



## "THE BACK PAGE"

By Bill Roberts



From all indications, conversations, et cetera, it would appear that Wisconsin golf courses weathered the 1983-1984 winter with relatively few problems. We haven't heard mention yet of any "crown hydration" and only a few references to scattered desiccation and "Snow Mold" which appears to be of the superficial variety. Conditions like that make for an enjoyable Spring.

Preparations for 1984 have been under way since 1983 and the results of those efforts are very much evident. Planning is completed, most hiring has been finalized, equipment management will mean smooth operations and special projects are being realized. If **STAN ZONTEK'S** prediction about good years following bad comes true, it would appear that Wisconsin golf is in for another successful season.

**BILL DOUGLAS**, North Shore Country Club, mentioned that he expects to be somewhat pre-occupied with renovation and reconstruction of all 27 holes over the next four years, including but not necessarily limited to; construction and/or renovation of 16 acres of ponds and lakes, implementing a new tree planting plan, quadrupling the size of his tees, adding 40 bunkers to the existing 80 and installing an irrigation system. Bill also spent some time overseeing the conversion of a silo to bulk fertilizer storage without the capable assistance of Ralph, Fred and their crews this spring.

At Tumblebrook Country Club, **BOB BELFIELD** found time to graciously host WGCSA's March Annual Meeting. Thanks again, BOB. Between moving into a new house and getting the golf course open on April 3rd, 65 specimen trees were planted and numerous other "small" projects were completed this spring.

Meanwhile, brother **JIM** at Tripoli Country Club mentioned that the **BELFIELD** family will be plus another one as he and his wife, Beverly are expecting in September. Jim has also been busy with a new green, fairway re-contouring and pond re-construction on the par-5 second hole in addition to implementing the second phase of his tree planting program.

Last fall was tree moving time for **BOB ERDAHL** at Muskego Lakes Country Club. Bob moved fifty 8" to 12" silver maples from out of play areas into strategic locations around the golf course. He is anxious for the trees to leaf out so their full impact can be felt on the 10 holes where they are now located. This year is reserved for tree construction at MLCC. Five new tees, totaling 25M, will be built on holes 7, 8, 11, 12 and 13. The new tee will lengthen the course by 200 yards and increase much needed teeing ground on holes 8 and 13 which are Par 3's. In addition, a Poa annua control program will be initiated on greens and collars.

Wausau Country Club's **WALT STEPANIK** indicated that the winter treated him well. Walt replaced the sand in 16 bunkers beginning last fall and re-planked his 140 foot bridge this spring. It appears that Wausau's work with **DR. GAYLE WOLF** is going well with some new "Snow Mold" materials showing great promise.

**DICK THALACKER**, Thal Acres Golf Course, began enlarging his tees last fall

and that project will be completed this spring in addition to the planting of 100 trees on the golf course. Dick came through the winter in great shape and is looking forward to a busy season.

**ROD JOHNSON** at Sheboygan's Pine Hills Country Club (visas are issued on the first day of each month) completed construction of three new permanent bridges this spring along with the accompanying approach work and appropriate restoration. Rod also weathered the winter well, as did his golf course.

Blue Mound Golf & Country Club's **CARL GRASSL** reports that former Assistant Superintendent, **JOHN RHODES**, is now the Golf Course Superintendent at Cedar Rapids Country Club in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with **MIKE KOSITZKE**, a Michigan State grad, joining Carl's staff as the new Assistant Superintendent. Carl has been involved with lake renovation, using a dragline and crawlers, at Blue Mound, and will be experimenting with some different fish species for weed control once the project is completed.

**JEFF PARKS**, Superintendent at Lake Arrowhead Golf Course, has completed construction, seeding and germination of 8 new holes at his facility and will be concentrating on the "grow-in" process in 1984 with the opening tentatively scheduled for Spring of 1985. Additionally, Jeff continues implementation of his tree planting plan and the "grooming" associated with any new course.

The 1984 Greater Milwaukee Open has been changed from its usual mid-July date to September 13 — 16. In years past, the mid-July date conflicted with the British Open and this kept many of the top names on the PGA Tour away from the GMO, despite the fact that Tuckaway is always one of the top rated golf courses on the tour. This year's change in schedule has tournament officials confident they can lure more of the top names to the GMO. The change to the mid-September date however, leaves Superintendent **RAY KNAPP** without his well trained summer crew and less daylight to accomplish the myriad of tasks asked of him. To make up for the loss of skilled labor, Ray has recruited one employee from each of eight local golf courses to work for the GMO during the month of September. In order to compensate for less daylight, Ray will need 3 more employees than he had for the 1983 GMO. One big question remaining is whether the PGA officials will allow Ray to rake the traps with machines, which would take only 3 men, rather than hand raking which in past years has required 7 men. While he is waiting for tournament time in September, Ray will be closely monitoring the second year of his Rubigan-based Poa annua control program on his greens.

**JOE KUTA** is happy to report that Lake Windsor Country Club over-wintered very well and, except for some superficial fairway snow-mold, is in beautiful spring condition. Joe had one of the earliest openings in memory at Lake Windsor. He has most of his 1983 crew returning for this season and is looking at some extensive dredging of creeks and waterways on the golf course.

He is also putting time and thought into planning for irrigation system revisions in upcoming years.

**TOM SCHALLER**, Northbrook Country Club, reports a busy season ahead, even without any new construction. Tom feels he came through the winter in good shape and his staff has been occupied with tree planting and drain tile work which began last fall.

North Shore Golf Club's **ROGER BELL** (he didn't hit any golf balls before April 10th) will begin triplex mowing of fairways this season, with some areas dedicated to experimenting with clipping removal. Roger has been continuing with the drainage plan he implemented 6 years ago at North Shore and reports a correspondingly lower proportion of winter injury to his turf. Roger's new Assistant Superintendent is **GLENN DAHL**, WGCSA's 1983 Scholarship recipient and a 1984 graduate of the University of Wisconsin — Madison.

**RANDY SMITH** at Nakoma Country Club "took advantage of a lot of nice weather" this spring to complete installation of 12,000 feet of drain tile on three fairways along with the inevitable clean-up and restoration activity that comes with those projects. All tile reported functioning well as is the rest of the golf course, which as Randy indicated, came through in "great shape".

**WOODY VOIGHT** reports some bunker renovation and tree planting at Hawthorne Hills Golf Club but that he hasn't played golf as of April 15. Woody also indicated he was very pleased with the way the 1983-1984 winter treated his golf course.

West Bend Country Club Superintendent **BRUCE WORZERLLA** "fired up" his irrigation system "the earliest ever" this year. Additionally, Bruce has been involved with landscaping around a new clubhouse addition and will be re-locating the 10th tee as a result of the construction.

THAT'S IT FOR THIS ISSUE. STICK CLOSE TO YOUR PHONES, WE'LL BE IN TOUCH.



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