



# 2009 WGCSA Spring Business Meeting

By **Scott Bushman**, Golf Course Superintendent, Fox Valley Golf Club.

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendent Association started the 2009 meeting season with the annual spring business meeting held at the Ramada Hotel in Fond du Lac. 65 members enjoyed conversation, donuts and coffee before starting the morning education.

Dr. Chris Williamson, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin – Madison started the program with a discussion on the damage, controls and the management of sod webworms. He explained his project of studying 10 golf courses and the genera and species of the webworm moths that were captured and how they were captured.

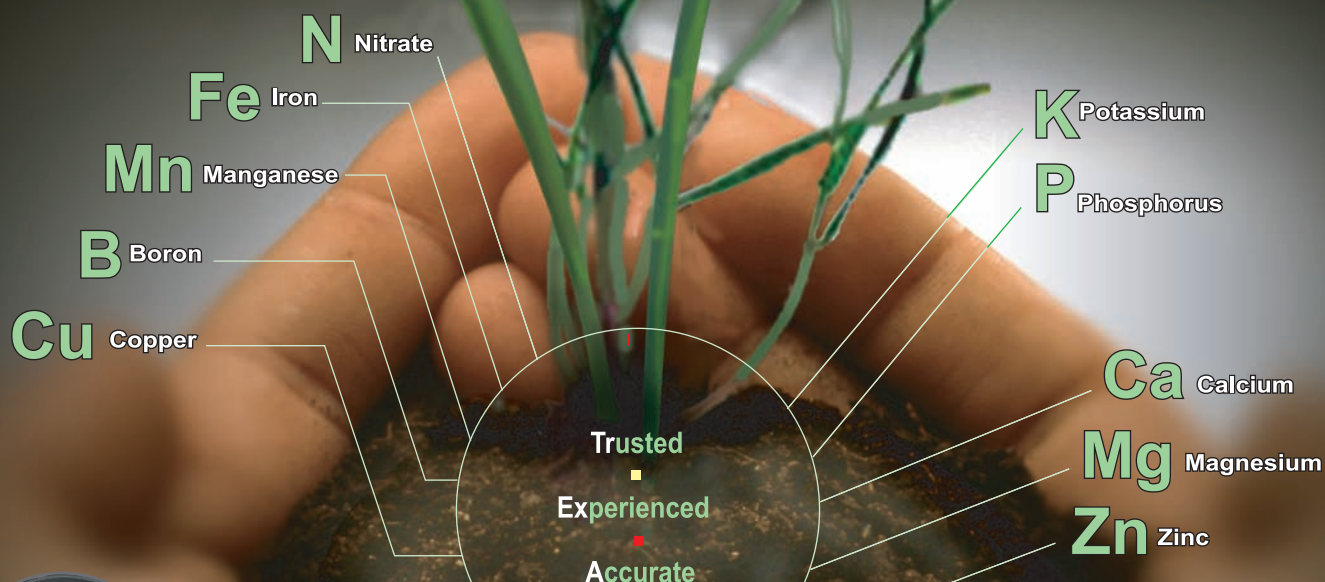
He also reviewed how to locate and identify the pest causing turf problems with the magic recipe of a solution of 1oz of ultra joy dish detergent in one gallon of water sprinkled on the turf area. Not only will the sod webworms come to the surface but so will earthworms, cutworms, and black turfgrass ataenius adult beetles. Once the webworm population is determined there are many insecticides available for sod webworm control and research has shown applying products at dusk allows for better control because of the nighttime movement of the pest.

Usually worm and grub problems are noticed by damage from verte-

brate predators (skunks, raccoons etc) digging up the turf before the grass plants show signs of decline. Dr. Williamson's research has shown Milorganite and other similar fertilizers may be an effective method to reduce or eliminate the animal damage. Good response was seen through 21 days after treatment but that is dependent on rainfall and fertilizer application amounts.

