

I've found out, too, that we are known abroad as a "progressive" state. They know about Ross and Commons, Reinsh and Glen Frank: names that help to make Wisconsin scientific, agrarian and political to the outside world. The name LaFollette distinguishes our political history, I find, wherever I go. And I, too, always speak of Wisconsin as "progressive" when I talk about her away from home. Not understanding very well just what the word means, I suppose, any more than other Wisconsin people, in general, do. But that is what Wisconsin would like to be anyway, and what she means to be. Which is most important after all.

A good solid state, our state. Physically very beautiful, a veritable playground for humanity in the summer as Arizona is in winter. Next to Wisconsin, "gathering of waters," Arizona, "arid zone," is my favorite state. Each very different from the other, but something individual in them both, not to be found elsewhere.

I am glad, too, "Wisconsin" is an Indian name. European people interested in architecture have learned to say "Wisconsin," in Japan, in Germany, in Holland, Austria and Switzerland more often probably than any other American name except "New York."

Just now on my table is Lloyd's Reisebureau advertisement proposing excursions to America from Switzerland. The program is given by days, what is to be seen each day. When the "West" is reached, Dienstag and Mittwoch are to be devoted to the Landhausen Wright.

Taliesin has received architectural pilgrims from all over the world. They have helped Taliesin a lot and pilgrims have gone home and written in European newspapers and magazines and books about America as they discovered it hidden away in a rural nook in southwestern Wisconsin.

In this rural nook in southwestern Wisconsin is our busy workshop. Out of it have come plans for buildings that have established new ideals in life and architecture and carried new principles in engineering into effect. They will never again build buildings in earthquake zones as they did before the Imperial was built in Tokyo.

They will never again build the skyscraper quite so wastefully and foolishly whenever St. Mark's Tower is completed.

They will not long continue to make little scene paintings of houses in Arizona and California as they now do, after San Marcos in the Desert grows up out of the desert as an indigenous human plant.

The American people only need to know they *can* build *real* buildings. We would like to hold and consolidate all these gains for Wisconsin as the Cardinals hold and consolidate their football gains on the gridiron. We are trying to do this by establishing a larger industrial workshop near here for the young people who want to be American artists: something in which the state university itself might well take an interest. Students are awakening to a lively interest in this matter. But that interest on the part of a great university might, after all, stultify our own enjoyment in a fresh endeavor and get us mixed up with senators and assemblymen and committees and regents and wear us all away with nothing done. Our social system is like that, unfortunately, yes, even in Wisconsin.

Why does any real progress have to overcome so much resistance? Why do we need, always, so many first-class funerals in order to get anything sensible done, if it is "unusual." Some day Wisconsin will be so progressive that she will consider the fine arts not only as essential as science, politics or farming, but even more fundamental to any state that would live "above the belt."

Getting back to why I love Wisconsin...

I love Wisconsin because of her Micklejohn experiment at the university, whether it succeeded or not. And because of every sincere forward-looking experiment the state itself has ever made; because of her courage; her love of independence; her true belief in individuality as essential to immortality. I love her because she will spend her money to grubstake prospectors for future benefits to her posterity, even though some of her too, too substantial citizens call her foolish for that—and I love her because she has not so very many snobs.

I love her because she has so few highbrows. They are men educated far beyond their capacity, so my old master Louis Sullivan used to say. And I love her because most of her was for the temperance of the Declaration of Independence instead of for the prohibition that violates temperance.

Without taking myself too seriously, I hope I love her because I, too, am by birth and nature a Wisconsin radical. Radical is a fine word, meaning "roots." Being radical, I must strike root somewhere. I feel my roots in these hill-sides as I know those of the oak that have struck in here beside me.

That oak and I understand each other.

