

# Pesticide Safety: Never Compromise!



By Dr. R. Chris Williamson, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

As conducive growing conditions for turf and ornamental plants develop, the need and consequent use of pesticides including fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, and plant growth regulators typically increases. At the same time, the hustle and bustle of spring activities or projects can also seem to consume and/or overwhelm you, as a result it can be quite easy to become complacent when you are handling, mixing and loading, and applying pesticides.

For many of you, several months have elapsed (about five) since you last worked with pesticides; consequently, your familiarity and confidence of working with pesticides may be slightly "rusty." Remember **all** pesticides are toxic (to a degree) substances; none are inherently safe, they are designed to be toxic (kill) to the target pest. Despite this fact, when used according to the label directions, pesticides are also designed to be safe to those who use them when you follow the label and use common sense. For this reason, it is critical that you thoroughly and comprehensively read the pesticide label before you: 1) purchase; 2) mix; 3) apply; and 4) dispose of a pesticide, even if you have previously used or are familiar with a particular product.

The directions on a pesticide label are there for good reason: to help you get the maximum benefits with minimal risk. These benefits depend on the proper use of the product; using pesticides differently than the label directions will not only potentially jeopardize the performance of the product, but it is also against the law! Moreover, you can compromise the safety margin that is built into the product.

Pesticide safety should be considered at **all** times, including but not limited to: 1) purchasing (handling); 2) storing; 3) mixing and loading; 4) applying; and 5) disposal. Your safety as well as the safety of others, animals, and the environment are your highest priority. ALWAYS observe the safety precautions on the pesticide label. The label will explicitly provide you with the appropriate information that will enable to safely handle, store, mix/load, apply, and dispose of a pesticide. General precautions to enhance pesticide safety include:

- Read pesticide label carefully and completely
- Wear clean and personal protective equipment (PPE) listed on the label
- Do NOT eat, drink, or smoke when handling, mixing/loading, applying, or disposing of pesticides
- Do NOT allow pesticides to contact you skin
- Do NOT inhale or swallow pesticides

- Remove contaminated clothing at once and wash skin with soap and water, dispose of contaminated clothing properly
- Wash hands often
- Mix and load pesticides in an open area with adequate ventilation; NEVER mix or load pesticides in an enclosed area
- Use only recommended materials at recommended rates and by recommended methods of application. NEVER use a pesticide for purposes not specified on the label
- Check for and repair leaking hoses or connections before use
- NEVER use your hands to stir or to reach into a pesticide tank

Make sure you have all the necessary information on hand before an accident occurs. Such information should include:

- Phone number of Poison Control Center
- Name (common or active ingredient) of pesticide and manufacturer
- First Aid statement on label
- Method of pesticide exposure (inhalation, skin, or swallow)
- Time of exposure
- Symptoms of exposure
- Age and weight of victim

Pesticide safety begins with you, it is your responsibility to carefully and comprehensively read and follow the pesticide label. Of course this alone will not eliminate potential accidents associated with pesticides, however it will dramatically reduce the likelihood as well as prepare you to respond in an appropriate manner. ♻️



**GILL  
DESIGN INC.**  
*Golf Course Architects*

122 North 2nd Street • River Falls, WI 54022  
715-425-9511 • e-mail: info@gilldesigninc.com

Visit our website: [www.gilldesigninc.com](http://www.gilldesigninc.com)

**Design • Renovation  
Master Planning • Practice Centers**

*Member: American Society of Golf Course Architects*



Ever seen electricity leak all over a green?

Neither have we.



Better than a battery:  
 an alternator powers the  
 reels on the 2500E,  
 giving it consistent power  
 all day long.

**The run-all-day, 2500E Hybrid Greens Mower by John Deere.**

It's about advanced technology. And common sense. The 2500E is a hybrid mower that puts power in its proper place. With a choice of a gas or diesel engine, the 2500E powers the reels using a belt-driven alternator. By removing all the hydraulics from the cutting units, we've eliminated 102 potential leak points. And since 90 percent of all hydraulic leaks occur in and around the reels, the possibility of a leak is extremely remote.

