



Super - Pro Meeting

By **Dustin Riley**, Golf Course Superintendent, Oconomowoc Golf Club

One hundred Wisconsin golf course superintendents, golf professionals and affiliates traveled on May 28th to the Wisconsin Dells to participate in this year's Super-Pro Tournament. This year's attendance proved that the event's popularity is growing, displaying the largest playing field to date of the annual Super-Pro Tournament.

The Wilderness Woods Golf Club located in Wisconsin Dells hosted the event. In 1995, the Dell View property was purchased and the Wilderness Hotel and Golf Resort was born. The Wilderness Woods Golf Club opened in the fall of 1998, replacing the once premier Wisconsin Dells Dell View Resort. The new golf course opened to great reviews and has joined the other area resort courses to competitively share the local and tourist players.

The staff at the Wilderness Woods Golf Club performed marvelously through brief thunderstorms to produce a pleasant day of golf. The Super-Pro Tournament allows each participating team of golf course superintendent and golf professional to develop or strengthen working relationships. Since each success can be linked by the other's success, it is imperative that all golf course management staff (superintendents, professionals, clubhouse managers, etc) work with a common goal of producing a quality, enjoyable atmosphere for members or guests.

The Super-Pro Tournament is played to an alternate shot format. Each team member plays a tee ball, then plays the follow-up shot with their partners ball. Once each ball's regulation shot has been struck, the better position is selected and shots are alternately played until holed out. The results follow:

Division I

1st	Fred Hancock Jeff Barlow	Waupaca CC	63.5	\$300 \$300
2nd	Don DuChateau Jim VanHerwynen	South Hills G&CC	65.9	\$250 \$250
3rd	Greg Guenther Dave Brandenburg	Rolling Meadows	67.0	\$200 \$200
4th	Tim DeSormeau Marc Davison	Green Bay CC	67.1	\$170 \$170
5th	John Freeman Jeff Millies	Edgewood GC	67.7	\$140 \$140
6th	John Wallrich Rod Johnson	Pine Hills CC	68.0	\$120 \$120

7th	Charlie Brown John Feiner	Johnsons Park GC	68.1	\$100 \$100
8th	Rob Vega Scott Anthes	Kestrel Ridge GC	69.3	\$80 \$80
9th	Eddie Teresa Randy DuPont	North Hills CC	69.3	\$60 \$60
10th	Jim Tuller Mark Young	Krueger GC	70.3	\$45 \$45
11th	Mike Muranyi Mike Werth	Monroe CC	70.4	\$35 \$35

Division II

1st	Gale Stenquist Jim Spencer	JW Turf	67.9	\$150 \$150
2nd	Dan Quast Wayne Otto	DHD Turfgrass Sciences	72.8	\$100 \$100
3rd	Darrin Di Christopher Steve Fischer	Tiziani Golf Car	73.1	\$50 \$50



