



# April Meeting at Geneva National Golf Club

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

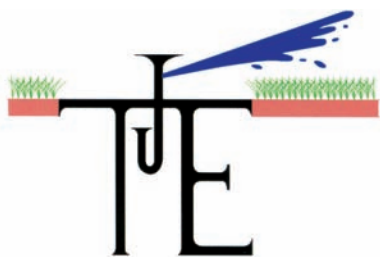
The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association kicked off the 2009 monthly educational meetings at Geneva National Golf Club in Lake Geneva on Monday April 20th, 2009. The weather this day was a far cry from the beautiful 70 degree day we had the previous year. Most of Wisconsin was receiving rain and even reports of some snow. As I departed on my trip to Lake Geneva from Freedom, I drove in rain and then snow and then back to rain all the way to Milwaukee. Leaving Milwaukee it did stop raining and the roads were dry to Lake Geneva. The weather for the golf event was windy and in the low 40's, but the rain held off letting us get the event in. Host Superintendent Kevin Knudtson and his team did an outstanding job preparing the Player course, having an event in Wisconsin in April is truly a difficult task.

The day began with a presentation by Kendall Marquardt, CGCS titled Greens Aeration: Which Way To Hole? Why do we aerate: To alleviate compaction, introduce soil amendments, dilute and control organic matter, disrupt layering, increase saturated hydraulic conductivity and increase rootzone oxygen levels and gas exchange. Kendall stated that excess organic matter in the top 2 inches is the number one cause of green failure. Excess organic matter will close off air channels, plug pore space between soil particles,



**Geneva National features three great layouts.**

inhibit water percolation, compact readily, support pathogenic activity and organic matter accumulation begins at germination. How much organic matter is too much? The International Sport Turf Research Center Handbook states that high organic concentrations of 2.5% and above will contaminate air pores and seal off sand filled cavities. Subsurface oxygen levels are also very important because when rootzone oxygen levels are low root cells lose ability to take up water. How much cultivation is necessary? Southeast region USGA agronomists have recommended impacting 20 - 25% of surface area annually to keep organic matter under control along with sensible nitrogen fertilization and topdressing. Golf courses with successful mature greens have been on a core aeration program where 15 - 20% of surface area has been impacted each year. Hollow core machine, solid tine machine, hydroject machine, dryject machine, graden dethatching machine and slicers/spikers are various types of equipment used for cultivation practices. When determining which method may work best here are some factors to consider. What are the specific needs of the course in terms of thatch control and soil modification, amount of play, budget dollars, SARI (surface area removal/impacted) of 15 - 25% and topdressing addition of 40-50 cu. Ft. annually. In closing, Kendall listed some targets to try to achieve. Less than 2% organic matter in the top 2 inches. Appropriate SARI of 15 - 25% and appropriate topdressing amounts including light topdressings every two weeks. Keep surface area



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Players Par 3 13th Hole plays downhill but is protected by a pot bunker front right.

open between major aerifications by spiking, hydrojecting, quad tining or slicing. Consider a physical soil testing program, to measure is to know. Ensure adequate sunlight and air movement.

After the educational presentation we were treated to an “All-American Cookout” style buffet and time to hit balls and putt before the golf event. After golf we gathered for hors d’oeuvres, beverages and announcement of the winners. Two teams tied for the lead with scores of 13 under par (59). After a scorecard playoff reverting back numerous holes the team of Travis Krauklis, Mark Lockhart, Cubby O’Brien and Kevin Knudtson were victorious.

In second place was Bruce Schweiger, David Boyce, Jim Kearns and Paul Koch. Hole event winners included longest drive on #2 Jeff Weber, closest to the pin on #6 Steve Beck, closest to the pin on # 13 Kevin Knudtson, closest to the pin on # 15 Randy Lusher and longest drive on # 16 was Aaron Kabat. Congratulations to all winners and thank you to all of the vendor sponsorships that helped make this event a success. Please remember to send in your registration with payment promptly after receiving the notice, I look forward to seeing you at the next event. Any questions or concerns regarding any of the events this year do not hesitate to contact me at 920-766-7055 or foxvalleygolf@netzero.com.🌱



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