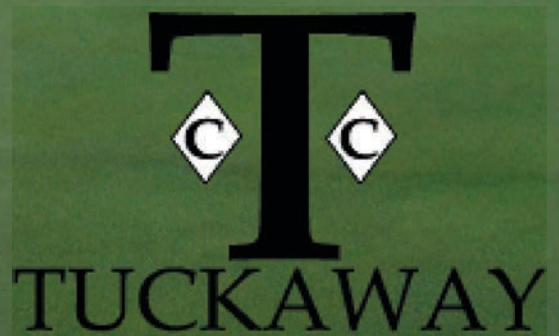


# The GRASS ROOTS

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

VOL. XLII  
ISSUE 5  
SEPT/OCT 2013





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## Impact of Winter Covers on Snow Mold Development – Year 2 Update

By Dr. Paul Koch, Department of Pathology, University of Wisconsin - Madison

Due to the cool conditions that persisted for much of this past summer, the UW turf pathology team inoculated and covered many of the disease-research plots to encourage intense disease development. For the dollar spot research trials, the daily process would entail placing an Evergreen® cover down in the afternoon prior to leaving for the day (to increase humidity at night) and removing them upon arrival the next morning (to prevent temperatures getting too hot for dollar spot during the day). This process was repeated daily for over a month to different degrees, and became affectionately (or begrudgingly) known as ‘tucking or untucking the kids.’

While superintendents don’t ‘tuck in their kids’ (i.e. putting greens) during the summer months to increase their disease pressure and challenge themselves as men and women, many superintendents in Wisconsin and beyond do cover their putting greens during the winter months. They don’t do this to really challenge the effectiveness of their snow mold fungicide program, they do this to protect against the various ailments that winter can hurl at fragile putting surfaces. The most common ailments include desiccation (Figure 1) and crown hydration (Figure 2), but toxic gas buildup and low temperature kill can also occur. In addition, winter covers can offer up earlier spring green-up, giving the superintendent a potential (but also potentially risky) leg-up on the fickle spring season.

But are superintendents unintentionally challenging their snow mold fungicide programs when they install these winter covers each fall, and could they be setting themselves up for more severe damage as a result of snow mold than they would have received from the various abiotic forms of winterkill (Figure 3)? That is precisely the question that Dr. Jim Kerns (former UW pathologist, now at North Carolina State University) and myself set out to answer during the fall of 2011. Dr. Kerns delivered a first-year update in the Sept/Oct 2012 issue of *The Grass Roots* (Kerns and Koch, 2012), and this article provides an update from the second and final year of the study.



**Figure 1. Windswept areas in winters of relatively low snowfall can dehydrate the plants and cause desiccation injury.**



**Figure 2. Rapid freezing of free water near the base of the plant can rupture cells in the turfgrass crown, killing the plants. Annual bluegrass is most susceptible to this type of winter injury.**

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The study was conducted on the chipping green at Antigo Bass Lake Country Club. Host superintendent Dave van Auken provided and installed two types of winter covers; a permeable Evergreen® cover and an impermeable GreenJacket® cover with foam insulation underneath. Fungicide treatments consisted of a non-treated control and a tank-mixture of Interface (4.0 fl oz/1000 ft<sup>2</sup>) and Triton Flo (0.85 fl oz/1000 ft<sup>2</sup>) applied at only an early timing, only a late timing, or at half rate and applied at both the early and late timing. The early application for year 2 was made on October 4th, 2012 and the late timing for year 2 was made on October 29th, 2012. Covers were installed the same day as the late fungicide application.

The results from the winter of 2012-2013 provide an interesting comparison to the previous winter of 2011-2012. In 2011-2012, snow mold severity on non-treated plots was increased on plots covered with a GreenJacket® cover but relatively similar between the no cover treatment and the Evergreen® treatment. In 2012-2013, however, snow mold severity was higher under the Evergreen® cover compared to no cover, and was again highest under the Green Jacket® cover (Figure 3). Why did the Evergreen® cover increase snow mold severity relative to no cover in year 2 but not year 1? The answer likely lies in the different environmental conditions present during each winter. The winter of 2011-2012 provided a relatively early and constant snow cover in the Antigo area, whereas the winter of 2012-2013 saw a significant thaw during mid-January that saw snow depth fall to near 0. As a result, in conditions of constant snow cover there was little difference in snow mold severity under no cover or under an Evergreen® cover, but under conditions of less consistent snow cover Evergreen® covers increased snow mold pressure.

Did fungicide timing have an impact on snow mold development under the covers? In year 1, the answer was not really. While spraying at only the early fungicide timing did not provide acceptable snow mold control (an expected result), there were not significant differences in the late fungicide timing or the split early + late fungicide timing. However, under the heaviest disease pressure found under the Green Jacket® cover there was a slight decrease in snow mold under the split application compared to the late timing. Year 2 provided almost an exact replica of year 1, with highest disease breakthrough on the early treatments and no statistical differences between early + late and late (Figure 4). As in year 1, however, slight decreases in snow mold under the Green Jacket® were observed with the split timing treatment compared to the late timing.

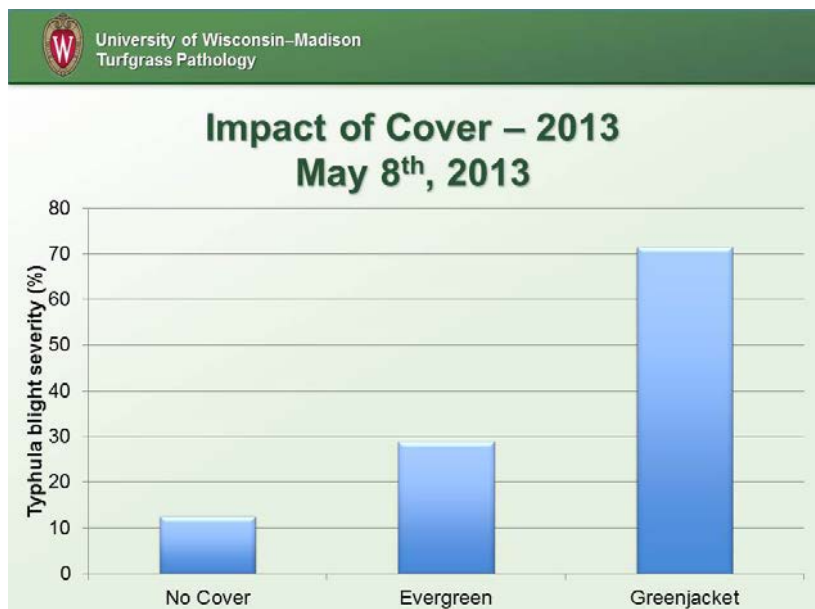


Figure 3. Snow mold severity under no cover, Evergreen® cover, or Green Jacket® cover in spring of 2013.

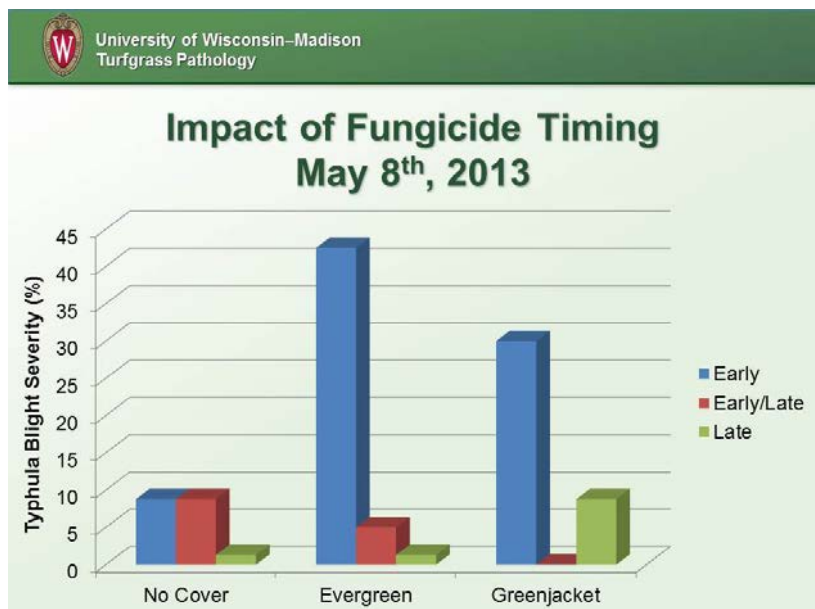



Figure 4. Snow mold severity on fungicide treatment applied as early, late, or early + late under no cover, Evergreen® cover, or Green Jacket® cover in spring of 2013. Fungicide treatment consisted of Interface applied at 4.0 fl oz per 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> tank-mixed with Triton FLO at 0.85 fl oz per 1000 ft<sup>2</sup>. Fungicides were applied at half rate for each application in split early + late application. Early application as made on October 4th, 2012 and late application was made on October 29th, 2012.

