



Spring Business Meeting

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

The spring business and education meeting of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association is a sure sign of spring. This annual event held on the first Monday of March not only brings optimism of a new season but valuable education and friendly camaraderie.

The educational program started with James Nagle, Design Associate with Forse Design of Hopewood, PA discussing The Benefits of Developing a Long Range Improvement Plan for Golf Courses.

Nagle began his presentation by covering the preliminary process to prepare a long range plan. Any plan needs to start with a goal statement and an existing conditions report so all parties know what the course currently provides its players and what it wants to provide. The conditions report not only shows the courses challenges and problems but includes the courses identity or what type of course you have as perceived by the industry. The courses identity is crucial in determining what type of improvements should take place so the course does not alienate current players.

Once the designer knows the current conditions and the clubs goals he can begin the design phase with drawings, narratives and cost estimates. For the members or customers the designer also creates a scorecard showing the new and old yardages, and a graphic representation of the course. This valuable drawing has become much easier to create with computer technology and gives the decision makers a clear visual idea of the end result of their investment.

For existing clubs looking to retain and attract customers a master plan can: reveal defects, improve maintenance, preserve the original design, undo past mistakes, enhance overall aesthetics, improve the relevance of the club in the community and allow the club to stay current in the market while providing a consistent blueprint for the future.

The golf course superintendent is a key individual not only in the construction phase, but also in the hiring of an architect and in the planning phase with input on the existing course and its challenges and deficiencies.

The superintendent is also the best person to lead the communication to the club members on construction updates, acting as the club representative with the architect and contractors.

Jim went on to highlight the construction process and tips to improve cooperation between the architect, contractors and course members.



Steve Ablor presents WGCSA President Brian Zimmerman with a check for \$2,285 from Reinders Daconil and Heritage sales program.



Monroe Miller tells the group why Bill Kreuser (right) received the inaugural Monroe Miller Literary Scholarship while President Zimmerman looks on.

Next on the agenda Dr. Doug Soldat gave a quick update on the statewide phosphorus ban and how it may or may not override NR151 rules. He also highlighted how he along with Colin Seaberg of Ozaukee Country Club will be attending DNR meetings on new administrative rules that could restrict irrigation and well water withdrawals in the Great Lakes Water Basin. More on this topic can be found in Doug's Wisconsin Soils Report in this issue of *The Grass Roots*.

Doug quickly turned the microphone over to Bill Kreuser, Graduate Student at UW Madison, who will begin his Doctorate Degree at Cornell University under the guidance of Dr. Frank Rossi this summer. Bill high-

lighted his research with Primo Max with a talk titled Effect of Primo Max on Putting Green Fertility Requirements.

Kreuser started with how Primo Max (active ingredient Trinexpacetyl) works by blocking the production of gibberellic acid which in turn limits cell elongation. He has conducted two years of work looking at the suppression of growth and the related rebound of growth by studying clipping yields and turf quality ratings.

Bill pointed out, high quality turf under suppression from Primo has better quality but less traffic tolerance.

Kreuser presented that the metabolism of primo is a direct function of temperatures. In result during warmer temperatures re-application of Primo has to be made at 200 local growing degree



Bill Kreuser gives his presentation on Primos effect on fertilizer requirements.

days to avoid the surge of growth as suppression ends. During the average May, Primo may last 21 days, July suppression may last 15 days but during a heat wave it may only last 7 days before a surge of growth is seen.

Given Bill was using 1/8 ounce per thousand application rates in his presentation an attendee asked if a higher rate would offer a longer suppression period? The answer was no. Even a double rate provides no greater reduction in growth primarily because Primo metabolizes so fast its half life is short.

Kreuser showed us a spreadsheet he offered to share to track primo applications while adding local growing degree days based on high and low temperature inputs to show exactly when the next application should be made for consis-

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tent growth, quality and green speeds.

Primo has the ability to reduce fertilizer needs and costs. Bill's work showed that since Primo enhances quality and color reductions in nitrogen applications can be made to provide the same or improved turf quality as turf without primo and higher fertilizer rates. Kreuser presented turf managers can reduce N inputs 25% and keep quality while reducing clipping yield.

More information on Primo Max research can be found in Bill's article published in the September October 2009 issue of *The Grass Roots*.

After a great lunch and more camaraderie attention turned to the WGCSA business meeting. Chapter Manager Brett Grams started with highlighting his recent work with the new website, online calendar, online payment, and the database improvements allowing a quick printing of the chapter directory. He also highlighted his work with the industry partners plan allowing vendors to easily support the association.

President Zimmerman thanked the committee working on the Par 4 Research Campaign to raise funds for turf research, and Colin Seaburg who will be serving on the DNR's Water Quality group with Dr. Soldat expressing the interests and benefits of the turf industry. He also announced the approval of the Assistant Superintendents to be a bigger part of the WGCSA as a whole with a position on the board of directors in the future.

Vice President Millies finished his term as treasurer with his final financial report. The association is in good financial condition and Jon Canavan who led the audit committee presented the books and receipts of the association were in order.

Membership chair Colin Seaburg announced with Brett's work and


the online payments renewals are ahead of most years and the directory will be printed earlier than normal. He presented the 25 year members of Steve Allen of Songbird Hills, Mike Berwick of Lawsonia Links, Steve Dobish of Oshkosh Municipal, Jim Hasz CGCS of Lake Breeze, John Sytx of South Hills (Franksville), Bob Lohmann of Lohman Design and Chris Wendorf of Olds Seeds.

Golf and Arrangements Chair Scott Bushman thanked the 2009 meeting hosts and vendor supporters and presented the 2010 schedule which can be found in this issue.

Jeff Millies, Chair of the Scholarship and Research Committee presented the Monroe Miller Literary Scholarship to Bill Kreuser, Graduate Student at University of Wisconsin Madison. This new scholarship given in honor of Monroe Miller's longtime

contribution to the WGCSA as Editor of *The Grass Roots* is awarded to the best written student submitted article to the publication.

The committee comprised of Millies, Monroe Miller and Dr. John Stier chose Bill for his article titled "Making Sense of Primo Maxx Research at UW" found in the September/October 2009 issue of *The Grass Roots*.

Under new business Brian again thanked the committee working on the Par 4 Research fundraiser and hoped the membership would be forthcoming with donations of rounds or foursomes of golf at their facilities. The key is to get the word out to members and customers that the auction is taking place. WGCSA members were sent posters and flyers to use at their clubs to announce the auction along with word of mouth and mentions in club newsletters. 

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