

The breakfast crowd was loosening up a bit.

"And if you think we have good streets in town, our parks are even better. He knows a lot about them because of the golf course he manages. He really shaped up the city crew when it comes to aerifying and mowing. Heck, he even spends a little money to fertilize them and he makes sure the weeds are killed. He does the spraying himself. We couldn't be happier."

"Plus you should see our ball diamonds since Jack has been on the city council. He put watering systems into the soccer fields and the ball fields the city owns and now we are the envy of everybody out here in this part of the country!"

A man dressed in a coat and tie came in and sat at the counter with the rest of us. "Ask him a few questions about our mayor."

I leaned around Cheryl and explained we were stranded in town last night and had watched the council meeting. "I know the mayor," I volunteered.

"EVERYBODY knows Jack," he said. "He does a really good job - I am on the council and I see him function up close and personal. We hope he sticks with it for a few more terms. He has made it impossible for whoever succeeds him.

"What Jack has done is create some excellent work habits among the public works staff. They seem to have a lot of pride that they didn't have before he was elected to the council. He has chaired both the Parks Committee and the PW Committee and left his clear impression on both.

"Our town now has a brighter, neater appearance. There are never any little unfinished jobs around town. No sloppy work. Everything from picnic tables to city vehicles are in tip top shape. He expects excellence from people."

We took a breather so we could eat our breakfast - the food was getting cold.

The man in the coat and tie had his usual-coffee and a chocolate donut. Then he continued.

"Jack's influence on Bergen has gone beyond the practical and obvious things we have been talking about."

"The city infrastructure is sound. We are on a planned replacement schedule for everything from firetrucks and snowplows to our municipal water supply. We have a carefully developed plan relating to annexation and growth and land use. We have personnel policies, vehicle use policies and even a protocol for the use of city cell phones. Should the need arise, we are prepared for implementation of a TIF plan. We have a lot of confidence in our city government, due in no small part to Jack Hauge."

I mentioned to him that I knew Jack through our mutual profession.

The man smiled and said that he felt there were

similarities between a smooth running golf course operation and a smooth running municipal operation.

He asked what course I worked for. I told him and then asked if he played any golf.

"Oh, you bet," came the quick answer. "I have belonged to Splendid Valley for many years. In fact, I am the club president this year!"

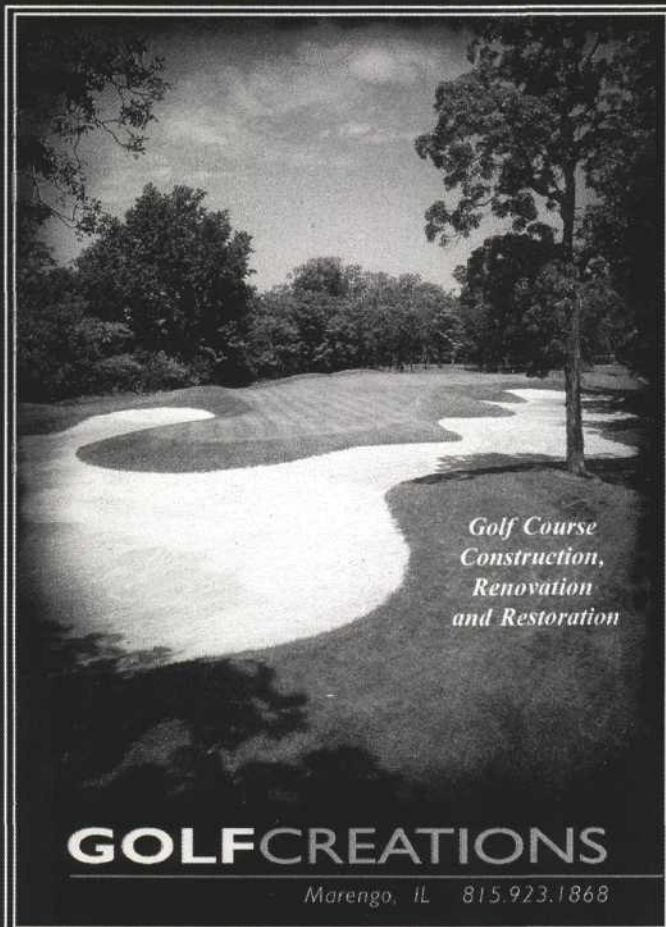
I almost fell off the counter stool. "So, when Jack is at the course, you are the boss!"

