill for making him "stick it out" on the job and learn a valuable lesson in life.

A few other letters compliment Bill on the playing conditions of his course. "My biggest satisfaction is that, regardless of the type of course—private or public—that the course was always in better playing condition when I left than before I got there," Bill relates. "Nothing earth shattering. It was a good life, a good run."

Before I leave, Bill takes me down to the storage unit of his condominium so I can see his golf ball collection. I marvel at how neatly everything is stored while he points out a few other mementoes.

Back upstairs, we say our good byes. I leave, glad that I had a chance to meet Bill Sell in person. Glad that I had a chance to visit with this organizer and collector of history, of memories, and of "stuff".

TORO 3000	hydro turf	TORO 3000
	Golf Course Hydroinjection	
	Bill McMillan	
2 MACHINES	Serving Central Wisconsin	DAY OR
PER COURSE	800490 TURF	NIGHT

Here's the Single Solution to Your Irrigation Control Problems . . . The OSMAC Radio Paging Based System . . consisting of:

One or more RDR radio data receiver field units attached to your existing or new pedestals and connected to your existing or new field wires. The RDR field unit allows independent scheduling of each station. And since each RDR field unit can control up to 48 stations, it is possible to replace multiple controller sites with one RDR.

A standard IBM compatible computer for easy yet precise, flexible and powerful centralized control, using the OSMAC PC Timer Software.

The Central Control Station. A small, desk-top paging encoder that includes a built in radio frequency tranceiver to provide local-area signalling to the field satellites, radio paging, twoway communications or telephone interconnect.

One or more Portable Radios for remote control of valves, initiating pages, two-way communications, and telephone interconnect.

Optional pagers for signalling staff or other personnel. An optional centralized rain gauge interface is available.

Reinders

Irrigation Supply

ELM GROVE 13400 Watertown Plank Rd. 414-786-3301 MADISON 4618 A Tompkins Dr 608-223-0200 APPLETON 900 Randolph Dr. 414-788-0200

Gazing In The Grass



Evaluation of Annual Bluegrass Population Reduction Programs for Annual Bluegrass/ Creeping Bentgrass Fairway Turf

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

Perspective

Of all the issues that face the golf turf industry in the temperate regions of the US, the question of managing or reducing annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) populations is showing no signs of fading. Browsing through a text book from the 1920's, annual bluegrass was mentioned as a minor problem. During the next sixty years, populations would significantly increase as a result of increased traffic, lower mowing heights, changes in fertility, loss of the arsenate herbicides and automatic irrigation.

The increased populations were both a blessing and a bane. Until the release of more upright bentgrasses, I have seen no finer playing surface than a dense, upright stand of annual bluegrass. The challenges of managing annual bluegrass include susceptibility to summer stresses, such as heat, drought and diseases and winter stresses, such as freezing and ice encasement. Yet, the ability of annual bluegrass to produce seedheads and germinate from seed, often throughout the season, provides an ideal survival strategy where there is regular surface disruption.

Plant growth regulator technology became available, to selectively reduce or eliminate annual bluegrass growth without significant injury to the more desirable species such as creeping bentgrass. This technology was met with various levels of interest. A majority of superintendents experimented with them, while some integrated directly into their existing management scheme.

In the meantime, researchers have attempted to quantify the impact of cultural factors including plant growth regulators(PGR) on annual bluegrass populations. Results have indicated that cultural practices such as clipping removal, reduced irrigation frequency and fertility program can have a greater effect than PGR's.

The Questions

To properly quantify the ability of PGR's and a selective postemergence herbicide (ProGrass) to reduce annual bluegrass populations we initiated an experiment in April, 1993 on two golf courses in Wisconsin. Blackhawk Country Club (BCC) in Madison and North Shore Country Club (NSCC) in Mequon. These courses were selected for their different management regimes. Blackhawk Country Club is a 75 year old course that was initially planted to Kentucky bluegrass fairways that were mowed down to provide a closer lie. Also, the philosophy at BCC is to implement a series of management practices that enable annual bluegrass to thrive. In contrast, North Shore Country Club was seeded to creeping bentgrass fairways 25 to 30 years ago and has seen annual bluegrass populations increase over the years. In contrast to BCC, NSCC has decided to manage the course to favor the competitive advantage of bentgrass.