# WISCONSIN PATHOLOGY REPORT

The research presented here clearly demonstrates that winter covers, especially Green Jacket®, increase snow mold severity compared to no cover. But the differences in snow mold severity under the Evergreen cover from year 1 to 2 suggest that the degree of impact the covers have will vary based on snow depth and snow cover duration. Those areas where the snow cover is deep and persistent won't see as large a difference between covered greens and non-covered greens, whereas those areas in the southern portion of Wisconsin where snow cover is more shallow and less consistent will be more likely to see dramatic increases in snow mold severity under winter covers.

What are the environmental conditions that these winter covers impact to

increase snow mold severity? Alas, further analysis of the winter environmental data is needed before a final answer to that question can be provided. A final write-up including analysis of the

environmental data will be provided to *The Grass Roots* in 2014 following publication of the study in a scientific journal. Until then, sleep tight this winter little putting greens. 



## Acknowledgements:

Special acknowledgement to Antigo Bass Lake CC superintendent Dave van Auken for providing the host site, covers, and installation of the covers. In addition, special thanks to the WGCSA Par 4 Research program for providing the financial support required to conduct this study.

## References:

Kerns, J. P., Koch, P. L. 2012. Influence of Winter Covers on Snow Mold Severity: A Summary of Year 1. *The Grass Roots* 41(5): 20-22.



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## 2012-2013 Snow Mold Fungicide Trial Results

By **Bruce Schweiger**, Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab Director, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility and **Dr. Paul Koch**, Department of Pathology, University of Wisconsin - Madison

As the fall fast approaches it is time to begin thinking about Typhula blight (*Typhula ishikariensis* and *Typhula incarnata*) and Microdochium patch (*Microdochium nivale*). We urge you to review the results of past trials on the Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab website ([tdl.wisc.edu](http://tdl.wisc.edu)) to aid in developing your fungicide program for the upcoming winter. Though results dating to 2004 are posted on the website, I will focus on the most recent results from the winter of 2012-2013.

Disease was low in most of the trials last winter, and in fact was completely absent in some trials. This was surprising to many, as the duration of snow cover well exceeded 60 days in many parts of the state and would seem to encourage snow mold development. In hindsight the key to last year's lack of snow mold can be directly attributed to the lack of a suitable environment. In many areas snow cover came in mid-December and remained until April or later. But a significant thaw in January left many areas of the state with a shallow cover of snow and ice. Under this scenario the ground had little insulation from the harsh temperatures of winter. Lack of snow cover did not insulate the surface of the soil, allowing the soil to freeze. We know that the fungi that cause snow mold thrive in cold conditions, but not in below-freezing temperatures. The insulating effect of snow cover is what allows snow mold fungi to cause disease, and this past winter our surface temperatures were too cold and unfavorable for widespread disease development.

The trials at Odana Hills Golf Course in Madison and Sentry World Golf Course in Stevens Point did not provide a significant test of the fungicide treatments. In both of these trials nearly all the treatments provided acceptable control of snow mold. One interesting aspect of the SentryWorld trials was the differentiation of color after snow melted due to the applications of turf colorants the previous fall. With a wide array of effective snow mold fungicides to choose from, superintendents are increasingly interested in characteristics aside from merely excellent disease control. Spring color has been one of these characteristics that has garnered significant interest in recent years, and at last year's Snow Mold Field Day there was a fair amount of discussion as to why this could be an important tool for golf course superintendents (Figure 1). It may not improve control of Snow Mold but there are other benefits. The discussion focused on what color was most desired by superintendents and how the early spring golfer would see the greener turf in early spring and how this could potentially bring turf health benefits, increased play, or both.



**Figure 1: Plots at Sentry World. Notice the green plots from the Fungicide additive or colorant added to the spray**



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# TURFGRASS DIAGNOSTIC LAB



**Figure 2: Wawanowin 10th Fairway  
May 8, 2013**

Higher disease pressure at Wawanowin Country Club in Champion, MI provided a slightly stiffer test of the fungicide treatments. The snow mold pressure was higher there than at the other trials but did not provide the level of disease we are accustomed to at that site (Figure 2). Of the 56 treatments 42 allowed less than 5% disease. All these treatments provided acceptable provided disease control and turf quality.

Of these treatments, 23 provided complete control. Of all the treatments most of them contained 3 active ingredients. The full results can be seen in the adjoining tables, and we encourage you to look over the results and compare with results from previous years.

We want to thank all of our cooperators from last years trials for all their assistance and allowing us to use their facility; Jeff Jushka at Odana Hills GC, Gary Tanko at SentryWorld GC, Andy Hakaarinen at Wawanowin CC Brent Belanger at Les Bolstad GC, and Matt Mckinnon at Cragun's Resort. Without their generous support we would not be able to provide you with the independent research you need to make informed decisions.

Snow is coming and our schedules will be slowing down. Take the time to reconnect with family and friends and continue your turfgrass education. If you have any questions regarding the trials or about snow mold in general, please don't hesitate to contact Bruce (bschweiger@wisc.edu) or Paul (plkoch@wisc.edu).



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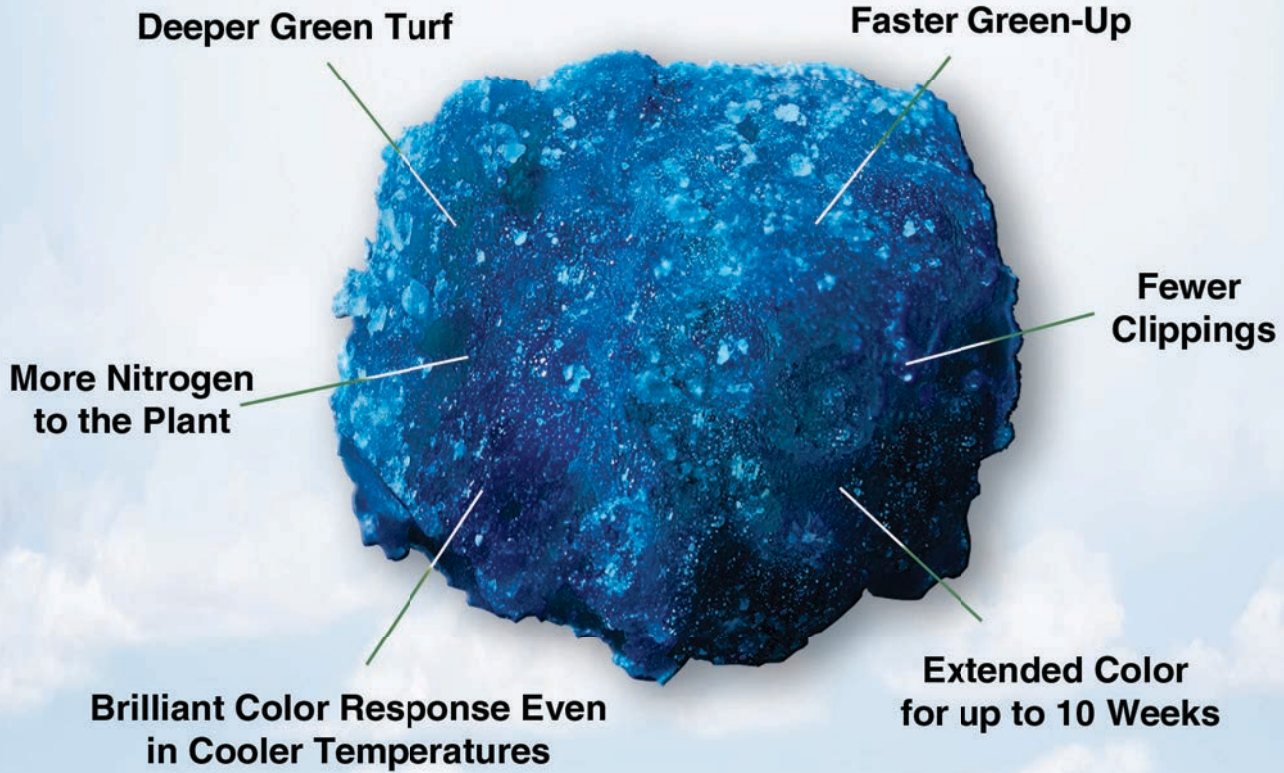
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# TURFGRASS DIAGNOSTIC LAB

