



The **Stars** and **Stripes** fly over this issue of *THE GRASS ROOTS* to honor the American men and women who served in the Persian Gulf.



# THE GRASS ROOTS

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## MAINTENANCE FACILITIES

### *The Wisconsin Survey*

By Robert J. Erdahl

Just what is a golf course maintenance facility? Is it that unassuming old dairy barn out on the Back Nine? Or is it that modern steel building over on the sixth hole that resembles a county highway department garage? We all know that here in Wisconsin we have examples of both of these extremes as well as just about everything in between.

Regardless of its age, size and appearance, our maintenance facilities are being called upon to fulfill an ever demanding role in golf course management. Today's golf course maintenance facilities must comply with a myriad of government regulations, address the safety and comfort of our employees, provide adequate shop area to service sophisticated equipment, store larger equipment fleets and take into consideration the increasing role of women in the work force.

Given this imposing list of requirements, is your maintenance facility up to the task? To be honest, mine falls woefully short in satisfying all of the above criteria. In fact, my maintenance facility is one of those old dairy barns that was modified 25 years ago and has seen no further improvements. I know that my situation is not unique, for there are many golf course superintendents in Wisconsin who work with maintenance facilities that can no longer fulfill the demands of modern golf course management.

So where do we go from here? The obvious solution is to remodel an exist-

ing maintenance facility or to build a new one. The realization of this solution, however, can often be blocked by economic limitations, government red tape, membership attitudes and other factors that might be unique to a particular golf course. All these issues aside, the basic problem of inadequate maintenance facilities remains for many superintendents and we need a place to start our quest for new and/or remodelled maintenance facilities.

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For members of the WGCSA, problem solving is likely to start with an exchange of ideas with our peers. It seems to follow, then, that a forum for establishing the current state of golf course maintenance facilities in Wisconsin as well as a look at what may lie ahead could provide valuable information for all superintendents seeking to upgrade their maintenance facilities. In order to provide such a forum, I have written this two-part article for *THE GRASS ROOTS*. In this issue, Part 1 will discuss the results of a survey on golf course maintenance facilities in Wisconsin. Part 2, in the next issue of *THE GRASS ROOTS*, will cover my experiences at North Shore Country Club in the pursuit of a new maintenance facility.

#### PART 1.

#### **A Survey of Golf Course Maintenance Facilities in Wisconsin**

A survey on golf course maintenance facilities was sent out to a cross section of WGCSA members. The survey asked for the present size of the following maintenance facility components as well as any plans for improvements in the next 1-3 years:

#### HEATED AREAS

- Office
- Lunch Room
- Men's Locker Room
- Women's Locker Room
- Work Shop
- Parts Room
- Grinding Room
- Store Room
- Equipment Storage
- Other Rooms

#### UNHEATED AREAS

- Equipment Storage
- General Storage
- Other Rooms

The survey also asked for the age of all buildings that make up the maintenance facility. In addition, respondents were asked to describe their present situation and future plans for pesticide storage—mixing/loading, fertilizer storage, fuel storage and top-dressing storage. I have tabulated the results from the 30 surveys I received and have come up with some interesting facts that are contained in the following discussion.

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