



The Surrounds

By Wayne G. Horman



The Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendent Association had their Winter Conference in March at the Rhinelander Holiday Inn. They had a great group of speakers, and a excellent turnout for the one day symposium. A few travelers from the south ventured up for the "Winter Injury" meeting. However, a few struggled to find there way to the north. Word has it that Rod Johnson (Pine Hills Country Club) and Wayne Otto (Ozaukee Country Club) had some trouble finding the Holiday Inn. After asking 11 times for directions, they some how found their way.

The spring has brought many changes to the turf industry in Wisconsin. The WTA winter conference is moving to the Holiday Inn on Madison's west side. The facility is just outstanding! The hotel is first rate, yet the rooms are affordable and spacious. The upgrade in facilities and a new name for the conference (Wisconsin Turfgrass and Green Industry Expo) will hopefully attract a broader section of the green industry.

Many personnel changes have occurred since the past issue. The Head Superintendent at Blackwolf Run has been filled with Mike Lee. Mike was the assistant at Bluemound Country Club in Milwaukee for five years. This UW grad also worked at Blackhawk Country Club, Cherokee Country Club and for Professor Worf in turfgrass research.

The addition of a new golf course in Grafton, Country Club of Wisconsin, has stimulated a few job openings. Gordy Waddington, former superintendent at Old Hickory GC in Beaver Dam has been selected as the superintendent for Country Club of Wisconsin. This new course is the first project for Mattingly & Kuehn, Architects out of Thiensville. The project is being built by the Bruce Company.

The Old Hickory GC position was filled by Jeff Kingsley. Jeff, an MSU grad, was the superintendent at

Rhinelander Country Club for the past two years and previously worked at Brynwood Country Club for Steve Blendell.

The Decatur Lakes golf course superintendents position was filled by Jeff Ashenfelter, who was the assistant superintendent at Blackhawk GC in Janesville. Decatur Lakes will be adding a new nine this summer and the Bruce Company will be building this William Spears design.

Steve Allen is now at Songbird Hills GC in Hartland as the superintendent. This position was created when Kim Arntz left to fill the assistant position at Janesville Country Club.

Another assistant position was recently filled, when Eric Holmstead was selected to fill the new position at Butte des Morts Country Club. This UW grad has been working at University Ridge GC for the past two years.

Kris Pinkerton, superintendent at Waupaca Country Club, can add an additional title after his name, Certified Golf Course Superintendent. Kris completed the work and test at the national in Anaheim. If you get a chance, give Kris a call and congratulate him.

Congratulations also goes out to the Superintendents who have achieved 25 years as members of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association; Wayne Otto (Ozaukee Country Club in Mequon), Larry Karel (Whispering Springs GC in Fond du Lac), Tom Harrison (Maple Bluff Country Club in Madison) and Jeff Bottensak (Stevens Point Country Club). This is an outstanding achievement considering how stressful and difficult this industry has become, and by the fact that some of us were only starting Kindergarten at the time.

Since I'm on the subject of history, the number 50 was recently reached by Dave Murgatroyd (The Ridges GC). Dave was surprised by some friends and people who just wanted to show up on Feb 28th. More surprising

than Dave turning 50 years old, was the fact that the surprise remained a surprise! Jeff Ruesch (Grandview GC) and his wife arrived early to a closed bar where the party was being held. Of course, Dave, who was told a meeting was being held for a different function, never thought twice about it. Soon afterward, Jerry Kershasky (Westmoor Country Club) and Joe Deschler (Hanley's) and his wife arrived to attend the Party. However, Dave still didn't see the connection, and didn't until Jeff Bottansak's brother arrived from Illinois. Even former long time Scotts Rep, Dick Evenson came from Delaware to share in the festivities.

Big congratulations go out to Bill and Linda Douglas (Rainbow Springs GC) and to Mike and Mary Drugan (Drugan Castle Mounds in Holmen). The Douglas family added a second child, Katie, on March 10th. Rylee Drugan, a new baby girl, was delivered to Mike and Mary on Mike's birthday, March 13th. Congrats to both families!

Over the winter some new maintenance buildings were completed. Tom Wenzel at Ridgeway Country Club (Appleton), Dan Schuld at Portage Country Club, and Doug DeVries at Reid Municipal GC (Appleton) all added new facilities.

Monroe Miller at Blackhawk Country Club (Madison) is a proud papa these days. His daughter Amy, was selected as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Minnesota. The young Miller will receive her Master of Arts degree this spring, and will travel to France to teach English and American History for one year. I bet its nice to have one less off the payroll.

I hope everyone is enjoying the start of spring. I look forward to hearing your stories and accomplishments. Don't forget to tell me when those new additions take place, whether its to golf courses or families! Talk with you soon! 