

everyone involved in the different professions, organizations and companies. It took many years before he assigned a still-working golf course superintendent because he didn't want to offend everyone else; so he chose superintendents with something unique going on in their work or lives.

Has your job changed much in 15 years?

Not too much. Monroe gives me a name. I call to set up a personal or telephone interview. I conduct the interview, transcribe it, write the article, send it to the interviewee for approval, and send it to Monroe. For years I sent a paper manuscript to Monroe. The past few years I've sent most articles electronically and directly to the printer. Even Monroe has entered the electronic age! He has also eased up on his deadlines a bit!

Do you have a favorite article?

Not really. Some were easier to write than others, some turned out better than others. But, like a parent who can't choose a favorite child, I can't choose a favorite article.

Was there an interview that was most memorable?

I'd have to say one of my most memorable interviews was with the late great Wayne Otto. For years I had heard other golf course superintendents talk about Wayne in both glowing and humorous terms. When Monroe chose Wayne for a Personality Profile because he was retiring soon, he asked me to do this interview in person.

When I set up the interview I told Wayne that I'd have to bring my 9-year-old son with me. When we arrived at Ozaukee Country Club a few days later, Wayne greeted my son with his dog. "Would you like to take Max for a walk on the golf course?" he asked. He put a leash on Max and gave Andrew a two-way radio in case he got lost on the course. "But Max knows his way around the course," he added.

Now 3-1/2 years later, my son still remembers that nice superintendent who let him walk his dog on the golf course. "He was so nice to me," Andrew says. "And the golf course was just perfect. The sand in the traps was as white as snow."

Another interview high on my "most memorable" list was when I interviewed Monroe and many of his colleagues. This assignment came from the WGCSA president after Monroe received the 2004 USGA Green Section Award. The hard part about interviewing Monroe is that he has so many interests in his life! It was a long, but cherished, interview. I'm just dying to get into his house to see his many collections and his farm museum in the basement.

Any other memories you'd like to share?

Many, but this article is past due, so I'll keep it short. In no particular order, here are a few things I easily recall:



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Count on it.

Finding out I am related to Ed Hasselkus and that my husband is related to Ed Kirchenwitz. Must be something about the name Ed!

Interviewing my former Soils 301 professor, J.R. Love, who asked, "Tell me, did you learn anything in my class?"

The willingness of so many people to open up their lives to a total stranger – usually over the telephone! I especially remember learning about one person's Vietnam War experiences and another person's tragic accident that left him a paraplegic.

Interviewing all four Shaw brothers at the same time. Whew! It was difficult to keep up with four people talking at once!

The similarities between farmers (my background) and golf course superintendents, such as: Second and third generation golf course superintendents, some of whom grew up in the old farm houses on the courses where their fathers worked; being at the mercy of mother nature; having a love for the land and a sense of stewardship; working long days in the summer; appreciating a good rain.

Realizing how many people in the golf and turf businesses grew up on a farm or had their first job on a golf course.

Appreciating the many different skills and personalities that can be found in the industry. University researchers, entrepreneurs, sales and service representatives, golf course superintendents, golf course architects and builders, organizational leaders - it takes everyone to make the industry work.

So, tell us what you're doing now.

In July of 2005 I starting working as the Agricultural Information Specialist for the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center, which is part of the USDA's Agricultural Research Service. Although I work for a federal agency, my office building is on the

UW-Madison campus, right next to the College of Veterinary Science. With my degrees in Dairy Science and Journalism and my life-long experience in the dairy industry, I truly feel like I've landed in the right place for now.

I'm still writing about grass - the kind that cows eat or that gets cut for hay. One of my former 'subjects' is now a co-worker - Mike Casler, a plant geneticist (grasses, mostly) who did some turfgrass research while working at the UW-Madison. He remembered being interviewed by me and being written up in *The Grass Roots*.

One of my first tasks at work was to create a logo and slogan for the Dairy Forage Research Center. The slogan I came up with is, "Greener Horizons for Crops, Cows, and Communities;" growing and feeding more forages is good for cows and for the environment. As golf course superintendents, you, too, are providing greener horizons. So we still have something in common.

Did you use Monroe as a reference for this job?

Funny you should ask. Yes, I did use Monroe as a reference - listed him as editor of *The Grass Roots*.



PERSONALITY PROFILE

A few weeks into the job my new boss was introducing me to someone. "She used to write for *Grass Works* (a dairy grazing magazine)."

