



Poa trivia



By Cubby O'Brien
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By now, those who attended the national conference in Dallas have digested all of the information gathered at the various classes and seminars. You've also gotten a glimpse into the newest equipment and new chemistries offered by the manufacturers. You're probably reflecting a bit on moments spent chatting amongst old friends and colleagues with whom you've shared tips and war stories. I hope it was a good show for you. It can be a little overwhelming with the size of the trade show floor and scope of education available to you. I think those that glean the most out of the show have a plan and execute it. You probably encounter some distractions along the way, deal with them, and get along to the business at hand, staying on track to achieve your goals.

You must be "chomping at the bit" to get out on your course and implementing that which you've learned over the winter. The obvious parallel to the above paragraph is that those who have a plan for the upcoming season and stay on track are those who will get the most out of their efforts. You can bet there will be distractions along the way. They may come in the form of weather that you didn't expect (expect the unexpected here). It could be diseases you've never encountered before. Maybe a tournament you've been asked to host or employee issues that arise unexpectedly. How about equipment failures? The list goes on and on but you know what? You've all "been there done that". It's called experience. The ones without it, first, second or third year superintendents, need to

rely on the experience of their teacher, their old boss, YOU.

It's been a while since I've seen so much snow in December and so much rain in February. It's creating ice where there was none before. What kind of problems will arise from this, I couldn't say for sure. I'll bet if you ask some of the guys with "experience" they'll be able to tell you. We have a special network in this business and we should all take advantage of it. Whether you network at the national, by the phone, at monthly meetings or even the internet, accessing the knowledge that is available to all of us through the experience of others is crucial to successfully navigating the distractions we encounter. It can help us stay on track to achieve our goal, a successful season.

Birthdays

I don't normally print birthdays but this one is kind of a biggie. The GCSAA is 75 this year as I am sure all who attended the national know. Happy birthday and many, many more!

Babies

Todd Fregien and his wife are the proud new parents of Riley, born on September 22 at 6 lbs. 6 oz. Todd is assistant superintendent at the new Hidden Glen at Bentdale Farms under Scott Conley. The course is scheduled to open in 2001.

Jim Ceeman and his wife Jayne celebrated the birth of their new baby boy, James Louis, on December 10th. James weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz. Jim is the superintendent at Ironwood Golf Club near Sussex. Jim is in the middle of overseeing the addition of nine new holes at his course.

Career moves

Pat Sisk is the new superintendent at Milwaukee Country Club. Pat and his wife Gina have a daughter, Elizabeth, and a son, Patrick. Pat received an associate in science degree from UMass in 1987. He worked at the Country Club of Fairfield for six years before coming to Wisconsin. Pat worked for the newsletter at the last state chapter he belonged to, so hopefully we can expect some insightful articles from him for The Grass Roots. Welcome to Wisconsin, Pat.

Dan Quast, is retiring after 12 years as superintendent at Medinah CC. We wish him the best.

Curt Larson is retiring from Wisconsin Turf after 39 years of service with that company. John Jenson tells me that Curt will be helping out on a part-time basis during spring and summer. Congratulations Curt!

I hate mieces to pieces!

Those are the words Kendall Marquardt was heard mumbling after his shop was destroyed by fire on Tuesday, December 19th. There was some evidence that mice may have chewed insulation from some wires causing a short. Lake Wisconsin CC will have a new shop to match his improved course. Last year they installed new irrigation along with a holding pond and some mounds created out of the spoils. They also renovated a couple of tees as well.

See you this spring! Please contact me with any new information by calling (630) 514-8754 or e-mail me at cbrien@simplot-partners.com. 