

(Continued from page 9)

products are manufactured. Rotary mowers are assembled in their factory in North Carolina.

It struck me, about mid-morning, that the new look of the Racine facility sort of coincides with the new look of the equipment they manufacture. And even though the equipment has that 90s look, it still has the good engineering, solid construction and

high quality that Knud Jacobsen insisted on when he started his company 75 years ago.

I was thinking about this as we drove past Johnson Wax headquarters: I wonder if these pioneer Wisconsin industrialists — Jerome I. Case, Sam Johnson and Knud Jacobsen knew one another. Did they golf together? Did they know O.J. Noer? Did they discuss busi-

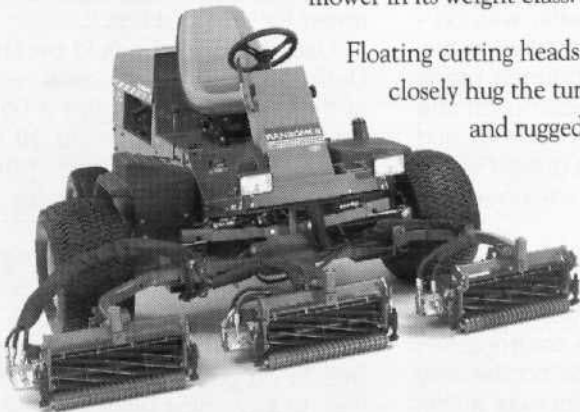
ness philosophies? My answer was "they must have." They offered the world quality products, good customer value and fair prices. They stood behind their products. They were fair to their employees.

This town had more than its share of great Wisconsin companies. And to this day, Jacobsen carries on that long held tradition. I was proud to be their guest again. 🍷

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THE COPS

By Monroe S. Miller

"Assume the position!" hollered Thumbs Walker with a hose gun gripped with both hands. His legs were apart, firmly planted, and both arms were fully extended parallel to the ground. He sounded like an FBI agent, and everybody on Shady Dell Country Club's crew looked to see what the commotion was all about.

And once they saw the two cops who had come into the shop this early morning, they went back to getting ready for work. It was, after all, before six in the morning. And this episode was almost a daily occurrence.

The two big bruisers in blue uniforms cornered Thumbs, carried him over to the steps to the upper level of the shop, and handcuffed him to the railing. "Let me go! Let me go! Police brutality!" screamed Thumbs. The cops were grinning ear to ear; so were most of the guys on the crew.

"You guys better let me go or you'll be late for your freebie donuts and coffee at Craig's Drug Store." Thumbs pleaded to no avail.

"Be quiet, Thumbs," the bigger officer said. "I'm trying to read the paper."

Just then Digger O'Dell walked in, barely in time for work. "Why don't you two bums get out there in the world of crime and arrest somebody?"

The cops looked at each other, walked over to Digger and before he could get away, grabbed him and dragged him over to the stairs and cuffed him next to Thumbs.

"You guys couldn't find horse manure in a stable. Go have another jelly donut."

Both Digger and Thumbs knew the cops; knew them well, in fact. Both cops—Steve Ball and Tom Hill—had worked at the golf course with them for the years they were in college studying criminal justice. For as long as Bogey Calhoun had known them, they both had wanted to be police officers in their hometown.

Seeing them this morning remind-

ed him, as it did most mornings, of what excellent golf course employees they had been. Not only were they physically strong and capable of enormous amounts of work, both were smart and conscientious and a little old fashioned. They smiled easily, were easy going and consummate gentlemen. Each had a perfect personality for law enforcement. And they looked the part, too: crewcuts with white sidewalls.

Bogey got to thinking back to the lunch hours when Tom and Steve were on the crew. Invariably, after they'd eaten, one would pass the other and knock his hat off or give him a push. Then the battle was on—a wrestling match ensued and the two young bulls would finish lunch break rolling around and wrestling on the shop floor. Bogey would have to end it with a "knock it off you guys. One of you will get hurt and we have too much work to do."

