



The Surrounds

By Wayne G. Horman



"*Poa annua* seedheads, *Poa annua* seedheads, *Poa annua* seedheads!!" exclaimed golf course superintendents on my late May visits to Wisconsin golf courses. There is new *Poa annua* where there wasn't any before, and there is even more where there was only a little last year.

Most experts claim there are a couple of reasons for the surge in *Poa annua* populations. The cool, wet weather last fall and again this spring, and our recent mild winter have all contributed to the larger population. Another possible contributing factor is spring or fall aerifications during ideal weather for *Poa annua* germination.

Maybe the *Poa annua* only seems greater when we see seedheads, but whatever is the case, now isn't the time for an outbreak of anthracnose.

My first sighting of seedheads on a golf course was just south of Madison on May 8th. This may not come as a big surprise to anyone, but due to the cool spring, it was about 10-14 days later than last year.

According to the Co-op Extension Bulletin, we are in for a big year of black cutworms. Larger than normal populations are being found in fields. This usually translates into more cutworm activity on putting greens.

Old Hickory GC in Beaver Dam was the first location that I saw cutworm activity. However, unlike other indicators of late spring, cutworms are right on schedule.

A couple of assistant positions have been filled since the last issue. At Brynwood CC, Brian Zimmerman was hired in April. Zimmerman is a recent graduate of the UW-Madison and has previously worked on the crews at Nakoma GC and Maple Bluff CC in Madison.

James Krutilla recently filled his assistant position at Lake Windsor GC. Dennis Dary comes over from Cherokee CC in Madison.

Chad Kempf was recently hired as the new assistant at Merrill Hills CC in Waukesha. Kempf, who was the second assistant at Ville du Parc CC in Mequon last year, is replacing Mark Petitgoue, who was the assistant for the last four years.

Petitgoue has been hired as the new golf course superintendent at The Meadows GC in Dubuque, Iowa. The Meadows is a new 18-hole construction designed and built by the Bob Lohman Golf Design Group.

The new Washington County Golf Course in Hartford has hired Mike Kactro as the golf course superintendent. Kactro, who was previously the superintendent at Koshkonong Mounds GC in Fort Atkinson, will be responsible for all operations at the new public golf course.

Prairie du Chien CC has hired Al Jansen as their new superintendent. Jansen worked for Bob Erdahl at North Shore CC in Mequon.

Dave Van Auken has moved from Blackwolf Run in Kohler to Pine Mountain in the Upper Peninsula. Van Auken will be responsible for the current nine hole course and the new 18-hole addition. Replacing Van Auken at the River Course is Ed Kirchenwitz, who was the superintendent on the Meadow Valley Course. Ron Bierwirth moved up from the assistant position to replace Kirchenwitz.

It was announced in May that the Kohler Company purchased land on Lake Michigan, north of Sheboygan, to develop a new eighteen hole Scottish links style course. The new development will be designed by Pete Dye, architect for the other two Kohler courses. The new course, named Whistling Straits, will be seeded with fine leaf fescues, except for the putting greens. Construction is currently scheduled to begin later this summer.

The Anderson Consulting World Championship of Golf will be holding second round competition at the Blackwolf Run River Course July 31 and August 1. The year-long tournament is being conducted throughout the world in four brackets - the U.S., Japan, Europe and the Rest of the World. The first round winners included Paul Azinger, Mark McCumber, Loren Roberts and Corey Pavin. It sounds like a tough ticket to get, with the gallery being limited to 2,500.

The new construction business continues to expand in Wisconsin. As I mentioned earlier, Family Park GC in Washington county is under construction. It was designed by Arthur Hills. Landscapes Unlimited out of Lincoln, Nebraska is doing the finish work. The Bruce Company has been completing most of the earth moving and rough grading. Seeding is scheduled for later this summer.

Whispering Springs GC, located on what was Ledgewood GC in Fond du Lac, is scheduled for seeding this summer. It is a Lohman design.

The town of St. Germain is adding nine more holes to its current nine hole course. Hamm Brothers from Tomah is building it, and seeding began in June.

Earlier this year I asked Pat Zurawski, golf course superintendent at Reedsburg CC, to let me know when his wife delivered their new baby. "Of course, you'll be first on my list," Pat said with a good laugh.

Well, Jackie Zurawski gave birth to Samuel Patrick on April 23. Later that day I got a call on my recorder announcing their second child. I really don't think Pat meant to call me, since his message said this: "Shoot, I called the wrong number. Oh well, Wayne, we had a baby boy."

See ya soon!! 