



# The Surrounds

By Wayne G. Horman



After last year's experience with wet weather, I never thought I would hear this from Wisconsin golf course superintendents or golf course owners: "It sure is dry..." or "Boy, we could sure use some rain!"

The drier weather has provided excellent conditions to get work done, and most golf courses are way above last year in the number of rounds in April and May.

The spring months have provided some strange looking "stuff" on greens. A number of golf courses have reported a "patch-like" disease on their bentgrass in golf greens. The *Poa annua* seems unaffected by the possible pathogen, which appears in 12" to 24" circular patches. The bentgrass has a tannish appearance and seems to thin out somewhat. A quick glance and you might classify it as a pink snowmold minus the distinct mycelium. Some golf course superintendents have called it leaf spot. But without any definite lesions on the blades, it is tough to classify it as *Helminthosporium*.

The weather was cold at night in April and May, and the frost might have had an effect on various types of grasses. Since applications of both contact and systemic fungicides have had no effect on the pathogen, it might have been a result of differential varietal response to cold temperatures.

If any of you have *Poa annua*, and I know almost all of you do, how about those

seedheads this year? Between dandelions and *Poa annua*, have you ever seen a greater population of the two? It is not a real good time of the year to estimate your *Poa annua* populations in greens.

The Augusta National Golf Club had a number of WGCSA members in attendance at this year's Masters tournament. Mike Lee (Blackwolf Run) and his former boss, Carl Grassl (Bluemound CC) made the trip for a day. Joe Kuta (Hartford CC) and his wife Lila made a long weekend out of it, as did Mike Berwick (Lawsonia GC) and his wife Julie. Cheryl and Monroe Miller were there, too. All of the tournament attendees came back richer for the great experience. They also had some shocking news. The Masters people don't kill you on the prices of food and drinks at the tournament!

Brown Deer GC, the new site of the Greater Milwaukee Open, has hired a new golf course superintendent. He is Gene Milota, formerly from the Sleepy Hole GC in Portsmouth, Virginia. He took over on May 2nd. Milota has a B.S. degree from Illinois State and had been working on his M.S. degree at Virginia Tech.

Another change in the Milwaukee County golf course system moved Bob Stock to the Whitnall Golf Course. Bob was at Brown Deer last year.

The former site of the GMO, Tuckaway CC, has selected Jim Poitz as the new golf course superintendent. Poitz had been the assistant golf

course superintendent at Tuckaway for the past five years.

At Tuscumbia GC in Green Lake, Kelly Reilly has been hired as the new superintendent. Reilly was working as one of the assistants at Lawsonia for the past few years.

Recent University of Wisconsin-Madison graduates have moved on to assistant positions around the state. At Ville du Parc GC in Mequon, Chad Kempf found employment working for Eric Jasin. Forest Dean has begun work at Old Hickory GC in Beaver Dam, serving under golf course superintendent Jeff Kingsley.

Another recent graduate, with Masters degree in hand, has taken the assistant golf course superintendent position at Butler National Golf Club in Chicago—Mike Carlson will put his excellent education to work at that well known facility.

LESCO has hired a new truck rep for the northern area of Wisconsin. Steve Wasser, formerly the golf course superintendent at Prairie du Chien CC, took over in late May.

A big congratulation goes to Jeff Ruesch for receiving his certification in May. Ruesch is the superintendent at Grandview GC in Hortonville.

I saw this on a maintenance shop bulletin board in northern Wisconsin this past week—"ONLY 152 DAYS 'TIL THE SLED TRAILS OPEN".

Enjoy the rest of the summer, and give me a call when you get some gossip! 🌱