

Spreading the Breeze

By Rod Johnson



Regularly, the most difficult part of my writing this column is forcing myself to sit down and get started while an anxious editor waits patiently for the last guy to get his material in. Procrastination, spurred by a perceived lack of material, runs rampant.

The second most difficult part is coming up with an opening paragraph. Ruby Meyer, my high school English teacher, emphasized the need for an opening paragraph that would grab a reader's attention and beg them to read on. I didn't do very well in Ruby's class, but that's okay. Like most high school English teachers, Ruby was no jewel.

As usual, things are back to normal. Abundant precipitation in November has brought yearly averages closer to normal, proving once again that averages are nothing more than a combination of extremes.

What do you call a hydrogeologist who visualizes the proverbial half-glass of water as being half-full? I suppose a Optohydrogeologist.

Alexander Zaporozec, a hydrogeologist with the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and the University of Wisconsin Extension, is just that man. In a story printed in the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, my man Alex claims to have predicted this year's "dry spell" through the use of statistics showing an increased probability of a "dry spell" every six to seven years.

Alex predicted that this year's "dry spell" is *not* the beginning of a long "dry spell" for Wisconsin. His analysis suggests that a drought year is a completely normal cycle and has nothing to do with the deterioration of the ozone layer. He further predicted that wet years will generally prevail until the end of this century.

While I wouldn't base my plans or budget on it, remember Alexander Zaporozec the Optohydrogeologist for the WGNHS and UWEX, said it was going to rain.

Roger Bell, WGCSA President, has made the following Committee Chairman Assignments for 1989. If you have a specific interest or a general interest to become involved, contact the appropriate chairman. New committees are forming now.

Golf and Arrangements Mark Kienert/
Tom Schwab
Social Rod Johnson
By-Laws Bruce Worzella
Education Mike Semler
Membership Steve Schmidt
Directory Randy Smith
Scholarship and Research Rod Johnson
Publicity Rod Johnson
Environment Red Roskopf

We need monthly meetings sites for 1989. The golf and arrangements committee members have been diligent in their search, but have come up blank for July and August. The present line-up goes like this:

April — Ives Grove, Mark Hjortness, Host

May — Hartford, Joe Kuta, Host

June — North Shore, Roger Bell, Host

July — OPEN

August — OPEN

September — The Ridges,

Dave Murgatroyd, Host

October — Willow Run, Lee Merkel, Host

Please contact Mark Kienert or Tom Schwab to reserve the prime months of July or August to host a WGCSA meeting.

Congratulations and applause are due for my good neighbors on the other side of the factory. Blackwolf Run has been selected by *Golf Digest* magazine as the Best New Public Course to open its doors in 1988. The winning of this national award is no small feat and my sincere congratulations to **Marc Davison**, Golf Course Superintendent, and his entire staff for their most important part in the making of Blackwolf Run. By the way, nine additional holes are scheduled for opening in 1989 at the Kohler Complex with construction to start on still nine more.

Belated congratulations are due to **Tom Schwab**, rookie member of the WGCSA board, who tied the nuptial knot sometime way back in mid-summer. I guess in the past summer's rush the wedding news slipped by. Congratulations and best of luck to Tom and Diane!

This issue's reroutings, in what before the winter is over may be called "the year of the move," includes **Dennis "Skip" Willms** leaving Racine Country Club. He is entering the land of "Snowmen" having secured the superintendent's position at the Onwentsia Club in Lake Forest, Illinois.

Mike Handrich will be moving to Racine Country Club as superintendent. Mike had been a superintendent at Villa du Parc in Mequon for the past three years.

Best of luck to both in their new endeavors.

Who said Santa Claus isn't a member of WGCSA? Well, if he isn't, one of his helpers is. In mid-December you may have read the wire story detailing the senseless theft of an older Green Bay couple's front lawn Colorado Blue Spruce. Some grinch stole the 7½-foot beauty and the family Christmas traditions that went with it. Enter **Pete Van De Hey** and his compassionate Christmas spirit. What the Grinch stole, Pete and Trees for Today put back. Thanks Pete for a happy ending to the stolen tree story.

And finally congratulations are due to **Monroe Miller**. Despite the previous announcement that I had made the *GRASS ROOTS* has defied the odds and has won the award for Best Chapter Newsletter given annually by GCSAA. This is the fifth consecutive year for this award, so it's five "Hats Off" to Monroe and thanks to all contributing writers and of course to our advertisers.

Stay warm — see you in Anaheim!!!