



Are You Ready?

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

Is the winter dragging along for you? I always think about all the projects I need to get done once the golf season comes to a close, when I can relax and do the things I need to do that always seem to get pushed off during the season. All those projects at home, all those magazine articles that accumulate on my desk over the months that I need to read etc. Well, my winters seem to get busier each year. Do yours? It probably doesn't help that I am gone most weekends with two boys playing hockey, travel hockey. It seems to be the perfect fit for our occupation, assuming you never want to sit home or sleep in. We have a good time nonetheless.

Board member David Van Auken has resigned from his position on our board. Dave is not currently employed as a superintendent. Our association's bylaws require board members to be employed as Class A or B superintendents. I would like to thank Dave for his time and efforts while on the board and wish him the best of luck in the future. Randy Dupont has agreed to fill this vacancy on the board. Randy will chair the golf and arrangements committee. I would like to thank Randy for his willingness to serve our association.

On Tuesday Feb. 15, 218 members of the Green Industry attended the first ever "Green Industry Day on the Hill" event in Madison. The Green Industry is comprised of numerous organizations involved in some way in the horticulture field such as: sod growers, golf course owners, superintendents, arborists, Christmas tree growers, nurserymen, sports turf managers, florists, landscape contractors, landscape architects, garden center personnel and the numerous companies that supply products to our industry. There are over 4,700 businesses that employ over 43,000 workers in these areas in Wisconsin. We are part of an annual \$2.7 billion industry in our state.

The intent of the day was to meet our state senators and representatives and tell them about the magnitude of our industry and the impact we have on our state's economy. We presented them with the Green Industry Survey results. We also expressed concern on various topics that affect our profession such as: our concern for the environment, fertilizer and pesticide regulations, labor issues, health care benefits for the small business and various other topics.

We went in small groups to visit with the law-



makers from our home districts. It was nice to meet these legislatures or in some cases their staff. We left each lawmaker a folder full of information on the Green Industry for their future reference.

Brian Swingle, the Executive Director of the Landscape Federation, organized this entire event. Brian did a wonderful job as always and we all owe him a big thank you. Thank you also to the superintendents and others from the WGCSA that attended as well.

Monroe Miller once again received the first place award in GCSAA's Chapter Newsletter contest, category 2. This is the 21st time Monroe has received this award for his outstanding work in producing *The Grass Roots*. Monroe spends a great deal of time each month developing this exceptional publication. We are truly blessed and honored to have him as our editor. Congratulations, Monroe, and thanks for all your hard work!

Congratulations also need to go out to Dr. Geunhwa Jung in Plant Pathology. Geunhwa has been awarded a GCSAA grant to continue his snow mold research work this year. The WGCSA has supported his work over the years but getting extra funding from GCSAA is a tremendous boost for Dr. Jung's project.

People vs. Pro is a new nationwide golf tournament coming to one of our monthly meetings this year. The winner from each participating chapter will move to compete on a national level. BASF is sponsoring this event to help promote the golf course superintendent profession. Look for more on this in the future.

Jake Schneider was awarded the J. R. Love scholarship at the WTA Conference back in January. Jake is in the turf program in Madison. The WGCSA funds this scholarship every year. And then he travelled to GCSAA conference in Orlando and accepted a GCSAA scholarship and was chosen as a Scotts Scholar as a top turf student in the country. Congratulations, Jake!

Dr. Wayne Kussow is planning to retire this year. He has been teaching soil science and turfgrass classes at the University of Wisconsin for the past 22 years. Dr. Kussow has been a wonderful friend to us all during his career and we will miss him when he retires. Thank him for all he has done for our association and wish him an enjoyable retirement.

Get those winter projects finished up; spring will be here before we know it. ♣