

(Continued from page 39)

**The full swing golfer...**who has never learned how to take a half swing shot. Especially impressive around the greens...these types are usually the ones who don't have much of a putting stroke either. To them, the golf ball must be destroyed each and every time they hit it.

**The stylish golfer...**which encompasses just about everybody these days...except the Woodstock refugee mentioned earlier...these types are usually impressive out there on the links. They're even more impressive if they can actually hit the ball...but rest assured that there are tons of stylish golfers out there who are all show...and not much go!

**The blue haired legion...**cut a huge path for themselves as they absolutely dominate the golf course on Ladies Day. Usually the silent observer has absolute control over the golf course...and is fearless as he moves about on his domain. But if he encounters the Legionnaires...he must yield and let these elderly females pass unmolested...lest he encounter

their wrath. However, he can still silently observe them...and gain a few silent laughs as they slowly make their way around the front nine.

It is, in fact, wise for the silent observer to be wary around the blue hairs...never turning away from them. I heard a story once long ago about a superintendent observer who was not diligent and let a rookie employee wander unknowingly into their field of play. At the last moment the observer discovered what had happened...but had to sacrifice this man...sort of like the ignorant white soldiers wandering into sacred Sioux burial grounds...

**The gorgeous female golfer...**is a truly rare occurrence on most golf courses. When they do appear they seem to surround themselves with either a really dorky looking husband...or other less attractive females. They do attract attention...the staff radio traffic starts to pick up when they enter the cart area...and all types of silent observation and lustful mental telecommunication springs up from everybody...from the 16 year old cart kid to the 70 year old rough mower

operator...proving once again that all healthy heterosexual males are pretty much alike...

Let me say in serious conclusion...they say that the satisfaction of being a golf course superintendent is derived from actually being able to be out on the course every day...which is true.

What they don't ever mention...is that in addition to observing the elements...and the golf course itself...we silent observers are constantly watching the golfers. We are constantly and silently observing them. And we are anonymous out there...sometimes I really feel as if I'm wearing camouflage! It is our mission to be silent, be anonymous, and to observe. I for one will carry on that tradition.

So this silent observation...from which springs so much good humor...will continue unabated....because it's a little known facet of this great game.

And I for one am enjoying myself too much as I silently observe the golfers...🏌️

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# A rewarding life unfolds due to positive influences and encouragement

By Lori Ward Bocher

It's interesting, sometimes, how life unfolds. Some encouragement and support, a scholarship, some invitations, a desire to be challenged – and you go from being a Kansas farm boy to Dean of a prestigious college at a major university. That's how life unfolded for Elton Aberle, the new Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

As a boy, he never really planned to go to college. And, as a college student, he assumed he'd go back to the family farm. But by meeting certain people or experiencing certain events at critical times in his life, he has ended up spending his life not on the farm, but on college campuses throughout the Midwest.

"I'm a native of northeastern Kansas, the small town of Sabetha," Dean Aberle relates. "I was born (1940) and raised on a general livestock and crop farm – the typical type of farm at that time. We raised corn, grain sorghum, oats, alfalfa, red clover. We had beef cattle, dairy cattle, pigs, chickens. We were typical.

"As anyone would at that time, I had my chores. I learned how to do field work, how to chop weeds," he continues. "When my brother and I were old enough that we left to go to school, the dairy cows disappeared from the farm. Dad said if he didn't have the help he wasn't going to continue milking cows."

## **A special scholarship...**

Dean Aberle was active in FFA during his high school years and he eventually became an FFA state officer. His FFA advisor was the first to influence his career path. "There was this scholarship in feed technology that was offered by the feed industry," Dean Aberle explains. "My FFA teacher said it was something I should look at. I applied, I received it, and I had no idea what feed technology was other than it dealt with manufactur-

ing feed for the animal industry.

"The only reason I went to college was because I received that scholarship," he continues. "It wasn't very much – \$200, I think. But it paid tuition at the time. My FFA advisor definitely had an influence on my life by encouraging me to do something that my family had not really done before."

Dean Aberle's parents had a grade-school education. "So when I said something about going on to college after high school," he points out, "they looked at me as if to say, 'What?' But my dad was always one to say, 'If that's what you'd like to do, then I'll support you.'"