"Yes," came the careful response. "But as soon as I hit the city limits of Bergen, Jack becomes 'Mr. Mayor.'"

We talked a little longer, he and I, about club politics and city politics and he said he was happy to say Jack was above it all.

I was thinking of my colleagues and all the interesting things they did outside of work. We could count among us an opera singer, a sculptor, a Brown Swiss cattle showman, an author, an amateur flower breeder (iris), a pilot, and an accordion player in a polka band. We even had a mayor in our midst and didn't know it.

What will it be next? The possibilities are limitless, just like the opportunities. ♣



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IRRIGATION

Urban Legends of Turfgrass Pathology

By Jeff Gregos, TDL, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison



Over the past couple of years I have followed many discussions on Noer-Net, several of which I believe to be urban legends of the turfgrass pathology world. In this article I hope to shed some light on some of these myths and help you with your disease and fungicide questions.

Strobilurins and Dollar Spot

It has been rumored by some researchers from outside of our state that products such as Heritage will actually enhance dollar spot, sometimes as much as 1000 times.

This is not only a myth but also extremely misleading. Results from researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison have continually shown that Heritage and other strobilurins do not enhance dollar spot. In fact, research I was involved with at Penn State showed that Heritage is effective against dollar spot at higher than labeled rates, but since this was

not economical it was excluded from the label. Additionally, I have evaluated several strobilurins that have excellent efficacy against dollar spot. As for Heritage and Compass, below is a dollar spot rating from the 2000 Anthracnose trial where Heritage did not have more dollar spot damage than the check, and Compass had significantly less damage.

Red Leaf Spot in the Spring

Last year there was a debate on Noer-Net about a spring leaf spot on bentgrass, which was called red leaf spot.

This problem was examined at several courses throughout Wisconsin last spring and red leaf spot was not found to be the disease. Red leaf spot is a hot weather disease and would be active in similar weather as brown patch. What was found to be the actual problem was take-all patch. So that leads to another urban legend in which take-all patch is only a dis-

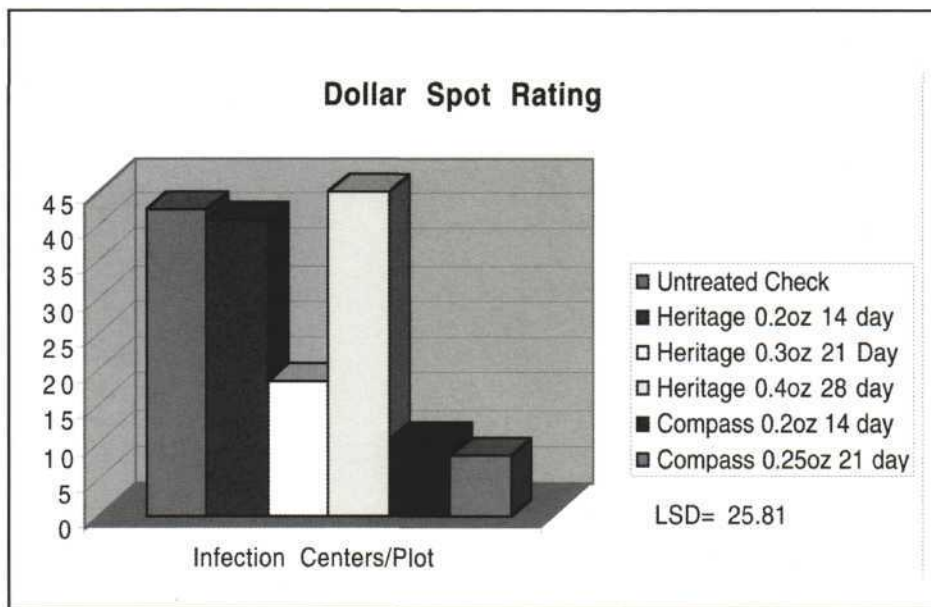
ease of young bentgrass stands. It has been found that take-all patch can cause damage on older stands of bentgrass but not to the extent of young stands. Symptoms usually appear as reddish patches several inches to over a foot wide and generally do not die-out completely. Research at UW-Madison has shown that control of take-all patch requires fall application of fungicides and irrigation management throughout the season.

