

## The Gavel Passes

By Chad Harrington, Golf Course Superintendent, Autumn Ridge Golf Course

It is hard for me to believe that the day has come for me to sit down and write my first "President's Message" for the Grass Roots. It seems like it was yesterday that David Brandenburg asked if I would volunteer as a Director of our association. What an honor and privilege it was to be asked to serve the WGCSA, even though I will admit I was nervous about it. The thought of serving on a board consisting of individuals that I have looked up to in our profession seemed a bit overwhelming, but the leadership and camaraderie of the board of directors made it a very welcoming experience.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you that have given me the opportunity to become 42nd President of the WGCSA. With the long tradition of leadership this association has possessed, the tracks have been laid for a successful future that I aim to continue. I would like to thank a few of our members that have had a significant impact on my time as a board member of

the association and have been able to propel the WGCSA through very difficult times. Past Mike Lyons, Dustin Riley, Brian Zimmerman, and Jeff Millies have served our association with exemplary leadership and vision. I can't thank you enough for your efforts and friendship. You have all made being a member of the WGCSA board very educational and enjoyable experience.


Executive Director Brett Grams has also been a key organizational force of the WGCSA over the past few years, and I would like to thank Brett for everything he has done for our association. Brett's work with our Industry Partner Program has given us the chance to host great events and educational opportunities and we look forward to a great time of networking at the GIS Hospitality room in San Diego. I would also like to welcome our newest board members Josh LePine, Kevin Knudson, and Jeff Barlow along with Vendor Liaison Steve Wasser. I look forward to working with all of you over the next two

years.

Turf research has always been part of the mission of the WGCSA. The induction of the PAR4Research Auction has given us the resource for funding many turf research projects in our state. This funding is only possible if the Auction has items to sell to raise the funds. Please be proactive in asking the owner, general manager, or whoever is responsible for donation requests at your facility, for rounds of golf to benefit turf grass research in Wisconsin. This is an extremely important imitative and we need everyone's help. Thank you to members who have participated in the past and we look forward to even more in 2013. Let's make it the largest PAR4Research effort yet.

I remember, roughly twenty years ago, sitting in an interview for an Assistant Superintendent position with the owner and superintendent of the facility. I couldn't get past the fact that the owner of the Golf Course kept referring to the Superintendent as "My Super." I think it was the word "My" that had me bothered. I couldn't help but wonder what type of team work would be exhibited with this type of leadership. Our association is no different than any of our respective clubs in regard to working together. That single comment of "My Super" has fueled my opinion of leadership for the past twenty years. We all play a key role in the success of an association and without teamwork it will be difficult to move forward. The point I am trying to make is that communication and working together as an association will keep us on our current path of success we have been traveling.

It has a goal to work with the WGCSA and other allied associations in our state to help promote the game of golf within Wisconsin and share the importance of the superintendent within the game. We have been given a solid foundation from the many individuals within our association who have carried our torch so proudly.

Thank you for the privilege to serve the WGCSA and I look forward to working with all of you. 



Past President Jeff Millies accepts the presidents plaque from President Chad Harrington.