At Kansas State University, he majored in feed technology/milling industries for two years before switching to an animal husbandry major. "I had grown up on a farm, had a lot of animal experience, and became involved in meat judging and livestock judging teams at Kansas State," Dean Aberle explains. "There's a tendency to migrate to those things that really interest you,

and that's what I did."

## **Encouraged to continue...**

While in college, he assumed that he'd go back to the family farm. Enter the second person to have a major influence on his career path. "At Kansas State, I got to know a meat science professor who knew I was interested in that area of study," he recalls. "He was moving from Kansas State to Michigan State, and he encouraged me to consider graduate school. After graduating from Kansas State in 1962, I followed him to Michigan and entered his graduate program. Again, it goes back to the people you meet and the fact that they have confidence in you and encourage you to go on."

At Michigan State, he earned an MS degree in meat science in 1965 and a PhD in food science in 1967. "I specialized in the meat product and muscle biology area," Dean Aberle points out. This time, it was more of an experience, not a person, that encouraged him in his next career move.

"While in graduate school, I had



quite a bit of opportunity to assist in teaching. Once I had responsibility for an entire course," he explains. "I found out it was something that I liked very much, as well as the research. I enjoyed the interaction with the students and was stimulated by the fact that I could have such an influence on their lives."

#### ***Professor, then administrator...***

So in 1967 he accepted a position as an assistant professor in the Department of Animal Science at Purdue University. He progressed through the ranks to full professor by 1975. "My responsibilities were in teaching and research," Dean Aberle explains. "I taught the food chemistry course in their food science undergraduate and graduate curriculum. I also taught a course in meat science and conducted research in the meat science area."

In 1983, there was a knock on the door that prompted his next career move – one from teaching and research to administration. "The University of Nebraska invited me to look at their position as head of the Department of Animal Science," he recalls. "I had been in Indiana and Michigan for 20 years, and agriculture back on the Great Plains where I grew up had changed a lot in that 20-year period. It was intriguing to go back. It was a challenge because I didn't know if I could be successful

as a department administrator. I think I took the job more for the challenge than any other reason.

"I really never set out to be an administrator," he continues. "But the opportunity came up. It was something new. It was still in agriculture. It was much broader than the kinds of things I had been doing in meat science. And so I took the job."

Nebraska's animal science department includes livestock, dairy, poultry and meat sciences. Aberle continued to teach a little, but dropped his research program. He was in charge of more than 40 faculty members. He also assumed responsibility for a major building project – a new animal science building that was dedicated in 1988. "I still think it's one of the best facilities of its type in the US, designed for intensive teaching and research in the animal areas on a campus that's right in the middle of a city, just as the Madison campus is," he points out.

#### ***Finds his way to Wisconsin...***

After 15 years at Nebraska, there was another knock on the door. "Some colleagues encouraged me to at least put my name in the hat (for the position of CALS Dean at the UW-Madison). It turns out the college decided to make me an offer," Dean Aberle explains.

"Again, it was never a long-term goal of mine to become Dean of a college such as this," he continues. "But this college has a tremendous reputation and tremendous programs. That made the job offer very attractive. I recognize this as one of the top, if not the top, agricultural and life sciences college in the US. There is no other college that has great strength in some of the basic life sciences as well as great strength in the applied agricultural, natural resource and environmental sciences. You won't find that mix, nor the record of accomplishments, anywhere else."

There was the challenge, too. "I do like to have new challenges because they stimulate me," Dean Aberle admits. "I tremendously enjoy working with people. As a teacher and researcher, most of the rewards and stimulation come from your individual accomplishments. But as an administrator, you get your rewards by watching the accomplishments of others. As a department head, for example, it gave me tremendous satisfaction when I hired young faculty mem-

bers who succeeded by developing good programs and having an impact on the discipline in which they were working."

When asked why he was chosen for the head job at CALS, Dean Aberle gives some possible reasons. "I think probably because there was evidence that I could work well with faculty, departments and other administrators," he says. "That I had a fairly good breadth of experience and an appreciation for agriculture. That I had done a fair amount of interdisciplinary work between animal science, food science and agricultural engineering. And, at Nebraska, I had a record of working with several departments, not just the animal science department, trying to build strong teams across disciplines while still maintaining the strengths of our individual disciplines."

