

The GRASS ROOTS

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CLESEN PROTURF SOLUTIONS

Steve Wasser
(920) 225-9658
swasser@clesenproturf.com

Matt Kinnard
(262) 720-0251
matt@clesenproturf.com

Rob Wasser
(262) 221-5524
rwasser@clesenproturf.com

clesenproturf.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Sea Monkeys and X-Ray Glasses.....Privacy Please! 4

CHAPTER MANAGERS REPORT

Spring Notes 6

TURFGRASS DIAGNOSTIC LAB

"What's On Your Mind?" 8

WISCONSIN SOILS REPORT

Are You In Compliance With NR-151? 10

MADTOWN MUSINGS

Talking Politics 12

WGCSA

Super Pro at Hidden Glen at Bentdale Farms 14

WISCONSIN PATHOLOGY REPORT

Money Matters: Which Cultural Disease Managment Strategies Make The Most Financial Sense? 18

NOTES FROM THE NOER

Something For Everyone at Summer Field Day 22

WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGY REPORT

Billbugs: Out Of Sight, Out Of Mind 26

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Ben Labarre 28

WGCSA

May Meeting at Blackwolf Run was lots of fun! 30

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Spring 2016 News 36

ADVERTISER INDEX

..... 10

EVENT SCHEDULE 7

ABOUT THE COVER

The 9th Hole at Hidden Glen at Bentdale Farms our host course for the 2016 Super Pro.

Baseball reveals character, Golf exposes it.

By American Baseball Player Ernest Banks, 1931-2015

This quote by Hall of Famer Banks can remind us to reflect on what golf shows about us. Is our exposed character at work or playing the game something we can be proud of?

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THE GRASS ROOTS

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EDITOR

David A Brandenburg, CGCS
Rolling Meadows Golf Course
PO 314 Theresa, WI 53091
grassroots@wgcsa.com



2016 WGCSA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Front Row: Jim Van Herwynen, Jon Canavan, Josh Lepine, Kevin Knudtson. Back Row: Joe Sell, Scott Bushman, Phil Spitz, Scott Anthes, Mike Bremmer, Jeff Barlow, Chad Harrington

PRESIDENT

Jim Van Herwynen, CGCS
South Hills Golf & CC
1175 Fond du Lac Ave.
Fond du Lac, WI 54935
jimv@southhillsfdl.com

DIRECTORS

Scott Bushman
Fox Valley GC
PO Box 38
Kaukauna, WI 54130
scott@foxvalleygolfclub.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Jon Canavan
Milwaukee County Parks
9480 Watertown Plank Rd
Wauwatosa, WI 53226
jon.canavan@milwcnty.com

Mike Bremmer
Wisconsin Club
5835 N Shoreland Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
mikebremmer@icloud.com

TREASURER

Josh Lepine, CGCS
Maple Bluff CC
500 Kensington Drive
Madison, WI 53704
joshl@mbcc1899.com

Jeff Barlow CGCS
Waupaca CC
1330 Ware St.
Waupaca, WI 54981
jj12barlow@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Kevin Knudtson
Geneva National GC
1221 Geneva National Ave South
Lake Geneva, WI 53147
kknudtson@gnresort.com

Scott Anthes
Brown County GC
897 Riverdale Dr
Oneida, WI 54155
anthes_sp@co.brown.wi.us

VENDOR LIAISON

Phil Spitz
Syngenta
2520 Burnwood Dr.
Oshkosh, WI 54902
phillip.spitz@syngenta.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Chad Harrington
Autumn Ridge GC
9530 Spring Lake Road
Valders, WI 54245
chadharrington51@gmail.com

Class C Representative

Joe Sell
North Shore Golf Club
1276 Meadowbrook Dr #1
Cleveland, WI, 53015
Email: jws227@gmail.com

CHAPTER MANAGER

Brett Grams
N9122 Virginia Dr.
Waupaca, WI 54981
bgrams@wgcsa.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sea Monkeys and X-Ray Glasses.....Privacy Please!

By **Jim Van Herynen**, Certified Golf Course Superintendent, South Hills Golf and Country Club

Before I begin if you do not know what Sea Monkeys are please stop here and google them now. When I was boy growing up in the 1970's like many of you imaginations were prolific. We had no cell phones, the internet and microwaves were not invented yet, local channels on TV was the only option and everyone knew exactly what time everything was on because there were not many choices. To have a family camera was the norm but one had to be careful because you did not want to waste a picture because it was expensive to develop pictures.

News was very local or you heard of the big topics worldwide only due to limited air time. It was not uncommon to not hear news from other countries, states or even neighboring cities for the simple fact it was not efficient to report on everything and distribute this information to the masses. Today that is obviously changed dramatically because we hear about everything everywhere.

With that said, getting back to the beginning, imagination was everything as you figured out how to make fun with your friends with the most basic items found in your parents' garage or perusing the neighborhood on your bicycle. When you weren't playing with basic toys you would periodically entertain yourself with comic books and an occasional piece of bubble gum both of which would have advertisements for all kinds of little trinkets to talk your parents into ordering.

I remember imagining what it would be like to have an aquarium of Sea Monkeys and staring at them for hours or getting a pair of those X-Ray glasses and looking at everyone incognito being surprised and then realizing...this is probably not right.

Today I feel imagination is slowly becoming a thing of the past as we have much more than we ever have had and everyone has a cell phone that can take multiple pictures with editing options that can be shared with anyone and many times more eyes looking at them than one might think. Privacy is also be-

coming a thing of the past.

There are cameras everywhere in the workplace on street corners and even in vehicles used for commerce. I have heard of many getting tickets in the mail for not coming to complete stops especially out of state neighborhoods. Truck drivers, train engineers, police officers and many others have cameras capturing their every move. There are apps for your phone, to locate through GPS, your family and "friends" at any given time and even chips you can install in your children similar to what some have done with their pets so you can monitor them as well!! Scary.



With social media and the fact that I am guessing every crew member has a cell phone with amazing cameras one can take pictures in an instant that can be shared with the world.

One recent Saturday afternoon I was in a grocery store and a member saw me and asked, "When did that tree come down on hole #10?" I was embarrassed

to admit I knew nothing about it, as I was in that area hours before, and asked what tree was it? He said he saw it on Facebook and then showed me the picture that was shared with the world.

It stopped me in my tracks and I thought from this point forward there has to be a mode of communicating this information through the proper channels first so I don't get blindsided again. When talking with our crew and other crews in other departments we now have to tackle this issue and let them know that they need permission to post anything on social media first and be careful what pictures (if any) and what comments one might make on social media. We have all been warned not to visit sights that diagnose medical ailments and suggest remedies and likewise educate your crew and golfers, as they can look up anything they may have an issue with, and they should come to you first because everyone's situation is different.

For the record I never did get any Sea Monkeys but maybe one day I will pull the trigger to satisfy my curiosity and imagination and for the X-Ray glasses I am glad I never purchased them because if they did work others might have purchased them too and then they could look at me as well – again scary! As our society evolves take the time to educate those around you regarding information that may be private and need to be expressed by you first. Increasingly we live in a time when the only thing an individual has that is private is your thoughts. ✓



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CHAPTER MANAGER'S REPORT

Spring Notes

By Brett Grams, Chapter Manager, WGCSA

Spring Greetings! I hope that all members are off to a good start of the golf season. Almost all reports from members I talk to say that the courses thrived over the winter and have weathered the highly varied weather of spring. Mother Nature has once again provided us with plenty of cool, warm, wet, and windy days that have been challenging at times to get courses open and playable on a consistent basis.


I am happy to report that the 2016 Member Handbook has been completed and is being proofed and printed in the coming days. When your copy arrives please keep it handy and use as a reference for contacts and WGCSA information. The same information can also be accessed via the WGCSA website but sometimes it is easier to have a hardcopy to refer to. Please note that the Handbook as well as every issue of the Grass Roots is 100% funded by the generous advertisers. Please consider these companies when making purchasing decisions. Let your vendors know you appreciate the dedication to our industry!

