

# 2007 WGCSA SPRING EDUCATIONAL AND BUSINESS MEETING



By **Jim VanHerwynen**, Golf Course Superintendent, South Hills Golf and Country Club

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association held its annual Spring Business Meeting at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Fond du Lac on Monday March 5, 2007. The event drew 93 registrants, including speakers, of which 87 attended. This was an outstanding turnout for the event.

The day began with Dr. Doug Soldat from the UW-Madison updating on the NR 151 rule. He reminded all of us that in less than one year this will take effect for all turf managers who maintain more than five acres of turf, and we should all understand the rule and be prepared. NR 151 is an administrative rule written by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The purpose of the rule is to protect water quality by reducing nutrient and sediment losses from agricultural areas, municipalities, large turfgrass areas, and transportation facilities. NR 151 states that by March 10, 2008 all turfgrass areas five acres or larger must be fertilized according to a site-specific nutrient application schedule based on appropriate soil tests. If your turfgrass area is less than five acres, the rule does not apply to you. Sod farms are also exempt from this rule. Turf managers who take care of more than five acres, which is almost all of us, will have to have a nutrient management plan at your facility. If you attended the meeting there is obviously much to discuss and questions that you may have regarding NR 151 and Dr. Soldat has graciously invited anyone with questions to contact him at (608) 263-3631 or email him at [djsoldat@wisc.edu](mailto:djsoldat@wisc.edu). He did inform me that he along with Dr. John Stier and Dr. Jason Kruse, Ph.D. UW-Extension agent for Winnebago County, will host training sessions within the next year with dates to be determined at a later date, so please stay tuned.

After a short break we were enlightened by a second speaker, Rusty Kapela, from the National Weather Service out of Milwaukee/Sullivan, which is the State of Wisconsin headquarters. Rusty, a member of NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, titled his talk Basic Concepts of Severe Weather/Storm Spotting. He showed numerous slides and some short videos of actual shelf clouds, wall clouds, funnel clouds, tornadoes and SLC'S (scary looking clouds). The shelf cloud as he stated is the leading edge of a storm and can be very large (miles in length). The wall clouds are much smaller and compact and are on the backside of the storm. A funnel cloud must have rotation to be considered a funnel cloud; otherwise, it is

just a SLC. Tornadoes from a rotating funnel cloud are on the backside of a severe storm, hence, the calm before the storm. In other words if a severe storm with high winds and heavy rain has just passed it may not be over yet! SLC'S, he added, can be associated with shelf clouds and are usually no threat other than the fact that you most likely are going to experience a storm, which, may or may not be severe. He pointed out that all facilities should have a predetermined location for protection of a severe storm and we should all have a NOAA weather radio. He asked a very interesting question: if we put so much emphasis on having smoke detectors in our homes why would you not have a weather radio if you are responsible for the safety of your employees as well as the golfers on the course? He added, the reason we need trained spotters on the ground during severe weather is quite simply because Doppler radar has a horizontal beam that does not follow the curvature of the earth and it may miss a severe storm miles away from the radar source. How many of us have thought of that? Rusty did provide handouts at the meeting which had his email: [rusty.kapela@noaa.gov](mailto:rusty.kapela@noaa.gov) and also the Milwaukee/Sullivan web site address: [www.crh.noaa.gov/mkx](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mkx) or [www.weather.gov/milwaukee](http://www.weather.gov/milwaukee) if you have any questions or are interested in numerous links to all weather related topics.



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After lunch the association had its annual board of directors meeting. President Mike Lyons presented the agenda for the meeting and proceeded to announce the resignation of board members Randy Dupont and Eric Jason and thanked them for their commitment to the board. David Swift of Whistling Straits has the appointment of membership and directory committee, while Jim VanHerwynen has the appointment of golf and arrangements for the next two years. After review and approval of the reports from the officers, David Swift announced the 25 and 50 year, plaque recipients. They are as follows: 25 year recipients included in alphabetical order are Chad Ball, Conway Farms GC; Mike Drugan, Drugan's Castle Mound GC; Jon Hegge, Evansville GC; Ric Lange; Ray Shane, City of Madison and Gary Tanko, Sentry World GC. The 50 year recipients included: Ron Grunewald-retired and Michael Lees, Koshkonong Mounds CC. These individuals have proven that this is not only a fantastic career but also a great association to belong to and our hats are off to all of them - congratulations!

Jim VanHerwynen brought everyone up to speed on the upcoming calendar of events for the 2007 meeting schedule. He did advise everyone that if you do register for an event and do not show up you or your club will be billed for that event due to the fact the WGCSA does have to pick up the tab for these individuals because of the arrangements made with the hosting club. This year seems to be an exciting year indeed, and if the attendance at the spring business meeting is an indicator of the year to come you may be inclined to sign up early to reserve your spot.

Matt Schmitz, director of government regulations and environmental committee and also chair on the by-laws committee, spoke briefly on the Day on The Hill, which was held in Madison on February 14, 2007. He noted that attendance was down a little from two years ago but it was a very successful day to voice the opinion of our industry. He invited everyone to participate the next time, which the date is yet to be determined. Matt then brought up the by-laws change. The GCSAA has changed the terminology of their "Class B" Superintendent classification from "Class B" to "Superintendent Member". As a chapter member of the GCSAA we need to make the terminology change as well. Currently we classify any golf course superintendent with less than (3) years experience and currently serving in such a capacity as a "Class B" Superintendent. Upon approval, which was accomplished, all references of "Class B" in the WGCSA by-laws and any related material would be changed to "Superintendent Member" in order to conform with the GCSAA change.

Rod Johnson spoke briefly on the Wee One Foundation. The foundation, a tribute to Wayne Otto,

started a few years ago as an idea to aid families in the golf course industry who face financial burdens with respect to medical needs. Since its inception the foundation has raised and gifted over \$110,000 to nine families in three states. As Rod pointed out one never knows if you or someone you know in the industry may need assistance and it is comforting to know there is an increasing number of individuals who share the commitment to help others in a time of need and we should all consider becoming a part of this wonderful foundation. Rod did have flyers at the spring business meeting but if you would like more information it can be obtained at [www.weeone.org](http://www.weeone.org).

As you can clearly tell the spring business meeting was well attended, and an educational experience for all. I hope all of you consider participating in the wonderful events planned in 2007. A calendar of events is included in this issue of *The Grass Roots* and also can be viewed at the association website at [www.wgcsa.com](http://www.wgcsa.com).

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