

Rays of Sunshine at North Hills County Club

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

North Hills Country Club Superintendent Randy Dupont delivered not only a pristine golf course on Monday, May 6, 2013 but also one of the nicer sunny days in the spring that wasn't.

Pre-meeting conversation focused on wet turf, dead turf and turf that was still half dormant from the cold weather.

The meeting started with the announcement by WTA Executive Director and WGCSA Historian Monroe Miller that Bruce Schweiger has been hired as the new Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab Manager at the O.J. Noer Center for Turfgrass Research. Monroe gave a great introduction and review of Bruce's career.

Schweiger is well known in the industry as a former superintendent and more recently a salesperson calling on many of us.

You can see more of Monroe's introduction and information about Schweiger on page 40.

The newly hired Schweiger quickly put on his Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab

Manager hat and gave his presentation "Continuing to Build Momentum: My Vision for the TDL."

Bruce started with a history of the WTA and the Noer Center going way back to 1981 when Monroe Miller, Tom Harrison and other leaders in the industry got the ball rolling.

From that simple beginning to the building of the Noer center and giving it to the University to the opening of the Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Lab. The lab changed from the TDDL to the TDL or Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab as the lab matured into diagnosing all types of turf problems for golf courses, home lawns and beyond.

This year there will be 80 different research plots at the Noer Center and the students are a big part of that work.

Bruce promises Dr. Koch will continue to look at every sample this year as he gathers his own experience. He also guaranteed accurate prompt diagnostic work as he works to increase the labs state and country wide stature.



Our Host, Randy Dupont, Golf Course Superintendent at North Hills Country Club.



The Entrance to North Hills Country Club.



The Clubhouse at North Hills Country Club.



Left: The par 4 5th Hole plays 383 yards from the Championship Tee. The leafless trees on May 6th are a indication of the cool spring.

Right: Garrett Luck hits his approach shot from the rough.



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Schweiger is looking forward to helping develop an environmental tracking program using weather stations or monitors to help forecast disease outbreaks and application timing.

Social media will be a bigger part of the TDL in the near future as instant communication will be important to getting the word out.

He also wants to be a sounding board for industry driven research so feel free to contact him. Bruce can be reached at bschweiger@wisc.edu, or 608-845-2535.

After a great sandwich buffet lunch the group hit the links for a nice afternoon of golf on the course designed in 1928 by John P Barr and redesigned in 1997 by Ken Killian.

The course is built on the 126 1/2 acre Charles Fuss farm in what was then known as Fussville. The site was selected because of the large wooded areas, rolling fields, and the Menomonee River meandering across the property.

Randy Dupont has been at the helm at North Hills since 1995 when he took over from Chad Ball who spent 4 years at the course. Bob Musbach spent 17 years from 1972-1989 after spelling Jim Markell who only spent one year at the course. Charles Shiley was superintendent from 1952 to 1970 and also served as President of the then Wisconsin Greenskeepers Association.

Ray Rolfs was the original "greenskeeper" when he stayed behind in the position after building the course for Pioneer Golf and Landscape Company. Rolfs was a charter member of the WGA and served as president from 1939-1941.

Randy and North Hills have hosted the Vince Lombardi Golf Classic each year since 1971 to raise funds for cancer research.

TWO PERSON BESTBALL RESULTS

GROSS SCORES-

- 1st place - Jim Shaw and Ed Witkowski 71
- 2nd place - Dan Wubbels and Peter Meyer 72
- 3rd place - Mark Lockhart and Travis Krauklis 74

NET SCORES -

- 1st place - John Meyer and Rod Johnson 63
- 2nd place - Bruce Worzella and Todd Fregien 66
- 3rd place - Cubby O'Brien and Matt Cavanaugh 66

FLAG EVENTS -

- #2 closest to the pin Scott Bartosh
- #7 longest putt Bruce Schweiger
- #9 longest drive Matt Bazola
- #12 closest to the pin Mike Skenadore
- #18 longest drive Chad Harrington



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Top Left: Bruce Schweiger, Manager TDL.

Top Right: Monroe Miller, WGCSA Historian and WTA Executive Director.

Right: Players are reminded Golf Is A Constant Challenge on the 5th Tee.

Bottom: The Par-5 4th Hole

Left: The Par-5 18th Hole.

