

Thanksgiving

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

The season of 2012 came to a end for many Badger State courses on Thanksgiving when temperatures went from 60 to 30 overnight and deer hunters around the state put on a another coat and smiled as real deer hunting weather returned and Saturday night brought a little snow in the northern half of the state.

My son and I decided to skip the deer hunt this year and to be honest neither one of us missed it. He is not a morning person and after two years of not seeing any shootable deer I didn't mind not traveling or sitting quietly in the woods.

It worked out for the best as our staff was finishing up some projects on the golf course and the extra days at work helped us button them up before the weather turned cold.

Each fall I swear we are not going to do another late fall in-house project that stretches our staff and resources but each fall it all seems to work out. Often the projects are the result of a outside vendor looking for a place to put some fill and we are glad to take it to facilitate mounding and other improvements to the course.

This year it was a new tee complex on our tenth hole and a new chipping green and surrounds. Our current chipping green was left over from an expansion in 1996 and was in the middle of the course requiring a cart to find.

The new one is next to the putting green by the clubhouse and should be well used when it opens next summer.

Just as I vow to swear off late fall projects next years is already picked as we plan to change our 27th green to increase cupping area. We can only use half of the current green as the slopes are too severe to put a cup on the rest of the green without complaints. Hopefully Mother Nature will allow us to start early and finish fast.

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving works out well for golf course superintendents as it comes near the end of our season and allows us to re-

flect on the year that was before gearing up for the year to come.

No matter what is going on in your life we all have many things to be thankful for. For me it is:

Family and Friends - Our interactions with others at home, play and work are really what life is about. I am thankful for a healthy family and good group of friends to spend time with away from work.

Coworkers - A golf course cannot run itself and I am very thankful to have a great staff to make it all come together to provide a good product for the players. We have also reached the point we have a great group of people in all departments allowing for a positive and enjoyable work environment.

My employer - I am thankful for having a job in a field I love and the benefits it brings.

Our customers - Without our customers we would not exist and although a couple of them can test my patience from time to time overall they are great and mean well.

Our advertisers - *The Grass Roots* is brought to you because of the advertisers in each issue. They pay the bills and allow all of us to be educated by our great writers. A list of our sponsors can be found on page 7 of this issue so be sure to thank them by using them when possible for your purchasing needs.

Our writers - Without the professors and other regular columnists *The Grass Roots* either would not exist or would be a simple review of the associations events.

I receive a number of publications from across the county and your publication is one of the best in thanks to the legacy that Monroe Miller built, our writers and our advertisers. Many chapters have gone

“digital” only and no longer provide a print publication for their members. But then most of them did not have the support of the professors and vendors as we do.

Congratulations

Word is Charles ‘Chuck’ Frazier will be retiring at the end of the year from Nakoma Country Club, where he has been assistant Superintendent for almost 39 years. Congratulations Chuck.



Brian Zimmerman (left) visits with Charles Frazier (right) at Nakoma Country Club. Zimmerman formerly worked at Nakoma and Frazier will retire this year after 39 years at the course.

(Photo courtesy of 2003 The Grass Roots files.)

Congratulations to Christopher Zugel of Whistling Straits for passing the certification program for the GCSAA.

Congratulations as well to those WGC-SA members renewing their Certified Golf Course Superintendent Status recently.

Bruce Livingston - Mascoutin GC
Josh Lepine - Maple Bluff CC
Paul Bastron - Midwest Turf Products

Mike Bremmer, superintendent at the Wisconsin Club in Milwaukee, received an honorable mention in the Daconil Action Fungicide Tough Turf Video Contest sponsored by Syngenta.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Bremmer took home the consolation prize along with William Brown from Hartefeld National in Avondale, Pa. The winner of the contest was Chris Vincent, CGCS, The Reserve at Lake Keowee in South Carolina.

Bremmer and his staff produced a creative 5 minute video on the benefits of Daconil Action. The video is on You Tube and can easily found by simply searching for Mike's name at You Tube.

Miscellany

I was a little skeptical when I received two articles on alternatives to the traditional game of golf. My first thought was our readers have no interest in that crazy stuff. I told myself we manage golf courses not funlands or miniature golf courses.

But when I thought about it I considered many country clubs offer tennis and pool along with par 3 layouts or putting only courses so is frisbee golf or foot golf that far fetched?

For some operators foot golf or frisbee golf may be a alternative revenue source or a alternative activity they can offer members or especially the children of members. It would be difficult to fit on the golf course itself but if extra space were avail-

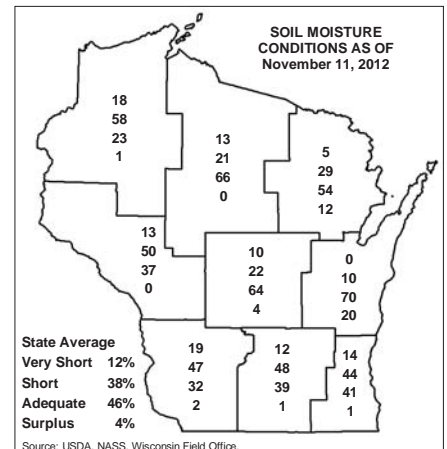
able it may be something you can implement at little cost for your members and customers.

If you have a TB200 Grooming Brush from SGM Industries or On Course check your serial numbers. The manufacture has lost contact with the local sales representative and would like to find out who has serial numbers 640, 647, 659, and 663, 664 in our area. There is not a recall the company just wants to know who has the units for future updates. If you have one of these units you can contact Jeff Scott of SGM at 630-688-5192.

From the United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service their latest labor report shows farm workers in the "lakes" region of Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota averaged \$12.01 per hour. It is hard for some golf courses to compete with that wage for regular laborers and equipment operators.

The service also reports that as of November 11th half the state has adequate soil moisture but the rest is either dry or very dry even after some of the fall rains.

Hopefully we will see some more soaking rains before the ground freezes and then a nice snow cover for the winter.



I hope many of you take advantage of the new format for the WTA Winter Expo and attend in person or through the webcast. Dr. Soldat covers that in a article on page 18.

The offseason or at least a slower season is upon us. A time to step away from the daily grind and plan for next year while looking back at the positives and negatives of 2012. Be sure to take time to give thanks to those important people in your life.

I offer thanks to all of you for reading this magazine and wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. 🌿

Coming Events!

Tue January 15th, Wisconsin Turfgrass Winter Expo at Pyle Center, Madison and Online.

Wed January 16th, Assistant Seminar at Whispering Springs GC, Fond du Lac

Wed February 6th, Wisconsin Hospitality Room at GIS 6-9 PM, Bootlegger, 804 Market St, San Diego, CA

Mon February 25th, Spring Business Meeting, Ramada Inn, Fond du Lac

Tue April 23rd, April Golf Meeting, Strawberry Creek, Kenosha

Mon May 6th, May Golf Meeting, North Hills CC, Mequon

Wed May 29th, Super/Pro, Fox Valley Golf Club, Kaukauna

Mon June 17th, WGCSA Tournament Meeting, South Hills CC, Fond du Lac

Tue July 30th, UW - Summer Field Day, OJ Noer Facility, Verona

Tue August 20th, Joint meeting w/NGL, Stevens Point CC, St. Point

Mon September 16th, Wee One, Pine Hills CC, Sheboygan

Sat October 5th, Couples Outing/Party, Wild Rock GC, WI Dells

Tues and Wed Dec 3rd-4th, Turfgrass Symposium, Location TBD