



SPRING THINGS

By Monroe S. Miller

It doesn't seem at all possible that spring is here, or at least almost here. By the time this issue hits the newsstands, the GCSAA conference will be recorded and Reinders' big conference will be around the corner. EXPO 95 is done. Spring Valley's meeting has met. The Green Section meeting and the UW Extension Turf Conference are close. One or two outstate conference remain, but that is about it.

Grass time and golf time are due to arrive. I've met few colleagues who aren't anxious to get the season underway. The other remaining anxiousness is the final answer on winter injury. Once that is answered, one way or the other, we can get on with doing what we love doing most—managing a golf course.

For the record, snow and frost depth reports from around Wisconsin for the noted dates are included. The gravediggers of the state have done another great job in keeping track of winter conditions for the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.

Congratulations to Tom Schwab on his new job. He is exactly what the research farm needed at this point in its history. Wayne Kussow, Chuck Koval, Frank Rossi and Tom Harrison (along with other hiring committee members) deserve our thanks for their choice.

Schwab brings lots of things to the Noer job that few others could. He's a UW-Madison Turf Management grad

and has a deep and special interest in his alma mater. He's experienced—Monroe CC (superintendent for ten years), South Hills before that and Blackhawk CC before that. He is "mature" (crowding 40!), and well established.

Proximity is in his favor—he and Diane and the kids live in Verona, probably five minutes from his new place of work.

Anyone who's been a successful golf course superintendent, like Tom, has practiced some basic principles that work at a place like the research facility. I am thinking of neatness, an orderly approach to work, a willingness born out of experience to do what you are told, people management and machinery management.

Clear to anyone who ever attended one of our WGCSA meetings at Monroe CC is the fact that Tom really knows how to grow grass. And he did it economically.

Like all of us in the WGCSA, Tom spent his career working under the jeweler's eye, always under close scrutiny and inspection. How perfect—instead of taking any offense from outside opinions, he will be able, by habit, to view such opinions constructively.

Finally, what the Noer Facility has is a manager who is upbeat, happy, optimistic, full of humor and almost always in a good mood. He will be a pleasure for all the faculty, staff and user groups to work with.

So I am sounding my three cheers

for Tom. Bets are good I'm as happy about his presence there as he is.

The WGCSA is a major contributor to the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association, and the WTA is a considerable donor to the UW-Madison. The WTA has lots of company.

The January 27th, 1995 edition of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* published the ranking of the Top 10 universities for research funds. The University of Wisconsin-Madison was in third place. The ranking was developed from National Science Foundation data.

The UW-Madison climbed up a notch from a year ago. Perennially in the Top 5, the improvement is a gauge of the strength of the Madison campus. Clearly it is among the elite of the nation's research universities.

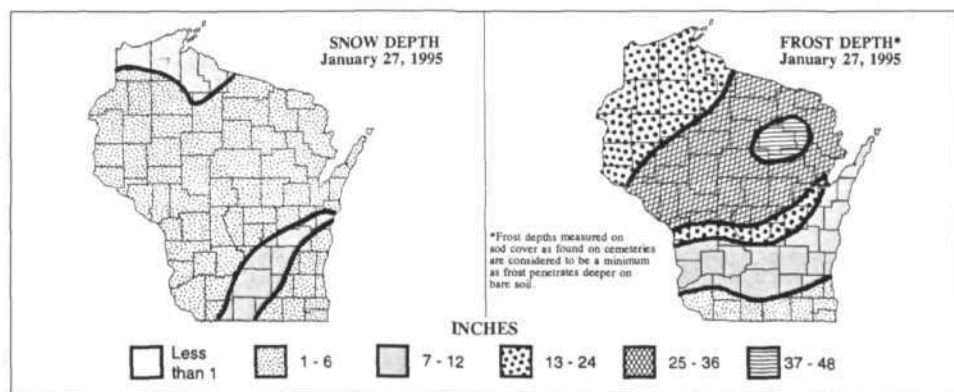
But, then, we knew that!

Steve Krause, forest entomologist for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, recently reported that the intensive spraying that has been going on has reduced Wisconsin's gypsy moth population by 72 percent. Sub zero temperatures in January also helped by killing large numbers of gypsy moth eggs.

The good news is two fold: our trees will be at less risk, and since numbers are down the amount of spraying required in 1995 will also be reduced. Fewer than 30,000 acres in nine counties will be treated when spring arrives. Last year 51,000 acres were sprayed.

Wisconsin has been fortunate to have avoided the tragic results of massive numbers of gypsy moths. They can strip trees entirely of their leaves, and they feed on several hundred different types of plants. The defoliation can lead to injury or death of host plants.

It seems we owe thanks to DATCP for doing such a good job in keeping



the problem under control. Our trees thank them, too.

We need a golf house with a museum and library in the state. I was reminded of it in January when Tom Harrison was sharing old photographs of Maple Bluff with me. They need an archive for a home.

One of our members passed away a while ago and his wife brought me an old ground driven walking greensmower. "I thought you might want this," she said. "If you don't, throw it away." Here is a picture of this treasure.



It is a WEBB mower, made in England, and it has a 12" cut with wooden rollers. Also in my shop are Jim Love's, Bill Sell's and Woody Voigt's collectibles. All need a museum and library for a home. Add in old brass sprinklers, old cup cutters, a hand aerifier and everything else I have, and you'll have the start to a good collection

Consider all the things sitting in your own shops, all over Wisconsin, and the need really comes into focus. Visit, if you haven't already, Gene Haas' office and have him show you all he's collected on behalf of golf in Wisconsin—old clubs, books, tournament mementoes, trophies, autographs and more. You will demand action!

This was an original goal of the Golf Foundation of Wisconsin, and probably still is. But maybe we will have to consider other options since the GFW is a busy group.

Possibly this will be a retirement project for some WGCSA members when they reach that station in life.

Let this serve as our collective birthday greeting to the USGA. Founded in December of 1894, this wonderful organization is primarily responsible for what golf is today.

The observance will last throughout 1995, but was started last December 8 in Manhattan at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The evening was concluded with an address by the great American writer John Updike. The lines he spoke that all golf course superintendents will love are these: "This out-of-doors simplicity surely lies at the heart of golfing bliss, as we are reminded by our logo of two New England boys—Ouimet and Lowery—out for a walk on a drizzly September day. All it takes for a golfer to attain his happiness is a fence rail to throw his coat on, and a target somewhere over the rise."

Let those sentimental words serve as an inspiration as we head into the new season.

Happy birthday, USGA! 🏏

Spending too much time in the rough?



Hanley's of Sun Prairie will get you back on the course fast with the Cushman 6150 Wing Rotary Mower.

The Cushman 6150 can mow at 7 m.p.h. with 1, 2, or 3 decks. It can cut up to 7 acres per hour with up to 10' 7" cutting width. Zero turning and fold up wings gives it maneuverability. It offers four wheel drive performance, and is easy to operate and service. The 14 m.p.h. transport speed will get you on and off the job fast.

Get in and out of the rough fast - Call Hanley's.

Hanley

Power Equipment & Turf Sales
641 W. Main Street • Sun Prairie, WI 53590
(608) 837-5111 • (608) 257-7815
Toll Free 1-800-279-1422


CUSHMAN
Driven to be the best.