



The Surrounds

By Wayne G. Horman



The results are in from this past winter, and depending on where your course is located in Wisconsin, your opinion will vary on how severe the winter of 1996/1997 was for you. In northern Wisconsin, some superintendents are calling it the worst snowmold problem they have ever experienced. Even greens that had Calo-clor or Calogran applied in the past had snowmold damage. However, that was minimal compared with the results on fairways. In the Stevens Point area, gray snowmold was particularly damaging to fairways. Fortunately, most damage has improved rapidly over the last few weeks.

In southern Wisconsin, the winter didn't provide a great deal of snowmold pressure, but injury was reported from ice or freezing and thawing on a number of *Poa annua* greens. For the most part, superintendents had little to worry about as spring finally arrived.

This spring also had some excitement for some superintendents. At Old Hickory in Beaver Dam, Mike "Howie" Lyons, also known as "Smokey the Bear", had a small brush fire going to get rid of some leaves and twigs. As most of you experienced, this spring was a little windy, and it seems the pile got a little out of hand. The fire department was needed to put out the 20-25 acres of marsh area that eventually burned.

Wisconsin had a couple of superintendent changes this spring. At the new Kohler project, Whistling Straits, Saeed Assadzandi was hired as superintendent.

Assadzandi was previously the superintendent at Mystic Rock GC at Nemacolin Woodlands Resort, just outside of Pittsburgh, PA. Mystic Rock was also a Pete Dye design golf course.

John Bahr is the new superintendent at Prairie du Chien CC. Bahr is the son of Joe Bahr, the superintendent at The Bluffs in La Crosse. John had been the assistant for his dad the last couple of years.

Randy Van Fleet, the superintendent at Merrill Hills CC, has hired Matt Drabant as his new assistant. Drabant is a recent graduate of the Michigan State Turfgrass program.

In other news around the state, Camelot GC in Lomira was sold early this spring. Lee Merkel, former owner of Willow Run GC, and Greg Essig, current part owner of Western Lakes GC, combined to buy the 18 hole public golf course. They hired Chuck Sewdall as their new superintendent.

Employment changes were not limited to superintendents and assistants only. Dean Musbach has taken over as a Technical Representative for Scotts in northern Wisconsin. Musbach had been working for Reinders Turf Equipment in the same area for the last three years.

Congratulations needs to go out to two deserving superintendents here in the state. Scott Thompson, superintendent at Greenwood Hills CC in Wausau, received his Certification this spring and Jeff Parks, Superintendent at University

Ridge GC, won the Arnold Palmer's management groups "Superintendent of the Year" award for 1996.

Brandon Steven Johnson was born on April 15th. He is the first born, to Jennifer and Steven Johnson, the superintendent at Foxfire CC in Waupaca.

Kris Pinkerton is a dad for the second time. His wife, Michelle, gave birth to Hunter Pinkerton on April 29th. Kris is the superintendent at Oshkosh CC.

Rob Waser and his wife welcomed their fourth child, Rachael Lee, on June 20, 1997. She was born in Lakeland Hospital in Elkhorn.

From the "say it ain't so category", Bruce Worzella is a proud GRANDFATHER! His daughter, Beth gave birth to Ty David (TD) on March 23rd. Worzella already has golf clubs for the little guy, but no greens mower as of yet.

A couple of scholarships were missed in the last issue. Dustin Riley, assistant at North Shore GC in Menasha, received the GCSAA Student Scholarship and David Rappold, a current student at the University of Wisconsin received the J.R. Love Scholarship, named after the Emeritus Professor of Soil Science.

Finally, a big welcome goes out to Dr. John Stier, who filled the Vice Rossi position in late April. Dr. Stier joins the Horticulture Department from Michigan State, where he did work on shade tolerance and sports fields. Welcome to Wisconsin, John. 