



It Was a Warm and Humid Night!

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

“It was a Warm and Humid Night” pretty much sums up most of summer for turf managers throughout the state and country. If the economic news is not enough to keep golf course managers up at night the warm night time temperatures and ample rainfall sure were.

Average rain is a good thing as it reduces watering needs and keeps golf courses green but the amount of regular rain gave turf managers fits as they tried to keep up with ever-growing rough and worried as wet conditions, humidity and warm nights reduced turf root depth to near non-existent levels by mid July.

As good stewards of our courses and the environment course managers can have goals for firm and dry conditions but record rain and humidity ruined those plans. The humidity and rains kept green speeds below normal causing golfer anguish and concern. Daily watering and afternoon syringing to keep the root zone wet easily led to soft and wet fairways.

Overall the summer of 2010 will be remembered as a bad one for

years to come. We can take some solace in the fact we were not alone as the entire Midwest and east coast had record temperatures and humidity.

From the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service publication Wisconsin Crop Progress you can see from the August 15th map 97% of the state had adequate or surplus moisture amounts and the September 12th report shows 96% were still at adequate or surplus moisture while the surplus had dropped from 37% of reporting stations to 13%.

For an area that is used to a dry period during August and September the ample rain kept mowers of all types moving on a daily basis. The one good thing from the rate of growth is repair shops have been busy with overworked mowers needing repairs.

The statewide weather recap shows the year to date rainfall through September 11 above normal with Eau Claire at 1.24”, Green Bay 7.78”, La Crosse 5.22”, Madison 7.30” and Milwaukee 4.59” above normal.

Along with the rain has come above average temperatures so those recording stations show growing degree day units 20.5% above normal with 2824 in comparisons to the average of 2344.

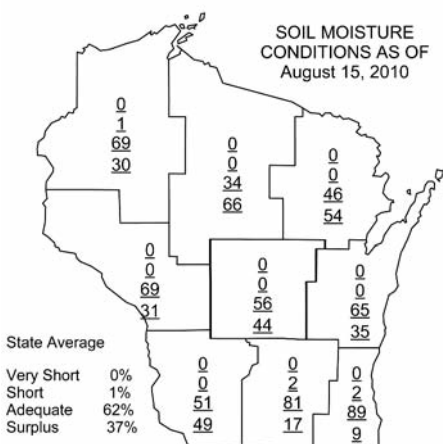
At least in our area our state bird the mosquito was out in full force most of the summer. Sprays that have worked other years seemed okay in the open but it was impossible to get near any wooded areas without donating a pint of blood!

PNCB Loss

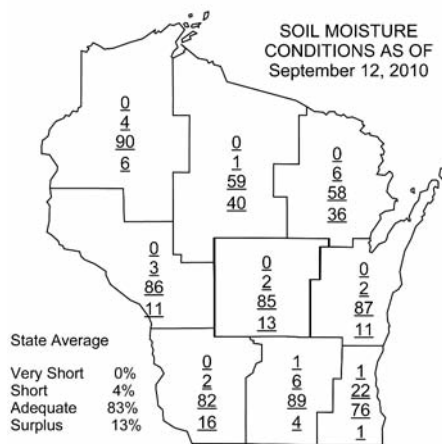
The sudden loss of PCNB as a snow mold fungicide due to some impurities in the product has left many superintendents and vendors scrambling. Due to the impurities a stop sale order was issued on August 12th by the United States Environmental Protection Agency on 95% technical grade PCNB. The company that manufactures the technical grade product (American Vanguard) challenged the order in a court of law and the motion was denied on September 3, 2010. Consequently, PCNB cannot be sold by the manufacturer and is going to be very difficult to find this year. This order is different from a registration cancellation, so if the manufacturer cleans up the impurities PCNB sales could resume in the future.

Congratulations and a big thank you goes to Dr. Jim Kerns and Paul Koch from the Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab for quickly coming to our aid with recommendations on replacement products.

Jim and Paul's quick and thorough recommendations have been highlighted around the country by all the major turf publications. It is



Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office



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great to know we have the great staff at the University of Wisconsin - Madison to rely on for help during a crisis.

Mendenhall Award to Obear!

Congratulations to Glen Obear of Sheboygan for being awarded the Mendenhall Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

The GCSAA awarded scholarships to 17 college students as part of the GCSAA Scholars Program administered by GCSAA's philanthropic organization, The Environmental Institute for Golf.

Obear won first place in the competition. He receives a \$6,000 scholarship and an all-expense paid trip to the 2011 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Orlando in February as the Mendenhall Award Winner.

