



A Visit from the King

By **Scott Sann**, Certified Golf Course Superintendent, Greenwood Hills Country Club

The Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Association (NGLGCSA) hosted its annual spring symposium on March 3rd, 2010 in Wausau, WI at the Best Western Midway Hotel. The NGLGCSA hosts this educational opportunity each spring for its members and guests.

President Glen Rochester from Wawonowin CC in Champion MI opened the symposium and accepted two generous donations on behalf of the NGLGCSA from Reinders and John Deere Golf. Every year the NGLGCSA awards scholarships to members, children of members, and grandchildren of members going to college. This year there were four recipients who each received a \$500.00 scholarship.

This year's speakers covered a variety of interesting topics. The "King" Dr. Joe Vargas, Professor, Department of Plant Pathology, Michigan State University gave two interesting and entertaining talks. The first was on strategies for optimizing fungicide usage and resistance management. His second was about competition between Poa. Annuua vs. Creeping Bent Grass. Both talks were very informative. I was unable to make the business meeting the evening before, but I heard that Dr. Joe Vargas's performance as Elvis Presley was far more entertaining.

Dr. Jim Kerns, Assistant Professor, Department of Plant Pathology and Dr. John Stier, Professor and Chair, Department of Horticulture at The University of Wisconsin Madison were there to report on research projects the NGLGCSA has helped support. Dr. Kerns reported his findings of snow mold research which can also be found on the web at www.plantpath.wisc.edu/tld.



Dr. Joe Vargas entertains the crowd at the pre-symposium hospitality room.

Dr. Stier reported his work about runoff and leachate content from various buffer strips. This project started in response to the new NR151 regulations. It is good to know that both are working to improve turf quality for local superintendents as well as working with legislative officials to form realistic laws that effect how we do our jobs.

The meeting ended with Bob Vavrek from the USGA with his year in review for 2009. His entertaining and informative talk dealt with ice damage and recovery as well as some architecture renovation/ regrassing strategies.

The meeting concluded with results from the silent auction and raffle.

The association started in 1981 with Charter Members John Beck, Rich Victorson, Tom Heid, John Netwal and Matt Wisniewski with Beck serving as the first President. Along with current President Glen Rochester, the board includes Dan Belland, Steve Spears, Randy Swonger, Joe Deschler, Jay Pritzl, Ken Smith, Kurt Stromquist Scott Thompson, and Rich Victorson. More information about the NGLGCSA can be found at nglturf.org.

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