

The State of the Georgia Golf Environmental Foundation

By Mike Waldron, Chairman • GGEF

The board of trustees of the Georgia Golf Environmental Foundation (GGEF) recently met to review its plans for 2009. The GGEF has already funded two research projects: a biodethatching study by Dr. Jack Huang (UGA Griffin Campus) and the compilation of BMP data by Dr. Clint Waltz and Dr. Bob Carrow (UGA Griffin Campus). The year 2009 will be the final year for funding these two-year grant studies.

We know that 2009 will be a financially challenging one for superintendents and their courses. Many of you have already been asked by your club board of directors or ownership to look closely at your budgets and even make cuts to your staffs and management practices. In this vein, the GGEF has also taken a hard look at its finances and

challenges for 2009. We are pleased to report that we are able to continue the second year of funding for the projects noted above through the committed budgeted support of the GGCSA and the Georgia State Golf Association. However, GGEF's reserves have been hurt by the downturn of the financial markets. As a result, we have decided not to fund new projects until our current ones are completed. We will keep a watchful eye on our assets and determine the right time to use these funds for further Foundation projects.

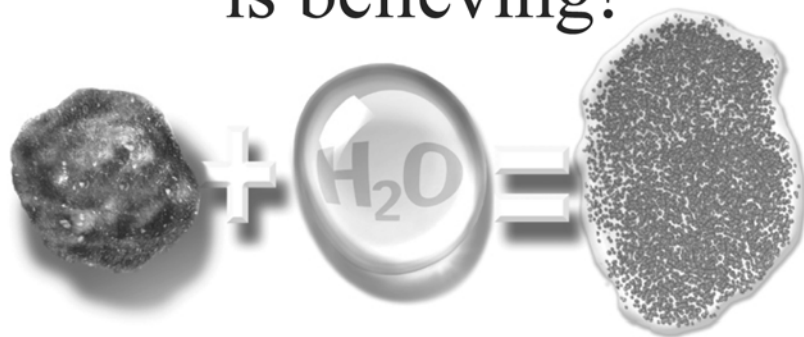
One important goal the GGEF is currently addressing is developing a better way to communicate with GGCSA member clubs about the benefits of GGEF research projects. The more club owners, directors and individual golfers

can see that GGEF is working to make the playing surfaces of golf courses better through research and education, the better chance we have to encourage their financial support.

The GGEF encourages all of you to participate in the upcoming Spring Classic on March 16 at the Golf Club of Georgia (Alpharetta). We will be playing both the Lakeside and Creekside courses at the club, so we encourage GGCSA superintendents to put together a team and come enjoy a day of fun and fellowship.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your GGEF chair. I look forward to seeing you at the Spring Classic. In the meantime, I encourage you to contact me with your ideas that can help make your Foundation the best it can be. ●

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