

Summer Has Gone Again

By David Brandenburg, Editor, The Grass Roots

Some summers go fast and others go really fast. This one I would say went really really fast. This is probably tied into the spring we never had followed by a wet and cool beginning to summer. The weather maps on page 40 show most of us were cooler and wetter for the past 30 days.

Beyond that summer provided some great grass growing conditions along with dollar spot growing conditions. We achieved good disease control where we treated but in our rough and especially the "first cut" of rough we have dollar spot on our dollar spot. Temperatures and dew points were just perfect to start leaf wetness at dusk and extend it late into the morning allowing the pathogen to thrive.



Tom Schaller, Retired Superintendent of Northbrook Count Club in June, 2003 as host of a WGC-SA meeting. (The Grass Roots File Photo)

Sadly we have to pass along longtime WGC-SA member Tom Schaller passed away at the age of 76 on June 13th. Tom was the Golf Course Superintendent of Northbrook Country Club for 37 years retiring in 2007.

Tom got his start in the golf business working with his dad Hans and brother Fritz at Shorewood Country Club. Readers can look up Tom's history in Volume XXX Issue 3, May/June 2001 of *The Grass Roots* at the Turfgrass Information File.

When Hans and Fritz built Northbrook Country Club in Luxemburg in 1969 Tom stayed on as Golf Course Superintendent until his retirement.

Tom's nephew (Fritz son) Scott Schaller is the current superintendent at North Shore Country Club in Menasha.

GCSAA Recently awarded 5 Joseph S. Garske Collegiate

Grants including a \$1,500 grant to Jacob Schaller, son of Scott and Joan Schaller. Jacob will attend UW Madison and major in business.

The grant was established in honor of Garske the founder of Par Aide company and is funded by Par Aide and administered by the Environmental Institute For Golf, the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA.

The program assists children of GCSAA members to fund their educations. The grants are based on community service, leadership, academic performance and a written essay. Congratulations Jacob!

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Congratulations as well to Gary Tanko, Golf Course Superintendent at Sentry World Golf Club for renewing his Certification with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Club and Resort Business recently featured a story reminiscent of the movie *Caddyshack*. At Fenway Golf Club in Scarsdale, NY a caddy was arrested for assault after he attacked the caddy master over money lost in a soda machine.

In the movie caddy Tony D'Annunzio asks fellow caddy Danny Noonan for a coke when Danny was filling in for Lou the Caddy Master. When Tony realized the price of coke went up to 50 cents he said "Well I ain't paying no 50 cents for no coke." and Danny replied "Oh then you ain't getting no coke. Know what I'm talking about?"

The next scene the two boys are outside fighting. Fortunately in the real life story the caddy master will be okay and only suffered a split lip. The entire story of adults fighting over a soda seems crazy to me.

The Country Club of Beloit was recently purchased by Hendricks Commercial Properties. The club opened in 1909 as a 9 hole layout designed by Tom Bendelow. The second 9 followed in 1927 and was designed by Chicago architect Stanley Pelchar.

Hendricks Commercial Properties is owned by Diane Hendricks also owner of ABC Supply. After the sale is finalized work to be done includes a new clubhouse and pool as well as upgrades to the golf course itself. This should be good news for Superintendent Don Ferger and his staff as funds have been tight for a number of years.

More than once I have said I should write a book about my experiences in the golf industry and the people I have met. The downer is most readers would not believe some of the things I have seen over the years. Well instead of writing a book maybe I can write an episode for the new country club soap opera *Members Only ABC* is working on. The show will feature story lines on the staff and the "elite members" of the club.

Originally called *The Club* the show is said to star Natalie Zea, Luke Mitchell and Michael Landes and has been given a 13 episode pickup for the coming television season.

The show will center on the powerful and wealthy Holbrooke family.

Some golf purists are not so sure about recent editions to the industry to draw in younger players.

The golf board single rider board was named the best new product at the 2014 PGA Show and is ready to hit the market. Players can carry their bag on their back or strap it on to the carrier. With 4 wheel drive the board can cruise the course at 11 miles per hour.



