

disease, I am not sure I can agree with Couch's senec-topathoic disorder classification. In general, late summer was stressful for the turfgrass manager as well as the turfgrass itself.

Fall brought us cooler temperatures and a beautiful display of color. Unfortunately, some turfgrass managers were formally introduced to take-all this fall. The cool and wet conditions of fall triggered the take-all fungus, *Gaeumannomyces graminis var. avenae*, to produce its fruiting structure, a perithecium, on one sample submitted to the T.D.D.L. Also, lawn care operators battled a very strong necrotic ring spot pressure.

Now that the leaves have fallen and need to be raked into a pile, you are probably thinking about snow mold management. Snow molds are the last turfgrass enemies your turfgrass will face this year (so you had better do it right). For those of you who are planning snow mold management strategies, I have included disease profiles for the two major snow molds encountered in Wisconsin (pink snow mold and Typhula blight). The profiles are intended for quick reference only. Please read the entire product label before applying any fungicide.

As our seasons change so does the list of pathogens that turfgrasses must face. Wisconsin turfgrass managers saw PAD and summer patch in the hot summer months. We battled take-all and necrotic ring spot in the cool and wet fall. Now we are wondering about the impending snow mold pressure. There is a turfgrass disease for every season because some pathogens like it hot and some pathogens like it cold. Don't let this get you down though, because as any good plant pathologist will tell you, "plant diseases are the exception and not the rule." I predict that most of your turfgrass will be healthy.

References

1. Couch, H. B. 1995. Diseases of Turfgrasses. 3rd Edition. Krieger Publishing Co. Malabar, Fla.
2. Turf and Ornamental Chemicals Reference, 1995 edition. Chemical and Pharmaceutical Press.

Table 1. Frequency of turf problems submitted by turfgrass professionals to the T.D.D.L. from August 1 to October 10, 1995.

Problem Diagnosed	Number
<i>Poa</i> decline	13
Rhizoctonia blight	11
necrotic ring spot	8
cultural/environmental	6
anthracnose of <i>Poa annua</i>	4
pythium	4
unknown patch	2
melting out	2
anthracnose basal rot of bentgrass	2
take-all	2
summer patch	2
yellow ring	1
rust	1
localized dry spot	1
yellow tuft	1
thatch	1
bacterial wilt of Kentucky bluegrass	1

Pink Snow Mold

Cause: *Microdochium nivale*


Fusarium patch is a common disease of cool-season grasses, especially ryegrass and bentgrass. This disease occurs during cool, humid, to cold, wet conditions. Snow is not necessary for development of this disease.

Symptoms: Pink, circular patches of diseased grass of two to six inches in diameter develop during prolonged periods of cool wet weather. If severe, spots may coalesce to form large areas of diseased turf.

Control: Maintain balanced fertility, mow frequently at appropriate cutting heights and avoid fertilization during periods of slow turfgrass growth in winter. Preventative and curative fungicide applications may be made if disease problems develop and are severe.

Fungicide*	Product Rate/1000ft²	Application Interval (days)
L439 cyproconazole 40WG	0.33	before 1st snow fall
L346 chlorothalonil/fenarimol	16 fl. oz.	1-2 applications
L273 mancozeb DG 75	6-8 oz.	14-28
L162 fenarimol	8 fl. oz.	1-2 applications
L213 chlorothalonil 90WDG	4.5-8 oz.	21-28 (X 2)
L571 iprodione 1.3%	0.5-1.5 oz. a.i.	14-21
L436 iprodione 23.3%	4-8 oz.	before 1st snow fall
L433 iprodione 50%	2-4 oz.	14-21
		before 1st snow fall
L487 mancozeb 75%	6-8 oz.	14-24
L491, L254 mancozeb 37%	9.6-12.8 fl. oz.	14-24
L497, L121 mancozeb 80%	6-8 oz.	14-24
L120, L588, L641, L673, L307		
PCNB 75WP	8 oz./5-10 gal. H ₂ O	before 1st snow fall
L119, L587, L562, L672		
PCNB 10G	5-7.5 lb	before 1st snow fall
L260 triadimefon 1 G	7.5-12 lbs.	before 1st snow fall
L124, L338 thiram 75 WDG	8 oz	2 applications
L124 thiram 42%	12 fl oz	2 applications
L605, L341, L46		
vinclozolin 4.17F	2 fl. oz.	10-21
L49, L603 vinclozolin 50%	2 oz.	10-21