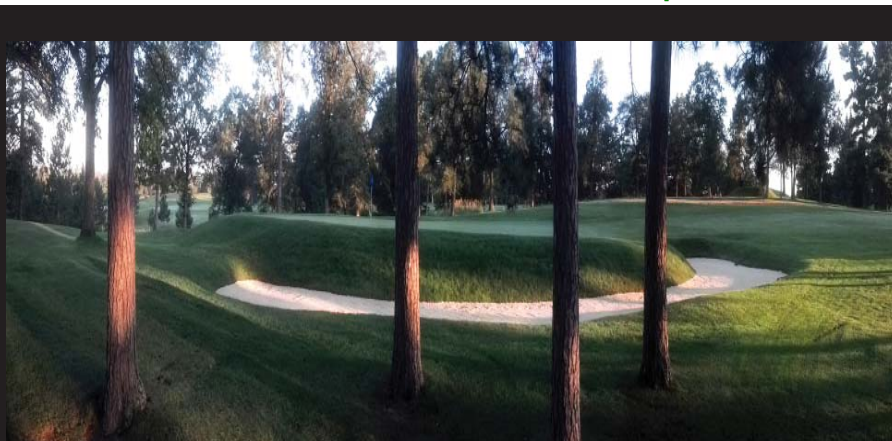
I also want to acknowledge Mr. Michael Bremmer of the WI Club who represented the WGCSA Board and Membership at the recent National Golf Day in Washington DC. As all members must remain focused on our own operations and job responsibilities we owe Mr. Bremmer thanks for making the time to travel to Washington and help educate and promote our game and our industry. This is very important

as those people who do not understand or like our industry will continue to champion a very different agenda. Politics and Washington DC seem so far removed from our courses but in fact the work being done behind the scenes is some of the most important efforts GCSAA and affiliated chapters are working on at this time.

In closing, I want to encourage all members to attend one of the remaining events that we have planned for 2016! Come network with your peers, come see and play some of your fellow members operations and courses. Take advantage of the affordable education offered at our meet-

ings and the WTA Summer Field day! Save the date of November 5th where you can take your significant other to downtown Milwaukee for a wonderful dinner and a night or two on the town at the Wisconsin Club – City Club. Lastly, make sure you save Nov 30th and December 1st to return to Kohler and the American Club for our 51st Turfgrass Symposium. Your presence at these events is important and we would all enjoy seeing you and your guests.

Thanks for being a member, please contact me if I can be of assistance to you or your company! 



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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.

Event Schedule!

June 13th, Monday - June Meeting - Janesville CC, Janesville

July 26th, Tuesday - WTA - Summer Field Day - OJ Noer Research Facility, Verona

August 15th, Monday - Joint meeting w/NGL - Thornberry Creek GC, Oneida

September 19th, Monday - Wee One Fundraiser - Pine Hills CC, Sheboygan

October 3rd, Monday - WTA Golf Fundraiser - Butte des Morts CC, Appleton

November 5th, Saturday - Couples Dinner - Wisconsin Club - City Club, Milwaukee

November 30 - December 1 - Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium - American Club, Kohler

February 4-9, 2017 - Golf Industry Show, Orlando, FL

March 1, 2017, Wednesday - NGLGCSA Spring Education Conference, (Location TBD)

March 15 & 16 - Reinders Green Industry Conference, Waukesha

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“What’s On Your Mind?”

By Bruce Schweiger, Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab Manager, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility

For my entire adult life I have working in the crazy Turfgrass Industry where seasons change and our accomplishments are driven by the weather. We joke amongst ourselves that golfers are never happy but what about us turfies. But what are turfies really thinking about this spring.

In spring I complain that the frost is keeping the greens off color. Weeks later I am unhappy that things have warmed up and I cannot keep up with mowing the roughs. Then some kind soul tells me they don’t care about the rough their green speed is dropping because of the growth on the greens. Let’s not forget I need to get the crabgrass material out. As the temperatures continue rise I track the DDG Tracker for timing poa seed head suppression application. Then all at once the dandelions start to appear and I need to make an herbicide application, but how can I do that when the wind is blowing a million miles an hour everyday.

Ok I have all this under control then those guys at the UW Plant Pathology keep talking about Root Pathogens and again timing those applications. When do I need to make those? Which root pathogen was my issue last year or the year before? I have Necrotic Ring Spot in the clubhouse lawn, Take-all-patch in the renovated fairways and Summer Patch in those old poa/bent fairways so do I spray them all and with what product?

I go to the tdl.wisc.edu website and there is this link to Resources and then

they said click on Disease Key. Ok say so when do I treat?

The Necrotic Ring Spot is an issue I see in the summer but they tell me the infection is earlier in the year when the soils are between 50-65 degrees and we have ample moisture. I make two applications 24 days apart with an acropetal systemic fungicide, but the caution is that I need to make sure I immediately water the product down into the root zone. Ok one down.

We joke amongst ourselves that golfers are never happy but what about us turfies. But what are turfies really thinking about this spring.

The Take-all-patch in my fairways can get ugly so when do I treat that? That Koch guy just tweeted out that he is making his Take-all-patch research application when the 2-inch soil temperature averages around 50-55 degrees. He also said to make two applications 24 days apart and water it in well. It looks like I could make this application with many of the same products as Necrotic Ring Spot, which can save me time.

Summer patch must be next. This disease infects when soil temperatures are slightly warmer, they say 55-65 degrees. I could make my first Summer patch application with the last Take-all-patch applications. I then follow-up with another application 21-24 days later. Those

guys at the UW keep repeating themselves about water in well to make sure we get the product down to the roots and crowns were it is needed.

Ok that’s done now I can get back to my dollar spot control program, I should be set for the summer.

Oh no what was it that the TDL was harping on last fall, something about Dr. Koch and the TDL guy said they predicted this disease? Oh yeah they were really proud of themselves because they had written in their TDL Bi-weekly update in June about the real danger of Basal Anthracnose. I think they even said it was one of the most diagnosed diseases of 2015. They said it infects the crown of the plant and blocks the movement of water and the plant die in the heat of the summer. I also remember them saying that once the infection happens you can moderate the damage but it can continue to re-occur if the plants are under stress. Under stress, I mow at stupid short, keep the turf as dry as possible (almost dead), topdress and drag sand around often and spoon feed as I see fit, now that’s stress. What do I do? I think they said it can be an issue in poorly drained areas on green and fairways, so I can aerify and topdress those areas. Infection can happen early in the summer so a good rotation of acropetal systemic fungicides to keep this disease in check.


Late winter I really miss the smell of perfectly mowed grass, embarking on projects, making the playability of my course as good as I can and the camaraderie of my fellow turfies. Then spring comes and I go through the scenario above with many more decision to be made. It is a wonder why in a month or two I will feel worn out and by Mid July I long to hear, “I can’t wait for snow.” or “It is 65 day to the first frost.” This job and this industry if very demanding and most of the time every one of us just make it happen and don’t even give it second thought.



**Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab
O. J. Noer Turfgrass Research
& Education Facility
2502 Highway M,
Verona, WI 53593-9537
www.tdl.wisc.edu
E-mail: bschweiger@wisc.edu
Phone: 608-845-2535
Fax: 845-8162**

TURFGRASS DIAGNOSTIC LAB

This golf business has gotten into all our head like no other profession, but rely on your staff. You hired them, you trained them, let them show you what a good job you have done. This summer re-charge your battery; take a long weekend or a day off to take your family somewhere fun. Don't be one of those Turfies that will complain (or brag) I have worked 78 days with out a day off. Ok we might be control freaks and when you return it might not be as perfect as you think you left it, but it will be fine. Experience tells me that your worst critic on your property is YOU. I can't begin to count how many times I have been touring a golf course and the Superintendent is upset about something, but later when I talk with a golfer, golf pros, the lady at the snack bar, everyone else things the place looks like Augusta National. You see every nook and cranny of your course everyday, no else does so give yourself a break and relax at least two or three days this summer, you will enjoy it and your crew might enjoy it too.

Just an idea but a great break that can be considered work related could be attending the WTA Summer Field Day at the OJ Noer, July 26th! 

CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF YOU CAN ATTEND

2016 PGA Senior Tour - American Family Insurance Championship, June 24-26, University Ridge Golf Club, Madison

2016 Wisconsin State Amateur Championship, July 18-21, North Shore Golf Club, Menasha

2016 Wisconsin State Open, August 15-17, Blackwolf Run, Kohler

2016 Symetra Tour - PHC Classic, August 19-21, Brown Deer Park Golf Course, Milwaukee

2016 Ryder Cup - Hazeltine National, Chaska, MN

2017 U.S. Open Championship - Erin Hills, Erin

2017 Thornberry Creek LPGA Classic - Green Bay

2020 Ryder Cup - Whistling Straits, Sheboygan

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Are You In Compliance With NR-151?

