

**WES POWERS, 44, DIES**

LANARK, Wis. — Men who had worked with Wes Powers at Sentry World in Stevens Point and Foxfire Golf Course in Waupaca will help his widow, Janet, get the Powers' golf course ready to open this spring.

Mr. Powers, 44, passed away peacefully at his home on Nov. 23 after a courageous battle with cancer. His death came one year after building and opening his dream, the 18-hole Lanark Links, in Almond.

"I don't know the first thing about running this golf course," Janet Powers said in December, "but I am determined to do so. It was Wes' dream. It was the one constant in the last months of his life."

He had worked at Sentry World and Foxfire Golf Course. In 1998 he opened Lanark Links, making golf very affordable for youths and adults alike as "our way of giving back to the community," he said then.

Survivors include his wife, two daughters, Jennipher Pagel of Waupaca and Kari Scott of Almond; two sons, Wesley of Waupaca and Caleb of Madison; three granddaughters, JennaMarie Pagel and Paige and Haley Scott; and his mother and stepfather, Lula and LeRoy Decker of Onarga, Ill.

A memorial fund has been established. People may send donations to Janet Powers at 7519 Wolf Lake Rd., Almond, Wis. 54909.

**Eyeing the future**

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to learn a language to communicate with someone of another tongue. You will simply speak into a contraption that will translate what you say into the language you have asked for.

- Speaking of communication, is reaching your staff a problem?

In the future I see tiny earphones being worn by all the grounds crew for instant communication.

- And how about the bag-drop operation?

I can visualize this: The golfer drives his car into a machine at the bag drop and pops his trunk; a robot reaches into the trunk, removes the golf bag and puts it on a conveyor belt; the belt transports the bags to the waiting golf car, where another robot places the bag on the car. No, I'm not finished yet... The golf car then drives to the spot for the golfer to hop on and begin his round.

- Today some of the foremost superintendents are using Eco Soil's BioJect system to apply biological controls on their courses.

In the future, this system will be commonplace, brewing up "design-blended" biocontrols that will handle a plethora of diseases through the irrigation sys-

tem, thus greatly reducing the manpower and costs of chemical applications.

- Turfgrass breeders are taking bentgrasses farther south than ever imagined and breeding Bermudagrasses with playability resembling bents. The Scotts Co. is even developing a Roundup-resistant bentgrass.

The future? Bents will exist that can thrive at the Equator, so further work on Bermudas will be unnecessary; paspallums will be puttable for courses on salt water... and far in the future grass will actually grow and cut itself... at exactly the height you want it.

I know we can't see the first car, first airplane and first computer in our lifetimes, but there are so many more advances to look forward to. Subsurface injection will hit the pests where they live. Antidessicants will be perfected to ward off weather's effects on turf...

It's grand to prognosticate. But remember what Euripides wrote: "What we look for does not come to pass. God finds a way for what none foresaw."

Whatever it is that God will do, we hope you're there to observe it. But before then, have a Happy Year 2000 — and prepare for the **real** new millennium!

**Supers seek know-how in late-night sessions**

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rolling."

Matt Shaeffer of Columbus Country Club noted: "We roll all the time. But members aren't as concerned with turf quality as you [superintendents] are. If the playing surfaces are exceptional, they don't know that you have dollar spot, yellow tuft, brown patch or that your turf density isn't 80 percent of what it used to be. They are preoccupied with playability... You are your own worst critic. When you think it's bad, it's nowhere near as bad as you think it is."

Bob Figurella of Brookside Country Club in Canton, home to some wildly undulating Donald Ross greens, agreed. "Members don't care about the Stimpmeter," he said. "They don't care about anything but how much movement there is in that putt."

The next hour and a half was non-stop questions and answers from an audience whose numbers never dwindled until Danneberger said, "Time to go home kids." Or words to that effect.

If the organizers of the Ohio Turfgrass Conference and similar events ever begin to wonder if what they are doing is worthwhile, just ask some of those people attending the 7 p.m. sessions. I think you'll like the answer.

**perception**



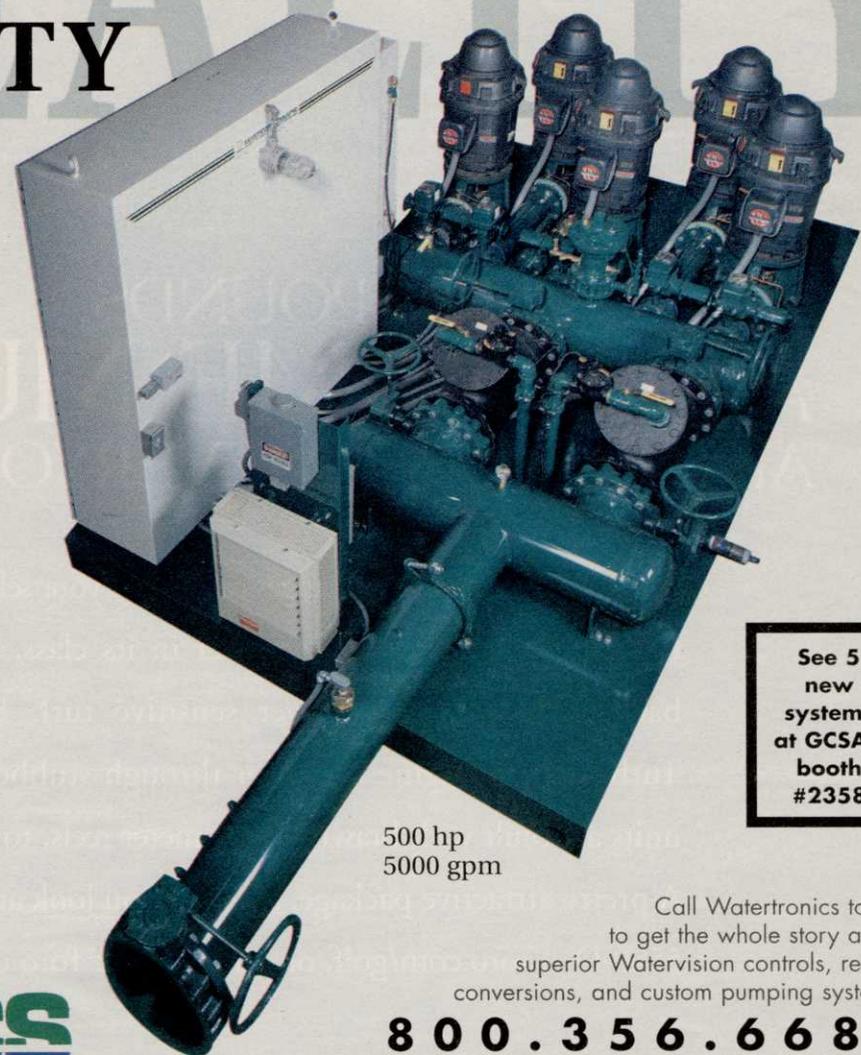
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