Dr. Williamson also covered his favorite topic the Emerald Ash Borer. Actually since this was his 88th talk on the topic it is clear Chris wishes these little pests never made it into Wisconsin. He presented the methods of control, their effective-

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**Dr. Jim Kerns on the topic of nutrients affect on turf diseases.**



**USGA Green Section Agronomist Bob Vavrek presents his "Year in Review"**



**Steve Able presents a check for \$3,005 from Reinders Inc's. Heritage & Daconil Program to President Dustin Riley.**

ness and problems along with some determining factors of when and why to treat ash trees. In a golf course setting, treatment is only feasible for highly valuable trees for playability or sentimental reasons. Annual treatments are likely but injection treatments are showing they might last 3 years. Preventative treatments should not be needed until the borer is within a few miles of your property. Once a tree has 40% canopy dieback the best thing to do is perform basal pruning and cut it down.

Unfortunately not much can be done to stop the progression of this

pest. The signs of infestation are difficult to see until borer has been in a area for 3 or more years. The Emerald Ash Borer like many pests does not move itself into areas, we move it around by transporting products.

Dr. Jim Kerns, Pathology Department University of Wisconsin - Madison presented the relationship between mineral nutrition and turf-grass diseases. He talked about macro and micro nutrients and the roles they play in regards to plants disease susceptibility.

An interesting tip for field diag-

nosing the difference in chlorosis from a possible iron or nitrogen deficiency is how the older leaves look. In a weakened plant with a nitrogen deficiency, the chlorosis can be seen in the older leaves while the new leaves look healthy because nitrogen is able to move around in the plant and goes to the new leaves. Iron is not able to move in a plant that way so new and old leaves may show signs of chlorosis.

Jim would like to start studying nutrient levels shown by tissue testing and how different levels of nutrients effect plant disease. By formulating basic levels of nutrients golf course could pioneer results to reduce fungicide applications with an understanding of the correlation between plant tissue nutrient levels and diseases.

Our final speaker of the day was Bob Vavrek, USGA Greens Section Agronomist. His "Year In Review" presentation is always an interesting because of his use of pictures and the experiences he gathers doing visits at golf courses. One of the main topics was winter damage and some of the steps that may be taken to try and help prevent problems caused by the winter months.

He pointed out that there is nothing that can be done to fully prevent winter damage to turf-grass, but how important it is to take the necessary steps in trying to help prevent problems that do occur during the winter. Greens covers have shown to hurt and help greens while removing snow and ice also has shown to help and hurt greens. Bob discussed ways to help the turf recover from damage and when it may be necessary to take the damaged areas out of play to help the recovery process.

Bob concluded his presentation by talking about the USGA TruFirm meter. The meter was originally designed to measure the firmness of bunkers and now is used the measure the firmness of a putting green. Research has shown mois-



ture is the major factor in green firmness and green speed on greens under championship conditions.

After lunch the association held its annual spring membership meeting. The meeting started with two video presentations, the first being Monroe Miller's acceptance speech at the GCSAA Golf Industry Show and the second being GCSAA TV coverage of a Assistant Superintendent meeting hosted by Kevin Knoblauch, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, Milwaukee Country Club. These videos can be found at GCSAA.org.

President Dustin Riley presented the agenda for the meeting and gave an update regarding the search for a chapter manager. 8 perspective candidates will be honed down to 3 for interviews and the board hopes to have a party selected by late spring. Overall the chapter had a good 2008 despite the economic downturns and is in good financial position heading into 2009.

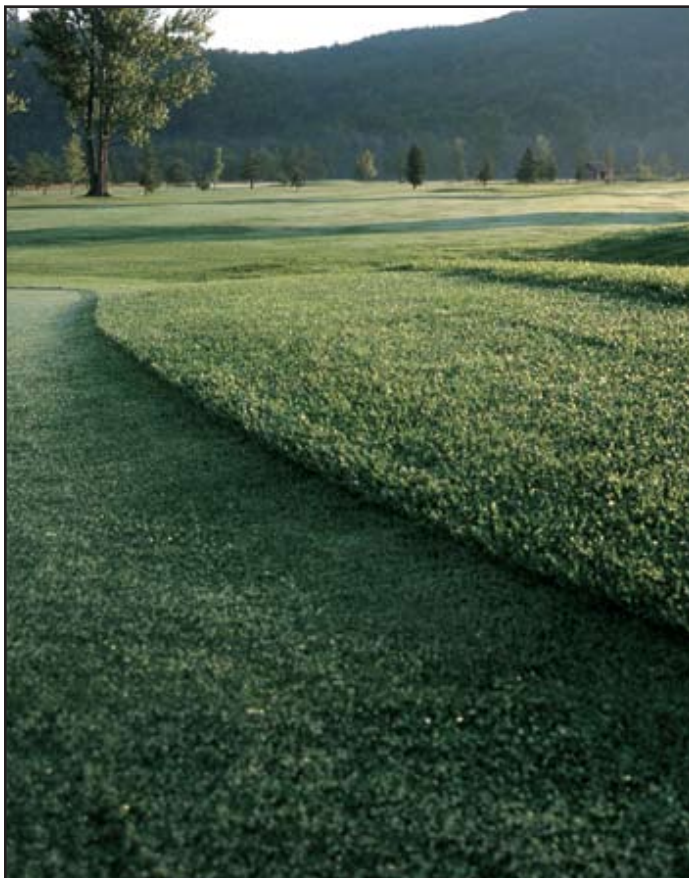
Vice President Jeff Millies presented the 2008 year end treasurers report showing \$7,574.60 in revenue over expenses for the fiscal 2008. The association was able to donate \$38,000 in research and scholarship funds in 2008.