By Dr. Doug Soldat, Department of Soil Science, University of Wisconsin – Madison

It's been over eight years since NR-151 took effect. This WDNR rule was implemented to protect water quality in Wisconsin to meet the criteria of the EPA's Clean Water Act. While NR-151 mainly deals with agricultural production (by far the largest contributor of non-point source phosphorus to water in the state) it requires that fertilized turfgrass areas greater than five acres have a site specific nutrient management plan based on appropriate soil tests.

While NR-151 itself is silent on the definition of "site-specific" and "appropriate", it formed a committee of regulators, educators, consultants, and practitioners who worked together to establish guidelines that more clearly define what a nutrient management plan should look like.

The UW Turfgrass program hosted several NR-151 training programs back in 2007 and 2008 across Wisconsin.

sin.

Recently, a handful of people have asked if new NR-151 training sessions were in the works. There has been a lot of advances in technology in the last


University of Wisconsin-Extension has a 20-page extension publication that walks you through the process of creating a nutrient management plan, and template document that you can use to get started

eight years, so instead of hosting physical sessions again, I decided to compile some resources and create a few videos to assist in either checking, updating, or creating nutrient management plan that complies with NR-151.

The three videos are about 30 minutes long. One discusses the big picture aspects of NR-151, another shows you

how to collect the maps you'll need to comply, and the last video goes over an example of how to put a nutrient management plan together.

In addition to the videos, University of Wisconsin-Extension has a 20-page extension publication that walks you through the process of creating a nutrient management plan, and template document that you can use to get started, and fact sheets that were designed to convey the main restrictions of nutrient applications.

You can find all this information at the UW-Madison Turfgrass Web Page at www.turf.wisc.edu. I hope to add another video or document on frequently asked questions. However, I actually need your questions before I can decide which ones are frequently asked! Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions when working on you plan. I can be reached at 608-263-3631 or djsoldat@wisc.edu. 

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Talking Politics

By Jake Schneider, LMD Production Manager, The Bruce Company

As I've expressed previously in this column, I'm generally pretty ambivalent about politics and think that both major parties should be dismantled so that cooperative work might be possible. Sure, I'll vote in the major elections, but to this point, I haven't found my personal life to be substantially affected by 'leadership' provided by either Republicans or Democrats. That being said, I've seen and experienced significant legislative decisions that have dramatically altered my work life over the past nine months, and I suspect that most readers fall under the same umbrella.

Last summer, the Wisconsin legislature dramatically altered unemployment compensation guidelines for seasonal staff, and to say that it wasn't very well thought out would be an understatement. Like many trades industries, the vast majority of our Bruce Company staff is employed full-time from roughly April through November, and many of our hourly employees work 50+ hours a week during these warmer months. When winter comes around, most are on call to assist with snow removal as Mother Nature dictates, but as you know, this is sporadic work at best in our climate. Before this past winter, employees could collect unemployment if work was slow, and the only way that they would get docked pay was if they missed available hours. To me, this made sense.

In 2015, the geniuses in the state capitol decided to alter these rules to presumably reduce unemployment payouts despite the fact that seasonal businesses pay a higher unemployment rate. Essentially, after 8-12 weeks of an individual unemployment claim, employees were forced to post their resumes on the state job board and to conduct weekly job searches to continue collecting their checks. Thus, employees in good standing who would most certainly have a full-time job waiting for them in spring were occasionally forced to search for and take different jobs. It was a frustrating process for all involved and getting a straight answer from the governmental folks who were supposed to know was nearly impossible. Let's just say that I hope this legislation can be miraculously reversed prior to next winter, and I know that there are some industry groups working on just this.

For 2016, many of us will also be impacted by the recent Department of Labor decision that salaried employees who make less than \$47,500 per year will be entitled to overtime pay effective December 1. Rumblings about this change started last year, and it was only a matter of time before it became reality. Businesses and individuals will be weighing the pros and cons of upping salaries, paying overtime, or changing the scope and duties of certain individuals. Assistant superintendents are likely to be impacted the most within the golf maintenance world although I would also argue that most first assistants should be making this much given their enhanced responsibilities. Given that this rule was officially handed down four days prior to me writing this article, I can't say that I've formed too many opinions about this change.

On the other hand, I can confirm that the H2B program is absolutely fantastic. For the unfamiliar, H2B is a temporary work visa program for foreign workers. Several years ago, The Bruce Company had upwards of 100 such employees, but due to more stringent regulations and costs, we stopped utilizing this resource. However, as I have complained about regularly, the labor pool stinks, and as the economy has improved, good employees understandably became increasingly attracted to higher paying, year round jobs. As such, we started pursuing H2B last fall and are lucky enough to have had fifteen Mexican nationals (many of whom worked for us in the past) join our ranks this year.

Although I wasn't intimately involved in the process, it was quite long, not cheap (\$1500 per person), and provided no guarantees until the guys actually arrived. But they did, and after a little over one month of having them around, our construction manager and I can't imagine life otherwise. Having a few more employees who actually want to work hard, long hours to improve their lot in life is awfully nice and a novel concept for some.

For the next few months, my hope is that everyone will be too focused on either making America great again (I personally think that it's already pretty great) or preventing Mr. Trump from doing so to come up with any other brilliant laws. If for no other reason than me wanting to building a bridge over the Rio Grande than a wall, you can guess where my vote will be going. 🌱

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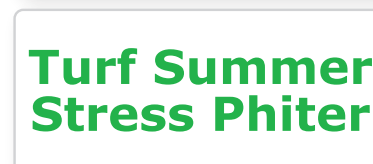
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Super Pro at Hidden Glen at Bentdale Farms

By David Brandenburg, Editor, The Grass Roots

Hidden Glenn at Bentdale Farms in Cedarburg hosted the 2016 “Super Pro” for the WPGA and WGCSA. The 18 Hole Chapman System Net Alternate Shot format joins a WGCSA member with their WPGA counterpart for fun and competition in Division 1. Division 2 is for any non-members or members without a formal handicap.

The weather can be a bit varied for our first event each year and mother nature provided a cool windy day to add to the challenge of the course and rusty swings after the winter.

Hidden Glen was designed by P.B. Dye and opened for play in 2001 on rolling farmland. Dye provided a challenging layout that is fun to play with a variety of memorable holes. The private club has a beautiful clubhouse inside and out and provides a excellent dining facility for the membership.

Our host Professional Kevin Kramp has been at Hidden Glen since 2009 with previous experience at Tuckaway CC and Oakwood Park GC. Kevin enjoys teaching the game and has been on the WPGA Board of Directors since 2007.

Our host Superintendent Garrett Luck has been at Hidden Glen since 2014 and previously worked at North Shore County Club as the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent along with

Wolf Creek Golf Links in Kansas City. His first job in golf was at Kettle Hills Golf Club working under Bob Belfield. More can be read about Garrett in the Member Spotlight on Page 26 of the November/December 2015 *The Grass Roots*.

In Division 1 the team of Skip Simonds and Patrick Sisk from Milwaukee Country Club won with a Net Score of 66.90. Coming in second with 68.35 from Morningstar GC were Michael Crowley and Travis Krauklis and in third were Jason Samuelian and Dominic Frese from Meadowbrook CC.

In the open Division 2 Chad Grim (Blackhawk CC) and Aaron Goninen (Reinders) teamed up to take first place with a 66.90. Dave Busse and Curt Smits from Rock River CC took second place with a 67.90.

With 30 teams it was a good event but with such a fun format, played at Wisconsin's best golf courses hopefully we can grow the numbers a bit. It is a great opportunity to get to know your professional outside of work.

Thanks again to our hosts Garrett and Kevin and the sponsors who make the event possible, Steven Fisher and Darrin DiChristopher from Premier Golf and Utility along with Steven Syrjala and Dustin Schwab from Prestiwick Golf Group.



Left to Right: Steven Fisher, Pat Sisk, Skip Simonds, and Darrin DiChristopher. Steve and Darrin represented the event sponsors Premier Golf and Utility and Pat and Skip are the Division 1 winners from Milwaukee Country Club.