**Table 1: Mean snow mold severity, turf quality, and turf color assessed on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Wawonowin CC in Champion, MI.**

	Treatment	Rate	Application Timing <sup>a</sup>	Disease Severity <sup>b</sup>	Turf Quality <sup>c</sup>	Turf Color <sup>d</sup>
1	Non-treated control			61.3a	3.0j	0.572a
2	Interface Triton FLO	3.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.55 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late	0.0f	7.0a-d	0.628a
3	Interface Triton FLO	3.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.75 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late	1.3f	6.8a-e	0.633a
4	Interface Triton FLO	4.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.55 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late	1.3f	6.8a-e	0.608a
5	Interface Triton FLO	4.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.85 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late	0.0f	7.0a-d	0.626a
6	Interface Triton FLO	5.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.85 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late	0.0f	7.0a-d	0.657a
7	Interface Triton FLO	6.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.85 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late	0.0f	7.0a-d	0.634a
8	Interface Triton FLO	6.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 1.1 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late	0.0f	7.0a-d	0.610a
9	Concert II	8.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	0.0f	7.0a-d	0.585a
10	Secure	0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	8.8ef	5.5fgh	0.638a
11	Instrata	9.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	0.0f	7.0a-d	0.675a
12	Instrata	9.3 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	0.0f	7.0a-d	0.666a
13	Instrata	11.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	0.0f	7.0a-d	0.664a
14	Instrata PAR	7.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.36 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late	1.3f	7.0a-d	0.649a
15	Instrata PAR	9.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.36 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late	1.3f	7.0a-d	0.598a
16	Instrata PAR	9.4 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.36 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late	1.3f	6.8a-e	0.638a
17	Banner MAXX II PAR	2.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.36 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late	6.3f	6.0d-g	0.589a
18	Instrata Secure	7.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late	0.0f	7.0a-d	0.646a
19	Instrata Secure PAR	7.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.36 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late Late	0.0f	7.3abc	0.649a
20	Instrata Secure PAR	5.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.36 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late Late	0.0f	7.0a-d	0.624a
21	Concert II Secure	8.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late	0.0f	7.0a-d	0.613a
22	Concert II Secure PAR	8.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.36 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late Late	1.3f	6.8a-e	0.636a

<sup>a</sup>Early fungicide treatments were applied on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and late treatments were applied on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

<sup>b</sup>Mean percent diseased area assessed on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

<sup>c</sup>Quality was visually assessed where 1 = dead, 6 = acceptable, 9 = dark green.

<sup>d</sup>Color was assessed using a TCM 500 NDVI Turf Color Meter from Spectrum Technologies®.

# TURFGRASS DIAGNOSTIC LAB

**Table 1 (cont): Mean snow mold severity, turf quality, and turf color assessed on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Wawonowin CC in Champion, MI.**

	Treatment	Rate	Application Timing <sup>a</sup>	Disease Severity <sup>b</sup>	Turf Quality <sup>c</sup>	Turf Color <sup>d</sup>
23	Concert II	4.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	1.3f	7.0a-d	0.610a
	Secure	0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
	PAR	0.36 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
24	Concert II	8.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	1.3f	6.8a-e	0.628a
	Banner MAXX II	1.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
25	Concert II	8.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	1.8f	7.0a-d	0.626a
	Banner MAXX II	1.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
	PAR	0.36 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
26	Headway	1.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	10.0def	5.8e-h	0.591a
	Secure	0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
	PAR	0.36 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
27	Banner MAXX II	3.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	5.0f	6.3c-g	0.601a
	Secure	0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
28	Banner MAXX II	2.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	0.0f	7.0a-d	0.617a
	Secure	0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
	Medallion TL	1.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
	PAR	0.36 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
29	Banner MAXX II	2.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	1.3f	6.8a-e	0.643a
	Secure	0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
	Medallion TL	1.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
30	Secure	0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early/Late	22.5cd	4.8hi	0.642a
	PAR	0.36 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
31	Daconil Action	5.4 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	1.3f	7.0a-d	0.642a
	Secure	0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
	PAR	0.36 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			

<sup>a</sup>Early fungicide treatments were applied on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and late treatments were applied on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

<sup>b</sup>Mean percent diseased area assessed on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

<sup>c</sup>Quality was visually assessed where 1 = dead, 6 = acceptable, 9 = dark green.

<sup>d</sup>Color was assessed using a TCM 500 NDVI Turf Color Meter from Spectrum Technologies®.



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**Table 1 (cont): Mean snow mold severity, turf quality, and turf color assessed on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Wawonowin CC in Champion, MI.**

	Treatment	Rate	Application Timing <sup>a</sup>	Disease Severity <sup>b</sup>	Turf Quality <sup>c</sup>	Turf Color <sup>d</sup>
39	Torque	0.9 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	5.0f	6.3c-g	0.638a
40	Torque 26/36	0.9 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	1.3f	6.8a-e	0.640a
		4.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
41	Torque	0.9 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	1.3f	6.8a-e	0.683a
	26/36	4.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
	Spectro	3.67 OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
42	Torque	0.9 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	0.0f	7.0a-d	0.628a
	Affirm	0.9 OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
	Spectro	3.67 OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
43	A293	12.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early/Late	52.5ab	3.8ij	0.621a
44	Trinity	1.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	8.8ef	6.0d-g	0.614a
45	Insignia SC	0.7 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	0.0f	7.0a-d	0.631a
	Trinity	1.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
46	Lexicon	0.47 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early/Late	6.3f	5.8e-h	0.655a
47	Lexicon	0.34 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early/Late	5.0f	6.0d-g	0.671a
	Daconil Ultrex	3.0 OZ/1000 FT2	Early/Late			
48	Pillar G	3.0 LB/1000 FT2	Late	5.0f	6.0d-g	0.624a
49	Insignia SC	0.7 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	0.0f	7.5ab	0.658a
	Trinity	1.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
	Daconil Ultrex	3.2 OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
50	Honor	0.84 OZ/1000 FT2	Late	1.3f	6.8a-e	0.672a
	Trinity	1.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
	Daconil Ultrex	3.2 OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
51	Civitas	8.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early/Late	26.3c	4.8hi	0.560a
	Harmonizer	0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early/Late			
	Secure	0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
52	Civitas	8.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early/Late	22.5cd	4.8hi	0.651a
	Harmonizer	0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early/Late			
	Curalan EG	1.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early			
	Chipco 26GT	4.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			
53	Civitas	8.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early/Late	0.0f	7.0a-d	0.631a
	Harmonizer	0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early/Late			
	Torque	0.6 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early/Late			
54	Civitas	8.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early/Late	0.0f	7.8a	0.636a
	Harmonizer	0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early/Late			
	Torque	0.6 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early			
	Chipco 26GT	4.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late			

<sup>a</sup>Early fungicide treatments were applied on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and late treatments were applied on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

<sup>b</sup>Mean percent diseased area assessed on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

<sup>c</sup>Quality was visually assessed where 1 = dead, 6 = acceptable, 9 = dark green.

<sup>d</sup>Color was assessed using a TCM 500 NDVI Turf Color Meter from Spectrum Technologies®.