Every experiment we conduct is only as good the questions we are trying to answer. A clear understanding of the different management systems allows us to ask the following questions.

1. Do plant growth regulators and/or *Prograss* reduce annual bluegrass populations?

- Do the PGR's or *ProGrass* reduce turf quality below an acceptable level?
- 3. Does overseeding with the new bentgrass cultivars in conjunction with chemical applications aid in the reduction of annual bluegrass?

Methodology

Data collection. The experiment began in April, 1993 with counts of annual bluegrass plants present in the plots before initiation of treatments. At first annual bluegrass populations were visually estimated. Following statistical analysis, this method was found to be imprecise. Therefore, we adapted the point quadrant method utilized by Gaussoin and Branham (1989). This involved the construction of 1 square foot frames with a string grid on 1 inch centers. This established 144 intersections. The frames were placed in the same plot area each time. If an annual bluegrass plant was found under the intersection of two strings in was recorded as a "hit". All the data will be reported as change in percent annual bluegrass relative to initial counts (referred to as covariate analysis). Interestingly, initial annual bluegrass populations ranged from 85 to 100% at BCC and 40 to 85% at NSCC.

Cultural Management. As mentioned earlier, management philosophies differed at the two locations.

SOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION & IMPROVEMENTS

Specializing in Greens - Tees - Bunkers - Fairway Construction - Feature Shaping - Drainage Systems

By Contract or "T & M" basis. Also Astroturf Top Dressing drag mats

ROY G. ZEHREN • 11040 N. Buntrock Ave., Mequon, Wisconsin 53092 • (414) 242-5740

However, while philosophies differed, management practices such as mowing, core cultivation and fungicide treatments were almost identical. The only difference evident with these practices was that BCC collects clippings from mid-May through Sept. 1; NSCC never collects clippings.

There is a slight difference in irrigation practices between the two locations. Both systems utilized "as required" or "based on soil probing" approaches. However, frequency at BCC was light applications nightly approximately 0.1"/night, while NSCC was every other, or every 2 nights, up to 0.3"/application. Interestingly, this typically significant factor (irrigation) was rendered moot by excessive rainfall in the wet year of 1993.

The most significant difference between the management systems was in their N fertility programs. BCC uses *Milorganite* almost exclusively to maintain quality throughout the entire season to supply 2.5 to 4# N/M/year with dormant application made late fall. NSCC applies a total of 2.5# N/M/year with Nutralene, with the last application made at the end of September.

Chemical applications were based on label recommendations and consultations with technical representatives when available. Specifically, Scott's Fertilizer plus TGR was applied at 3.8# product/M (1/2 rate application-supplying 0.45#N/M) and Cutless and Primo were applied at 0.5oz/M. All plant growth regulator treatments were applied twice per year at approximately 6 to 8 week intervals (at least 2 weeks after overseedings), 18-May and 6-July, 1993 then 26-April and 14-June, 1994. ProGrass applications of 1.5 oz./M were made at 3 week intervals (7 weeks after fall overseeding) 27-October, 10 & 24-November, 1993 then 9 & 23-November and 7-December, 1994.

Overseeding. The increased availability of new bentgrass cultivars prompted the inclusion of Putter, Cato, Providence and SR1020 as an overseeding variable compared to traditional Penncross overseeding. In 1993, overseeding was conducted 4-May and 8-September, 1993 using slit seeders to overseed individual plots. Then in 1994 on 12-April (prior to seedhead emergence) and 21-September, the plots were core cultivated, dragged to disturb the plugs and then each plot was seeded by hand. The core cultivation was decided to be a more efficient means of overseeding based on our experience with individual plot work.