Left: Sponsors Steve Fischer and Darren Di-Christopher from Premier Golf and Utility get ready for a shot to the island green with our Hosts Professional Kevin Kramp and Superintendent Garrett Luck.

Below Left: Our custom flags from Pete Meyer at National Golf Graphics.

Below Right: The 507 yard 14th Hole is set among bunkering and mounding.



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Division 1 Past Champions

- 2016 - Skip Simonds / Patrick Sisk (Milwaukee CC)
- 2015 - John Freeman / Jeff Millies (Edgewood)
- 2014 - John Freeman / Jeff Millies (Edgewood)
- 2013 - Charlie Brown / John Feiner (Johnson Park)
- 2012 - Seth Jamison / Craig Filley (Nakoma)
- 2011 - Eddie Terasa / Randy DuPont (North Hills)
- 2010 - Charlie Brown / John Feiner (Johnson Park)
- 2009 - Tom Dolby / Jay Pritzl (Timber Ridge)
- 2008 - Tom Dolby / Jay Pritzl (Timber Ridge)
- 2007 - Charlie Brown / John Feiner (Johnson Park)
- 2006 - Don DuChateau / Jim Van Herwynen (South Hills)
- 2005 - Charlie Brown / John Feiner (Johnson Park)
- 2004 - Eddie Terasa / Randy DuPont (North Hills)
- 2003 - Fred Hancock / Jeff Barlow (Waupaca)
- 2002 - Charlie Brown / John Feiner (Johnson Park)
- 2001 - John Freeman / Jeff Millies (Edgewood)



Top Left: Ben Larson and Tim Bauman from Green Bay CC along with Brian Bonlender and Greg Walker from West Bend CC.

Middle Left and Right: The 353 yard 15th Hole requires a well placed drive on the elevated landing plateau to allow for a easy second shot to the green below on the left.

Below Left: Ben Steeger and Joel Weitz from Vitense Golf and Country Club paried up with Ed Witkowski and Todd Fregien from Pendelton Turf.



Top Left: Aaron Goninen, Reinders and Chad Grimm, Blackhawk CC with Dan Wubbels and Peter Meyer with National Golf Graphics.

Top Right: WGCSA President Jim VanHerwynen and Luke Scharf represent South Hills G&CC.

Below: The Par 3 4th Hole features a island green, The greenside bunker protecting the 16th and the 8th Green Complex.



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Money Matters: Which Cultural Disease Management Strategies Make The Most Financial Sense?

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

Most maintenance budgets remain fairly tight, and superintendents are always looking to improve the quality of their playing surfaces without busting their budget. As fungicide regulations continue to increase now and in the future, additional implementation of these practices for disease suppression are likely to become more commonplace. But which ones make the most sense from a financial standpoint? It doesn't make much financial sense to implement a practice that will cost \$60,000 per year if it saves only \$20,000 in fungicide costs unless the higher costs are part of a plan to increase course conditioning.

The most common cultural disease management strategies are listed in **Table 1**. Some of them are free, like higher mowing heights. Others cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, like converting the course to disease-resistant bentgrass cultivars. Others have been in place for several years on putting greens and are now making their way onto approaches and fairways, with large implications for their overall costs. So which ones make the most financial sense, and which ones will remain too expensive for the majority of courses to employ?

Mowing heights, topdressing, and rolling

In my humble opinion, the easiest and cheapest way to provide for more disease and stress tolerant putting surfaces is to keep your mowing height as high as possible. The 'highest possible height' will vary between courses based on expectations and the type of mower used. As the energy-producing factory of the plant, however, even minor increases in mowing height and hence leaf area can significantly increase resistance to anthracnose and allow the plant to survive the stressful summer months (**Figure 1**). When coupled with rolling, I have been on numerous surfaces in the past year that have rolled fast and true and were being mowed at 0.130". And the best part about increasing mowing height...it's free!

Speaking of rolling, Dr. Thom Nikolai's research on the many benefits of putting

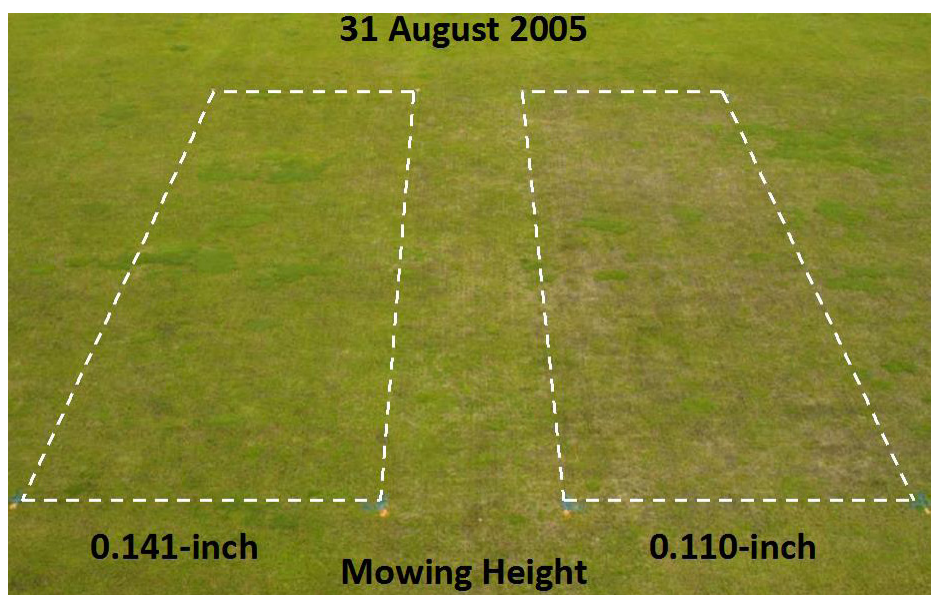


Figure 1: Research from Dr. Bruce Clarke and Rutgers University clearly demonstrates the increase in disease and decrease in turf quality that accompanies lower mowing heights.

green rolling has been one of those rare works that really changes how the industry functions. They have been conducting that same research on fairways in recent years and finding some, but not all, of the same benefits on fairways that they saw on putting greens. Dollar spot does appear to decrease and the firmness of the fairway does appear to increase following repeated fairway rolling, though there is more variability in the results observed on fairways. Dr. Nikolai recommends rolling a couple times each week, perhaps on non-mowing days, with noticeable differences in dollar spot severity and fairway quality becoming apparent within 2 to 3 months. However, the costs of one or more fairway rollers can be significant depending on the machine (**Figure 2 on page 20**), and the labor used to roll fairways can also be a significant impediment to widespread fairway rolling. This practice looks like it won't make financial sense for the majority of Wisconsin golf courses in the near future, though it is a beneficial practice for those facilities that can afford it.

Sand topdressing is another practice that is moving from the putting green to the fairway and is providing many of the same

benefits. Decreases in diseases such as dollar spot and anthracnose are evident, and the improvement in plant health and performance is notable. In fact, the best fairways I have been on in recent years have been regularly topdressed. However this improvement in quality and decrease in disease comes at a cost.



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Table 2 shows a potential example of the annual cost of a fairway topdressing program, and at a minimum of nearly \$15,000 it is a practice that many golf courses will be unable to afford. Though if a sand topdressing program can reduce the number of fungicide applications required to maintain healthy turf, it's possible the cost can become more reasonable to a wider range of courses. More research is needed to document just how much of a reduction in fungicides is feasible following implementation of a fairway topdressing program.

Converting to a disease-resistant bentgrass

Renovating just a portion of the course is a huge and expensive undertaking, but many of the new bentgrass cultivars on the market today show a dramatic increase in resistance to common diseases like dollar spot, brown patch, and even snow mold over older bents like Penncross (**Figure 3**). To help argue in favor of renovation I have heard numerous claims that the savings in fungicide costs alone would pay for the renovation within a few years. Let's look at a brief and very basic example to see if those claims would hold up.

I was able to obtain the actual final costs from a recent renovation of 4 acres of greens and approaches at a Midwestern golf course. From fumigation to sand to seed to fert and chem the entire project totaled \$143,000. According to Dr. Cale Bigelow at Purdue University, some of the new cultivars may require as few as five fungicide applications per year. So let's assume that the former bent/poa greens and approaches used to require ten fungicide applications per year and following renovation they now require five. Let's also assume the superintendent has a very basic spray program of Banner MAXX @ 1.0 fl oz per 1000 ft² tank mixed with Daconil WeatherStik at 3.25 fl oz per 1000 ft² for each application. Finally, let's also assume that spraying the Banner at this rate would cost approximately \$75 per acre and the Daconil would cost \$65 per acre.