Also, the 2500E is battery-free. So the reels get consistent power right from the moment of engagement. Which in turn leads to a consistent cut, all day long. When you factor in lower sound levels and less fuel consumption, the 2500E makes even more sense.

[www.johndeere.com](http://www.johndeere.com)

JOHN DEERE GOLF & TURF

ONE SOURCE™



Call for a demonstration today.

**RIESTERER  
 &  
 SCHNELL INC**  
 Golf & Turf "Coming Through For You"

**RIESTERER & SCHNELL, INC.**

1775 AMERICAN DRIVE  
 NEENAH, WI 54956-1406  
 866-RS4-TURF  
 866-774-8873



# No Surprise

By Monroe S. Miller, Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

Circumstances were such that I missed the presentation of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association's Distinguished Service Award to David Brandenburg. I love events that I know will become a part of our chapter history, and Dave will always be a significant part of our past. For now, he is a very important part of our present. The DSA assures that future generations will be reminded of the high respect we have for him.

I look at Dave and I still see a young man, seemingly too young to have cut such a wide swath in golf in Wisconsin. It actually was a long time ago, when he was first starting out with his own golf course here in Dane County, that I made his acquaintance. He needed a waiver for a pumping permit from downstream users, which included Tom Harrison and me. It was Tom who commented about how polite he was, impressed that Dave initially called him "Mr. Harrison."

"Nice kid," Tom said. Dave extended the same respect to me, although Tom and I quickly pointed out that he could call us by our first names. To this day, despite the situations faced, Dave Brandenburg is the consummate gentleman — courteous of others and respectful of everyone. It is a trait not seen often enough anymore. And he didn't come to it lately; a high school classmate told me he was exactly the same in those days, now quite a few years ago.

His pleasant demeanor is exceeded only by his huge capacity for work. In our chapter, "if you want a job or a project done, give it to Dave Brandenburg" has held true for years. One of the most important traits a leader can have is a dedica-



tion to the tasks at hand. From committee work, up through all of offices of the WGCSA, and continuing today, Dave gets the job done. He is a hands-on, in the trenches, roll up your sleeves and get to work kind of guy. You aren't going to outsmart him and you will never outwork him.

A good leader has a vision for the organization, and I have always considered David Brandenburg a visionary. A good leader has the respect of those he is leading, and I have never met a WGCSA member (or anyone else, for that matter) who doesn't respect Dave.

Dave is open-minded and has struck me as a good listener, addressing concerns members have about an issue. Although

there is strength to his leadership, I have never seen him dictatorial in his execution of any of his duties as a director or an officer.

I have had the pleasure of working closely with him on two big projects — The Grass Roots (where he is the business manager) and on *Caring for the Green* (a history of our association written by Gene Haas). He is reliable, dependable and responsible. You wouldn't get this publication if it weren't for Dave and his role as business manager.

For Dave Brandenburg, good citizenship goes beyond work. He has given to his church and school in the same way he has shared his time with us. There is something special about serving as president of the school board or the church council.

It goes without saying that he is a great golf course superintendent, a position he has held at three different golf courses. He's successful wherever he goes.

So, it really is no surprise that Mike Lyons and the other officers and directors selected him to receive this high honor. I couldn't be happier for him. I'll bet the only one surprised is Dave Brandenburg. ♣

Quality since  
1972

Specializing in • Restoration • Renovation  
• Drainage Problems • Slit Drainage • Greens  
• Bunkers • Laser Leveling • Grading • Irrigation