Results

General Observations. The wet year of 1993 nullified all treatment effects, including any influence location may have exerted. It is important to note, very little if any seedhead production occurred in 1993. This suggests that annual bluegrass was never under stress. Furthermore, the documented seasonal shifts in annual bluegrass populations were not observed at either location in 1993.

In contrast, 1994 was a more typical growing season except for the cool, dry spring that resulted in one of the greatest flush of annual bluegrass seedheads in recent memory. Also, there was a significant difference between the locations with regard to annual bluegrass reduction.

Overseeding. There was no significant difference between the bentgrass cultivars, therefore, all data is presented after combining cultivar treatments. If the existing bentgrass turf was Penncross, that would have made cultivar identification necessary. In hindsight, it would have been difficult to prove if the cultivars exerted an effect. Therefore, this variable will be replaced in 1995 with additional treatment rates and timings.

Location Effect. The tabulated data indicate that population shifts were greater at NSCC than BCC. Additionally, as a result of higher initial annual bluegrass populations, the BCC plots appeared to be injured more severely and took longer to recover.

One could speculate on the climactic difference between the locations. Specifically, in 1994 it remained drier and cooler at NSCC, along Lake Michigan, on the average than at BCC. Still, it might be more useful to suggest that populations at BCC started at a higher level and it may take longer to make significant strides in reducing those populations. Especially since clipping removal, practiced throughout the season at BCC, has been shown in previous research to play a significant part in reducing annual bluegrass populations.

Researchers have shown that amount of irrigation could be less important than frequency when considering annual bluegrass populations. More frequent irrigation tends to favor annual bluegrass over bentgrass. In contrast, one study investigating the influence of overseeding on annual bluegrass populations found better bentgrass germination under frequent irrigation, but smaller population shifts.

Treatment Effects. In general, the treatments reduced turf quality 1 week after application. In some cases quality was reduced below an acceptable level, but always returned to an acceptable level within 3 weeks. However, personal communications with the superintendents revealed concerns regarding the difference between a small plot and 35 to 40 acres of fairways with reduced quality. This would certainly challenge the communication skills of our best superintendents.

All chemical treatments significantly reduced annual bluegrass populations compared to untreated plots, where populations increased. The PGR treatments performed similarly except for *TGR*, which did reduce annual bluegrass populations compared to untreated plots, but less than the other PGR's. Also, TGR applications reduced turf quality at BCC more than the other treatments, but as

FOR SALE (1) 1984 Jac. Greensking IV Rebuilt Kohler Engine 3/93 Heavy- duty reel stock & bedknife Choice of 3" wiehle or 2" standard front rollers Very good condition \$2,500 (1) 1992 Jac. 422 P.G.M. Good reel stock Transport wheels/kick-stand included Excellent condition \$2,500

- (1) 1968 Jac. 321 P.G.M.
 - 93 Honda engine conversion
 - good reel stock
 - good condition Asking \$600

(22) Rainbird 808 Sprinklers

- · With keys
- Good condition \$25 each

(1) 1988 Unimount 20 HP w/Berkley 9" Pump

- Control panel, drop tube, 100 gal. bladder tank all inc.
- call for detailed information Best offer!

CONTACT: Kris Pinkerton Oshkosh Country Club 414/231-0989 mentioned earlier, was able to recover to an acceptable level within 3 weeks.

ProGrass treatments are being evaluated based on one year's worth of data. Applications made in Fall, 1994 will be evaluated in the Spring, 1995. Still, population shifts following one year were dramatic as evidenced by the 15% reduction at NSCC. However, the injury sustained by the annual bluegrass populations is frightening. The bentgrass turf is unaffected, therefore the reduction in turf quality is a indication of the annual bluegrass populations present in the plots. Clearly, this is an aggressive approach to reducing annual bluegrass and, as suggested by AgrEvo, not to be implemented unless annual populations are less than 40%.

Interestingly, while the annual bluegrass takes on an almost bleached white appearance, it is not completely killed. I made several regular observations at BCC where annual bluegrass plants were regrowing through the bleached tissue. Also, as the plots recovered in 1994, the annual bluegrass did not produce seedheads which actually resulted in a higher quality turf than might have been expected.