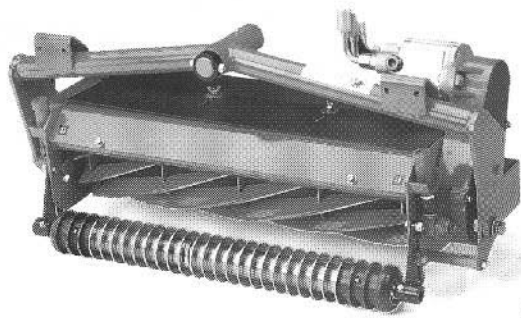
(Continued on page 43)



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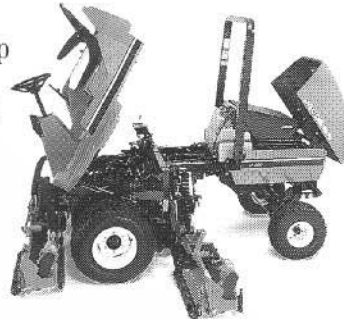
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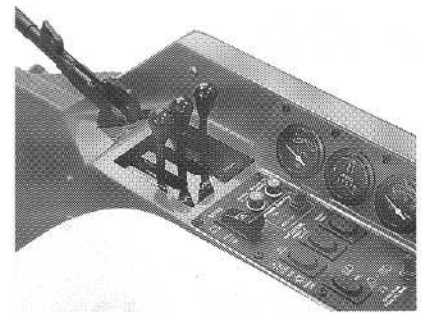
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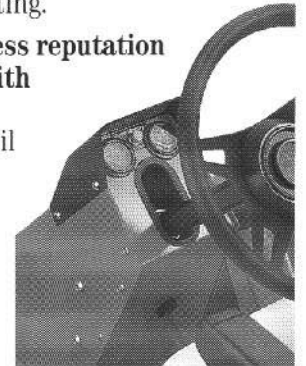


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(Continued from page 41)

Typhula Blight

Cause: *Typhula incarnata* (gray) and *T. ishkariensis* (speckled). Typhula blight is Wisconsin's number one turfgrass disease problem. Usually, northern areas of Wisconsin have speckled snow mold while the southern areas have gray snow mold.

Symptoms: Symptoms are noticed as the snow melts in the spring. White crusted patches of grass in which the leaf blades are matted and bleached. These patches can be inches or several feet in diameter.

Signs: The best way to identify this disease is by the presence of small (1 to 4 mm), hard, round and seed-like structures called sclerotia. These sclerotia are the reproductive structures of this fungus. Gray snow mold has bigger sclerotia than speckled snow mold and this is one way to tell them apart.

Control: Avoid tall grass going into winter. Avoid snow accumulation and prevent drifts by erecting snow fences. Do not apply quick release fertilizer after the top growth has ceased growing (after 3 consecutive days of mean daily air temperature of 50° F). Usually where fungicides are needed, one application around Thanksgiving is efficacious. Applying fungicides in the spring after patches are present is of no benefit.