Glen is a senior studying soil science and agronomy at the University of Wisconsin - Madison under the advisement of Dr. Doug Soldat.

Glen decided to pursue a career in the turfgrass industry after the opportunity to work for the 2007 US Senior Open at Whistling Straits Irish Course in Haven, WI. Glen also has interned at Whistling Straits, Kukio Beach and Golf Club in Big Island, HI, and University Ridge Golf Course in Madison, WI.

Glen will finish his undergraduate work in December 2010, and then work toward a M.S. degree in soil science and entomology before reaching his goal of one day becoming a golf course superintendent.

The second place winner, Robert Tibbetts, receives a \$5,000 award and is designated as the recipient of the Allan MacCurrach Award. The MacCurrach Award is funded by the PGA Tour. Tibbetts is from Liberal, Kan., and attends Kansas State University. The other 15 scholarships ranged from \$500 to \$2,500 dollars for the students.



The GCSAA Scholars Program, funded by the Robert Trent Jones Endowment, was developed to recognize outstanding students planning careers in golf course management. Winners were selected to receive scholarship awards based on the final ranking in a competition judged by GCSAA's Scholarship Committee.

Factors considered were academic achievement, potential to become a leading professional, employment history, extracurricular activities, and recommendations from a superintendent with whom the student has worked and a current academic advisor.

Applicants must be enrolled in a recognized undergraduate program in a major field related to golf/turf management and be a GCSAA member. Undergraduate applicants must have successfully completed at least 24 credit hours or the equivalent of one year of full-time study in an appropriate major.

The Mendenhall Award is given in memory of the late Chet Mendenhall, a pioneer in the golf course management industry. A native of Kingman, Kan., Mendenhall's upbringing on an Oklahoma farm served him well. His career in working with the land began in 1920 as an employee of the Wichita (Kan.) Parks and Forestry Department, where he designed and built his first course despite having no previous experience with the game.

In 1928, Mendenhall accepted an invitation to become superintendent at the Wichita Country Club. It was during his tenure there that Mendenhall assisted California-based golf course architect Billy Bell in designing and constructing a new course. Smitten by the process, Mendenhall entered night school to learn surveying, drafting, bookkeeping and other related subjects.

He moved in 1934 to the Kansas City, Mo., area, where he served as superintendent of the Mission Hills Country Club until his retirement in 1965. Mendenhall was a charter member of GCSAA and his service to his profession included serving as a director of GCSAA from 1940-1946, vice president in 1947 and president in 1948. He was honored by the association with its Distinguished Service Award in 1986, and by the USGA in 1990 with its Green Section Award. Mendenhall passed away in 1991 and was inducted into the Kansas Golf Hall of Fame in 1996.

Internationally recognized for his expertise in the turf management field, Allan MacCurrach began his career as a golf course superintendent at Valley Country Club in Warwick, R.I., in 1962. In 1972, he became the 45th person to receive the title of Certified Golf Course Superintendent from GCSAA. MacCurrach became the PGA Tour's first agronomist in 1974 and played a leading role in establishing the standard of excellence for course conditioning at PGA Tour events. MacCurrach was named senior agronomist in 1988 and in 1994 received the GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award.

Golf Industry Show Goes Back to Florida.

February 7 -11, 2011 will feature the Golf Industry Show and GCSAA Education Conference in Orlando

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Florida. Orlando has been the home to some of GCSAA's biggest Conferences for both vendors and attendees.

The event will continue with last years format of education on Monday and Tuesday, the Golf Industry Show on Wednesday and Thursday followed by education on Friday. The conference will feature 100 total and 18 new education seminars with topics from Energy Efficiency to Colorscapes With Impact.

Tuesday will feature three time Major Championship Winner Nick Price at the "Celebrate GCSAA Session" where he will be presented the Old Tom Morris Award. Price was inducted in the World Golf Hall Of Fame in 2003 and was PGA Tour player of the year in 1993, 1994.

Wednesdays "General Session" will feature the 2010 winner of the Old Tom Morris Award Judy Rankin who was unable to make last years conference. Rankin is a 26 time winner on the LPGA Tour and was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2000. Rankin has been a regular on course broadcaster for ESPN and ABC.

Thursdays "General Session" highlight will be Pat Williams, co-founder of the Orlando Magic and former minor league baseball player with the Phillies Organization. Williams is the author of 42 books and a leading motivational speaker.