Summary

The decision to manage or reduce annual bluegrass, is not one to be taken lightly and in my mind must be made. Many superintendents walk the line between the two systems, either failing to recognize the difference in management required or not willing to chance the risk of committing and occasionally losing some grass to winterkill—of course this is where communication comes in!

The results of the first two years of this study are fairly clear. If you do nothing to reduce annual bluegrass culturally, populations will increase. I would recommend, at least collect clippings. The answer to the question whether chemicals can reduce annual bluegrass populations is yes, however, based on our work, it comes at a price. Turf quality can be reduced below an acceptable level for up to 2 weeks, depending on the chemical. We will continue this work with different rates and timings to attempt to reduce injury, but, will the result be a more gradual shift in populations.

It is important to not overlook the lack of effect from the wet year of 1993, which if you remember, followed a severe dose of winter injury. Environmental influences still exert the strongest effect on plant populations. Even new golf courses that choose to keep bentgrass, must be on preventative annual bluegrass management programs.

Finally, I feel that the benefit of using the different bentgrass cultivars is still an important question that we will address in the years to come. Specifically, is one bentgrass more competitive under chemical treatments than another?

This study is just beginning and I caution you to not draw specific conclusions. Rather, use this information in conjunction with other studies and your own observations to choose the right course of action. Good Luck!

Treatment	2 Year Change in % Annual Bluegrass Population		Turfgrass Quality 1 Wk After Treatment*		Turfgrass Quality 3 Wk After Treatment*	
	BCC	NSCC	BCC	NSCC	BCC	NSCC
Untreated	7.7	3.1	7.5	7.3	8.2	8.4
Fertilizer + TGR	-0.2	-12.2	4.2	5.5	6.2	7.1
Primo	-8.5	-18.7	6.1	6.6	7.2	7.5
Cutless	-6.4	-13.1	5.8	6.3	6.8	7.4
LSD (0.05)	4.7	7.2	1.1	0.8	1.3	1.1
	2 Year Change in % Annual Bluegrass Population		Turfgrass Quality April 1994^		Turfgrass Quality May 1994^	
Treatment	BCC	NSCC	BCC	NSCC	BCC	NSCC
ProGrass	-9.2	-15.2	1.3	3.6	6.8	7.4
1 SD (0.05)	4.7	7.2	1.1	0.8	1.3	1.1

"*/ Turfgrass quality ratings taken 1 week and 3 weeks after applications and combined over the two application dates. Quality ratings are based on visual assessment with 1=poor turf, 6=acceptable turf, 9=excellent turf."

"// Turfgrass quality ratings taken following fall applications of ProGrass in April and May 1994. Quality ratings are based on visual assessment with 1=poor turf, 6=acceptable turf, 9=excellent turf."

A Close-Up of the Disease Diagnostic Clinic

By Dr. Julie Meyer Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Some turf diseases are easy to diagnose. Few superintendents would miss dollar spot on bentgrass greens, or even brown patch showing typical mid-summer symptoms. Rust, powdery mildew and red thread are also diseases that are easy to recognize because we can see the fungus easily. Other turf diseases can be diagnosed by an experienced turf manager because they have learned to recognize certain symptoms, know what to expect at certain times of the year and are familiar where problems might occur.

But many turf diseases look similar to each other and are very hard to diagnose, especially if symptoms develop in an area where they have not occurred in the past, the symptoms look unusual, or when new turf is established. In these cases, it is a good idea to submit a sample to the UW disease diagnostic clinic.

The advantage of a lab examination is that we can take a closer look to see if pathogens are present. This provides extra information that can be combined with what is observed at the site. Much of diagnosis is assembling as much information as possible, and finding the best explanation for all the clues. It is much like detective work, and rarely is it black and white.

