

Watertown Country Club Hosts July WGCSA Meeting



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

On Monday July 7 the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association held its annual Superintendent Tournament. The event was held at Watertown Country Club with Superintendent Mike Upthegrove hosting. The day began with thunderstorms all over the southern half of the State, but thankfully spared Watertown CC by a few miles as we did not need another cancellation like the previous month at Evergreen Golf Club and Watertown did not need any more precipitation!

Our luncheon presentation was by GCSAA Chapter Liaison Steven Randall. Steven gave the group an update on new and continuing programs and policies at GCSAA. Mark Woodward is on board as the new CEO after overseeing Torrey Pines and the US Open. Advocacy is becoming more important in the ever changing business of golf. GCSAA was well represented at the National Golf Day in Washington DC in April along with other allied associations.

One of the goals of the visit was to show our leaders in congress the economic impact of a healthy golf industry. The 2005 Golf Economy Report showed that golf generated 76 billion in direct sales and is responsible for 3.5 billion in charitable contributions annually. Golf's environmental impact was also highlighted as GCSAA was able to use solid data to show our improvements in turf protectants products and water usage.

Mr. Randall touched on the importance of the superintendent at the golf facility and presented golfer survey results that showed course conditioning is a key decision maker for where people spend their golf dollars.

After Steve's presentation we were treated to a fantastic lunch and time on the practice range and putting green. Despite all of the flooding this year, Mike and his Greens and Grounds team did an outstanding job getting the golf course in tournament ready condition. In fact, Watertown Country Club had some of the best putting surfaces I, as well as, many participants have played. After a challenging round of golf the excitement built anticipating the results. Everyone enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and refreshments as they communicated with their fellow superintendents and vendors. At the end of the day in flight A, winning second place with a net 72, was Seth Brogren from Saddle Ridge Golf Club. In first place with a solid net 71 was Scott Bushman from Fox Valley Golf Club. Flight B winners included, in second place with another net 72 was, Jim Scott from Idelweiss Chalet



Watertown CC, 6th green site. Imagine this entire area was under water just a few weeks ago.

**Watertown CC, Host Superintendent
Mike Upthegrove**



Country Club. First place went to Mark Storby from Oneida Golf and Country Club with a commanding net 67. Flight C winners included in second place with a net 69, John Jensen from Reinders, Inc., and in first place with another great net score of net 67 went to Peter Meyer of National Golf Graphics. Hole event winners included, in no particular order, closest to the pin hole #16, Greg Stoeger from E-Z-GO, closest to the pin hole #6 went to Seth Brogren from Saddle Ridge Golf Club. Long drive on hole #12 was taken by Greg Mark also from E-Z-GO and lastly, long drive hole #1 with a convincing drive, Scott Anthes from Brown County Golf Club. Everyone at Watertown did an outstanding job to make our day very successful and eventful. We as an association appreciate all of the golf course superintendents, vendors, event coordinators, guest speakers, golf pros and others who make these educational and golf events possible. If you have not attended recently please consider as they are excellent opportunities for education, golf and just simply getting away for part of the day. I hope to see all of you soon at another great event. 🌱