



Poa trivia



By Rob Wasser
LESCO, INC.

Spring of 2005 is finally here. Many of us are very thankful that the winter of 2004 / 2005 is behind us. It was a very cruel winter for all of us. During the last month, I have visited over 100 different golf courses in central and southern Wisconsin. There are very few (you can count them on one hand) that did not experience any winter kill. Those courses that came through looking healthy were very young courses which had very little or non-existent populations of annual bluegrass. In some cases, even the bentgrass was hit hard. It is going to take months for everything to heal in. What we need is for Mother Nature to cooperate and bless us with warm days and nights and plenty of warm timely rain showers. For the most part, she has given us the warm weather and hopefully the rain and warm nights will come. One thing that is for sure is that we will be talking about this past winter for years to come, just like we talk about the summer of 1995. But unfortunately right now we are all dealing with it.

Well, let us get onto other things. There have been a few people who have made changes over the last few months. First, we need to congratulate Jeff Routtier on his new position of superintendent of Erin Hills Golf Course in Hartford, Wisconsin. This is a new course that has just recently broken ground. Jeff came from Whistling Straits Golf Course where he was the assistant superintendent for the last four years. Jeff also informed me that he is engaged to be married to Hilari at the end of April. So by the time you are all reading this article, Jeff will be a married man. With a new job and a new wife, Jeff will be a very busy man. Congratulations again Jeff, on your marriage and new position.

Next, we would like to congratulate Casey O'Connell on his new position as superintendent of Trempealeau Mountain Golf Course in Holmen, Wisconsin. Casey came from Tree Acres Golf Course in Plover, Wisconsin, where he worked for the last three years. Before this, he worked for six years at Hidden Waters Golf Course in Waupaca, Wisconsin. Congratulations Casey on your new position!

Congratulations also goes out to Richard Chapman, the golf course superintendent at Crystal Springs Golf Course in Seymour, Wisconsin. Richard has taken on some new responsibilities. Along with his superintendent duties, he will also be the general manager at Crystal Springs. Congratulations Richard on your new job!

We would also like to congratulate Paul Blumke on his new position of assistant superintendent at Kenosha Country Club in Kenosha, Wisconsin, where Scott Bartosch is the superintendent. Paul came from Whispering Springs Golf Course in Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, where he worked for Carl Grasl the last two years. Congratulations Paul on your new position! Enjoy the spring time air by Lake Michigan.

I also want to congratulate Dave Hassel on his new position with LESCO, Inc. Dave is the new Store on Wheels Sales Representative for southeastern Wisconsin. Dave has been in the green industry for over thirty years. He started out in Iowa, and then went to South Carolina, Alabama, and back to Wisconsin, where he was the superintendent at the new golf course, Strawberry Creek in Bristol, Wisconsin. Dave has decided to use his experience on the sales side of the business. Congratulations Dave on your new position.

Last but certainly not least, Congratulations goes out to Steve Wasser. Steve will have dual roles with LESCO Inc. As well as having sales responsibilities in Northern Wisconsin, Steve is now the Regional Manager for the entire state of Minnesota for LESCO Inc. Congratulations Steve on your added responsibility! It is something you have been working at for along time.

This is all the news that we have for right now. If there is anything you would like to share with your fellow superintendents, please give Rob or Steve Wasser a call or e-mail at 262-206-0775 or 920-362-1809 or e-mail sls200@lesco.com or sls224@lesco.com. 



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