



Welcome!

By Mark Keinert



During our May Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents board of directors meeting, we approved thirty applications for membership into our association. By my count, since September 1995, we have seen just over 55 new members join the WGCSA. How many of those new membership applications are due to the dual membership requirement enacted by the Golf Course Superintendents Association and subsequent grandfather clause is as good as your guess.

All the membership classifications were represented in some fashion, with the majority of the new members filling the class A, B and D roster spots. A good number of class E members were approved as well. Some of those applications approved were from former members who dropped out for some time and have now returned. To those individuals I say "welcome back."

Not to be ignored was a substantial group of first time members. To those of you, I extend my hand and offer to you a very hearty welcome aboard. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our membership. Call on us with your questions. I would urge you to become active members within our ranks. Volunteer your time by serving on committees, hosting a membership meeting or writing for our chapter publication, "THE GRASS ROOTS." You will find that our chapter journal is our second greatest asset, running a close second behind the collective "brain power" of our membership.

You will find that our organization works jointly with the University of Wisconsin-Madison and its faculty, the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association, (some of our members serve on the board of directors and were founding fathers of the WTA) and the O. J. Noer Research Foundation. If you have moved in from out of

Wisconsin, you'll learn it serves as home to many of the industries and manufactures of turfgrass and grounds maintenance equipment.

In our state, our superintendents are served by some of the finest individuals who represent the sales industry. These are too numerous to mention individually. Please refer to your new membership directory and patronize those class "E" members who support our association. It goes without saying to all WGCSA members: invite those neighbors who you know to one of our meetings and explain the benefits of our organization, if they aren't members. One simple phone call is all it takes. Be the first one to make the move.

Speaking of just one of the benefits offered to you through your membership dues, I would like to thank the 20 progressive golf course super-

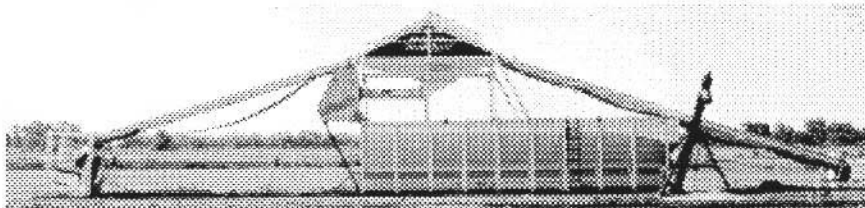
intendents who sent their mechanics to the recently completed electrical troubleshooting seminar sponsored by the WGCSA. This seminar was taught by John Gavinski, a long time instructor of automotive technicians through out our state. The seminar focused on diagnosing troublesome electrical components, both in theory and practice, using test equipment. As automobiles have become home to small central processors, so we have seen the influx of this technology into our grounds maintenance equipment. A very special thank you should go to Tim Johnson, a former mechanic of mine and current mechanic at the Sentryworld Golf Course in Stevens Point. It was Tim who was responsible for all of the arrangements for the day. I would be remiss if I didn't also thank Horst Distributing and Reinders Brothers

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Inc. for their time and donation of new equipment in which some of the troubleshooting scenarios were set up on. Thanks should also go to Briggs and Stratton for the maintenance manuals that were available to those attending the class.

I can tell you that this isn't the only mechanics seminar being planned. I'm aware of at least five additional seminars currently on the drawing board. I'm going to personally see that Tim gets my list of hydraulic repairs, equipment restoration and repainting, establishing the right preventative maintenance programs and keeping the right records to add to his proposed list of seminar topics.

If you have a special need or concern, please feel free to drop a note

in the mail and I will forward it to Tim. All future seminars will be scheduled for just after the time we put our golf courses to bed for the winter and just before the winter repair season. Another seminar is being planned for next March, right before we return to the great outdoors.

I've also had conversation with the department head of the Automotive Industrial side of the Midstate campus. He is willing to work very closely with us to put on a quality program for our employees. Having just introduced a new mechanic into the world of golf course equipment maintenance, I can't tell you how much I personally appreciate those classes. It was a great first step.

Speaking of education, watch your mail for the upcoming "walking construction tour" that will be held at Kohler's new "Whistling Straits Golf Course." This tour will give those of us who haven't had the opportunity to be a part of a golf course in genesis, the chance to see a golf hole from the point of initial staking, to the first turning of soil, all the way to the watering of the many new seedbeds. It should be quite a show, so wear your mud runners', the tour will go on rain or shine. Hopefully, Ed Kirchenwitz, Mike Lee and David Smith will see to the details and that we will have great weather for the event. Ed, how soon can we expect you to host one of our monthly membership meetings? See you there. ♣

The real meaning of diversity

