



*This issue offers you three (yes, three!) NEW features, two NEW disease control articles, one NEW study on N-fertilizer combinations, and a second chance to see if you are for real! Better find your reading glasses and get started!*



# THE GRASS ROOTS

an official publication of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association

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## Worzella Chosen to Lead WGCSA

By Monroe S. Miller

Bruce Worzella, golf course superintendent at West Bend Country Club, was elected president of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association at the November business meeting in Fond du Lac.

Worzella, superintendent at West Bend C.C. since 1979, has been a WGCSA director since 1984 and has been the association's vice president for the past two years.

A native of Wisconsin Rapids, Bruce received much of his practical experience on golf courses in that part of Wisconsin. As with so many others, his interest in golf turf management was inspired by Dave Murgatroyd and Jeff Bottensek. He worked with Dave and Jeff at the Ridges golf course during summers while he was in high school.

At the age of 18, Bruce went to work for Jack Keidel at Bull's Eye Country Club in Wisconsin Rapids in 1969. He was the assistant golf course superintendent there in 1971 and 1972, working under the direction of Bill Brazeau.

In the fall of 1972, Bruce and Cliff Brandl were appointed co-superintendents of the organization's private 18-hole golf course and the 9-hole public course.

Worzella spent 1976 and 1977 in University Park, Pennsylvania as a student in Penn State's two-year turfgrass management program.

His move to the West Bend position came in April of 1979.

Bruce and his wife Mary have three children—Beth (19), Marci (16) and Michaeyln (13). They all play golf, an activity made especially easy since they live immediately adjacent to the West Bend course.



Bruce Worzella, WGCSA President

Beth and Marci have both lettered in golf in high school and Beth is now a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and playing on the UW women's golf team.

During the course of a wide-ranging interview, it became clear to this editor that Worzella assumes the responsibilities of WGCSA president with great seriousness. Highlights of that interview follow.

*Do you feel well prepared for the office you now hold?*

I have been a member of the WGCSA for 17 years, and for most of those years I have been a very active member.

I am personal friends with many of our members, and feel lucky to know most of the rest.

More specifically, the two years I served as a director, the three years

spent as treasurer and the last two years as vice president have all provided excellent training for this position. I certainly haven't been swept into office without notice!

I feel confident that I have a good sense of what our membership is all about, how they feel about important issues in our business and what they expect from me. I feel just as confident that I am capable of meeting their expectations.

I also strongly believe that this organization is not one that is dominated by the president. All that we do is more of a team effort than anything, and I am definitely a team player. The other officers and the directors will be a great source of advice, views and ideas for me.

*What do you view as the most serious problems in golf turf management today?*

Good communication is always important in any profession. Given the circumstances in our profession in these times, it is probably more important than ever. We need communication with the golfers in the organizations we work for. We need to communicate with directors, owners and committee people, too. It may well be that the public is the most important group we need to keep in touch with.

As a group, we need to work entirely within the framework of government regulations. We may not always think these rules and regulations and laws are fair, but we have the responsibility—legally and morally—to follow them.

I feel we need to continue in our role as good stewards of the environment. We need to make that important role

*(Continued on page 9)*



*(Continued from the front page)*

more visible to both golfers and non-golfers.

We are going to have to continue to reconcile the desire for good playing conditions golf players want with the incredible cost associated with doing that. It cannot continue the way it has been going, especially with the economic conditions we are operating in nowadays.

Finally, I worry about the stress far too many Wisconsin golf course superintendents operate under. There has to be a way for more of them to get away from the golf course for a day or two during the summer months. The need for a normal family life needs to be pressed to owners, directors, etc. This business of "living on the edge" just has to stop. Soon you will see people leaving the profession because of the working conditions.

*Are you comfortable with the relationship with the WSGA?*

Absolutely! One of our greatest assets is the relationship we have with the WSGA. We simply could not function as an association without them. Everyone in that office is a good friend and we owe them tremendously.

*How about the WPGA and the WCMA?*

We are all in the same business of providing a service to golf to the best of our abilities and our resources. We always have worked well together and I feel certain that we will continue to do that. We are a family of professionals.

*What do you view as your most important task as WGCSA president?*

First, I have the responsibility to see to it that this organization runs smoothly. That means listening to all points of view during decision-making processes, and making sure that everything we do is done in a professional manner.

*What areas might receive some special attention during your two years as president?*

I want to place even more emphasis on education. We have to do that to stay on top of ever-changing demands and requirements we face. It goes beyond our professional well-being; I think our survival depends on it.

I also want to be absolutely certain that we are always aware of current laws and regulations. No excuses are accepted for failure to do this.

Finally, I want to put forth every cent we can for research. We have to get



Imagine that—a golf player who not only walks, but carries his own bags!

started with this business of answering some of the important questions in Wisconsin golf turf management. In close connection with this will be my pledge to do everything we can in the area of student scholarships. The young people in the turf management program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will do a lot in the years to come to secure the future well-being of golf. We have to support them.