Incoming Membership Chairman Jim VanHerwynen presented 25 year plaques to Andy Kronwall, Lake

Geneva CC, Mark Kastenholz, Tipton Municipal GC, and Bill Rogers, Evergreen GC. Andy Kronwall studied Horticulture Production at the Gateway Technical College and started at Lake Geneva Country Club as the Assistant Superintendent in 1980 working for Gil Burdohl. Andy liked Lake Geneva so much he became superintendent in 1983 and has stayed there ever since. Andy is a past member of the WGCSA Board of Directors and has three daughters, Ashley working on her masters degree at Loyola University, Lisa graduating from UW-Lacrosse this spring and Beth who will start at UW-Madison this fall.

Mark Kastenholz started in the industry in 1980 at Tripoli Country Club working for Jim Belfield. On his way up the golf course industry ladder Mark worked at Medina CC for Dan Pakala, Ozaukee CC for Wayne Otto, Meadowbrook CC for Chad Ball and Kenosha CC for Mike Seaton. Mark spent 7 years as Golf Course Superintendent at Eagle Creek Resort in Findlay, IL and 7 years at Forest Hills in Richmond, IN before becoming the first Golf Course Superintendent at Tipton Municipal Golf Course in Tipton, IN in 2002. Mark achieved the status of Certified Golf Course Superintendent in 1996 and has kept that designation.

Bill Rogers received his Bachelor in Soil Science with a focus on Turfgrass Management in 1983 from the



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Andy Kronwall receives his 25 membership plaque from James Vanherwynen.



Dr. Chris Williamson presented his latest information on sod webworms and the Emerald Ash Borer.

University of Wisconsin - Madison. He was the Assistant Superintendent at North Shore GC in Menasha for Roger Bell before spending 6 years as the Golf Course Superintendent at Lake Wisconsin CC in Prairie du Sac. Bill started at Evergreen Golf Course in Elkhorn WI in 1990 and has stayed ever since. In 1999 Bill became the General Manager at Evergreen followed by adding Partner to his title in 2002. Bill and his wife Cindy reside in Elkhorn and have two

children, Alexandria and Samantha. Bill and the staff at Evergreen will be hosting the WGCSA July Meeting.

Incoming Golf and Arrangement Chair Scott Bushman thanked all of the vendors for their sponsorship in 2008 and gave the dates and locations for the meetings for 2009. Some sites are still available for 2010 if your club is interested in hosting a meeting. Education committee chair Mark Storby stated that there will no longer be any

WGCSA regional seminars but the webcasts will still be offered for education points. This change from national is a positive result of chapters and vendors doing a great job providing local seminars.

Rod Johnson spoke briefly on the Wee One Foundation. The foundation, a tribute in memory of Wayne Otto CGCS, started 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 in 2004 the foundation has gifted over \$240,000 with no strings attached to numerous families in various states. A number of golf outing fundraisers are held for the Wee One Foundation throughout the country but the group needs membership dues to be its main source of income. More information can be obtained at [www.weeone.org](http://www.weeone.org).

The Spring Business Meeting was an educational experience for all. I hope all of you consider participating in the events planned for 2009. A calendar of events will be included in each 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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