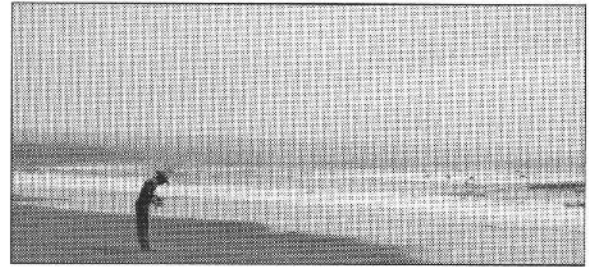
Fungicide*	Product Rate/1000ft ²	Application Interval (days)
L77 propiconazole 41.8%	1 packet/ 5,000 ft ²	before 1st snow fall
L73 propiconazole 14.3%	4 oz.	before 1st snow fall
L209 chlorothalonil 40.4% (mix w/ iprodione)	8-16 fl. oz.	before 1st snow fall
L361 triadimefon 25% WSP	4 oz.	before 1st snow fall
L346 chlorothalonil/ fenarimol	16 fl. oz.	1 or more applications before 1st snow fall
L162 fenarimol 11.6 %	8 fl. oz.	2 applications
L213 chlorothalonil 90WDG	4.5-9 oz	before 1st snow fall
L571 iprodione 1.3%	0.5-1.5 oz. A.I.	14-21
L436 iprodione 23.3%	4-8 oz.	before 1st snow fall
L433 iprodione 50%	2-4 oz.	before 1st snow fall
L439 cyproconazole 40%WG	0.33	before 1st snow fall
L120, L588, L641, L673, L307 PCNB 75WP	8 oz./5-10 gal. H ₂ O	before 1st snow fall
L119, L587, L562, L672 PCNB 10G	5-7.5 lb	before 1st snow fall
L260 triadimefon 1 G	7.5-12 lbs.	before 1st snow fall
L124, L338 thiram 75 WDG	8 oz	2 applications
L124 thiram 42%	12 fl oz	2 applications
L21 flutolanil 50%	4-6 oz.	before 1st snow fall
L605, L341, L46 vinclozolin 4.17F	2 fl. oz.	10-21
L49, L603 vinclozolin 50%	2 oz.	10-21
L568 chloroneb 6.25%	3 -6lbs.	before 1st snow fall

* The L#s refer to the label pages from the Turfgrass and Ornamental Chemical Reference (2). 🍀

Calendar of Events

Nov 8,9	Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium <i>Hyatt/Milwaukee</i>
Dec 11,12	WGCSA/GCSAA Regional Seminar <i>Fond du Lac</i>
Jan 9-11	WI Turfgrass and Greenspace Expo <i>Holiday Inn/Madison</i>
Jan 22	WGCSA/GCSAA Technical Seminar <i>Fond du Lac</i>
Jan 30,31	WNA Winter Workshop <i>Oshkosh</i>
Feb 5-11	GCSAA Golf Course Conference & Show <i>Orlando, FL</i>
Feb 19-24	School of Turfgrass Management <i>UW Madison</i>
Feb 25-27	WLF Winter Convention <i>Kohler</i>
March 4	WGCSA Spring Business/Education Mtng. <i>Fond du Lac</i>
March 11-15	UWEX Regional Turf School

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Variables in Bentgrass Response to Dormant Applied Milorganite

By Dr. Wayne R. Kussow
Department of Soil Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison

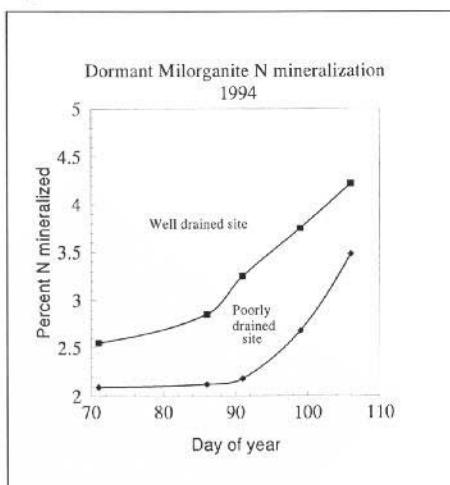
This past year I continued to study factors that influence the spring response of creeping bentgrass to dormant applications of Milorganite. I observed in 1993-94 that surface drainage, with its effect on soil moisture levels in springtime and consequential rates of soil warming, was of primary importance in determining spring color response of the bentgrass to dormant Milorganite. Soil surface color and height of mowing were of secondary importance.

The effects of surface drainage, soil surface color and height of mowing were additive. Hence, the fastest and most intensive spring coloration of the bentgrass occurred when the experimental site had good surface drainage, the bentgrass was top-dressed with charcoal, and the grass was mowed at 3/8- rather than 5/8-inch. This bentgrass color response was directly related to the extent of microbial conversion of organic Milorganite N to inorganic N (ie, the rate of N mineralization). The contrast is shown in the Figure 1.

In 1994-95, the weather pattern was very different from 1993-94 and surface drainage had much less impact on Milorganite N mineralization rates, as did soil surface color and height of cut. An early January thaw left the dormant Milorganite on the south-facing, sloping site encased in ice for nearly all of January and February. In contrast, on the non-sloping site the thaw produced a crust on the snow surface but did not encase the Milorganite in ice. The consequences of this are shown Figure 2. Milorganite N mineralization virtually ceased when encased in ice but not when protected by snow cover. After snow melt the first week of March, frequent rains kept both sites extremely wet and, as a result, there were essentially no effects of surface drainage on the rate of mineralization of the Milorganite N.