*How do you expect the WGCSA to "fit" with the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association and the new NOER research facility?*

We have a strong commitment and great loyalty to our land grant university in Madison. We have always wanted to see grass research done within our borders and we now have a chance to do that. I will fully support the work that the WTA does and the research projects that will be started at the NOER facility. There is no question we have a serious responsibility to inform our membership of how our donations are being used there, and I feel we deserve input during the decision-making processes. Answers to the questions we have and that the public has about golf turf management must be found. We would be foolish not to be a part of the search.

*How do you view the relationship between the WGCSA and the GCSAA?*

I believe that every local chapter in the country has to look to the national

for direction and leadership. They are better able to deal with the bigger issues of the day.

The emphasis the GCSAA puts on education is impressive, and I fully support it.

By working with local chapters, the GCSAA is able to advance a united and consistent front to issues faced by all of us.

*On more practical matters, do you expect to initiate any changes in THE GRASS ROOTS or the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium?*

No. These represent our best efforts at communication and education, two priorities for me. Their successes speak for themselves. There may always be room for fine tuning, but by and large I believe that if neither is broken, why try to force a "fix"?

*How does your club feel about your selection as WGCSA president?*

Honestly, I haven't told anyone. My green committee chairman has always known of my involvement in the WGCSA and how important it has been to me. But I haven't specifically informed anyone at this time.

*Is everyone in your family behind your decision to assume the WGCSA presidency?*

Yes. I have always considered my family the most important part of my life. They are my sounding board, and I owe them a lot for that. Their involvement in golf has been especially rewarding and they are well aware of the importance of the WGCSA to me.

*Give us some quick "bytes" on each of the following:*

**Fast greens** — The speed of golf greens should be determined by each situation. Certainly important are undulation, weather, tournament requirements, majority player wants and the important factor of enjoyment. I am glad that the talk about ultra fast greens has subsided in recent years.

**USGA Green Section** — The past two years I have subscribed to the Turf Advisory Service. The results have been great! Jim Latham and Bob Vavrek have kept me and our green committee informed of the latest in what it takes to manage good golf turf these days. They are also very tuned into the latest trends in turf management.

**Golf prosperity in Wisconsin** — I have always felt Wisconsin is a paradise of golf courses. Too few people have been aware of that. Both the old



and the new golf courses here have a lot to offer golf players and have helped the tourism industry in the state.

**Relationship between the WGCSA and the UW-Madison** — The track record of the University of Wisconsin-Madison as a world class institution is well known. It has produced excellent quality graduates. The record of those golf course superintendents who have come out of that institutions is testimony enough. I am especially proud that my daughter is a student there!

**Relationship between the WGCSA and the companies we do business with** — I come from the old school where you support your local people. They are most often your friends, too. That attitude continues.

**Women on golf course staffs** — I have always had women on our golf course staff. My wife has been involved with the maintenance of flowers at WBCC for years, and the members wouldn't have it any other way. In fact, many women have greater pride in their work than men I have employed.

*Any final thoughts?*

I really am grateful to the membership for the opportunity they have given me. I will work very hard and do my very best to justify the faith in me. Thanks to everyone.

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## The Wisconsin Golf Course Quiz



# Name That Course

*By Monroe S. Miller*

The World Series inspired a lot of conversation around the country. Unfortunately, most of it wasn't about baseball.

I thought the discussions about the Braves fans and their tomahawk chop were dumber than dumb. But they persisted, and the rest of the fall season saw groups in any number of school districts working to change team names. I didn't realize there were so many offended people out there.

There is no real reason to editorialize about what I think, for example, about efforts to change team names like Indians, Warriors, Redskins, Braves, etc.

Those silly arguments got me to thinking, however, about the club where I've worked for twenty years. Blackhawk was a courageous Indian leader in the early to mid-1800s, and travelled through the Madison area. For those reasons and because of the existence of many Indian burial and effigy mounds on our golf course, the club founders decided to honor the chief by naming their new golf organization after him.

I'll bet, if he were alive today, that he would be both honored and flattered by that simple act.

Now I'm wondering if someone who might be offended by that came forward and demanded a name change, what would happen.

Would officials change the name of the club from the one that has served us so well for so long?

If a change was ordered, what would we become? Would we be The Lake

Mendota Country Club? The Shorewood Hills Golf Club?

Those thoughts naturally led to this question: *What various things were Wisconsin golf courses named for or after?*

My survey of the 1991 Wisconsin State Golf Association Directory is the basis for this issue's quiz. Here it goes:

"Rank the following factors in order of the frequency they were used to name Wisconsin golf courses."

Admittedly, the categories are arbitrary and some judgements were required in placing a course in one category or another. Be assured that I was at least consistent.

Animal  
City/Town/County  
Geographic feature  
Indians  
Institutions  
Other  
People  
Rivers/Lakes/Creek/Streams  
Trees

ANSWERS  
8 Animals  
1 City/Town/County  
2 Geographic feature  
6 Indians  
9 Institutions  
5 Other  
7 People  
3 Rivers/Lakes/Creeks/Streams  
4 Trees

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