Jeffrey Hartman  
952-443-2958

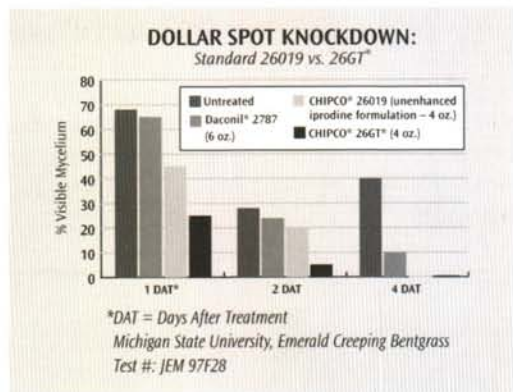
GOLF DIVISION

8011 Bavaria Road  
Victoria, MN 55386



**You're either spending too much . . .**

*Too much time. Too much money.* And you aren't getting better brown patch or dollar spot control for your extra investment. So switch to Chipco® 26GT. It knocks down mycelium within 24 hours of application. And it lasts 14 days or more, twice as long as chlorothalonil. Plus, broad-spectrum Chipco 26GT works as a preventive and a curative against dollar spot and brown patch. You can also tank mix 26GT with other fungicides for season-long control. And 26GT will cost you about 32% less than what you'd spend for chlorothalonil.



**. . . or getting short changed.**

Chipco 26GT was originally known as Chipco 26019, but it was so significantly enhanced in 1997 that it demanded a new name. While the active ingredient remains unchanged, 26GT delivers quicker knockdown of brown patch and dollar spot (up to 48 hours faster than 26019) without sacrificing its excellent 14-day residual.

*Save more, and get more. Use 26GT.*



**Kerry Anderson**  
Sales Representative  
(815) 923-1323

# A Personal View of the Immigration Question



By **Pat Norton**, Golf Course Superintendent, Nettle Creek Country Club

In April 1994, my personal involvement in the immigration question began in earnest.

At that same time, my personal involvement in illegal immigration also began in earnest.

Over the past twelve years, this golf course under two different ownership groups has employed well over one hundred different Hispanic men and women...almost all of them illegal. Personally, my signature is on all of those I-9 federal forms that state that documents presented to me upon hiring "appear to be genuine." I am

the common thread over those twelve years. I was the authorized representative of SSNR and now of NCCC. I was and am the guy doing the hiring.

As a part of the annual process of looking for good, affordable help...we have employed many, many Mexican workers. There are thousands of green industry businesses here in ChicagoLand doing the same thing. We are all looking for people who are willing to work hard, be productive for us, fit into our budgets, and perform the work that needs doing. Admittedly, we

don't pay very good wages and are quite stingy with raises in pay. Are we taking advantage of them? Definitely so. Doesnt any employer take advantage of an employees misfortune...to a degree? A prospective employee...be he Hispanic or Caucasian...applies for a job...needs work...and will usually take the position offered with the accompanying wage offer.

Do we exploit our Mexican employees? Definitely not. We offer very good seasonal work, forty hours weekly plus generous overtime, a very good working



## Proudly Serving the Turf Industry in Wisconsin

**Terra's full line of turf industry products includes:**

- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Fertilizer
- Grass Seed
- PGRs
- Fungicides  
(Including Thalonil™ 90DF and 4L)
- Colorants  
(Including Terramark™ SPI and Terramark Lake Colorant)

**For the products, services and advice you need,  
Talk to Terra**



Terra International, Inc. • 3525 Terra Court • Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
Conrad Stynchula CGCS • (800) 456-0948 (office) • (608) 235-4999 (mobile)

environment, and an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust. In fact, we have a very good reputation locally within the Mexican community. They appreciate the opportunity to be able to earn money, live respectably, and to send money home to their relatives. Exploitation is not paying overtime. Exploitation is paying these men \$300 per week and scheduling them for 60-65 hours. Exploitation is firing them if they object to those working conditions. Exploitation is not having Workmen's Comp for their on-the-job injuries at the local hog killing plant. Exploitation is not helping them to better themselves. We employ them. We do not exploit them.

