

# A REVIEW OF THE 2006 WGCSA MONTHLY MEETINGS



By **Randy DuPont**, Golf Course Superintendent, North Hills Country Club

We've all heard the expression, "Variety is the spice of life." This past year's meeting sites fit this expression to a tee! From private and public courses to resort and county courses, from parkland style courses to links style courses, we experienced them all this year. Even though each and every one of the sites was different, they all had two things in common, great hospitality and great course conditions.

April's meeting was held at Geneva National Golf Club. The day began with our guest speaker, Mr. Gary Gaard. Many of you will remember Gary as a staff person at

the O.J. Noer Facility back in 1996. Gary was instrumental in getting the Noer Center 'Audubon Sanctuary Certified.' After 37 years in the plant pathology department at UW, Gary retired and is now involved with the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin.

The title of Gary's talk was "Bluebirds on Wisconsin Golf Courses." While working with University Ridge Golf Course, Gary was able to increase the bluebird population from four in 1996 to 130 bluebird fledges this past year. He mentioned that on a typical 150

acre golf course, there are approximately 10 good locations for bluebird houses. Any more than that will lead to more problems. For information on construction methods of nesting boxes and their best locations, Gary can be reached at [grgaard@wisc.edu](mailto:grgaard@wisc.edu) or you can contact the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin at [WWW.BRAW.org](http://WWW.BRAW.org)

After lunch, 72 eager participants were greeted by clear sunny skies and temperatures in the middle 70's. Not bad for late April in Wisconsin. Geneva National has three exceptional courses. On this



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day we played the Player Course, and as you may have already guessed, was designed by Hall of Fame golfer Gary Player.

The event for the day was a four person scramble. Prizes were awarded for the 1st and 10th place finishers. Taking 1st place with a score of 60 was the team of Conrad Stynchula, Mark Lockhart, Mike Schmieden and Travis Krauklis. Tenth place, with a score of 66 was the team of Jack Knulty, Jim Knulty, Bob Kronn and Bob Kronn Jr. Five flag events were also awarded. Closest to the pin on #4 went to Tim Christians. Closest to the pin on #6 went to Laura Beaudoin. Closest to the pin on #13 went to Steve Abler. Closest to the pin on #15 went to Dave Busse. Long drive went to Dena Zejdal. Congratulations to all.

Special thanks to host superintendent Jeremy Amosson for volunteering to host the April meeting. While everyone's golf game was rusty, Jeremy and his staff had the golf course in mid-season form.

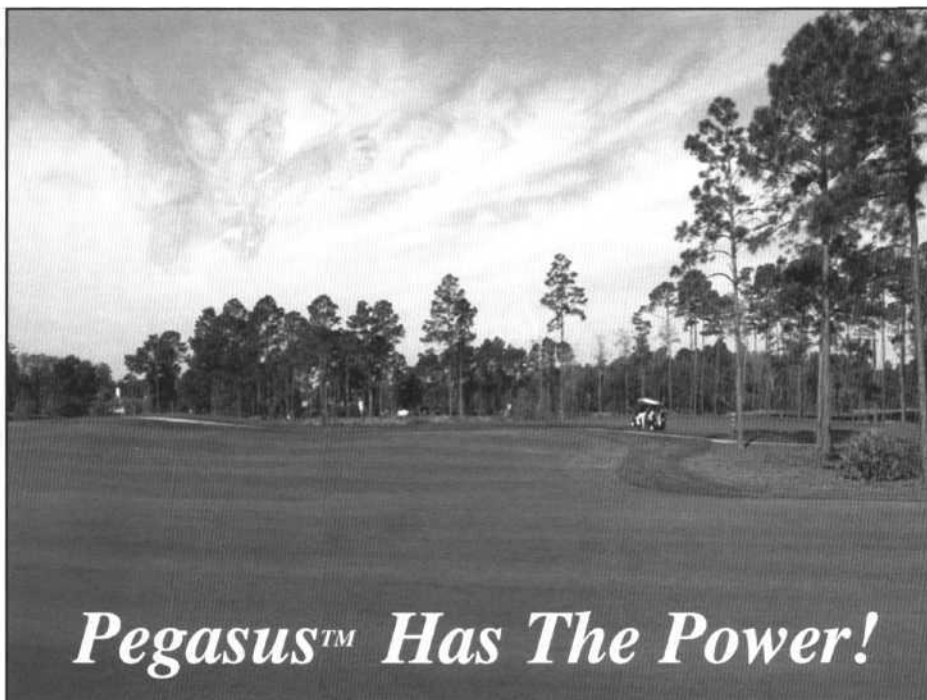
Mee-Kwon Park Golf Course was the site of the June meeting. Mee-Kwon is part of the Ozaukee County Park system and, as its name implies, is truly a parkland style golf course. Spread out over 200 plus wooded acres, playing golf was anything like a walk in the park. Playing at almost 6,500 yards and at par 70 Mee-Kwon's strong par 4's and 3's make it sneaky tough. Add in some large greens and some wind and it was quite a challenge. What really caught my attention was the enormous size of the teeing surfaces. You could land a small aircraft on some of them. I know a lot of superintendents who wish their tees were half that big.