Wisconsin soil has put sap into my veins. Why, I should love her as I loved my mother, my old grandmother, and as I love my work. ♣

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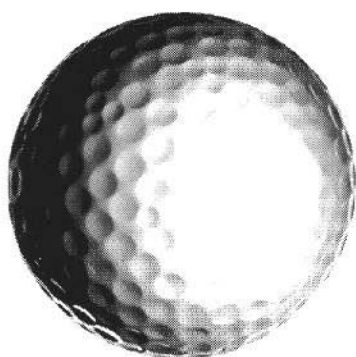
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## ***Milorganite Announces Turfgrass Research Donation Program***

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Turf managers can help support turfgrass research when they use natural organic Milorganite fertilizer this fall, according to Larry Lennert, manager of research and product development at Milorganite. For each ton purchased and delivered between August 1 and November 30, 1997, Milorganite will donate \$10 to the turf manager's favorite turfgrass research organization.

"Milorganite and its distributors have long supported turfgrass research at the national level through the O.J. Noer Research Foundation," Lennert says. "The Turfgrass Research Donation Program enables Milorganite customers to support turfgrass research at the local level as well."

This is the third year that Milorganite has sponsored its Turfgrass Research Donation Program. In the

first two years of the program, Milorganite donated nearly \$40,000 to turfgrass research organizations across the U.S. and Canada.

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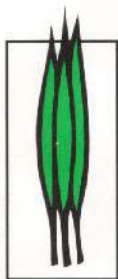
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## Try One of These In Your Spare Time

By Tom Schwab, Superintendent  
O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Noer staff and professors will have held their second Homeowner Field Day by the time you receive this issue of *The Grass Roots*. The field day is open to the public and in its first year was well received with about 500 attendees. You could hold one of these homeowner field days at your golf course and reap tons of goodwill and educate the masses in one fell swoop. The superintendents of Wisconsin's golf courses are some of the best versed experts of turfgrass culture in the country and the homeowners from your communities would love to hear from you.

You wouldn't have to do it alone and it wouldn't be that hard either. You could get hands-on help from your local school's science or agriculture classes, local master gardeners, area soccer clubs, county extension agents, and interested staff or golf members. We, at the Noer Facility, would love to share our Homeowner Field Day book and experiences with you also. Almost everyone is in contact with turfgrass in every day of his/her life and many would attend a field day to hear about their options for caring for it. This is especially true in the spring when everyone is getting out fertilizer spreaders and crabgrass preventer as soon as the snow melts and in the fall when many turfgrass maintenance practices are most successfully accomplished.

To get ideas about what demonstrations or studies to have in your field day just listen to those around you. What questions do friends, community members, and golfers ask you the most?

- What species, cultivars, or mixtures of grass should I plant?
- Should I use mulch and/ or starter fertilizer to establish a lawn?
- Does mowing height effect the number of weeds in my lawn?
- Do I have to mow more often if I fertilize and mow tall?
- How do I get rid of creeping charlie and does 20 Mule Team Borax really work?
- When should I fertilize and what kind to use?
- Should I seed or sod my lawn?
- How can I grow grass in the shade or what perennial groundcover options do I have?
- How do I renovate a tired old lawn or repair winter damage?

It is also possible that you could connect with schools to encourage students to carry out some studies. What do your school's science teachers think would make a good study for their students? For example a high school class

in the Milwaukee area investigated a river that runs through Ozaukee Country Club. These students found that the water is cleaner after it runs through the course than when it enters the course. Some of these demonstrations would not have to be very technical and could even be accomplished by elementary school classes.

You could also show off some of your other existing golf course features to diversify the day. Tell participants how to plant or prune trees, how to plant a prairie, what mulches to use in a perennial flower bed, how to get weeds out of a bed, how to attract birds or butterflies, or even how to sharpen a lawn mower blade.

*The Grass Roots* has had many good public relations ideas written in it lately like the Audubon Program and volunteering to teach a couple days in your local schools about proper turf care. This homeowner field day would be another way to make a hit with your golfers and community. Besides I'm sure you're looking for ways to fill all your free time in the summer! 🌱

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