

News and Notes From WGCSA Members

By Matt Kinnard and the DHD Team

2012 is winding down and what a year it was. I've seen and heard many stories of success and struggles this year, but course conditions throughout Wisconsin were excellent given the difficult weather everyone endured. It's a testament to the talented professionals here in this state.

Given the difficult conditions this year, superintendents were looking for any way they could to communicate with each other about what they were going through. This year more than ever superintendents took to Twitter to vent their frustrations, joke about the absurdity of this year, and even gloat a little about what they were able to do. So I thought, what better way to review 2012 than with tweets from some of Wisconsin's most prolific superintendent tweeters?

The mild winter didn't go unnoticed at Hawks Landing @hawksnr (Neil Radatz) tweeted '40+ PLAYERS TODAY' on Jan. 10. @ogcsuper (Dustin Riley) agreed a couple days later 'Got more snow over the last 5 hours than all of Nov & Dec. And it's only 2 inches so far. Some kind of winter in WI.'

I hate to bring this up but I think @trapking9 (David Brandenburg) hit it on the head during the Packers playoff loss when he tweeted 'The State Farm discount double check commercials are not as funny when your losing.'

On Feb. 10 @creeksupt (Matt Kregel) tweeted 'Wind is picking up and the snow has begun to stick to the pavement. Winter has appeared???'

@asgcturf (David Smith) had a typical thought when doing winter equipment maintenance... 'If turf equipment designers had to spend a week working on the machines they designed they wouldn't do dumb things! #whohashandsthatismall'

Then there was the 2012 GIS. 'First night in Vegas for #GIS12. Is there anything to do in this town at night? Class tomorrow at 8am.' from @creeksupt.

@wgcsa (Brett Grams) tweeted 'Just

checked out El Segundo Sol site of WI Room Wed evening should be great all WGCSA members welcome!' The WI room in Vegas was excellent, hope everyone can attend next year in San Diego.

@disoldat (Doug Soldat) was proud of his students at the GIS 'Wow! Congrats to the UW-Madison turf bowl team on a school-record 4th place finish!!'

@ogcsuper had his crystal ball out in mid-March 'Course is opening 2 weeks earlier than ave. Apparently, June is arriving 2 months earlier than ave. Here's to a Long Season.' The early start brought hot temperatures in March. On Mar. 21 @hawksnr tweeted 'First day for full staff.'



Some new faces going to spend most of the day training and its going to be 83 today.'

Not a great day for @creeksupt at the end of May 'Happy to see rain finally but does it really need to rain and lightning right when the crew is ready to start? #neverhappysuperintendent' or for sod web worms at Abbey Springs @asgcturf 'It is a great day to be a bird on the golf course but a bad day 2 be a sod web worm!' or at Edgewood Golf Course @jmillies1 (Jeff Millies) 'This afternoon was a first, a golfer was so drunk and disorderly I needed to call the cops. The cops ended up having to taser him.'

Then it got hot, dry and windy in June and July and tweets were abounding. @hawksnr '94 and 30 mph winds. Not

a good combo. No rain and continued high temp. Even the weeds are wilting' @creeksupt 'Raising the white flag for today. Washing the truck tonight in hopes of rain. #dryasapopcornfart' @kccscott (Scott Verdun) 'Only 99 here so far today #coolernearthelake' @andys_turf (Andy Kronwall) tweeted from Lake Geneva CC 'The heat has forced us to raise the height of cut on the greens have to do all we can to keep them alive. Greens will be slower for awhile.'

Still, the Womens US Open went on. @trapking9 tweeted 'A little sticky but a great day Womens US Open at Blackwolf Run. Course looks awesome!'

I heard this a lot this year. @hawksnr 'All around us but no rain here.' Who got this rain that everybody missed? @hawksnr also summed up the summer well on July 25 '62 days over 80 30 days over 90 4 days over 100. Fun year'

The last day of July brought the WTA Field Day. @wgcsa tweeted '@WTA Field Day. Great weather, great research...'

In August everyone finally caught a break. @asgcturf 'High of 82 today Finally rain predicted for tonight Starting to review the damage to shrubs, trees, and turf from the drought this summer'

When the Wee One Outing at Pine Hills comes around, fall is in the air. @wee1foundation tweeted 'Pine Hills event approaching another sell out. Can you afford to miss the brat and taco stands?' @kccscott agreed 'Great day at @wee1foundation outing Pine Hills CC. Witnessed @scc1897 hit a hole in one. Great shot Don!'

It has been an interesting year and all your tweets have been equally as interesting. So, I've decided to give out some awards. Best in Tweeting goes to @creeksupt. @creeksupt created timely and accurate tweets with humor and lots of hash tagging. In a close second was @hawksnr for his insightful tweets. Honorable mention goes to @asgcturf for his frequent weather updates. Keep up the good work #wiscsuptweeters.

BADGER STATE TURF CLIPPINGS

Career Moves

Jerry Kershasky couldn't stay away from managing turf for too long. Jerry accepted the position of golf course superintendent at University Ridge Golf Course in Madison late this summer. After spending the majority of his career at Westmoor Country Club, Jerry took a shot at sales, where he worked in the Chicago area for Reinders. Congratulations Jerry!

After a short stint at Branch River Country Club, Brian Holz has moved back near his hometown of Seymour and taken the job as superintendent at Crystal Springs Golf Course. Congratulations Brian!

Joe Friess has filled that position at Branch River Country Club in Cato, WI. Joe has held the position of superintendent at The Woods in Green Bay and most recently at Emerald Hills Golf Course in Two Rivers, WI. Congratulations Joe!

Dr. Jim Kerns, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist for the Dept. of Plant Pathology at UW-Madison has accepted the position of Turf Pathologist and Extension Specialist at North Carolina State University. Jim began his tenure at UW-Madison in 2008. Congratulations Dr. Kerns on your new endeavor.

Wedded Bliss


Mike Devore, Assistant Superintendent at North Hills Country Club in Milwaukee, was married to his bride, Farrie, August 25. Congratulations to the newlyweds!

Wee One

The Wee One Foundation hosted another successful event at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan on September 17. Once again it was a full field that also included the GCSAA Board of Di-

rectors. Players also witnessed not one, but two aces on #9 worth \$10,000 each. Congratulations Brian Racette and Don Cross!

Following golf, attendees were given an update on the incredible progress the Wee One Foundation has made up to this point. So far, the foundation has gifted over \$500,000 and has recently started a new initiative to create an endowment that will raise 10 million dollars in ten years to ensure the longevity of the foundation. To learn more about how you can get involved visit weeone.org.

Please pass along any significant news or happenings around the state to Danny, Mike or me. We want to spread the good news. You can also email me at m.kinnard@sbcglobal.net or call at 920-210-9059. 



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