

1997 Spring Education/Business Meeting Held

By Brent R. Amann
Koshkonong Mounds CC

A group of 132 combined members from the WGCSA and WPGA, travelled to the Ramada Hotel in Fond du Lac on Monday, March 3, for the annual spring education/business meeting. The meeting theme was "What we should know about each others job."

The common thought from this year's meeting was the need for improved communication throughout the industry. Whether it be between a golf course superintendent and the golf professional or a superintendent and the general manager, the need for better communication was highly emphasized.

Mr. Robert A. Brame, a Green Section director from the USGA, was the days first speaker. He emphasized the need for golf course superintendents to improve communications and public relations. Evidence from a recent USGA survey on the pitfalls of golf course maintenance practices across the nation showed that the top pitfall was the lack of these two critical areas. He suggested seven ways in which a superintendent could improve skills in this area:

1. Maintain a professional image
2. Post important information
3. Participate in the course newsletter
4. Schedule, attend & speak at meetings
5. Have a friendly attitude
6. Involve your players & officials in decision-making
7. Play golf with others at the course you work.

Following Mr. Brame's presentation a panel discussion took place between members of the WGCSA and WPGA, moderated by Mark Krause, operations manager and director of golf, Muskego Lakes CC. The panel included superintendents Monroe Miller (Blackhawk CC), Rodney Johnson (Pine Hills CC) and Gordon

Waddington (CC of Wisconsin), as well as WPGA members Paul Becker (director of golf, Blackwolf Run), Cathy Jo Johnson (general manager and head pro, Willow Run GC) and Tim Marks (Bulls Eye CC).

The spirited discussion revolved around topics ranging from views of each others' positions, ways to make each others' jobs easier, golf course vs. clubhouse spending, night maintenance and chemical application education. The main theme throughout these discussions was once again the need for better communication skills.

The need for the improved communications was further emphasized by the presentation of Mr. Tommy Witt Director GCSAA, Wynstone GC, North Barrington, IL. Mr. Witt reminded us that no matter how much we disagree with each other, "There is no 'I' in the word TEAM", and no matter how big egos and self pride get in the way, we need to improve relations between the superintendent and golf professional. Both the superintendent and golf professional need to realize that each position is equally responsible for the service end of any golf operation. The golf course is where the money is created, so without proper communications you produce a lesser quality product, regardless of where the weakness may come from.



WGCSA president Mark Kienert presents Dr. Kussow with the Distinguished Service Award. He became only the 10th recipient in the WGCSA's 67-year history.

We'd like to say we buried the competition. But that would mean putting an extremely inferior fertilizer in the ground.



Only par ex with IBDU® has the highest WIN percentage.
We have more than Lebanon® and more than Scotts®. Because the higher the Water Insoluble Nitrogen content, the longer your turf will remain green and the less chance there is for burn.

IMC Vigoro

FROM FERTILE MINDS.

*Lebanon is a trademark of Lebanon Seaboard Corporation. *Scotts is a trademark of O.M. Scotts & Sons Co. © 1996 IMC AgriBusiness Inc. All rights reserved.

Reinders Brothers, Inc. 13400 Watertown Plank Road Elm Grove, WI 53122-0825 1-800-782-3300	Ken Quandt Territory Manager (414) 327-3993
--	--

We were fortunate to also hear from Mr. Dave Jesse, owner/partner of Softspikes. Mr. Jesse gave us a brief history of Softspike and its company. He talked about how the spike came about and how over the past couple of years Softspikes have improved in durability, comfortability, stability and popularity. Officially, the numbers from the USGA state that 1304 courses have banned the use of metal spikes from their facilities. Mr. Jesse projected that in the near future over 2,500 golf courses throughout the United States will no longer allow metal spikes on their golf courses. This decision is one most of us will probably face in the future, if not already.

Following lunch, Dr. Wayne Kussow updated the WGCSA on plans in the field of research concerning putting green management systems at the UW-Madison. The purpose of this project is to establish performance driven management practices on sand and native soil greens. Dr. Kussow has been studying this topic for the past couple of years.

The WGCSA business meeting followed. During this meeting, several awards were given by the association. There were five members recognized for 25 years of service:

Mr. Jim Belfield, Tripoli CC

Mr. Don Ferger, CC of Beloit

Mr. Charles Frazier, assistant superintendent at Nakoma GC

Mr. John Krutilla, assistant superintendent at Janesville CC

Mr. Monroe Miller, Blackhawk CC

Congratulations gentlemen for your tremendous years of service.

In addition to these awards, Dr. Wayne Kussow was honored by the WGCSA with its Distinguished Service Award. The highest award presented by the association, there have only been nine previous winners. Congratulations, Dr. Kussow, on this well deserved honor and thank you for everything you have done for us.

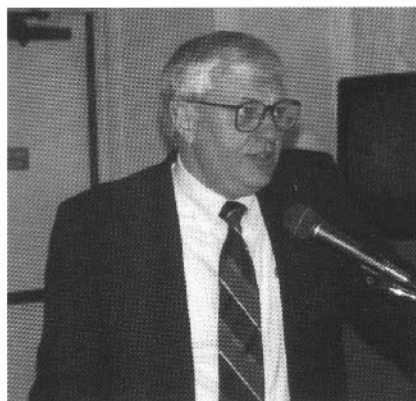
In closing, Tony Rzadzki, superintendent at Bristlecone Pines and Wisconsin steward for the National Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, addressed the

association on the importance of this program and the hopeful future involvement of golf courses throughout Wisconsin. Any members interested in this program are asked to contact Tony.

The meeting moved for adjournment with thoughts of looking forward to the first golfing event on April 21, where Mark Hjortness will be our host at The Ives Grove Golf Links. Christine Faulks from Greensmix will discuss "Trends in Topdressing". Hope to see you there. 🏌️



Dave Smith
planned a good
spring business
meeting.



Dr. Wayne Kussow
presented a review
of his research at
the O.J. NOER
Facility.