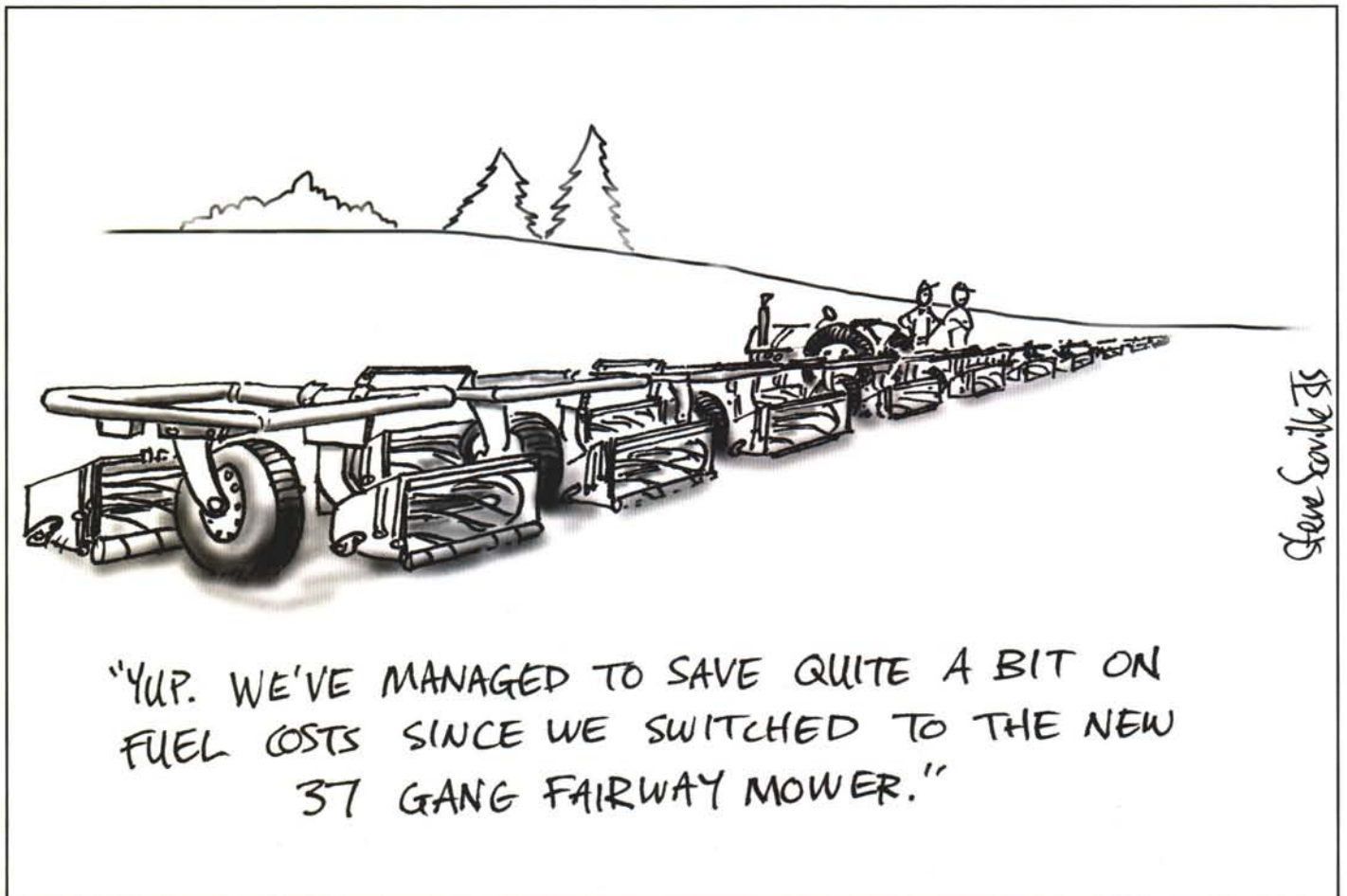
My view is that our company is

going out on a limb...indeed, I am going out on a limb...by hiring all of these people over all of these years. My view is that we are running a mild legal risk...but that it is a situation in which there is really not a better alternative. The only white workers who would hire into these positions...for these wages(\$7.00-\$13.00/hour)...are typically college students or seniors. They need the work and the money. That leaves those who "need" jobs but are not willing to work hard. In general, they are not dependable...hardly the type of people who will show up early, stay as late as is necessary, and be dedicated over the years to helping us provide the best golf course possible. These hard working individuals are filling a