So at these rates and prices, it used to cost the superintendent in our example \$5600 to spray his or her greens and approaches (10 applications at \$560 per app). Following renovation to the resis-

tant bentgrass it now costs \$2800, a savings of \$2800 per year. At a savings of \$2800 per year it would take this course 51 years to recoup the costs of the renovation based purely on fungicide savings alone. Obviously, this example is overly simplistic and there are other cost savings

(water, fertilizer, etc) that could help offset this number a little bit. This analysis also doesn't take into account the environmental savings from fewer pesticide applications, or the most obvious factor that the quality of the course will improve tremendously.



Figure 2: Fairway rolling is becoming more popular and offers many of the same benefits as rolling putting greens. However, the cost and labor input can be prohibitive for some. Photo from www.salsco.com.



Figure 3: In research conducted at Wisconsin, some of the newer bentgrass cultivars also have resistance to gray snow mold in addition to dollar spot and other common diseases.

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But for those trying to sell these renovations as paying for themselves in 10 years or less...I'm not buying that. The bottom line is that modern bentgrass cultivars can offer a tremendous improvement in quality and disease resistance...but they also remain a tremendous investment out of reach for the majority of Wisconsin golf courses.

Conclusion

There seems to be more and more cultural disease options popping up every year. Some of them make financial sense, and some of them improve the course quality but cost much more than they provide in fungicide savings. For my money, the simplest, easi-

est, and cheapest cultural practices that nearly every course can implement are below:

- Keep mowing height above 0.125" during the stressful summer periods
- Maintain putting green speeds with frequent rolling
- Fertilize with acidifying nitrogen sources in the amount of 2 to 3 pounds of N per year
- Use a moisture meter to irrigate only where you need to and only when you need to
- Remove or trim trees and shrubs that act as barriers to sunlight and air movement ✓

Table 1: Most common cultural disease management strategies on Wisconsin golf courses.

- Proper mowing height
- Adequate nitrogen fertilization
- Proper irrigation scheduling through use of moisture meters
- Traffic management and soil compaction alleviation
- Regular sand topdressing and rolling
- Maintain soil pH below 6.8
- Use disease-resistant species and cultivars

Item	Amount
Fairway Area	25 Acres
Number of applications per year	5
Amount applied per application	4 ft ³ per 1000 ft ²
Sand required annually ^z	1,089 tons
Cost of fines free dried sand	\$26.95 per ton
Cost of fairway topdressing sand	\$13.50 per ton
Minimum total cost^y	\$14,700 per year

^zThe amount of sand required for topdressing per years was calculated using the Purdue Turf Sand Calculator website (<https://turf.purdue.edu/sandcalc/index.html>).

^yThe cost of sand does NOT include shipping costs, which in some cases costs as much as the sand itself.

Table 2: A hypothetical fairway topdressing plan is outlined below. Please note the figures do not include shipping for the sand which could double the cost depending on locality.



Something for Everyone at Summer Field Day 2016

By Tom Schwab, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The UW turf professors, research staff, and WTA are excited to bring you a very informative Field Day this summer. The date is Tuesday July 26th, and the location is the O.J. Noer Turf Research Facility in Verona. The day will be divided into two educational sessions with the morning being focused more towards lawncare, landscape, sod, and sportsfield, while the afternoon is focused towards golf. Both sessions have information that may be useful even if it's not your specific profession. So come for the whole day, or if your time is limited, you have the option to pick the session that best meets your needs.

Both basic and cutting-edge subjects will be presented for morning and afternoon. It will be a great year to also bring staff to brush up on the basics or to learn about new techniques. Staff members may register for the low price of \$25 when registering with their supervisor. That price includes morning donuts and coffee, a great lunch at noon, and all the education they can soak in.

The presentations include:

- Low Toxicity Herbicides
- Mitigating Risk to Pollinators
- Exciting New Turfgrass Varieties
- Growth Regulators for Sports Turf Management
- Different Nitrogen Sources Get Different Results

- Using GPS Technology on Boom Sprayers
- Reduced Risk Pesticide Management
- PGR Use on Fairways
- Precision Tools for Disease Management
- Different Options for Weed Control During Establishment
- pH Impacts on Fungicide Efficacy



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There will be other presentations in addition to those listed above. Other research projects will have signs and more information displayed on them so that you can stop by for even more information.

In addition to the research and education there is a world class trade show where you can visit with experts to learn about every product, tool, or service to help you on your jobs. Other perks for attending include coffee and donuts in the morning, a great Wisconsin style lunch at noon, and time to share ideas with others from your profession throughout the day. You can also talk to the presenters over lunch or between talks if you need more in-depth discussion.

Summer Field Day is a great way to learn about the latest research coming from the UW-Madison, to compare the newest commercial offerings from the trade show, and to visit with colleagues over a great lunch. You will surely leave Field Day with many ideas to put into practice back home. Contact Audra Anderson, WTA administrative assistant, at 608-845-6536 or audra.anderson@wisc.edu if you have any questions.

Your Field Day brochure can be found on page 24 and 25 of this issue or may be downloaded from the WTA website, www.wisconsin-turf-grass-association.org. You may also register and pay online from the website. Field Day 2016 is going to be the best ever, and we hope to see you there on July 26th. 

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Wisconsin Turfgrass Association

2016 Summer Field Day, Tuesday, July 26th

O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility in Verona



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A birds-eye view of O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility, where you should be on July 26th, to learn about all the latest research coming out of your UW-Madison Turf Research Program.

The registration form and additional details are on the back of this flier. You may go to www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org to register and pay online.

Field Day Schedule

8:00am – 9:00 Attendee Registration/Trade Show open
 9:00 – 9:30 Welcome Session
 9:30 – 11:00 Lawn Care & General Turf Tours
 11:00 – 1:30 Trade Show Only time
 12:00 – 1:15 Lunch
 1:30 – 3:00 Golf Turf Tours

Lawn Care & General Turf 9:30 – 11:00

- Mitigating Risks to Pollinators
- Exciting New Grass Varieties
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- Different Nitrogen Sources Get Different Results
- Reduced Risk Pesticide Management
- Weed Control Options During Establishment

Golf Turf 1:30 – 3:00

- Low Toxicity Herbicides
- Precision Tools for Disease Management
- pH Impacts on Fungicide Efficacy
- Using GPS Technology on Boom Sprayers
- Growth Regulator Use on Fairways



O.J. Noer Turfgrass Facility Directions
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From Madison Beltline US-12 & 18
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 Exit roundabout going South on Pleasant View Rd
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Contact Audra for details at audra.anderson@wisc.edu or 608-845-6536.



cut here and return registration form with payment

Registration Form

Mail registration form and check payable to **WTA** by **July 19th** to **O.J. Noer Turfgrass Facility / 2502 Highway M / Verona / WI / 53593**, or register online at www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org. **Prices valid if postmarked by July 19th. Add \$5 after July 19th and for on-site registration.**

Name of all Registrants _____

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WTA member - - - - - \$40 = _____

Additional employees from same WTA member organization - - - - -\$25 each x # emps _____ = _____

Not a WTA member - - - - - \$45 = _____

Additional employees from same Non-WTA member organization - -\$35 each x # emps _____ = _____

WTA membership (New member, get one free registration) - - - - - \$150 = _____

GRAND TOTAL = _____

Billbugs: Out of site, Out of Mind!

By Dr. R. Chris Williamson, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Billbugs are an important insect that are often overlooked and widely misdiagnosed. Billbug damage is often mistaken for drought, disease, heat stress or damage caused by other turfgrass insect pests including white grubs, sod webworms and chinch bugs. There are multiple billbug species that occur in the United States, the bluegrass billbug, *Sphenophorus parvulus* and the lesser billbug, *S. minimus* are the two most common billbug species found in cool-season turfgrass; the bluegrass billbug is the more common species. Adult billbugs are similar to most other weevils (commonly known as snout beetles) in appearance, they have a characteristic and unique elongated snout (mouthpart) and hardened wing covers.