The event for the day was a Two Man Best Ball. In addition, Steve Abler ran the "Syngenta Ace Challenge." Superintendents and assistants could participate for \$5 and whoever was closest to the pin

won a rainsuit and was eligible for a random drawing to advance to the national finals. Bill Knight was the lucky winner and \$115 was raised in the process. Syngenta matched that dollar amount so \$230 will be donated to the TDL. Thanks Syngenta and thank you,

Steve, for your time and effort.

The winners in the gross division were Gordie Waddington and Dennis Dary with a score of 72, and in the net division Jeff Nelson and Ken Schwark with a score of 60. There were also five flag prizes given out. Closest to the pin #3 the



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before mentioned Bill Knight, longest drive on #7 Todd Fregien, closest to the pin #14 Joe Kuta, long putt #15 Al Nees, and closest to the pin #16 Gordie Waddington. Good job!

I'd like to thank Ozaukee County Parks Director Bill Knight and host superintendent Bob Gosewehr for making the June meeting possible. The golf course was in wonderful condition and the hospitality extended greatly appreciated.

July's meeting was held at Lake Arrowhead Golf Club in Nekoosa. Located in God's country (or should I say sand country), Lake Arrowhead has two championship golf courses, the Pines and the Lakes. The Pines was designed by Killian and Nugent while the Lakes was a solo effort by Ken Killian.

For the second consecutive year, BASF gave us the opportunity to host a People vs. the Pros qualification tournament. As a host chapter we were guaranteed that one of our member superintendents would win a trip to the 2006 BASF People vs. Pros at Pinehurst to compete for a chance to play either Retief Goosen or Gary McCord, plus play in the BASF Superintendent's Cup with a chance to win \$10,000 cash and \$10,000 worth of BASF products. In addition, BASF donated \$2,000 to our chapter's education fund.

On a beautiful summer day, superintendents took on the Pines course in hopes of winning a trip to Pinehurst. When all the strokes were added up, the winner was our very own President Mike Lyons. Mike shot a net score of 67 followed by Scott Bushman's 69 and Lee Mahrnke's 71. I asked Mike if he would take me along as his caddy but he said his wife Dawn probably wouldn't like that. Oh well, maybe next year.

There was also a non-qualifier division and the winners for 1st low gross was Bruce Schweiger 74, 1st low net Ed Witkowski 72, and 2nd

low net Bob Speltz 72. The six flag event winners are as follows: closest to the pin #4 Rod Johnson, closest to the pin #7 Seth Brogen, long drive Mike Skenandore, long putt #11 John Cooper, closest to the pin #14 Rod Johnson (AGAIN). Rod, what happened on the other

16 holes? And closest to the pin on #17 was Gene Hogden. Congratulations to all the winners. By the way, Mike, you do know you are not eligible to win next year, right? Better odds for the rest of us.

