

Spreading the Breeze

By Rod Johnson



Oh Happy Summer — or Happy Labor Day as you read this. Our Editor **Monroe Miller** has written several original articles on his favorite holidays. I think that every WGCSA Superintendent is looking forward to this year's Labor Day and its signal of fall with more anticipation than my five-year-old does toward Christmas. I think Labor Day will be my favorite holiday, even if I'll probably have to work. Ask your club for a Labor Day bonus in lieu of a Christmas bonus and see what reaction you get.

Oh Endless Summer — I would prefer to not write about this year's weather, but I will, by an unpopular request. Maybe twenty years from now someone will pick up an ancient copy of *The Grass Roots* and smile about how rough we thought we had it.

When did this all start? Spring started innocently enough, if not slowly, with rather cool temperatures, but not enough rain to hamper routine spring activities. I guess it was mid-May when the reality hit. "If it doesn't rain pretty soon it's going to be a long one." And a long one it's been. Throw the average precipitation out the door with the dusty rain gear. I have first year employees who still haven't enjoyed their first rain day. The nuts and bolts, paint and cleaning supply sections have never gone this long without reorganization.

As a true barometer of the severity of the drought, try calling the Irrigation Department at **Reinders**. In frustration of being put on hold, I had an em-

ployee hang on the line until someone answered. I didn't see the employee for three weeks and got a nasty bill from Ma Bell!

In the "So you think you had it rough" category, try to imagine yourself in the position of **Mark Kienert** at Bull's Eye. Yes, most of the rumors you heard were true. On June 20th Mark's water was turned off! The Wisconsin River, which is the irrigation water source for Bull's Eye, fell to dangerously low water flows and all irrigation permits were yanked. I know other courses were similarly affected, but I don't have first-hand reports from them. Best of luck in your overseeding and may all your fairways be upright and green.

On the positive side (boy, I have to dig deeply for a positive), everyone's rough mowers should have gotten a rest this year and the mosquitos really weren't too bad.

Despite the trying weather, our WGCSA monthly meetings continue to be well attended. Both the June meeting hosted by **Tom Schab** at Monroe Country Club (must be nice to have a country club named after yourself) and the July meeting held at Milwaukee County's Dretzka Park and hosted by **Bill Knight** were highly successful. Don't you just love the new evening format? Short and sweet and on the road by 8 p.m. if you so choose.

By the time you read this we will have enjoyed our August meeting and the hospitality of Camelot. **Red Roscof** always throws a great event

— his reputation precedes him, and his enthusiasm is second to none. Weather permitting, winners of star-lite golf will be announced in a future issue.

Don't forget upcoming events of importance to all WGCSA members:

September meeting

Kettle Hills, Bob Belfield, Host

October meeting

Cherry Hills, Tom Parent, Host

October 7 & 8

WGCSA Dinner Dance

Stevens Point

October 10

WTA Golf Outing, Butte des Morts

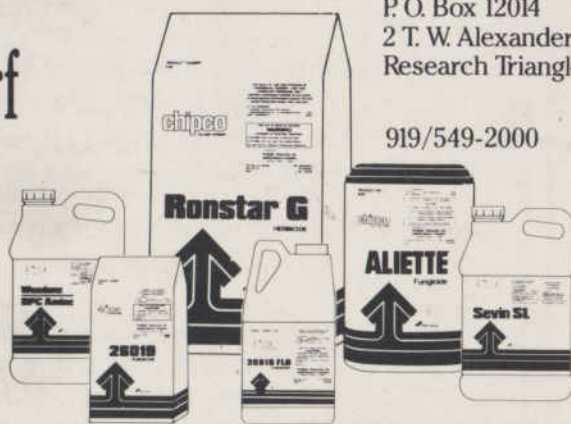
October 25 & 26

Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium
Milwaukee

A few job relocations to report — some a little late — some right on time. **Jeff Parks** is the Golf Course Superintendent at the new U.W. Golf Course. An early 1990 opening is planned for this exciting new facility. **Dave Helke**, Parks' former assistant at Lake Arrowhead, has been promoted to Superintendent at the beautiful Wisconsin Rapids course. **James "Uno" Wunrow** left the high ground to become Assistant to Helke. **Jordan "Sandman" Sensibar** left Lakeshore Sand and is now on the road for the fast-growing Spring Valley Products.

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and
Wednesday, Oct. 26th

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