

## "THE BACK PAGE"

By Bill Roberts



As warm weather returns (always too slowly it seems), Golf Course Superintendents in Wisconsin are re-directing their thoughts, plans and motivations from winter preparation to spring implementation. Conference trips, vacations and somewhat shorter days will soon give way to more intense schedules, non-existent weekends and late or missed dinners.

The consensus around the State seems to be that proper preparation last fall paid off through the winter resulting in golf courses evolving into the Spring of 1985 in good condition. No reports have been received of any major damage from winter diseases, desiccation or crown hydration and it would appear that the golf season is shaping up well.

**JACK SODERBURG**, Golf Course Superintendent at Merrill Hills Country Club, is gearing up for the first phase of a Ken Killian master plan which will begin with a couple of bunker revisions, the renovation of some "forward" tees and supplemented initially with substantial tree planting. **JACK** reports that his new practice putting green and chipping green, completed last year, are doing well and providing new opportunities for the players at Merrill Hills. 1985 will see **JACK** begin a full-scale commitment to lightweight mowing with the Ransome units and he will enhance that operation with clipping removal.

Janesville Country Club's **BRAD WAGNER** will also be involved with some renovations at his golf course including enlarging existing bunkers, adding some new bunkers and building some new teeing areas. He is also preparing to implement a landscaping plan around the club's new swimming pool and will continue with his tree planting program. **BRAD**, host for one of our 1985 meetings, reports his tract came through the winter in great shape and is looking forward to a great turnout for the May WGCSA outing.

Another 1985 WGCSA meeting host, Golf Course Superintendent, **TOM SCHWAB**, of Monroe Country Club, reports that the winter treated him well also. **TOM** managed to "squeeze" a Montana ski vacation in among his winter efforts and both he and his facility are now ready to go for spring. Priorities continue to include tree planting, bridge building and the installation of tile lines.

**RAY MERTENS** opened in great shape but the cold weather of early spring slowed his players down a bit. He has, however, been able to progress nicely with sod work in high traffic areas around greens, tees and bunkers. Other plans for 1985 include restoration of bunkers to their original shape and size.

Reedsburg Country Club's **RIC LANGE** will be implementing increased fertility to promote bentgrass propagation as his players have been encouraged by the per-

formance of that species on several new tees. The tee re-building program he initiated will be continued through 1985 along with the rerouting of several cart paths. **RIC** noted that drain tile installed last fall is performing well and that he experienced no disease problems over the winter.

**WAYNE OTTO**, Golf Course Superintendent at Ozaukee Country Club, will be involved with grading, relocating several tees, and moving approximately 10,000 square yards of fairway sod as he completes the final phase of a construction project resulting from road widening work that took place just outside his club.

**ERIC PETERSON** will be preparing Oak Ridge Country Club for its tenth anniversary celebration this year. The maturity of his golf course has been accelerated by the continuous implementation of a tree planting program which, last year alone, involved the establishment of over 100 specimens. Additionally, **ERIC** will be supervising the relocation of several tees in an effort to lengthen (and toughen) his golf course.

**DOUG DEVRIES**, Reid Municipal Golf Club's Superintendent reports no major plans after the construction of several new tees in 1984 including those on the 1st, 2nd and 14th holes. **DOUG'S** tree planting program will continue this year and he has appropriated further manpower for specific, on-going drainage work throughout the summer. One suspects, understandably, that his attention may be diverted a bit as he and his wife are expecting a new addition to the family in July.

Brown County's **PAUL DELFOSSE** has completed his preparations for 1985 including some clubhouse renovations and is ready for the upcoming golf season. **PAUL** reports a major dredging project is scheduled for the pond on #17 this fall and will be addressing bunker renovation, tile installation and other drainage work throughout the summer.

WGCSA member **JOE KESSENICH** is anxious for the 1985 season because he will be working out of a new maintenance facility at the Pleasant View Golf Course. Their new shop measures 50' x 120' and fills a need that has existed for a number of years. And speaking of new maintenance facilities, Blackhawk Country Club in Madison has moved its operation into a new building as well. **MONROE MILLER** reports that they have pretty much moved into the new quarters and are waiting for drier weather to complete grading, landscaping and paving work.

**MIKE HANDRICH**, new Golf Course Superintendent at Villa du Parc Country Club in Mequon, welcomed an addition to his family on March 5th. Mike and his wife Karen report that Holly Marie weighed 6 pounds and 15 ounces at birth and is doing well. Mike is hoping that she will be sleeping the night through before the long sum-

mer days begin!

**WOODY HUENERBERG**, owner-Superintendent of Deer Run Country Club in Brillion, along with new WGCSA member and son **GARY**, have pumped the Brillion Marsh from their course and are open to play. They report that their golf course came through the winter in excellent condition and look to surpass last year's record number of rounds of golf. They are anxious to begin reconstruction of the 2nd green which has a history of losing itself in the marsh. Good luck, Woody, and welcome, Gary!

North Shore Golf Club's **ROGER BELL** opened his course on April 11 with the larger snow piles deemed "ground under repair." Roger reports he is starting his second year of lightweight mower usage on fairways with rave reviews from his members. His new Assistant Golf Course Superintendent will be UW—Madison '85 grad **LARRY LENNERT**. Roger's plans for this year include continuation of the renovation work on tees, sand traps, cart paths, drainage, and stream banks (gabions).

**ROD JOHNSON** of Sheboygan's Pine Hills Country Club attended the second round of the 1985 Masters Golf Tournament at Augusta National Golf Club on Friday, April 12. Rod was a part of the WSGA group headed by Director Gene Hass which was making its 15th Annual Trip to the prestigious event in Augusta, Georgia. A 6:00 AM flight out with a return about 9:00 PM, made for a very long but a very rewarding day. The W.S.G.A. does a first class job in handling every detail and all of the 100 participants had a great day.

Rod reports that television cameras just cannot do justice to the picture perfect beauty of each and every hole on this mystical course. Amen corner is beyond compare.

It was reported that Rod was seen near the 18th green when Arnold Palmer finished his round. The anonymous report from Augusta stated "A slight shiver of excitement and perhaps even an emotional tear was seen from Mr. Johnson when the aging Mr. Palmer strode up the 18th fairway and hitched-up his pants upon reaching the green.

**ROD JOHNSON** also has some significant staff changes for 1985. Rod's former Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, **MARC DAVISON**, is the new Golf Course Superintendent at Camelot, where he will be working with new owner **RED ROSKOPF**. **DAVID O. BERLE**, a recent graduate of Michigan State University, has taken over as Assistant. Dave has worked at the Somerset Country Club in St. Paul, Minnesota. **SCOTT SCHALLER**, former Assistant Golf Course Superintendent at Peninsula State Park, has moved to the Lead Foreman position at Pine Hills.