void in our economy by taking on the less desirable tasks in their effort to survive and possibly thrive here in America.

As superintendents go, we here in Illinois have lots of experience with Hispanic immigrants...some legal...but many more illegal. Many superintendents down here have larger operating budgets...and offer their Mexican crew members higher wages and extensive benefits. They also have entire crews of legal residents...and require valid green cards, etc. Believe me, if this golf course could afford it...I would love to pay more generously...and provide all of the benefits that these guys so truly deserve.

But...given our limitations as a public course located out in the boondocks...we do our best. And



"YUP. WE'VE MANAGED TO SAVE QUITE A BIT ON FUEL COSTS SINCE WE SWITCHED TO THE NEW 37 GANG FAIRWAY MOWER."

we do not discriminate. Our white employees will gladly tell you that they too...are underpaid...and taken a little bit for granted.

So, given the fact that I really understand the immigration question, lets expand the discussion. The fact is that there is an entire generation of legal Mexican immigrants of my age group...about 40-50 years old. They all work good blue collar union jobs everywhere in America...and many of them have achieved their version of the American dream. There is also a rapidly growing number of Hispanics who have worked very hard for their professional status.

It is the next generation that is in limbo? There is a huge number of people in the 20-40 year old group that are here illegally. They are the ones that we employ at NCCC...and the ones who...despite their talent and work ethic...may not be able to further improve their lives through moving on to a better job than we can provide. It is simple. If a guy doesn't have legal status, there is no gaining the better jobs.

Do all of these people have a right to be here? In the sense that any human...man, woman, or couple... has the right to do whatever is necessary to support themselves and their families...yes, they do have that right. Should they be given a chance to earn citizenship? No, I don't think so. The requirements for US citizenship should not be softened to accommodate these people. What they need is legal status as seasonal guest workers.

And that is basically how I view the whole question. People have the opportunity here in America to work hard and better themselves. Admiration and respect for your fellow man should be given on the basis of work ethic, talent and ability, and determination to succeed in life. Any man or woman who is determined to better them-

selves deserves and will receive my help and respect.

The blame with the whole illegal alien mess lies with a cowardly federal Congress who caved in to the political right instead of developing a valid resident worker program many years ago. Believe me, most Mexicans would love to work here for six to seven months and then go home until the next work season...and be free to re-enter.

And what burns my butt way more than Mexicans entering our country illegally and working like dogs to better their lives...are the close minded folks who heavily populate this county. If you analyze them a bit...what is seen is all of the inherent advantages that citizens of the USA enjoy...have been squandered and wasted. They are usually the same people who complain constantly about the illegal aliens taking their jobs...which is a real crock.

Consider that our ancestors were once immigrants themselves. Consider that they entered this country legally. Also consider that the federal government had better official policy for encouraging and processing immigrants. Consider that some of the current options being debated in Congress are good, while other features are too tough and will never become law. Consider the fact that some of the proposed features call for back payment of taxes and fines...which will be much too expensive for many families.

And finally, consider that there are about 8-12,000,000 illegal aliens here in the USA. The US Congress needs to find solutions to this problem...and sooner rather than later.

Until they do, I will continue to fly under the radar and operate this golf course with the help of the ten Mexican men who have been with us for the past twelve years. ♣

# SOD

## grown on Irrigated Sand

Try our Sand Based Kentucky Bluegrass, Bentgrass and Fine Fescue Sod all grown under Fertigation to give you the highest quality with the least amount of root stress and soil incompatibility. Excellent drainage.

