



Poa trivia



By Steve Wasser
LESCO, INC.

The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association EXPO is past, the Super Bowl is now history, the GCSCC conference and show has ended, the Daytona has a 2005 winner and the NCAA Tournament is right around the corner. I guess that means spring is right around the corner and so is the beginning of another Wisconsin golf season. It is time to dust off the golf clubs, buy the big screen TVs to watch the Masters, and put the final touches on the 2005 plans for you golf courses. Ready or not, the golf season is about to begin!

There has been a lot of conversation about the ice on turf on Wisconsin golf courses. There has been a lot of worrying about the ice, as well. Some golf course superintendents believe that there is some turf that has been injured and died, and they are making plans to reseed those damaged areas. Other superintendents have taken a wait and see attitude, hoping that a warm period will melt the ice before damage occurs. Still others are doing absolutely everything they can, hoping those actions will be favorable to them. By the end of March we should know a lot more, but until then...

Congratulations go out to Jim Kron. Jim is the new golf course superintendent at Poplar Hill Golf Club in Virginia. Poplar Hill was designed by Rick Robbins and it will be Jim's job to grow in the golf course. Jim was the assistant at Horseshoe Bay Golf Club for the past few years.

Because Jim is moving on, Michael Becker, the second assistant superintendent at Horseshoe Bay Golf Club, has become the first assistant. Mike has two children, a son Taylor and a daughter Sierra. Congratulations to Mike on his career advancement.

I would also like to congratulate Rob Wasser. Rob was promoted to Regional Manager for LESCO in January and will be responsible for the state of Wisconsin. Rob has worked for LESCO for the past 12 years in a variety of positions. Rob and his wife Lisa reside in Lake Geneva and have four children - Amy, Jessica, Nathan and Rachael. Congratulations to Rob for this promotion.

Many of us have been very concerned about Dan Barrett, superintendent at Bergamont Golf Course in Oregon and the president of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association. Dan contracted a rare vascular disease called Wegener's Granulomatosis Vasculitis, an ailment that put him in grave condition. He was stabilized but

recurring blood clotting in his leg threatened amputation. He had seven different surgical techniques performed and is now undergoing intense physical therapy. Dan is in great spirits and is optimistic about the future. If you would like to drop him a note, his address is 1125 Union Road, Oregon, WI 53575.

Wisconsin and the golf industry lost a good man this past winter. Ken Raymond, the superintendent of the Highland Course at Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, lost his battle with cancer in February. Ken worked his entire career in the Lake Geneva area. He started out with the Abbey Resort and then moved to Interlaken Golf Course. When Interlaken (Amvan Corporation) decided to build Geneva National, they turned to Ken to help grow in one of their courses. After this was completed, Ken moved to Grand Geneva and helped turn the Briar Patch Golf Course into what it is today, the Highlands Golf Course. Ken is survived by many friends and family and will be greatly missed.

If you have a story to tell, please pass it along to your Poa trivia guys so we can tell the rest of the world. ♣



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