New employees on Calhoun's crew were easy marks for the cops. Sometime in early summer it seemed each experienced some confrontation with the cops. It might be on the way to work when one of them was a little late for a 5:00 a.m. start. Then it would happen—the full brace of flashing red and blue lights, siren screaming and a cop barking orders over a bullhorn. The unsuspecting kid took days to recover. One time Bogey

chewed on them—"You are scaring the hell out of the new guys"—only to have one of the cops remind Calhoun of his more famous practical jokes.

Every summer there was a set up. Sometime before 6:00 a.m. but after most of the crew had assembled, the cops would roll in to the shop yard and drive the squad directly into the shop. The new employees would stare, wondering what was going on. Steve and Tom would pile out of the car, asking for the subject of the set up. When the kid quietly raised his hand, the cops would say something like "we've got a warrant for your arrest for selling drugs."

Usually, the kid would be shocked. Until someone on the crew—or one of the cops—would give it up with a giggle. Then they would all double over with laughter, watching the kid's face as he would sheepishly grin at being had.

Bogey never said anything to the cops; he knew it was all in good fun. Plus, he had taught the cops half of the practical jokes they pulled! He was in no position to comment, other than to say, "nice going!"

Bogey felt secure knowing the cops were at home on the golf course and in the shop. Their years on the crew had exposed them to the aggravation and expense and senselessness of vandalism. One year Steve

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had spent half a day pulling tee and green equipment from the pond; he cursed the kids who had done the deed. Both cops had knitted greens that had been damaged, and sodded fairways torn up by vehicles trespassing in the middle of the night. They had seen the stark crime of new trees snapped off waist high, and the sad sight of where a beautiful spruce had been stolen for Christmas. Nowadays the cops kept an especially watchful eye on the golf course at night. As a result, vandalism had nearly disappeared as one of Bogey's problems.

If they liked pulling tricks on the golf course crew at Shady Dell, they loved doing it to each other. Calhoun would meet them while they were on patrol, and the driver would have his head out the window. Usually the other would be laughing like crazy from the passenger's side. Calhoun knew the driver was suffering from what the other one had eaten for supper. It was really funny in the dead of winter!

Even funnier was when the driver smelled bad. In a cop car, the driver controls the windows!

Bogey was proud of the two cops. They worked hard at being good

police officers, and Calhoun enjoyed knowing that at least some of their work habits had been acquired during their youth on the course. It was a very satisfying feeling to know that the times they spent at Shady Dell had left them with an attachment and feeling they still had and likely would have for years to come.

But in his reflective moments, Bogey also knew they were only two of hundreds of kids who had worked at Shady Dell Country Club and who had gone on to bigger and better things and, in some cases, great things.

Many of them had confessed to him (or even returned to offer thanks) they had learned their work ethic during summers working on Shady Dells' golf course. They learned to appreciate early mornings—some saw their first sunrise as a crew member. Some recounted, in retrospect, the joys of the daily drama on a golf course—mowing greens, moving cups, cutting fairways and roughs and surrounds, and getting the play areas ready for another day. The lessons of working with such a variety of people—age and background and personality—

were powerful. Lots of them confessed that as they grew older they missed the vigorous physical labor required on a golf course, and they no longer experienced sensitive outdoor observations—bluebirds, yellow jackets, green grass, red sumac and everything inbetween. Their memories of Shady Dell were sweet.

Like every golf course superintendent who still depended on high school and college kids during the summer season, Bogey enjoyed all the activity and variety and occasional turmoil they brought to the shop. He knew the aggravation and immaturity of their youth was a small price to pay for such wonderful rewards.

He was pleased so many turf students had gone on to successful careers and had experienced the same satisfaction he had from his career. But those who were teachers and businessmen pleased him, too. And there was a lawyer, a M.D., a state senator, a prof, a club general manager and even a golf pro. He was proud of all of them and all they had done with their lives.

But he was especially proud of the cops. ♣



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Ability, Not Gender, Makes the Best Superintendent

by Tom Farley,
Sports Writer, Racine Journal Times

Tara Zabkowicz has found more help than hindrance in her efforts to enter the male-dominated field of golf course management. "I've had a really positive experience getting into this industry," she said. "The attitude seems to be 'welcome to the family.'"

