



The Inner Cut

By Chad A. Johnson



Once again we say goodbye to winter and welcome the signs of a new beginning. What didn't feel like a normal winter is making everyone wonder what the turf will look like in spring: warm soil temperatures in late December and early January with fog and rain followed by snow and cold. Only in Wisconsin! There were many reports of pink and gray snowmold around the state. Many supers were putting a second application of treatment down just before the snow. Let's hope for a good spring.

The WTA Winter Conference held on January 12 & 13 was once again a success. The seminars and trade show were well attended with more than 400 people enjoying the likes of Dr. Michael Hurdzan, Dr. Wayne Kussow, Dr. Bruce Clarke and many others.

Jim Vanherywnyen and his wife Kim were blessed with the birth of their son Mitchell James on December 21st. Jim is the golf course superintendent at South Hills in Fond du Lac.

David Jahnke and his wife Sharon also were blessed with the birth of their son Tre David. David is the superintendent at Washington County in Hartford. Congratulations!

On the employment front there were a few changes that took place this winter. Mike Semler has filled Wayne Horman's shoes as the new Scotts Technical Representative. Mike was the superintendent for the Bruce Company where he oversaw three courses — Bishops Bay, Meadows of Six Mile Creek, and Meadow Springs. Tony Rządski has become the General Manager for JW Turf in Wisconsin. Tony will be located at the Pewaukee Store. Tony was the superintendent at Bristlecone Pines in Hartland.

Josh Lepine, formerly an assistant at Winged Foot in New York, succeeds Tony as the golf course superintendent at Bristlecone Pines.

Joe Fryman has filled the Senior Superintendent position at Lake Arrowhead. Joe was the superintendent at Muskego Lakes. Brian Wilhelm will become the superintendent for the new course and Pat Wallner will become the superintendent of the old course at Lake Arrowhead.

Eric Jason was hired for the position at Muskego Lakes. Eric was an assistant at North Hills and formerly a superintendent at Mequon C.C.

In course news, Silver Springs Country Club has been purchased by KSL. Silver Springs is a 36-hole public course with banquet facilities. KSL, a large golf management group, now operates four golf courses in Wisconsin — Mequon Country Club, Willow Run, Lake Windsor and Silver Springs.

As everyone gears up for spring here is a poem to keep everything in perspective for all of us in the turf world.

Portrait in the Sky

We start in darkness
Hours before dawn.
Starlight as our guide
As we wait 'til morn.
The angels' brushes are busy
Painting the sunrise scene.
The display we will soon see
God's portrait in the sky.
The birds announce God's gift
Grateful for another day of life
The day blooms brilliant
Sunlight splashes the turf.
The air whispers the oak leaf
And this man deeply sighs
Content in the peace
of the coolness
And warmth of the rising sun.
'Thank you Lord for another day.'

— Anonymous

Enjoy the spring of '98. Please feel free to share any information with me at 414-861-0067 or by E-mail at cjohnson@ticon.net.

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