# TURFGRASS DIAGNOSTIC LAB

**Table 1 (cont): Mean snow mold severity, turf quality, and turf color assessed on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Wawonowin CC in Champion, MI.**

Treatment	Rate	Application Timing <sup>a</sup>	Disease Severity <sup>b</sup>	Turf Quality <sup>c</sup>	Turf Color <sup>d</sup>
55	Civitas Harmonizer Trinity Trinity	8.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2 1.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early/Late Early/Late Early Late	11.3def	5.8e-h 0.607a
56	Civitas Harmonizer Daconil Ultrex Chipco 26GT	8.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2 5.0 OZ/1000 FT2 4.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early/Late Early/Late Late Late	10.0def	5.8e-h 0.670a
57	Civitas Harmonizer Concert II	8.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2 5.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early/Late Early/Late Late	21.3cde	5.5fgh 0.637a
58	Civitas Harmonizer Instrata	8.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2 5.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early/Late Early/Late Late	8.8ef	6.5b-f 0.649a
59	Civitas Harmonizer Chipco 26GT Daconil Action	8.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2 4.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 5.4 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early/Late Early/Late Late Late	7.5f	5.8e-h 0.644a
60	Civitas Harmonizer	14.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2 4.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Early/Late Early/Late	27.5c	5.3gh 0.576a
61	QP TM/C QP Iprodione QP Propiconazole Foursome	6.0 OZ/1000 FT2 4.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 2.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late Late Late	0.0f	7.5ab 0.659a
62	QP TM/C QP Iprodione QP Tebuconazole Foursome	6.0 OZ/1000 FT2 4.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.6 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late Late Late	0.0f	7.8a 0.629a
63	QP Iprodione QP Tebuconazole Foursome	4.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 1.1 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late Late	0.0f	7.3abc 0.629a
64	QP Enclave Foursome	8.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 0.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late	0.0f	7.5ab 0.670a
65	Turfcide 400	10 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late	3.8f	6.5b-f 0.649a
66	Chipco 26GT Daconil WeatherStik	4.0 FL OZ/1000 FT2 5.5 FL OZ/1000 FT2	Late Late	6.3f	6.0d-g 0.678a

<sup>a</sup>Early fungicide treatments were applied on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and late treatments were applied on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

<sup>b</sup>Mean percent diseased area assessed on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

<sup>c</sup>Quality was visually assessed where 1 = dead, 6 = acceptable, 9 = dark green.

<sup>d</sup>Color was assessed using a TCM 500 NDVI Turf Color Meter from Spectrum Technologies®.

## News and Notes From WGCSA Members

By Matt Kinnard and The DHD Team

I once again had the opportunity to play in the Wee One Foundation Golf Outing at Pine Hills this year, with approximately 185 of my fellow turf colleagues, to honor the legacy of Wayne Otto. The tenth annual golf outing was once again a monumental success and is a reminder that the foundation has helped so many golf course management professionals and their dependents who incur overwhelming expenses due to medical hardship.

Those in attendance were updated on the success of the One Percent Endowment Fund. The Fund began a year ago, and because of contributions from individuals and corporate sponsors it is off to a great start. Let's continue to support the Wee One to ensure its permanent success into the future as it strives to reach a goal of \$10 million in 10 years.

### Career Moves

Ozaukee Country Club (Mequon) promoted their Assistant Superintendent, **Brett Hosler**, to the position of Superintendent. Brett graduated from East-

ern Kentucky University with a degree in Technical Agriculture in 2003. Prior to that he also acquired a Bachelors Degree in Psychology from the University of Kentucky. While attending college in Kentucky he worked at Kearney Hills Golf Links in Lexington. From 2004 to 2008 he worked as the Assistant Superintendent at Evansville Country Club in Evansville, Indiana. Following that, Brett moved back to Wisconsin when he accepted the Assistant Superintendents job at Ozaukee Country Club.

Brett's family has a long history at Ozaukee CC. Three generations of Hosler's have been members at OCC since the 1920's. Regarding his new position, Brett said, "I feel like this is exactly where I want to be and I'm honored to be the Superintendent at Ozaukee... it's a dream come true for me." Congratulations Brett

**Pat Bastron** is the new Assistant Superintendent at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison. At 15 years old, Pat began working for his Dad, Paul, at Glen Flora CC in Waukegan, IL. Before

graduating from the University of Wisconsin in 2009 Pat had the opportunity to intern at a couple courses in Chicagoland including Old Elm Club and Conway Farms as well as Interlachen in Edina, MN where he helped prepare for the 2008 US Women's Open. He was also the Assistant Superintendent at Mt. Hawley CC in Peoria, IL and Sunset CC in Northfield IL. Congratulations Pat on your new position!

My fellow columnist **Jake Schneider** accepted a new job at The Bruce Company. Jake was hired in August as the new Landscape Management Department Manager. Jake was an outstanding member of the Blackhawk Country Club staff for nine years, most recently as the Assistant Golf Course Superintendent since 2009. After spending his high school summer days working at North Shore Country Club in Menasha, Jake went on to acquire a BS in Soil Science in 2005 and a Masters in Horticulture in 2007 at the University of Wisconsin.

On a side note, Jakes wife, Jessica, their dog, Max, and cat, Lt. Dangle, were cheering him on when he completed the Green Bay Marathon, placing 69 of 1500. Congratulations Jake!

**Brian Busha** is the new Assistant Superintendent at Minocqua County Club. Brian was most recently the Assistant Superintendent at Wisconsin River Golf Club in Stevens Point, a position he held for three years. It was while working in high school at Greenwood Hills Country Club, that Brian decided to pursue a career in golf course management. He also worked at Eau Claire Country Club and Wild Ridge/Mill Run Golf Club while he attended college at Chippewa Valley Technical College, where he graduated in 2009. For Brian, Minocqua is the perfect place to pursue his hobbies of wake boarding, water skiing, hunting, fishing and obviously golfing. Congratulations Brian!



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# BADGER STATE TURF CLIPPINGS

## Marriages

Lake Ripley Country Club Superintendent, **Tim Adas**, was married to Jenna Schneider in a summer ceremony with family and friends on June 22nd. Jenna also works in Cambridge as a 4K teacher. Congratulations to the Adas's!

A surprise event took place over the summer... someone agreed to marry **Dave Kloss**! Dave and Stephanie were married on May 25 and had the pleasure of honeymooning in Italy for a week over the summer. Dave was even treated to a round of golf at a local country club in the Italian Riviera courtesy of the golf course superintendent. According to Dave, a sales representative at J.W. Turf, the superintendent and his staff were excited to meet someone from John Deere. In all seriousness, congratulations Dave and Stephanie! May there be many more DMB concerts in your future.

## Baby News


**Lee Suwalski**, golf course superintendent at Kettle Hills Golf Course in Richfield, and his wife Katie welcomed their first child into the world on June 17th. Elisabeth Ann Suwalski weighed 8lbs 4oz and 19.5" long. The addition of Ella provided

an extra exciting summer for Lee and Katie. Congratulations!

**Craig Haltom's** wife, Becky, gave birth to their first child, Emily Lynn, on August 27th. Craig is the Director of Golf Course Operations at the Oliphant Golf Management Company. At birth, Emily weighed 5lbs 6 oz and 19" long. Congratulations Craig and Becky!

## Published

**Tony Rzadzki** a WGCSA member since 1995 became a published author this year. His novel, Autumn's Promise, is a fictional story of faith based on a man who has lost everything and is ready to end his own life; when God intervenes and promises him that there is hope, if you have faith. Told through baseball, the main character was able to achieve his dream and play one season of Major League Baseball. The book is available for purchase on amazon.com with the pen name Anthony Williams. Congratulations Tony!

Please pass along any significant news or happenings around the state to Danny, Mike or me. We want to spread the good news. You can also email me at [m.kinnard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.kinnard@sbcglobal.net) or call at 920-210-9059. 



**While honeymooning in Italy, Dave Kloss had the opportunity to meet with a golf course superintendent at a country club in the Italian Riviera.**

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## Oct 5th Couples Outing and Family Weekend.

By Brett Grams, WGCSA Chapter Manager

Since 1984 the WGCSA has held a Couples Golf Outing. It was once part of a weekend long getaway which started on Friday evenings with a hospitality reception, golf on Saturday, followed by a Dinner Dance on Saturday evening. The WGCSA leaders have tried to modify the event to better accommodate the desires of attendees and to encourage more members and spouses/significant others to join us. These couples weekends have been held all over Wisconsin and sometimes in very inclement weather but everybody always remembers the fun had by all. This year we tried a new format which included the option for couples to bring their children and make it a family weekend as well.

This year we chose the Wilderness Hotel and Golf Resort in the WI Dells. The expansive resort has accommodations and attractions to suit almost everyone. We also decided to hold the always fun and never too competitive 9 hole golf outing on the Woods Family Golf Course. This course is what remains of the former Woods Golf Course after the 2008 opening of the fantastic Wild Rock Golf Club on the Wilderness Property. The Woods Course is a family/executive 9 hole course it is par 31 layout with challenging Par 3 and 4 length holes. We condensed the weekend down to a single day event with options to make it a day trip or an entire weekend based on the couples schedules and desires. Our former Friday night hospitality reception was changed to Saturday afternoon after golf. We held our reception at one of the beautiful condo cabins on the resort property which adjoins one of the three indoor waterparks at the resort.