#### ***First impressions...***

So in June of 1998, he assumed the position as Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the UW-Madison. His first impressions? "First, I've confirmed those impression I had before I came," Dean Aberle answers. "The quality of the institution, the quality of the faculty, the tremendous contributions this institution has made to science and to mankind – the record is pretty clear."

"Even though the institution has had some challenges over the past decade, there's tremendous strength on which to build programs for the future," he continues. Those strengths include:

- the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF), which takes endowment earnings from intellectual property and plows it back into grants for more research;
- a faculty that is very competitive in receiving research grants, both from the federal government and industry;
- very strong research programs;
- a talented student body in an environment that challenges them to succeed.

His goals for the future of CALS? "A major need for the future is to maintain what we have here – this unique mix of strengths in our basic biological sciences along with the agricultural and natural resource sciences," Dean Aberle answers. "The discoveries that are made in the

*(Continued on page 45)*

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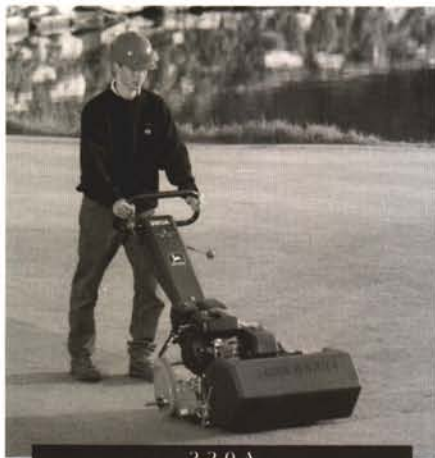
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(Continued from page 43)

basic sciences are linked to applications that are made in the agricultural and natural resource areas. It's a continuum."

Funding is a never-ending challenge. "The proportion of public funding through direct appropriations has decreased and the funding coming through granting mechanisms – primarily from federal grants but also from industry – has increased. We're developing greater linkages with private industry than we have in the past," Dean Aberle points out.

"This presents new challenges," he continues. "It means that you must be prepared to compete directly with other institutions for funding. You must be prepared to compete to maintain your excellence. You must be prepared to compete to keep that application of basic science moving."

#### **The turf area...**

To date, Dean Aberle hasn't had enough time to familiarize himself much with the turf program at the UW-Madison. But he does recognize its importance. "Turf programs have become more important to us over the past quarter century as we've seen greater and greater growth in industries such as the golf course industry," he says. "And as we become more of an urban society, the importance of a turf program or other urban horticultural programs grows. That is reflected in the development of the turf research center here and in other changes."

Dean Aberle has had a brief tour of the Noer Facility. "But I was out of town when the turf people had their field day, so I've not yet had a chance to learn about the program and facility in detail," he adds. In the past, his association with turfgrass people was mostly with plant breeders who were breeding grasses for grazing livestock.

"I do enjoy golf," he points out. "I had a chance to play at University Ridge one time. It's an outstanding course."

He has also enjoyed learning about Wisconsin during his travels to field days and other events, and by visiting with alumni. "It's a beautiful state," he says. "I had very little experience in Wisconsin prior to coming here."

