

Seasons End

By Brett Grams, WGCSA Chapter Manager

I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season. 2011 was another challenging year for many of us so I hope you can make time to catch up with friends and family and hopefully decrease your stress levels from the golfing season.

Like all of you I use this time of year to look forward and plan for next season. Membership renewals are going to arrive in the mail soon, budgeting and planning for our 2012 events is also completed at this time. I am happy to report our meeting and events calendar is nearing completion. Please use our website to keep up to date on our events and plans for 2012. The PAR4 Research committee is also planning for our 3rd annual auction which will again coincide with the Masters. Also be on the lookout for information on our Assistants meeting in February and for those of you who are going to the GCSAA's GIS and conference please note that we will be having our Wisconsin Room at El Segundo Sol on the strip in Las Vegas Wednesday February 29th from 6 to 8 pm.

This time of year is also a great time to reflect back on the year that is soon coming to a close. I am very proud to work with our board of directors. These volunteer leaders make time to ensure our chapter is serving our diverse membership needs. I want to personally thank the entire Board of Directors for their service in 2011 and specifically Mr. Mark Storby of Oneida Golf and CC as he completes his service on the board, most recently as our Secretary. Thank you to our *The Grass Roots* Editor David Brandenburg for his many hours spent making sure this magazine remains as strong as ever. All attendees of our monthly meetings are thankful to all host Superintendents, facilities and staffs for making our 2011 events a success.

In 2011 our Industry Partnerships with our valued Affiliate Company Members was stronger than ever. Special thanks to Milorganite for being our Title Sponsor of our WI Hospitality Room in Orlando as well as underwriting the WI Golf

Turf Symposium for the 46th consecutive year! Also, multiple thanks to Reinders who donated the proceeds of the final Reinders - Daconil Program this year. This has been a generous addition to our Scholarship and Research funding for many years.

We are very thankful to our Platinum Level Partners for 2011. This level of sponsorship supports all of our association efforts including the Grass Roots, website, monthly meetings, WI Room at GIS, directory, and prizes at events all at the highest level. This year's generous Platinum Level Partners are BASF, DHD Turf and Tree, JW Turf, Reinders, and Syngenta. We also had the generosity of Burris Equipment as our Gold Level Sponsor and our Silver level sponsors for 2011 were Bruce Company, John Deere Golf, Midwest Turf and Spring Valley.

In addition to the companies mentioned above who taken part of our package offerings we have over twenty other company members that have supported the WGCSA with various sponsorships or advertising opportunities. Please consider these generous companies as you make your buying decisions and let them know that you appreciate their generosity and support. Thanks to the companies that support the WGCSA we can keep the cost of attendance at events low and can continue to provide much needed revenue to fund research and other programs that enhance our profession right here in Wisconsin.

Lastly, thanks to all 430+ member of the WGCSA. Since our humble beginnings 81 years ago we have continued to offer networking, leadership, and educational meetings that benefit our members and our profession. Thanks to all of you who participated in our events and attended our meetings this year. I challenge all of us to attend our meetings and educational events as strong participation ensures a stronger association and a stronger profession for all.

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.