Pythium in the Spring

Over the past couple of years one spring disease has been confused as pythium blight.

While there are pythium species that can be active during cool-weather, they tend to be root pathogens and do not result in foliar blighting. What has been found to be the culprit is *Microdochium nivale*, the causal agent of *Microdochium* patch or pink snow mold. Because of the high number of spores that this pathogen produces, *Microdochium* patch can be transferred by mowing or water, which can result in a streaking appearance similar to pythium blight damage. Another important fact to know about this disease is that it can be active in just about every month of the year. The TDL lab has received samples of this disease in every month, and it can be active well into the summer or early in the fall. *Microdochium* patch can be active during nights when the air temperature is below 55°F and is prevalent in shaded areas.

So when you are making decisions on what your disease is or what disease that fungicide can enhance, please consult research results that apply to you. 🌿



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2001 SPRING BUSINESS MEETING

By **Brian Ferrie**, Golf Course Superintendent, Horseshoe Bay Golf Club

Monday, March 5, brought 87 members of the WGCSA to the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin for the Association's Spring Business Meeting. The agenda for the day included an informative "Teambuilding" seminar conducted by Gerry Sweda, a hearty lunch, the WGCSA business meeting, followed by the Association's first Masters drawing.

The educational portion of the meeting was a part of the Etonic Leadership Series that is offered to chapters by the GCSAA. Mr. Gerry Sweda, of Sweda Training and Development Services, had only four hours to cover a topic that, if broken down, could easily run into a full day seminar or more. His seminar was titled, "Teambuilding": *The Concept Of Developing Self-Directed Work Teams To Reach More Of Your Work Objectives.*

Mr. Sweda began by describing Teambuilding as "initiated" change, and there are four key characteristics of change:

1. All change is disruptive;
2. All change is frustrating;
3. All change takes time;
4. All change leads to different results.

Sweda encouraged superintendents to initiate change.

After describing the "typical" management system, Mr. Sweda went on to illustrate three scenarios of "dysfunctional" management, followed by instruction to improve or correct the dysfunctional situations. He stated that every business, golf courses included, utilizes employee teams to get work done. Your entire work force is a team. However, because of the "typical" management system used, it is a team that functions as a group.

Changing to a self-directed work team is nothing more than getting your workers to function as a team, or an assortment of teams. Sweda went on to define a "team" as:

1. A collection of individuals who are committed to achieving common objectives, who work well together and produce high quality results.
2. An emotional entity, rooted in the thoughts and feelings of its members, who care about their (the team's) well being.
3. An assortment of people who come together to accomplish tasks that require the continuous integration of the knowledge, ability and skills distributed among them.

One of the next activities was to assess your own management position and how you can move from being a "manager" decision maker, to a "group" decision maker (teamwork).

Along with Mr. Sweda's closing thoughts, he included a list entitled "The Value of Teams":

1. Teams increase productivity.
2. Teams improve communication.
3. Teams make better use of resources.
4. Teams are better at solving problems.
5. Teams make higher quality decisions.
6. Teams mean higher quality goods and services.
7. Teams mean improved processes.
8. Teams mean more involved, more satisfied worker.
9. Teams develop worker skills and abilities.