Call us for current delivered pricing to your location.

**Robert H. Heath Farms Inc.**

14531 1st Ave

Coloma, WI 54930

Phone: 715-228-4106 • Fax: 715-228-4107

Email: [heath@uniontel.net](mailto:heath@uniontel.net)

# A Glorious Season

By **Monroe S. Miller**, Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

The contrasts between last spring and this spring of 2006 couldn't be more dramatic. One year ago we were pushing to get new seeding going to fill the vast areas of turf injured by the winter. This spring it is all any one of us can do to keep the course mowed and playable.

I'll take spring seasons like this one. Actually, I will remember the spring of 2006 as one of the most nearly perfect spring seasons ever. Ever! The winter was kind; spring came early and stayed and stayed and stayed. The temperatures were never too far from normal and the rainfall has been just about right, both in terms and timing and quantity.

This is one spring when Wisconsin golf course superintendents didn't want to do anything about the weather - rare circumstances, indeed. It has been perfect. Everything is green, unless it is the great color provided by the spring bulbs. They are sparkling this year. The sun has come up early and bright, greatly appreciated after winter. The sun and warmth have brought forth the clouds of pastel colors from the flowering crabapples and the redbud trees. Soon enough now, my favorites will open - shagbark hickory, Ohio buckeye and horse chestnut.

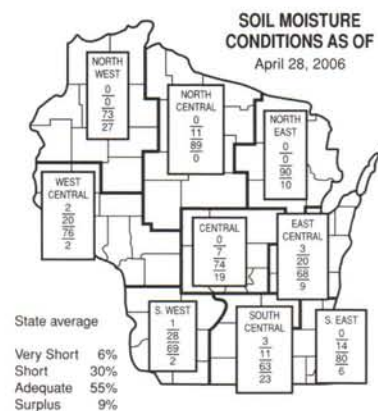
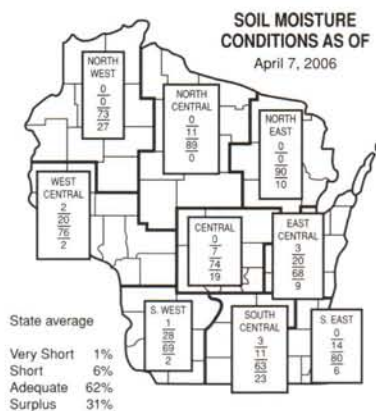
And then the lilacs; we have a row on the edge of our shopyard. I wish I had a rocking chair I could sit in with the overhead shop door open to enjoy the view of the golf course and the players and the intoxicating aroma of lilacs in full bloom. It would be heavenly!

The birds have returned and the bees are busy and active harvesting nectar and pollen. And yet it is still early enough that there are few

insects, making the hours outside even more pleasant.

There are times in these days of national gloom - the Iraq war, global warming, fuel prices, huge immigration problems and more - when I almost feel a sense of duty to be depressed or angry or cynical. But it is impossible in spring. There is a lot wrong, but it is often forgotten while working on a golf course in this season. Cheerfulness and joy and wonder are always breaking through, it seems.

The Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service offers the following summaries of the moisture status this spring. The news is good.



## ARMOR

ACCESS BOXES™

FORMERLY AMETEK™ ACCESS BOXES

Manufactured in

Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Specify **ARMOR ACCESS BOXES™**

— A Wisconsin Product!





(Upjohn Co.), Nor-Am, AgrEvo and Bayer.

John has been active in both the Illinois and Indiana turfgrass foundations, and it was that work that earned him the DSA.

Speaking of Purdue, Adam Moeller is in his first year of grad school there. He is a UW-Madison turfgrass graduate from December 2005. Wayne Kussow was his undergraduate advisor, and Cale Bigelow is his major professor at Purdue. His M.S. research involves the evaluation of sand of top-dressing practices on three creeping bentgrass cultivars maintained under two fertility levels.

