

Do You Know Our History?

By David Brandenburg, Editor

Are you knowledgeable on the game of golf and greenkeeping in Wisconsin? Fortunately for us we have been provided easy venues to learn our history.

I encourage all members to start by looking at your association directory to learn some things about The Golf Course Superintendent Association of Wisconsin. Not only do you see our annual schedule of events, member contact information, board members and their committee assignments but there are pieces of our history to read.

The bylaws, creed and code of ethics all help tell our story while the list of Distinguished Service Award Winners, Past Presidents and 25 and 50 Year Members provides a whole who of golf course maintenance in Wisconsin.

All members were provided a copy of the WGCSA 75th anniversary book *Caring for the Green* authored by Gene Haas in 2005. Gene's knowledge of the history of golf in Wisconsin and the Midwest along with input from long time chapter historian Monroe Miller provides us with a detailed history of our profession.

Winter provides a great time to catch up your reading and with the WGCSA 75th

Anniversary Book I suggest you pick up Gene Haas's other book *Playing Through* "A History of the Wisconsin State Golf Association". Printed in 2001 *Playing Through* covers the start of the WSGA in 1901 through modern day golf.

These books and our directory will give you a insight into how the associations and the game of golf have developed.

The Wisconsin Greenkeepers Association was formed in 1930 after greenkeepers from Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin gathered at The College of Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin -Madison for the inaugural greenkeepers short course.

After the four and a half day session attendees had a desire to continue their education and networking. That desire led Paul Brockhausen to organize and host the meeting at Blue Mound Country Club. Brockhausen was elected as our first president and made this statement:

"Our association is the spontaneous outgrowth of the first short course for greenkeepers held at the University of Wisconsin in February, 1930. Its active membership is confined to greenkeepers on golf courses in the State of Wisconsin. Assistant green-

keepers and members of green committees are admitted as associate members. Others who wish to encourage the movement join, as contributing members... The purpose of our association is educational. It largely centers on the short course for greenkeepers at the State University. The program for these short courses is varied and practical. They bring the greenkeepers in personal contact with those at the experiment station whose training and everyday work are along lines allied with the problems the greenkeeper must meet and solve to the satisfaction of the multitude of golf players"

Following the organizational meeting the group had meetings the first year at Blackhawk CC, Hillmoor CC and Lawsonia GC following the idea of moving education around the state.

Our directory, *Caring for the Green*, and *Playing Through* provide a great start to learn the history of your profession. Just looking up the clubs mentioned below or on the next page on Google provides for interesting reading. Where are Whiting CC, Waterford Woods CC or Winneshiek G&CC located today?

Have fun finding out!



In 1930 these 39 charter members met to form the Wisconsin Greenkeepers Association

Bert Barrows, Kenosha CC
Charles L Bingham, Beloit Municipal GC
John S Bone, Blackhawk CC
Frank B Brandt, Harford CC
Paul Brockhausen, Blue Mound CC
Garfield Caley, Waterford Woods CC
Harold Clemens, Nakoma GC
C.E. Daniels, Riverdale GC

V.S. Dietz, CC of Beloit
A.B. Erdman, Whiting CC
Alfred Erickson, Mount Horeb GC
Robert E. Farmer, Brynwood CC
Joseph Foeger, Ozaukee CC
Eugene Fox, Racine CC
James Glaster, Lake Lawn CC
Harry Hanson, Maple Bluff CC
F.L. Johns, Platteville CC
E.A. Lietzinger, Lake Ripley CC
L.L. Littlefield, Delbrook GC
Robert Liverseed, Sheboygan CC
Alfred Ludwigen, Chenequa CC
C.B. McCann, Hillcrest CC
Wesley Merrifield, St. Johns GC
Robert B. Michaels, Oconomowoc GC
Verland Miller, Tuckaway CC

S.S. Mitchell, Lawsonia GC
W.C. Neilson, Tripoli CC
Fred Peters, Waukesha CC
C.L. Ream, Oneida G&RC
G.A. Rietz, Kish-wau-kee-toc GC
Raymond Rolfs, North Hills CC
Archie Schendel, Westmoor CC
Otto Schael, Wausau CC
Peter Sieber, Winneshiek G&CC
C.C. Snavelly, Milwaukee CC
H.H. White, Hilmoor CC
O.M. World, Burr Oak GC
R.D. Yost, Beloit Municipal GC
Robert Zwerg, Madison Municipal GC



In 1901, Nine clubs organized to form the Wisconsin State Golf Association


Janesville Golf Club, Founded 1894
 Milwaukee Country Club, Founded 1894
 Tuscumbia Golf Club, Founded 1896
 Kenosha Country Club, Founded 1898
 Riverview Country Club, Founded 1898
 Maple Bluff Country Club, Founded 1899
 Oshkosh Country Club, Founded 1899
 La Crosse Country Club, Founded 1900
 Racine Country Club, Founded 1900

WISCONSIN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION CREED

We the members of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association depend upon the unity, as well as the professionalism of our membership, to cultivate and maintain superior golf turf as well as golf atmosphere.

The knowledge that is gained through continued education and experience in turfgrass management should be openly shared with mutual trust and camaraderie among fellow members. To strive for further and continued knowledge and excellence in all phases of golf course management is our ambition.

The proud legacy of our profession depends upon the pride and integrity which each individual takes within themselves.

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