When a turf sample arrives in the diagnostic clinic, this is what happens: the sample is quickly unwrapped to give the plant air and prevent decay. The overall appearance is noted, and compared with the information sent with the sample (see below). This information provides very important clues that will help confirm or reject specific diagnoses. Individual plants are then teased from the plug, washed gently, and examined under the microscope. What we look for is the presence of fungi, and if we see some, we hunt for identifying features. Fungi look annoyingly similar to each other! Tell-tale structures may be seen right

away, such as spores of the meltingout pathogen, or spores of Pythium. If the fungus we see matches with the symptoms in the field, then a case is building for that particular fungus causing the problem. Sometimes several potential pathogens are seen, which may or may not be causing the problem at that time. This certainly makes the diagnosis harder. On occasion the fungus is not actively growing and can't been seen, even though it is still present inside the plant. In this case, a small piece of tissue is put in a moist chamber for 24 hours to see if any fungi will grow out of it.

Mary Francis Heimann has been the UW-Madison clinician for 18 years. She works with quick hands and tremendous skill to process the twenty samples that might arrive on an average day during the summer. When the diagnosis is made, the results are logged onto a computer and a written report is put in the mail. Often this occurs within 24 hours of receiving a sample, sometimes 48-72 hours if the sample needed to be put in a moist chamber. Written reports are sent because the clinic receives too many samples to make follow-up calls. However, Extension specialists, such as myself, often call clinic clients to discuss a sample. I would not hesitate to request this or to call me directly.

How do you send a sample? It is important to pack and send a good sample so you can receive the best possible diagnosis. Here are some guidelines:

1. Send an adequate representation of the problem. If possible, collect several samples that show a continuum of symptoms.

2. Plugs taken with a cup cutter are perfect. Take samples where healthy turf meets diseased turf. Moisten soil if it is dry. Wrap in newspaper and put in a perforated plastic bag.

3. Submit a fresh sample. Package and mail it immediately. If the sample

must wait, put it in a cooler or refrigerator. If it's the end of the week, keep the sample in the refrigerator until Monday. This prevents decay.

4.. Package samples with different problems separately.

5. Use packing material around the sample so it isn't crushed during transport.

6. Be sure to write down as much as possible about the problem. Keep the paper separate from the sample so it doesn't get wet. Write down the kind of grass, a description of the symptoms (and add a photo!), soil conditions, weather conditions, and chemical applications. Include anything you have noticed about the problem based on your experience. Often these prove to be very important clues!

In the days of integrated pest management, where the philosophy is to have a good understanding of specific pests being controlled, every piece of information is important. I think it is a good idea to send in disease samples for lab examination because it is another piece of information that can help the turf manager prevent turf loss and learn more about his system. If a control product is needed, an identification from the lab allows for precise material and rate selection.

REINDERS 12th TURF CONFERENCE Waukesha Expo Center Waukesha, Wisconsin MARCH 15 & 16, 1995

Contact Ed Devinger for Details

Editorial



These Guys Can't ALL Be Wrong

By Monroe S. Miller

The invoice for our 1995 USGA Green Section Turf Advisory visit was in my file for payment in February. It is a good value that our club and I have taken advantage of for years and years. We have not been disappointed, either.

It is rare for any subscribers to express disappointment after a TAS visit. Since we are at the season the USGA agronomists are scheduling, it is time to give serious consideration to enrolling for a stop by Bob Vavrek this year. You won't regret.

But why take my word for it? Lots of WGCSA members use the Green Section service. I called a number of them to find out just how they feel about the TAS. Here goes.

Vince Monahan: The Green Section visit is extremely important to me. It is a third party critique of our golf course that is offered without prejudice. The agronomist isn't influenced by either the golf course superintendent or by the members. His advice is unbiased, and we need that.

Roger Bell: I use the Turf Advisory Service because it carries with it the great respect the members at our club have for the USGA. It is an opportunity to harvest that good will for the good of the golf course. That kind of credibility is unusual.

Tom Harrison: I think the Green Section visit is significant because it is such a good value. I like the presence of an outside opinion of our golf course, both during the visit and later on in the report. I also like the information the agronomist shares with regard to what he has seen elsewhere on his visits. And this is an excellent opportunity for me and any members of the Green Committee who are present to ask questions.