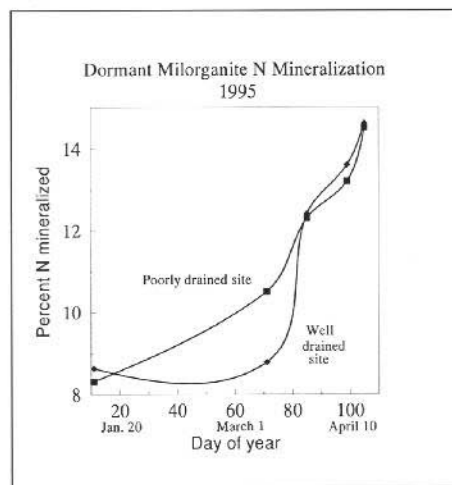
Examination of Figures 1 and 2 reveals that there were substantial dif-

Figure 1



ferences between 1993-94 and 1994-95 in terms of the percentages of dormant applied Milorganite N that were mineralized. As an example, by day 80 of 1994, the amounts of N mineralized ranged from 2.1 to 2.6 percent. In 1995, the comparable extents of N mineralization were over 12 percent. The primary reason for this is thought to be time of application of the dormant Milorganite. The Milorganite was applied November 2 in 1994 and November 22 in 1993. The apparent effect of this earlier application of the dormant Milorganite was mineralization of about 6 percent more of the Milorganite N before the time of permanent snow cover in early December.

Figure 2



Bentgrass color responses to the dormant Milorganite likewise differed substantially between the two years. As shown in Figure 3, color response to the dormant Milorganite in 1994 did not become apparent until about April 15. In 1995, color differences became noticeable within a week after snow melt on March 12 and 13 (Figure 4) and persisted throughout the period of observation. While weather certainly plays a major role in the time of spring greenup, it is difficult not to suggest that the earlier application of the dormant Milorganite in 1994 favored more extensive N mineralization and significantly impacted the time and extent of bentgrass greenup in the spring of 1995.

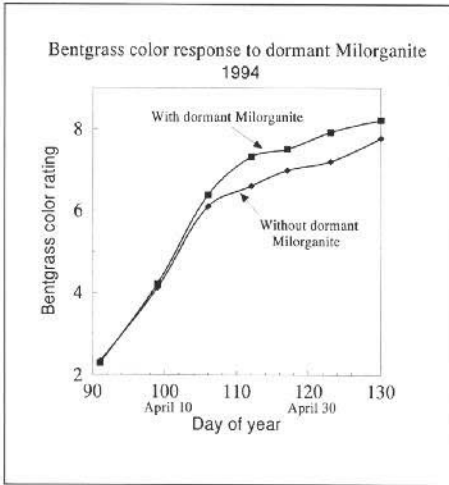
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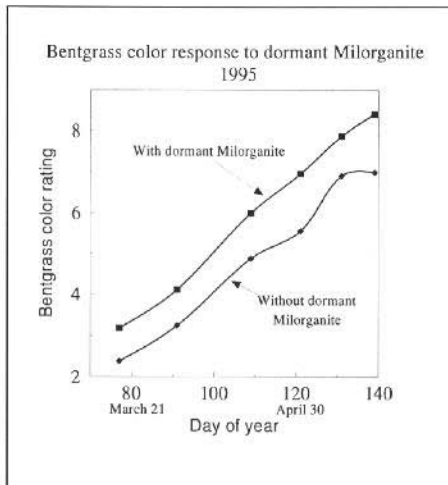
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Figure 3



In November of 1994, Steve Millett inoculated patches of turf in selected plots with *Typhula*, gray snow mold. The following spring he rated the plots for incidence of the disease. The ratings showed higher incidence of snow mold on the poorly drained site with its

Figure 4



greater and more complete snow cover. On both sites there was a clear trend toward less disease where dormant Milorganite had been applied. Significant reductions in incidence of the disease also resulted from top-dressing with charcoal and from

reducing the bentgrass mowing height from 5/8- to 3/8-inch.

