



PRIDE AND TRADITION

By Scott Schaller



It's just about that time of year again. We look back on the previous golf season and think about how we felt at different stages. For example, I think back to about mid-September, when all of us have put in many long consecutive days of work. I'm tired and looking forward to the golf season to come to an end soon, especially after a day of fairway aeration that lasted from sunrise to sunset.

On this day my wife will ask me when I come home "how was your day?" I respond with, "fine, we got a lot done today, it was a good day, but you know I sure am looking forward to plowing some snow soon."

We all know that by the time we get that first snowfall, we have pretty much completed that golf season and begin to prepare for the one upcoming. This now brings me to my feeling presently. I have to say I have plowed enough snow already this winter and have a bad case of cabin fever from being inside our shop for the past three months.

I can't wait to open the course and maintaining it for the golfing membership's pleasure. As you read this you might be thinking that this guy never sounds satisfied. That's not the case at all, because these feelings are what I truly enjoy about this profession. This is a wonderful feeling, to have the entire winter to "rekindle the flame" for the next golf season. This is why it's great to be a golf course superintendent in Wisconsin.

As you read this message, the 69th annual GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show in Anaheim, California will be complete. Each year I look forward to attending the national convention. Always just before I'm leaving for home, I'm thinking all of this was put on for us. It's amazing the educational opportunities, the trade show presentations,

the camaraderie among fellow superintendents and all the information that is shared at one of these conferences. Hopefully all the WGCSA members who attended the conference this year benefited from it.

Speaking of sharing information, the best form of information that is shared within our association is through our "Grass Roots" publication. Editor Monroe Miller and all of our great authors did it again, for the 14th consecutive year. *The Grass Roots* has won BEST in its category. Congratulations!

The WGCSA has recently met with the North American Bluebird Society, which is headquartered in Darlington, Wisconsin. We were

brought together by Gary Gaard to discuss the possibility of developing a structured plan encouraging golf courses throughout Wisconsin to place and maintain nest boxes intended for bluebirds. We are excited with the interest we could draw from our membership if we were educated and given direction on how to successfully start our own program at our golf course. We plan on having Carol McDaniel, Vice President of the North American Blue Bird Society, as our guest education speaker at our April meeting at Abbey Springs GC.

As the season is coming near, let's hope we all have had a good winter and we all can begin the season with healthy turf and experience a great golf season. 🌱

