

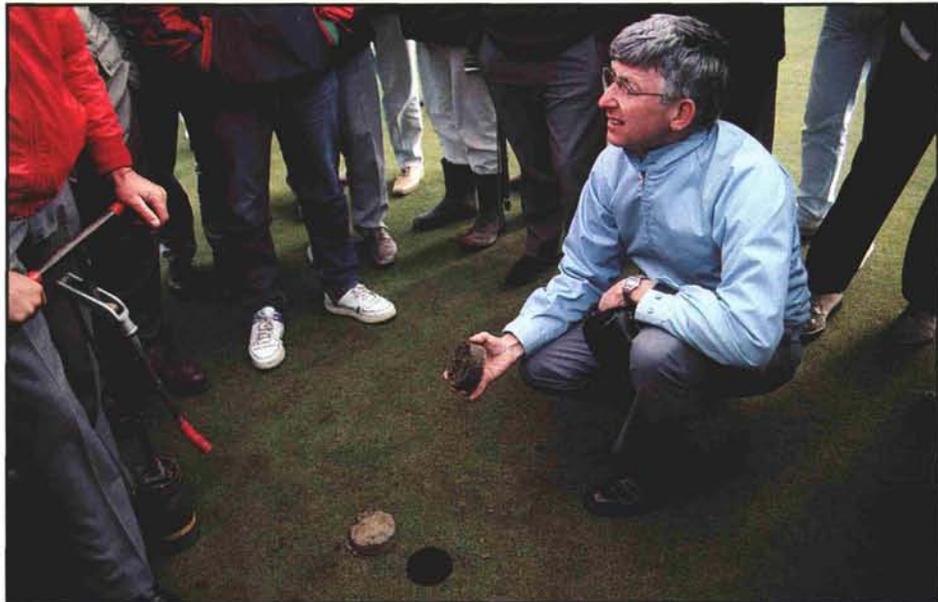
# DR. PAUL RIEKE RECEIVES 1997 GREEN SECTION AWARD

**D**R. PAUL RIEKE, a researcher, teacher, and state turfgrass extension specialist at Michigan State University for the past 35 years, has been selected to receive the 1997 Green Section Award from the United States Golf Association. The award recognizes outstanding service to the game of golf through work with turfgrass. It was presented to Rieke in February at the annual conference of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dr. Rieke's academic record includes undergraduate and M.S. degrees from the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. in soil chemistry from Michigan State in 1963. His record of service to the turfgrass industry and the game of golf is extensive, and for this he has been widely recognized by many regional, state, and national organizations. In 1996 he received the Distinguished Service Award from GCSAA.

Those who wrote in support of Rieke's nomination praised his many achievements, but none more than those related to his work as a teacher. He has taught well over 1,000 undergraduate students in the fields of turfgrass management and soil science, many of whom have gone on to prominent positions as golf course superintendents, academicians, industry leaders, and agronomists for the USGA Green Section. Many of his graduate students also have gone on to highly successful academic careers. One of his former students said, "He has a way of explaining things so you can understand them. He makes it interesting, relates to the students so well, and cares about his students. Taking a course from Dr. Rieke is an experience not to be missed."

It's not surprising that he has received teaching awards from both Michigan State University and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Association. He also has taught a plant nutrition/soil fertility workshop to golf course superintendents for 24 years in conjunction with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, a program that has reached more than 1600



*Dr. Rieke takes time to describe black layer development in a green.*

superintendents from more than 30 countries.

As a researcher, Rieke's expertise has been in the area of turfgrass soils, including fertilizer and irrigation needs. Among the highlights have been studies concerning advanced technologies for soil and tissue testing, and crucial work in the practice of water injection and other types of soil cultivation. He has received well over \$500,000 in grants to support his research work, and he was instrumental in establishing the Robert W. Hancock Turfgrass Center at Michigan State, dedicated in 1981.

The USGA has benefited directly from Rieke's research expertise as well. As one of the founding members of the USGA's Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee, he has had a profound influence on the direction the Committee has taken in funding turfgrass research. He is one of only two scientists to have served on the committee since its inception in 1982 until the present time, and his practical advice and thoroughness in evaluating research proposals is deeply appreciated and admired.

As extension specialist for the state of Michigan, Rieke counseled hundreds of golf course superintendents over the years, and has responded to thou-

sands of phone calls from superintendents, other turf professionals, and homeowners. For many years he has organized the Michigan Turfgrass Conference, one of the most successful regional programs in the country. He also has spoken at hundreds of meetings and conferences in the United States and in many other countries on issues related to golf course maintenance and management.

A theme common to the many letters of support for his nomination was his concern for others and his willingness to sacrifice for them. Whether as a teacher, counselor, or extension specialist, Dr. Rieke has always found the time to help when his phone rings or a student walks through the door. Never one to seek the limelight, he has served quietly but extremely effectively, building a groundswell of admiration from all who have known him over his 35 years in service to the turfgrass industry and the game of golf. As with many great leaders who are held in esteem by their peers, Dr. Rieke has led not by words, but by his commitment to others and their needs.

In accepting the award, Dr. Rieke said, "This is a great industry in which I have many friends."

Dr. Rieke, your friends thank you for all that you have given.