



# Time Flies!

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

Where did 2004 go. Isn't it amazing how fast time flies? It seems like we were just putting up Christmas decorations or just taking them down a few short months ago. How often do you consider keeping them up year round and just unplugging them? Seems to make good sense but it makes us look lazy, doesn't it?

Last year will be remembered by many of us as a "good year." Not too hot, not too humid, decent rainfall, low disease pressure, a relatively good year for growing grass. There isn't anything wrong with a year like that now and then, is there?

The PGA Championship was held in Wisconsin in August at Whistling Straights. What a great event, held at a great golf course, and best of all, held right here in Wisconsin. We will remember the 2004 PGA for years to come.

Last year brought much sadness to our association also. Four long time members—Brad Wagner, Ron Schumaucher, Mike Kilpatrick, and Wayne Otto—passed away. These men will be greatly missed by our organization. Our deepest sympathies go out to their families.

What will the new year bring into your life: retirement, a new job, a new child, a new mower? Let's just pray that we will be successful in all that we set out to do.

February 15, 2005 marks an important day for the green industry in Wisconsin. We will be heading to the State Capitol to meet with our representatives and state senators. Brian Swingle and the Wisconsin Landscape Federation are coordinating this effort. As you may have read in a recent letter from me, the WGCSA is going to be very active in this event. By now you should have not only seen the letter I mailed in December, but you should have also received a phone call from one of our board members encouraging your participation in this rally. We need a large presence in Madison to make the impact necessary for us to convey the importance of our message.

What is the message we are trying to convey to our legislature? You may recall in 2000, a very large and extensive survey was conducted on the green industry in our state. The survey's results indicated the green industry annually contributes 2.3 billion dollars into our state's economy and employs over 43,000 people in more than 4,700 businesses across the state. The green industry is a very large component in the economy of



Wisconsin and we want them to realize just how important it is. A second message we would like to send to our legislature is that we are very concerned and conscientious of our environment. We are responsible, educated, professional turf managers that make well informed decisions based on solid university research regarding pesticide and fertilizer usage. We would like to be heard on issues relative to our

business before regulations restricting or altering our current practices are forced onto our industry. Our goal is to be proactive and to emphasize the positive impact our industry has in the state and the concerns we have about our environment.

Along with the letter I sent in December a form was included to register your involvement in this rally. Please fill out the form which includes who your district's State Senator and Representative are. Meetings with legislators will be pre-arranged for all those who register and plan on attending. We will be grouped with fellow associates from the same district. Two or three green industry partners will go together to visit the representatives from their district. A training session will take place the morning of February 15 so we will be well prepared to speak with the politicians. Please plan on attending this outing! Get involved; our future may depend on it. Thank you in advance for your support of the green industry.

Our wonderful Grass Roots publication has been losing advertisers over the past couple of years. Without the proper financial support we achieve from advertisers, the shortfall must be made up by our association. The cost to produce our award winning magazine is substantial and very well worth it, I hope you would all agree. With advertisers backing out and slowly escalating costs, something has to change. What can you do? Encourage the vendors you buy from to advertise in the Grass Roots. If they are not currently doing that, consider buying only from vendors that do support our magazine. We appreciate all the support vendors give us and I know they appreciate our business. Please take note on who you buy from and who advertises in the Grass Roots.

Enjoy some time off this winter. Get away from the shop and office. We all know how time flies. It will be April 1st before we know it. Hope to see you in Orlando.✂