I am happy to report that we had some new couples join us for the first time this year. Some of them made it a family weekend



View from the tee of the island green hole, Lake Delton is in the background hidden in the fog and mist

by taking in the resorts water park on Friday evening. Saturday the rest of the couples gathered at the resort. The weather was very humid with a heavy fog but thankfully it was a warm day for early October and the rain stayed away until after golf. The Woods Golf Course is managed by John Gallus who is on the staff of WGCSA member Mike Blazich. The event and planning for the day was also organized by Chris Goodwick who is the Director of Golf. Everyone enjoyed the challenging layout which includes dramatic elevation changes, water hazards, forests, open vistas, and plenty of bunkers. The golf outing is a Chapman style with each couple teeing off but then choosing which ball to play and alternating shots until the hole is completed. Some couples shoot very well while most just play for fun and camaraderie.




Many of the couples and families that were at the hospitality reception after golf joined for a picture.



After golf all attendees eventually made their way back to the Condo Cabin where we had complimentary food, snacks, and beverages courtesy of our generous sponsor companies. The golf and flag events along with a door prize for all the ladies that attended were also provided to the attendees. We presented the Mr. and Mrs. Mow Travelling Trophy to Scott and Lisa Bushman who succeeded in defending their title from last year shooting a 35. New comers Kevin and Brooke Knudtson and perennial contenders Greg and Lynn Kallenberg tied for second place with a 36. Flag winners were Jodi Baus with closest to pin for the ladies, Scott Bushman closest to pin for the men. Long drive for the ladies went to Lisa Bushman while Rick Weiterman claimed long drive for the men.



Although our attendance at the event continues to be low we have heard many positive comments and people reported to having a fun time. For many of the spouses this is one of the few times or only time that they get to meet the other wives and renew the friendships. The great thing about the weekend is that the vendor companies continue to support this great little event. Also, thank you to my wife Nancy, our two sons Nick and Spencer, and a family friend Andrea Lemkuil for looking after the little kids while the couples played golf. If you have never attended please join us. If you used to attend please join us once again! 



**John Gallus who oversees the Woods Family Course with the Framed Flag for his office wall.**

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## A First Tee-rrific Project

By Jake Schneider, LMD Production Manager, The Bruce Company

When the assistant superintendents committee initially discussed the idea of doing a learning-based project for a worthy cause, I am not sure that any of us knew what we were getting ourselves into. It turns out that finding both volunteers and donated equipment and materials and making plans for building a chipping green for The First Tee at Monona Golf Course isn't as easy as we may have initially thought. Joe Sell summed it up best when he said that preparing for the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits wasn't as stressful as this project was. But, I think that the fantastic finished product and knowing that thousands of kids will be using this green in years to come made all of the stress worth it. Plus, those that helped now know what it takes to build a USGA spec green.

Aside from the months worth of planning, the project took place from September 6-8. Joe arrived in Madison on Friday afternoon to shape the very rocky soil that had been claimed from an adjacent road construction project. He also trenched the drainage lines that would be cleaned and filled with pipe and pea gravel the next morning.

Saturday was a very long and unfortunately hot day of work for a lot of people, but we were able to complete the drainage installation, lay down 4" of pea gravel, run irrigation pipe and tie two new sprinklers into the existing system, install the liner, and haul the vast majority of the greens mix.

On Sunday, the very tired crew was back at it again. The remaining greens mix was hauled, watered, and compacted, and Joe worked his magic to shape the green with a Sand Pro. While all of this was taking place, the green banks were being raked and smoothed, and a layer of topsoil was added prior to sod installation to compensate for the less-than-ideal soil that comprised the majority of the banks. Bentgrass seed was then spread across the green and approach and dimpled into the mix. Finally, starter fertilizer was applied across the entire project and the irrigation system was successfully restarted and tested.



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# ASSISTANTS AVENUE

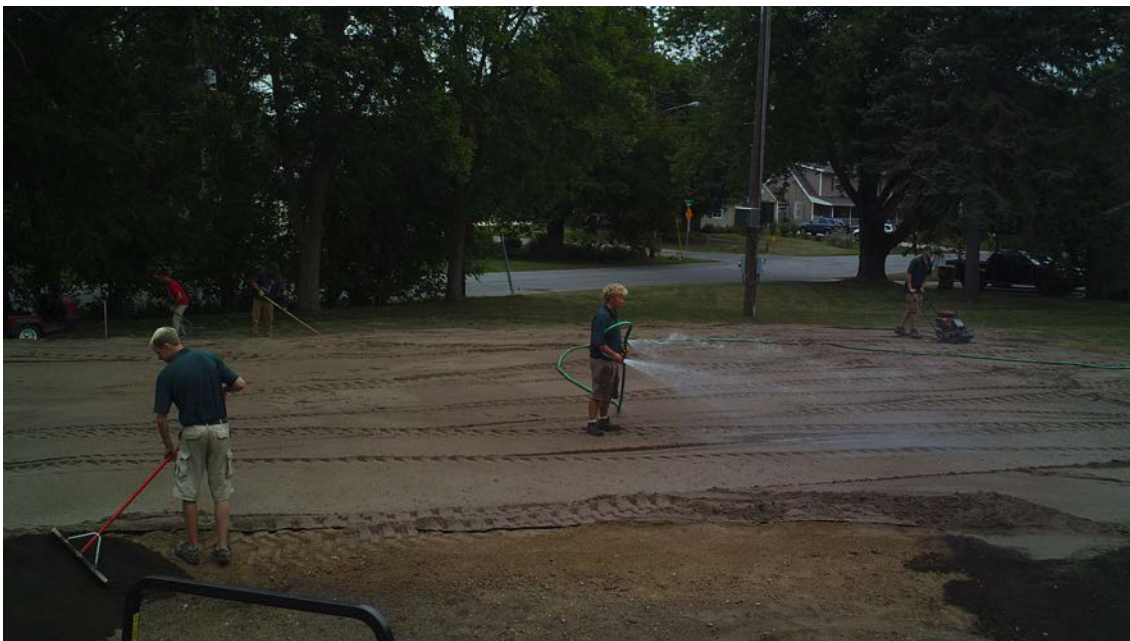
Thankfully, the weather cooperated, and we were able to complete this daunting project on schedule and almost no cost to The First Tee. Aside from Mother Nature, there were many other helping hands involved in making this a success, and they are as follows:

- Scott Pace with Rain Bird for Irrigation Supplies
- Mitch Keogh with Ferguson Waterworks for Irrigation Supplies
- Dave Landwehr with ADS Pipe for Drainage Supplies
- Glenn Kafka with Kafka Granite for Delivering the Greens Mix
- Rob Johnson with Waupaca Sand & Solutions for the Greens Mix
- Mike Oliphant with The Oliphant Companies for Equipment
- Scott Gilbertson with Reinders for Fertilizer and Fungicide
- Phil Zastrow with Reinders for Saturday's lunch
- Paul Huggett with Paul's Turf & Tree Nursery for Bluegrass Sod
- Patrick Lyons with Lycon for Pea Stone
- Scott Bordeau with ERO-TEX for Greens Liner
- Derek Kastenschmidt and Scott Neary for Equipment
- Wayne Horman with Landmark Turf & Native Seed for Bentgrass Seed
- Chad Grimm with Blackhawk CC for Equipment and Hand Tools
- Tom Schwab with the OJ Noer Turfgrass Research Center for Equipment
- Nick Strain with Quali-Pro for Sunday's lunch
- Mike Lee with Kohler Company for Equipment and Hand Tools
- Joni Dye with The First Tee of South Central Wisconsin

And, of course, Joe and I certainly couldn't have done this by ourselves and were fortunate to have the following group of hard-working volunteers:

- Shaun Brill, Ryan Brooks, Sean Guilfoyle, Charlie Belanger, Sean Kelly, and Kevin Kouba from Whistling Straits
- Ryan Berezowitz, Kristin Witkowski, Luke McGhee, Tyler Gerritts, Adam Wepfer, Aaron Hansen, Ben Luedtke, Jon Slock, and Dr. Doug Soldat from UW-Madison
- Tim Schmidt, Brent Haring, Ross Kressin, and Alex Smith from Butte des Morts CC
- Shannon Barstow who was our very accommodating host at Monona GC

Thanks to all who made this great project possible; it was certainly a worthwhile endeavor. 



# ASSISTANTS AVENUE



Photos showing the progression of the green construction contributed by Jacob Schneider



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## Joint Meeting at Stevens Point Country Club

By Brett Grams, WGCSA Chapter Manager

Our annual joint meeting with the Northern Great Lakes GCSA was a successful event. Stevens Point CC was a great central location for the two chapters to meet for a day of education, golf, and camaraderie.

