



# ANOTHER SEASON CLOSES

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

The stress of summer appears to be behind us for the year. This past summer will be remembered as very hot, humid and dry. Isn't it amazing how the grass responds to cooler temperatures and some decent rainfall? It has been a much needed relief for what we have been through June, July and August and all this following a very harsh winter.

Monroe Miller was inducted into the Wisconsin State Golf Association's Hall of Fame on Sunday August 28. A reception was held for him at Blackhawk Country Club Sunday afternoon. It was a beautiful sunny day and over 275 supporters attended the event in honor of Monroe. He has been the superintendent at Blackhawk CC for 33 years, the only superintendent position he has ever held. Monroe is first golf course manager to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, a very well deserved award to an outstanding gentleman. We are very proud of Monroe's accomplishments and honored to have him as our Editor and a true leader in our profession. Be sure to congratulate him next time you see him.

## **Congratulations Monroe!**

The remainder of this article is written by my wonderful and supportive wife, Laurie. She has always wanted to write from a superintendent wife's perspective. Well here it is.

## **"Dad's Golf Course"**

"We're going to go to my Dad's golf course, do you want to come?" Here is a statement and invitation I have often heard one of our children make over the past 19 years. Marc does not own his own golf course; yet, our kids have always referred to the course as "Dad's golf course".

Even though we try to explain to the young ones that Dad does not own the golf course and he only works there, they do not give up — it's still Dad's. Perhaps one reason for this feeling is Marc's sense of ownership in "his" course. The kids see how important his job is to him and how much he enjoys his profession. They witness how he lovingly cares for the people he works with and the land he grooms, protects, and beautifies. The young ones giggle and the teenagers



smirk as Marc shares his excitement over the equipment he uses and his utter joy over the spray of the sprinklers.

His enthusiasm is contagious and spills over onto us, his family. This could explain why I still get a kick out of hearing our kids call Marc's place of employment "Dad's golf course." The phrase rings with a sense of pride I know our kids have in their dad and what he does as a profession. It tickles me to hear them tell others, both peers and adults, what their dad does for a living. They seem to glow as they speak. They know it is a unique and special profession. Even more exciting is listening to and watching how others

respond to what our kids have to say about their dad's job. "Ah, Sweet! I wish my dad was a golf course superintendent."

"You get to drive the carts?!" "Do you get to golf for free?"

I must admit, I too swell with a sense of pride when it is my turn to share with others what my husband does for a living. When I first become acquainted with someone, there is always the inevitable question, "What does your husband do?" As I tell them, the response I typically receive is one of genuine interest and awe (and the usual question, "What does he do in the winter?") Sometimes men share with me a feeling of envy and have stated they think being a golf course superintendent must be one of the best jobs. At a recent dinner event at the country club a female member told me she thought most of the men present that evening wish they had Marc's job.

How can one not feel pride? I am proud of your profession as I hope you are, too. You provide a wonderful environment for others to enjoy. A place where friends or family members can spend some time together. A place where some very important business relationships develop. A place where one can be with him/herself for a time of solitude and reflection. And don't forget a place for birds and the various other critters who find sanctuary on "your" course. You are very fortunate and blessed to work with the beautiful creation of nature and with many wonderful and interesting people.

I'm done rambling, now it's time to go hit a few balls at "Dad's golf course." ♣