"Ah, Neal," I interjected. "That was *The Grass Roots*, not *Grass Works*. It's the publication of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association."

"Oh, I thought it was *Grass Works*," he said. "The editor went on and on telling me all about you and I never caught on." Lucky for me, my new boss likes to golf. So he wasn't too appalled that I wrote for the turfgrass side of grass, not the grazing side.

For the time being, my husband and kids are still in New London while I work 10-hour days in Madison

four days a week and return home for three-day weekends. As soon as my husband finds employment in this area (anyone need a United Church of Christ pastor?), we will be moving our household south.

Any final word?

To my 'subjects' through the years, thank you for sharing your lives with me so that, through my writing, I could share your lives with so many others. Everyone has a story to tell, and I thoroughly enjoyed hearing 95 life stories in the past 15-1/2 years.

God Bless all of you for the fine work you do by creating greener horizons on God's green earth. ♣

Personality Profile 'subjects' for 15 years:

1990

J/A Lee Bruce
S/O Eugene Haas
N/D Egon Herrmann

1991

J/F no article
M/A Lois Latham
M/J Leo Walsh
J/A Christine Faulks
S/O Gayle Worf
N/D Russ Weisensel

1992

J/F Bob Newman
M/A Bill Roberts
M/F Jerry O'Donnell
J/A Jim Love
S/O Curtis Larson
N/D Ed Devinger

1993

J/F John Mortimer
M/A Bob Lohmann
M/J no article
J/A Lori Bocher
S/O Wayne Kussow
N/D Chuck Koval

1994

J/F Jim Latham
M/A Roger Wyse
M/J Milt Engelke
J/A Charlie Wilson
S/O Ed Hasselkus
N/D Woody Voigt

1995

J/F Al Vrana
M/A Bill Sell
M/J Dan DeVault
J/A John Buck
S/O Dick Nugent
N/D Terry Ward

1996

J/F Mark Kienert
M/A Tom Emmerich
M/J Doug Maxwell
J/A Dick Reinders
S/O Randy Smith
N/D Bob Reinders

1997

J/F Jeff Gregos
M/A Don Stein
M/J Alan Nees
J/A Todd Edlebeck
S/O Shaw Brothers
N/D John Stier

1998

J/F Wayne Horman
M/A Jennifer Samerdyke
M/J Michael Lee
J/A Steve Scoville
S/O Ray Knapp
N/D Elton Aberle

1999

J/F Vince Johnson
M/A Phil Pellitteri
M/J Chris Williamson
J/A Charlie Kisow
S/O Laura Jull
N/D Mike Casler

2000

J/F Geunhwa Jung
M/A Charles Shiley
M/J Peter Vea
J/A 10th anniversary column
S/O Tom Schmidt
N/D Kris Pinkerton

2001

J/F Dave Weber
M/A Roy Zehren
M/J Scott and Tom Schaller
J/A Dan Quast
S/O Ervin Graf
N/D Bill Vogel

2002

J/F David Brandenburg
M/A Ed Kirchenwitz
M/J Wayne Otto
J/A Joe Deschler
S/O Dean Musbach
N/D John Turner

2003

J/F Kevin Hensler
M/A Bob Emmerich
M/J Steve Ablor
J/A Gabe Lopez
S/O Bill Kazda
N/D Gary Huenerberg

2004

J/F Marc Davison
M/A Monroe Miller
M/J Carl Grassl
J/A Tom Wentz
S/O Terry Kurth
N/D Bill Linneman

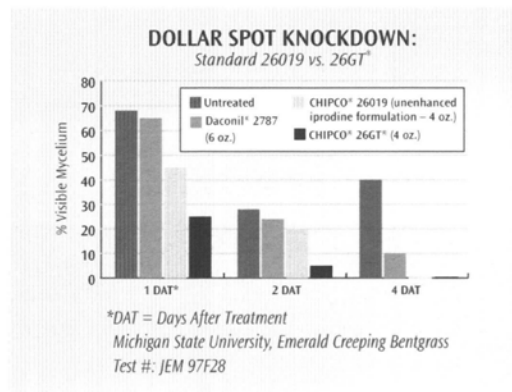
2005

J/F Dennis Robinson
M/A Alan Nees
M/J Ed Witkowski
J/A Ray Shane
S/O Grant Mortimer
N/D Farewell column



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Winter is Coming!

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

After the longest, warmest and for some of us the driest autumn in a long time, winter is coming. It is guaranteed; count on it. Ready or not, here it comes.

