



The Surrounds

By Wayne G. Horman



What a great year! I know almost everyone feels the same way since the 1994 season is finally over. Unlike previous years, the mowing season started earlier than usual and ended later. What appeared as a dry year in May became a wet season for some areas of the state later on. What seemed like a low incidence of dollar spot early became a year full of dollar spot pressure.

Plant protectants were still being applied on golf courses into October for dollar spot. It has been a number of years since that has occurred.

Other diseases of interest this fall have been rust, yellow tuft and cool season brown patch (yellow patch). Most of the rust has occurred in the rough in newly seeded turf. Low fertility is usually associated with rust, and along with the new seeding susceptibility, showed up in places like those adjacent to new sod. Who says disease doesn't occur in straight lines?

Yellow tuft is being seen on a number of new golf courses throughout Wisconsin. It is a disease more commonly seen in the spring, but due to wet fall conditions it has been seen of late. According to Dr. Rossi, the use of early spring applications of pythium control fungicides has worked to prevent the problem. However, it must be applied before the infection shows. Other ways to control or mask yellow tuft is by fertilizer, including iron, applications.

On a few golf courses in northern Wisconsin, yellow patch has occurred on bentgrass greens and fairways. Also known as cool season brown patch, the disease has been difficult to control.

This fall also provided some industry tours. The Toro Company invited Jeff Bottensek and Bruce Worzella to the Toro Professional Club in Minneapolis. Over 50 golf course superintendents from all over North America toured the corporate headquarters and manufacturing facilities in Minnesota and Wisconsin. They also attended sessions on irrigation and turf equipment.

Mark Kienert, Monroe Miller, Marc Davison, Ed Kirchenwitz, Dave Brandenburg and John Macguire all went down to the Quad Cities to visit with the John Deere Company in September. They toured facilities and had discussions on the Deere line of grass machinery.

I always seem to miss a few employment changes every year, but it is better to be late than to forget entirely. Tom Kornkven took over as the superintendent at Prairie Woods GC near Janesville. The new construction project started last fall and will open next year. Kornkven was previously a superintendent at a municipal golf course in Los Angeles, California for eight years.

Club Car, Inc hired Candi DeShaney as their new rep for northeastern Wisconsin and the UP. Rumor has it that Deshaney is an excellent golfer.

A few superintendents got away from turf for a short time this fall. Chad Ball went fishing in Alaska in mid-September. He flew with a neighbor to Klawalk, Alaska,

which is on Prince Wales Island, and went fishing for silver salmon and trout. Ball said the fishing was great and not having to think about turf for a week was fantastic. If anyone is interested in getting away, he still has all his information about the trip and his pictures to show off.



Chad Ball and his brother Steve, holding their Alaskan silver salmon catch!

Jeff Bottensek also went to Alaska at about the same time. He flew with friends to Anchorage and took a ferry over to Valdez. Jeff said the fishing for silver salmon was fantastic and Prince William Sound was absolutely beautiful.

Congratulations goes out to Kris Pinkerton and his new bride. They were married on October 8th. Also, a special congratulation to Adam Mock of Watertronics and his wife Beth who had their fifth child (Wow!) on August 12th.

On September 6th, Grant Mortimer, VP at Horst Distributing, Inc., and his wife Bonnie and their daughter Sara welcomed an addition to their family. John Michael is the baby's name, making John Mortimer a very proud grandpa!

A special thanks goes out to all the superintendents who hosted a monthly meeting this year. Not to be forgotten are the vendors who supported the meetings by sponsoring refreshments.

The dinner/dance was held on the weekend of October 7th and 8th at Bull's Eye CC. A great time was had by all and once again we thank the vendors who sponsored the event. A big applause for Mark Kienert and Bull's Eye CC who hosted the traditional weekend.

One superintendent who needs special mention is Dan Williams from Riverview CC. He hosted a club event that raised more than \$1,100 for the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association and turfgrass research. Williams had vendors of the club as hole sponsors, held a raffle and charged all 60 golfers a small green fee. He felt it was a real easy way to raise money for a good cause, our future.

Have a great holiday season! Thanks for listening. 