These two years of research confirm that mineralization of dormant applied Milorganite N does occur prior to the spring following application. How much mineralization occurs depends primarily on the time of application in fall, the weather, and soil moisture. Collectively, these factors determine soil temperatures and, in turn, the rate of Milorganite N mineralization. Because N mineralization occurs in late fall and the winter months, there is a supply of inorganic N immediately available to bentgrass the following spring. This N promotes rapid greenup, presents an attractive, playable surface earlier than might occur otherwise, and delays the time when fertilization is required. Dormant applied Milorganite appears to offer the added advantage of reduced incidence of gray snow mold. 🌱

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Gary Grigg and Bruce Williams
GCSAA
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Dear Gary and Bruce,

Thanks for your letter of September 8, 1995. It appears elsewhere in THE GRASS ROOTS so that our readers can benefit from it. I was glad for the clarifications it contained.

It is unfortunate, or so it seems to me, that it takes a hard nosed editorial to find out what is going on with our national organization and to engage in a more widespread discussion of an important issue.

I think you flatter yourselves to an excess when you at least imply that GCSAA members know all about these pending affiliation requirements. Trust me—most do not. And likely many do not care, one way or another. But the MYOB editorial generated 27 contacts with me—telephone calls and letters. Many were even from out of state. And every one but your letter expressed shock by and opposition to the affiliation requirements, especially the required dual membership. One of the letters in opposition was written by a GCSAA Distinguished Service Award recipient.

Reprinting your letter here will help you. It clarifies several points, which begs the question: why does GCSAA seem to sugar coat what they suspect will be controversial issues instead of just laying the facts out, as you did in your letter? Glossy, snazzy happy news with a professional PR twist to it leaves the impression you are trying to hide something. Usually you are not, so just give us the facts sans the editorial frosting.

As I have stated before, I am in favor of affiliation. I am opposed to some of the requirements however. The most significant developments in the past month have been the compromises coming forth. As soon as the 100% requirement is removed or modified, I will become a champion of the effort. Since the percentage is arbitrary, it should be brought down to a reasonable level for most chapters, or the deadline for 100% should be removed entirely. It is conceivable, for example, that a grandfathered individual, aged 20, could keep a chapter from 100% dual membership for half a century, proof that requiring 100% compliance is in name only.

Several other things need further clarification. Your explanation of the legal situation, on the surface, makes sense. But before turning the GCSAA/state chapter relationship on its head, I would like to know how many lawsuits have been filed through a state chapter to GCSAA in the last 50 years? A dozen? A hundred? One? None?

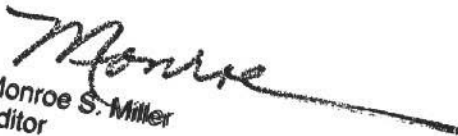
If the answer is none, then is the legal opinion the changes are predicated on available to members? Maybe our chapter attorney would like to read it. I do know that we cannot, in our society, operate on a basis of fear of legal action. Nothing would get done.

Your letter failed to answer a question lots of us have—will there be chapter dues in addition to individual dues? There hadn't better be; they would only sap money from more important matters, like turfgrass research. Chapter finances in most cases are already stretched without having to pay for some new bureaucracy. If you want people to buy into an idea or a program, then you need to offer details. Trying to sell these requirements with trite phrases like "strengthen the profession" and "improve cooperation between the national and the chapters" need some explanation. We might actually have some good ideas that will help. But when you offer no details, it seems you only want a major flow of money from the chapters to Lawrence, money many do not have. No wonder there is opposition. You need to tell individuals how they will benefit. Can you tell them that they can expect to make more money? Details matter a lot.

In the correspondence you sent to me, you went to great lengths ("bottoms up discussion", "coast to coast", "border to border") to convince me how carefully these requirements were considered. The requirement of GCSAA membership to be eligible for chapter membership will have its greatest impact on small budget courses. How many of your committee members are from 9-hole courses? How many of your committee members pay their own dues year in and year out? How many of your committee members have a golf course operating budget of \$100,000 (not fungicide budget—total operating budget) or less? I am not certain, but as I look at the roster I do not see the people who will be most affected represented by someone in their circumstances. Why don't you seem to understand that for some golf course superintendents, the issue is money—they cannot afford to belong to both. Period. I hate to see them left out entirely and have to believe that they are better off if they are at least in a state chapter.

