



The Surrounds



By Wayne G. Horman

Webster's New Dictionary states the meaning of spring as "the season after winter when plants spring up and grow." If anyone can tell me when and where they last saw spring, I would love to know. I usually don't miss things like a season. I didn't miss the summer of 1995, or even this past winter. However, this year it never seemed like spring.

Northern Wisconsin had measurable accumulations of snow into the second week of May. However, without any frost in the ground it didn't take long for the huge piles of snow to melt. This past winter ended up being one of the longest snow covers in many years. Areas north of Rhinelander had over 180 days of cover. Numbers like that make for a very short growing season.

In southern parts of the state we rarely have frost after Memorial Day, but this year we had two nights with very heavy frosts. *Poa annua* seedheads didn't arrive until late May, three to four weeks later than normal.

The disease pressure this spring was as heavy as last year. Leaf spot showed up on greens throughout the state, but it never spread beyond that. The

cool weather never allowed the turfgrass to grow out of it, so it hung around a lot longer.

A number of superintendents noticed reddish brown circular spots on greens and fairways in May. The spots appeared after the three days of 90 degrees F. temperatures. Samples were sent to the TDDL at the Noer Research Facility and were identified as either cool season brown patch or pink snowmold.

The Super/Pro event was held at Green Bay Country Club on May 29th. This golf event raises money for the O.J. Noer Research Foundation (not to be confused with the fall WTA golf outing that raises money for research at the Noer Facility), had 36 superintendents and their golf pros. The winners of the event this year were Pat Shaw and Steve Fischer from The Bog in Saukville.

Brad Wagner was hired as the new golf course superintendent at The Springs Golf Resort in Spring Green. Wagner was previously the superintendent at Janesville Country Club.

Foxfire Country Club opened in Waupaca this past spring. Steve Johnson was hired as the new golf course superintendent. Johnson was previously the

assistant gcs at Brown County Golf Course in Oneida and the Bulls Eye Country Club in Wisconsin Rapids. Johnson had a busy spring, besides the new job. He was married to Jennifer DuPree on June 1st.

In other news, Rod Johnson at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan has been dealing with vandalism on a regular basis. I know a number of golf course superintendents have to deal with vandalism much too often, but cheese popcorn is a new one for me. It is amazing how much damage the oil from popcorn can do.

Gary Tanko, superintendent at SentryWorld, won the Wisconsin State Racquetball Championship in Milwaukee in April. This is Gary's second year in a row to win this championship.

KSL Fairways has purchased another golf course in Wisconsin. Ville du Parc Country Club in Mequon is the second course purchased by the Virginia based golf company. The 27-hole private club will be renamed Mequon Country Club.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison reported that Dr. Julie Meyer has resigned her position in the Plant Pathology Department. Dr. Meyer has been on a maternity leave since last spring. No word yet if her position will be filled.

On a brighter note from the UW-Madison is the news that the two open positions in the Department of Horticulture will be filled later this year. Dr. Frank Rossi's position, as well as the vacant position created with the retirement of Dr. Ed Hasselkus a couple of years ago, will be filled. This is great news with all the downsizing going on at the University.

Have a good summer and I'll see you at the WTA Summer Field Day on August 20th. 🌱



During the heat of July, here's a picture taken in early May at Antigo Bass Lake CC that will offer you relief!