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## Education and the Environment Key WGCSA Spring Meeting

By Tom Schwab  
Monroe Country Club

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Three great talks highlighted the WGCSA Spring Business Meeting on March 12. The large attendance, 80 superintendents, was proof that the subjects were important to us on the golf course. Any one of the three speakers had enough material and interest to carry the morning solo, but the three-subject format met everyone's approval.

The morning's first speaker was Red Roskopf. Red is our industry representative for AG 29 had a lot of information on how it will affect us on the golf course. Key points Red made are that basically AG 29 will use the instructions written on the label as rules for each individual chemical. If a label says no reentry until dry, don't spray within 50 feet of any body of water, use at least four gallons of water per 1000 square feet, and so on; that is the law. You will be in violation and can be penalized if you don't follow the label.

He also covered the record keeping we will have to do. Spray records will have to be done on the day of spraying and will have to include: the name of the person who loads the tank, the person who sprays, the site where pesticide is applied (e.g. greens), the pest (e.g. dollar spot, preventative), the date and time of application, amount of pesticide applied, total area treated and type of crop being sprayed (e.g. bentgrass).

One more rule AG 29 covers is the use of anti-siphon devices when filling tanks; no more can we just hang the hose down into the tank. Some superintendents have created some innovative ways to do this. Talk to other superintendents to see what they have devised.

Red touched on a lot more information and noted that a copy of AG 29 is available by writing the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, 801 W. Badger Road, Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708.

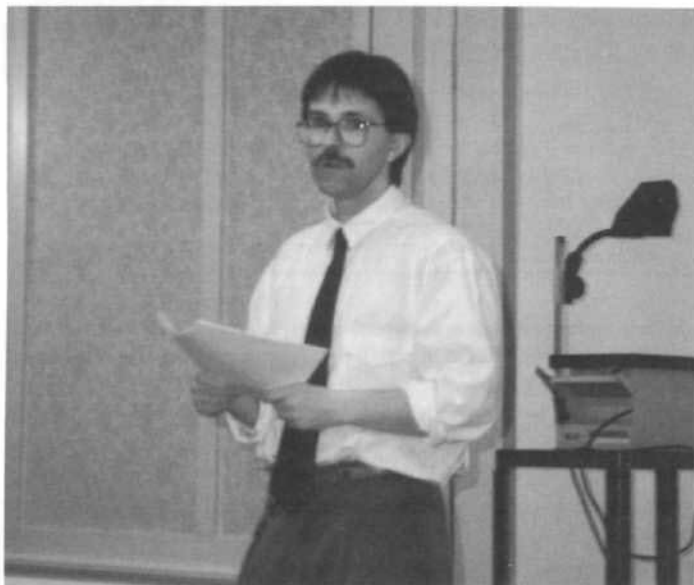
Next at the podium came the great speaking talent of Tom Harrison. He told us what he did at Maple Bluff to convert

his fuel storage to above ground tanks and how he disposed of his underground ones. In his opinion, the new underground fuel tank regulations and associated insurance responsibilities and expenses are too complicated and costly. He thought underground tanks are advantageous for filling stations and other large users. For golf courses, farms and small users tanks should be above ground where you can keep an eye on them.

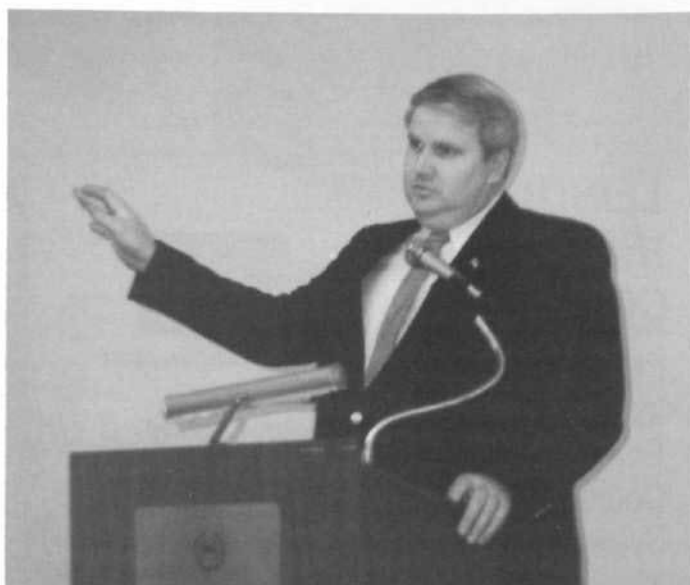
Tom described everything he did at his course and suggested if you have any questions for your course you could call Rex Colvin of the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations, (608) 266-8981.

Jerry Kershasky, who I think missed his calling as a college professor, gave an in-depth essay on his new fertigation program. First he redefined it as "microfertigation" because he'll be fertilizing with his irrigation at small rates to ideally mimic what a natural rainfall would do. He reasoned that overapplying fertilizers and chemicals can hurt the grass somewhat before you see its benefits. Giving large doses all at once can weaken the plants' cell walls and may negatively affect beneficial microorganisms. Microfertigation or ultra-fine spoon feeding (in 1/100th # N/M) may lessen use of pesticides and result in healthier plants by keeping the microcommunity working and causing less plant stress. Jerry also went into some of the mechanics of the system and addressed many questions on this new concept. I can't wait to hear, in a year or two, how well it has worked.

I can't do justice to all the information generated at this meeting in a brief article. Anyone who missed this educational session and the afternoon business meeting missed a great day. WGCSA owes much to the hard work of these three speakers.



Dr. Jerry Kershasky



Professor Tom Harrison