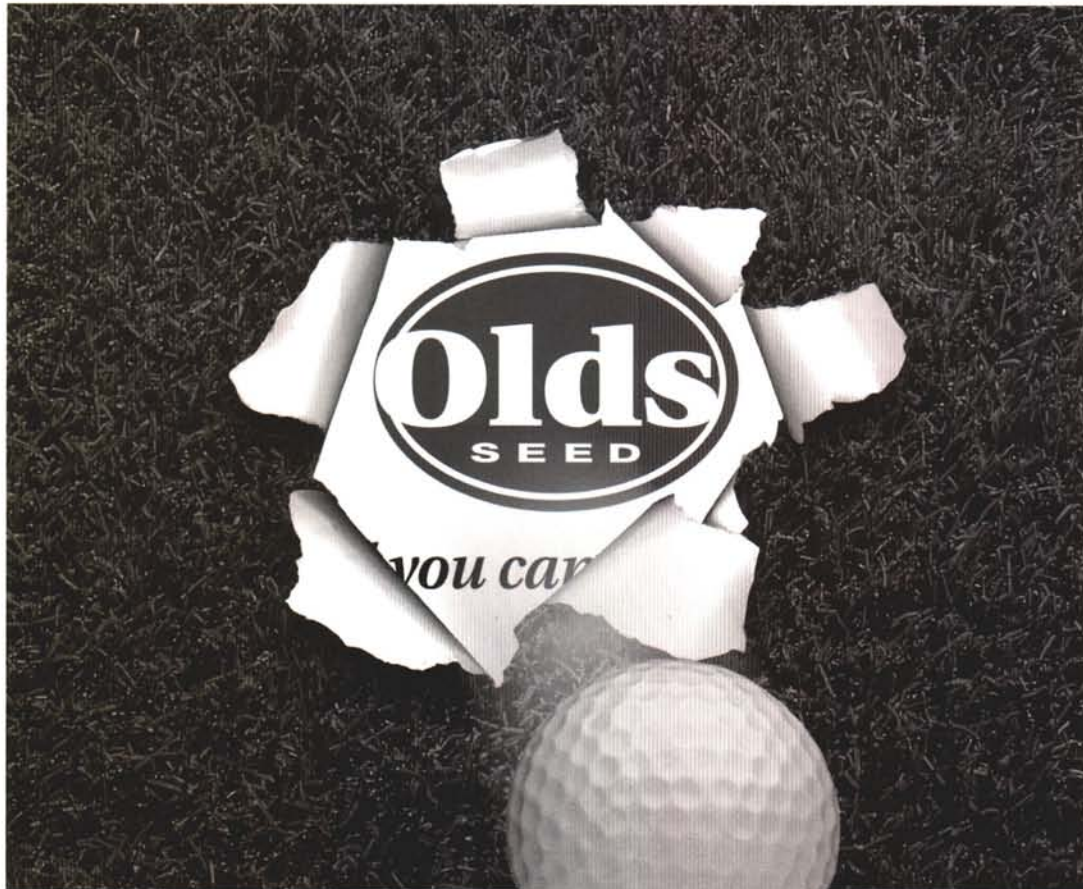
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Lessons the Hard Way

By Pat Norton, Golf Course Superintendent, Nettle Creek Country Club

At this stage in the golf season...and indeed in the career...it seems appropriate to review the many lessons learned the hard way.

Sometimes and with some things we all learn quickly. Things like maintaining a golf course come fairly easily to most of us. We all know how to make a golf course look beautiful, play firm and fast, while keeping it all within a budgeted cost. We accomplish this all season after season...and the years roll by.

If we are one of the extremely fortunate...we get to stay in this line of work until we retire. And, if we've learned our lessons along the way...we've got a fat, juicy little IRA pension waiting for us worth lots of money.

But, based on personal experience...I'll bet that there are lots of guys out there who don't have the pension plan progressing like it should be...for a variety of reasons. My past experience has been that employers at golf clubs are reluctant to provide regular contributions to an IRA upon hiring...and lots of young turf idiots...like myself in days gone by...let themselves get talked into accepting a position without a concrete guarantee of pension contributions.

If you don't have a healthy IRA or an alternative, quit learning the hard lesson! Get tough with the bosses...they need you just as much as you need your professional position! The old advice about regular savings is all too true...something you learned as a twelve year old with the paper route...and can be an alternative route to providing for your own pension funding.

About two years ago I finally started having \$150...then \$200 taken out of each biweekly paycheck and automatically put into my regular savings account. Then, my IRA pension fund automatically withdraws \$300/month from that account to put into my Roth IRA. And...it's so painless! After years of thinking that we couldn't afford to live without that extra cash(raising three children)...we have found that it affects our lifestyle not one bit!

But...take that same \$300/month and pay it as a regular monthly bill...and you will fail to save it each and every month. We have saved money and made investments over the years...but not nearly as much as we are now. A lesson learned the hard way...I suppose.

Honestly, the whole savings/investment thing sort of ticks me off. I want to kick myself

every time I think about listening to my lovely wife tell me over the years that 'we can't afford the extra cash this month'...

Hey young turfheads!! Listen to your gut when it comes to conserving and saving money...not every decision in a marriage needs to be mutually agreed upon. If you know that a tough savings/investment plan is going to benefit your spouse and family **in their future and is for their future**...do not hesitate and do not worry about offending your spouse. Do it and do it now! Do not wait until you are forty something...start when you are twenty something. Then you'll have some substantial assets to drool over as you totter into your fifties and sixties...

And besides the retirement thing...another lesson to learn is that basic economics concept called horizontal diversification...in

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which guys develop some sort of supplemental income to diversify and augment their income. This only works, however, in those situations in which owners or boards of directors understand the importance of such things. If they tend to not understand...let's hope that they're providing all of the income that a guy could ever want from that one single source.

