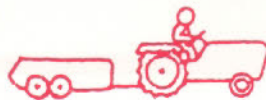


Spreading the Breeze

By Rod Johnson



Dateline: Sheboygan — October 11 — 9:00 A.M. First snowflakes sighted in a gray northwestern sky. It's 38 degrees and there's a snappy 35 mph breeze. It must be for real — the endless golf season of 1988 is grinding to an end. Whoever said, "It's a short season?" Must have been an over anxious member back in late March.

I'm a true believer that Golf Course Superintendents possess some of the best senses of humor anywhere. Our low-key subdued nature and our willingness to accept those things that we just can't change makes this double header story appropriate. After two months of drought unequaled in the past 100 years — rain finally fell, unfortunately it was Wednesday morning, LADIES' DAY. On that pleasurable morning a young, shall we say "Green" Superintendent decided to take advantage of the respite from constant irrigation and grab a cup of coffee at the Clubhouse. Unaware of pending danger, the "rookie" entered the Clubhouse only to encounter the normal Wednesday morning group. Looking out the windows in disgust that it would dare rain on their parade, one of the more vocal female members approached our hero and in complete brilliance asked if he had ordered this rain? Being quite witty himself, and trying to avoid further confrontation, the Superintendent responded, "Yes, and next time I'll avoid having it delivered via the U.S. Mail." The scene ends with the Superintendent hastily retreating in his fast moving golf car through a downpour singing at the top of his voice.

From what I have seen, Wisconsin golf courses survived this year's drought/summer stress quite well and those who had problems already are well on the road to recovery. It's amazing how the focus has changed from two years ago when the major topic was drainage. I hear a lot of conversation, at home included, about expanding irrigation reservoirs, new wells, new systems, etc.

A November writing would not be complete without a summary of late season WGCSA events. Our September and October meetings seem to bring out the best as members' golf games are sharpened to razor sharp edges. Long distance driving and exceptionally fine putting strokes seem to

be the rule rather than the exception.

In September our gathering was hosted by **Bob Belfield** and golf was played over the Kettles and Hills of Richfield. This was our annual tournament meeting and to no one's surprise **Bruce Schwieger** successfully defended his crown. In a minor upset, **Dick Evenson** was stripped of his associates flight title by the **Hot Shooting Brian Schmidt**.

A most successful October meeting was held in beautiful Door County at Cherry Hills with **Tom Parent** hosting. Reports from those present described a great day despite a late afternoon shower. I'm sorry a schedule conflict made it impossible for me to attend. It would have been great to see a Door County parking lot full of pickups with Wisconsin plates rather than Cadillac plates with Illinois plates.

This issue's writing finds us fresh off an outstanding WGCSA Dinner Dance Weekend. What an extravaganza! Many thanks are due to **Mark Kienert** for his organization of this event in addition to all of our regular monthly meetings. With the help of **Mark Grundman**, Hospitality Host, and **Jeff Bottensek**, Host Superintendent, the success of this popular event was guaranteed.

Stevens Point is a great site for this event and approximately 40 WGCSA couples can't be wrong. If you weren't there, you should have been. Kienert even hired a decent band. There is discussion among WGCSA members to upgrade Mark's probationary membership status. It's just talk at this time, but who knows. With a couple more years of experience, he may qualify!

The weekend was highlighted by the meeting of many old faces (I mean people who have known each other for a while) and an influx of new blood. Dinner introductions showed almost as many "rookies" as "5 year Vets."

For those of you who weren't there, all of this will sound like mumbled jargon, but read on and let your imagination run wild as I historically document some of the event's lighter moments.

First, **Wayne and Joanne "Long Ball" Otto** dethroned the **West Bend Worzella's** in the Mr. & Mrs. Moe Golf Tourney. The Otto's shot a record score of 36 over the gruelling 9 holes of the

event. **Bonnie Grundman**, former budget director for Jimmy Carter, was the official score keeper. In his enthusiasm, Wayne was last seen dragging the Championship Trophy into the sunset.

The evening deteriorated (or there were more highlights, depending on your viewpoint) when the music started. Worthy of documentation were: **Steven Schmidt** doing a John Travolta imitation on a chair, **Bruce "Mr. Jamaica" Worzella**, **Joe "The Worm" Wollner**, and **Cathy Belfield** dancing on and in **Jim Spindler's** boots. Not to be out done, **Sue Norton** unknowingly lost an undergarment during some especially intense dancing.

Chuck and Kim Wollner from Christmas Mountain in Wisconsin Dells — first time attenders — provided some real excitement to the weekend. Kim went into labor on the golf course after about four holes, but being a real competitor finished the round. She also returned to the Holiday Inn after golf, took a short rest and was out and around. Later in the evening it was decided that this was the real thing and the WGCSA Dinner Dance recorded it's first birth. Chuck and Kim were the proud parents of a baby girl at 10:08 P.M. Chuck did return to the party later. Uncle Joe brought the cigars and champagne.

The evening was topped off by **Jeff Bottensek's** inability to rent lodging within the city limits of Stevens Point. Jeff, your reputation proceeds you. Think about it; would you rent a room to Jeff?

This issue finds a couple of re-routings to report. **Pat Norton** is back in the ranks as Golf Course Superintendent at Cedar Creek Country Club in Onalaska. Having visited the construction site, I can attest that Pat landed a potential beauty. Lucky for Pat, this all happened before his U-haul Gold Card Preferred Customer Discount expired. Best of luck, Pat, and may you take root.

In a move that hits home, **Scott Schaller** has left as Assistant Superintendent here at Pine Hills and is now Superintendent at South Hills Club in Fond du Lac. There is an empty feeling when assistants leave that is quickly erased when they succeed. Again, best of luck!

Enough is Enough. Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

P.S. Don't forget the O. J. Noer Center at Budget Time.