#### **A real Midwesterner...**

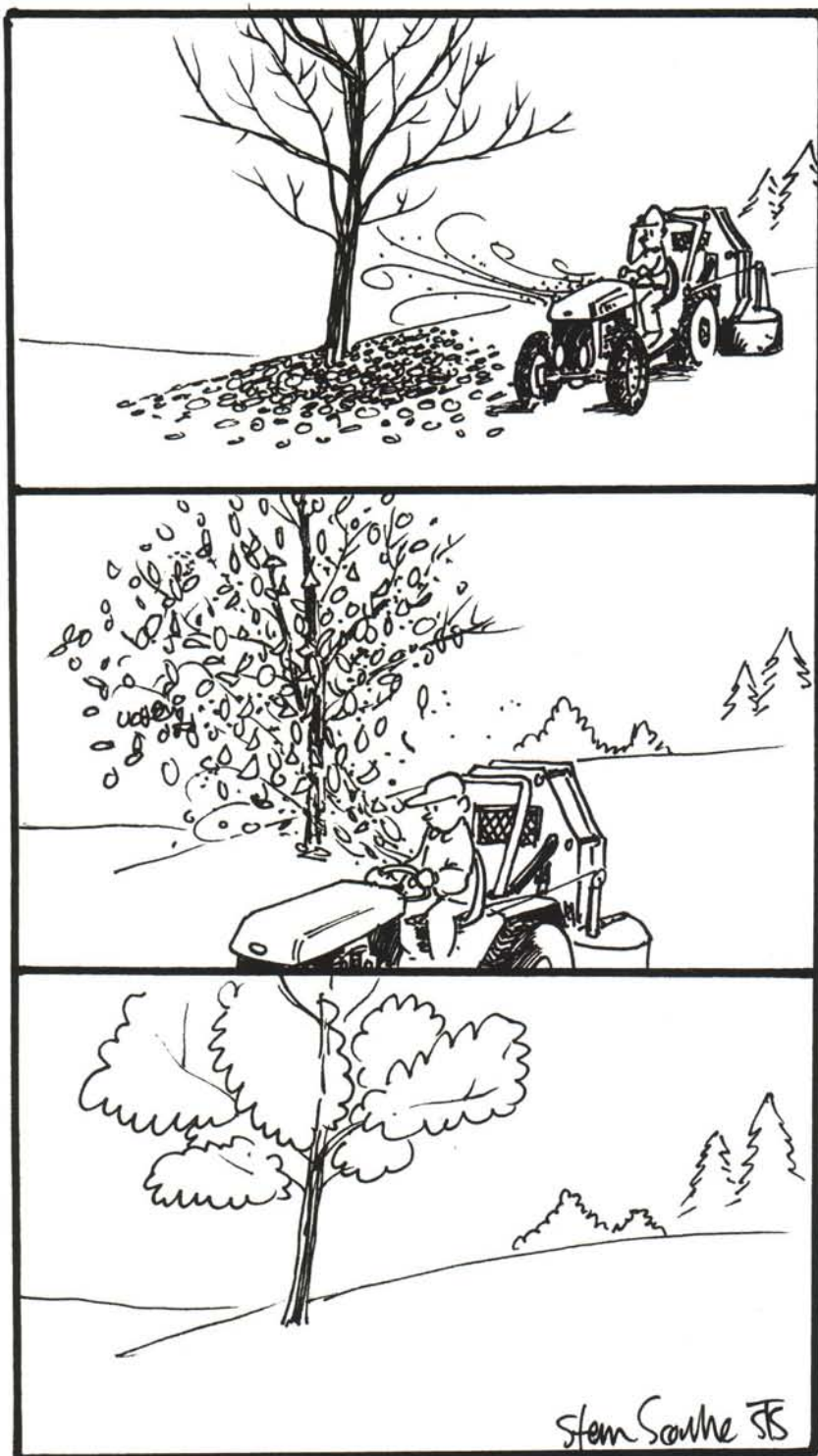
Dean Aberle has spent his entire life in the Midwest, and that's by choice. "I'm a Midwesterner," he

admits. "The people in Kansas, Michigan, Indiana, Nebraska and Wisconsin all share a pretty common kind of philosophy. They are very friendly and open people, but they tend to be a bit more conservative. I guess by nature, because of my background, I can interact with and appreciate our Midwestern people and industries."

Dean Aberle met his wife, Carrie, while a student at Michigan State. "I

acquired a wife and two degrees at Michigan," he says. Their two daughters were born while he was at Purdue. Both are married now, with one living in Des Moines and the other in New York City.

Off campus, his interests tend to take him outdoors. "If I can get away I like to hunt. And golf. Those are the two things I enjoy doing outdoors more than anything else," he concludes. ▀



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# Books

By Monroe S. Miller

Back in early September I started keeping my eyes open for sturdy cardboard boxes that I could use to pack up my books when we finally move sometime next spring. It is going to take a lot of boxes because I've got a lot of books.

