



WGCSA Meeting - Pine Hills Country Club

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

On September 30th, over one hundred golf course superintendents, affiliates and guests traveled to the eastern side of Wisconsin to partake in a wonderful day of education and golf. Golf course superintendents were encouraged to use this monthly meeting to invite owners, board of directors or other influential persons to Pine Hills Country Club. WGCSA members used this opportunity to introduce their guests to fellow golf course superintendents and also expose their guests to course management concerns.

The Golf Course - Pine Hills Country Club

The Pine Hills Golf Club is a private 18-hole golf course located in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. In 1929, Harry B. Smead designed Pine Hills Country Club for a tally of \$125,000. Included within the project was an underground irrigation system. Some of the original pipe is apparently in use today. The golf course exhibits significant elevation change as well as unforgettable green undulations. In 1929, green heights of cut were obviously not as low as today's. Even with those high heights of cut,

the undulations at Pine Hills CC would have provided the putting challenge Harry Smead desired. Today, those undulations, coupled with top-notch turf conditions, humiliate most golfers. Two-putt greens can almost be a rarity for many of the standard pin locations. The golf course and its playing conditions have been under the direction of Rod Johnson. Over the past 22 years, Rod has displayed the golf course and his staff's ability to four WGCSA meetings, WTA fund raiser event as well as the 1988 Wisconsin State Amateur and the 1999 Wisconsin State Open. The 257 members contribute about 18,000 golf rounds per season.

The Speaker Guest - Ron Forse

Ron Forse, of Forse Design, Inc., has been practicing golf course architecture for over 10 years. Forse Design, Inc., located in western Pennsylvania, has specialized in the restoration of dozens of classic American golf courses. However, Forse Design has also created new golf courses, including a daily fee layout in Pennsylvania

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which was ranked fifth in Golf Digest's Places to Play. Ron Forse obtained his Bachelor of Science in landscape architecture from West Virginia University. In 1979, he instructed part time at a branch campus for Penn State University. Currently, Mr. Forse is an instructor for two GCSAA seminars.

Mr. Forse's presentation was titled "To Tree or Not to Tree." His talk was well illustrated through slides of many do's and don'ts. Trees can have a purpose on a golf course. Due to the technological changes in the game of golf, trees have become a necessity in some cases. "People are hitting the golf ball farther than ever. And they're also mis-hitting the golf ball farther than ever." Trees are required to provide protection from errant golf shots.

However, Mr. Forse explained that many times outside influences (owner, members and golf course superintendents) can interfere or change the way a golf hole was intended to be played by the golf course architect. Too many golf courses have used trees to frame a golf hole. In fact, it's a shame when trees are placed to conceal a hazard, such as a bunker. The golfer should be able to stand on the tee box and analyze how the golf hole was

designed to be played and then weigh the benefits and risks when deciding on a golf shot. Several before and after photos illustrated the positive effect of proper tree maintenance (removal). Opening up a tee shot, by removing trees, doesn't make the golf hole easier. However, the hazards that become visible force the golfer to "think" before swinging. Shame on us for making the golfer think while playing the game.

The Event - Superintendent/Guest Tournament

The Superintendent/Guest tournament was formatted as a two-person scramble. Two divisions separated golf course superintendents with guests from other participants. Results are as follows:

Division 1 - Golf Course Superintendents & Guests


- 1st 64 Seth Brogren \$125
Tim Delain \$125
- 2nd 67 Joe Knudtson \$75
Matt Brown \$75
- 3rd 69 Bob Padula \$50
Paul Blumke \$50
- 4th 70 Dan Shaw \$25
Scott Todd \$25
- 70 Dave Herr \$25
Lee Reinke \$25

Division 2 - Affiliates & Others


- 1st 69 Ed Witkowski \$90
Steve Van Acker \$90
- 2nd 70 Bob Lohmann \$60
Mike Benkusky \$60
- 3rd 73 JD Huseboe \$25
Jason Lemanski \$25
- 73 Chuck Schwab \$25
Gail Schwab \$25

Once all of the score cards were tallied, it was determined that there was only one golf hole would be awarded a skin. Dustin Riley and his guest Jim Bauer were the only team in the event to birdie Hole 1. The sole birdie sung to the tune of over \$800.

Thank you everyone for all participation and attendance at the 2002 WGCSA meetings. As the Golfing and Arrangements Chairperson it is my responsibility to schedule and organize the monthly events. If anyone would be interested in hosting a monthly meeting or would like to express concerns or suggestions, please feel free to contact me or one of the WGCSA board of directors. ♣



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