## GREEN SECTION RECORD

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#### ALL THINGS CONSIDERED - A USGA STAFF OPINION SAYIN' IT'S SO DOESN'T MAKE IT SO



Placing a small, untreated check plot on the edge of a green shows precisely the effectiveness of an application, in this case when a Poa annua seedhead suppression treatment was made. To create the check plot, a piece of plywood was placed on the green to prevent the product from contacting the turf during the application.

subjective, but our opinion of just about everything else about a golf course and a round of golf is filled with subjectivity. It is subjectivity that shapes our opinion of golfers, course design, strategy, aesthetics, and playing conditions. In fact, most golfers have great difficulty separating their opinion of a golf course and its conditioning from the way they played on a particular day. More bluntly, golfer opinions of golf courses largely depend on how they played. There is also a fair amount of subjectivity in turfgrass management. Surprised? After all, turfgrass management is a science, and it seems completely counterintuitive that subjectivity would be associated with a science-based profession. Truth is, there will always be an element of subjectivity when it comes to turfgrass management, but it can be lessened quickly and easily at any golf facility. The Solution? Check Plots.

Golf is largely a game of subjectivity. Sure, golf scores are not

Turfgrass managers do not use check plots often enough. For those without a background in research, check plots are simply untreated areas. Check plots, or controls as they are often known in the research world, are important because they provide a baseline to compare against when making evaluations and identifying statistical differences.

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### A JUNIOR PROGRAM THAT GROOMS THE NEXT GENERATION OF GOLFERS BY MAKING THE GAME FUN

### TOAD VALLEY GC GROWS THE GAME ONE TADPOLE AT A TIME



sport that frustrates adults? Give them something fun to look forward to after an hour of instruction, such as a marshmallow long-drive contest. yard. After our failed attempts at corralling him (we even fenced in our backyard), my husband and I gave up and began

How do you keep the attention of 5- or 6-year-olds who are learning a

with my parents and they would let me chip and putt on the greens while they played their evening round. Our family had an elaborate golf league that was played Monday nights when I was growing up. My uncle had each family member's handicap and they were paired to compete for silly prizes like Grandma's apple pie. It was a rite of passage to be grown enough to participate. Starting young. Late evenings. No pressure. No scorekeeping. Sitting on my dad's lap while he drove the cart. That's how the love of golf was fostered in me. Eventually, I had a family of my own. Our family's golf

I started playing golf as soon as I could walk. I would go

league had long since disbanded, but having grown up on my family's golf course, I knew that I wanted my children to play this lifelong sport. When my son was three, he would sneak over to the golf course and start playing in the No. 10 fairway, which also happened to be our side

taking our children to the course late in the evening. Our daughter was tucked in an infant seat while our two sons played along with us. Tears of frustration (mostly from the children) usually appeared by the fourth hole, so we would call it a night and head home, satisfied with the time we spent together as a family.

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# **FORE THE GOLFER**

PREPARING FOR A WATER SHORTAGE

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water restrictions are put in effect?

# RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

**GRASS ROOTS EXHIBIT** 

**BREAKS GROUND** 

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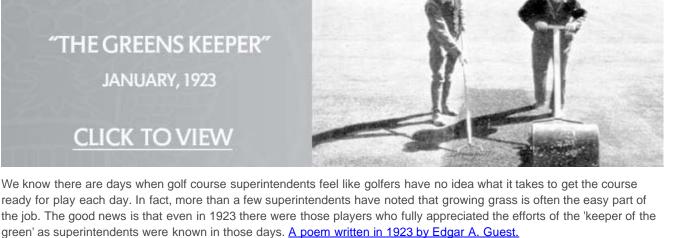


social impact of turfgrass, and has the potential to reach over 500,000 visitors each year to the National Arboretum, including members of Congress. FROM THE ARCHIVES

# "THE GREENS KEEPER"

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JANUARY, 1923



REGIONAL UPDATES





regions and not just your own because featured ideas, techniques and solutions to problems often apply to other parts of



**MID-ATLANTIC REGION** As beautiful as snow may be, golf facilities are wise to be prepared for ice and other winter weather events to protect turf from injury. Drainage and clearing fine-turf areas of standing water is especially important during freeze/thaw cycles. Read More













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