Registration for the show will open online October 5th. With the current state of the golf economy be sure to use the shows website to gather information to sell your trip to the education conference to your boards and owners. It is in tough times you cannot afford to get behind in your education.

To save funds shop around for airline tickets and consider finding a roommate to share a room with. Pick a few timely seminars for your operation and let your decision makers know about all the free education at the show.

Go the Golf Industry Show For Free!

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), The Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG), and Bayer Environmental Science will send five golf course superintendents to the 2011 GCSAA Education Conference (Feb. 7-11) and Golf Industry Show (Feb. 9-10) in Orlando.

The purpose of the grant is to assist golf course superintendents with their professional development through participation in the annual event, which features the most comprehensive education program and trade show in the industry.

"This is the eighth straight year Bayer will send golf course superintendents to the GCSAA Education

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Conference and Golf Industry Show," GCSAA President James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, said. "We greatly appreciate Bayer's continued support of this program and recognizing the role of the golf course superintendent in the success of a golf facility."

Golf course superintendents who did not attend the last two GCSAA Education Conferences and Golf Industry Shows (San Diego 2010 and New Orleans 2009) are eligible. Those interested should complete and submit the online application at <http://www.gcsaa.org/conference/education/grantapplication.aspx> or contact GCSAA member services at 800-472-7878 to receive an application via fax.

Entries will be accepted through Oct. 12, 2010. The winners will be selected through a random drawing, and the EIFG will notify winners by November. Only one application will be accepted per person. GCSAA membership is not required. Call 800-472-7878 with any questions or for assistance with the application.

Each grant will cover expenses for airfare, hotel accommodations for five nights, conference full-pack registration, two education seminars, and \$200 spending money.

GCSAA Members Recognized as Industry Leaders

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Class A members Sandy Clark, Bob Farren and Tim Hiers are among Golf Inc. magazine's annual 20 Most Admired Operators list showing how GCSAA members are critical to the success of their facilities and the industry as a whole.

Golf Inc. surveyed more than 100 golf industry leaders, including developers, management company executives, consultants and brokers, and had them rate golf course operators based on "how well they have demonstrated consistent excellence in successfully directing operation at a golf course." Previous honorees have not been eligible in the past, but this year the magazine placed all previous winners on the ballot, along with new nominees submitted by readers.

Clark is the GCSAA certified golf course superintendent at Barona Creek Golf Club in Lakeside, Calif. He was named to the 2007 Golf Inc. Most Admired Operators list and is a multiple GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards recipient, including the 2004 national resort winner. A 20-year GCSAA member, Clark has been the superintendent at Barona Creek Golf Club for 10 years. Located 28 miles from downtown San Diego, Barona Creek encompasses more than 200 acres, with playable terrain totaling 90 acres. As a certified Signature Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, primary consideration has been given to protecting the wildlife habitat located around the course.

Farren, a GCSAA certified golf course superintendent, is the director of golf course and grounds man-

agement at Pinehurst (N.C.) Resort and Country Club. He was named to the 2008 Golf Inc. Most Admired Operators list and helped Pinehurst win the 2007 GCSAA President's Award for Environmental Stewardship. A 30-year GCSAA member, Farren has been at Pinehurst for 25 years. He oversees the sprawling resort grounds and the nine golf courses, managing a staff of 180 to 240 people, depending on the season, as well as more than 150 interns over the past 20 summers. Farren also hosted Green Links, highlights from EDGE, a monthly feature on The Environmental Institute for Golf's (EIFG) website in 2008.

Hiers is the GCSAA certified golf course superintendent at The Old Collier Golf Club in Naples, Fla. A 32-year GCSAA member, Hiers has been the superintendent at Old Collier for 10 years. He won the 2009 GCSAA Excellence in Government Relations Award. Hiers has helped supply the U.S. EPA with economic impact data related to the loss of methyl bromide, and assisted with submission of annual critical use exemption applications to the agency. The Old Collier Golf Club has been featured in the Sustainability Case Study Series, a collection of Florida-specific teaching cases produced through the Educational Alliance for Sustainable Florida. Hiers is also working with the EIFG's energy conservation working group to examine existing best management practices and identify performance statements for the entire golf facility as part of Golf's Drive Toward Sustainability.

GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Search

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) President Jim Fitzroy, CGCS, has announced that Kansas City-based Tryon & Heideman, LLC has been appointed to facilitate the identification of candidates and the selection of a new chief executive officer.

The position description and application process will be posted on the GCSAA website and advertised in numerous publications and online resources. The plan calls for a mid-October release of the position announcement. The position came open June 22 when Mark Woodward resigned to pursue other business interests.

