

## 5th Annual WGCSA Assistant Seminar

By Jake Rath, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, Bishops Bay Country Club

Whispering Springs Golf Club and Superintendent Matt Schmitz once again hosted the assistant seminar. With this summer's weather, the main focus of the seminar was, fittingly, water use. Together, the speakers provided great insight and information on what makes a successful irrigation system and program.

Tom Emmerich of T.J. Emmerich Associates Inc. was the first speaker of the day. He used his 42 years of experience in the field to provide a great overview of the irrigation industry. Tom began by covering the basics as to why you would consider renovating or replacing your current system. Not only can a new irrigation system reduce water use, it can also improve coverage and system reliability, reduce energy costs, and increase your level of control. Tom then discussed various parts of the irrigation system providing a glimpse of both the


new and old.

Following Tom, Larry Lennert, a territory manager for Aquatrols, discussed some benefits and components of improving irrigation efficiency. Larry discussed the importance of minimizing over and under watering and creating uniform infiltration throughout the soil profile. To demonstrate how to assess an irrigation system, Larry walked through a sample irrigation audit. He then discussed various alternatives to improve distribution uniformity. Adjusting head sizes and spacing, checking for damaged or worn nozzles, and adjusting times all can help create a more uniform playing surface.

Following lunch, Ken Schwark of Watertronics discussed the ins and outs of pump stations. Ken has over 36 years of experience in the industry. He covered both new and old pump system equipment and overall operation. As each

pump station is different, it was great to see examples of different stations that Ken had worked on throughout the years. Not only can a new pump station improve reliability, it can also bring electricity savings.

To finish the day, Patrick Sisk, Certified Golf Course Superintendent of Milwaukee Country Club, gave an overview of his experience in planning and installing a new irrigation system. The process leading up to the installation of a new irrigation system starts many years before it actually goes in the ground. Patrick noted the importance of evaluations, personal observations, and consideration of playability issues. Finally, he emphasized the need for consultation and communication between all those involved in the process.

Thanks to all who organized the event and especially to Matt and the speakers for a great day at Whispering Springs. 



Seminar Speakers included from left: Tom Emmerich, Pat Sisk, Larry Lennert and Ken Schwark.



A eager crowd at the 5th Annual Assistants Seminar at Whispering Springs Golf Club in Fond du Lac.