



The Surrounds

By Wayne G. Horman



I guess it has been overstated this year, but this summer seems like no other year before it. However, it is hard to comprehend how, one year during a drought, people make statements that attribute the unseasonable weather to a hole in the ozone layer or a warming of our planet.

Now with the extremely wet weather, experts are saying its related to volcanoes in the Philippines or *El Nino*. All that I can gather from this wacky weather is a house on a river or a lake doesn't sound so attractive anymore.

Disease pressure with the warm, humid weather became more active during July and August. Take-all patch has been one disease that is being detected more often. In recent years, it has popped up on more and more golf courses throughout the state, infecting creeping bentgrass on greens and fairways. Over a dozen superintendents have seen it this year, and with no definitive control, it can get some people worried.

The wet weather raised many problems on golf courses. But it couldn't have gotten much worse than at Baraboo Country Club. In July, a 10-foot wall of water came down from Devil's Lake and blew away bridges and pushed automobiles and other debris onto the course. John Gallus, the superintendent, said one green was completely buried under silt from the storm. The reports say almost 10 inches of rain fell in a 2-3 hour period on the saturated soil. Baraboo's irrigation system was shut down from the storm since pipes were also washed away.

The wet weather also hurt golf revenue, but there was some good news on the business end. The Americana Resort in Lake Geneva was purchased by the Marcus Corporation earlier this summer. Americana had been looking for new owners for some time.

The St. Germain Golf Course opened its first nine holes July 14th.

The Gilmore Graves designed golf course is planning a grand opening for September. They may look at building another nine next year.

The Springs Golf Course, located in Spring Green, went under new ownership last year. The new owners are planning to open their new nine in September. The new nine is designed by Andy North and Roger Packard. The Springs has already opened 80 new suites in its hotel.

Brad Wagner stated he feels like he joined the modern era. A new Network 8000 irrigation system was installed at Janesville Country Club. The work was completed earlier this summer and now the fun begins. Too bad the wet weather doesn't let him use it.

At the superintendents' meeting held at Trapper's Turn in July Jim Shaw of Chenequa Country Club did something no one has ever achieved at a Wisconsin meeting. On the 16th Green, Shaw used an 8 iron to ace the par 3, 124 yard hole. Congratulations for the closest to the pin shot!

Some more new position changes occurred since I last wrote. Brett Grams has been hired as the new superintendent at Waupaca Country Club. Brett was formerly the assistant to Kris Pinkerton.

Scott Luke was hired as the assistant at Green Bay Country Club. Scott is an Iowa State graduate, who previously worked on courses in Chicago and at Blackwolf Run in Kohler.

Steve Archibald was hired at Thornbury Creek Golf Course in Green Bay. Steve was formerly the superintendent as Palmetto Dunes in South Carolina.

Speaking of new arrivals, a new baby girl arrived at Scott Schaller's on July 15th. Scott's wife, Joan, gave birth to Eden, who weighed in at 6 lbs 12 oz. This is the second daughter for the Schaller's.

Not to be outdone, our new director of the O.J. Noer Research

Facility—Scott Macintosh—is a new daddy. Diane Macintosh gave birth to twins on July 13th. Evan and Morgan will become Wisconsin natives when they move later this fall.

Pat and Jackie Zurawski will always remember this summer as the one when their daughter Katherine (Katie) was born. She is their first youngster.

The summer usually brings on a lot of softball activity, and the Milwaukee area is no exception. The private clubs in the area formed a league and play each other every Thursday. The clubs involved are West Bend Country Club, North Hills Country Club, North Shore Country Club, Tripoli Country Club, Ville Du Parc Country Club, Westmoor Country Club, Ozaukee Country Club, Brynwood Country Club, and Country Club of Wisconsin. The regular season winner was Westmoor, and a tournament in August will decide the overall champion.

In late July, my wife's grandfather passed away in Wild Rose, Wisconsin. He was a great outdoorsman and a farmer for 50 years. It was always a pleasure to listen to his stories about the old days and his adventures with hunting. In fact, he even hunted last year at the age of 93, and shot his last deer the year before.

My brother-in-law, Steve, who spent every year hunting with Grandpa, had just purchased a new Ford Explorer the day before. Steve was following me to the funeral when a 10 point buck decided to go through his truck. I always thought deer were hit by vehicles, near dusk or at night. But at noon? And for that matter, running into the side of his truck isn't what I've heard usually happens. No one was hurt and the buck even got up a few moments later, shaking his head. However, the side of the new truck will need a lot of repair. I can only imagine that Grandpa somehow played a role in that one. 🌿