



# North Brook Country Club - June's WGCSA Meeting

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

Mother Nature produced an absolutely gorgeous day on June 28th as more than 80 golf course superintendents, affiliates and guests gathered in northern Wisconsin at the North Brook Country Club. Many of the attendees traveled for hours to the city of Luxemburg, located on the Lake Michigan peninsula, to pay homage to Tom Schaller, golf course superintendent, and his efforts. Tom's quiet modesty could not conceal the respect showed by fellow superintendents as they boasted about the condition of the semi-private golf course and country club.

Tom Schaller began his golf course career early as he was born and raised on the Illinois golf course, Old Orchard CC. Tom eventually bounced around a bit before settling in at North Brook CC. Tom has been the golf course superintendent at North Brook CC since its conception in 1970. Designed and built his father and brother, Tom eventually took over the grow-in and development of the golf course. Although Tom has been at the helm for 33 years, retirement is just a thought in the back of his mind. "I wouldn't know what to do!" Tom states. "I'll see how I feel in a couple of years."

The North Brook CC maintenance department consists of 12 individuals. Under Tom's supervision, his staff readies the golf course for the membership and many outside golf outings, which total 35,000 golf rounds annually. North Brook Country Club is a semi-private golf course totaling between 6,000 and 6,200 yards, depending on which tee marker is played. Over years, Tom and the North Brook CC have overcome



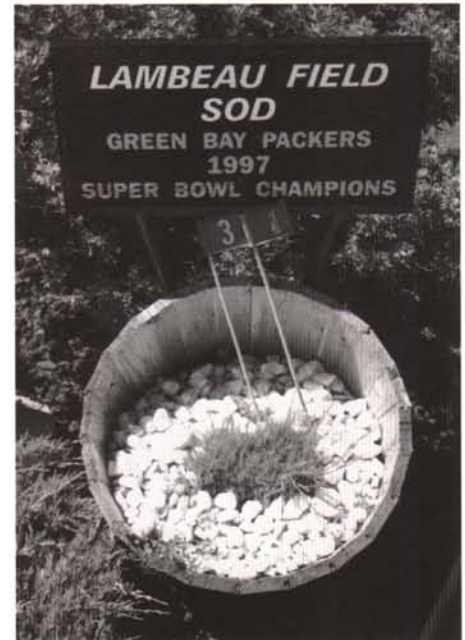
One of Wisconsin's best — North Brook golf course superintendent Tom Schaller.



Roy Zehren and Dave Brandenburg enjoying the gorgeous June day at NBCC.

many challenges. His proudest moments involve standing back and realizing the maturation of the golf course and the trees, which were planted over the last 30 years. It is also scary to realize the change in maintenance equipment, from the old large fairway tractors to the finer detail mowers used today.

June 28th saw a two-man best ball format yield many exciting scores and shots. Since many of the participants see limited playing time during the golf season, the USGA handicap system provided some additional comfort to some high golf scores.



The sign says it all — it could only be Wisconsin.



Camelot's Lee Merkel and his boss, Pat Zurawski. They teamed up for 1st place in the two-man best ball event.

The results are as follows:

- 1st, 59: Lee Merkel, The Country Club at Camelot; Pat Zurawski, The Country Club at Camelot
- 2nd, 60: Bill Knight, Ozaukee County Parks; Bob Emmerich, T. J. Emmerich Assoc.
- 3rd, 61: Mark Hjortness, H&H Fairway Enterprise; Chad Ball Conway Farms GC



Another rough day at the office for the Noer Facility's Tom Schwab!



WGCSA veterans Steve Schmidt and Mark Hjortness.



Steve Abler, the new director of the UW-Madison's TDL, clearly is happy to be back in Wisconsin.



Taehyun Chang and John Stier came from the UW-Madison to North Brook for golf and conversation.

4th, 61: Dan Quast, DHD Products;  
Mark Kienert Bulls Eye CC  
Last but Not Least, 77: Steve  
Abler, UW-Madison/TDDL; John  
Stier, UW-Madison

Hole Events

- #4 Closest to Pin: Gregg Verbeten,  
Mystery Hill GC
- #8 Closest to Pin (Lesco):  
Tom Schwab, UW-Madison
- #9 Longest Putt: James Johnson
- #11 Closest to Pin: J.D. HuseBoe,  
John Deere
- #13 Closest to Pin: Robert  
Gosewehr, Mee-Kwon Park
- #15 Closest to Pin in Two: Mark  
Hjortness, H&H Fairway  
Enterprise
- #16 Longest Drive: Bruce Worzella,  
West Bend CC
- #17 Shortest Drive: Brandon Nebhl

I would like to thank all for the great attendance. Tom Schaller and PGA Head Professional, Fred Nadeau, provided first class service and a very enjoyable day for golf. August 12th will be the Field Days at the OJ Noer Turfgrass research center in Verona. Nakoma GC will host the Superintendent Tournament on

September 22nd. Please plan accordingly as any support is appreciated. If any golf course superintendent or golf course would be interested in hosting a future WGCSA monthly meeting, please contact me at 262 567-6212, as the 2004 sites are beginning to fill. ♣

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