Life In The Northwoods



Another New Feature is coming to THE GRASS ROOTS

By Dean M. Musbach

"Life in the Northwoods" sounds relaxing. Lakes, streams, forest and the wildlife are relaxing, but when is a golf course superintendent supposed to find the time to enjoy the benefits of the north? In the winter, of course. According to most people, we don't work then anyway.

Public misconceptions about our profession are many. I have noticed that many superintendents have similar misconceptions about golf course management in northern Wisconsin.

Four years ago I moved to Minocqua, which is located two hundred miles north of Madison. Because I lived in the Milwaukee area, this was a big change. Despite my distance from most educational meetings and seminars, I continued to attend the important events.

Recently, I was in southern Wisconsin (anywhere south of Highway 10); the first and most popular question asked was, "Do you hunt and fish a lot?" My answer was, "no." Although no one asked me whether I worked much, I felt they thought I had too much time on my hands.

Believe me, I'm not really insulted. After all, I do live in "God's Country." The general assumption is that since I live in a relaxing environment, my job is easier or less complex than jobs elsewhere.

This is not true. The demands on a northern superintendent are different, but one fact remains the same; golfers want quality playing conditions all season long, and it is the superintendent's job to accomplish this.

In future articles, I hope to show the difference and similarity in golf course management between northern and southern Wisconsin. **POSITION AVAILABLE**

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