

# Growing our Profession Through Community Outreach

By Jeff Millies, Certified Golf Course Superintendent, Edgewood Golf Course

I would like to thank everyone for allowing me to serve as the current WGCSA President. It is an honor to lead this prestigious association in the upcoming months and I look forward to this opportunity.

As 2010 comes to an end, I can not help to reflect on the past year. The weather sure stands out as the most significant factor. At one point I considered the need to build an ark vs. rebuilding a fairway. Mother Nature was not very kind to us during these tough economic times. Trying to accomplish our goals despite the challenges that are placed in front of us is always difficult. However, by having a plan and being creative, we can achieve our goals. Looking back, how many of you remember what your goals were for 2010 and did you succeed in accomplishing them?

As we enter 2011, I would like to challenge all of you to set some new goals. Projects are always my preference, but with the economy being the way it is money is tough to come by. This year, consider improving your skills which does not involve money, just your time.

I believe that volunteering and doing community service are often areas that get overlooked. Getting involved within the community not only reflects positively on yourself, but it also exposes you to the non-golfing public. This can lead to educating the non-golfer about our profession as well as the benefits golf courses have within the community.

Today's society seems to be slowly deteriorating due to small groups of misinformed individuals who make a lot of noise for their

concerns and beliefs. Many times their logic is based on fear, false information, and incorrect data published on the Internet. The next time an environmental issue pops up within your community, wouldn't it be great if the community saw the golf course as a possible resource.

As superintendents we need to put ourselves out there. Many of us are uncomfortable in these types of situations, but in order for change and personal growth to take place, you need to take risk and venture outside your comfort zone. So I encourage you to get involved, it benefits everyone while increasing your social network to adding depth to your resume.

PAR 4 Research is underway for the second year and it's not too late to donate a golf related time. Last year there were several comments from bidders wondering why their course wasn't participating. Don't be left out this year. Items should be provided by February 15 because viewing of the items begins that day. Bidding then begins on April 1 and ends on the 10th. We also need your help in promoting this auction, please consider doing an email blast to your members. Articles are available for you to send out, just contact the WGCSA Chapter Manager, Brett Grams or visit [www.PAR-4Research.com](http://www.PAR-4Research.com).

It was a tough year for many of us with the weather and economic conditions. Hopefully 2011 will bring much more favorable conditions. I wish all of you a safe and prosperous year.

## WGCSA MISSION STATEMENT

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association is committed to serve each member by promoting the profession and enhancing the growth of the game of golf through education, communication and research.

## WGCSA VISION STATEMENT

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association is dedicated to increase the value provided to its members and to the profession by:

- Enhancing the professionalism of its members by strengthening our role as a leading golf organization in the state.
- Growing and recognizing the benefits of a diverse membership throughout Wisconsin.
- Educating and promoting our members as leaders in environmental stewardship.
- Offering affordable, high value educational programs at the forefront of technology and service.
- Being key to enjoyment and the economic success of the game of golf.