



Good Turnout to View Hawk's View

By **Dave Van Auken**, Golf Course Superintendent, Royal St. Patrick's Golf Links

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association Meeting for April was held at Hawk's View Golf Club in the beautiful Lake Geneva area. Host superintendent Jeff Townley provided a spectacular venue for the day and many of us throughout the state made the effort to attend. Nearly 115 participants gathered in the Red Tail ballroom to hear Hawk's View course designer Craig Schreiner speak. Afterwards we enjoyed a hearty meal and viewed a marvelous golf course from a player's advantage.

Craig delivered an informative presentation that I'm sure many superintendents related to quite easily. When speaking of the design criteria for putting green construction, Craig focused on drainage, drainage and then drainage. Calling upon not only the artistic side of drainage as it is integrated into a design, Craig also elaborated on the stringent testing measures required to meet certain specifications for a root zone mix. I also found it interesting that Craig touched upon several other critical factors when surveying a property including, but not limited to, sun angle, tree value and routing. Of particular interest to me was the grouping of putting green complexes which I thought odd until I realized the efficiency brought about by reducing travel time around the property when focusing on greens maintenance. Whether top-dressing, fertilizing or just routine mowing, I couldn't help but wish that I had this distinct advantage.

Shortly after Craig's talk, lunch was served and served well. I don't know about the rest of you, but if I had visited the desserts, I would have been looking for a place to nap. We owe our thanks to general manager Dave Hills and his staff for easily filling any superintendent's appetite.

Now on to the event that generated more dialogue about wind than any I can remember. My favorite wind story was playing two consecutive holes that paralleled each other, one into the wind and the next with the wind. Each hole presented our team with 135 yard approach shots. As we put our collective heads and golf skills together, we narrowly made the putting surface hitting 7 and 8 irons on the first hole. The following hole tested our finesse with a sand wedge and we were lucky to have one of four attempts not go long. A challenging golf course without the wind was punishing for most of us.

There were a select few who somehow managed these difficult conditions to post outstanding scores. They are either very practiced in such conditions or received more than their fair share of fortunate hops, bounces and rico-



Doug Hellman, North Hills' Randy Dupont and Craig Schreiner. Hellman is VP of Schreiner Golf; Craig designed Hawk's View.



Craig Schreiner talked about golf course architecture and the practical issues important to superintendents.

chets. Winning the event with a round of 62 was the team of Brad Johnsen, (Klein Creek GC), Jim Knulty, (Big Foot CC), Robert Kronn, (Woodstock CC) and Al Pondel (Rockford CC). Finishing second with a score of 64 was Mike Handrich (Racine CC), Charlie Shaw, (Waukesha County), Jim Shaw, (Chenequa CC) and Mike Skendandore (Waukesha County - Wanaki GC). Five individual hole event prizes were also awarded.

My personal thanks go to Chuck Dammeir for handling all the tournament details. I don't know about you, but Chuck and his staff didn't hold anything back in my eyes. With individualized scorecards, cart badges and a nice selection of merchandise for the winners to choose from, it was hard not to feel special. I also want to thank each and every one of you who attended this meeting. The strength of an organization is never more evident than in the numbers that support it with a willingness to participate. I trust you enjoyed yourselves and hopefully we'll see you next month.

And remember to thank Jeff Townley when you see him or better yet, return the favor by hosting a meeting at your facility. Thanks Jeff. ♡