And its inevitable arrival is being met with great trepidation this year. It is no wonder, given the massive winterkill many Wisconsin golf courses faced this past spring as a result from ice accumulation last winter.

The weather conditions of last winter reminded golf course superintendents what winter can really mean to a golf course in a northern climate like ours in Wisconsin. If tempted to take winter too lightly and ignore the degree to which it can affect a golf course, one likely will see those effects, and then can be fatal.

And we thought the days of worrying about turf were over. Dream on.

Yet, despite our tendency to worry about a golf course at all times, including winter, the fact is that winter simplifies almost everything for us. The working days are more normal in length, and the working week will now mean freedom on Saturdays and Sundays for several months. Fewer employees and even fewer (or no) players help spell a simpler life, for a while at least.

Regardless of what this coming winter season will bring, we can be thankful that we aren't in the Ice Ages or at the Polar regions of this old earth. Between now and spring are the best of all of our holidays, the educational meetings of Expo and the GCSAA conference. There will be skiing and ice skating, deer hunting and ice fishing, warm fires and warm clothes and time with family. And kept in that perspective, it will be a great time of the year.

Sometimes the blunders committed by our land grant university in Madison are enough to make even the most faithful alum go nuts. Of late there have been stories of overpaid bureaucrats, job guarantees even for major screw-ups, felons and perverts in prison still on the payroll, and more. It seems some staff members have a deal like few others in society have.

Then there was the award as the best party college in the country, and the Princeton Review that recognized pervasive student drinking on the Madison campus.

About the time you think you cannot take it anymore, some startling good news makes the headlines. There is nothing like good news to balance the bad. The UW-Madison was named the nation's top research university in a new college guide that measured higher education contributions to society.

In another ranking, the National Research Council



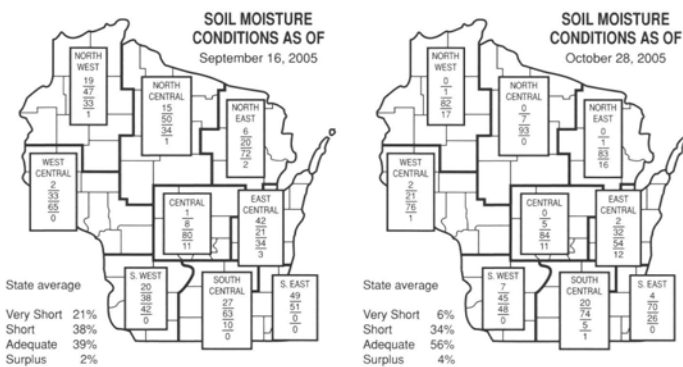
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put 16 of the UW-Madison's doctoral programs in the nation's top 10.

The National Science Foundation reports that the UW-Madison leads state institutions in research spending. Figures show 82 cents of every research dollar in Wisconsin is spent at the UW-Madison. The school also ranks in the top 20 schools nationally in four areas that venture capitalists find attractive - life sciences, engineering, physical sciences and computer science.



Don't laugh - you'll be there sooner than you can imagine - AARP eligible. I have been there for a while now, and I read all of the literature they send to me.

The November 2005 AARP Bulletin carried a brief note that observed golfers save or invest almost 75% more for retirement than those Americans who do not play golf. But the same study revealed that while 75% of golfers know their handicap, a little over half of them know the current value of their portfolios.

Where do you fit into these stats?



I'll add to some of the information that was on the Noernet regarding a U.S. Department of

Transportation identification number requirement for vehicles over 10,000 lbs. gross weight.

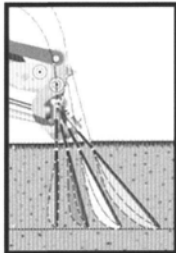
As a result of increased focus on homeland security, enforcement of the requirement to have a US DOT ID number for your golf course truck that has a gross weight of 10,001 lbs or more has heightened recently, as some superintendents have found out.