The morning education session was a presentation by Dr. Paul Koch titled "Around the World of Snow Mold in 60 Minutes" informative. The topic is an important one in WI and the UP of Michigan where we can see dramatic changes in amounts of snow fall and winter length. Snow mold control and protection is one of Dr. Koch's specialties. The UW Snow Mold Research testing is a great way to see the various products and combinations in the field at multiple locations. In addition, Dr. Koch discussed the use of turf covers. Both the NGL and WI GCSA have helped fund these covers studies that can be helpful with turf survival. Today, superintendents have multiple snow mold control options along with covers to help aid winter survival but we all know that our unpredictable winter weather can dramatically impact the best of plans. Timing of treatments, product selection, budget restraints, turf type, micro climate, snow coverage, length of cover, loss of snow cover, rain, and ice formation are just a few of the issues that Dr. Koch mentioned in his presentation can impact turf survival and health.

After a buffet lunch the 45 golfers headed out to play a round of golf. High skies and a warm breeze made for a great day on the course. SPCC Superintendent John Femal



Stevens Point  
Country Club

was our gracious host. John joined the WGCSA in 2012. Although John is relatively new to the WGCSA, many of us know him as he is a long time employee of the Stevens Point CC working his way up on the crew to become the Assistant Superintendent, all while working for Jeff Bottensek, CGCS. The Stevens Point CC is a great layout with mature pine tree lined fairways, large bunkers, and rolling greens. Stevens Point CC dates back to 1925 when the first 9 holes were commissioned to the expansion of the present 18 hole course which was built in 1965. John and his crew had the course in great shape all while battling the droughty weather of this August.

The results of the Two Person Best Ball event were close. The Gross Division was won by Troy Tietjens and Jon Canavan with a score of 72. Peter Meyer and Joe Brown tied Andy Brownlow and Seth Brogren with scores of 73. Meyer and Brown won the scorecard playoff for 2nd and Brownlow and Brogren had to settle for 3rd. The Net Division was won by Fred Anderson and our host John Femal with an impressive score of 59. Jim Van Herwynen and Scott Bartosh fired a 61 taking 2nd place and edged out Rob Johnson and Matt Balzoa who shot a very respectable 62 for 3rd. Flag events were won by Jeff Barlow who won Longest Drive on the 2nd while John Femal won the long drive on the 12th hole. Closet to pin events were won by Dale Marach (#17) and Scott Gilbertson (#8). Scott Thompson was winner of the longest putt on the 10th hole. ✓



Jim Van Herwynen watches on as Peter Meyer readies to putt.

(Photo by Brett Grams)





ABOVE: View from the landing area of the 12th hole.

RIGHT: Steven Point CC Superintendent John Femal with framed flag presented to him as our host for the day.

(Photos by Brett Grams)



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## In-House Projects Dont Bite Off More Than You Can Chew To Save A Buck Or Two.

By **Todd Lowe**, Senior Agronomist USGA Green Section

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Golf courses change with time and, to improve turf health and playing conditions or simply to modernize or change the look of certain features, renovation is necessary.

Infrastructure items such as buildings, irrigation systems, cart paths, and bridges do not last forever, either, and must also be upgraded or replaced eventually. Much like a house requires new carpet, a fresh coat of paint, or a new roof, so too does a golf course require periodic renovations.

Do-it-yourself home improvement projects can certainly save money. The same is true for golf facilities, as it is oftentimes less expensive to have the grounds crew perform improvement projects as compared to hiring outside contractors.

Golf facilities operate with limited funds, and superintendents will often try to assist their facilities by performing projects in-house. This would include minor remodeling projects, some irrigation upgrades, and drainage improvements. Not only does this save the golf facility money, it also provides the crew with a temporary break from routine maintenance operations. However, there can be downsides to inhouse projects, and it is important to be aware of potential pitfalls.

First, it is important to consider the size of the work and the number of projects. Remember, the primary responsibility of the maintenance staff is to maintain the golf course at a particular standard. Turf-grasses, weeds, trees, and landscape vegetation grow continually, especially during the summer when most improvement projects take place in winter golf destination areas in southern regions of the U.S.

Every maintenance task requires a certain amount of time to complete. Depending on the frequency of each particular task, which could be daily, the time needed for routine maintenance and course setup



**Projects like building new tees should only be undertaken by the staff if they have the resources to do a quality job and if it won't compromise the care and conditioning of the rest of the golf course.**

really adds up each week and month. Maintenance tasks like mowing, weeding, edging, trimming, landscaping, and bunker maintenance (just to name a few) require a considerable amount of labor, and most golf facilities have just enough staff to provide the desired level of course conditioning. When labor is stretched too

thin, something has to give. That "something" oftentimes is the amount of detail work or level of course conditioning when certain maintenance tasks must be temporarily eliminated or performed less frequently. Even a relatively simple renovation or construction project can require significant time from the staff.



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# USGA GREEN SECTION

When golf facilities take on too many extracurricular activities in the form of special projects, it is easy to fall behind on maintenance programs and subsequently struggle to provide desired course conditions for daily play. An easy fix to this problem, as many would assume, is to simply adjust golfer expectations downward until all special project work is complete, but this is not realistic for most memberships or golfers. Instead, make certain you are adequately staffed before taking on additional projects. If needed, hire additional temporary labor to perform menial tasks or consider outsourcing some maintenance practices until project work is complete.

Routine practices like mowing, weeding, or bunker maintenance may fall behind slightly, but make certain that important cultural practices like thatch management (core aeration, sand topdressing, deep verticutting) or soil remediation (the incorporation of sand or amendments into the soil) are not sacrificed for the sake of in-



**If undertaking a special project in-house means that routine practices like mowing will fall behind any more than slightly, it is a good idea to consider an outside contractor.**

house projects. Such practices are essential, and deferring them can take a toll on turf performance and playability for years to come.

Second, make sure you have the particular skillset and tools for the project. While building new features or remodeling existing ones may seem like fun and simple tasks, they will become burdens and sources of frustration if the staff lacks the skillset or tools necessary to do the job efficiently or effectively. If a quality finished product is not the end result, then it means disappointment for everyone involved. One of the most common examples of in-house projects gone wrong is remodeling or building new teeing grounds. Although this project seems fairly straightforward, building good tees is harder than most realize. When not done well, tees may end up being misaligned, having slopes too steep for riding mowers, and having poor irrigation coverage or uneven surfaces. This is an example of when it is difficult to match the expertise of an experienced contractor with proper tools for earthwork, drainage, surface leveling, etc.

The economic downturn in recent years has resulted in a dramatic reduction in new course construction. In response, golf course builders have reduced their costs considerably and are much more likely to take on smaller renovation projects than ever before. In some cases, it may make more sense to hire an experienced builder for an entire project or use one in combination with your grounds crew.

We all must consider cutting costs where appropriate, but when it comes to course enhancement or renovation projects, do not get in over your head. Plan accordingly for the size and scope of the work. If it cannot be done in-house, or if there are concerns that the work may not be done well or will be at the expense of the rest of the golf course, then consider handing the project over to an experienced contractor. For more information on this topic, please refer to Perils and Pluses of "In-House" Renovations in the May/June 2010 *Green Section Record*. ✓



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## Exploring The Green Industry

By Andy Kurth, President, Lawn Association of Wisconsin Network (LAWN)

*Editors Note: Andy Kurth offers information on other career paths that golf course superintendents could excel at.*

Reading Jake Schneider's column in a recent *The Grass Roots* had me really thinking where the Green Industry currently is and where it may be going. Jake and I spent some time a few weeks ago having lunch and discussing where golf course superintendents are successful, where they are undervalued, the state of the golf course industry and what some other options are for those in golf that feel that the "grass is greener on the other side."

As the current president of LAWN I've been thinking it was time to go through a few reasons and options for exploring lawn care as a viable career for current golf course superintendents. It has me thinking of ways to get more experienced people into the lawn care industry that are not only well qualified but may feel stymied or threatened with job insecurity in their current vocation.

There are two great opportunities to move into the lawn care arena: a management position in a thriving company or lawn care ownership through a franchising opportunity (taking proven systems of

growth) and maximizing your talent and earnings potential in the green industry. Some may decide to invest in lawn care while continuing their current position as a superintendent and partnering with a day to day lawn care manager they bring on board. Then join full time once it is more established.

