



WISCONSIN AWAKENS TO A PERFECT SEASON'S BEGINNING

By Monroe S. Miller

I was thinking, during Easter Sunday church service, that this is a holiday all golf course superintendents should enjoy, regardless of individual beliefs. Isn't this time of the year a Resurrection time for all of us?

The dreary, straw colored ground we like so much was stirring to life. The grass plants were showing hints of emerald. Tulips were pushing up from brown beds. Buds on silver maples and poplars were fat. Who among us wasn't relieved and inspired to see signs of life from that which looked so lifeless? Heaven help us if we ever lose that sense of marvel and wonder.

Golf course superintendents from all corners of Wisconsin are smiling this spring. There is an occasional report of winter damage, but most often I hear the course "never looked better."

I also hear our bad spring of a year ago has moved east, giving colleagues in New England and in the mid-Atlantic areas damage from ice and snow mold.

For us the collective sigh of relief means a happy beginning to the 1994 golf season. Congratulations to us; we deserve it!

If the winter of 1993/1994 could be described as anything, most (my age anyway) would call it "an old fashioned winter."

January was bitterly cold everywhere in Wisconsin. In looking for whatever "good" there might be in arctic temperatures, most WGCSA members would hope for reduced insect populations during the 1994 season. We'll know about that for sure soon enough.

Our snowy February was one to write about, at least in our town. It will be recorded as the snowiest month in the recorded history of weather. We were graced with 37 inches of wonderful snow, bringing happiness to cross country skiers, school kids ("School Closed Again Today"), snowmobilers and golf course superintendents.

The previous record at the NWS office in Madison was 32.8" in December of 1987. Also broken were marks for snowiest February (21.9" in 1898), snowiest day in February (11.6" on 2/23/94, erasing the record of 11.5" on 2/26/12), and record snowfalls for the days of 2/5, 2/22 and 2/23.

It was a beautiful winter in many ways. The hope is that it portends of a good - no, make that a great - golf season.

Since we are strongly influenced by the weather, it seems golf course superintendents are always tuned into prediction of what lies ahead.

Pam Knox, state climatologist for the University of Wisconsin Extension Service, says January weather can

give a clue to June, July and August.

"Statistics show if we have a cold January, we tend to have cool, dry summers," she said recently.

When January is cold, summers have below normal temperatures 42 percent of the time and above normal temperatures 27 percent of the time.

If January is cold, summers have below normal rain 42 percent of the time and above normal rainfall 24 percent of the time.

Although I prefer normal precipitation, you'll hear little complaining if cooler temperatures tag along.

Those conditions usually mean less disease pressure; who'd vote against that?

Here's a clarification on the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) that should put your mind at ease. The WPS does NOT cover pesticides "applied on plants that are in ornamental gardens, parks, golf courses, and public or private lawns and grounds that are intended only for decoration or environmental benefit."

Sorry for the false alarm in last issue.

I couldn't help but feel bad when learning of Dinah Shore's death on February 24th.

She was a down-to-earth gal who had millions of fans across America.



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Many of America's golfers knew her best as host of a LPGA event each year.

GCSAA members got to meet her twice at conference. She came to see Patty Berg receive our Old Tom Morris Award in San Francisco in 1986. And she was given the award herself in Anaheim in 1993.

The current crop of entertainers could learn a lot from her about class, gentility and talent. The world, especially the world of golf, will miss her.

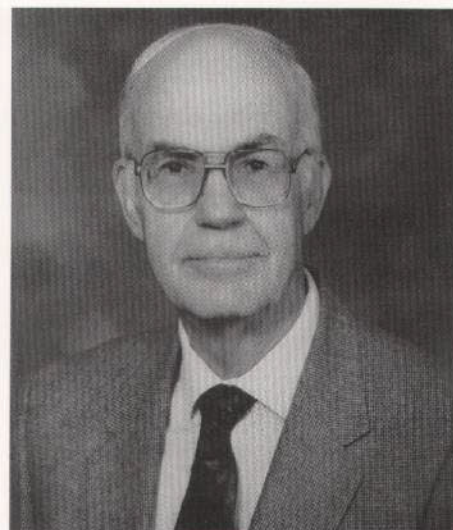
I attended a Reinders Irrigation Seminar at the O.J. NOER Facility in March. The place was designed with that function in mind. The classroom is bright, the furniture is both attractive and comfortable, and everything needed is at hand. It was great.

For those who haven't been in the building for a while, notice the portraits of Professors Newman and Worf next time you do visit. The pictures are a perfect way to honor a couple of special guys.

There he is, in the classroom, looking over every student's shoulder, just



Dr. Bob Newman



Dr. Gayle Worf

like he did for decades at the University. Bob Newman was the one to name the classroom for.

And I was thinking, at the last WTA board meeting, that Gayle was at the head of the conference room, keeping an eye over the directors and inspiring them to make all the right decisions.

Perfect. Just perfect.

Here's hoping everyone has a chance to saddle up and travel to Abbey Springs on April 25th to hear Gary Grigg and some straight talk about the GCSAA. You will also have the opportunity to check up on Dave Smith!

Until then, happy trails to you. 🐾



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