



The Surrounds

By Wayne G. Horman



Oh, what a difference a year makes! At this time last year, my article centered on the terrible winter and the possible winter injury that might appear under the many sheets of ice on golf courses throughout Wisconsin.

It is still somewhat early, but all indications are that this will have been a much better winter for almost all golf courses in our state. What a difference a dry autumn makes on a golf course!

The snowmold pressure is still above normal in most areas, with the exception of the Milwaukee area. In northern regions, all untreated areas (surrounds and fairways) were completely covered with gray snowmold. However, it appears that most of the preventative snowmold applications, including treatments that didn't include the mercury products, worked very well up to this point. So keep your fingers crossed and look forward to Dr. Julie Meyer's snowmold trial results.

The Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Association held their 5th annual Turfgrass Symposium on March 7th at the Rhinelander Holiday Inn. The Symposium was titled "Staff, Management and Motivation," and had over 90 people in attendance.

Speakers at the symposium included Patty Knaggs, superintendent at Hazeltine National in Minnesota, and her assistant, Scott Schunter. Knaggs and Schunter presented a talk on "Formalized Employee Safety and Training Program."

Other speakers included Randy Smith, superintendent at the Nakoma Golf Club, who discussed "Hiring and Retaining Valuable Employees." Dr. Frank Rossi and Bob Vavrek provided excellent insight on "Communicating as a Turfgrass Professional", and "Common Pitfalls of a Superintendent."

The spring always provides for job changes in the industry, and this year is no exception. On the superintendent front, one of the best kept secrets in many years was who was going to get the new position at The Bog Golf Course in Saukville. Well, Pat Shaw did a good job of keeping it quiet, leaving Tuckaway Country Club to build the new 18-hole public golf course designed by the Palmer Group.

Scott Bartosch is the new golf course superintendent at Kenosha Country Club. Bartosch was previously an assistant for Mike Bavier at The Inverness Club in Palatine, Illinois.

Mark Robel, formerly an assistant at Bluemound Country Club, was hired as the new superintendent at Irish Water Golf Course in Freedom, Wisconsin.

Even more activity took place with assistants moving to new locations. Mike Wirth leaves the University Ridge Golf Course to become the assistant at Lake Windsor Golf Course in Windsor. Pat Wallner has left The Springs Golf Club in Spring Green to become the assistant at Lake Arrowhead Golf Course. Troy Hausser, who worked at the O.J. Noer Research Center, takes over as the assistant at The Springs.

In other assistant changes, Paul Zussnic, a 1993 UW graduate in the Turf Management Program, was hired as the second assistant at Oneida Golf and Riding Club. Another 1993 Turf Management grad from the Madison campus, Corey Henriksen, is moving to LaCrosse to work as the assistant golf course superintendent at the new LaCrosse Country Club under Jack Tripp.

Superintendents might move into the sales side of our industry on occasion, but the migration from sales rep to superintendent

doesn't happen quite as often. However, Mark Van Heirden is now the exception, since he left Reinders Irrigation to become the new assistant at Bishops Bay Country Club in Middleton. Van Heirden was previously the area technical representative and worked out of the Reinders Madison store.

Also leaving Reinders was Ken Quandt, who went back to work for Par Ex Fertilizer. Quandt will become the Midwest Representative for Vigro.

Mike Kositzke left Lesco earlier this spring, and has decided to go back to school at UW-Oshkosh in Nursing. I hope everyone got a chance to bid Mike farewell during his final visit.

Another new "big time" golf course is on-line for construction next year in Wisconsin. Washington County has chosen Arthur Hills to design a 18-hole project near Hartford. This will be the second project in Wisconsin for Hills in as many years. The new La Crosse Country Club is under construction and is to be completed by fall.

Congratulations go out to Scott Schaller from South Hills Country Club in Fond du Lac and Dave Brandenburg from Camelot Golf Course for the recent certifications.

Speaking of accomplishments, two new names have been added to the 25-year club list. Dale Marach, who works at Reinders, and Don Steinmetz Jr., superintendent at Yahara Hills in Madison, have joined the honored list. Congratulations go out to both for dedication and longevity in the industry.

I hope your spring is going well, and don't forget to pass on that gossip. Remember, "real" sales reps don't spread gossip, they print it! Good thing I sold my Explorer last year! 