



Welcoming in 2008

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

It does not seem that long ago that I became part of the Board of Directors of this Association. Yet, 7 years later and hopefully 7 years wiser, I have the opportunity to address the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association as its President. It is truly an honor and I am excited to work with the newly elected Board of Directors as we guide the affairs of this Association. I must first recognize Dave Brandenburg and Scott Schaller, as both had a significant role in the development and guidance of my career. I hope that I can follow their example and be as much of a positive influence on our profession in Wisconsin, as they were as Presidents and still continue today. Secondly, I need to thank Marc Davison and Mike Lyons for their service to the WGCSA over the last 4 years. Their leadership, devotion and influence will continue within the Association. I want to welcome Mark Storby, of Oneida Golf and CC, to the Board of Directors. Brett Grams, of Waupaca Sand & Solutions has accepted my invitation to join as the Affiliate Representative Director. Brett will replace Dave Oberle from BASF. I am sure Brett's input will be as valuable in the progression of Association activities as Dave Oberle has been over the past 2 years.

Although 2007 is over and we are beginning a new year and preparing for a new season, I want to commend our Education Committee Chair, Chad Harrington. Due to Chad's efforts, the WGCSA is among the leading GCSAA Chapter Affiliates for providing educational opportunities for its membership. For those that have taken advantage of these educational opportunities, please remember to submit your attendance affidavit to GCSAA to acquire the pre-approved point values. We are also open to education suggestions, so please feel free to let us know if there are topics that may be of value to you.


The new NR151 legislation will affect how we provide nutrients to our turf in 2008 and future seasons. Dr. Doug Soldat, UW-Madison, has/is providing workshops detailing the requirements or restrictions pertaining to NR151. In addition to understanding these NR151 restrictions, each of us must assemble a Nutrient Management Plan for our turf areas. Each of us should take the time to educate our owners, board of directors or general managers on the requirements of NR151. Although NR151 details may not excite them, securing your value as their turf grass expert and manager should. Thus, reassuring them that each of



us is managing the turf at our best ability while protecting the environment in accordance to our individual Nutrient Management Plan. I hope that Mother Nature will actually deliver a textbook Wisconsin winter to us, (Whatever that is?) and allow each of us time to complete our Nutrient Management Plans. At least the current blanket of snow that covers the ground has temporarily answered the question proposed by the Golf Turf Symposium, why close at all?

Finally, I would like to extend a very special thank you to Monroe Miller. For decades, Monroe's passion has filled *The Grass Roots* with research articles, editorials and other information that has advanced our profession. After 24 years as the award-winning editor of *The Grass Roots*, Monroe has passed the editor pen onto David Brandenburg. It should be recognized that *The Grass Roots* Editor is a non-paid position. The time, effort and dedication required to excel, takes a special person. *The Grass Roots* is a very important part of the WGCSA. I ask every WGCSA member to take the opportunity to express your appreciation to Monroe for his commitment and accomplishments. Also to David, for his willingness to continue as the editor. Their willingness to provide such a quality publication helps make the WGCSA a great organization.

I wish everyone safe travels throughout the winter and hope to see everyone at the Spring Business Meeting in early March.

Thank you. 

Sod

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