

'SentryWorld South' Hosts WGCSA Tournament Meeting



UW-Madison Soil Science Professor Wayne Kussow addressed the topic of 'Late Season Fertilization.'

Very warm, very humid, very nice and very well drained. Those were the conditions that 66 of our WGCSA members and their guests were treated to at the WGCSA Annual Golf Tournament Meeting held on September 25 at "SentryWorld South", otherwise known as the Country Club of Beloit. September's heavy rains held off long enough for Host Golf Course Superintendent Don Ferger and his staff to really work miracles in excellently preparing this fine golf course. Sincere thanks to Don and his staff for providing such fine playing conditions and also

for providing such fine hospitality for our tournament.

The golf tournament got underway shortly after 12:00 noon as 54 golfers began their trek over the course. Bruce Schweiger, the pre-tourney favorite, had promised not to show up, but reportedly couldn't resist the urge to make the rest of us look like fools. There were many different winners and just a few losers-winners included the WTA, who received the proceeds from all soda & beer sold on the course. Winners of the respective flights and winners of the course proxie prizes are as follows:

Championship flight

1st place Bruce Schweiger (74)
2nd place Dale Parske (78)

"A" Flight

1st place (tie) Dan Millies (85)
1st place (tie) John Krutilla (85)

"B" Flight

1st place Roger Bell (98)
2nd place Woody Voigt (99)

Seniors Division (over 55)

1st place Dick Evenson (78)

Affiliated Members flight (class "E")

1st place (tie) Curt Larsen
1st place (tie) Jim Knapp

Course Proxie Prize Winners

Closest to pin in 2 shots (#5) - Gary Mulvihill
Closest to pin (#7) - Bruce Schweiger
Longest putt (#9) - Bill Douglas

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Closest to pin (#10) - Ray Mertens
Longest putt (#13) - Fred Millies
Longest drive (#17) - Dale Parske

An excellent steak dinner was followed by our featured evening educational speaker, Dr. Wayne Kussow, University of Wisconsin-Madison Professor of Soil Science. Dr. Kussow spoke on the many benefits of fall nitrogen fertilization on golf course turf. Those of us who are currently advocates of fall fertilization are all reinforced in our prac-

tices, while those of us not into nitrogen in the fall now have some food for thought. Everything about this meeting was really great — great golf course, great food and great hospitality! I really think it's fair to say that the day was truly enjoyed by all.

The raffle prize for the evening was especially nice - one year's free use of an E-Z-Go Utility vehicle, provided again this year by Gary Monfre. The winner was John Krutilla.

FIELD DEMONSTRATION— 1986

Ransomes Introduces New Triplex Greensmower

by Monroe S. Miller

When you go to purchase a new triplex for either greens or tees (or nowadays, even fairways!) you'll have another machine to consider. It's called the Ransomes GT (greens triple) and it was officially introduced in Canada last October.

This is a new-from-the-ground up machine, not a remake of the old Hahn! It was designed by Ransomes, Sims & Jeffries of Ipswich, England and for the time being it will be manufactured there. Nevertheless, Johnson Creek had one around the plant and on several Wisconsin golf courses last summer (there was extensive testing all around the country during the mowing season) and a number of us saw it and used it.

I don't know if you could call it revolutionary or not, but it certainly has some new and interesting features. It was designed around a Kubota 570cc 2 cylinder diesel 12 hp engine. No other power plants are available as options. When you do that it seems you get a very balanced looking machine with excellent engine accessibility for maintenance and repair. The engine, by the way, is water-cooled as you would expect and is very quiet.

First look begs the question, "How do I get to the middle unit?" It is actually very easy - trip a lever and the spring loaded seat/foot control assembly lifts right up, as in the photo. You then can literally walk "inside" the machine. The grass catcher comes out easily.

There are some real nice features to the unit - you can remove reel motors from reels and reels from their frame without any tools or oil spills. The mower has the standard backlapping capability. The engines of this machine have made quite extensive use of electronics in controlling the system hydraulics. They've got a digital readout near the operator's right hand that gives the cutting frequency (cuts per meter). You can pre-determine the ration, you like for the mowing and maintain that for every green (or tee). Use of the transport speed does not affect this selection. It's all rather neat.

Although I didn't personally mow with it on my golf course, I did drive it and have seen it several times. Tom Harrison used it for a week and was favorably impressed. He mentioned a need to reduce the turning radius and I believe that changes is coming. They do offer verti-cuts, spikers and 6 blade reels as options.

(It seemed to do a good job of moving putting surfaces - it comes equipped with a 9 blade reel.)

My hunch is that the machine will receive a lot of attention in Phoenix and will be extensively demonstrated next summer. Cost figures are not yet available. As Tom said, considering the somewhat limited greens - mover market, "You don't need to build another mousetrap, you have to build a better one."

Ransomes thinks they've done that.

Continued on page 12.