

## Award Time

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

What a blur that summer was! In many ways it still feels like July is yet to come. Perhaps the long cool spring has my body clock a few weeks behind similar to the trees and other plants that seem to be hanging on to their leaves longer than normal.

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Congratulations to Kurt Van Auken, Taylor Archibald and Jake Schaller for receiving a GCSAA Legacy Awards. The Legacy Awards provide \$1,500 scholarships to the children and grandchildren of GCSAA members.

**Taylor Archibald**, majoring in biology at Michigan Technological University. Taylors father Steve is the superintendent at Thornberry Creek Country Club in Green Bay.

**Jake Schaller**, son of Scott Schaller is majoring in business at UW-Madison. Scott is the superintendent at North Shore Golf Club in Menasha.

**Kurt Van Auken** is the son of WGCSA member David Van Auken superintendent at Antigo Bass Lake Country Club.

The younger Van Auken is a student at Western Technical College in La Crosse

where he is studying to be a physical therapist. Kurt has a degree in exercise and sports science from UW-La Crosse.

GCSAA has been supportive of the family as David was sent to the Golf Industry Show through the Melrose Leadership Academy in February.

Congratulations to the three students and their proud parents!

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In August I was able to participate in Turf Science Live a program hosted by Turfco, Smithco, Jacobsen and Syngenta at the Merit Club in Libertyville, IL.

The program featured 8 stations put on by the vendors on new research or products to help us provide a better playing surface for our customers.

Sessions included –

- \* Spray nozzle technologies under different pressures to increase quality of coverage.
- \* Sprayers with individual nozzle control and GPS technology to ensure full coverage and avoid overlaps to save product costs.
- \* New seeder, blower and topdressor technology.



**Chris Fox, Product Manager for Jacobsen discusses frequency of clip and mowing quality while Dr. Karl Danneberger waits to present his research on brushing to increase putting green quality without negative health effects.**



**The par 4 9th hole at the Merit Club plays 412 yards**

- \* Greensmower mounted brushes to increase putting quality without negative health effects.
- \* Using frequency of clip settings to better manage putting quality.

The day was hot and humid with rain forecasted leading to a few no shows from attendees but overall the program was educational and hands on. If you have the chance next year I encourage you to participate.

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# EDITORS NOTEBOOK

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Congratulations to Reinders Mark Robel and the Reinders Company for receiving awards from Toro. Congratulations for a job well done!

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Mark Robel with Reinders recently received the Green Blazer Award from Toro for his continued growth in sales. Presenting the Award to Mark is Boyd Montgomery, Toro District Sales Manager (left) and Jim Heinze, Toro Director-Commercial Sales (right)



Mary and Craig Reinders were on hand to receive the Best In Parts Award from Toro. The award is based on customer satisfaction and sales goals. Presenting the award to Mary and Craig are Rick Olsen, Toro Group Vice President-International and Blake Grams, Toro Vice President-Global Operations


As the season winds down I take time to look back on the year and see the successes and failures in my management of the facility for the year. I have pages of notes and ideas to research and implement for next season.

Nothing major for us but little things to reduce or move labor hours or perhaps increase inputs to provide better customer service for our varied clients. Be sure to take time while the season is fresh in your mind to review your season. It can be a challenge to take the blinders off and give your operation and course a honest review.

The status quo is easy and change is hard but smart change can make the difference between success and failure in this customer driven business.

For course managers separating legitimate improvements for the core customer base from the requests of the vocal minority is difficult especially when restrained by budgets and equipment limitations. Often consistency in the product is more important than the fastest greens, deepest rough and longest holes.

Good luck to you and your staff as you wind down the 2014 golf season. 



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