

# Green Wisconsin

By **Monroe S. Miller**, Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

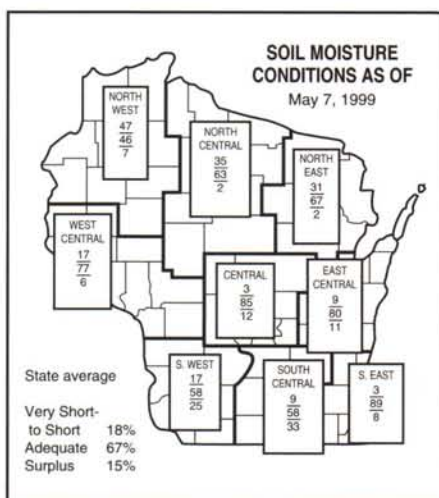
I'm pretty sure Antonio Vivaldi never visited Wisconsin, but he must have dreamed of a place like our state when he composed the beautiful Four Seasons Concerto. His allegro from "Spring" and the "Summer" adagio of that concerto capture the essence of the rich, green and fruitful spring we have had in southern Wisconsin. I have spent nearly all of my life in this part of Wisconsin, and I cannot recall ever seeing vegetation this green. Some days the green was so bright that eye protection was almost a necessity! That was especially true of turfgrasses.

If we did have anything to complain about (and we do not), it would be the long hours needed to keep golf courses cut and near some level of playability. We were at war for a month or so, and our course was the battlefield. It was a problem I would love to have every spring and early summer.

Trees are prospering, too. There is a huge crops of leaves on the deciduous trees, and the new growth candles of the evergreens was impressive. We are going to have jungle lined fairways this summer! It all has been a reminder of what ample rainfall can do for plant growth. It taxes the memory and imagination to think we have such cold winter months,

when nothing grows. Remember, however, it will take only a month of powder dry weather to bring back reality.

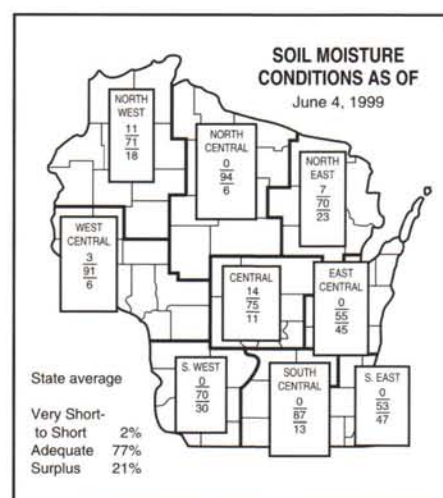
Statistics from the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service are here for you.



Speaking of a labor shortage in the spring, there is a bill in the Wisconsin legislature that would require all of the state's 426 school districts to start the fall semester after September 1st. It was sponsored by lawmakers from tourist areas, and the bill is gaining momentum.

The state's school districts

almost unanimously oppose the bill, as do most school groups. The bill's promoters - tourism and restaurant industries - carry a big stick. Tourism is one of the state's top three industries with 200,000 full-time jobs and a tax bill that



brings state government over \$1 billion. They are tired of getting clobbered by the loss of their young workers in August when school starts and they are still extremely busy.

How do you stand on this issue? We could be affected by the outcome.

