



The ABC's of 1993

By Monroe S. Miller

One of the WGCSA hats that I wear is that of Chapter Historian. I try to execute those duties by doing a thorough job of reported the news and views of our Wisconsin group. My hope is that our successors, when wondering 40 years hence just what was going on in Wisconsin in the '80s and '90s will get their questions answered by reading the bound copies of *THE GRASS ROOTS* from these times.

In that spirit and with my Historian's hat on, I offer to you my ABCs of 1993.

Awful is the only word that could describe the weather of 1993 in most of the Badger State. Awful winter (ice, winter kill, too long), awful spring (arrived very late, too wet, too cold), awful summer (rain all the time, records set for rainfall, floods, clouds, just awful.)

Bottensek, Jeff. Congenial, capable, personable course superintendent at Stevens Point Country Club. True practitioner of the axiom "you only get as much out of an organization as you put in." The WTA and the WGCSA are far more prosperous because of his contributions given over many years. Jeff, by the way, received his 25-year plaque from the WGCSA in 1993.

Construction—golf course type—was nearly impossible this year due to terrible weather. It delayed opening of some of our new golf courses for a year.

Disgust and Disrespect, the two emotions we should express to the CMAA and the highly unprofessional article that appeared in Club Management magazine for July/August 1993.

Echo—the "new" fungicide that was available this year as a result of the patent expiration of chlorothalanyl.

Seems to be working just as well as the old reliable 2787 product.

Field Day '93 showed everybody that this event is headed for the stratosphere. Big crowd, fabulous facility, lots to see and do and study. Just great!

Green speed—was it talked about more this year or am I imagining things? My sense is that it is on the rise again—contrary to common sense and good agronomy. If you want to blame something for it, try those blessed rollers.

Harrison, as in Tom. As in 25-year member of the WGCSA. Few have done more for the turf industry than this guy. I may be the only one who really knows how much he cares and how much he has given. Hope you're here for another 25, T.H.

Irrigation—something we did little of in most areas of Wisconsin in 1993. At our course, it wasn't until the third week of July that we actually watered a full program at night!

Johnson, Rodney. Led the way in the WGCSA's entry into the

GCSAA Platinum Tee Club by way of \$10,000 collected in the pesticide signage program. Distinguished Service Award winner for him in 1993. It will be a tough year for him to top, but count on it—he'll try!

Karel, Larry. A quiet man we got to know better in 1993 because he received his 25-year plaque. It was my pleasure!

Lots of new golf courses built in America in 1993. Seems staggering, but the NGF says we needed and indeed built one a day this year. Amazing!

Mini-bulks came into quick and surprising use this year. It is a tremendous packaging concept and an environmental plus. Hopefully, next year we'll see more of this innovation.

Norton, WGCSA Director Pat. I prefer to think of him as GRASS ROOTS author Pat. His writing for us this year sparkled with humor and realism, wit and wisdom. I'm especially proud since he worked for me when he was an undergrad at the UW-Madison and was my assistant for a couple of
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years. He (and many others) make me feel like a proud father!

Otto, Wayne. Who else? The sage of the WGCSA, a guy we are all glad to know. His reputation as a quality golf course superintendent extends way beyond our borders. He received his 25-year award this year. Why does it seem he's been with us longer than that?!

Pre-emption issue finally reached the legislature in 1993 and was settled. Thank goodness. Thanks to Russ Weisensel for bulldog determination on this matter.

Questions, lots of questions I've asked in *THE GRASS ROOTS* in 1993 (and I didn't get all that many answers, sad to say). But I'm going to keep asking.

Roberts, Bill. Stood by his convictions and, sadly, ended his GCSAA career by resigning from the board in 1993. Most of us wish it had ended better, for him. But our friendship and respect are steadfast.

Symposium reached a zenith this year. A great topic handled beautifully by a stable of qualified speakers at our "new" site.

Turnaround, a good word to describe what is happening with the WTA Winter Conference this year. Here's hoping you all attend.

Unprofessional, shamelessly unprofessional, which best describes the CMAA as a result of the article on pp.90—97 in the July/August 1993 issue of their official publication *CLUB MANAGEMENT*. These guys aren't professionals; they are amateurs all the way.

Victory for *THE GRASS ROOTS* at the GCSAA Conference in Anaheim where our journal was peer judged and awarded "Best Editorial Content" in the Chapter Editors' contest.

Worzella, Bruce. He wrapped up two years as WGCSA president in 1993. Lost too often is the remarkable fact that he was on the board or held an office for nine consecutive years. We'll miss this capable guy. Job well done!

X(ex)cellsiior mats. Do they offer some help in grass survival of Wisconsin winters? Experiences of '92/'93 indicate a "maybe".

Yellow tufts—many Wisconsin golf courses had more of it in 1993 than ever before. It's irritating stuff.

Zinnias—a lousy year for this normally colorful and easy to grow and trouble-free annual. Full sun plant, you know. We only had sun 50% of the time this summer, you know. Powdery milder, few blossoms, you know. Oh well, there's next year. 🌿

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ANSWERS to The Wisconsin Golf Course Quiz on page 11.

1. Mid-Atlantic.
2. Western.
3. Less
4. In order, dandelion, white clover, crabgrass, broadleaf plantain and clover.
5. In order, dollar spot, brown patch, pink snow mold, gray snow mold and pythium.
6. In order, dollar spot, brown patch, pythium, helminthosporium and pink snow mold.
7. Daconil 2787.
8. In order, cutworms, white grubs, black turfgrass beetle grubs, sod webworms and Japanese beetle grubs.
9. Dursban.
10. In order, mole crickets, fire ants, nematodes, sod webworms and armyworms.