

June Tournament Meeting At Oshkosh Country Club

By David Brandenburg, Golf Course Manager, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

Monday June 25th provided a great day for Kristopher Pinkerton Certified Golf Course Superintendent, Kathryn Lifke, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent and the staff at Oshkosh Country Club to host the WGCSA Tournament Meeting.

The course was in excellent condition and provided a challenge for many of us with the exception of a few event winners. Congratulations to Scott Bushman, Golf Course Superintendent at Fox Valley Golf Club for shooting a gross score of 78 to win the event.

The day started with Mr. Scott Schara of The Pond People with a discussion titled "Proactive Pond Maintenance".

Scott gave a very interactive talk with a lot of input from the audience. That makes sense considering most golf courses have ponds and many of them have stagnant water allowing for the growth of weeds and algae.

Pond Facts

Aging - Ponds age naturally and Scott expressed a pond without help will go from new to gone in about 100 years depending on the terrain and depth. Ponds that have the water turn completely over once a year will have triple the life span.

Algae Cycle - Algae is a natural occurring thing in all ponds but most people do not like it especially when it forms mats or distracts from the aesthetics or use of the waterway. Nitrogen and Phosphorous promote algae blooms with Phosphorous being the main culprit. The challenge is phosphorus can enter the pond from leaves, grass clippings, soil erosion and from algae dieing.

Copper - Copper is the worst thing for ponds but pond owners often forget about their pond until the algae mat appears in late spring or early summer. Then they treat the pond with copper because it is a cheap effective solution. The problem is treating only the algae is a short term solution. As the algae dies it sinks and the pond looks good but algae has a lot of phosphorous in it so as it decomposes that phosphorous is released in the water and a new

bloom starts worse than the first. This cycle will get worse unless the pond owner reduces phosphorous levels. Copper is a long term challenge because algae will build up a tolerance to it and as a heavy metal it can take years to get rid of in the pond muck. This is a problem because copper kills good bacteria reducing future options for pond maintenance.

Bacteria Treatments - Bacteria treatments can be used to help destroy pond muck but Schara thought a pond with more than 24" of muck should be drained and dredged for effective treatment. Aeration is great for maintaining bacteria.

Pond Liners - Liners are needed in some cases but they have been shown to warm ponds 2-4 degrees which in turn reduces dissolved oxygen in the body of water.

Cattails - Can be burned down with Roundup or glyphosate but must be actively growing. Owners can also cut cattails repeatedly below the water line. Sickle mowers work better than weed eaters.

The Perfect Pond - A Perfect Pond has the banks bermed so there is no unfiltered runoff into the water. The water is turned over each year. The pond has one 20' hole per surface acre.

Dye - Dye is good for the pond by reducing sunlight penetration and helps keep the pond cooler. Many owners do not go

Oshkosh Country Club

Event Winners

Overall Low Gross - Scott Bushman (78)
A Flight Low Net - Mike Lyons (69)
A Flight 2nd Low Net - Marc Schwarting (70)
B Flight Low Net - Tim Wegner (68)
B Flight 2nd Low Net - (73)
Affiliate Low Net - Todd Quinto (65)
Affiliate 2nd Low Net - Matt Lohman (73)

Long Putt Hole 1 - Mike Skenadore
Long Drive Hole 6 - Dominic Freese
Closest to Pin Hole 8 - Trenton Tabbert
Long Drive Hole 13 - Troy Jastal
Closest to Pin Hole 18 - Marc Schwarting

heavy enough with their dye or retreat enough. Dye should be retreated periodically weather rain dilutes it or not.

Overall Scott provided some great information for the group and it became clear for most cases it is cheaper in the long run to hire a professional rather than treat ponds with guesswork and the wrong products.

Thanks again to the staff at Oshkosh for providing a great lunch and after round hors d'oeuvres along with the great weather and golf course. Along with the speaker and fun the best part of any WGCSA is the camaraderie and education that comes from spending time with our peers.



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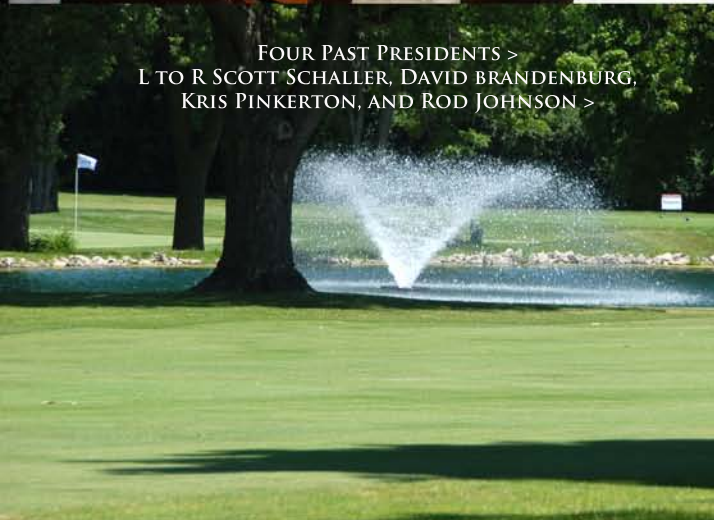
< OUR HOST, KRIS PINKERTON , CGCS

OUR LOW GROSS CHAMPION
SCOTT BUSHMAN, CGCS >

BELOW: INTERACTIVE MEETING



FOUR PAST PRESIDENTS >
L TO R SCOTT SCHALLER, DAVID BRANDENBURG,
KRIS PINKERTON, AND ROD JOHNSON >



SCOTT SCHARA (CENTER) AND
HIS ASSISTANTS WERE OUR SPEAKERS ON
PROACTIVE POND MAINTENANCE.

