

## What is Important?


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

With the hustle and bustle of today, it is hard to believe that this time of year is considered the “off season.” I often get asked by golfers and others that are not in the golf industry, what do you do this time of year, it must be nice with all of that time off? My wife tells me to say “nothing”...it would be a much easier answer. I must be doing something really wrong, because I sure don't seem to get the all of the time to reflect that the general public thinks we get in our field. I will admit much of the pace is of my own doing. There are the obvious distractions of trying to get a Golf Course ready for the upcoming season with equipment needs, golf shows, event planning, and let's not forget snow removal this year. When it is time away from the course, with two young boys at home, there is never a shortage of something to do and be a part of. If it isn't coaching football, it is the school board, or maybe it is the wrestling club meetings and the weekly tournaments, and maybe a little downhill skiing on the side. Between all of the golf course projects and extra activities we

give ourselves, it can be very easy to forget what is really important. For a lot of us, that is family. During the Golf Season I hate to admit that there may be days that I don't get to even see my boys unless they come out to the course. I think that is why I try to get involved in a coaching, tutoring, or a leadership role in everything they do. Our time is in short supply and I don't want to miss what is important.

The topic of what is important for our profession in our State was offered to us at our Spring Business meeting this year by our newest recipient of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendent Association Distinguished Service Award, Tom Harrison. It is a great honor to be member of WGCSA board during this time and I would like to thank Tom and congratulate him on joining an extremely elite group of individuals to receive this award. Tom has been extremely active member of our Association for many years and has been an advocate for turfgrass research and the O.J. Noer Center in Madison. I especially appreciated his sentiment about remembering what is important in our profes-

sion.

As Tom gave his inspiring acceptance speech, I could help but think about everything that the previous leaders of our association have done to build and promote the turfgrass profession in our State. The fact that we have research facility with the quality of the O.J. Noer Center could be easy for us to take advantage of. Some of us probably think it has always been there and always will, but the reality is that there are many individuals that worked and gave of themselves tirelessly to insure that we would have access to some of the best testing and research in the country. They had the vision to know what was important for our industry. It is now up to each and every one of us to help make sure that the Turfgrass Research tradition of excellence in Wisconsin continue and be recognized by others in the golf community. Be an advocate of what we have. Make sure that your members, board of directors, owners, and fellow employees know about the facilities we have in Wisconsin and how important it is to our profession that we keep them. 

### WGCSA MISSION STATEMENT

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association is committed to serve each member by promoting the profession and enhancing the growth of the game of golf through education, communication and research.

### WGCSA VISION STATEMENT

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association is dedicated to increase the value provided to its members and to the profession by:

- Enhancing the professionalism of its members by strengthening our role as a leading golf organization in the state.
- Growing and recognizing the benefits of a diverse membership throughout Wisconsin.
- Educating and promoting our members as leaders in environmental stewardship.
- Offering affordable, high value educational programs at the forefront of technology and service.
- Being key to enjoyment and the economic success of the game of golf.