

## Spring? Spring? Spring?

By David Brandenburg, Editor

Here I am on March 30 wondering when spring will spring out of its hiding spot and show its sunny face.

Actually it is supposed to be nice today and tomorrow and a few courses have shed their winter coats in order to open the range if not the course itself.

The only real difference from last spring is we have had a lot of sunny days and we have a lot less snow. I was surprised by how little snow we actually had on the flat areas after walking the course a few weeks ago. Of course the swales and near the mounds had waist or even chest deep snow.

Golfer and maintenance staffs have the itch to get going as can be told by visits from members to the golf shop and seasonal workers to the turf care facility wondering when we will be back on the links.

We do not open until we can change cups

and the greens have firmed up from frost leaving the top foot or so. It will be interesting to see what effect the deep frost has on spring conditions. In Fond du Lac the snow melt drained away decent and the recent .9" of rain did also so there must be cracks for the water to find the subsoil.

Pressurizing the irrigation system may be a challenge as I expect a number of frost heave breaks near valve boxes.

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The Kohler Company is looking to build a 5th course just south of Sheboygan in the Town of Wilson just north of Kohler-Andrae State Park. The area only has room for 18 holes but 4 of those could easily be along Lake Michigan. It is still early in the process but it is big news for a state with

a growing reputation for championship golf.

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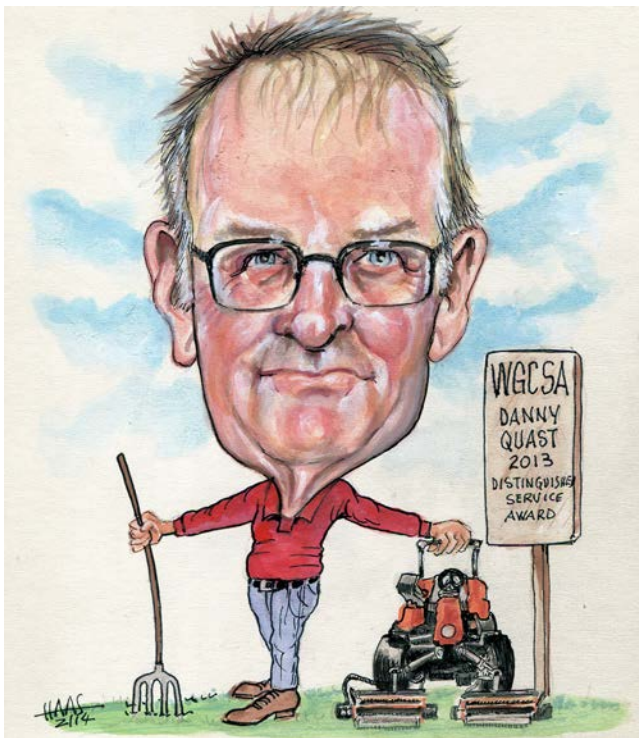
Wisconsin's Andy North has been named Tom Watson's vice captain for the Ryder Cup this fall. The cup will be held Sept. 23-28 at Gleneagles in Perthshire, Scotland.

North a two time US Open Champion was a member of the 1985 team. Since 1985 the European team has a 9-4-1 advantage over the US team. The Americans have not won in Europe since 1993 and are hoping North's experience will help.

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The National Golf Foundation numbers show that at least 36 million baby boomers



Gene Haas submitted this drawing to help celebrate Danny Quast recent reception of the WGCSA Distinguished Service Award.



Visitors to the Milwaukee Golf Show had a chance to see the PGA Championship Wanamaker Trophy and the Ryder Cup.

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

will reach the retirement age in the next 15 years. Hopes are the 7.3 million of those who are golfers will play an extra 50 million rounds over the next 15 years.

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With high school boys golf starting we have decided to limit prime time practices by our 5 schools while allowing unlimited time after 5:30. If you are a parent with a child in school you know baseball and basketball teams have late practices all the time due to limited school facilities. Why then do golf teams have to play at 3:15 every day?

Even with 27 holes by May 1 each year we have leagues and public play looking to enjoy the range or course and are disappointed to have to wait for a tee time or worse play behind the 3rd alternate to the JV team taking 3 hours to shoot 129.

We are hoping to encourage the less experienced players to play more total rounds just not right after school when everyone else wants to play.

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Good luck to you, your families and your operations as we begin the 2014 season. I hope it is a safe and prosperous one for you.

Take advantage of a terrific schedule of association events this summer. Plus they are only being held on calm, comfortable sunny days this year.

Don't forget to take time to enjoy that daily sunrise the Good Lord blesses us with as you start your day. Smell the flowers, the fresh cut grass and hear the sound of the birds, frogs and crickets and relax!

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Foley-United, named Reinders, Inc. as 2013 Distributor of the Year at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FL. L-R John Jensen (Reinders), Ron Blodgett (Foley-United), Mark Robel (Reinders), Derek Kastenschmidt (Reinders), Jim Letourneau (Foley United), Craig Reinders (Reinders), Tim Snell (Reinders), Joe Etten (Reinders), Steve Stewart (Reinders), Greg Turner (Foley-United).