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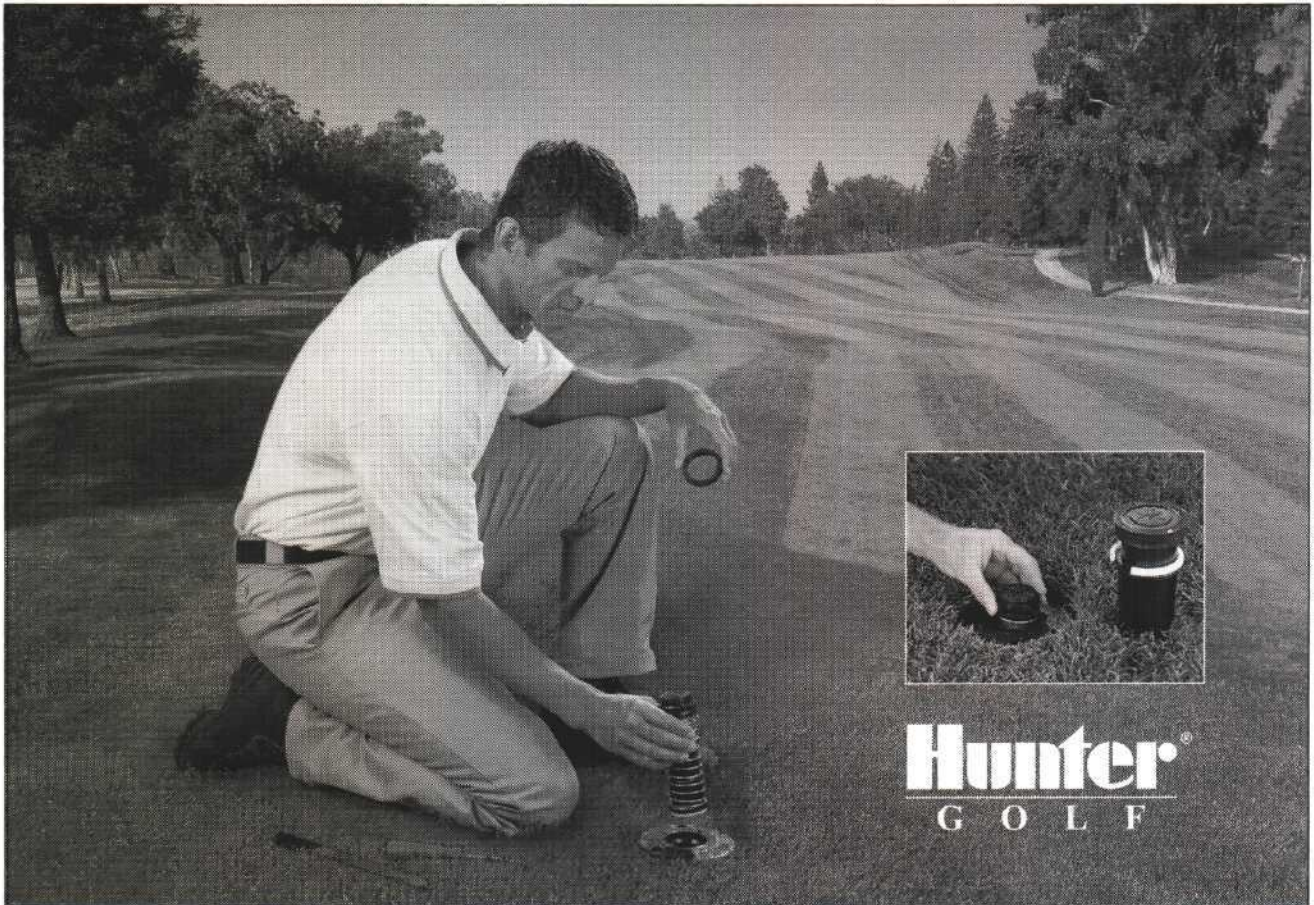


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10. Teams relieve middle managers of some of the extremes.

Sweda believes it truly is a concept worth considering.

