



# Thanks for the Memories!

By **Monroe S. Miller**, Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

Finally, after nearly two and a half decades, Cheryl Miller is getting her dining room table back. And a desk in the guest bedroom. There's also a possibility the lawn will be mowed in a more timely fashion and we will be able to plan a vacation around work schedules and nothing else. No wonder she is a happy girl!

The reason for our newly found freedom, of course, is that I am retiring as the volunteer editor of *The Grass Roots*. This is my last issue after 24 years in the position. It will take six months just to get the ink stains out of my hands!

Some are surprised that I am not feeling more melancholy or sadness. The reason is simple: the time demand is great and I have a long list of things I want (and some I need) to do. Also, as you age, your energy level diminishes and we are in a high energy profession. Once I am done with the responsibilities I get paid to handle at the golf course and head home at the end of the day, I am pooped. The days of staying up and typing, editing and writing until the wee small hours are over. So I have to move on.

When I started as editor I had several goals. The first intention was education, and with the help of our UW - Madison faculty (past and current), the USGA staff (past and current), and many sharp and well spoken golf course superintendents and colleagues in allied fields, I can declare "mission accomplished."

The need to record our history, from the personalities to the weather, was important. Gene Haas declared that goal accomplished after he had written his book, "Caring for the Green," a history of the WGCSA. *The Grass*

## Design.

New Courses, Restoration, Renovation  
Construction Management

## Build.

New Construction  
Renovation and Restoration

In this game, it's all about perfect execution.



Grand Geneva Resort and Spa

Before



Proposed



Constructed



*Distinctive. Innovative. Memorable.*

[www.lohmann.com](http://www.lohmann.com) 815.923.3400

## GOLFCREATIONS

Building on Experience

[www.golfcreations.com](http://www.golfcreations.com) 815.923.1868



*Roots* served as an information source for him.

I wanted *The Grass Roots* to provide a forum to express opinions of the day, and it did that. We also laughed at Steve Scoville's cartoons about us and about golf courses and got to know the character "Putter" quite well! We fell in love with Jen's and Bev's gorgeous covers. We tried to keep track of marriages and births, moves and promotions and hobbies. We mourned those colleagues and friends who passed away.

We got to know one another better through interviews. An awesome collection of photographs was developed and is still available - I wore out three or four or five cameras! Our social activities were written about, our golf games (loose translation there!) were noted and great accomplishments of individuals were applauded.

*The Grass Roots* was intended to make our chapter feel at least a little bit like a family. I always compared it to a small town newspaper that does that for the community it serves. Whether it succeeded or not is for others to decide.

There are a few other things I am especially proud of. Working as a vol-

unteer has great appeal, in the same way we have no paid officers or directors. The effort is made for the right reasons, not for money. Not all would agree, but that is how I feel.

For all the years we competed in the GCSAA chapter publications contest, we finished first in our category every years except one. And that year we finished second to a publication that mysteriously had slid into the volunteer category after having never been there previously. As Wayne Otto was given to say, "I was born at night, but not last night!"

I never missed an issue and never missed a deadline. It always seemed silly to receive a September/October issue at Christmas time!

And even if nothing else was accomplished, I feel we did always portray the golf course superintendents in Wisconsin in the light of truth which, in turn, reflected very favorably on us.

It is impossible to thank everyone who made a contribution and effort to *The Grass Roots* over the past 24 years, so I won't even try. Please, you know who you are and I ask you to accept my silent gratitude. On the other hand, in a general way, I extend heartfelt thanks to our advertisers. They paid all the bills! Without

them, we wouldn't have needed an editor, and I think about their tremendous contribution to our chapter in this way. The great people at Kramer Printing are tops at their game, and we were the beneficiary of their professionalism. I have made so many friends there, and I am going to miss waltzing in at 4:00 A.M. before I head to the golf course and talking foolishness with them. There are a few who won't miss having me turn out the lights, however!

I started as the editor of *The Grass Roots* when I was in my thirties, and now I am in my sixties! Enough already! When I started I would help paste up galley columns on hard boards to be photographed. Now, much of what I do is computer driven and electronic - such changes. I am going to miss the rush I got with every single issue when I would first see it, but I am not going to miss the time requirement.

Dave Brandenburg will take over as editor starting with the January/February 2008 issue. He will do a wonderful job; please help and support him as much as you did me.

Thanks for the memories. It has been a privilege and a lot of fun. 🌿





# WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN, IF NOT FOR MONROE MILLER:

(OBSERVATIONS OFFERED DESPITE THE STRENUOUS OBJECTION OF MSM)

