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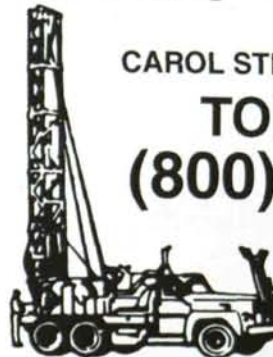
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APRIL 2001

Volume 54 No.11

FRONT COVER

#11 green at Ruffled Feathers Golf Club.

(Photo by Jim Trzinski/Compliments of Waupaca Sand & Solutions)

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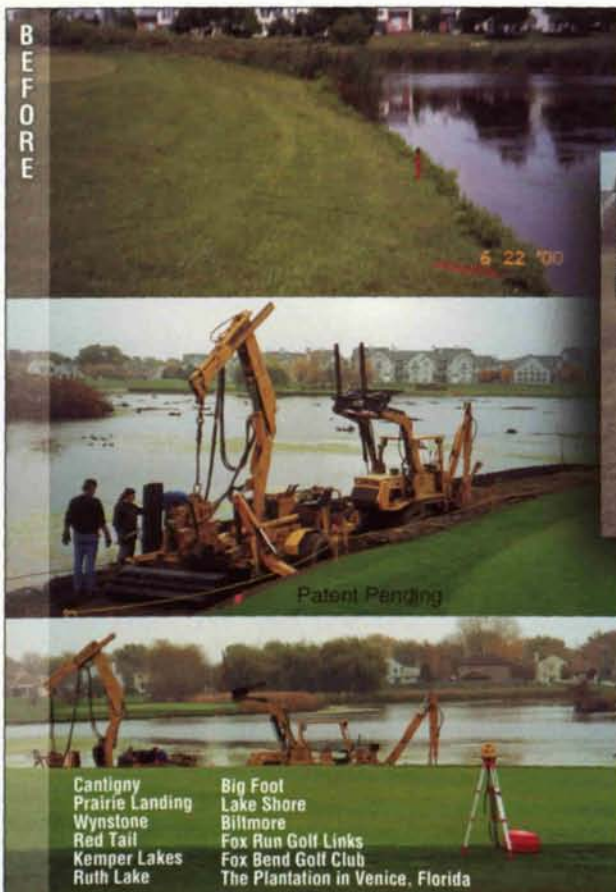
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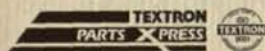


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Don't Forget the Staff

Hopefully, everyone made it back safe and sound from Dallas. I know there were all sorts of adventures getting there (Czerkies/Savage) and it goes without saying that a few mis-steps always occur during the wee hours of the conference (you don't want to see your name in this set of parentheses). The hospitality room was again a huge success and couldn't have been pulled off without the behind-the-scenes efforts of Paul Yerkes with an assist from Kevin DeRoo. We heard only positive comments from those in attendance; thanks, guys! The staff at the Adam's Mark did a great job too, but our contributing vendors deserve the largest applause. Their level of financial support was larger than ever and provided the funds for first-class food-and-beverage service over the course of two evenings. The entire roster of supporters appears on page 6 of this issue; please remember to thank them throughout the year by supporting them while making purchasing decisions. The room was 75% supported through their generosity and our bang was had on their buck.

During the off-season, we spent a great deal of time at Bryn Mawr completely reassessing our employee policies/compensation structure.

Also, before diving into this month's main topic, I would like to congratulate Tommy Witt and Bob Maibusch on their victories in the GCSAA election in Dallas. We're fortunate to have such dedicated and top-notch men leading our national association. I can't believe I just said that about you, Bob, but I really do mean it. A big thank you to Don Cross and Don Ferreri for serving as chapter delegates; your voice made sure our chapter was well-represented. Lastly, a big thank you to Cathy Miles Ralston, John Gurke and the Editorial Committee for the articles commemorating our 75th anniversary. What an enjoyable tribute; great job!

Well, winter is officially behind us. I'm looking out the window on March 6 (several days late for the *On Course* deadline), it's 65 degrees, I can see the sun-filled valley below, the wild mustard and magnolia are in full bloom and a hummingbird is hovering near the feeder. Of course, I'm in northern California, but hey, winter is over. How did you spend yours? There doesn't seem to be much of an off-season anymore. Of course, we had our typical routine of snow-plowing, tree-trimming, equipment repair and ordering of supplies. However, we spent a great deal of time at Bryn Mawr completely reassessing our employee policies/compensation structure. It would seem logical to do that, but our own employee manual hadn't been updated in six years and some of my thinking was at least that old.

I should start by saying that this exercise was another perfect
(continued on page 39)

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Hospitality Room Remembered

Chilled jumbo shrimp that gave the word “jumbo” new meaning, a \$19,000 bar bill for two nights, a half-steamship round of beef that never ended, Eddie Adams hanging out with the fun crowd and \$29,000 in vendor contributions—these were just a few highlights of this year’s hospitality room in Dallas. The only missing ingredient was a Jimmy Buffett cameo appearance. Jimmy was in town Tuesday night, but I couldn’t get close enough to invite him. I’m sure he would’ve loved the jumbo gulf crabcakes.



The cake featuring MAGCS’s 75th anniversary logo was a great touch.



John Gurke, Al Frantik, Russ Stachlewitz and Kevin DeRoo.



Don Cross, Tom Brodeur, Jon Jennings and Brian Bossert.



Dave Schlagetter and Tom Healy.

You know how they say “everything is big in Texas?” Well, the hospitality room was no exception. Here are a few big things that come to mind: the room, food servings, the cake with our 75th anniversary logo, the shrimp, even our room captain (who, by the way, did a hell of a job). These were some of the things that were *really* big: the attendance, the total bill, the shrimp and vendor contributions. Our hospitality room has really evolved into a major attraction and popular function during the annual conference.

The attendance this year was incredible. I believe the poor weather and the lack of Bourbon Street right around the corner were factors contributing to this increase. However, I believe the main reason for the swelling attendance is in direct relationship with the growth of the Association. Every year new members join, current members move away but stay in touch and members make

(continued on page 38)

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Spring-like Conditions in Late February Spell Trouble for Chicagoland

One of the hottest topics in the game of golf is the so-called spring-like effect of the new generation of nonconforming metal drivers. It is said that in the hands of the right golfer, these clubs can add more than 10 yards of distance to the tee shot, thus giving its owners an unfair advantage. While the issue of exploiting 21st-century technology to improve one's score, as opposed to spending time on the practice tee with the golf professional, is important, it is not the spring-like effect that is currently on the minds of many superintendents in the Chicagoland area.

Snow mold, crown hydration, desiccation—Mother Nature has left area superintendents a veritable grab-bag of plagues with which to contend.



For the many courses that did not treat for pink and gray snow mold last fall simply because they lack a consistent history with the diseases, considerable expense will be required this spring for curative treatments.

The spring-like effect of concern to superintendents in Chicago is the lingering consequence of the fluctuating weather conditions in late February on greens, tees and fairways. As of the writing of this article in early March, a short stretch of spring-like weather had already revealed quite a bit of winter damage on fairways that were not treated for snow mold activity due to the rarity of the problem. Specifically, warm temperatures melted away the heavy accumulation of snow and in the process revealed acres of turf damaged by both pink (*Microdochium navale*) and gray (*Typhula* spp.) snow mold.

The genesis of this year's severe snow mold outbreak can be traced back to December when a heavy blanket of white insulation was laid down over the ground in the form of snow. Such early snowfall is the perfect