

Spring Education Meeting Kicks Off New Golf Season



By **Matt Schmitz**, Golf Course Superintendent, The Bruce Company

On March 6th we met for the spring business meeting at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Fond du Lac. Bob Langjahr, Aquatic Biologists Inc., started off the education portion of the meeting with a presentation that focused on preventative maintenance of ponds and water features. The first step in any pond maintenance program is to determine how many outside acres influence the pond site and build a program from there. Key points in preventative maintenance were: establishing buffer areas around the ponds, using diffused air aeration to tie up nutrients, grading landscape to direct water runoff away from the pond, and the use of aquatic plants. Bob talked about the importance of reducing phosphorous fertilization around ponds and gaining water chemical tests for total N, P, dissolved oxygen, pH, and many others. These tests will give you a basis for your management program. He also stressed that just about any pond, stream, etc. is considered "waters of the state" and if treatment of your pond is necessary, gain the proper permits and licenses.

Bruce Kuhs, Financial Consultant AXA Advisors, and Ted Kosinski, Alliance Bernstein Investment Group, followed Bob and spoke about planning for retirement. They gave us some facts to consider, such as, 25% of people that live to 80 years of age will live to their mid 90's and, simply generating 1% additional return during your working years will allow for ten more years of income in retirement, which is good news for those of us in the 25% that will see 90. They also discussed building a diverse portfolio based on where you are in relation to your

expected retirement. The main thing they stressed was stick to your plan and don't panic.

Last, but not least, Dave Brandenburg, golf course manager at Rolling Meadows Golf Club in Fond du Lac, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by Mike Lyons, WGCSA president and superintendent at Old Hickory CC, and Kris Pinkerton golf course superintendent at Oshkosh CC.

Dave is only the 13th recipient of the association's top honor. He started volunteering for com-

mittee service in 1993 and spent 11 years on the board of directors holding the offices of secretary, treasurer, vice president, and president. Dave served on many committees during this time, including the 75th Anniversary book committee. Currently Dave serves as business manager for Grass Roots and is on the nominating committee.

The next time you see Dave, thank him for his service to our association. He is what makes Wisconsin superintendents great. ♣

