



# SEPTEMBER WGCSA MEETING - Fox Valley Golf Club

By *Dustin Riley*, Golf Course Superintendent, Oconomowoc Golf Club

## The Golf Course - Fox Valley Golf Club

The Fox Valley Golf Club is a private 18-hole golf course located in Kaukauna, just north of Appleton. The 375 members entertain themselves on a course that was originated in 1946, as a 9-hole course, in nearby Combined Locks. The 1966 the golf club relocated to the outskirts of Kaukauna. Those new 18-holes were eventually renovated by Lohmann Golf Designs, Inc. in 1996 and 1999. The renovation involved reshaping the green surrounds and sand bunkers. A new golf course maintenance facility was also included in the finished renovation.

## The Golf Course Superintendent - Scott Bushman

Scott Bushman has been responsible for the care of Fox Valley Golf Club since 1997. The Marshfield native acquired his Bachelor of Science - Horticulture with an Emphasis in Turfgrass Management degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in 1995. While completing his education, Scott served as the assistant golf course superintendent at RiverEdge Golf Course in Marshfield. In 1996, Scott relocated to serve as Joe DeBruin's assistant at Fox Valley Golf Club. A year later, Scott would transition into the role of superintendent and continue overseeing the renovation. The maintenance staff consists of two additional full-time members. twelve seasonal employees bring the staff total to 15 during the summer months. As with many superintendents, Scott must rely on an assistant and mechanic to accomplish many of the tasks. In Scott's case, Mike Schuman serves both roles. The efforts of the staff were recognized as the tournament began on the well-cared for golf course.

## The Educational Session - "The Year in Review"

The USGA Green Section Agronomist, Bob Vavrek, presented his annual "Year in Review." During his travels as the USGA Agronomist, Bob presented a wonderful slide show illustrating the dos and don'ts of golf course turfgrass management. Several pictures displayed the results of poor, inconsistent topdressings. The layering developed from such inconsistencies resulted in turf easily weakened by mechanical and environmental stresses. A nice highlight of the presentation was a slide depicting a beautiful grow-in of a green. The text book photo was taken from one of our very own. Dave Smith of Abbey Springs Golf Club was praised for the wonderful soil profile of a new green.

Since winter is approaching faster than most



Host Scott Bushman.



Pickups and machinery give evidence of a WGCSA monthly meeting!

"golfers" would like, and since this is Wisconsin, Bob spent a few moments scaring us by describing the snow mold and winterkill damage that occurs in Alaska. Interesting photos showed the annual harmful effects of the true frozen tundra. This year's review presented many reminders of the importance of basic turfgrass management. Ideas and methods may improve but problems can always occur.

## The Event

WGCSA members, affiliates and guest migrated on September 9, 2002 to Kaukauna to participate in the annual WGCSA tournament. The late August temperature cool down was one of the welcomed topics of conversation among the participants. However, the cool down would be non-existent as the upper 80's/low 90's provided a pleasantly warm day for golf. Typical meetings are usually set up for fun with for-



**Speaker Bob Vavrek, USGA Green Section Agronomist.**

mats including best ball and scrambles. The WGCSA tournament required that everyone actually play their own golf ball - *and keep score*. This day's event would have two flights. Flight A (hcp 0-16) and Flight B (hcp 17-32) would include golf course superintendents with an established handicap. The Peoria system would score the group golf course superintendents without an established handicap along with guest and affiliates. Thankfully, Fox Valley Golf Club's golf professional, Don Erdmann, was gracious enough to assist the scoring using the Peoria system. Here are the results of the tournament:

**Flight A - Handicap 0-16**

- Net 68 - Gordy Waddington, Country Club of Wisconsin
- 71 - Dave Herr, Deer Run GC
- Low Gross 73 - Scott Bushman

**Flight B - Handicap 17-32**

- Net 72 - Richard Chapman, Crystal Springs GC
- 74 - Dustin Riley, Oconomowoc GC

**Peoria Flight**

- 72 - Joe Kuta, Hartford CC
- 72.5 - Bob Young, High Cliff Golf Course

**Golf Hole Flag Events**

- Hole 5 - Closest to Pin: Dustin Riley, Oconomowoc Golf Club
- Hole 7 - Longest Putt: Steve Schmidt, Butte de Morts CC
- Hole 8 - Closest to Pin: Randy Dupont, North Hills CC
- Hole 9 - Longest Putt: Dale Marach, Reinders
- Hole 10 - Longest Drive: Scott Schaller, North Shore GC
- Hole 12 - Closest to Pin: Scott Schaller, North Shore GC
- Hole 14 - Closest to Pin: Terry Ward, Brillion Iron Works, Inc.
- Hole 16 - Longest Putt: Bruce Schweiger, Reinders
- Hole 18 - Longest Putt: Robert Gosewehr, Mee-Kwon Park GC



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