Personally, we have found that rental property ownership and management is just about the perfect complement to golf course work. It is a great vehicle to build a bit of wealth...investing in real estate is much safer and a better bet for capital appreciation than sticking the same amount of money into just about any other entrepreneurial venture.

There are many ways to invest money and save for your future. If your employer helps you, great, but if not...do it yourself until you encounter an employer who will help. Then...continue with your own plan also. You'll never regret it...and your spouse will thank you forever!

Let's face it fellas...most of our positions provide a pretty darn good living and provide the means to raise a family. But...none of us

are going to generate wealth by working our prime years away in this otherwise very satisfying field. If you're married to a doctor or dentist, however, you're already diversified and have skirted clear around that hard lesson!

Another hard lesson to learn is that whole question how to best move through a career and when to change careers should the need arise. My firm conviction is that precious few of us will retire as superintendents...and that most of us will take a different career path before retirement. Everybody should have a Plan B...and be prepared to implement it.

Ask yourself this question..."Will I still be managing a golf course when I'm 62...or 65...or 67 years old"? For most of us the answer is...probably not. Unfortunately, we all work in an arena and in a national economy in which age, experience, and maturity are not highly valued. And now we find the golf industry in an unprecedented state of flux...with lots of golf courses going bankrupt...being sold off to new groups...and leaving incumbent superintendents out in the cold.

I personally expect that someday Nettle Creek will be sold to a new golf group. I also totally expect that

one of the first decisions made will be to replace this veteran, mid-forties guy with a younger buck willing to take the job for lots less money. It is almost inevitable...and I am preparing for it. Be prepared with your own Plan B.

Lastly, young turfheads, go back to school if you are at all inclined and get your Masters degree, your MBA, your law degree, your double major as an undergrad...whatever. It will open up other career opportunities and will someday permit you to more easily implement your Plan B. That is one lesson that I've learned the hard way.

Dan Anderson is a superintendent down here who decided to go back for his MBA through a nights/weekends program over three years. Since graduating, he has elevated himself to Director of Parks and Golf Courses for the City of Aurora, IL. His former position with the city was golf course superintendent for one of their courses. Dan had an excellent Plan B and is avoiding learning any lessons the hard way. Hopefully the rest of us will also avoid learning our lessons the hard way.

It would certainly make life much easier. ♻

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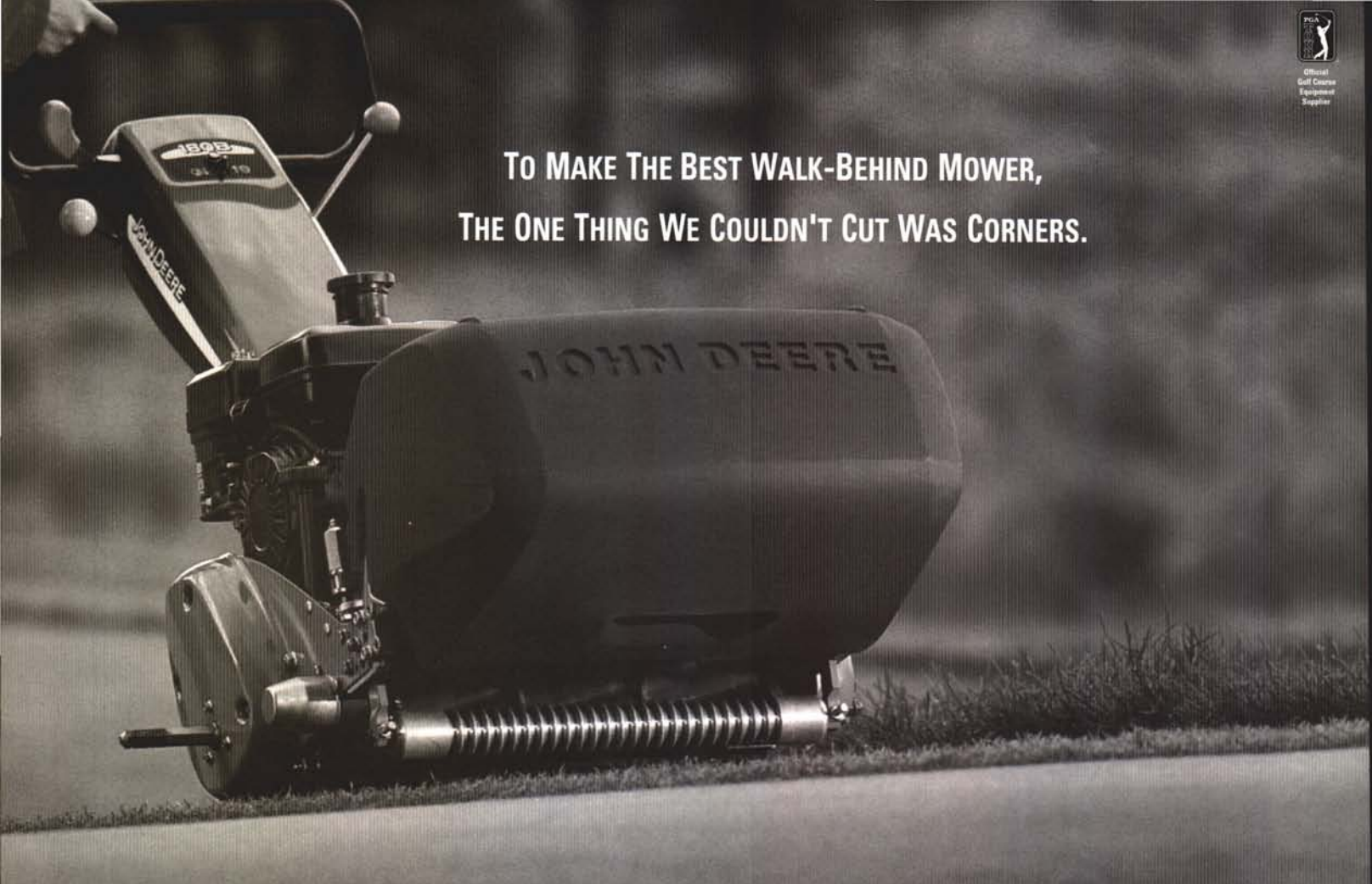
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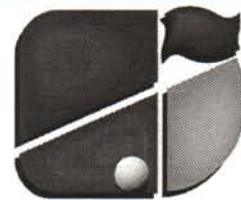
By **David Brandenburg**, Golf Course Superintendent, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