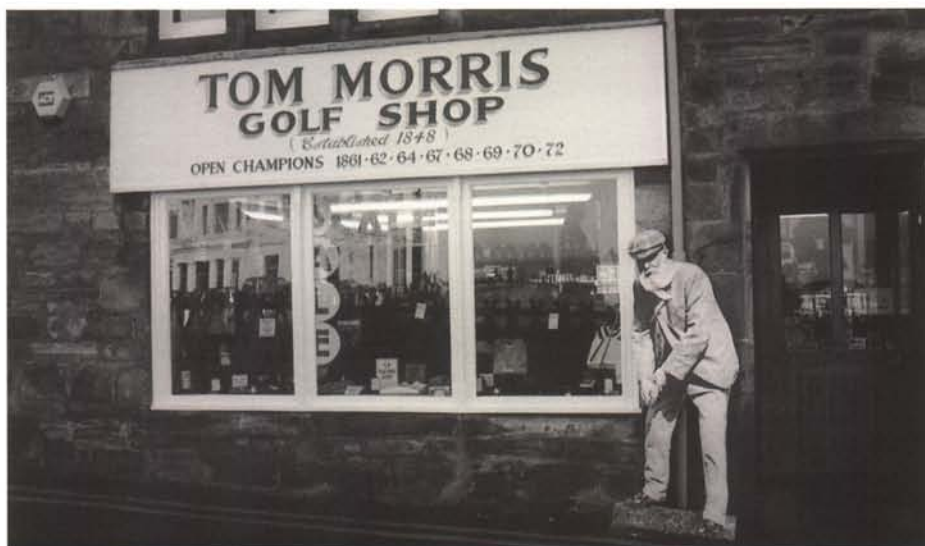
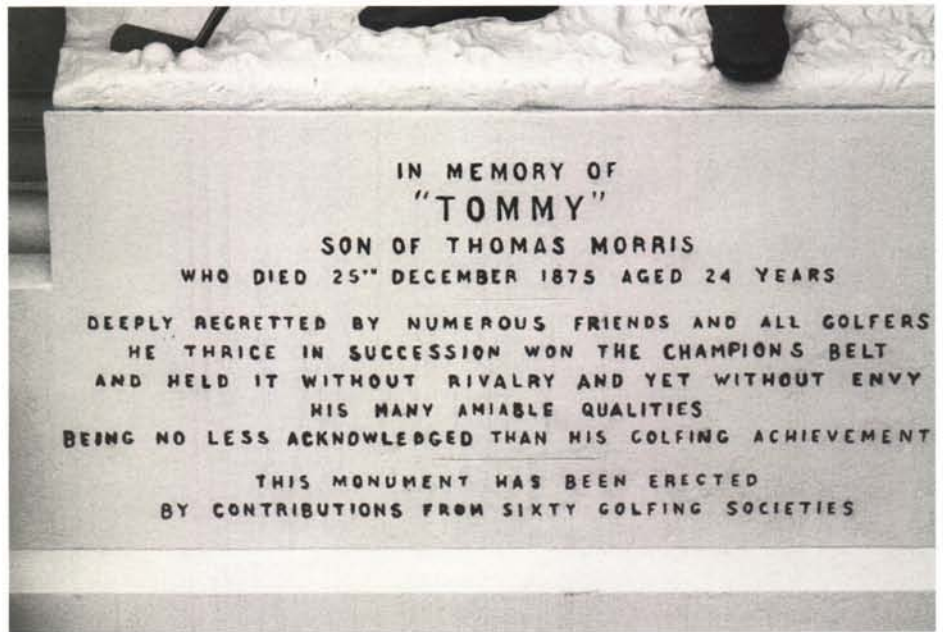
Last January, Derek Van Damme visited St. Andrews, Scotland. He took some photos that show the grave of Old Tom Morris and his son Tommy. Both were great golfers of their time, and of course we trace our profession back to that one individual, Old Tom Morris. Van Damme also visited, as so many have, the Old Tom Morris Golf Shop at the St. Andrews golf course. The pics are here for your enjoyment.

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Congratulations to Tony Rządski. Back in early spring, he was notified by Audubon International that his property was the first in Wisconsin and the 44th in the world to meet certification requirements of their backyard program.

He's been consistent; everywhere he goes he practices the principles of commitment to protecting water quality, enhancing wildlife habitat and resource conservation. What an excellent example for all of us to follow.

Herb Kohler, president and chairman of the board at Kohler Co., has accepted an appointment to the GCSAA Foundation board of trustees. He joined Tom Fazio as new members of the board. Thanks and congratulations.

We are going to continue to get caught up with our thanks to those who make this journal possible. This issue, appreciation is extended to the gals on our staff who are dedicated to golf turf in Wisconsin. They are Alice Chalmers, Paige Turner, Eileen Forward and Amanda Reckinwith. I extend to you, along with them, best wishes for a great July and August in this last golf season of the century. 🌿