

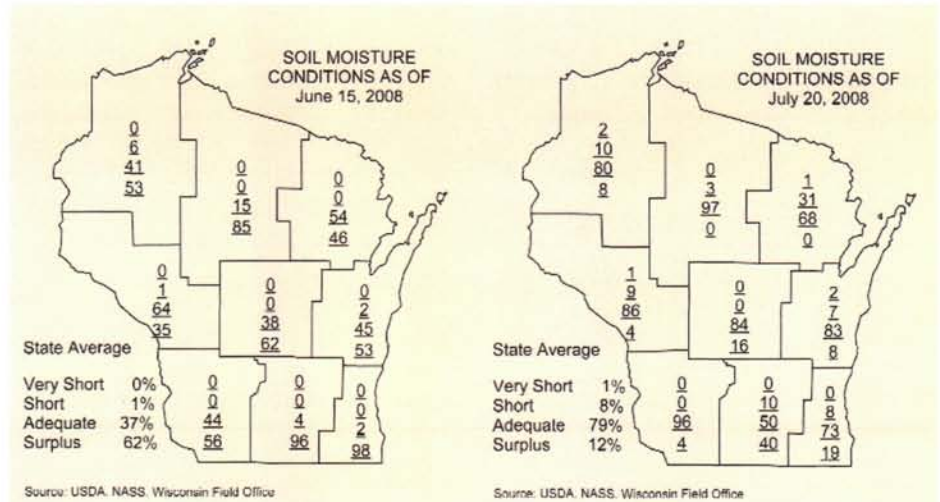
# The Halfway Point

By David Brandenburg, Golf Course Manager, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

Congratulations are due to Dr. John Stier and Dr. R. Chris Williamson. Dr. Williamson was recently appointed Associate Professor from Assistant Professor in the University of Wisconsin – Madison Entomology Department.

Dr. Stier was made a full Professor in the University of Wisconsin – Madison Horticulture Department and was made the department head for the entire department. Way to go guys! It's great to know we turf heads have the best and brightest to help us out.

This summer has brought us many challenges with the weather, rising fuel prices and less play and revenue at many clubs. Budgets are taxed with the cost of cleanup and repairing areas damaged by heavy rains and floods. On the positive the days are getting shorter and the daily average high and low



temperatures are starting to drop even though there will be plenty of hot and hazy days left. In Fond du Lac the average high temp peaks at 82 from July 16 through the 21st. The average low peaks at 63 from July 15 all the way through Aug 5th. There is nothing better than cool mornings to start a day on the golf course.

The soil moisture reports from the USDA's Ag Statistics Service have been amazing this summer. I have highlighted June 15 showing only 1% of the state at short or very short conditions, while 62% of the state was at surplus soil moisture. Even as we get to July 20 only 9% of the state was at short or very short and 12% was still at surplus.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is holding public hearings on the invasive species rules in August. Now your first thought might be the classic "why me worry". "I don't have or want any invasive species!" An e-mail from Dr. John Stier who has sat on the Species Assessment Group for

grasses reminds us this is something we as turf managers need to be aware of. Technically Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue and Canada bluegrass are not native plants and are on an overall invasive species list and could be targeted by groups wanting to clean out all non-native plants.

There are two groups working on invasive lists in Wisconsin, the DNR and the Governor's Invasive Species Council. Dr. Stier feels the DNR is trying to use science to categorize species however the council may use emotion and personal opinions to come to its decisions. More information can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/classification/>.

Please read up on this and take a little time to attend a public hearing near you.

- August 14 10:00 am in Fitchburg
- August 14 3:00pm in Milwaukee
- August 15, 1:00pm in Green Bay
- August 19, 1:00pm in La Crosse
- August 20, 2:30pm in Spooner
- August 26 1:00pm in Wausau

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Congratulations and thank you to the many people who put time and talent in the WTA Field Day. This is a great event where we can see the latest in turf trials and meet face to face with the professors and students who perform this valuable research. It is also a great opportunity to meet with our vendors and let them know your needs. Tom Schwab has a great recap of the WTA in this issue.

The number of attendees was impressive but to be honest I was surprised and a little disappointed in the number of superintendents who do not attend that event. I couple this with the disappointment I have in the number of people we have at been seeing at our WGCSA meetings over the past couple years. I know everyone has a good excuse why they were not

there. Work, budgets, family, irrigation problems, its hot and dry, its cold and wet, my game is no good, the list goes on for all of us.

No one is expected to be at every meeting or event and we all have busy lives and different situations at work but we as a group need to start supporting the educational opportunities we have and the people who offer them. As attendance dwindles, events will be lost and those opportunities to learn right along with them.

It's clear to see how we learn from a field day or a sit down lecture. It may be harder to justify why we can take away a day from our work duties and attend a golf event. As managers of golf's biggest revenue generator and in turn expense center seeing another operation is invaluable.

There is no reason we should not do it on company time and/or the companies' dime.

There is no limit to the knowledge we can learn from visiting and playing another golf facility. It can be things that work for the course or things that do not work for the course but as turf professionals we need to get around and see what's going on. The WGCSA Education Committee has been doing a good job of getting a variety of speakers to enhance our learning. Throw some networking in there and every meeting we have becomes a valuable experience.

I think the experience is valuable enough that I pay my own way to the summer golf events. I am paid for the day as a work day, but it is easier with my employer if I pay for registration. I am not an avid golfer, I like to play, but like many of you just don't find the time, so I our summer events bring a day of golf, education and networking you just cannot put a price tag on. We only have a few events left, be sure to sign up today.

How are doing on your goals this summer? Are you getting the most you can from your staff? It's hard to believe we are in the second half of the season already. With the extra work given us by mother nature the season has flown by!

Have you been able to get away and take time for your family and self to recharge? I have actually left the golf course on Friday and did not come back until Sunday evening three times this golf season, a record for me. One of the weekends we were gone for a wedding but two of the weekends I just stayed home. Do you know that most people sleep in on Saturday and Sunday mornings? Then they have breakfast and relax. It's a great thing; try it and who knows what you will get done around the house or how refreshed you will feel. 🌿

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