



Poa trivia



By Cubby O'Brien

Turf Talk

Well, by now I'm sure that most of you have licked your wounds and done what was possible to restore any turf you may have lost from the onslaught of July. Seed has been sown and the turf nursed along for a healthy entry into winter. Fall fertilizers have been applied, you've aerified, top-dressed, maybe applied your favorite biostimulants to regrow the roots lost to summer stress, treated for snow molds, blown leaves and irrigation lines (not to mention budgets). You've trimmed down trees (and your staff), installed some additional drainage to those areas that always seem to hold water when it rained too much. Why is it that with a list that long, we always use the phrase "winding down" in the fall??

I guess it's because these tasks have become somewhat ritualistic and indicate that the season is about to end. With Badger and Packer football in full swing, and the baseball playoffs and World Series around the corner, and with muskies moving into their fall feeding patterns at the same time the leaves are turning...life is good!

Whitetails and Whiteknuckles

I love being in sales this time of year more than any other because of the beautiful colors I see while traveling from course to course. There's a downside though. When deer are in the fall rut it can be a bad time to be driving so much (we put on about 40-50,000 miles

a year). I haven't hit one yet, but I feel like it's only a matter of time.

What's New?

Novartis has gotten a turf label for their new strobilurin fungicide called Compass. Ask your favorite sales person for details if you're interested. This is a product that is similar to Heritage, which I'm sure most of you are familiar with after this season.

Jerry Kienast, superintendent at Willow Run golf course in Pewaukee, is engaged to be married on March 18th, 2000 to Jennifer Kester. Jerry, there's still time to save yourself! I'm kidding, of course. We wish you the best.

Lake Breeze golf course superintendent Mike Wirth and his wife are new parents of a baby girl. Olivia Marie was born on September 17th. Congrats to the both of you.

Shame on us...

for not planning to attend this year's WTA fund-raiser golf outing. Because only 12 people signed up to play at Muskego Lakes Country Club, it was canceled. Of the 12 who registered only two were golf course superintendents! I understand that you guys are busy this time of year, but do you think that the rest of us aren't? We have sales numbers to meet with fall fertilizers, year-end equipment sales, and fungicides for snow molds, etc. Before I go any further, I confess that I was going to work that day too, but I still sent in the \$100 donation for a tee sponsorship. Jeff

Bottensek was kind enough to return it but I'm sending it back into the WTA and I challenge the rest of you sales people and superintendents to do the same.

I don't get it. Every year I look around and see mostly vendors at that meeting. Those supers who attend every year can ignore this, we all know who you are. What do you think we get out of that fundraiser? It's for you not us. I doubt that any of you can honestly say that you have never benefited either directly or indirectly from the efforts of the WTA. I've thought about the most common complaint of "it's too expensive". The money that is being spent is not for playing golf! It's to fund research, pay for directories, staff, and a whole host of services designed to make your lives easier. Please think a little harder about whether or not you want to participate in your fund-raiser next year.

Trivia

The answer to last issue's question is Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player have all won the modern Grand Slam of Golf. This issue's question: What is the lowest score for 72 holes in a PGA tour event?

Again, please send me any info you have at cobrien@turfparters.com or 1-888-815-2437. Some of you other vendors must have customers whom you feel deserve recognition for certain accomplishments in their personal or professional lives. Come on, let me know! 