Thanks to Richard Chapman and the members of Crystal Springs Golf Course in Seymour for providing us with a great meeting site. The weather on July 21 was near perfect and a good time was had by everyone. Richard provided us with super conditions for playing golf.

Winner of the four man scramble with a 59 was the team headed by Todd Blankenship. Todd played with fellow Wisconsin River staff Troy Jastal, Bill Stupar and Mike Fisher. In second place on a scorecard playoff with a 61 was the team of Roy Zehren, Dave Herr, Seth Brogen and Scott Bushman. In third with a 61 was Mike Harrington, Stan Lushine, Scott Wendels and Dave Brandenburg.

Flag event winners were Doug Laak, closest in two on hole 14; Steve Schmidt, closest to the pin on hole 8, and; Scott Wendels with a long put on hole 2 and long drive on hole 9.

Thanks again to Richard for hosting our group. 🌿



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The Best Season

By **Monroe S. Miller**, Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

Whew! It is finally here - autumn. Where I come from, Labor Day ushers in fall, the calendar notwithstanding.

It was a tough last half of the golf season weather wise here in southern and western Wisconsin - no rain. Zip. Zero. Zilch. No moisture relief for weeks and weeks, leaving us six to seven inches below normal in precipitation for the year. And last year ended very dry. But with fall comes hope for a change.

Between now and November 1st, the leaves will have turned from green to red and yellow and brown, and fallen to the ground. The bright colors of nature are fading fast these days and our world will change significantly in the coming weeks.

Who cannot be excited about the Badgers and Packers and the local high school football team? Is there anyone who doesn't enjoy taking a walk in the chilly night air, especially under a harvest moon?

Shorter, cooler days spell relief for golf courses that have been pushed hard all summer. They can use the relief, too. It is funny to me how I can barely wait for fall fairway aeration to begin. It puts an exclamation point on the turn in seasons and shows we are already working on playing conditions for next year.

I have even come to enjoy the familiar smell that nature brings with autumn - that unmistakable spicy, pungent aroma of roadside plants at their maturity.

And finally, like you too I hope, Cheryl and I will be able to take some vacation time. For us, it is the usual, always exciting, prospect of leaf peeping in New England at their best time of the year.

Enjoy the remaining days. The snow will fall before we turn around.

