

Perseverance

By Brett Grams, WGCSA Chapter Manager

Those of you who know me personally know that I have been fortunate to hold several positions in our great profession. Like most of you I started out working as a grounds crew member. I had the prestigious job as night waterman my first summer. I worked my way up to be on the day crew then was lucky enough to land several assistant roles as I completed my education. My years as a Superintendent were rewarding just as my years in sales. My latest chapter of my career has me serving this great association. I am proud of my varied positions I have held. Seeing the industry from all sides has taught me how hard all of us work at what we do. We all know that economy, the golf boom of the 90's, and most recently the lack of cooperation from Mother Nature has made it tough for our industry as a whole. I am reminded of this each and every day as I talk to fellow members. Comments of "it's tough" or "were hanging in there", and usually the comments are followed by comments like "I hope things turn around soon". I am glad that most of us look towards the future with some optimism, thinking positive thoughts certainly cannot hurt!

This spring my family and I have had some extra house guests. Thankfully they lived on the exterior of our home as we had a Robin take up her nesting on an outside light fixture next to our side door. All of us were witness to this Robins toils. The first attempt at building the nest ended during one of the many windy cold days of this nasty spring. The half made nest was lying on the sidewalk below. All of

us felt bad for the Robin. We left for a weekend and were surprised to see a new nest in place of the old one. Things looked like they were going well but one day our hearts sank when we saw several eggs scattered about and broken on the ground below. The Robin was in a nearby tree and by her sounds we could tell she was not happy. Several weeks passed. I was just about ready to take the messy nest down when I saw the Robin back on the nest. It was now early June and I was surprised by how she decided to give it another try. A week later we saw the eggs hatch and then the hungry chicks calling out to be fed. This morning my sons came down to my office and reported that one of the "babies" was sitting in the tree. I grabbed my camera just in time to see the last of the chicks stand up for a photo before he/she flew off to a nearby maple. I was relieved to see the momma Robin finally succeed. I am also grateful as we can finally start to use the side door again!

As I contemplated about what I wanted to write for this article the Robin and her perseverance is a similar parallel to what many of us in the industry are currently facing. The weather caused many of you plenty of heart ache this spring. Every time we had a nice day or two it turned cold and wet for another week. The weather caused most turf and trees to be several weeks behind just like the revenue of your facilities was also slow to come in. I truly wish you all of you the same success as our mother Robin. Even if it took you longer than it should I hope all of us can persevere!

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Summer Meetings. If you need any assistance please contact me as you can at 920-643-4888 or e-mail at bgrams@wgcsa.com

This mother Robin made a nest at the Grams's home this spring. Through the trials of Spring she persevered and hatched young robins.



CHAPTER CONVERSATION

WGCSA Industry Support in Scholarship and Reserach Spending

2003 - \$23,000
2004 - \$24,000
2005 - \$31,000
2006 - \$20,000
2007 - \$24,730
2008 - \$38,000
2009 - \$17,000
2010 - \$32,180
2011 - \$32,000 (budgeted)

The 2010 & 2011 totals include the proceeds from the Par 4 Research pogram where the public can bid on donated rounds of golf from WGCSA Clubs.

WGCSA 2011 Support (Approved by the members at the Fall Business Meeting.)

JR Love Scholarship - \$1,500
Legacy Scholarship - \$1,500
Monroe S. Miller Literary Scholarship - \$1,000
TDL Donation - \$1,000
OJ Noer Research Foundation - \$8,000
Environmental Institute for Golf - \$500
UW Madison / Wisconsin Turfgrass Associa-
tion - \$15,000 *

**Starting in 2010 the WGCSA began giving money for UW-Madison Research through the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association rather than direct donation. This allowed a pooling of research funding and a reduction in administrative charges from the University.*

PENDELTON TURF SUPPLY

Ed Witkowski
414-640-6447
pendeltonturf@tds.net

805 Ela Avenue
Waterford, WI 53185
Phone: 262-534-3334
Fax: 262-534-2990



Todd Fregien
414-640-2265
pendeltonturf@tds.net

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