The US DOT WI number has to be displayed. You are required to have an annual vehicle inspection (keep report in the glove box). The following safety equipment has to be in the cab of the truck:

- Fire extinguisher,
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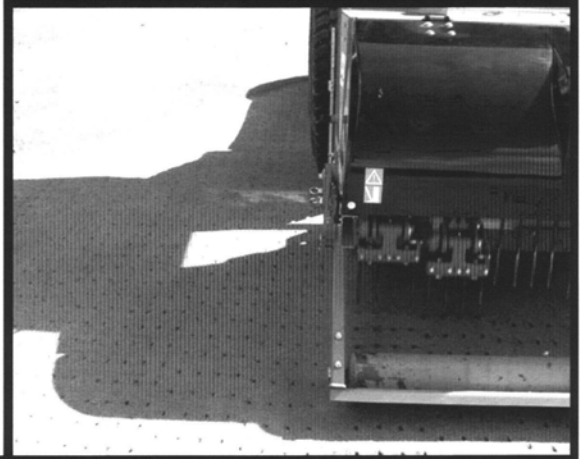
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We lost a terrific friend when Dr. Elton Aberle retired at the end of August as the dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. He joins Neal Jorgenson and Leo Walsh as college deans who made great contributions to Wisconsin's turfgrass program.

When Dean Aberle announced his plans to retire, a committee was selected to search for a new dean. The committee gave the chancellor three names to consider for the position.

He chose a Cornell professor named Molly Jahn. She's not starting until August 1, 2006.

Jahn is 46, a researcher in plant breeding and genetic mapping and has been a Cornell faculty member since 1991. She has been a full professor only since 2003. Baffling to many alums on the outside is the fact that she has never been a department chair, an assistant dean or an associate dean. Apparently she will experience a lot of OJT.

Jahn is married and has four kids. She is the first female to lead the college. We certainly wish her the best.

Three cheers to the WGCSA officers and directors for initiation of the WGCSA Legacy Scholarships. President Marc Davison introduced the first three recipients at the 2005 Symposium in Kohler in November.

David Janzen, son of Roy, was present to accept his scholarship from President Davison. Dave is a student at UW-Stout majoring in information technology management.



**WGCSA Legacy
Scholarship recipient
Dave Janzen.**

Gary Tanko's son Brandon is a freshman aviation major at Minnesota State University-Mankato and will make good use of the \$500 scholarship.

Lisa Williams is a senior at Northern Michigan University majoring in biology. She is the daughter of WGCSA member Dan Williams.

Congratulations to these fine young students.

The chairman of the Department of Horticulture is suffering from cancer and Dr. Dennis Stimmart is undergoing treatment now. Someone was needed to help manage the department during Dennis' recovery period and Dr. John Stier was chosen by his colleagues to do that.

Selection as co-chair of a department is quite an expression of respect; John is only in his early 40s. We are both fortunate and proud to have his talents in our businesses and profession.

Congratulations, John.

The Symposium, the opening of the deer-hunting season, and Thanksgiving are behind us now. Christmas is around the corner, the season most of us love most.

But despite the apprehension most of us feel as a result of last winter's disaster, I hope we are all able, for a few days around Christmas, to put the worrying out of our minds and focus on the true meaning of the holiday. It is maybe the best time to enjoy family and friends.

Merry Christmas everybody! 🌿



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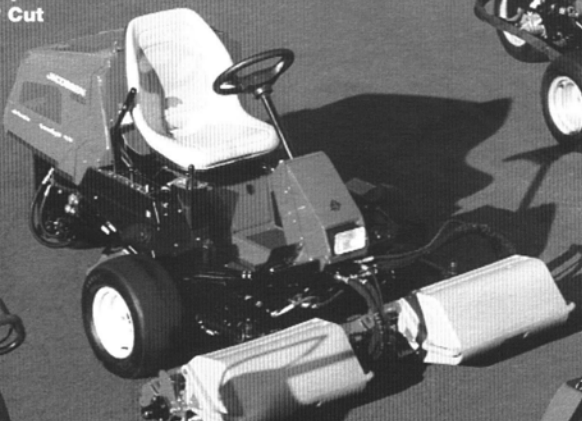
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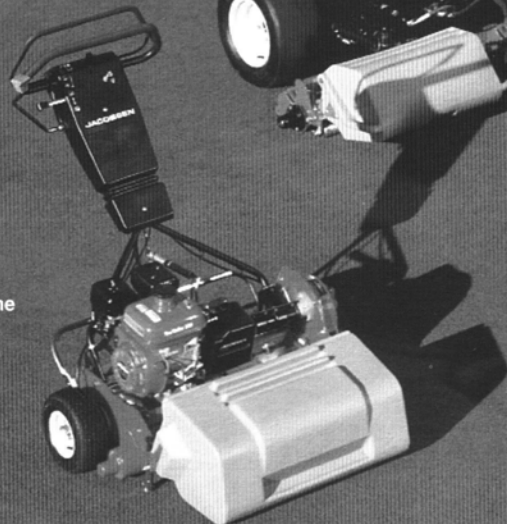
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A Book We Are All Going to Love

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

I can hardly wait to see Gene Haas' latest book, "Caring For the Green — The history of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association." If it is even half as good as his first book - the history of the Wisconsin State Golf Association, it will be a great addition to golf literature.