Actually, it made me kind of nervous. I have a LOT of books, and I am a little scared that I might have more than I will be able to read. After all, I am 52 and have a lot of years to go before I retire to a life of leisurely reading. And the profession I have chosen to work in consumes enormous time and limits the number of books one can read in a year. Add to that the simple fact a serious bibliophile is always looking to add to his library, and it becomes clear I am going to spend a lot of time in years to come with my nose buried in books.

Some choose books as things they like to collect. The October 1998 issue of *The Golf Journal* has two stories that focus on golf books; one of them is the story of legendary golf book collector Joe Murdoch. Joe enjoyed collecting books, but he also enjoyed the reading.

Me - I'm a reader. Every book I add to my library is purchased with the full intention of reading. But I am falling behind, acquiring books at a rate faster than I am able to read them.

Many of the books I have are like old friends; I can recognize them from a distance long before I can read the title on their spines. I love them all, from a small leather bound copy of Longfellow's *Evangeline* my grandfather had to August Derleth's *The House On The Mound* to Piper and Oakley's *Turf For Golf Courses* and every imaginable subject inbetween.

Readers tend to favor certain subject areas, and I have done that with my library. Emphasis is on the American presidency (excluding Clinton), golf (course management

and player biographies especially), natural studies, American agriculture, American history (with emphasis on the American Revolution) and literary criticism. Yet nearly every other topic you could think of is written about somewhere in my library - if it catches my interest and a book about it is available inexpensively, I will find shelf space for it in my house.

Another fun aspect of being a book guy is getting autographs. This is as opposed to buying autographed copies. I like meeting the author of a book and having the memories associated with a book signing. That is why book signings at the national conference have no stronger advocate than me. But I was collecting autographs years before GCSAA started them as formalized affairs. Old Tom Morris award winners who have written books have signed my copies. Educators have autographed my copies of their textbooks, and golf course architects have been very willing to personalize their tomes for me. Each time it has happened, the particular book has taken on special meaning.

(Continued on page 48)

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(Continued from page 47)

New books have become godawful expensive and I almost never pay full price for a book. In fact, patience pays off in pleasure when I embark on a search for a specific title at a bargain price and eventually find one. It is as much fun looking for a book at my price as it is to finally sit down and read it.

For the person who loves books, there are two other areas that add immensely to that love - book stores and libraries. Both attract the same kinds of people, mostly pleasant types who are very civil. They are comfortable folks to be around. Madison is a great town for book lovers as it has great book stores and quite a number of them. The city ranks second in per capita spending on books in the country, so it is also a good place to operate a book store. The stores cater to us and offer great opportunities like author readings and discussions and signings, and give a selection second to very few other places.

Actually, some of my favorite book stores are used books stores. There are several here in Madison, but there is the Renaissance Book Store in Milwaukee, King's in Detroit, and the Strand Book Shop in Manhattan. In fact, the daughter of the proprietor of Strands in lower Manhattan (876 Broadway) graduated from the UW - Madison and that offers a starter for a good conversation!

The libraries of America are one of our greatest assets as a nation. They are like golf courses in this sense - no

two are alike. A library is a quiet, peaceful respite in a busy and noisy world. It seems every little town has one, including the tiny library in Surrey, New Hampshire. My parents, Cheryl and I spent a beautiful fall evening in that one, with a fireplace fire crackling, looking up genealogy information on our family. The sunny, white library in Dorset, Vermont is terrific and one of my favorites, the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. is inspiring, and the New York City library is almost a worthy destination itself. The UW - Madison law school library (an addition completed a year ago was designed by partners of a local architectural firm, one of whom is also our green committee chair) and the University of Michigan law school library are unique even though the books they store most certainly are boring. The Carnegie libraries all across the country are wonderful - what a way to remember Andrew - and the ones in Howell, Michigan and Chatfield, Minnesota are particularly impressive. The Camden, Maine village library was designed by Charles Loring and is set in a landscape designed by the renown Fletcher Steele. A statue of Edna St. Vincent Milay graces the lawn, and an outdoor theater faces the village harbor on the Atlantic Ocean. We have a new library in Middleton, but my favorite athenaeum is the Parker library in Fennimore, Wisconsin where my grandmother was librarian for years.

