

Back to School

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

It's that time of year again, kids are going back to school. This has always been my least favorite time of the year. Summer is just never long enough, especially with the cold spring we had this year. It seems like summer just got going and now its over.

Many of us are shorthanded now and the turf keeps growing at record speed with the cooler temps and lower dew points. Mother Nature seems to be working against us more of the time than with us. Especially this year, one of the coldest springs on record, followed by one the hottest Julys, and a dry August. Unfortunately, our success and budgets are influenced tremendously by the weather.

Today's challenges always seem to be unique, never quite the same, requiring new and innovative approaches. But how do you teach an old dog new tricks, so to speak? Sadly there is no silver bullet, only ones willingness to learn while keeping an open mind.

Networking with other Superintendents is probably the signal most important tool one can use. With today's social media network, nothing seems to go unnoticed. Golfers/members always seem to know what golf course is doing what. Golfers are always asking me if I heard the

news about this golf course or that one.

We need to stay active within our association and attend events that allow us to socialize with other Superintendents. We have a great network of professional colleagues that are willing to provide advice and share their experiences when anyone of us is encountering a problem. Common sense to one might be a stroke of genius to another. With all of the events sponsored by the WGCSA, Wee One, and WTA there is no excuse for not playing some golf.

It's easy to stay complacent and just get by. But in today's economy and market, just getting by could mean you might be looking for a new job in the near future. So get involved, stay informed, and make an effort to talk to other Superintendents. Start making plans to attend the fall symposium at the American Club and the Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas. These are two upcoming educational and networking opportunities that is money well spent.

It won't be long before fall is over and winter is upon us. So get out and enjoy what's left of some of the best golfing conditions this year has to offer.

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.