

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Attributes Are Found Home And Away

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

The Winter of 2013-2014 has been a cold one. I realize that winter in Wisconsin is not supposed to be swimsuit weather, but the polar vortex that we have been in this year has put a damper on many of the outdoor activities that make our off season a time that some of us look forward to. I always enjoy spending some time on the slopes with my family and friends, taking advantage of the natural beauty our area has to offer. Our State has so many beautiful attributes that I am not sure I appreciate enough on a daily basis.


With the GIS show being in Orlando this year, I decided it would be a great opportunity to take my family to Florida, get out of the cold, and see another part of our country. With the ice and cold weather issues in Atlanta, as well as other parts of the country, just getting there for us was a bit of challenge, but the warmth when we got off the plane, a day late, was almost shocking. The temperature at our departure in Green Bay was - 12 with a 97 degree swing to 85 when we landed in Tampa Bay, a welcome change in early February. We were able to see some of the wonderful sites that our country has to showcase that we do not experience on a daily basis in Wisconsin. I think even

more importantly, this time away from home allowed us discuss what attributes Wisconsin offers us every day that we just take for granted. My 12 and 9 year old boys were so excited to see their first palm tree, which I am certain go unnoticed by people that live in that region, but it started a very interesting discussion topic. What does Wisconsin have to showcase that we take for granted and fail to realize how special the state is?

Florida did have the warmth, palm trees, and even alligators, but imagine bringing someone from that region to our beautiful state for the first time. Wisconsin offers varied terrain from the rolling hills and kettles to the flats of the central area. We have the shoreline of Lake Michigan, not to mention many small inland lakes, rivers, and streams. We have incredible State and National Forests that are filled with wildlife and a variety of trees and plants. We have an incredible change of season, which I realized I take for granted, and is something not everyone gets to experience.

The WGCSA is an ever evolving entity that I also feel I sometimes take for granted. I had the opportunity to say hello and greet many of you at the GIS Hospitality

Room this year, but really wished I had a bit more time for conversation. Our association hosted nearly 200 of our WGCSA members and guests this year in Orlando. The camaraderie among our association at that special event was second to none, and something I wish we could have more of when we are at home in Wisconsin. I need to thank, and urge all of you to as well, our loyal Industry Partners that realize the value of this association and events like the GIS Show Hospitality Room. Without them, we would not have nearly as many opportunities to network with others in the golf industry. I also want to send a personal thank you to Executive Director Brett Grams for his efforts setting up the event again this year. I greatly appreciate the time and attention that went into making sure our association had a successful and enjoyable time away home.

I look forward to seeing and talking to each of you at a WGCSA gathering this year. We again have a great lineup of host golf courses and speakers, and I will do my best not to take those offerings granted. I hope all of you have a great spring, and thank you for your support of the WGCSA. 

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.