



*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!*



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SYMPOSIUM GETS RAVE REVIEWS!

By Monroe S. Miller

By all accounts, the 1992 Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium was one of the best held in the 27 year history of the meeting.

From WGCSA president Bruce Worzella's opening remarks to Jim Latham's closing summary, the material presented by the speakers was timely and interesting.

The topic—*The Green and Tee Complex—Renovating the Surrounds*—piqued the interest and curiosity of golf course superintendents from 16 states. The Symposium committee's rationale for selecting the subject was the widespread updating of older golf courses so that they might offer similar challenges of the many new courses available to golfers.

It's a good thing Jim Moore is no shrinking violet; we needed to hear his hard-edged comments about the state of affairs in golf course construction. He criticized everyone—architects, clubs ("house designers are NOT golf course designers"), contractors ("king-sized egos, no accountability"), golf

course superintendents ("don't take an active enough advocacy role"), and even the USGA.

His critical remarks were complemented with sound advice on how to overcome the problems most often encountered.

Brian Silva is a busy man. We invited him to Wisconsin last year, but he was unable to attend because of his hectic schedule. He penciled the Symposium in his schedule for 1992.

And he is a man of his word. Since he was coming so far (from eastern Massachusetts), it seemed to make sense to have Brian on the program twice. That turned out to be a stroke of genius.

Silva is a blend of lecturer and entertainer, architect and equipment operator, superintendent and player. His comments on "sympathetic restoration" were tremendous and many of us will look at golf courses very differently from now on.

Brian's wealth of experience in bunker restoration was the focus of his afternoon lecture. The slides he showed to emphasize his comments were a lesson in golf design history.

Bob Vavrek talked about green construction and obviously spent a lot of time assembling details on many of the new methods of green construction being touted. The USGA specification green is well known to everyone; less known (and even unknown in some cases) are the California method, the Hurzdan method, the 'Ideal Green Rohoza' method, and the modified USGA method.

For a professional group that is more and more frequently confronting decisions involving construction meth-

ods, Vavrek's summaries couldn't have come at a better time.

Tuesday afternoon's program took a strong turn to the practical when Lee Bruce took the podium and talked about green and tee construction. His remarks were wrapped around slides showing some green/tee/pond work he is completing at the Nakoma Golf Club. Lee answered some great questions from the audience and flattered the group when he commented that after 30-plus years in the commercial landscape business he's "seen no group as concerned about projects as golf course superintendents."

Danny Quast and Monroe Miller were a continuation of a popular format for Tuesday's wrap-up—a panel discussion. They visited about their experiences and recommendations with in-house construction versus contracted work. When the dust settled and the questions were over, they found more common ground and agreement than disagreement.

Professor Norm Hummel has been on sabbatical from Cornell University for a year, working on refinements and details of the USGA specifications for putting green construction. His results have not yet been published, and we were given an early look at the changes.

And the changes make a lot of sense. Hummel was driven by a need to provide more flexibility, to better define limits, to incorporate new technology and provide good scientific rationale, to remove unnecessary steps and to give the industry superior specifications.

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Keynote Speaker Jim Moore