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THE GRASS ROOTS

an official publication of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume XX, No. 1

January/February 1992

Worzella Chosen to Lead WGCSA

By Monroe S. Miller

Bruce Worzella, golf course superintendent at West Bend Country Club, was elected president of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association at the November business meeting in Fond du Lac.

Worzella, superintendent at West Bend C.C. since 1979, has been a WGCSA director since 1984 and has been the association's vice president for the past two years.

A native of Wisconsin Rapids, Bruce received much of his practical experience on golf courses in that part of Wisconsin. As with so many others, his interest in golf turf management was inspired by Dave Murgatroyd and Jeff Bottensek. He worked with Dave and Jeff at the Ridges golf course during summers while he was in high school.

At the age of 18, Bruce went to work for Jack Keidel at Bull's Eye Country Club in Wisconsin Rapids in 1969. He was the assistant golf course superintendent there in 1971 and 1972, working under the direction of Bill Brazeau.

In the fall of 1972, Bruce and Cliff Brandl were appointed co-superintendents of the organization's private 18-hole golf course and the 9-hole public course.

Worzella spent 1976 and 1977 in University Park, Pennsylvania as a student in Penn State's two-year turfgrass management program.

His move to the West Bend position came in April of 1979.

Bruce and his wife Mary have three children—Beth (19), Marci (16) and Michaeyln (13). They all play golf, an activity made especially easy since they live immediately adjacent to the West Bend course.



Bruce Worzella, WGCSA President

Beth and Marci have both lettered in golf in high school and Beth is now a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and playing on the UW women's golf team.

During the course of a wide-ranging interview, it became clear to this editor that Worzella assumes the responsibilities of WGCSA president with great seriousness. Highlights of that interview follow.

Do you feel well prepared for the office you now hold?

I have been a member of the WGCSA for 17 years, and for most of those years I have been a very active member.

I am personal friends with many of our members, and feel lucky to know most of the rest.

More specifically, the two years I served as a director, the three years

spent as treasurer and the last two years as vice president have all provided excellent training for this position. I certainly haven't been swept into office without notice!

I feel confident that I have a good sense of what our membership is all about, how they feel about important issues in our business and what they expect from me. I feel just as confident that I am capable of meeting their expectations.

I also strongly believe that this organization is not one that is dominated by the president. All that we do is more of a team effort than anything, and I am definitely a team player. The other officers and the directors will be a great source of advice, views and ideas for me.

What do you view as the most serious problems in golf turf management today?

Good communication is always important in any profession. Given the circumstances in our profession in these times, it is probably more important than ever. We need communication with the golfers in the organizations we work for. We need to communicate with directors, owners and committee people, too. It may well be that the public is the most important group we need to keep in touch with.

As a group, we need to work entirely within the framework of government regulations. We may not always think these rules and regulations and laws are fair, but we have the responsibility—legally and morally—to follow them.

I feel we need to continue in our role as good stewards of the environment. We need to make that important role

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