Belated congratulations to two of our close friends on the event of their appointment to tenure from their institutions of higher learning. Dr. John Stier of Wisconsin and Dr. Frank Rossi of Cornell attained that distinction this summer. And Frank turned 40 to top it off.

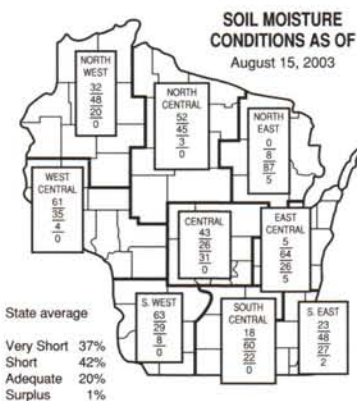
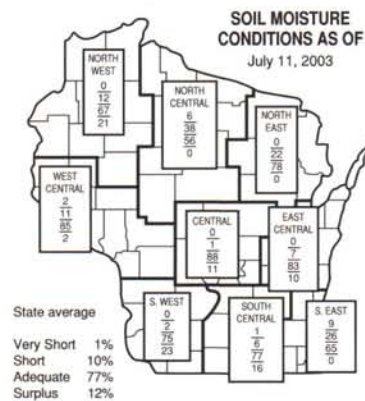
Testimony offered here from the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service speaks to the dry weather for the past two months. State Climatologist John Young reported in mid-August that Grant, Crawford and LaCrosse counties had drought conditions and qualified for drought status. And our county qualified a week after the aforementioned. We are, in a way, fortunate because of irrigations systems. Farmers, on the other hand, are watching corn, soybeans and alfalfa crops take a yield hit. Leaves on corn and soybeans are curling up in the response to no water.

Frustrating has been the unevenness of moisture conditions, not only for different areas of the state but also in different regions of a single county. That has been the story all summer.

But as time has expanded my view, I know that these events will even out, if not in a season then over several seasons. I guess it is merely our turn.

But that doesn't make it any less painful watching every single opportunity of rain disappear before it reaches us.

Speaking of hot and dry weather, a two-year study by the Union Of



Concerned Scientists and The Ecological Society of America released earlier this year spoke to changes that seem headed our way.

By 2030, unless changes are made, global warming will make Wisconsin feel more like Illinois. And if that's not enough to scare you, by the end of the century our winter snow and relatively mild summers will give way to a climate like Arkansas.

In addition to the changes in the landscape we will suffer more natural disasters, like floods and droughts, and the problems that accompany them. The study showed by the end of the century temperatures will rise 6 to 11 degrees in the winter and 8 to 18 in the summer. That change is comparable to the climate change at the last ice age (or in

the past 1,000 years).

Part of the answer is diminishing the potential for these changes lies in reducing heat-trapping gases. That means energy efficiency will be seriously discussed again. And soon.

The faithful believers among us will be heartened by a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that concluded faith-committed weekly-plus church attendees live longer compared to nongoiners.

About seven years for the religious. This study accounted for such factors as gender (gals live longer in general and go to church more frequently) and health problems preventing attendance. However, you can't just suddenly "get religion" but must embrace longstanding devotion.

Other research has shown

increased longevity for Catholic priests and nuns, Mormon priests and Trappist monks (according to Health Psychology). Part of this may be that religious folks smoke and drink less, have better support networks, and possess a more optimistic and hopeful view of life. Plus, out of a feeling of ultimate acceptance and the relaxed meditation of prayer or Sabbath observance may come stress prevention and enhanced well-being. Recent findings show healthier immune functioning and fewer hospital admissions among religiously active people.

Amen.

If you have been seeing less of Rod Johnson this summer, it is because he has been spending a lot of time in northwest Wisconsin, from Osseo to Rice Lake, helping in the search for that feared

Norwegian north woods terrorist Ole bin Loggin.

"He's a tough one," Rod said recently, "and it will take another Norwegian to find him. We all think alike."

Yeah, hey der...

Nice job by everyone associated with the Summer Field Day at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility. It was well organized, there is a ton of research work under study, and the equipment show is always fun for people like us. If you missed it, you also missed seeing Bob Newman and the dedication of a Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in his name. In every way, it was an outstanding day.