Zabkowicz, 21, is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was one of 32 college turf students who attended a recent Future Turf Managers Seminar sponsored by Jacobsen Division of Textron. The three-day seminar is an annual event held in Racine, in May.

"I think people in this profession are very supportive," said Zabkowicz. "I think they think it's great what I'm doing."

Zabkowicz said she "grew up golfing along with my mom and dad." She didn't decide until the summer before her freshman year at Wisconsin that she wanted to major in turfgrass science, but after "growing up outside, I knew this is what I wanted to do. First and foremost, I absolutely love the outdoors."

While her first summer grounds-crew job consisted of moving yard markers and watering flowers — "I planted every flower on that course," she said — in the summer of 1995, when she worked at North Shore Country Club in suburban Milwaukee, superintendent Bob Erdahl took her under his wing.

"He's just amazing, phenomenal,"

Zabkowicz said. "He really supports turf students. There were a lot of things he wanted to show me; he really wanted me to see every facet of grounds crew."

She also received a big helping hand from her academic adviser at the university, Frank Rossi. "He really pushed me into this. He helped me get most of my summer jobs."

So what motivates a young woman to go into golf course management? "I tend to be a very meticulous person; I like to pay attention to detail," Zabkowicz said. "I think you've got to have that characteristic in you to be a superintendent."

"In this profession, it's really great that you can see your work in front of

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you. You can go out there and mow a fairway and make it look beautiful. It's great to know that you can transform a course, or that others transform it with your help."

Zabkowicz, who's scheduled to graduate next spring with a bachelor's degree in horticulture specializing in turf and grounds maintenance, said she's been pleased to see a spirit of cooperation in the golf course management industry.

"I don't see a lot of competition," she said. "It seems like everybody's friends; everybody's working together. I think we need to work together."

"So many variables come into play in maintaining a course. It helps a lot when the guy down the street has figured something out and tells you about it."

Zabkowicz said that outside the industry she's encountered an attitude that "you have to be huge and strong," she said. Some women ask her, "You just play with dirt?"

"I felt like I had something to prove," Zabkowicz said. "I think that's pushed me to doing it right, doing it perfect. If anyone doubted me, all I had to do was show them."



UW-Madison turfgrass student Tara Zabkowicz at the wheel of a Jacobsen LF.

Editor's Note: Tara Zabkowicz is also a member of the UW-Madison women's crew team. She spent the

summer of 1996 on the golf course staff at Blackhawk Country Club. ♣



The Jacobsen college student class of '96!



What a Difference a Year Makes!

By Bob Vavrek, Agronomist
USGA Green Section



As this season winds down, superintendents and golfers at many courses in the north-central tier of states are wondering if the season ever really arrived. At this time last year, pythium, brown patch, summer patch, wet wilt, and numerous other problems had already damaged or killed more than their share of turf at numerous courses during the "endless summer" of 1995. The "endless spring" of 1996 has, according to some golf course superintendents, resulted in one of the more comfortable, laid back seasons in many years. Brown patch and pythium were all too common sights during July and August last season. In contrast, a major outbreak of disease activity might be a localized area of dollar spot or a little yellow tuft this summer.

The superintendent's perspective and opinion regarding stress this season, however, changes dramatically if any appreciable amount of winterkill occurred. Areas damaged by crown hydration and snow mold have been extremely slow to recover this year. Cool weather (especially cool nights) and hard, late frosts have significantly slowed the growth and development of turf. Sodding, plugging, and patching of the thin or bare spots in low lying, poorly drained areas of fairways and greens has been an all too common sight on Turf Advisory Service visits well into August. It appears that much of the winterkill was closely associated with the summer stress last year — many of the dead areas that appeared this spring were areas that never completely recovered from last year's disease activity or heat stress and entered the winter in a weakened condition.