Adam joined us at the Wisconsinizing event in Atlanta for the GCSAA conference. He quickly lost his Purdue hat!

The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association, to insure no interruption of Dr. Wayne Kussow's position in the Department of Soil Science, committed \$100,000 to the department so a person could be hired and in place by late summer.

A job description was written and advertisements went out. There was interest in the position and four candidates were chosen to come to Madison for an interview.

The department asked representatives of the various turfgrass industries to participate, and we did that.

We found one candidate to be unacceptable. Another candidate used the interview cut a better deal at his current institution. A fifth individual was then invited and interviewed.

After the process was complete, we ranked the three acceptable individuals and passed that to Dr. Steve Ventura, department chairman. That's the status at the end of the second week of May. When more definitive information is available, you'll see it here.

Incidentally, Dr. Kussow also met and ranked the candidates, adding a lot to our confidence in finding the right person for his position.

Spring wouldn't be spring in the world of golf without Masters week. Several WGCSA members were able to see it up close and in person - Rod and Janell Johnson, Mike and Karen Handrich, Scott Schaller, and the Max McQuade family.

Boy, jealousy is a lousy emotion, but I sure do wish I could have been there. It is the greatest sporting event on earth.







I was looking through an old copy of *Golfdom* recently. It was the January 1954 issue, and at the centerfold was an ad for Tersan turf fungicide. What thrilled me was the testimony from five Wisconsin golf course superintendents, four whom I have met. The best part is that the ad included their photos; they are here for you to enjoy.

Also in this issue was an article by O.J. Noer. Herb Graffis reported on the 37th annual PGA Convention and included a picture of one of the speakers - O.J. Noer!

If there is a season for lofty thoughts, spring is it. Hudson's *Far Away and Long Ago* offered this grateful thought:

"Praised be my Lord for our mother the Earth, which doth sustain us and keep us, and bringeth forth divers fruits, flowers of many colors, and grass." 🌿

**These Turf Experts Are Among the Many Who Depend on "Tersan" to Stop Turf Diseases**

 <b>ERWIN BERTRAM, (Wis.)</b> "Perfect for brown patch... I use 'Tersan' exclusively."	 <b>JOHN STAMPL, (Wis.)</b> "Safe and sure... no burning is what I like about 'Tersan'."	 <b>CHARLIE SHILEY, (Wis.)</b> "Ends snow mold—'Tersan' put a stop to it for sure."
 <b>ORVAL DECKER, (Wis.)</b> "Easy on the greens... stops disease without any grass damage."	 <b>FRANK MUSBACH, (Wis.)</b> "Best by test—takes care of snow mold, brown patch, dollar spot."	 <b>WILLIAM J. HANSBURY, (Pa.)</b> "Never afraid of burn—'Tersan' is always safe on turf."

Yes, these golf-course superintendents at leading courses in Milwaukee, Cleveland, Philadelphia and St. Louis areas all favor "Tersan" as the safe, sure, economical turf fungicide right through the season. You, too, can keep your greens in top shape with "Tersan." Try it in the handy 3-lb. package.

# GOLF

## We're Part of the Game



Spring Valley®

**Premium, Professional Fertilizer.**

Visit us at [springvalleyusa.com](http://springvalleyusa.com) or call us at 1-800-635-2123

## In this game, it's all about perfect execution.



*New Construction*



*Restoration and Renovation*

When Golf Creations was selected to build *Canyata*, we recognized the importance of executing every detail perfectly—without losing sight of the big picture. And *Golf Digest* recognized *Canyata* as one of the best new courses of 2005.

Whether you are planning for new construction or renovations, you can count on us to bring the same level of execution to your project. If you demand nothing less than perfection, give us a call.

## GOLFCREATIONS

Building on Experience

815.923.1868 • [www.golfcreations.com](http://www.golfcreations.com)