Retired Wisconsin State Golf Association Executive Director Gene Haas contributed the drawing above highlighting Bruce Worzella's coming retirement. (Gene can be reached at ehaas4@wi.rr.com)



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Coming Events!

Monday September 15th, Wee One Fundraiser, Pine Hills CC, Sheboygan

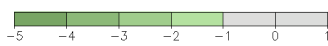
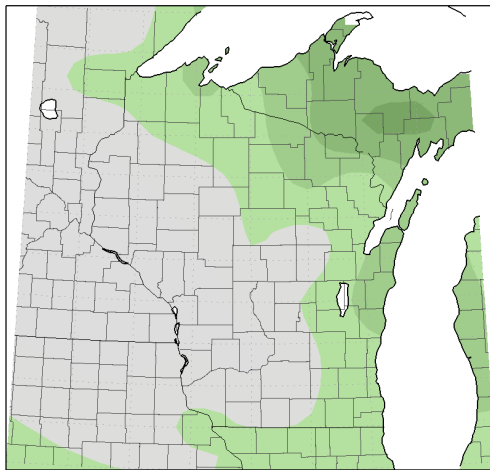
Tuesday October 7th, WTA Fundraiser, University Ridge GC, Verona

Saturday October 4th, Couples Outing/Party, Wild Rock GC, WI Dells

Wed and Thur Dec 3rd-4th , Turfgrass Symposium, American Club, Kohler (CHANGED DATE)

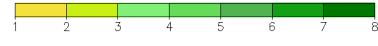
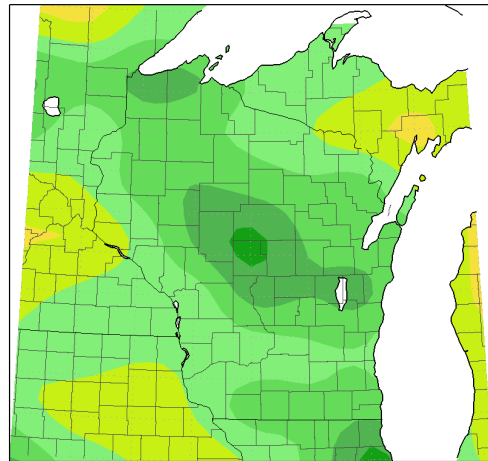
February 21-26, 2015, Golf Industry Show, San Antonio, TX

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from Mean
July 28, 2014 to August 26, 2014



Wisconsin State Climatology Office www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco
University of Wisconsin-Madison stclim@aos.wisc.edu

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
July 28, 2014 to August 26, 2014



Wisconsin State Climatology Office www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco
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**Rolling Meadows PGA
Professional Jeremiah
Hoffmann get ready to
ride.**

We had a chance to test drive one at Rolling Meadows and I must say it fun and safe but once the novelty wears off will it bring more players to the course?

The other phenomenon receiving a lot of press and attention is Foot Golf. Where a soccer ball and foot replaces a golf ball and club. Played with a 21" cup and a No. 5 size soccer ball the game may be a way to bring new players to golf courses and fill in slow times on the tee sheet.

In many cases a 18 hole foot golf course can fit on a 9 hole golf course and the greens are not used.

Organized by the American Foot Golf League more than 130 courses have participated and more are on the way.

The idea is for foot golfers to intermix tee times with regular golfers or to offer foot golf only times and tournaments. To date some tournaments have attracted 100s of players.

Bringing paying customers to courses struggling to make ends meet could reduce the stress

a lot of operators have been feeling.

Although soccer balls are used most players walk from shot to shot and many take power carts.

I am sure many golfers will play foot golf and this should increase revenue and the clubs that invest in the game but I have my doubts we can convert a foot golfer into a regular golfer.

Most of you will receive this July August issue a bit into September. I apologize for that and sometimes life and my real job get in the way of *The Grass Roots*. Many thanks to our writers who make this and must read and one of the best turf publications in the country.

The Wee One, WTA Fund-raiser and Golf Turf Symposium are fast approaching. Be sure to take these opportunities to support the industry and build camaraderie with others in the business.

Be sure to take time to enjoy the fall season and colors. 