Once the position announcement is released, contact Tryon & Heideman at 816-822-1976 or gcsaa@tryonheideman.com concerning more information on the position and process.

Wisconsin Turf Industry Loses a Leader

James Huggett, founder of Long Island Farm, Inc (now Paul's Turf and Tree Nursery) in Marshall, WI passed away Wed. Sept 8th following a brief illness. He was born Feb. 5, 1935, the son of Dow and Verena (Keilen) Huggett in St. Johns, Mich. In 1952, he graduated from Rodney B. Wilson High School in St. Johns,

Mich. After completing the farming short course at Michigan State University in 1953, he moved to Marshall, Wis., to start his own farm. On Oct. 8, 1958, Jim married Edna H. Harr at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Westphalia, Mich. Together they lived in rural Marshall, and established Long Island Farm, Inc., now Paul's Turf and Tree Nursery, Inc

They raised peppermint, spearmint, turfgrass and nursery trees. He was also active in many trade and business organizations; he was a past Town of Medina board member, a former director of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank in Marshall-Waterloo, a founding member of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association, and also a board member of the Wisconsin Sod Producers Association and the American Sod Producers Association, now Turfgrass Producers International. In recognition of his many contributions to Wisconsin agriculture, he received an Honorary Distinguished Award from the UW-Madison College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in 1991.

Jim and Edna enjoyed travelling together and became citizens of the world, visiting over thirty countries. After his retirement, he enjoyed wood carving at The Clearing Folk School in Door County, helping his son, Paul around the farm, and gardening. He was a kind and good-natured man who made friends wherever he went; a gentle man who was always a gentleman. Most of all, Jim will be fondly remembered for being a kind, loving and dedicated husband, father and grandfather.

The following quotes were from the August issue of Jim Sullivan's Fundamentals E-Newsletter. The issues cater towards the food industry but they offer tips and inspiration everyone in the people business can use. (You can find the full newsletter at Sullivan.com)

Cost Control: The fastest way to make a buck is not to spend it.

Motivation: You can do the work of two people but you can't be two people. Instead you have to inspire the next person down the line and get them to inspire their people too. —Unknown

Diminishing returns: When times get tough the first thing inept operators do is penalize the customer by cutting labor or training. If you're "saving money" by not training and then seeing your sales shrink, remember that it's not what you pay people, it's what they cost you.

Tenacity: Fall seven times; stand up eight.

Resolving Service Mistakes: The size of a problem changes based on how it is handled. If the reaction is worse than the action, the problem usually increases.

Preparation: Since you don't really know on which day success will occur, you have to be ready every single day.

Persuasion: Giving people objectively proven facts is not an effective technique for stimulating change in behavior. If this were true 65% of Americans would not be overweight. -Alan Deutschman

Measure what matters: In tough times you survive on strong controls.

Self-Improvement: It's not that the other teams are that much better than us it's because we're not as good as we can be.

Hire Smart. It's the most talented, not the least talented, people who are continually trying to improve.

Working Women: There is no such thing as a non-working mother.

Leadership: The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. In between, the leader is a servant. -Max De Pree

Execution: Getting and having the job means nothing. Doing the job means everything.

Change: People are very open-minded about new things as long as they are exactly like the old things.

Focus: "If you don't give employees a plan, they presume that you don't have a plan". —Mike Dell'Angelo

Preparation: Expecting trouble isn't negative thinking, but rather a more evolved form of positive thinking. —Unknown

Procrastination. The easiest way to get rid of a difficult task is to do it.

Perspective: It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference.

By the time you read this we will be well into the official fall. The summer's weather troubles will be behind most of us as turf areas start to heal and the shorter days bring us more family time.

Unfortunately a new challenge will emerge as budget cuts and layoffs will again become an issue as golf operations struggle to make ends meet after a troublesome year. A year that started with such promise with record early openings and great weather quickly turned negative with rain and lower revenues from less rounds and lower green fees as courses yearned to increase play.

It is a great time to be a daily fee player as the discounting started right after Labor Day with a vengeance. Ad's offering non-aerified greens, \$25 for 18 holes riding and buy a 2011 membership now and play all this fall filled local newspapers.

After multiple years of budget cuts and frugal spending there is not much left for many owners and turf managers to cut except key staff. Hopefully fall will be long and warm for a lot of extra play!

Take Care and I look forward to seeing all of you at the 2010 Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium. 🌱