I would remiss if I did not mention the fantastic job that our host



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superintendents Eric Jasin and Pat Wallner did. I think I speak for all the participants when I say that the course was more than tournament ready. Thanks guys.

Special thanks to BASF for sponsoring the People vs. the Pro qualification tournament and for selecting the WGCSA as a host chapter. Also, many thanks to David Oberle for all his hard work behind the scenes getting the tournament organized and making it happen.

Royal St. Patrick's was the site of our August meeting. As its name suggests, it is a links style golf course. Designed by Rick Robbins, Royal St. Patrick's opened in July of 2003 and can play to 7,071 yards with bentgrass greens, tees, and fairways. Some of the links style features include fjords, burns, fescue-covered moorlands, and sod-walled pot bunkers.

The day's event was the annual Superintendent Tournament and once again "Mother Nature" provided us with sunny but somewhat windy conditions. Mike Skenandore had no problems with the wind as he won the tournament with a score of 74. Our A-Flight champion was Marc Schwarting with a score of 70. Our B-Flight champion was Bill Knight with a score of 78. Congratulations guys; your plaque is being engraved as you read this. Flag event winners are as follows: Closest to the pin #4 Dale Marach, long drive #7 Ed Witkowski (he's at it again), closest to the pin #8 Rod Lesnick, closest to the pin #12 our champion Mike Skenandore, and closest to the pin #15 Sean Vance.

After golf, our guest speaker, Mr. Daniel Becker, gave a presentation entitled "Golf Course Design and Construction in Wisconsin." Daniel views golf courses as works of art

and that experiencing the art has more meaning when there is an understanding of the processes used to create the art. He stressed that superintendents should try to find old design and construction plans along with old photographs in order to get a better feel for the architects original intent. We should also take into consideration this intent when we attempt any future renovations on our golf courses.

Thanks go out to superintendent Hank Koss for offering to hold the August meeting at Royal St. Patrick's. Hank and his staff had the golf course in excellent shape. Now if they can only do something about that wind!

September was our final meeting of the season. The annual Superintendent/Guest event was held this year at Ozaukee Country Club. Designed by Langford and

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Moreau and opened in 1922, Ozaukee is a classic in every sense of the word. With its tree-lined fairways and greens that have about as much character as you will ever see, Ozaukee Country Club would have presented quite a challenge for the 80 or so participants.

I said "would have", because our streak of great weather unfortunately ended. A steady all day rain ended the golf after six holes. On to plan B! If there's one thing superintendents are good at it's changing plans at a moment's notice.

Our guest speaker, Bob Vavrek from the USGA Green Section, quickly went from the after dinner speaker to the before dinner speaker. Bob's presentation was the always informative, always entertaining "Year in Review". Throughout Bob's travels this year, the common theme was dollar spot and fairy ring. Dollar spot became like that old sci-fi movie about the thing that wouldn't die. There aren't many years where dollar spot remains active in bluegrass surrounds and roughs for so long a period of time. Hopefully this winter's snowmold pressure will not be as intense as this summer's dollar spot pressure!

It's too bad the weather did not cooperate. I know a lot of people were looking forward to playing Ozaukee CC. I also know that host superintendent Karl Wehausen was looking forward to having us experience the "Land of Oz." Hopefully we can try again in the near future.

Well that about covers it. In closing I would once again like to thank all of the host superintendents. The great thing about this year was that every one of the host superintendents volunteered their courses for meeting sites. If you think about it, that's what makes the whole process work—stepping up to the plate for the good of the association. I really can't thank them enough. I am currently working on next year's schedule and have a few months that need to be filled. If you are interested e-mail me at [rdmnhcc@earthlink.net](mailto:rdmnhcc@earthlink.net)

Finally, I would like to thank the following vendors for sponsoring holes at our monthly meetings: BASF, Syngenta, DHD Tree Products, Pendelton Turf Supply, Lescro, Dow Agrosciences, Midwest Turf Products, and J.W. Turf. The WGCSA greatly appreciates your support. ♻️

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