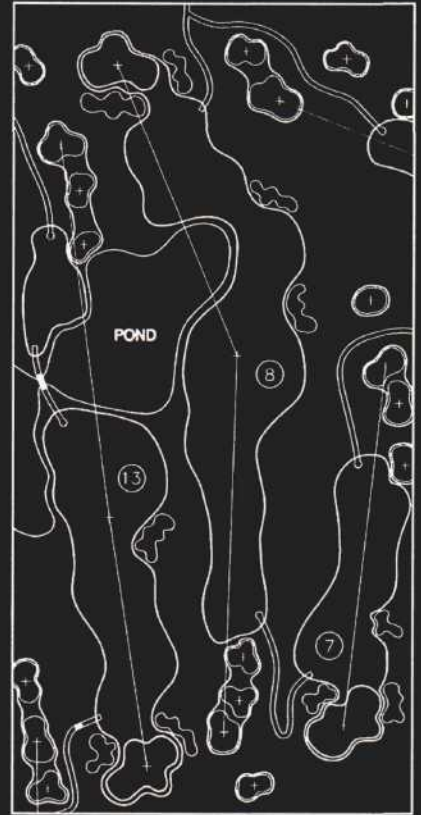
The WGCSA's business meeting moved along very quickly with officer, director and committee reports. The 2001 WGCSA budget was presented by Treasurer Marc Davison and Vice President David Brandenburg reviewed the 2001 scholarship and research proposal prior to voting and approval. President Kris Pinkerton then reviewed the communications he has had regarding the NR 151 proposal, along with public hearing dates being held in March. Any and all individuals able to attend were encouraged to do so. Secretary Mike Lyons recognized three superintendents in honor of

earning their 25 year plaques. Glen Gerth, superintendent at Mascoutin C.C., Jefery Parks, superintendent at University Ridge G.C., and Fred Fabian Jr., of Ross Teal Wing Lake Lodge were all recognized; none were able to attend.

With all business finished, it was time for the much awaited, first, and hopefully annual, Masters Drawing. Winners of the raffle drawing included; Allen Fude, Bill Knight, Oscar Peterson, Jake Renner, Joe Kuta, Doug DeVieres. Rod Johnson and Monroe Miller were drawn as alternates.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 23rd at Lake Arrowhead Golf Club in Nekoosa. Hopefully all of you will make your best effort to attend. ♣

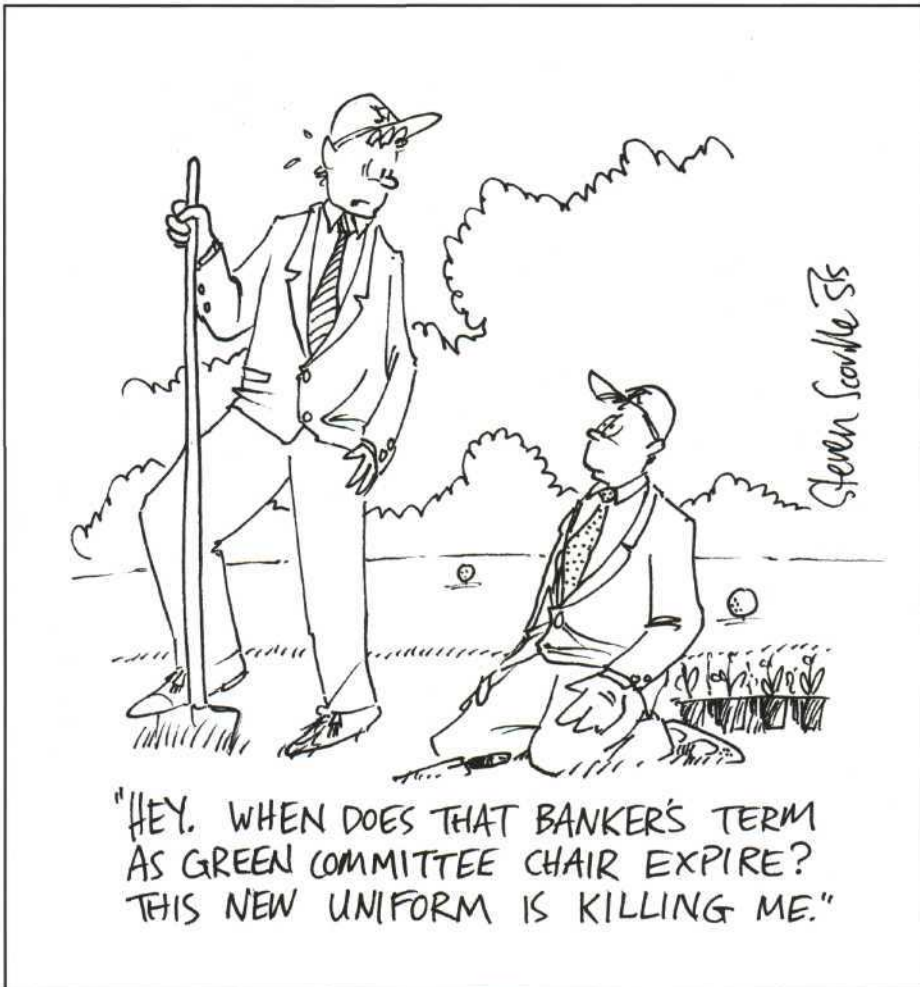
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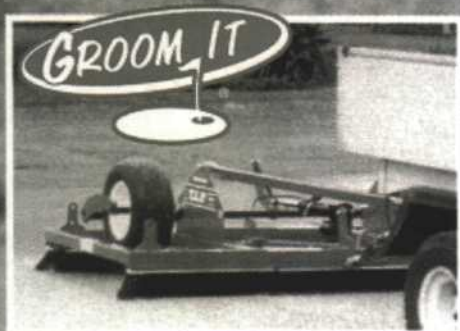
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Everything Irrigation Explored During NGL Conference