Many books about books have been written in the past few hundred years, but the following short essay says it all



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best. It was penned by Professor Jerry Stern of the English department at Florida State University in Tallahassee. It was originally aired on NPR, and Professor Stern titled it *Booklove*:

"I have just come from an exhibition that told me books will be replaced by electronic libraries, talking videos, interactive computers, cd-roms with thousands of volumes, gigabytes of memory dancing on pixillated screens at which we will blearily stare into eternity.

And so, in the face of the future, I must sing the song of the book, nothing more voluptuous do I know than sitting with bright picture, fat upon my lap, and turning glossy pages of giraffes and Gauguins, penguins and pyramids. I love wide atlases delineating the rise and fall of empires, the trade routes from Kashgar to Samarkand. I love heavy dictionaries, their tiny pictures, complicated columns, minute definitions of incarnative and lanitary, hagboat and fopdoodle.

I love the texture of pages, the high gloss slickness of magazines as slippery as oiled eels, the soft nubble of old books, delicate india paper, so thin my hands tremble trying to turn the fluttering dry leaves, and the yellow cheap, coarse paper of mystery novels so gripping that I don't care that the plane circles Atlanta forever, because it is a full moon and I am stalking in the Arizona desert a malevolent shape-shifter.

I love the feel of ink on the paper, the shiny varnishes, the silky lacquers, the satiny mattes.

I love the press of letter in thick paper, the roughness

sizzles my fingers with centuries of craft embedded in pulped old rags, my hands caress the leather of old bindings crumbling like ancient gentlemen.

The books I hold for their heft, to riff their pages, to smell their smoky dustiness, the rise of time in my nostrils.

I love bookstores, a perfect madness of opportunity, a lavish feast eaten by walking up aisles, and as fast as my hand reaches out, I reveal books' intimate innards, a doleful engraving of Charlotte Corday who murdered Marat, a drawing of the 1914 T-head Stutz Bearcat whose owners shouted at rivals, "there never was a car worse than the Mercer."

I sing these pleasures of white paper and black ink, of the small jab of the hard cover corner at the edge of my diaphragm, of the look of the type, of the flip of a page, the sinful abandon of the turned down corner, the reckless possessiveness of my marginal scrawl, the cover picture - as much a part of the book as the contents itself, like Holden Caulfield his red cap turned backwards, staring away from us, at what we all thought we should become.

And I also love those great fat bibles evangelists wave like otter pelts, the long graying sets of unreadable authors, the tall books of babyhood enthusiastically crayoned, the embossed covers of adolescence, the tiny poetry anthologies you could slip in your pocket, and the yellowing cookbooks of recipes for glance blanche dupont and Argentine mocha toast, their stains and spots souvenirs of long evenings full of love and argument, and the talk, like as not of books, books, books." 🌱

## The Superintendent's Library



# Books For Christmas

By Monroe S. Miller

Face it - you are soon going to have to give up a list of things you'd like to have for Christmas - a new shotgun, a new set of golf clubs or maybe a flashy boat. How about a few books for either your office or home library? Here are two fairly recent releases you for sure will want.

**GOLF COURSE DESIGN** by Geoffrey Cornish and Robert Muir Graves. Published by John Wiley and Sons, Inc. 1998.

It is impossible to condense in a few sentences the impression I was left with after reading this nearly 500 page magnum opus on golf course design, written by two paragons among golf course architects. This book deserves a place on the bookshelf next to Dr. Michael Hurdzan's *Golf Course Architecture*. It is a colossal work and covers all aspects of course design and construction (and reconstruction), from start to finish. It is extremely well illustrated - sketches, architectural drawings and photographs. It is also well tabulated, a great way to help organize a lot of information.

This book needed to be written, for those of us in the field and for students in the classrooms around the country wherever landscape architecture is taught. Cornish and

Graves have proven, from the GCSAA seminar classrooms to those at Harvard University, none were better suited to write it.

It is in bookstores now; I found it in Border's Bookshop in the Architecture section. I give it an unqualified recommendation!

**PRACTICAL GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE: The Magic of Greenkeeping** by Gordon Witteveen and Michael Bavier. Published by Ann Arbor Press. 1998.

This is a fun book that is chocked full of good, common sense information that only two veteran golf course superintendents like Mike Bavier and Gordon Witteveen could have written. Mike attended the Symposium in Milwaukee and was autographing copies of the book for people.

