

# CRUNCH TIME !!!



By **Scott Schaller**, Golf Course Superintendent, North Shore Golf Club



This is a phrase that usually is heard around the North Shore Golf Club Greens and Grounds Maintenance Shop each year when we open the golf course. I tell my employees that we spent all winter preparing for the 1999 golf season. The winter brings to us no shotgun starts, no weather delays or no deadlines, but that all changes as soon as we stick the flagsticks in the greens for the

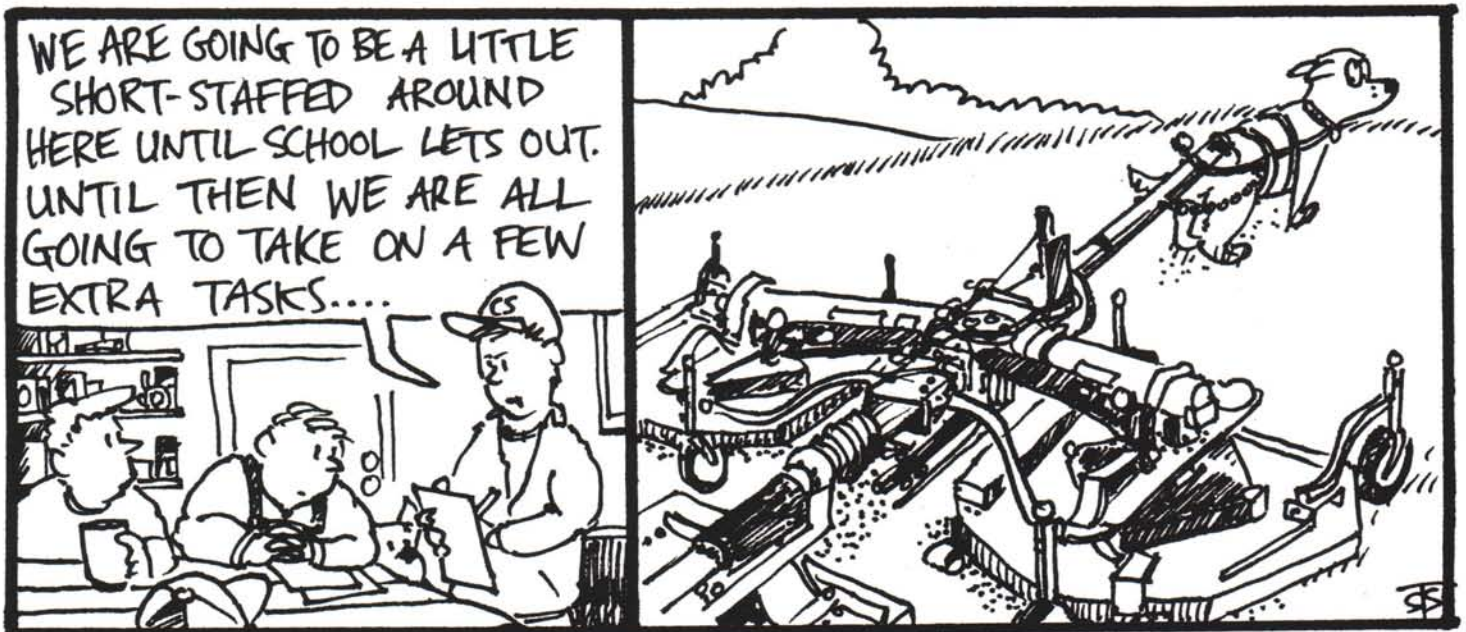
first time in spring. Now the shotgun starts, the weather delays and those deadlines all bring a new sense of urgency to the golf course maintenance staff, because we are now open for play. This is what I call CRUNCH TIME!! This usually lingers on until about mid-May to early June, then those college and high school summer seasonal employees arrive. That's always a nice feeling for me and my full time staff. I'm sure many of us share this same feeling.

Mother Nature has again been kind to all the golf

courses in Wisconsin this past winter. From what I can gather, many of our state's superintendents have been talking about another year of early openings and being able to offer their golfing clientele some excellent golfing conditions. It seems all the golf courses are off to another great start.

Lastly, I would like to recognize three very important people who have been associated with the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association for the past sixteen years. The WGCSA could not function without these people. They work behind the scenes and are truly the backbone of our association. They help us all to promote, recruit and improve the WGCSA. These people are Gene Haas, Diane Haas and Marilyn Gaffney. My words cannot describe all the things they do for our chapter. I'm sure all of us have interacted with these people in the past. With your next opportunity, take the time to thank them personally. I'm sure it would make their day. They sure deserve it!

The waiting game for spring is over and the 1999 golf season is well underway. I'm hoping each and every member of the WGCSA gets off to a good start and ends with a great golf season. Take care and I hope to see you at one of our monthly meetings. ♻



WE ARE GOING TO BE A LITTLE SHORT-STAFFED AROUND HERE UNTIL SCHOOL LETS OUT. UNTIL THEN WE ARE ALL GOING TO TAKE ON A FEW EXTRA TASKS....