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

The Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Association (NGLGCSA) did it again. Their 12th annual Turf Symposium was another very successful one. The conference was held a little later than usual, March 26, 2001, which is why some of the usual attendees from southern Wisconsin may not have attended. The snow had just melted in the south and those superintendents were out raking and preparing their courses, which may have contributed to the slightly less than usual attendance. The northern superintendents had no problem being there, as most of their courses were still 6-24 inches under snow.

Every year the conference committee decides on one subject for their symposium and finds speakers to explore every aspect of the subject. Experts are brought in from far and wide to share their expertise on the subject and everyone leaves greatly educated. The theme this year was irrigation. Talks focused on everything from irrigation installation, design, hardware, trouble-shooting, fertigation, water quality, pumps, ponds and more. Everyone there will be much better armed to take on watering issues in 2001.

The presentations ranged from practical to academic. Dr. John Stier saved the day by giving one more talk than he was supposed to give when a previously scheduled person couldn't attend. John shined like he always does giving a talk about *Poa supina*. He told us about when to use it and the best management practices to maintain it. He also gave an update on the proposed DNR NR151 regulations for non-point pollution abatement and how it will affect the green

industry. He suggested everyone write the DNR or attend a hearing to express concerns about some of the DNR's odd reasoning related to urban settings. In the afternoon John gave an in-depth critique on using effluent water for irrigation in addition to other water source issues. I don't think I would ever consider using effluent with all the problems of salts, solids, nutrients, negative plant and soils effects, and health concerns that he alluded to.

An old Wisconsin friend, Jim Spindler who now resides in Florida working for TerraBiotics, gave a presentation on fertigation. He told about the proper hardware and fertilizer that works best for fertigation and talked about other plant nutrition information. I had to question one of his slides that conveyed fertigation is better for the environment than conventional fertilizing practices, when University of Wisconsin-Madison research shows that little to no runoff occurs with conventional

practices. And I'm not aware of any research that finds fertigation has less nutrient runoff. Other than that point, it was an interesting talk and showed turf managers that fertigation offers another tool for them to consider.

Then there were numerous talks on all the hardware that makes up an irrigation system. Adam Mock from Reinders got a lively discussion going when he educated us on control systems options. He hit on all options — from practical to low-cost to computerized. In addition to control systems he told about the importance of maintaining grounding wires, surge suppressors, line conditioners, and so much more. Adam, like most of the speakers, has many years of experience and shared his knowledge generously.

Speaking of experience, two other great presentations came from John Markestad from Century Rain Aid and Hugh Wakefield from H.T. Wakefield Technical Services. John's talk was



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