

It Really Is a Small World

By **BOB BRAME**, *USGA Agronomist*

Recent travels took me far from the known surroundings in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio, to attend a turf conference in Munich, Germany. While some components of golf turf management are the same in Germany, there are a number of differences. Nevertheless, the experience brought to light the fact that golf is loved in a number of countries over and above those where English is spoken. It really is a small world and the similarities tie us all together as we work to improve golf turf management while learning to be the best possible stewards of limited global resources.

The mild winter weather continues in the lower portion of the North Central Region, although there have been a couple cold snaps along the way. If the trend continues we may experience an early spring. However, March can sometimes be the snowiest month of the year. Nonetheless, working for prompt completion of equipment servicing would seem to be a wise posture given the possibility of an early spring.

While most of the turf conferences for the off-season have come and gone, there is a USGA Regional Meeting scheduled for March 27th in Indianapolis at the Marriott North. The northern portion of the North Central Region will have a regional conference on March 25th in Minneapolis at the airport Marriott. The program planned for each offers something for course committee members, managers, golf course superintendents, professionals and anyone interested in golf. If your course has not received a mailing for one of these regional conferences, give our office a call. Plan to join us at the conference closest to your course.

Our Turf Advisory Service invoice mailing has been out for a few weeks and commitment cards are coming in at a steady pace. This means our travel scheduling has been initiated and it looks like it will be another busy summer. If you did not receive a mailing, give us a call. All others, please return the green, postage paid commitment card so that we can more accurately continue the scheduling process. As always, should specific scheduling concerns/needs exist give us a call.

We will continue to update regional news, on this Web site, through the season ahead with postings at the first and middle of each month. I will be doing the first of the month posting and Bob Vavrek, who covers Minnesota, Wisconsin,

and Michigan in the northern portion of the North Central Region, will write the mid-month update.

(Editor's Note: Bob Brame can be reached at bobbrame@usga.org.)

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