Honestly, Dave Brandenburg and I cannot believe the confluence of positive circumstances at the time of our 75th anniversary. We thought the best way to celebrate it was with a book about our association and its history. We needed an author, first and foremost. We needed an author who might have the time. We needed an author who had the interest. And we preferred an author who knew golf and who loved the game. After only a brief discussion, Dave and I knew we had to ask Gene Haas if he would do the job.

Gene has had a strong tie to the WGCSA for a long time, a relationship that was made stronger when he and the late Jim Belfield formalized an agreement with the WSGA to house our association in their office. It was one of the high points of our history, actually.

Mr. Haas was always very involved with WSGA tournaments, and over the years met with and got to know hundreds of WGCSA members. He knows us and he knows our association.

Dave and I drove to Elm Grove about two years ago, hats in hand and fingers crossed, to pop the question to Gene. We had a great visit, asked if he would consider writing the book and promised to help where we could. We left town with "I'll talk to Diane and I'll think about it." I guess at that point, we really couldn't have hoped for more. Maybe we were fearful of an outright and immediate "not interested." Before too much time after that had passed, Gene called us as said he would tackle the job. Brandenburg and Miller were on cloud nine for weeks!

A 75th anniversary is a big deal. Other states have spent the whole year celebrating their 75th - Minnesota, New Jersey and Rhode Island come to mind. Tournaments were held; Rhode Island had a tourney where the players used hickory shafted clubs and period clothing. Usually the highlights of their history were carried in one or several issues of their chapter publication. But as far as I know, no chapter put together a book like ours is about to do.

Gene dedicated a ton of time to the task. A history writer needs to be a sleuth, and when Gene would unearth a piece of information about us or our

chapter, half a dozen more questions came up that he would pursue.

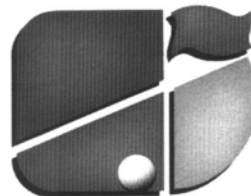
Of course, I worried that he wouldn't have enough information. Rather, he asked, "how long do you want this book to be?" He used every resource he knew about, both in the world of golf and out. He visited public libraries and museums, investigated sources in the USGA and the GCSAA. He visited with untold numbers of individuals both in our profession and out, and studied the past journals of the WGCSA, the GCSAA and individuals clubs. He read and read and read. He digested the events and their meaning and put it all in perspective. He reviewed, literally, thousands of photos and selected those that helped best tell our story. He read minutes of our board meetings, chapter meetings and consumed accounts of our educational offerings. He left no stone unturned, as near as I could tell.

Diane was a big help - she has been his whole career — and their son Gary is a talented graphic artist and designer who lent his talents to the layout and design of his dad's latest book.

Gene knows so many people in Wisconsin that it was inevitable that he knew enough printers to select one that would best combine value and quality.

It comes down to great anticipation, and I guess I am so excited because I have carried the chapter historian responsibilities for so long. For that, my thanks to Gene are beyond my ability to express them, other than to say he has made a dream come true.

As I write these paragraphs, I haven't seen Gene's book yet. But I know he has written a great story. Once again, he has proven to be the best friend we could ever hope to have. "Caring For The Green" will be evidence of that. ♣



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Wisconsin Turf Holds Fundraiser and Field Day to Support Noer Facility

By Gary Huenerberg, Wisconsin Turf Equipment Corporation

Wisconsin Turf and the Jacklin Seed Company selected a beautiful 75-degree day in September to host 60 golf course superintendents and golf course owners from around Wisconsin for a day of education, demonstrations and golf. The event was held at University Ridge Golf Course in Verona.

Dr. Doug Brede, the director of research for Jacklin Seed, led a tour of the bentgrass, bluegrass and ryegrass plots at the Noer Facility. Highlighted were the Alpha and T-1 varieties of bentgrass, varieties that have shown fast and consistent germination, good color, dollar spot resistance and a competitive habit with *Poa annua*.

David Legg, now a regional general manager for Jacobsen, presented an overview of the latest Jacobsen equipment on display. The electric greensmower drew a lot of interest, and the Mag-Knife mag-



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