



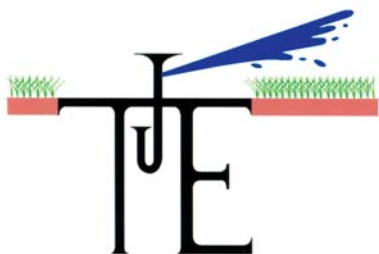
# A New Season Dawns

By David Brandenburg, Golf Course Manager Rolling Meadows Golf Course

What an exciting March and early spring. It's hard to sit down and write this with so many options of things to watch, read or follow. "March Madness" is well underway with high school and college basketball so many games and so little time. Plus the health care debate is supposed to come to a head this weekend so CNN and FOX News are calling with updates on who is voting how and how it will effect us for years into the future..

More importantly it should be 50 degrees today after a little snow yesterday so golfing is a possibility! Each year that first 50 degree day gets golfers and golf course personnel excited for the season to come. Many golf courses opened the week of March 15th with a week of nice temperatures and good drying winds. I imagine the year I am no longer excited for spring is the year to retire or find a different career path.

Early reports are most golf courses made it through winter in good condition however being a large geographic state there is variety each winter in snowfall, snowmelt and the dreaded ice. After two years of damage from freeze thaw cycles I am glad to see some healthy turf this spring and so are our customers. As I explained to a couple members that were commenting on the spring conditions, our staff did not kill the grass last winter and we did not save it this winter, Mother Nature takes the credit for both.



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Have you noticed how the spring opening of golf courses has changed? It was just a few years ago the badger state had only a handful of courses that opened early and everyone else just waited for things to green up before thinking about opening. Evergreen Golf Club in Elkhorn, Scenic View in Slinger and Mystery Hills in DePere were regularly the first to open in their areas and golfers got used to seeking them out.

Many golf operators would hold off on opening until all the brush and sticks would be cleaned up, every newly painted bench, ballwasher and divot box would be put out and greens and tees and fairways would be mowed once or even twice before golfers were allowed to hit the links.

Often it required a week of decent weather before we even thought of opening. Lately for our course and many others the first day we can travel the course without doing damage we mow greens, put the pins out and open the doors. All the other work can wait until later. The players do not seem to mind, some soggy areas, a few sticks lying around, un-mowed turf or the lack of benches. They are just happy to be out there and the cash register is happy to have some money in it.

Be sure to get the word out about Par4Research to your customers as the WGCSA looks at new avenues to support research at the OJ Noer Turfgrass Research Center. If you have been sleeping for the past month the Par4Research program will take donated rounds of golf from WGCSA member clubs and auction them off to the general public on an online auction.

This is a easy way for our clubs to support turf research without a dues increase, another trade show or asking our vendors for a donation. The committee did a great job getting this off the ground in a hurry in order to get donations in and the auction ready to go May 2nd.

Include a link to [www.par4research.com](http://www.par4research.com) in your club newsletters and websites to ensure golfers are aware of this great cause.

2010 will be an exciting year for tournament golf in the badger state with the 92 PGA Championship returning to Whistling Straits in Sheboygan after a successful event in 2004 when Vijay Singh won in a 3 hole playoff.

As a reminder GCSAA members receive complemen-

tary admission to the PGA Championship and a number of other events.

For the PGA Tour, Champions Tour and Nationwide Tour Class AA, Class A, Class A-Retired, Superintendent Member, and Superintendent Member-Retired members, and their immediate families receive complimentary grounds admission.

For the World Golf Championship, Class AA, Class A, Class A-Retired members receive complimentary admission.

At The Masters (Augusta National) Class A, A-Retired, and AA Life members receive complimentary admission.

At the PGA of America events (including PGA Championship and Senior PGA Championship), Class AA, A, A-Retired, Superintendent Member, Superintendent Member-Retired, C and C-Retired, and accompanying spouses receive complimentary admission while each adult may bring up to two complimentary juniors. I can tell you that in 2004 getting in the PGA Championship was easy. Members should park in the public parking area and take the complimentary shuttle to the admissions gate.

For all USGA championships except the U.S. Open Class AA, A, A-Retired, Superintendent Member and Superintendent Member-Retired, and spouse or guest will receive complimentary admission. At the U.S. Open the complimentary admission is only offered to the GCSAA member however children age 12 and under will gain complimentary daily access when accompanied by a credentialed (tickets or badges) adult. Also Reduced-rate tickets are available for youths age 13-17 when accompanied by a credentialed adult.

For the Senior Open, Women's Open, U.S. Amateur and Walker Cup

Youths age 17 and under will receive complimentary daily admission when accompanied by an adult ticket holder.

The LPGA Tour honors all GCSAA Green and Gold membership cards.

For all tournaments it helps to check the website but for the most part GCSAA members park in regular parking and go the will call window to receive a daily badge. Be sure to have a current membership card and ID for yourself and any family.

