

# "THE BACK PAGE"

By Bill Roberts

A couple of common threads seem to run through our conversations this month as spring has meandered into summer (Yes, that was the Fourth of July).

First, true to his prediction, **STAN ZONTEK** has delivered a good year "growing condition-wise" to date, as temperatures have remained moderate and precipitation has been abundant (if not downright overwhelming in some cases). Turf across the State of Wisconsin has responded well to appropriate management and disease and insect pressure has been limited.

Secondly, from all reports, players are out in force enjoying the optimum conditions provided by WGCSA members. Not only does it speak highly of golf course management in Wisconsin but also would seem to be yet another indication that the economic dilemma we have faced in the recent past is loosening.

Of course, ideal growing conditions and heavy play do not imply that we are not busy taking advantage of and dealing with those factors.

**STEVE SCHMIDT** of Appleton's Butte Des Morts Golf Club has dealt with over 8 inches of rain in June which left six holes under water and his course closed six times during that month as a result. The storms removed two bridges which Steve somehow managed to replace while, at the same time, completing construction on a refreshment halfway house (with restrooms). An aggravating factor was the theft of three field satellite controllers. Additionally, Steve reports quick greens (aided by a little over 1 pound of N since early May) and "a lot of play."

A few miles west, just off Highway 10, **CARLTON RAISLER**, Weymont Run Country Club, is reporting "an excellent season" as his turf came through the winter-spring in good shape and play is up. Carlton was surprised recently by the sudden appearance (or disappearance) of a "spring hole" in the middle of his 9th fairway. The consensus seemed to be that a perpetual drainage dilemma had formed and resolution called for a 20 ton backhoe to cut a 150 foot trench to be incorporated into the golf hole's design but the water seems to have found another course, so Carlton "tiled" the area, backfilled the trench and has the area re-grassed and back in play.

Meadowbrook Country Club's **CHAD BALL** has his fingers crossed that the good year continues to follow "last year's bad" weatherwise. Chad is "maintaining" after hosting the State Open in 1983 but quite a few new members and heavy play have managed to keep him busy.

**KELLY JOHNSON**, the new Golf Course Superintendent at Edelweiss Chalet Country Club in New Glarus, has

been grateful for the recent rains and reports little or no storm damage — just a lot of green grass to mow. He has seen little disease pressure so far in the year. In addition to the exciting experiences any new Superintendent has, Kelly and his fiancée Kathy are planning their marriage a year from August.

**CHUCK FRAZIER**, Nakoma's Assistant Superintendent, has been dreaming about deer hunting already this season. He has been chasing an Arboretum deer out of flower beds and gardens on the golf course! Chuck's wife Karen also works at the Club, putting her talents to work creating the beautiful and attractive signs the Club has on the golf course.

**JOSEPH KESSENICH** of Pleasant View Golf Course in Middleton must be playing a little more golf as he just shot a 37 in 9 hole play this past week. He is an eleven handicap player and reports this is his best round so far this year. Pleasant View is very busy again this year, and their normal work routine has been disrupted by recent storms — runoff from nearby farm fields has raised havoc with their golf course.

**JOHN "THE GORILLA" KRUTILLA**, winner of the "most massive drive" contest at our June meeting at Quit-Quit Golf Club is sporting a new hat, a gift from one of his staff who recently returned from 3 weeks in Hawaii. John, too, is seeing a lot of play these days at his fine facility. He reports some "localized" dry spots beginning to appear and is undertaking some testing with a granular wetting agent in order to resolve the situation. "THE GORILLA" also reported on the Beloit Bowling Bunch's recent outing and it sounds as if John may be a threat in that sport also.

Another of the Beloit Bowling Bunch, **DON FERGER**, Superintendent of the Country Club of Beloit has re-built two tees, added 100 years to the 12th hole by constructing a new tee and is currently in the process of renovating 20 bunkers on his golf course. The June storms left Don with a number of sizable trees down and a tennis court fence that had to be re-installed.

Mee-Kwon Golf Course's **BOB GOSEWEHR**, who became the proud father of daughter **PEGGY** in February (that's 5 (five) daughters) is looking at construction of a new house this fall or next spring. In addition to handling those domestic matters, Bob reports plans for some fall tree planting at Mee-Kwon and is pleased with the bunker work he completed a year ago.

Across the State, **JOE BAHR**, Superintendent at La Crosse Country Club has recently overseen the renovation of the bathhouse and completed landscaping and is now involved in a 3 year master plan to include the re-location of two

holes, renovation of all bunkers and the construction of 18 new greens and tees along with appropriate irrigation and drainage installation. Joe is working with Golf Course Architect Dick Nugent on this project and is looking forward to a busy 36 months ahead.

Glen Flora Country Club's **DALE PARSKE** has been pleased by this season's fair weather and cool nights particularly in light of his greens rebuilding program which will eliminate his C-15 turf and allow him to re-contour all of his putting surfaces. Dale has been sodding with Penncross, topdressing frequently, lowering his height of cut and reports very "puttable" surfaces in relatively quick order. Along with that project, Dale has found time to build some ladies tees.

**PETE VAN DE HEY**, Mid Valle Country Club, has enjoyed a "good year, so far" with the amount of play up over last year and holding steady. Pete has re-built a couple of his Par 3 tees and is getting them into shape and noted that the 6,000' of tile he installed last fall is working nicely. Strong winds this spring caused considerable damage to a number of trees at Mid Valle earlier this season and Pete is watching several others for suspected injury.

Lake Ripley Country Club's **RANDY STAUBLI** has a new "Assistant." He and his wife Marsha welcomed the arrival of their son Justin in February of this year. Randy has been busy building several new tees on his golf course and is looking forward to the preparation for a couple of tournaments later this season.

**CHARLIE KISOW**, Golf Course Superintendent at Prairie du Chien Country Club, says "the fishing has been lousy down here" with high water levels on the Mississippi River as a result of heavy rains in recent weeks. The damaging storms have missed the golf course, however, and his non-irrigated fairways have already stopped growing. Charlie is starting some sand bunker renovations and will start some tee construction this fall.

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