



The Surrounds

By Wayne G. Horman



The start of the new year usually provides us an opportunity to modify or change things we've done in the past. Whether those changes are small, like fine tuning a maintenance schedule, or quite dramatic or large, like changing jobs, a new year provides a new start. However, as human beings we tend to be creatures of habit and are somewhat resistant to change.

As I visit with golf course superintendents during the winter months, a question that I often ask is "what are you going to do different this year?" The answer usually depends on what problems might have occurred during the previous year. It is easy to change things when they fail, but people are reluctant to change successful routines. I find this very interesting (not wrong, but interesting) that in our industry in particular, where the weather, equipment, employees and products are changing so frequently, we do not. Anyway, just something for you to chew on until spring starts.

The last few months have brought employment changes for a number of people. At Brynwood Country Club, Steve Blendell is leaving after 12 years as the golf course superintendent at the Milwaukee area club. Blendell will be at Brynwood until April 1st.

Chad Ball has left North Hills CC in Menomonee falls for a job across the border. Conway Farms in Lake Forest, Illinois will be the new home for Ball. Ball has been the superintendent at North Hills for the last five years. Conway Farms was built only a few years ago and is considered one of the best new private courses in the Chicago area.

The North Hills position didn't stay available for very long. The assistant, Randy DuPont, was quickly hired to replace Chad Ball. Dupont has been the assistant at North Hills for the last eight years.

Monroe Country Club has filled Tom Schwab's position as golf course superintendent. Andrew Gruse was hired in January. Gruse previously was the assistant for Scott Schaller at South Hills in Fond du Lac.

A number of new assistant positions have been filled around the state. The first assistant changes to note are the positions that were filled last year but not reported here.

Derek Van Damme was selected as assistant at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison. Van Damme, a May 1995 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Turfgrass Management program, has been working on the BCC staff for a couple of years. He also has experience from the Minneapolis area and from Superior.

Steve Johnson was hired by Paul Delfosse to be his assistant at Brown County Golf Course in Oneida. Johnson was previously the assistant at Bull's Eye Country Club in Wisconsin Rapids.

Paul DeGeorge, a December 1994 graduate of the UW-Madison Turfgrass Management program, was hired as the second assistant for Jerry Kershasky at Westmoor CC in Brookfield.

Todd Cramblit was hired as the assistant for Pat Zurawski at Reedsburg Country Club. Cramblit is also a December graduate of the UW-Madison.

Another UW-Madison December graduate, Chris May, is moving to Colorado to take a crew leader position at Castle Pines CC.

Kelly Johnson, 1984 UW-Madison graduate, has hired Eric Lavold as his assistant golf course superintendent at Oneka Ridge, a new golf course at Hugo, Minnesota. Eric graduated from UW-Madison in December, also.

Glen Flora Country Club in Waukegan, Illinois hired a UW-Madison December grad—Kevin

Henriksen—as the assistant golf course superintendent. Kevin has worked at Kenosha CC and Blackhawk CC.

Some congratulations need to go out to some deserving superintendents. Mike Kilpatrick, the golf course superintendent at the Wanaki Golf Club, a Waukesha County golf course, has recently received his certification as a golf course superintendent. Kilpatrick has been the superintendent at Wanaki since 1988. Prior to moving to Wanaki, Kilpatrick had been the superintendent at Moor Downs golf course in Waukesha.

Also receiving his certification was Jake Renner. Renner is currently golf course superintendent at Trappers Turf in Wisconsin Dells and was previously superintendent at Olympia Resort golf course in Oconomowoc.

At the WTA EXPO held in January, the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association selected Robert Erdahl as its vice president. Erdahl is currently the superintendent at North Shore Country Club in Mequon. Chris Wendorf was elected as a new board member. Roger Bell and Monroe S. Miller will continue as treasurer and secretary.

The Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents are holding their Sixth Annual Spring Turf Symposium on March 27th in Rhinelander. The subject matter is "Landscaping Around the Golf Course".

I hope everyone had a good time in San Francisco! If you get any good pictures from your trip out there, please forward them on to the GRASS ROOTS. Thanks and good luck.

Editor's Note: Humility prevented Wayne from reporting the he was chosen president of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association for 1995 at the Winter EXPO. Congrats to our trusty reporter! 