
Spreading the Breeze

By Rod Johnson



Welcome to the "nineties", like it or not. I'm sure we've all seen enough recaps of the past decade. Imagine ten years from now and the dreaded recaps of the century.

Our profession has changed a lot in the past decade. Fast greens, light-weight fairway mowing, computers, and governmental regulation have invaded our small worlds. Hundred year rains were followed by hundred year droughts. Years with record snow and cold preceded years of little snow and mild temperatures, but lots of ice further complicated our lives.

The buzz-word of the "eighties" was **STRESS**. Stress entered our vocabulary as a means of explaining the combination of forces that had the ability to destroy turf. We also learned that stress had the uncanny ability to mutate and attack the human body.

There have been many constants in the "eighties". WGCSA has experienced remarkable consistency throughout the decade. Our membership role contains the names of the people most prepared to meet the challenges that the new decade will bring.

We meet these challenges with the help of many. We lean heavily on the experiences of one another. We ask for and receive the best possible technical advice from University of Wisconsin-Madison professors.

A sometimes forgotten tangible is the part that our purveyors play. I cringe at the thought of what our profession would be like without the important role that these people have assumed. Certainly there is a sales motive, but our industry enjoys a cooperation not known to many others. We are blessed with numerous opportunities to improve ourselves and our golf courses through the efforts of these people. These companies continually sponsor service schools, educational seminars, and equipment shows; all of these opportunities work to our bene-

fit. They actively participate in our functions and support our group through their annual dues. They make this newsletter possible through their advertising. As we go through our annual budget process and begin "dollar dickering" for our purchases, be sure to take into consideration those who have helped us get to where we are.

In a somewhat related matter, I am pleased to report that WGCSA will again join the Milorganite Division of MMSD in hosting a hospitality gathering at the upcoming CGSAA Conference and Show. Those of you traveling to Orlando for the big show, please plan on visiting the Wisconsin Room on Sunday evening, February 25th, at the Embassy Suites Hotel. **Jim Spindler** is planning their usual classy event.

We are still in need of meeting sites for 1990. **Mark Keinert** has surrendered the reigns of our Golf and Arrangements Committee to **Tom Schwab** and **Steve Schmidt**. Please contact Tom or Steve to reserve a meeting date.

The entrance into a new decade gives license to the supermarket tabloids to issue their predictions for the coming years. Not wanting to leave anything to chance, and being overly anxious about what the future might hold, I recently purchased one of these "newspapers" to line my bird cage. Their predictions, though somewhat humorous, had little to do with golf course management. I have adopted some of them and have added a few, strictly for your enjoyment. Although some may seem far-fetched, I think I can approach their accuracy rate.

In 1992, aliens will invade the Simon & Schuster Building and attempt to have the word "greenskeeper removed from the English language. In their society, the word is considered the ultimate insult and is referred to as the "G-word". A compromise is reached when Webster agrees to drop the "s".

In the mid-nineties, the USGA Green Section will take a firm stand on a controversial golf course maintenance issue. "In order to maintain the highest quality fairway turf, aerification must take place on a biweekly schedule. This necessary procedure must be accomplished between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and noon on alternate Wednesdays.

In response to this new aerification mandate, numerous Golf Course Superintendents will enroll in the Al Bundy School of Charm to attend his seminar entitled: "Dealing with Women Wearing Muddy Shoes".

The prediction for 1996 is not good. What was thought to have been a forgotten instrument, the stimpmeter, is found in the hands of a golfer. History repeats itself with green-speed becoming an issue at every course. In an act of protest, Superintendents everywhere shave their heads. The protest has little effect, but some local Superintendents are mistaken for Mark Murphy.

Environmental issues, and specifically the removal of pesticides from the market, forces Superintendents to seek alternative methods of disease control. A New Hampshire Superintendent successfully controls Dollar Spot by the use of a female security force.

The continuing drought of the nineties results in the development of new turfgrass varieties. The new turfgrasses, which possess desirable playing characteristics, are appropriately named "Nomad Grasses". The name is derived from the fact that these grasses have the extraordinary ability to walk. At dusk, they are able to move great distances in search of water, replenish themselves, and return by the morning's first tee time.

Remember, you heard them here first! You can now confidently enter the new decade with a hint of what the future may hold, along with of course, a sense of humor.