



New Year. Same Challenges

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



The holiday season has past and we are now into the year 2009. I'm guessing that many of us have already broken or forgot about that "New Year's Resolution" made to make 2009 a better year. It may be a new year, but it would be foolish to assume that the challenges that presented themselves last year wouldn't carry over into this year. Our nation's economy is affecting all of us personally and professionally. Although we pride ourselves on being fiscally responsible managers for our facilities, we must continue to develop skills and ideas to maximize our resources. Education and exposure to new ideas will be more valuable now than ever. Yes, education typically comes with a cost. But that minor cost can result in significant savings. Whether your preferred educational choice is the Golf Industry Show or the many WGCSA educational opportunities, please make the effort to continue the development of your skills and re-enforce the value you bring to your operation.

With the start of this new year, I would like to thank David Swift, GCS at Whistling Straits, for his Board of Director service over the last couple of years. Thank you, Dave, for your time, input and efforts to serve the members of the WGCSA. Next, I'd like to welcome Scott Bushman, CGS at Fox Valley GC located in Kaukauna. Scott was elected to serve on the Board of Directors at the Fall Business Meeting. As the Board of Directors evaluates and leads the Association, we are always looking for

assistance and fresh ideas. If you are interested in getting involved, we have several committees that would benefit from some volunteer efforts. Please contact any of the Board members to discuss any interest.

As announced at the 2008 Turf Symposium, the WGCSA has created a new scholarship, the Monroe Miller Literary Award. This scholarship will be presented annually to a student with the best written article to be published within *The Grass Roots*. If you are a student, please consider preparing an article for submission. The criterion for the Monroe Miller Literary Award is being developed and will be presented soon.

Hopefully most of the WGCSA members which attended the GIS were able to attend the Opening Session in New Orleans. Monroe Miller was presented with the 2009 Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award. Congratulations Monroe. Your efforts and successes have benefited all members of the WGCSA.

The Spring Business Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 2nd in Fond du Lac. Please consider attending this event for educational opportunity and an update on any Association business.

A wish everyone great weather, a great golf season and a great year. 🌿

WW

Water Well Solutions

Design, Service, & Installation

888-769-9009

Oconomowoc, WI • Coal City, IL

www.waterwellsolutions.com