

President's Message

YEAR END REFLECTIONS



By Bill Roberts

Some people claim that March, with its dirty snow and a whole winter of inactivity taking its toll, is the worst month. Others dislike the long, hot, "dog days" of August. Still others find the biting winds and frigid, brutal temperatures characteristics that make January simply a time to be endured. Everyone runs into that time of year when there is too much time to think and not enough things to do. For me, it is always November.

There is no grass to grow in November, only grass to try to protect for the next five months. Play is virtually nil and cups are being changed about once a week. The summer staff is gone. The phone is not ringing constantly and I haven't had a meeting in a week. I seem to go through "withdrawal" from the golf season; a subtle sense of uneasiness even though everything is as it should be.

This column, this year, presents an opportunity to reflect and appreciate and even express gratitude. 1986 was a pretty good year and as I remember that, the subtle uneasiness goes away.

Play started early for me and my turf got off to a great beginning. I had a lot of fun, and learned a new appreciation for the "rules of golf", while working with Tom Meeks of the USGA on a tournament here at SentryWorld. Temperature stress in July was a bit more than I needed but disease pressure was

down and insect activity was slowed in 1986. Things got cool earlier this Fall but a little flush of growth late should help with turf density next Spring. Greens, tees and fairways are sprayed. The irrigation system has been de-activated. Maybe November is all right after all.

Reflections on the activities of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association in 1986 are also appropriate at this time of year. The recently completed Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium was, as usual, an excellent affair; it was well attended and well presented. Bob Welch, Jim Spindler and the rest of the Symposium Committee deserve our thanks for that.

I'd also like to recognize the unselfish efforts of the WGCSA officers, Directors, Committee members, the WSGA office staff and, most importantly, you the membership, for a very successful 1986. Evidence of that success can be found in, at least, the following achievements:

a.) inclusion of 26 new members on our membership roles since April and an on-going membership recruitment effort that continues to pay dividends,

b.) contribution of nearly \$10,000.00 to Scholarship and Research causes including the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association, the O.J. Noer Research Foundation and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America,

c.) a strengthened educational program at monthly meetings throughout the year and recognition of that program on the national level,

d.) recognition of our excellent publication, "THE GRASS ROOTS" on the national level, not once, but twice this year. Awards were received from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and the National Golf Foundation.

All of these efforts are substantial in and by themselves but, again, point up that the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association is a vital and progressive organization that is helping, in many tangible ways, all members to achieve that common goal of excellence in turfgrass management. November has given me time to remember that it has been a rare privilege and pleasure to have participated in that process in 1986.

Thanks.

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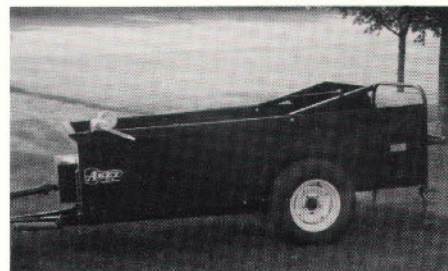
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