There is an extraordinary amount of opportunity to take your existing skill set and move into management in lawn care as well. According to a study by Landscape Magazine, 89% of lawn care companies were optimistic for growth in 2013. 71% of companies surveyed said they expected positive growth this year. Our company has grown over 20% for four straight years in spite of the "down" economy. The need for additional quality minds in this industry is there and many opportunities with no ceiling preventing your personal and professional growth exist. At Weed Man, we employ 3 ex-golf course superintendents and 5 employees with various degrees related to turf management (one recently has also bought into the company). Two of these are franchisees in the Midwest with turf related degrees from UW and one is an ex-golf course superintendent.

A study by the National Golf Foundation found that only 12.5 golf courses opened in 2012...while 154.5 closed with 499.5 closing in totality since 2006. These are sobering statistics. I love to golf and truly understand the commitment, work ethic and earned respect of all of the golf course superintendents in the golf industry. If you are comfortable and happy with your career path, I applaud you and this is not an attempt to steal people from golf course management. However, it is an attempt to notify people that there are other great options out there with a path to a promising career of personal, professional, and financial growth in a flourishing industry. As Jake and I agreed, people need to know about the opportunities they have in the green industry outside of the golf course world.



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## Wisconsin State Open Visits Tuckaway Country Club

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

James Poitz is a 19 year member of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association and has been the Golf Course Superintendent at Tuckaway Country Club since 1994 after serving as assistant to Pat Shaw for 7 years. Jim and the club hosted the Wisconsin State Open August 19-21, 2013.

The event featured 72 holes of stroke play with 18 holes on Monday and Tuesday followed by a cut to the top 60 players and ties to finish with 36 holes. The State Open is open to any legal resident of the State of Wisconsin, golf professionals working as such within the state, PGA professionals working as such within the Wisconsin Section, and all exempt players.

7 qualifying sites are used to fill the field along with the exempt players based on past performance. Jim Lemon a former professional golfer on the Canadian Tour shot a solid 8 under 280 to win first place and the \$7,300 prize. Lemon has been out of professional golf since 2011 when he took a job with Morgan Stanley in Madison and joined the ranks of recreational players.

Tuckaway Country Club opened in 1925 in Greenfield at 35th and Edgerton. The original course was short in length but offered a high degree of challenge to the player as precise shotmaking was needed to score. The course hosted many state tournaments and was the site of numerous LPGA events in the 1960's.

During that time the club hosted the State Open three times with Johnny Revolta winning in 1930, Tommy Veech in 1948 and Tom Puls in 1960.

The club had the opportunity to purchase two farms in Franklin. The new course designed by Ken Killian and Dick Nugent opened in 1968 on rolling property.

The farms both had apple orchards on them and a few trees from each farm are still present on the property. The fairways at Tuckaway

are definitely tree lined despite having 500 ash trees removed in the past few years to prepare for the emerald ash borer.

The soils are primarily clay which can cause challenges with drainage, compaction and moisture management. The greens and tees are pushups but in the 1970's then superintendent Ray Knapp started an aggressive sand topdressing program and since then 8 inches of topdressing has been built up to serve as the root zone.

Tuckaway Country Club hosted the PGA Tour's Greater Milwaukee Open from 1973-1993 with Nicklaus, Elder, Norman, Rodriguez, Sneed, Trivino among other top players to enjoy Tuckaway's layout.

In 1985 Jack Nicklaus competed in the GMO for the first time as a professional and finished second to Jim Thorpe. It was one of Jacks 58 second place finishes.



ABOVE: Holes 1 and 18 in 1967 during construction (Above photo from Tuckaway Country Club)

BELOW: Hole 1, the 392 Yard Par 4 in its current view



### 2013 Wisconsin State Open Qualifying Sites and Host Superintendents

Fire Ridge GC - Stan Lushine

Northwood GC - Joe Anderson

Watertown CC - Michael Upthegrove

Ridgeway CC - Steve Blake

Maple Bluff CC - Josh Lepine CGCS

The Club at Strawberry Creek - Matt Kregel

Eau Claire G&CC - John Granholt



## COVER STORY

The Greater Milwaukee Open was often either the week of the British Open or the week before or after which reduced top players ability or willingness to play even though the venue was well received by those who played. The event moved to Brown Deer Park Golf Course where it was hosted through 2009 when the event was stopped.

James Poitz started at Tuckaway under Pat Shaw in 1988 just in time for the infamous drought. Luckily the course was in the final stages of converting the irrigation to a automated double row system. For Jim it was a good summer for a crash course on automatic irrigation systems.

Poitz was able to work the GMO for his first 6 years and he reminisced on how exciting it was to see the tour pros walking down the fairways.

Jim became the head superintendent in 1994 and has enjoyed the ups and downs of the years. He offered that if he could change one thing it would be to offer the Jim Poitz of 1994 a little advice. "Be careful what you think you are leaving the next guy to deal with, it might just be you!

Jim was quick to give credit to his crew and is appreciative to have been blessed with many good crews but fees his current group is one of the best. First assistant Scott Mitchell is in his 10th year.



Mowing and rolling the 366 yard par four 4th hole.

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## Member 9 With Jim Poitz

1. **First Vehicle?** *72 Pontiac Lemans.*
2. **Favorite Piece of Golf Course Equipment?** *Toro Hydroject.*
3. **18 Hole Handicap?** *Used to be 12, I fish now.*
4. **Current Vehicle?** *2000 GMC Sierra.*
5. **Favorite TV Show?** *Deadliest Catch.*
6. **Favorite Pro Sports Team?** *Packers.*
7. **Favorite Main Course Meal?** *Ribey.*
8. **Pets?** *Had a Bassett hound for 15yrs, none at the moment.*
9. **Favorite Thing About Working In Golf Industry?** *Being outdoors.*



Jim considers Scott as knowledgeable and dependable as it gets and being a single digit handicap he knows how important the finished product is to the members. Second assistant Ben Scharf is just one of eight Scharf siblings who have worked at Tuckaway and still argues with his sister that “he is the one responsible for perfecting the bunker routine”. Publicly Poitz sides with Ben since he still works for the club and his sister Julie no longer does.

Al Havaich takes care of the clubs ornamentals. Al owned a floral shop in West Allis for many years and now enjoys arranging on a grand scale. Last but not least Kevin Paul is the mechanic and has been working with Jim since 1994 when he became the head superintendent. Poitz expressed Kevin can keep anything running and is great at keeping the reels razor sharp.

I had an enjoyable time walking the property and meeting Jim and his staff. They seemed to work together as a well oiled team to prepare for the states best golfers. Congratulations to them on a job well done. ✓

### References:

Haas, Eugene R., 2005. Caring For The Green - A History of The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Haas, Eugene R., 2001. Playing Through..A History of The Wisconsin State Golf Association.



A few samples of the landscaping and flowers at Tuckaway Country Club.



# COVER STORY



The grounds maintenance staff at Tuckaway Country Club



The full time staff includes from left to right Kevin Paul, Ben Scharf, Scott Mitchell, Jim Poitz and Al Havaich  
(Above photo from Jim Poitz)

## Golf Course Superintendents at Tuckaway CC.

Verland Miller 1930's  
Frank Kress 49-51  
Clifford Decker 52-60  
Albert Wing 61-70  
Helmuth Hanneman 71  
Ray Knapp 72-86  
Pat Shaw 87-93  
Jim Poitz 94-Current



Above Left: The 372 Yard Par Four 7th Hole features a undulating green (above right) and is protected by a deep bunker on the front right (right).



# COVER STORY



Top Left: Changing the cup on the 414 yard par four 9th hole.

Top Right: 197 Yard par three 17th hole.

Left: 528 yard par five 16th hole.



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# COVER STORY



**Top:** 142 yard par three 5th hole

**Top Right:** 366 yard par four 13th hole

**Bottom Right:** 495 yard par five 6th hole

**Bottom:** 413 yard par four 10th hole



## Coming Events!

Tues and Wed Dec 10th-11th, Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium, American Club, Kohler

Tuesday January 14th, WTA Turfgrass Research Day, Pyle Center, Madison

Feb 2-7, Golf Industry Show, GCSAA Conference, Orlando FL

Monday March 3rd, WGCSA Spring Business Meeting, Fond du Lac

## BMW Championship At Conway Farms

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

Chad Ball the Certified Golf Course Superintendent at Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake Forest, IL and a 31 year member of WGCSA recently hosted the PGA Tour's best players during the BMW Championship.

Conway Farms Golf Club is set on 209 acres that was purchased by three golf minded families in 1956. However work did not begin on the Tom Fazio designed course until 1989. The course was built by the Wadsworth Company and opened for play in August of 1991.