Finally, your attitude that just because some people aren't GCSAA members they are "riding on our coattails" is petty as far as I am concerned. Mark Kienert refers to them in his chapter relations report as "welfare", and he is just as wrong. Using that logic, those in a church congregation who are not able to contribute as much to the collection plate as others are mooches and relegated to the back pews of the church. Does that mean those in a community who pay low taxes should only drive the back streets, limit their kids' access to public school programs and be viewed as second class citizens? Of course not. Some people cannot afford what you and I have; that includes some golf course superintendents. Because they have less does not mean that they are somehow "less" for that. I just cannot believe that either of you really feels that way, and wish you hadn't said it in your letter. And I wish our new chapter president hadn't either. We have a list of contributors in the NOER Turfgrass Research Facility, and the results of the good science that goes on there is for everybody, in Wisconsin and across the country, not just the contributors who built it. We certainly do not view those who were unable to contribute or chose not to as "riding on our coattails."

Just as you do not doubt my sincere concern for the best of the profession, I do not doubt yours. I have enormous respect for individuals who take the time to dedicate themselves to it to the extent you two have. We are simply in the process of sorting out the details on this issue in search of the best way to get to the same end. As always, you can pick up the phone and call me. Better yet, we will see you at the Symposium in Milwaukee in early November.


Monroe S. Miller
Editor

CHAPTER DELEGATES REPORT

Chapter Relations Meeting

September 9 & 10, 1995

By Mark A. Kienert

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you were prepared to voice your opinions, but felt it would very wise just to keep your opinions to yourself? Or maybe you thought it would be better to just sit quietly on your hands and bite your tongue due to the fact that you were completely in a minority? So you just sat there on the sidelines waiting for an opportunity to possibly voice to your ideals, but when the time came, the game's outcome had already been realized? It would be about as useful as kicking a field goal in the closing seconds of a 52-0 rout when your team is on the short end of the scoreboard.

I found myself in such a meeting when I represented you on behalf of the Wisconsin GCSA at the third annual GCSAA chapter relations meeting in Lawrence, Kansas. Ninety-five of the 114 GCSAA chapters were represented at this meeting. It was during this meeting that discussions and final revisions would be made to the proposed chapter affiliation agreement. (For those of you that are still in the dark and do not know what I'm writing about, go back to the September/October issue of the TJE GRASS ROOTS and read Monroe Miller's "MYOB" editorial. Then reread my chapter delegate articles that I have prepared for you over the past two years. Those articles will explain the concept as it was being created and will further detail the progress of this new "old" proposal. The chapter affiliation agreement was also reported to the membership in attendance at the WGCSA business meeting last spring.

In a nutshell, it is similar to a married couple who wishes to renew their commitment to each other by renewing their wedding vows. This proposed affiliation agreement has some bonds, however, that will dramatically change the makeup of our chapter. From a historical perspective, the affiliation agreement has been around since 1935 back when the "National" was called the National Association of Greenkeepers of America. In the charter agreement, it stated that all chapter members were required to be members of the "National" and members of the "National" also had to be supporting members of the chapter. As a charter member of NAGA, the Wisconsin GCSA agreed to abide by the affiliation agreement between the two parties that was in place at that time. Over the course of years, the percentages were reduced to the point that they were completely ignored or just simply slipped through the cracks and were never really enforced.

"Why the sudden emphasis on affiliation?" you might ask. Blame the lawyers and their lawsuits. The bottom line is that out of this agreement the chapters would serve as a defensive shield to protect GCSAA from any lawsuit that could start on the local level and work its way through the system. The potential of an Exxon Valdez-like environmental lawsuit and judgment has the capacity of sending shock waves through the profession. The affiliation agreement basically is

a "good business practice" for GCSAA and the chapters as it protects GCSAA from potential liability that may be brought on by one of its members. The affiliation agreement contains annual requirements which members are required to meet. For the record, there are very few differences between the original 1935 document and that which is being proposed today.

The new affiliation agreement, if ratified by the membership of the Wisconsin GCSA, states that by July 1, 1997 all new class A, B, and C members who join an affiliated chapter must join GCSAA, and all class A, B, and C GCSAA members must be a member of an affiliated chapter. All members who join from now until July 1, 1997 will be grandfathered into the chapter or GCSAA. Assistant superintendents/Class C membership privileges would change with the new agreement. There will be a bylaws change voted on in Orlando, that by all indications so noted by the delegates present, will pass by a landslide margin.