Timing Is Everything

Regardless of whether or not the season has been easy or frustrating, many superintendents thoughts are now turning to late season special projects, for instance the construction

of forward tees or the renovation of fairways, surrounds, or bunkers. One of the most frequently asked questions by golfers at Turf Advisory Service visits is: "How late can we seed an area this fall and still have a playable surface by Memorial Day?" In fact, the question should be: "How early should we complete construction and seed to ensure a playable surface by Memorial Day?" Both questions appear similar but they are significantly different. The chances for establishing healthy turf before the overseeded area is opened for play are slim to none at a course where the first questions is asked.

All golfers and a few superintendents have heard of the course where an old green was taken out of play on Thanksgiving, then a new green (probably a "modified" USGA green) was built and dormant seeded on Christmas and it was ready for play and stimping ten feet by Easter. I have not seen this course, but it must exist because I hear this tale and similar tales of incredible successes with late season turf establishment time and time again.

After sifting through a number of successful and unsuccessful efforts at establishing turf during fall, my opinion regarding the cutoff date for a good chance of playing a new green, tee, or fairway by mid-June has not

changed. In northern states, if the seed is in the ground by August 15, then there is a very good chance that the turf can safely accommodate golfers around Memorial Day the following season. Soil temperatures are about as high as they will get in August and there will be ample time for the seedlings to develop, to become accustomed to mowing, and then harden off before winter. As a general rule of thumb, it will take an additional two weeks of turf growth and development the following spring to make up for every week of growth that is lost by a late seeding the previous fall.

If the golfers refuse to believe you or me, perhaps they will believe the commentary of one of the most famous golf course architects, Donald Ross. His statement was made many years ago, but as true now as it was then. The following excerpt from the popular book, *Golf Has Never Failed Me*, by Donald Ross is reproduced with the permission of the publisher, Sleeping Bear Press. "The very best season of the year to sow grass seed is the fall, but not much later than September 10th. Of course, seeding is determined by locality and temperature. When it comes to the extreme northern states, I have made it a point to seed no later than August 15th."

Pressure from golfers to keep the course open for play as long as possible is the most common reason why renovation projects are seeded late - and why so many attempts at renovation fail, or at best, provide a weak, thin playing surface the entire next season. Give yourself a fighting chance of success and lobby hard for a mid-August seeding date — timing is everything! 🍷

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Good Neighbors Help South Hills After Disastrous Shop Fire

John Syty can tell you that your worst nightmare can come true. Late on Thursday night, July 11, fire destroyed the South Hills maintenance facility and most of its turf care equipment.

But on Friday morning John's location on the west side of Racine, in Franksville township, paid off. His good neighbors came to the rescue.

Jacobsen was there. Members of the Jacobsen test department provided South Hills with a Greens King V triplex greens mower, a Tri-King triplex trim mower, a Turfcats out-front rotary and a LF fairway mower.

Syty also received calls and offers for help from Ric Lange of Meadowbrook CC, Mike Handrich of Racine CC, Duane Lange of Maplecrest CC in Kenosha, Mark Hjortness of Ives Grove Golf Links in Sturtevant, and Milwaukee county golf courses. "I never expected help that fast," John said. "It was excellent."

"I'm impressed that Jacobsen was so eager to help," he added. "They helped get me back on my feet."

The accompanying photos show just how serious the shop fire was. 🍷



The machine in the middle of this picture was a Greens King IV.



Few could imagine a tragedy worse for a golf course than a shop fire.



John Syty surveys the mess that remained after his South Hills golf course shop burned.



All that remained of South Hills' LF - 3810 fairway mower was the ROPS and the frame.

