

Excited for Fall

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

It is amazing how much of our success can be influenced by weather. Golf rounds, cart rentals, chemical budgets are too easily affected by strange weather. Mother Nature can bring brutal winters, record rains, and droughty periods or even hot spells with extreme temperatures. All of which can result in turf decline. Thankfully, we were at least spared the extreme temperatures this season. But, a change in the air can be felt. The shorter days, cooler nights and heavy dew mornings seem to add a little bounce back into our steps. Many of us look forward to this time of year, as we are excited to relieve those summer stresses of the turf through aeration.

Unfortunately, the general golfing public isn't too fond of the important cultural practice. Communicating the importance of proper turf management can become stressful if we don't take the time to properly educate. Although the questions are always the same, the persons asking those questions change. With the proper enthusiasm, educating the 'new' people can help calm the masses, thus allowing us to complete these tasks in the best interest of the golf course.

The 2008 Wisconsin Turf Symposium will be taking place November 18th and 19th. Besides the quality education, there will be a few important events that will be taking place at this year's Turf Symposium. First, the WGCSA Fall Business Meeting is scheduled for the morning of November 18th. All WGCSA members are invited as the Board of Directors present the 'State of the Association'. The meeting agenda will soon be sent to provide specific items of discussion. The Fall Business Meeting is also your opportunity to vote for the 2009 Board of Directors and any future Scholarship and Research proposals.

Secondly, there will be a period for the reflection for James Latham, who passed away July 16th, 2008. Jim was a retired Director of the USGA Green Section Great Lakes Region and Director of Marketing and Agronomy for the MMSD. In addition, his WGCSA Distinguished Service Award defined his impact on Wisconsin golf course superintendents.

Thirdly, the WGCSA Board of Directors will be recognizing the influential career of Monroe Miller. Monroe's dedication to Blackhawk Country Club, the WGCSA, WTA and the University of Wisconsin-Madison has impacted all of us in so many ways. We are excited to



use this opportunity to express our appreciation and hope all WGCSA members can attend and help express this appreciation.

Lastly, the Michigan States University's Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) has contacted the WGCSA and has asked and will be granted permission to digitalize all issues of *The Grass Roots* (1975-present) and any other WGCSA newsletters prior to 1975. These digital copies will then be made available within the TGIF. Once completed, all

WGCSA members will have the opportunity to research any topic ever discussed in *The Grass Roots*. This is a fantastic opportunity to share the greatness of *The Grass Roots* with the rest of the turf world.

Fall is here and winter will soon be knocking on our golf courses. Good luck to all in your preparations. See you at the 2008 Wisconsin Turf Symposium. 🌱

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