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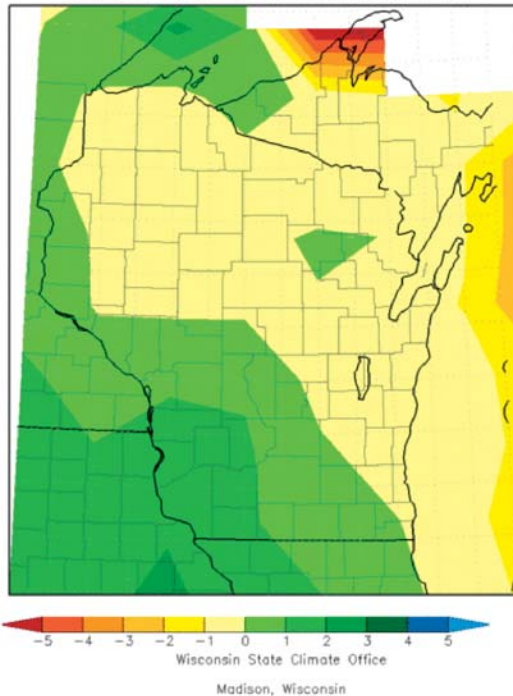
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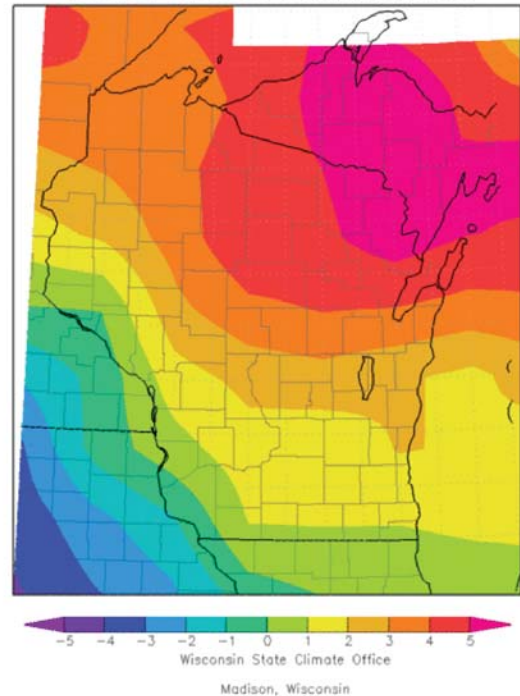
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Total Precipitation Departure from Mean in Inches  
December 21, 2009 to March 21, 2010



Average Temperature Departure from Mean in Degrees F  
December 21, 2009 to March 21, 2010



To take the entire family or your staff to some great local and free tournament venues The Wisconsin State Open will be hosted at The Bull in Sheboygan July 22 - 25 and The Wisconsin State Open will be held at The Legend at Bristlecone in Heartland August 23 to 25.

For those of you interested in saving some funds on used equipment or if you just like to dabble in the used or unique JW Turf has their spring auction coming up on Sunday May 2nd at 14N937 US Hwy 20, Hampshire, IL 60140. You can call them at 847-683-4653 for more information. Remember that the turf equipment is first at 8 am.

Equipment auctions are great as they give us the opportunity to return to our manhood by standing around kicking tires and talking horsepower.

Our other vendors don't have an annual auction but you can find their used items online or in person.

- At Reinders you can walk through the Elm Grove yard or find the items at [reinders.com/](http://reinders.com/) and click the used equipment link.
- At Horst Distributing in Chilton you can visit the website at [Horstdistributing.com](http://Horstdistributing.com) and click the used equipment link
- At Riesterer and Schnell you can visit [Rands.com](http://Rands.com) and go the Machine Finder Link
- At Burris Equipment you can visit [burris.com](http://burris.com) and click the used equipment link.

EBay is another place to search for used equipment or at least to check the going price on something you

may have or want. As great as the World Wide Web can be for research for best results nothing beats working with your local turf salesman for finding that used piece of equipment.

The winter of 2009 - 2010 had its highs and lows but in the end will be called normal. Comments from the Wisconsin State Climatology Office winter report December brought colder than normal temperatures with higher snowfall but January and February brought us back to normal with average temperatures and less snowfall for most of the state.

Be sure to check out the WGCSA Calendar as there are some great venues for our monthly meetings this year. If you are not a regular attendee at our meetings feel free to join us. They competition is secondary so don't worry about your golf game. We get together to see another turf managers operation and for the camaraderie that comes with being with other turf heads. I for one have never been to a summer golf meeting where I did not learn something I could take back to my club either from the course itself or from talking shop with other attendees.

Good luck to you and yours as we move into the 2010 golf season. Remember to take time and enjoy the sunrise! Watching the sun come up is one of the bonuses we never lose in this industry. 🌱