



The First Issue of the New Decade!



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JOHNSON Elected President of WGCSA

By Monroe S. Miller

Rodney W. Johnson golf course superintendent at Sheboygan Pine Hills Country Club, was elected president of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association at the annual election meeting on November XX.

Johnson, 35, brings excellent credentials to the office. He is beginning his tenth year as golf course superintendent at Pine Hills. In that time he has given that club some of the finest playing conditions in Wisconsin, both on a daily basis and for the numerous state tournaments hosted by Pine Hills.

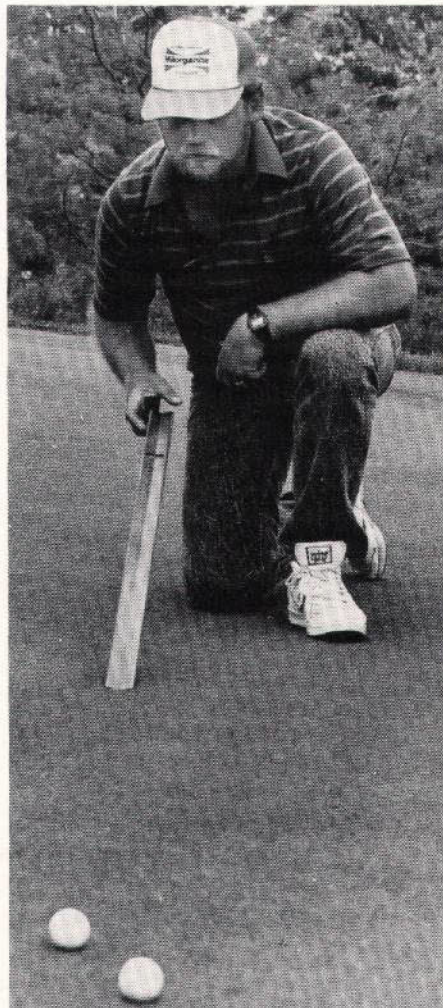
Prior to assuming the management of the Pine Hills golf course, Rodney served two years as assistant golf course superintendent at North Hills Country Club (1979-1981), three years as golf course superintendent at Clifton Highlands Golf Club in Prescott (1976-1979), and two years as superintendent for Thunder Mountain in Crivitz (1974-1976).

Rod's formal education earned him an associate degree in Horticultural Production from Gateway Technical Institute in Kenosha in 1974.

In addition to his extensive experience as a WGCSA director and officer, Rod is also a past member of the board of directors of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association.

Natives of Osseo, Rodney and his high school sweetheart, Janell, have been married for 16 years. They have two sons — Brent (15) and Joey (6).

By reading the wide ranging interview that follows, you'll have a chance to get a feel for the direction and philosophy that will guide our association into the next decade.



GR: What first sparked your interest in golf courses and golf course management?

J: I first got interested in golf course management at the age of 14. My father was president of the Osseo Golf Club. During his term the golf course

was completely renovated, including the construction of new bentgrass greens. The course had oiled sand greens prior to the renovation. Nine greens, a putting green, a complete manual irrigation system and several new tees were constructed for a total cost of less than \$50,000! Ninety percent of the work was done by the members on a voluntary basis. I remember clearly riding "shotgun" with my dad in a large dump truck hauling green mix to the green sites. I also remember being put on the wrong end of a shovel to fill in irrigation trenches. Nevertheless, I was hooked!

GR: How do you view the role of the WGCSA president?

J: As president of our organization, I see myself wearing many hats. When dealing with other groups, I will serve as a spokesman for our group. I am also a spokesman for the board of directors within our own membership. We have established policies which are continually reviewed and updated to meet our present membership's needs. It is the president's role to see that policies are in the best interest of the entire membership, and to see that they are followed. Our bylaws state that the president appoints standing committees. My efforts have been to match interests and talents to specific committees. The role of my elected office is not to subject the membership to my personal preferences and opinions, but rather, to listen to the opinions of others and make them the basis of decisions.

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