

## June Tournament Meeting Visits South Hills Golf & Country Club

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

Jim VanHerynen Certified Golf Course Superintendent at South Hills Golf and Country Club served as host for our annual Tournament Meeting on June 17th.

Each summer the members gather with hopes of bringing their "A" game and knock off perennial champion Scott Bushman or at least placing in their respective flight.

Results from the event are on page 42 but congratulations to Scott Bushman who won with a low gross of 77 on the beautifully conditioned South Hills.

In 1925, Mr. A.D. Filiatrault owned the land that is now South Hills Golf & Country Club. With the help of his farmhands, Bill Mullen and Elmer Burleton, the three men laid out the course exactly as you see it today. The course first opened for play two years later in 1927.

The course was originally called "Takodah" meaning "Welcome". The name was decided after a contest ran in the local newspaper. Mary Dana, a local resident, came up with the idea of naming the course "Takodah". Local high school graduate Dick Watson was then hired on to become the club's first professional.

Members paid annual dues of \$37.50 in Takodah's first year.

After 24 years of ownership, Mr. Filiatrault decided to sell the 152 acre course in 1951. Fred Thiel and Nate Manis who owned the Riverdale Golf Course in Sheboygan purchased the course in 1951 for \$77,000. That same year Fond du Lac Judge C.F. Van Pelt suggested that Manis and Thiel sell the land back with the hopes of making it a private course.

Fond du Lac residents and community leaders Judge Van Pelt, Russ Hansen, Ben Sadoff, J.R. Ahern Sr., Ralph Kraut, Andre Perry, A.D. Edgerton, Dr. L. McCabe, Dr. M. Korb, Bill Cochrane and Nate Manis met to discuss the details of turning "Takodah" into a country club. Judge Van Pelt came up with the idea to call the club "South Hills Club" choosing to omit the word "Country" for fear that residents would think only the rich or affluent were allowed. In order to fund the launch of the club, \$1,000 debenture notes were issued. \$100,000 was raised in that first week and South Hills was off to a flying start in the summer of 1951.

In 1986, with members paying dues,

the question as to who actually owned the club was asked. After getting clearance from the Wisconsin Security Division and the SEC, it was decided that each current member was invited to buy one share of South Hills stock for \$1,000. On January 1st, 1987 South Hills officially became an equity club and its name was changed to South Hills Golf & Country Club.

Jim VanHerwynen grew up in the Fox Valley area and by sixteen Jim knew he wanted to pursue a career in golf course management.

VanHerwynen earned an Associate Degree in science at the UW-Fox Valley and then received a Bachelors Degree in Soil Science specializing in Turfgrass Management at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Jim worked at Blackhawk Country Club during college and as the Assistant at Golf Course Superintendent at Kenosha Country Club for six years before joining South Hills in 1996.

Dr. Kathryn VandenBosh, Dean of UW Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) joined us at lunch as a special guest.



Left: Kris Pinkerton drives a ball out of the rough on Hole 16  
 Right: Dr. Doug Soldat leads a discussion on Irrigation Efficiency  
 Next Page: Photo Layout by Brett Grams



# SOUTH HILLS MEETING JUNE 17TH

## ANNUAL TOURNAMENT MEETING RESULTS

### CHAMPIONS

SCOTT BUSHMAN - LOW GROSS (77)  
ANDY WEISNER - A FLIGHT (NET 75)  
CHAD HARRINGTON - B FLIGHT (NET 71)  
BRUCE SCHWEIGER - AFFILIATE (NET 68)

### FLAG EVENT WINNERS

CHAD HARRINGTON - LONG DRIVE  
KRIS PINKERTON - CLOSEST TO PIN  
AARON GONINEN - CLOSEST TO PIN  
RICHARD STRAIN - LONG DRIVE  
JOE SELL - LONGEST PUTT