Randy Smith: The visit by the Green Section is one of the ways that helps me keep up with new products and how they are successfully being used. It also alerts me to new problems that may be out there that I haven't heard about yet. Also, the agronomist often gives us new insights on old problems. Frequently the agronomist is able to back me up in some of my programs, if that is what they feel. No matter who makes the visit, he is a ready source of information on just about any golf course subject, and players at our course like that. The report is a good communication tool between me and the membership. It is a good deal all around.

Mike Semler: I like the Green Section visit best because it is that second or third opinion that is so often needed and frequently invaluable. It is an outside opinion that is credible. The agronomists see so much in their travels and they share that wealth of information openly. It is a good value in anybody's budget and I recommend it highly.

Mike Handrich: The Green Section has helped me most in getting projects approved and problem solutions underway. I think it works so well because the USGA carries so much weight. The TAS serves me well as back up support and information and help justify programs, if they are worthwhile. I look at the Green Section as the golf course superintendent's helping hand.

Mark Kienert: The Green Section helps golf course superintendents by supporting our goals and mission and management plans, IF they are good ones and well thought out and likely to succeed. A recommendation from the agronomist can push a decision concerning irrigation system, contour program, a new shop or whatever, over the edge. The TAS is a trump card in your favor. The agronomist is willing to go to bat for your golf course, and he isn't afraid to tell members what they need to hear, whether they want to or not. The visit is a yardstick of measurement of progress, and it helps meet standards of the business.

Scott Schaller: Let's face it—the Green Section staff are THE experts on golf course management and everybody I know can benefit from advice given by an expert. The Green Section has given me positive direction and the agronomists offer added support for my ideas and plans and programs. They offer a good critique of the golf course. The membership involvement with the visit is a big plus.

Jeff Parks: The Green Section is a very supportive vehicle, especially when you are having any kind of problem. The credibility they have



doesn't exist anywhere else, and they never abuse it. I have also enjoyed having an outside visitor to bounce ideas off of and to get some additional input for things happening at my golf course.

Rod Johnson: The report reinforces my program and its details. It gives comfort to the members that we are on the right track. The visit is essentially an annual golf course report that they like to read. Also, if you are a subscriber, you have freedom to call the regional Green Section office and expect prompt attention to your questions. The whole operation works very very well for golf course superintendents.

Jerry Kershasky: Tremendous! The Green Section visit is a check and balance of programs and progress at our course. The membership respects the USGA input and they make practical use of the report. The agronomist can support you in your fertility, aerification, seeding and any other management program. If deserving, you will earn a favorable report. But the agronomists aren't YES men and won't go against their own good judgment. That fact adds to their credibility. The report is used for our "State of Westmoor" review. I find it useful at budget time and at my annual review. I absolutely wouldn't be without it!

You couldn't get that kind of unanimity if you'd ask the same guys about ice cream or football or apple pie! Their collective comments sound like an ad for the Green Section, and who could be surprised. It is pretty easy to sell something you believe in. And they believe in the Green Section Turf Advisory Service.

Make your job easier and get some good advice you will be able to use in the next year. You will become one of the believers, too.

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

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



Glo[™] ligthing 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.

800-782-3300

- NORTHERN GREAT LAKES -

Golf Course Superintendents Association 6th Annual Spring Turf Symposium Monday, March 27, 1995

Holiday Inn; Rhinelander, Wisconsin

For information call Todd Cantrall • Days (715) 453-3131 or Nights (715) 453-7641

GREENSNIX® A Division of Faulks Bros. Construction, Inc.

International Soil Blenders ... Serving You Locally!

- ▲ Topdressing & Construction Mixtures
- ▲ Bunker Sands
- ▲ Cart Path Material
- ▲ Decorative Stone
- ▲ Green Sand Divot Fill
- ▲ Peat Moss

We would like to thank the WGCSA for making GREENSMIX[®] the largest supplier of root-zone mix in Wisconsin,

For information or quotation please call - 1.800.537.1796

Entire Course gasping for air?

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



The GATM 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 33/4" 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.

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

