

## 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



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 Botsenck, 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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