The world seems to slow down for a time now with summer behind us. Be smart and make the most of it. ♣

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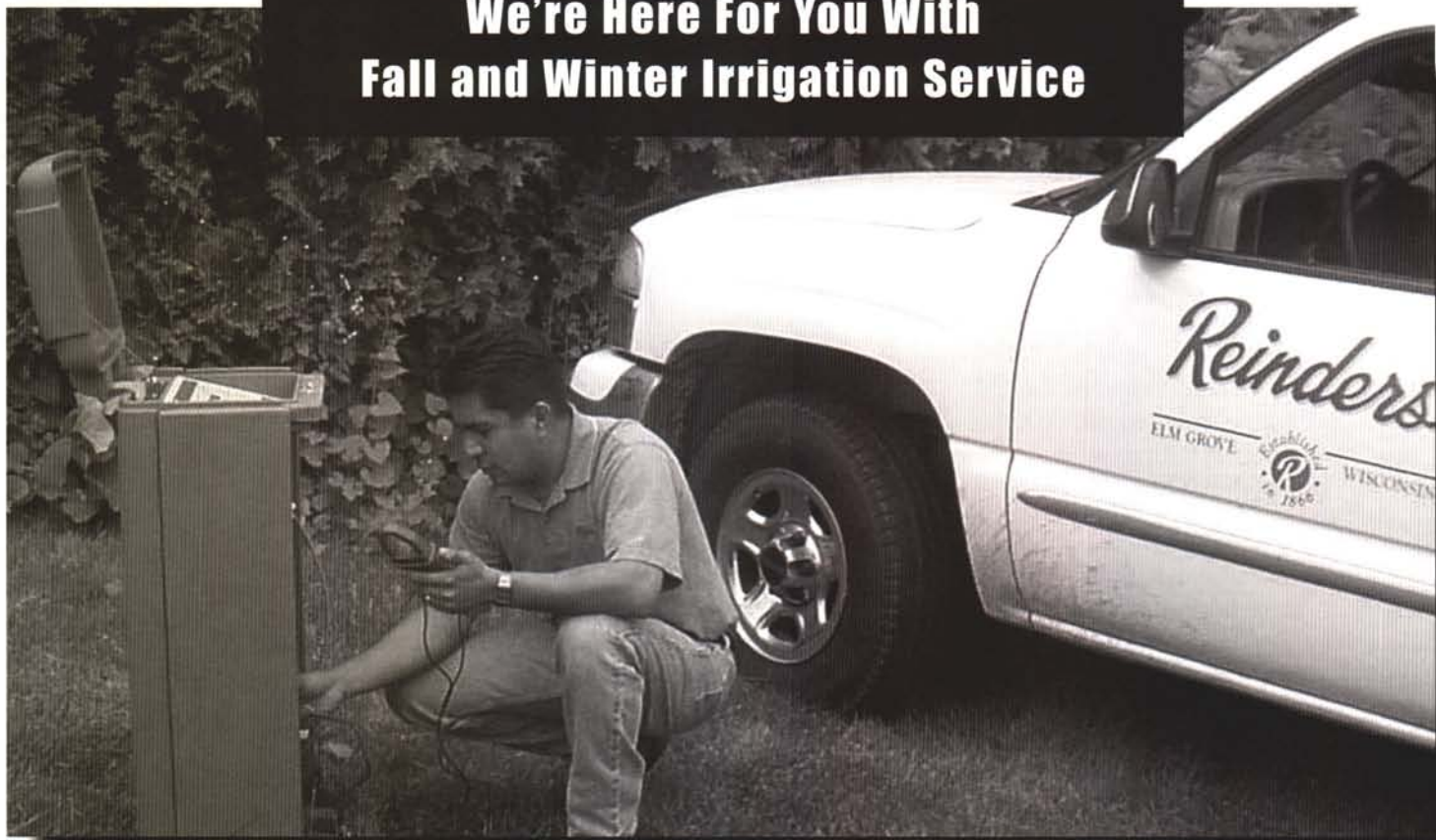
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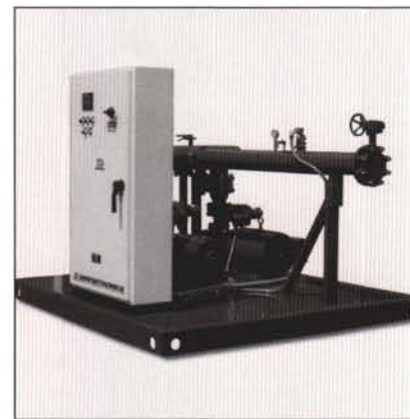


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