Bluegrass billbug adults are about 5/16 inch long, the lesser billbug is slightly smaller (about 1/4 inch long). Unlike other white grubs such as Japanese beetle or May/June beetle, billbug larvae (grubs) do not have legs and they are much smaller, only about 0.05 inch long while Japanese beetle larvae are just under a 1/2 - 1 1/4 inches long. Billbugs prefer Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass as well as certain fescue species over most other cool season turfgrasses. They typically only have one generation per year, they overwinter as adults in the turf and surrounding areas.

Adult females begin laying eggs in the leaf sheaths of turfgrass plants in the spring (typically in May), the eggs hatch in 10-14 days. The larval stage is the damaging life stage, 1st, 2nd and 3rd instar larvae burrow up and down the leaf sheath causing plant injury/damage to the conductive plant tissues (i.e., xylem and phloem) as well as the apical meristem (crown). Once billbugs develop into late-3rd instar larvae, they chew their way out of the turfgrass plant to continue physiological development (i.e., 4th and 5th instar) feed and cause damage to roots before pupating (transforming into an adult) by late summer (often in August). Larval feeding damage typically occurs in June and July. After pupation (i.e., August – September), adult billbugs begin to emerge to feed and prepare for overwintering, initially they are typically reddish-brown in color, but eventually turn slate.

Several options for managing billbugs exist: 1) cultural control; 2) plant resistance; and chemical control (insecticides). Cultural control of billbugs consists of providing adequate fertility and irrigation to minimize or mask billbug damage. However, if the apical meristem (crown) of the turfgrass plant is damaged, the plant will die! The use of endophyte (fungi) enhanced turfgrasses including perennial ryegrass, tall fescue and fine fescue can provide effective plant resistance due to the toxic properties of the endophyte that kill billbug larvae as they feed on the endophyte enhanced turfgrass.


Research has shown that stands of turfgrass that contain 40-50% endophyte infections keep damaging populations of billbugs in check. Finally, there are three chemical (insecticide) approaches to managing billbugs, they include: 1) Larval preventative, 2) Adult curative and 3) Larval curative. Of these, larval preventative and adult curative are the most effective, the larval curative management strategy does not prevent turf damage as



Billbug damage can resemble a lot of environmental or other problems so it is important to understand the life cycle of billbugs and treat accordingly.

billbug larvae have already caused turf damage. Larval preventive insecticide treatments are most effective when applied in late April to mid-May to ensure that the insecticide can be readily absorbed and available when billbug larvae eggs hatch and larvae begin feeding within the leaf sheath in late May to early-June. To ensure maximum insecticide performance of larval preventative insecticide treatments, be sure to apply post-treatment irrigation to move the insecticide into the soil so that it can be absorbed the turfgrass roots and translocated into the leaf sheath where billbug larvae feed. Larval preventive insecticide treatment applications may also kill some overwintered adults, however performance is often highly variable.

Another effective billbug management strategy is to apply an adult curative insecticide to active adults in the spring, typically in late April to early-May or at the first sign of active adult billbugs. Do not apply post-treatment irrigation when employing this management strategy. To assist in the proper timing of an adult curative insecticide application, merely monitor or observe paved surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways for the presence of billbug adults.

Determining billbug infestations quite simple, merely implement the “tug-test” to confirm the presence of billbug larvae. To conduct the tug-test, simply grab several of the affected leaf sheaths and tug upward. If the turf is or was damaged by billbug larvae, the leaf sheaths will break off easily just below the thatch level and the broken leaf sheaths will be packed with a fine sawdust-like material. This material is commonly referred to as frass or billbug fecal matter. Unfortunately, at this point, the damage is done and no insecticide treatment application will resolve the turf damage issue. Remember, when using pesticides, ALWAYS read and follow the label directions! 

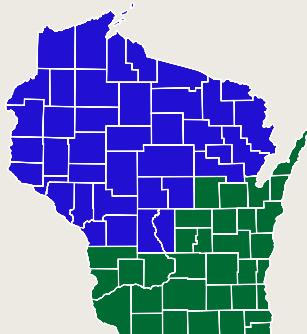
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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Ben LaBarre

By Josh Lepine, Certified Golf Course Superintendent, Maple Bluff Country Club

NOTE: As a WGCSA Board member, I want to thank everyone who participated in the Membership survey this past fall. The information and feedback obtained was invaluable. The requests for more member spotlight stories inspired me to start this column. I hope to randomly highlight a few members each edition from all geographic areas, facility types and membership classifications. It may take me 20 years to get to everyone in the directory but please be ready for that phone to ring and be prepared to share stories, photos and information about YOU!

Name: **Ben LaBarre**

Company Position: **Golf Course Superintendent, The Legend at Bristlecone Pines**

Years as WGCSA Member: **4**

Membership Classification: **A**

18 holes with Ben LaBarre:

1. How did you get started in the turfgrass industry? I began working at Decatur Lake Country Club in Brodhead, Wisconsin at the age of 17. I grew up admiring agriculture, construction equipment and getting dirty. Once I began experiencing the day to day of golf course maintenance I became hooked. I attended UW-Madison and did 2 internships at Baltusrol Golf Club in New Jersey. Upon completing my internship and experiencing a major tournament it was clear that my becoming a superintendent was the direction I was headed.

2. What is the most rewarding part of your career? I am satisfied knowing that the conditions we provide bring joy to someone's day. Also, evening cart rides with my family.

3. What would you consider to be your greatest career challenge? Turning off the day and focusing on family.

4. Which three adjectives describes you the best? Resourceful, committed, funny.

5. Tell us about your family. Wife-Jen, married 8 years. 2 boys-Jackson (age 6) and Brady (age 3)

6. Any pets? Chocolate lab, Bristle (age 3).

7. What drives/motivates you every day? Overall, I want to be a positive role model for my boys and provide a quality life for my family.

I am motivated daily to put to use all my experience, knowledge, and god given ability to provide the best golf course conditions for our members. If I accomplish those two objectives each day, I have no problem falling asleep at night.

8. Who Would You Admire? People who earn their paycheck and never complain.

9. Who is the person in history you'd most like to meet? Jesus Christ

10. What's a fun fact that people don't know about you? I love music and finally bought and am learning to play guitar. I won't be playing Summerfest any time soon!



Ben with his wife Jen in Playa de Carmen, Mexico 2 years ago

11. What do you do in your spare time, favorite hobbies? Golf, Exercise (November-March), Parenting, Playing catch with my sons

12. If you could go anywhere in the world on vacation, where would you go? Australia

13. What is the one thing you would like to learn/accomplish someday? Become a Certified Golf Course Superintendent

14. What is your favorite turf management related tool or technique? Going primitive...the sod harp

15. Favorites:

TV Show: MacGyver

Movie: Shawshank Redemption

Food: Tie between steak or meatloaf

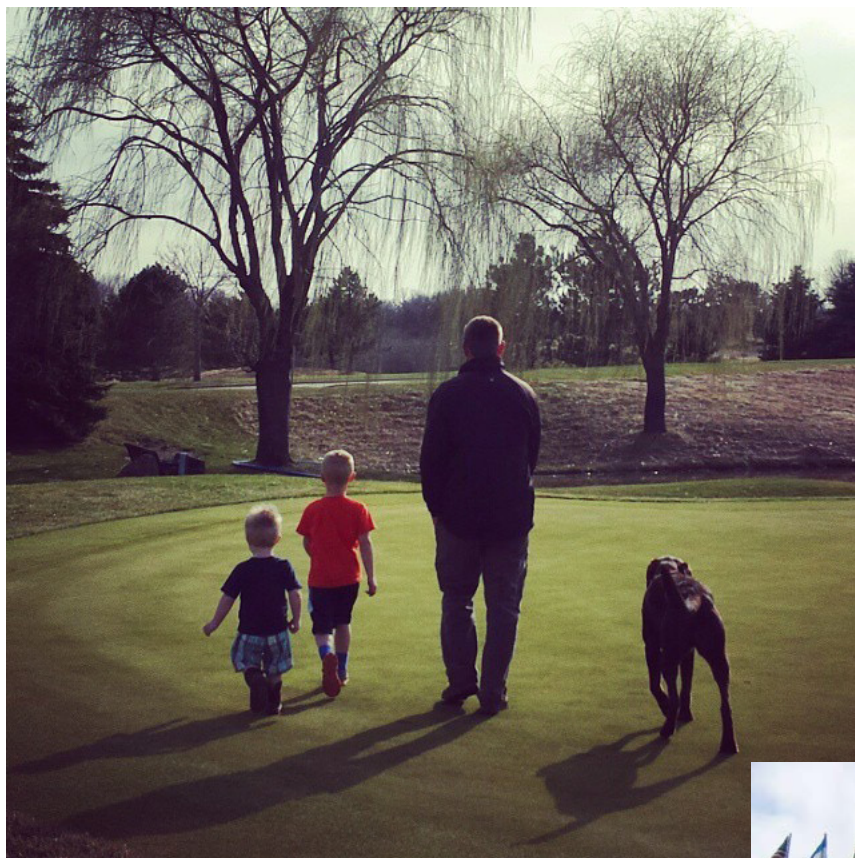
Sports Teams: Badgers, Packers

16. Do you golf? Handicap? Best shot or golf story? Yes. 12 handicap (60 on dormant Bermuda). Best shot- Hole #2 River Course (BWR)...holed out from 100 yards playing alone. I was super excited.

