

Who Could Complain?

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

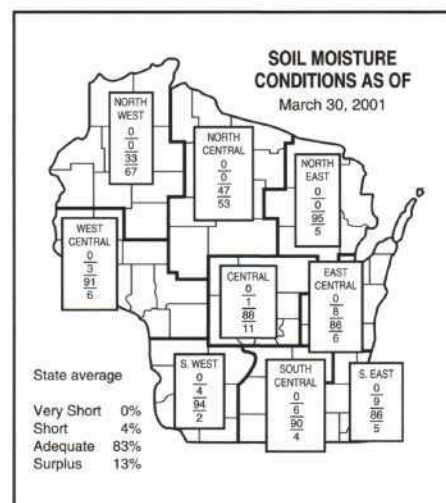
The tide of this young year in Wisconsin has turned. The dark mornings are lighter each day and the sun lingers until eight in the evening now. The swollen buds on our trees have burst forth, the catkins on alder and birch are at full length, and the grass is growing by leaps and bounds. I don't hear anyone complaining!

It has been a wonderful spring! Our courses suffered little damage through the winter. As the birds returned from the south I was reminded again that, whether officially designated or not, golf courses are sanctuaries and refuges for them. The trees and shrubs and expanses of grass make them feel welcome. Every small pond

seemed full of singing peepers this spring, and Easter was the epitome of how most of us would like that day to be.

Oh, be assured that we had some weather that reminded us we live in Wisconsin. Fierce winds told us the seasons were switching and kept cleanup crews on the golf courses busy. It was short shirt-sleeve weather one day and snowing the next. Some of the storms were severe, and some streams and rivers were almost over their banks. But flowers from the spring bulbs were gorgeous. And if you searched for bluebells or yellow lady slippers and were successful, you know firsthand what natural beauty in the springtime is.

The spring moisture conditions are hereby recorded, from the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.



Custom Verti-Drain with MST
Schedule today
– Scott Good –
(800) 743-2419

Serving the Midwest since 1989

•

The Masters was held in some unusually warm weather this year, and several WGCSA members were there to enjoy it, along with Dr. John Stier. The WSGA cannot be thanked enough for making this singular golf experience available to us. The opportunity to see the old guard – Palmer, Nicklaus and Player – and the new guard of Woods and Duval adds to the trip.

Every year produces some fallout from the Masters that can end in our court. It comes as criticism for the excesses believed necessary to produce such overwhelming beauty, and from some players who think they can have such conditions on their course everyday. Although both are irritating to me, they are a small price to pay for the enjoyment the Masters brings to so many of us.

•

Belated congratulations to James Krutilla for receiving an Environmental Stewardship Award from GCSAA at last February's conference and show. His ESA Chapter Award was in the public facilities category, and is an award he has won previously.

•

Anyone who knew John Buck liked him and enjoyed his company. That is why his passing left us feeling so sad. I must confess that I did not appreciate the seriousness of his illness, which amplified the surprise I felt.

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to Holly and his family.

•

I want to thank the WGCSA officers and directors for the outstanding budget they prepared for 2001. The support of scholarship and research extended on our behalf to the faculty and students at Wisconsin demonstrates the commitment golf course superintendents have to science and education. I am impressed, and have

heard similar sentiments from many others. We have a lot of work to do to fill the three remaining Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships we have committed to through the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association.

•

In all the greenness that is spring on a Wisconsin golf course, we lay out our plans for June and July and

August. There will be an urgency in the shop everyday in those months with everything seemingly happening at once. Although they seem far away now, the golden days of September and October will be here before we turn around. The fabled "100 days of summer" are about to begin! 🌱

EVEN WHEN IT'S EMPTY, IT'S LOADED.



Carryall Turf II

Our new Turf II is loaded with a great package of standard features. All of which makes a great vehicle an even greater value. Turf II is part of Carryall's complete line of versatile, dependable vehicles.

Club Car®

CARRYALL

Club Car, Inc.
Wisconsin Branch

4485 South Racine Avenue
New Berlin, Wisconsin 53146
Phone: 262-896-9570
Fax: 262-896-9578



N57 W13566 Carmen Avenue • Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

1-800-255-4380

YOUR LOCAL CLUB CAR CONTACT