Now reread what you have just read and let it sink in for a moment. If the Wisconsin GCSA signs the new affiliate agreement with GCSAA, ALL new members that we accept



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into our roster MUST also join the GCSAA after July 1, 1997. The goal is an obvious, 100 % of our Class A, B and C members would also have to be a member of GCSAA. Other existing classifications would not change. This sounds very similar to taking a job in a paper mill or someplace else that says, if you want to keep the job, you must join the "Union" and pay the dues.

This issue really pulls me apart. On one hand I have to agree with Monroe and his stance that this is a free country and we don't force anyone to join anything against his or her wishes. On the other hand, I'm sick and tired of the welfare system. As it was stated over and over again in the meeting, there is a distinct difference between a chapter member who is a member of GCSAA and those who are not GCSAA members. I don't have to go into any detail if you think about it.

The question should be asked, "why would you be affiliated with a chapter and not the GCSAA or for that matter with GCSAA and not your local chapter?" If only 70 people in the chapter are members of GCSAA, those other 30 members are still represented by GCSAA. Do we now conduct two different meetings? Do we need two separate organizations now to comply? The ability of an individual to pay is a question that is raised most often. Could it be sticker shock for those who pay for both chapter dues and GCSAA dues from their own pockets. Two hundred and ten dollars for dues (\$320 if you now lump chapter dues onto that total) at one chunk when you are first getting started is a lot of money—almost one-half a monthly rent payment and for sure a total that is close to a car payment. The mat-

ter boils down to choices we must make in our every day living. I so valued my GCSAA membership that I paid for both chapter and GCSAA dues out of my pocket for the first five years that I toiled as a superintendent at a smaller rural country club. However, chapter members should not be left out or discredited because they are a superintendent, and are not members of GCSAA. Under the new affiliation agreement, we will have to either create of loophole (a classification for non-GCSAA superintendent chapter members) or deny them access to our group after July 1997. I can tell you that I dislike loopholes with a passion. The delegates present agreed that they wished to avoid all loopholes as loopholes would undermine the cooperative intent and commitment of the agreement.

Honorary Wisconsin GCSA member Jim Latham, at last year's Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium, told us that any potentially damaging lawsuit would start at the local level and would come from a golf course whose superintendent was not a member of either the local chapter or GCSAA. For what ever the reason for the lawsuit, it would serve as a basis for upon which all future court opinions and decisions would be based. One mistake, like poisoning wildlife on a course, and a criminal charge could potentially affect us all through the subsequent lawsuits. The news media would have a field day with all of us.

For this agreement to be totally effective must be a two-way street. I want to tell you that I never thought I would see the day that one of our GCSAA board members would inform all the delegates present that they would send back
(Continued on page 51)

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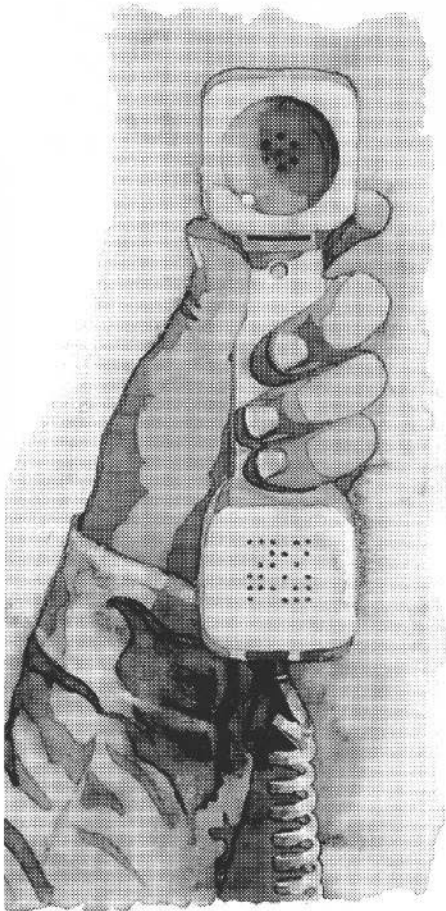


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