17. Top Bucket List Item? I want to fly a fighter jet.

18. If you could provide one piece of professional advice, what would it be? Do things YOUR way.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

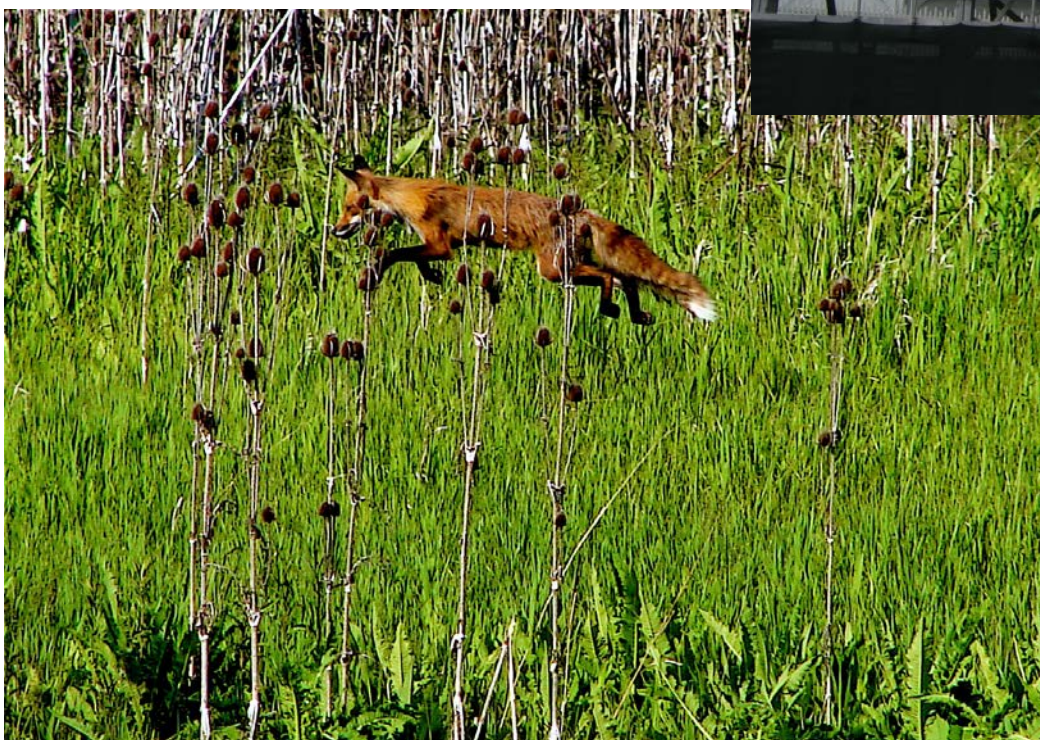


Top: Ben and his three helpers checking greens.

Center: 2005 PGA Championship internship picture. Ben on the left, fellow WGC-SA member Tony Hudzinski on right.

Bottom: Ben proving that “Timing Is Everything” in this shot of a fox jumping behind the first hole at Blackwolf Run.

		PGA CHAMPIONSHIP																				
START	LEADERS	HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	TOTAL	
		PAR	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	5	5		
6	MICKELSON		6	6	6	7	7	6	5	5	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	3	3	4	276	CONGRATS MICKELSON SEE YOU IN MEDINAH
4	ELKINGTON		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	5	5	4	4	3	3	3	3		
5	BJORN		5	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	3		
E	WOODS		1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2		
6	LOVE		6	6	5	4	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		
7	GOOSEN		4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
	PEPEZ		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
	CAMPBELL M		E	E	E	1	1	1	E	E	E	E	1	1	E	1	1	E	1			
	OGILVY		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		



May Meeting at Blackwolf Run was lots of fun!

By Brett Grams, Chapter Manager, WGCSA

The WGCSA members and guests were treated to a great day at a great course for our May 23rd golf meeting. WGCSA leaders decided to switch up our typical format for this event by having an 8:00 am shotgun start with lunch and reception to follow. For the first time in many years we had no education offered for this meeting but that did not deter the 80 people that registered to play at the prestigious Blackwolf Run Meadow Valley Course. A bright sunny morning with above average temps made the day even more fun considering some of the challenging weather many of us have had here in WI so far this spring.

The May meeting became a reality with

the help of WGCSA Class C Liaison Joe Sell helping with the details in planning the meeting. Our events held at a Kohler Company venue have always been first class. As expected, our outing was no different. From the moment we stepped onto the property the golf staff was accommodating making sure we got out on the course on time.

Host Superintendent Ron Bierwirth, a long time WGCSA member and his staff had the golf course in fantastic condition. The Meadow Valleys course is one of two courses at Blackwolf Run. The first 18 holes opened in 1988 with 9 holes opening in 1989 and the final nine in 1990. The course opened to much fanfare be-

ing named Golf Digests "Best New Public Course" and has been host to the Anderson World Golf Championships in 1995, 96, 97 and was the host to the US Women's Open in 1998. Mr. Herb Kohler's dream of bringing championship golf to Wisconsin began with the efforts at Blackwolf Run. The great golf courses are complimented by the beautiful yet rustic clubhouse and dining room. The structure is built with Canadian Lodge pole Pine logs and uses natural fieldstone so as to blend into the Sheboygan River Valley terrain. The golf course takes advantage of the rolling terrain and varying wood lines and open areas, with water and the river being a focal point when possible.



Above: Our Host Superintendent Ron Bierwirth

Top Right: The Par 3 15th is named Mercy but it provides no mercy to shots hit short.

Bottom Right: The Par 3 17th named Maple Syrup requires a carry over the ravine, over the tree or bailed out to the right approach.





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Our format for this event was a two man Best Ball. Prizes were awarded in both Low Gross and Low Net categories. The team of Peter Meyer and Dan Wubbels carded a score of 71 and were able to claim first place in the Low Gross division followed by Scott Anthes and partner Scott Bushman with a 73. Third place went to John Holberton and Matt Sly with a 76. Low Net winners were Troy Tietjens and Jon Canavan with a blistering 61! The team of Brian Bonlender and Rick Wieterman (63) and Mike Solper and Mark Lambert (64) coming in second and third respectively. In addition we were able to have six flag events on the course. The Long Drivers of the day were Scott Anthes on hole 7 and Matt Kinnard on hole 15. The closest to pin contests were won by Evan Hughes (hole 3) and Rick Wieterman (hole 15). The longest putt winner was Jon Canavan

on hole 9 and one other that the records were sealed for the sandbaggers protection. It is important to note that ALL of the \$1100.00 plus pro shop credit awarded for this meeting (and all of our monthly meetings) are courtesy of the gracious hole and event sponsors below. With this assistance the WGCSA can offer great prizes while keeping the meeting registration costs to a minimum.

I would like to thank Ed Elsner PGA Professional and the staff in the Pro Shop along with Ron Bierwirth who was kind enough to give me a personal tour of the course while visiting the four-somes. Hope to see you at our next meeting, come spend a day with your peers, see some other courses and enjoy a round of golf. You deserve it and your course and operation will be better for what you learn! ✓

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Above: John Canavan and Troy Tietjens took first in the Net Division with 61.

Left: Peter Meyer and Dan Wubbels took first in the Gross Division with a 71.



Above: The Par 4 18th Hole named Salmon Trap challenges players accuracy from the fairway.

