



Seasons Bring Change

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

Be sure to check out the Personality Profile of Brett Grams the new WGCSA Chapter Manager in this issue. Most of you know Brett from his time at Waupaca Country Club and Waupaca Sand and Solutions and will have the opportunity to work with him in his new position.

As a Past President of the WGCSA I commend President Riley and the Board of Directors for acting on the idea of chapter management after other boards only talked about it. We have a great association and have had a great relationship with the Wisconsin State Golf Association office. Unfortunately the association lost so much efficiency and information each time the board turned over, as new superintendent volunteers tried to get up to speed on important committees. Then as soon as everyone was comfortable with their tasks it was time for a new election, and board members moved on to new committee assignments. Brett will be able to lesson the learning curve and allow the board to focus on guiding the association rather than doing busy work.

The other loss for the association was board member turnover as the time commitment was too much for superintendents, and they choose to leave the board to focus on responsibilities with family and work. With Brett's organizational skills and industry knowledge, future boards will continue to lead the association but with greater efficiency and skill but less time away from other priorities.

Congratulations Brett, you will do great.

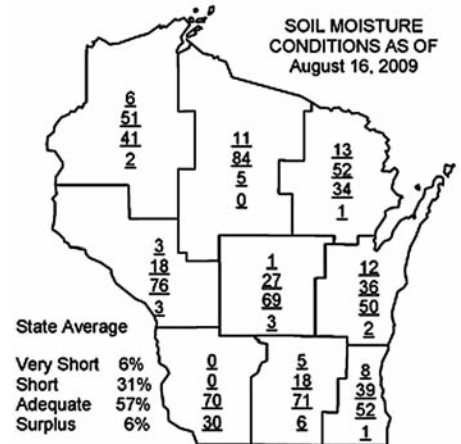
Although dry, the September weather has offered the summer we never had. Warm temps with ample sunshine have helped golf courses complete fall maintenance and recover some golf rounds with beautiful weekends.

The Fond du Lac area has not had rain since August 28 or 22 days running. Even more unbelievable we only had one fully cloudy day that entire time after a cool and often cloudy August. Labor Day weekend was so sunny I had one young man (who no longer works for us) call in sick with sunburn! I am not sure how you can go spend an entire summer in the sun and then get sunburn in September when the days are short and the sun low on the horizon but he supposedly did.

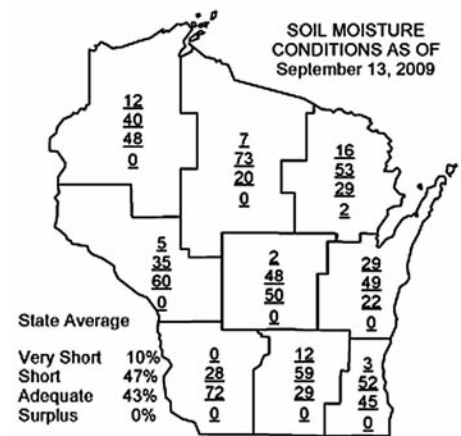
From the Wisconsin Crop Progress Report compiled by the Wisconsin Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service Aug 16 graphic only the mid north was suffering from widespread dry conditions in comparison to the September 13 graphic where 57% of the state was suffering from dry conditions. Hopefully October will balance out with gentle rains to prepare the trees and landscape for winter but allow a good harvest for farmer's crops.

Congratulations to Morgan Millies for receiving a GCSAA Legacy Award for \$1,500. 20 awards funded by the Environmental Institute for Golf and sponsored by Syngenta were given this year.

The awards are based on academic achievement, community involvement, extracurricular activities and leadership skills. Applicants must be enrolled full time at an



Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office



Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office

accredited institution of higher learning, or for high school seniors, accepted at such an institution for the next academic year.

Millies attends the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse as a pre-med student. Her father, Jeffrey Millies, CGCS, is a 24-year GCSAA member and is the GCSAA Class A superintendent at Edgewood Golf Course in Big Bend, WI. Jeff also serves as the WGCSA board of directors as Treasurer. You may remember Morgan recently won a GCSAA 2009 Joseph S. Garske Collegiate Grant. Mom and Dad must be proud!

Fall is a great time of year for golf course superintendents with cool nights and less stress to employees and the turfgrass. Temperatures, day-length and colors change rapidly in mid September to mid October as winter approaches.

My "year of change" continues both at home and at work. With Kayla off to college the house seems empty at times and even her brother misses her. Although with cell phones, facebook and texting it seems she is just across town for the day rather than over an hour away. She is getting acquainted with the campus, dorm life and many students at UW-Green Bay in comparison to Lomira High School. In ways it makes me miss my time at UW-Whitewater and wish I knew then what I know now about life. However, life does not offer do-overs; we can only use our experiences to guide our families and employees to make good decisions.

4 years of planning at work are coming to fruition as this season ends and the golf course and golf shop operations merge into one entity. Since 1972 Rolling Meadows has had a contractor golf professional and that system worked for years while revenue was plenty and expenses low. However in today's market we cannot afford to give up the profit from carts, range and golf shop sales to an independent contractor.

With change comes fear of the unknown and more stories and rumors than you can imagine from customers and staff. Jeremiah Hoffman who will take over as our Golf Professional covers some of that fear and conflict in a new *The Grass Roots* feature called "From the Golf Shop". The one key we have learned through the process is not to believe most of what you hear and constant communication is needed to keep the miss-information to a minimum.

By the time you read this we will be in the final full month of the 2009 golf season. October brings a mix of weather but overall is a great time to work normal hours and enjoy the changing season. Most of us are submitting budgets and plans for next year to be approved by boards, owners and investors. The economy will not improve overnight and some of us will face increased budget cuts and layoffs while some courses saw recovery in 2009 and are planning projects and equipment purchases.

Furlough has been a popular term in the press lately as all state workers have been forced to take them through the next two fiscal years. Furlough is just a fancy word for pay cut to professors and other professional state workers. They like many others will just have to work longer on the days they are working to make up for the days they are supposed to be off without pay.

Also on the negative is 24 hour operations like prisons and law enforcement will be forced to pay employees

overtime to fill in for employees on furlough. So we won't pay this employee \$20 an hour to work, but we will pay the other employee \$30 an hour to fill in. Then next week we can switch it around. Makes perfect sense to me.

Continued thanks to our contributors to *The Grass Roots*. This issue alone is filled with research that may change your common practices on the golf course. Dr. Stier on shade, Dr. Kerns on spots and Paul Koch on snow mold control or the lack of control in some cases will help us in our everyday jobs. Dan Lloyd and Dr. Soldat's work with Late Fall N applications will blow your mind if you have one left after Bill Kreuser simplifies why Primo used to be so unpredictable. These two graduate students have done excellent work, and are must reads.

Get green results.

Apply Milorganite after turf quits growing and before a permanent freeze-up or snow cover.



Dormant feeding with Milorganite assures...

- 1-2 weeks earlier spring green-up
- Quicker turf recovery from winter damage
- Vibrant turf color and growth rates through mid-May

Partnering with:



1-800-785-3301



(920) 849-2341

www.milorganite.com 1-800-287-9645