



Spring Hopes

By **David Brandenburg**, Golf Course Manager, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

Wow, what a winter! Hopefully by the time this issue is printed and delivered most of us will be out on the links preparing our golf courses for the coming season if not dodging players out for the first rounds of the spring. It seems like it has been snowing for 6 months and even though January dropped little snow it was cold and long.

At the Reinders Turf Conference the past two days, nervous turf managers discussed the recent rains and possibilities of crown hydration damage. Operators of northern courses have had snowcover for over 100 days and are wondering how their snow mold applications will hold out through the next few weeks. Hopefully everyone goes into spring with healthy turf and happy customers!

Be sure to thank the vendors you use who advertise in *The Grass Roots*. It is through their support the WGCSA is able to bring you this publication. If you use a vendor who is not currently advertising be sure to twist their arm a little bit. You, as a customer of a potential advertiser have more influence than your editor just cold calling them.

Laverne A "Deak" DeCramer died on February 23, 2009 in Ripon at the age of 82. Deak was the golf course professional and manager at Tuscumbia Country Club from 1962 to 1982 and then he was a mechanic for Lawsonia Links from 1985 to 1990.

He is survived by his children, Kevin of Brandon, Marcia or Milwaukee, Laird of Princeton and Henry of Yulee, FL. Per Deak's request a time of gathering will be held in August.

Congratulations to John Jolin on his recent retirement as superintendent of Chaska Golf Course in Neenah. John joined the turf business later than most as a second career but in the times I have talked to him, he really seemed to enjoy it.

The staff at Chaska with help from John's wife Dolly hosted a surprise retirement party for him at the club. John is an 11 year member of WGCSA and won the Leadership Award from the Golf Course Owners of Wisconsin in 2007. It is truly a small world as John attended high school with my dad in Marion, WI while his mom has been going to lunch at the Marion Senior Center with my Grandfather.



Enjoy your retirement John and thanks for the friendship. Good luck to Jamie Ritchie in filling John's shoes as superintendent at Chaska.

The year of change continues for our family as my Grandfather Reno celebrated his 90th birthday with a well attended party on January 31. We could all be so lucky to live that long with relatively good health and family members around. He shared my love of baseball and you could count on him watching the Little Falls Loggers play other small town teams every Sunday in the summer.

I was glad I was able to attend the party and although Reno was in good spirits he made no secret it was probably going to be his last birthday. And true to his word, Grandpa decided 90 years was enough and just stopped breathing March 4th. A funeral for a 90 year is an occasion to mourn but also to remember many happy times and realize the lucky ones "check out" on their own terms.

90 years is a long time, and when you consider all the changes since 1919 it seems nearly impossible to live that long. Grandpa grew up in the depression, served in the Army for 4 years in Europe during World War II and worked at the Marion Body Works. Heck, he enjoyed retirement for 27 years, or more than my adult life. He joked a few years ago that his class reunions used to start at 6 and he would get home at 3am and now they start at noon and he is home by 3pm.

Spring is springing and warmer weather is around the corner. Good luck to all of you this golf season and remember to take time to spend some money in a local store, hug the kids, pat the dog, and spend time with the important people in your life. I mean your family and friends, not the Tuesday ladies league! 🌱