



Spring is in the Air?

By Marc Davison, Golf Course Superintendent, Green Bay Country Club

Is spring in the air? Doesn't it always seem to take spring a long time to arrive? It can begin in mid-March or the end of April. The long winter tends to grow on most people and the longing for spring seems to drag on and on forever. Hopefully everyone is ready and anxious to get going with another golf season.

All the winter repair work is completed or better be by now. The smell of fresh cut grass will soon to be back in the air. Has your "off season" been productive? I am sure most of us had a long list of projects or tasks that we hoped to accomplish during the winter months. The busy time in our season is nearly here; are you ready?

In my first President's Message I thanked our departing board members. Now I would like to welcome our new board members. New to our board of directors is Pat Sisk from Milwaukee CC, Eric Jasin from Lake Arrowhead GC and David Van Auken from Royal St. Patrick's GC. Pat is chairing the education committee, David will be chairing the golf and arrangement committee and Eric is responsible for the membership committee. Be sure and thank these three new board members as well as all of our board members for their dedication and time commitment to run the association.

Congratulations go out to two of our members who were selected to receive national awards recently. Danny Quast and Monroe Miller were chosen to receive two very prestigious awards which they accepted at the GCSAA Conference in San Diego. Monroe was awarded the Green Section Award by the United States Golf Association Green Section. Danny is the proud recipient of a GCSAA Distinguished Service Award. Both of these are very high honors in our profession and are going to outstanding individuals. We are very proud to have them in our association and also very thankful for all the contributions they have made and continue to make to the industry.

Most of you have heard by now that we have a web site. The address is www.wgcsa.com. Many thanks go to WGCSA director Jeff Millies for his efforts to get this site developed and running. There are many useful areas to explore and participate in. There is an employment area that contains job postings just like we receive in the mail. The used equipment section will be useful for those trying to sell or purchase used turf equipment. A listing of all our association's meetings and events is also included, as well as a forum. The forum is an area where



one can read and or participate in discussions. Our goal is to continually expand the web site, making it more and more useful to members. Please share your ideas on features you would like to see added with Jeff. Many other chapter associations also have web sites. Do a search and explore some of them to see what's out there. In order for our site to be a success, we need participation and input from you the user.

At the WTA Conference in Madison on January 7, scholarships were distributed to some very fortunate students enrolled in the turf program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The WGCSA funds the J.R. Love Scholarship, which was increased this year to \$1,500. This year's recipient is Benjamin Pease. Ben is from Plymouth (a western suburb of Minneapolis) and is a junior in the turf program at Madison. He has been cutting grass since he was in the 6th grade. He had a profitable lawn service business until he was 16 when he became a grounds worker at a local golf course. Ben worked last summer on the Wayzata Country Club's grounds crew and plans to return again this summer. Ben is very thankful to our association for the scholarship he received. If you run into him, be sure to congratulate him on his award.

Former WGCSA president David Brandenburg continues to volunteer to our organization. David is now chairing the relatively new club relations committee. This committee was formed about a year ago in an attempt to help golf courses that may not currently employ a golf course superintendent. The role of the committee is to assist a golf course that may desire to hire a superintendent by educating decision-makers of typical superintendent duties, responsibilities, expectations, etc. The committee may be a club put together a job notice, write a job description, develop a maintenance budget or aid in solving golf course maintenance issues. This whole concept is in its initial stages of development. I know David will do a great job with this. If you know of a golf course that could benefit from any of these services, please contact David.

Spring will be here before you know it. I hope you all have a very productive and enjoyable golf season. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our monthly meetings this season. On April 26 we will be meeting at Hawk's View Golf Club in Lake Geneva. See you there! ♣