WGCSA Meets at Baraboo CC in June

By A. Kronwall

On June 10 John Gallus played host to 57 superintendents and sales reps. The day began with burgers and brats cooked on the grill. After our appetites were satisfied we headed for the golf course. Standing on the first tee it was evident that John and his staff had spent many hours already this morning grooming the course for our enjoyment. The combination of beautiful scenery and finely manicured turf was breathtaking. After golf everyone returned to the clubhouse for hors d' oeuvres while the scores were calculated. The event for the day was an individual low net by class (A,B,C,D,Peoria) and flag events. Winners for the day were:

CLASS	1st		2nd	
A	Dave Olsen	70	Mike Druggen	73
			Brett Grams	73
B	Derek Knedler	66	Gary Huenerberg	69
C	3-way tie			
	Cubby O'Brian, Justin Lees, Russ Schulte			72
D	John Gallus	72	Dave Smith	75
Peoria	Paul Derezenski	55	Steve Kennicott	69
Long Putt #8			Mike Lees	
Straight Drive #15			John Gallus	
Closest to Pin #5			Derek Knedler	
Long Drive #11			Chuck Wollner	

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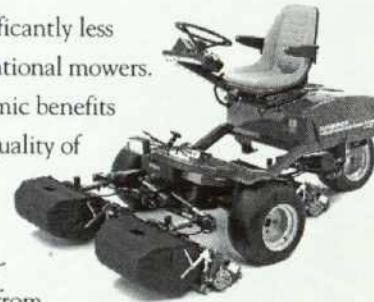
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Typhoola is Uncoola in the Snow Mold Belt!

By Steve Millett
Department of Plant Pathology
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Typhoola is uncoola because it is the hidden disease — the turf disease you can't see until after it has already done its thing. It eats your grass under a white blanket of snow when there is not much going on in the botanical world except dormancy. Typhula snow mold is uncoola because it raises its ugly head every winter.

Current snow mold management measures rely heavily on fungicide applications (see "Soylent Green", The Grass Roots, Nov./Dec. 1995) and these applications are probably the most expensive of the year. Those of you who got caught with your plants down last fall and didn't get a fungicide applied know the wrath of Typhula snow mold. Last year some locations in Wisconsin had fungicide efficacy breakthrough with the extended snow cover. Advances in turfgrass pathology over the decades have provided turfgrass managers with a wide and efficacious arsenal against the Typhula snow molds. However, these evil Typhula snow molds still worry superintendents.

Superintendents in Wisconsin are very familiar with these turfgrass villains and can easily recognize the symptoms which first appear at snow melt as straw colored circular patches. Sprigs within the patch are matted and sometimes slimy with mycelium and sclerotia. As the patch dries, a thin crust of mycelium can develop over the affected area giving it a bleached appearance. Usually, only the leaves are killed and the crown survives to produce new leaves in the spring. However, the disease can become quite severe as the pathogen invades the crown tissue and then reestablishment may be needed.

The **psychrophilic** (cold lovers) fungal pathogens that cause Typhula snow molds in Wisconsin include *Typhula incarnata* and *T. ishikariensis*. Both are called **facultative parasites** which means that they "can be parasites" but usually live as decomposers. In other words, these fungi spend most of their life as decomposers, but can and will attack stressed turfgrass under deep and prolonged snow cover.

There are two different Typhula pathogens. *Typhula incarnata* is the causal agent of gray snow mold and *T. ishikariensis* is the causal agent of

speckled snow mold. *T. ishikariensis* is supposedly the most difficult to control. The incidence and dominance of these two diseases throughout the state of Wisconsin is intimately related to the microclimate of the particular area. However, gray snow mold is generally more common in the southern areas, whereas speckled snow mold is more common in northern regions of Wisconsin. Although these pathogens cause similar symptoms there are some distinct differences between them that aid in proper diagnosis (Table 1).

(Continued on page 21)

Table 1. Characteristics of Typhula species pathogenic to turfgrasses.

	<i>T. incarnata</i>	<i>T. ishikariensis</i>
Primary inoculum	sclerotia	sclerotia
Sclerotia		
Color	pink, brown, reddish brown, dark brown	never pink or red but dark amber, dark chestnut, dark brown to black
Debris attachment	firmly attached	easily removed
Size	bigger	smaller
Numbers	fewer	many
Mobility	less mobile	winged sclerotia (flight capable)
Texture	resilient and gelatinous	not gelatinous
Pathogenic activity		
Winter temperatures	warmer	colder
Winter duration	shorter	longer
Snow cover	shorter periods	longer periods
Pathogenicity	less aggressive	more aggressive



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