The links course has hosted many local and national amateur championships over it's history but this is the first major professional event. The course has been tweaked and tightened up over the past two years with input from the PGA and Western Golf Association.

The goal was to provide a layout that is challenging for the tour players but playable for the members who belong to the course. Conway Farms has a unique membership with 169 of 255 regular members carrying a single digit handicap.



**Top Right: The 18th Hole, Par 5, 570 Yards**

**Top Left: Tiger Woods hits his approach shot into the 10th green during the pro am.**

**Bottom Left: Wisconsin native Steve Stricker on the Par 3 11th hole.**

**Bottom Right: The crew puts the finishing touches on the 13th green complex.**



# MISCELLANY



**Top Left:** The bunker crew puts the finishing touches on the 196 yard Par 3 2nd hole

**Middle Left:** Host Superintendent Chad Ball makes room for spectators on the 10th.

**Bottom Left:** Mark Petitgoue, Superintendent at Thunderhawk Golf Club mows the 17th approach.

**Right Side:** The Par 4 15th. On the bottom WGCSA member Paul Bastron helps measure greens firmness

# MISCELLANY

Among those accomplished players is PGA Professional Luke Donald who served as a information source as the course prepared to host the worlds best players. Conway Farms offers a excellent practice facility for members to hone their skills.

Conway Farms is a walking only facility and offers 5 sets of tees for member play with yardages from 7,216 to 5,275 and par 71 rating/slope of 75.8/149 to 71.7/132.

Ball came to Conway farms in 1994 after serving at North Hills Country Club in Menomonee Falls and Meadowbrook Country Club in Racine. Conway Farms Golf Club has a maintenance staff of 20 employees and used 30 volunteers to help with the BMW Championship.

Key staff members include Assistant Superintendent Connor Healy, Assistant Superintendent Adam Wiles, Assistant Superintendent Javier Mata and Equipment Manager Brian Brown.

The course was very well received by the professionals who started play with temperatures in the 90's and ended up with cool and wet to finish the event. Congratulations to the staff and volunteers for providing a great golf course.



**Top Right & Middle Right: The 8th hole from the green back and fairway forward plays 600 yards.**

**Lower Right: The Par 3 17th hole plays 207 yards and offers various tee distances and angles.**

**Left: Rolling, Cup changing and green speed measuring on the 17th green.**



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## Passings

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

The passing of colleagues and friends awakens all of us to remember our relationships and encounters with the deceased. The past few weeks are no exception as the turf industry has lost some important icons.

**Dan Barrett**, Golf Course Superintendent at The Legends at Bergamont in Oregon passed away on October 17th. Only 52 years old Dan was well known as past president of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association and the northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Association. He is also a longtime member of WGCSA.

Dan has been at the Oregon course since construction in 2003. He had also been the superintendent at Trout Lake Golf and Country Club in Arbor Vitae and an assistant golf course superintendent at Nokoma Golf Club in Madison.

A 1980 Monroe High School Graduate Dan graduated from the University of Wisconsin Madison with a degree in Turf and Soil Science in 1986. Barrett is survived by his wife Sherri and lived in Monticello.



Dan and Sherry Barrett as hosts of the 2001 Couples Weekend.

**Charlie Wilson** passed away on Sept. 23 at the age of 93. Wilson's long career was highlighted in the January February 2013 issue of The Grass Roots after he was awarded the WGCSA Distinguished Service Award.

Wilson was a pioneer in golf turfgrass and was the founding agronomist of the USGA Green Section's Turf Advisory Service and the creator of the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium in 1966.

The 1982 USGA Green Section Award recipient, would serve as the USGA's Western Director of the Turfgrass Advisory Service until 1955, when he began a 25-year career at the Milwaukee (Wis.) Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), where he would serve as the organization's head agronomist, sales manager and director during his tenure.

Charlie was part of a group that created the O.J. Noer Foundation, an organization dedicated to providing financial support for turfgrass research serving as Foundations research director.

After his retirement, Wilson invented Aquashade, a non-toxic treatment that controls the growth of weeds in water hazards and farm ponds. It is still used extensively today.

Charlie is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Marion, and his children, Ken (Annie), Gail (Mark), Jennifer (James) Spooner.



Charlie Wilson at the 2012 Symposium

**Dr. James Watson**, died on Oct. 1 at the age of 92 spent 46 years working for Toro Company where he served as Director of Agronomy and Vice President.

Watson was the first person to receive a Ph.D. in turfgrass management, was the 1976 recipient of the Green Section Award, The 1983 Distinguished Service Award Winner from the GCSAA and the 1995 Old Tom Morris Award from the GCSAA.

Dr. Watson served in the United States Air Force during World War II and was honored with the Air Medal with Clusters, Purple Heart and Silver Star.

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# EDITORS NOTEBOOK

Watson is survived by his wife of 70 years Audrey and by his two children, Rick (Mary Ellen) Watson and Betsy (Jerry) Galles and 5 grandchildren.

**Dr. Joe Duich**, died October 11 at the age of 85. Duich pursued his education and spent his career at The Pennsylvania State University where he was Professor of Turfgrass Science.

He taught turf courses enrolling over 5,700 students and guided 9 Ph.D. and 11 M.S. degree students. He elevated the Two-Year Technical Program in Golf Turf management to international acclaim with over 1,000 graduates.



**Dr. Joe Duich addresses the 1990 Symposium.**

Among Dr. Duich's major contributions are his variety turfgrass releases. Pennfine ryegrass, with over 70 million pounds of commercial production to date, was the first early maturing variety developed. Penncross, which developed with Dr. Burt Musser; Penneagle, Pennlinks, Penn A, Penn G and Seaside 2 bentgrasses dominate the market and are used on golf courses worldwide.

Royalties from these turfgrass varieties have generated over 3 million dollars and have been returned in their entirety to the Agronomy Department to support numerous department programs. An endowment exceeding 1 million dollars has been established from these monies to perpetuate future turf research.

Dr. Duich was honored with the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award in 1976, USGA Green Section Award in 1981, and The Old Tom Morris Award from the GCSAA in 2006.

Joe is survived by his wife of 60 years Patricia two children, Katherine Brennan

and her husband, Jim, of Pleasanton, CA and Michael Duich and his wife, Leslie, of Carlsbad, CA and five granddaughters

\*\*\*\*\*

I have the weather maps showing the weather and moisture trends but to save space and to sum up September and October it was a little dry and a little wet and it was very warm and then it was very cold as warm October afternoons suddenly turned cold and windy.

By the time you read this hopefully it will be seasonal again so courses receive a few late season income from carts and green fees.

\*\*\*\*\*

December 1, 2013 is the deadline for employers to train workers on changes to the Hazard Communication Standard. I know your eyes want to gloss over this section but it is important and it is real despite most vendors and managers knowing little about it.

Our friends at OSHA have revised the Hazard Communication Standards to align with the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals. The sheets formerly known as Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) have been renamed as Safety Data Sheets (SDS).

The second change will be to product labels as they will have universal "elements". There will be more to come as OSHA phases in requirements over 2013-2016.

By December 1 employers must train workers on the new label elements and SDS formats. There are bilingual training aids available at OSHA.gov.

Training must be in a manner and lan-

guage that employees can understand.

\*\*\*\*\*

GCSAA offers quarterly Government Relations Briefings either live or "on demand" on their website to help us keep informed on these and other changes from Washington. The most recent version covered updates on methyl bromides coming possible label changes and how the government shutdown impacted golf.

The webcast feature on GCSAA.org provide valuable educational sessions on a variety of subjects members can view at their leisure if they missed the live showing.

Dr. Doug Soldat recently taught a session titled Managing Soil to Maximize Plant Health.

\*\*\*\*\*

Registration for the Golf Industry Show and the GCSAA Educational Conference opens Nov. 5. The show will be held Feb. 1-6 in Orlando.

The schedule is tightened up with the golf championships held Feb. 1-3 and education held Feb. 3-6. The shorter schedule will allow attendees to travel home anytime on Friday without missing valuable education.

\*\*\*\*\*

Good luck to you and your golf courses as we enter late fall. The shorter days allow more time away from the course but we still have the important tasks of shutting down our properties and putting the turf to bed.

Hopefully the season treated you well after the late spring slowed growth and golf rounds.

I look forward to seeing you soon at the Wisconsin Turf Symposium Dec. 10 and 11 at the American Club. It will offer can't miss education!



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After the picture to the left appeared in the July / August issue of *The Grass Roots*, Gene Haas submitted this caricature of our top players. Thank you Gene for sharing your talents.

## 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.
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