OUR HOST JIM VANHERWYNEN, CGCS



WTA AMBASSADOR MONROE MILLER RECEIVING  
2013 PAR 4 RESEARCH PROCEEDS  
FROM AUCTION CHAIRMAN DUSTIN RILEY, CGCS



THREE OF OUR 2013 CHAMPIONS  
(L) CHAD HARRINGTON, (C) SCOTT BUSHMAN AND  
(R) BRUCE SCHWEIGER





Dean Vandebosh joined the UW in March of 2012 from the University of Minnesota where she served as department head of the plant biology department. Kathryn spent 12 years as a faculty member of Texas A&M University and holds a MS and Ph.D. degree in botany from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and spent time at both UW-Madison and the John Innes Institute in Great Britain as a postdoctoral associate has focused her research on the genetics of plant-microbe interactions and nitrogen fixation in legumes.

The members in attendance were very honored to have Dean Vandebosh attend our meeting and education.

Dr. Doug Soldat was our speaker for the day as he spoke on Irrigation Efficiency. He started with discussing how golf as a industry leads the way in fertilizer and water efficiency but we need to do a better job in communicating our conservation strategies.

Things we should be doing include using water efficient cultivars and reducing irrigated areas on our golf courses. Turf managers can look at water sources and although non-potable water is not an option yet in Wisconsin increasing water holding capacity from run off is a feasible option for many courses.

Doug explained how Westmoor Country Club recently increased their irrigation pond from a 3 million gallon capacity to 12 million. That will help the club get through future dry periods without pump-

ing from a well or buying municipal water.

Many turf manager are using technology such as soil moisture probes to monitor moisture percentage levels and watering based on evapotranspiration (E.T.) rates rather than guessing. Measuring Distribution Uniformity and fixing any glaring problems is key to knowing how much water is being applied each cycle.

And finally we as group and individuals need to communicate more to educate our staffs, customers and the public on our efforts to conserve water. During the drought last July Doug was contacted by the DNR because they were receiving a lot of call on why golf courses were using so much water.

Dr. Soldat was able to use 2011 survey results to show how golf courses have reduced water use. Fortunately the rains returned and the discussion was dropped but golf is a easy target for groups who think we waste water. That being the case we need to continue to educate ourselves, improve our methods and our communication with the public.

Doug explained although deep and infrequent irrigation is best for lawns or rough areas as it reduces shoot growth and leaf succulence it is hard to do on greens and fairways while maintaining quality.

Soldat explained deficit irrigation is a better method and basically managers apply less water than is lost from E.T.. The soil slowly dries down maintaining the benefits of deep and infrequent irrigation while keeping plant quality. Studies have

shown that 60-80% E.T. is a good starting point.

Every course is different but for the average green keeping the soil profile at 10 to 20% moisture will allow the turf to dry down better at night because water holds onto heat in the soil profile. Dr. Soldat's research has shown greens can tolerate high daytime temperatures if allowed to cool at night. He laid out the following goals for us in 2013 starting with out problem greens and moving out from there.

1. Do a catch can audit to know uniformity and the amount of water being applied each cycle then tweak your scheduling to account for inefficiencies and terrain.
2. Apply the right amount of water at night
3. Monitor and track moisture percentages with a moisture probe.
4. Water by hand in the morning and overhead at night.

Water with the overhead system to bring the wettest spots on the green to 18% and then hand water to get the rest of the green to 18%.

By starting only with problem greens you will not be overwhelmed with work and those greens will improve allowing more time to monitor all greens.

Although water use is not a issue so far in 2013 the golf industry must be ready to prove we are efficient users of water and resources.

Thanks to Dr. Soldat, Dean Vandebosh and our Host Jim VanHerwynen for playing host and providing us a great venue to test our skills on. 🌱



**Left: The Par 3 4th Hole plays 178 yards and is protected by the DeNeveu Creek on the left.**  
**Right: Our host Jim VanHerwynen puts a little body english on his putt on the 18th green.**