The book has chapters discussing everyday golf course problems like pins and markers, cart paths and traffic control, and even the clubhouse grounds. You won't find these important (albeit mundane) topics discussed anywhere else.

It occurs to me that like *Golf Course Design* this book needed to be written. They will sell a lot of copies; be sure to get one. And I know they will sign it for you in Orlando! 🌱





## Battling Basal Rot Anthracnose: The Latest News

Stephen H. Pearson & Jeffrey S. Gregos, Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Lab,  
Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Can you remember a time when your *Poa annua* died during the summer? If yes, do you know why?

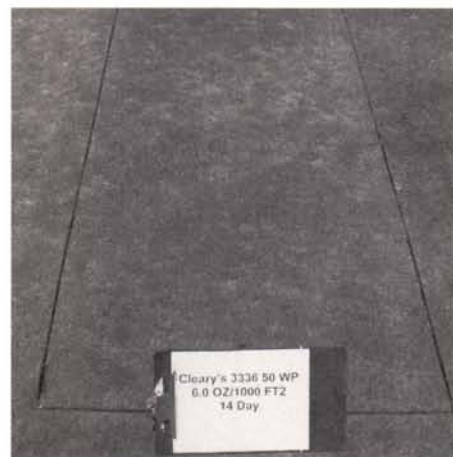
One possible cause could be basal rot anthracnose. You may have heard that basal rot anthracnose cannot be controlled curatively. Well, our data from this summer shows that this disease can be effectively managed.

The TDDL personnel have been conducting research on the control of a variety of turfgrass diseases throughout the summer. One of the most successful evaluations was the control of basal rot anthracnose. In 1997, a 20,000 ft<sup>2</sup> green was constructed, of which 5,000 ft<sup>2</sup> was composed of a creeping bentgrass/*Poa annua* mix (approx. 30/70%, respectively). A moderate anthracnose infection was observed on this portion of the turf during the early part of the summer. As a result, a fungicide evaluation was initiated to test for the control of anthracnose.

The stresses placed on turf can dramatically increase during the summer months. Common stress contributors include increased play, high temperature and humidity, and lower mowing heights. As the turf becomes stressed, its susceptibility to disease increases. Throughout the summer stress periods, *Poa annua* can suffer significantly more damage than bentgrass. It was once thought that stresses endured during the summer were

the cause of "*Poa annua* decline." The symptoms associated with *Poa annua* decline include a general yellowing of the *Poa annua* followed by the eventual death. Severely infected areas can develop a brown to reddish cast. The patches affected can range in size from 1 to 2 inches in diameter to several inches or more. Large areas of *Poa annua* can become infected and eventually die. Recently, these symptoms have been attributed to several fungi, one of which is *Colletotrichum graminicola*, the casual agent of basal rot anthracnose. On putting greens, *C. graminicola* is mainly a pathogen of *Poa annua*, although it can infect bentgrass. Rarely, however, does it infect both simultaneously. In the study this summer, our results showed acceptable control against anthracnose can be attained with several curatively-applied fungicides.

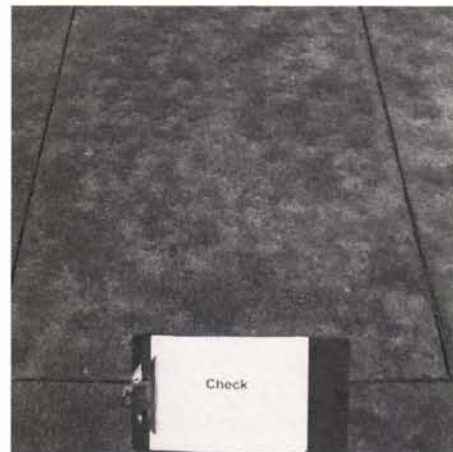
The green on which the trial was conducted was maintained in the following ways. Topdressing was applied twice, once in April and May using a standard 80/20 (sand/peat humus) mix. The mowing height was maintained at .125" (1/8"). A low height was chosen in order to increase the stress and susceptibility of the turf. The green was irrigated four times a week at 70% of the evapotranspiration rate, except during periods of rain. Throughout the trial weather conditions favored anthracnose infection.



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