



Ahh, Here We Go...

By **Dustin Riley**, Certified Golf Course Superintendent, Oconomowoc Golf Club



Winter *should* be leaving us soon. Mother Nature has definitely provided a winter that many of us will not forget for some time. Personally, I am sick of plowing and shoveling snow every 3 days. Most of us utilize winter as a time to prepare and re-energize for the upcoming season. But this never ending snow is exhausting.

Several freeze-thaw cycles, January rains and the subsequent ice accumulation have started to create a little anxiety in the back of our minds. Hopefully spring arrives in an orderly fashion and we can finally begin the cleanup process and assess the health our turf areas.

Nevertheless, spring will be here and there's a lot to get excited about. How about the smell of the 1st mowing of the year? That's one of my favorites. Another is the placement of all of the re-furbished ball washers, benches, flags and other course supplies. I love that "new" look, for at least 1 month or so until a member slams his \$500 driver into a tee marker, or a bird deposits their last meal onto the clean bench boards, or the first dandelion head pops up. Then I think...Ahh, here we go...

The 2008 WGCSA event calendar is pretty well set and we are anticipating a great year of education and meeting sites. Developing the monthly meetings, educational opportunities, tracking governmental and environmental concerns requires some effort from each of the respective committees. We are always searching for individuals interested in helping out on any of the committees. So, if anyone is interested or even has a curiosity about getting involved in the Association, I invite you contact the Board of Directors to discuss. Good help and great ideas are always welcome.

The Board of Directors continually considers opportunities to help the Association's services progress and improve. We will be implementing a change to our mailing communications later this year. Many of our employers and other business contacts have already changed their communications from paper to electronic. We, too, will be going "paper-less". Don't worry, the Grass Roots will still be provided in its award winning form. This process will take a little time to convert and will include a period in which both methods are used until things are running smooth. Once implemented, each member will receive an email alert of an

update (job posting, meeting announcement etc.) and that the information can be found at WGCSA.com. Therefore, each member will need a valid email address. If you do not have an email address, you can acquire one from the following websites at no cost: Yahooemail.com or Hotmail.com. There are probably several other sites that provide free email. Directing this information through the website will increase the use of our website's value such as the forum, equipment sales and employment notices. Going "paper-less" will eventually save the Association thousands of dollars annually in mailing and stationary costs.

I'd like to thank all of our vendor sponsors that assisted in the success of our events throughout the year. Due to the birth of my 2nd daughter, I was unable to attend this year's GIS and Wisconsin Room in Orlando. I understand the Wisconsin gathering was well attended and enjoyed by all. Vendor support is key in that success. Please thank those industry partners that have contributed to the success of all of WGCSA affairs. Maintaining a positive partnership with our industry partners can only make this association stronger and more beneficial to everyone involved.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 21st at Geneva National in Lake Geneva. See you there. 🌱



T. J. Emmerich Associates, Inc
Irrigation Consultants

W28620 Beverly Lane • Hartland, WI 53029

262-538-2776

Golf Course • Commercial • Master Planning
System Evaluations • GPS Services

Thomas J. Emmerich
Certified Irrigation Designer