



Poa trivia

By Rob and Steve Wasser
LESCO



TURF TALK

Well, so far so good. Here it is the first of February and we finally have a decent snowfall. Everyone I have spoken with has told me that the turf was looking good, especially compared to last year at this time. I always remember what Jim Knulty from Big Foot Country Club used to tell me: "Snow is good because it hides the grass. You cannot worry about what you cannot see."

It sure is amazing what a role the weather has on how we do our jobs. Even in winter, when things are quiet, the weather can make things very difficult. No matter what time of year it is the golf course superintendent is always having to adjust to the weather. In the spring, if it is cool and damp, you worry about pink snow mold and the turf does not grow. In the summer, it is always too hot or too wet, or too hot and wet at the same time, which is really bad. If it is not that, it's dry and the turf is burning up. Rarely is the weather perfect where you are able to concentrate on just cutting grass.

This now brings me to my next point. A few weeks ago, I was visiting with Gerry Panella, superintendent of Mequon Country Club. We were having this same conversation on how the weather affects everything we do. It was very interesting how he put it. If you go up to an award winning chef, and ask him to make a cake, which he has done many times before, he will be able to make an excellent cake each and every

time, without exception. You ask him how he does this and he says all I do is follow my recipe. The cake comes out the same every time. Now ask him to produce that same cake, but this time you will turn the temperature of the oven up and down as it is baking. You change a few of the ingredients used. As its baking you jump up and down hoping that the cake does not fall. Isn't this what golf course superintendents deal with everyday? You are expected to put out the best product you can. This is extremely difficult and sometimes impossible to do when your cooking environment is always changing.

JOB CHANGES

Speaking of a changing environment, we have had a few superintendents change their environment. Dave Braasch is the new superintendent at the new Glen Erin Golf Course next to the Janesville airport. Dave is from Hughes Creek GC in Northern Illinois. Pat Zurawski is the new superintendent at Camelot Golf Course in Lomira. Dan Nagy is the new superintendent at Silver Spring CC in Menomonee Falls. His wife's name is Colleen, he has two daughters - Juliette (6 years old) and Chrisanna (4 years old).

FAMILY NEWS

Pat Sisk, superintendent at Milwaukee CC, and his wife Gina were blessed with a new baby girl on December 15, 2001 who they named Georgia Rose. She weighed 6lbs. 11oz. They have two other children, a son Patrick (2) and daughter Elizabeth (4).

Congratulations Pat and Gina.

Last but not least, congratulations is in order for Gordy Waddington, superintendent at Country Club of Wisconsin, and Angela Armstrong. They will be married on April 6, 2002. Angela is the membership director at Brynwood Country Club. They will have a house full! Between the two of them, they have 2 boys and 4 girls, all between the ages of 7 to 13. Good luck to you both!

If there is any new you would like to share, please feel free to contact Rob Wasser at 262-249-8928 or e-mail at sls365@lesco.com. You can contact Steve Wasser at 920-766-2677 or e-mail at sls224@lesco.com. 

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