



Fall Business Meeting

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

Efficiency was apparent at the first WGCSA business meeting with Chapter Manager Brett Grams available to assist the Board of Directors. All the important documents were on a PowerPoint for all to see and the new budget format will allow all members to understand where their money goes and for what purpose.

President Riley started his final meeting by thanking the membership and board of directors he worked with over his 11 years on the board. He was deservedly proud and complimentary of the boards accomplishment in hiring our first chapter manager to guide the day to day association activities.

Next up was Chapter Manager Grams who updated the members in attendance of his accomplishments so far.

- The data base has been updated and downsized from three data bases to one easy to manage program to allow accurate and effective communication with the membership.
- The new website is quickly coming on line with new features including online payments, online directory and access to the Turf Grass Information File (TGIF) operated by the library at Michigan State where all issues of The Grass Roots from 1984 to present are available.
- Development of a Industry Partner Plan to allow our vendor members who support the WGCSA to do so in a efficient cost effective way rather than the nickel and dime approach we have been offering them in the past.
- Developing an opportunity to raise funds for turf-grass research without going back to members or vendors for additional donations through an online auction of donated tee times.

Membership Chair James Van Herwynen presented the membership totals and expressed his pleasure at having a data base that is always up to date and the ability to print our membership directory without hours of painstaking updates. The association is at 421 members representing 240 golf facilities.

Golf and Arrangements Chair Scott Bushman thanked the superintendents who hosted events in 2009 and presented the schedule for 2010. (The schedule can be found elsewhere in this issue and at WGCSA.com.) This is the first time in many years the schedule of events was full this far in advance. Many thanks to Scott and the host clubs for their work.

Government and Regulations Chair Chad Harrington discussed the phosphorus ban and announced the



Chapter Manager Brett Grams Updates the Membership

WGCSA has joined RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) in effort to stay abreast of changes in the industry. More information about RISE can be found at www.pestfacts.org.

Treasurer Jeff Millies gave some feedback on his recent trip to the GCSAA Delegates Meeting. The annual meeting allows chapter leaders to learn what the national association is doing and meet the candidates for office. (More information on the Delegates Meeting can be found in the GCSAA column in this issue.) Jeff presented the GCSAA's Golf Industry Show will be small in size in comparison to other years and although GCSAA has substantial savings they are concerned about the financial impact of the recent and ongoing recession. Cuts to some services and employee furloughs will be implemented at the national headquarters.

Jeff also presented the 2010 budget available on a handout and in PowerPoint. New categories were created to provide greater detail for the membership. The association is doing well and expects to make \$3,000 at years end just as budgeted. The association has \$20,000 in CD's and another \$20,000 that will be invested soon providing for adequate savings in case of emergency.

Vice President Brian Zimmerman presented the 2010 Scholarship and Research to be approved by the members in attendance.

- \$1,500 J.R. Love Scholarship
- \$1,000 Monroe S Miller Literary Scholarship
- 3 x \$500 Legacy Scholarships
- \$15,500 Wisconsin Turfgrass Association
- \$5,000 Research Auction Donation
- \$5,500 Other Scholarship and Research

The association has decided to give research money directly to the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association rather than to the professors through the university. It was noted that donations given to the professors go through the university system where up to 49% is taken off the top for costs. Whereas the WTA can fund research directly in conjunction with the professors at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility without losing that percentage. It is a positive sign for the industry that the WGCSA has a good working relationship with the WTA and University of Wisconsin-Madison staff.

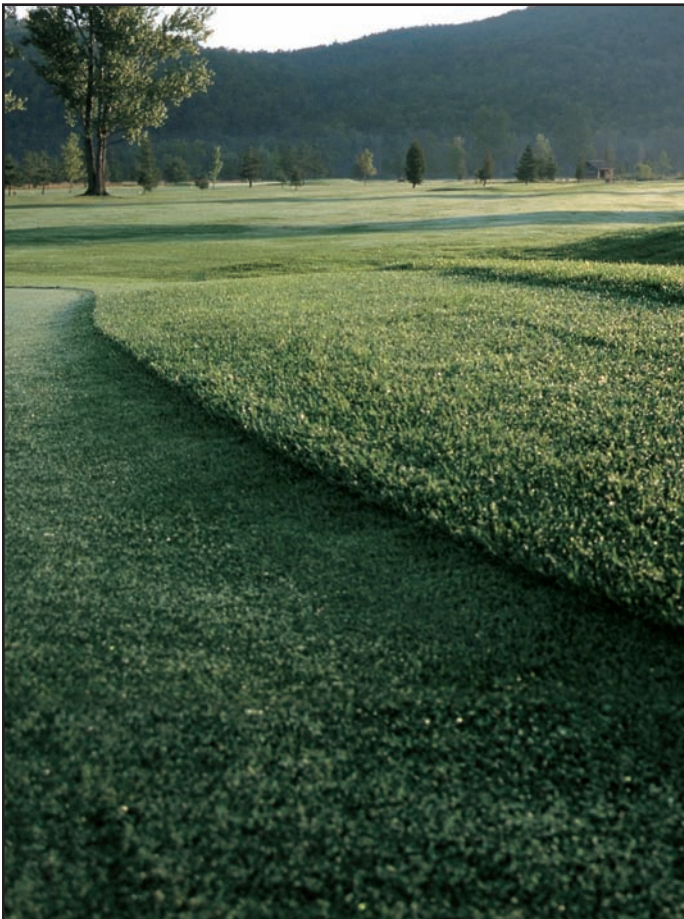
Next was the presentation and vote on a wording change in the bylaws. It will allow for members to apply for membership online through the website. The bylaw

change also cleans up a mistake that stated only members could apply for membership to the association.

The final piece of business was the election of officers and directors. Winning one year terms as officers: President - Brian Zimmerman, Milwaukee County Parks, Vice President - Jeff Millies, Edgewood Golf Club, Treasurer - Chad Harrington, Autumn Ridge Golf Club and Secretary Jim Van Herwynen, South Hills Golf and Country Club. Elected to two year terms as directors were Mark Storby, Oneida Golf and Country Club (second term), Scott Sann of Greenwood Hills CC and Colin Seaburg of Ozaukee CC.

Director Scott Bushman, Fox Valley Golf Club has one year left on his term and Dustin Riley will serve on the board as Past President while Alan Nees of Agrotain will serve as the Vendor Liaison.

Mike Lyons, Old Hickory Golf Club is leaving the board as Past President after 12 years of service. Matt Schmitz is also leaving the board to concentrate on other activities after serving as Secretary. Thank you Matt and Mike for your service to the WGCSA. 🌱



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