Below: Mike Solper and Mark Lambert took third in the net competition with a 64.

Bottom: The Par3 3rd Hole Called Pine Valley demands accuracy from the tee to avoid deep bunkers.



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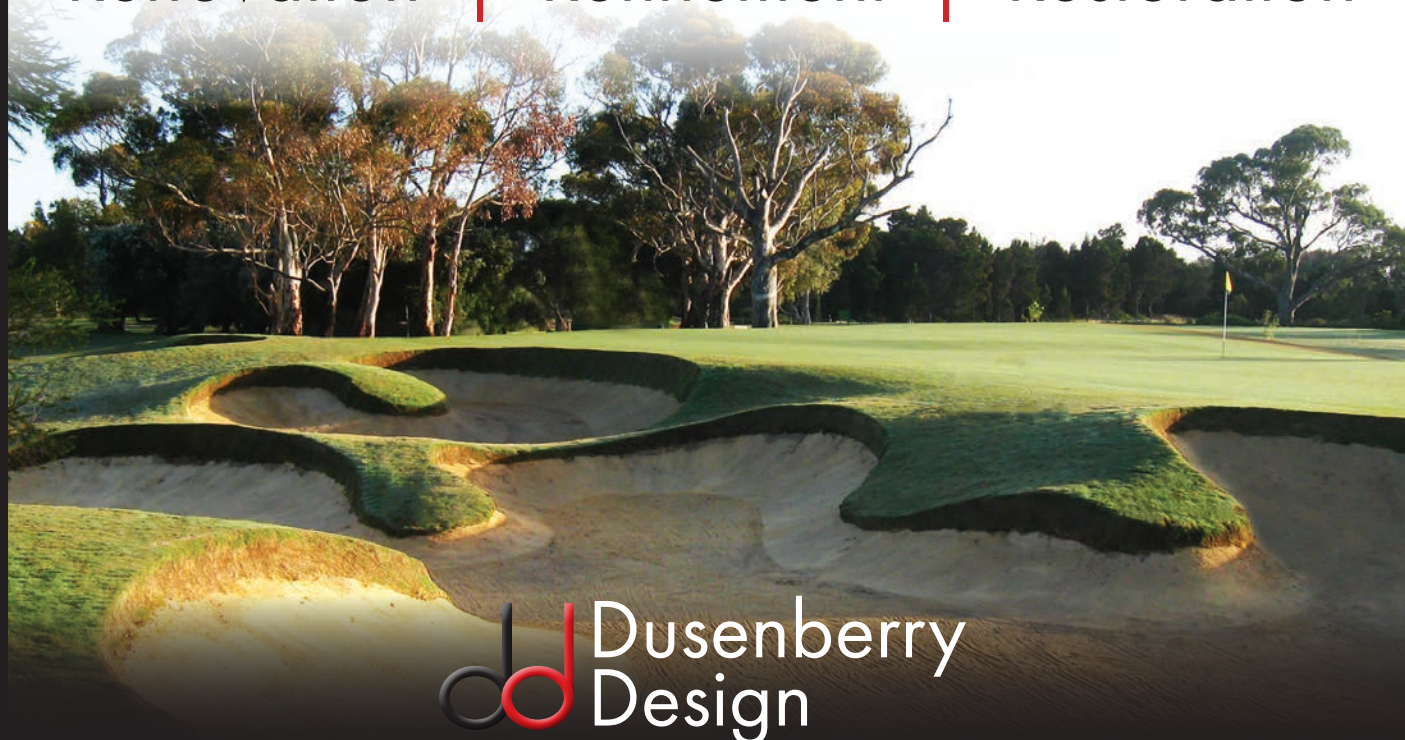
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The Par4 14th Hole named Natures Course requires two well placed shots as trouble is all around.

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Top: Brian Bonlender and Rick Wiertman paired up to shoot 63 in the net division.

Bottom Left: Matt Sly and John Holberton shot 76 to take third place in the gross division.

Bottom Right: Brian Swingle hits his approach to the elevated green on the Par4 13th Hole



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Something Simple

By David Brandenburg, Editor, The Grass Roots

The WGCSA has two events in the books with the Super Pro at Hidden Glen and the 2 Person Best Ball at Blackwolf Run. Write ups from both events can be found in this issue. Next on the schedule is Janesville Country Club and the 2 Man Scramble event followed by the WTA Summer Field Day and Research Sessions.

Hopefully you can attend these events and enjoy the camaraderie and friendship that comes with our monthly meetings. I often register by myself and go stag to the events as it is a great way to meet new people and play with new people. Sometimes I feel sorry for my partners when my game is off but either way we have a good time.

If you have not been to a meeting I encourage you to attend and check us out. I have never attended a golf or educational meeting where I did not learn something I could take back to our club and put it to good use.

After a year of warnings the Department of Labor introduced a rule to change the

limit needed to be considered exempt from overtime. The main change is in the annual salary threshold. If job duties allow a employee to be considered exempt from overtime they now need to earn a minimum of \$47,476 per year or \$913 per week. This is a major increase from the current \$23,660 per year or \$455 per week.

I see this rule effecting many in the golf business along with other industries. Assistant golf professionals and superintendents are often working long hours for less than \$47,476 per year and of course some superintendents are as well.

The new rule kicks in on December 1st and things could change three ways.

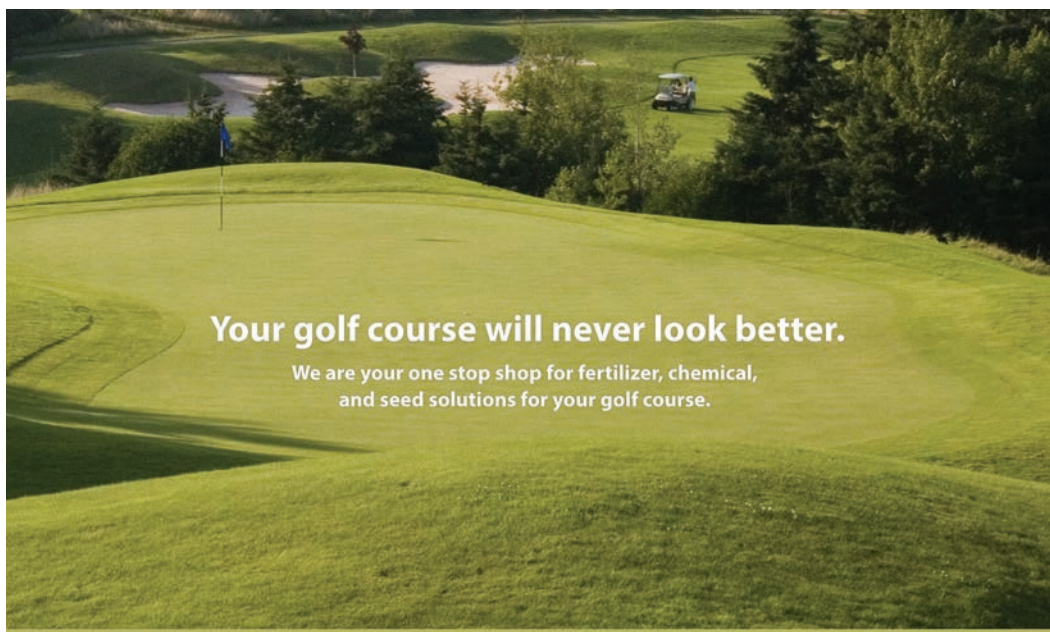
1. In a happy and just world, managers making less than the required \$47,476 per year will get a raise above the limit.
2. In a cruel and realistic world the employees will be reduced to 40 hours per week at hourly wage that will pay them less overall for the year and the superintendent will have to fill in the lost hours with part time staff.

3. In a we can only hope world, the employee will be changed from exempt to hourly and be paid time and half for their time over 40 hours per week and end up making more for the year.

In our 7 day a week industry, golf course employees regularly work more than 5 days a week. Employees deserve to be fairly compensated for their dedication to the job. However in a free market a employee working 60 hours a week for \$24,000 a year has the option to find a better job and improve their lot in life without government interference.

I am not convinced it is the Department of Labor's responsibility to demand wage increases for salaried employees. Rules that have a dramatic affect on employees and employers should come from congress and be signed by the President in the form of a bill rather than executive direction.

Changes by Presidential action or departmental rules are increasing as congress seems to struggle to get meaningful bills passed.



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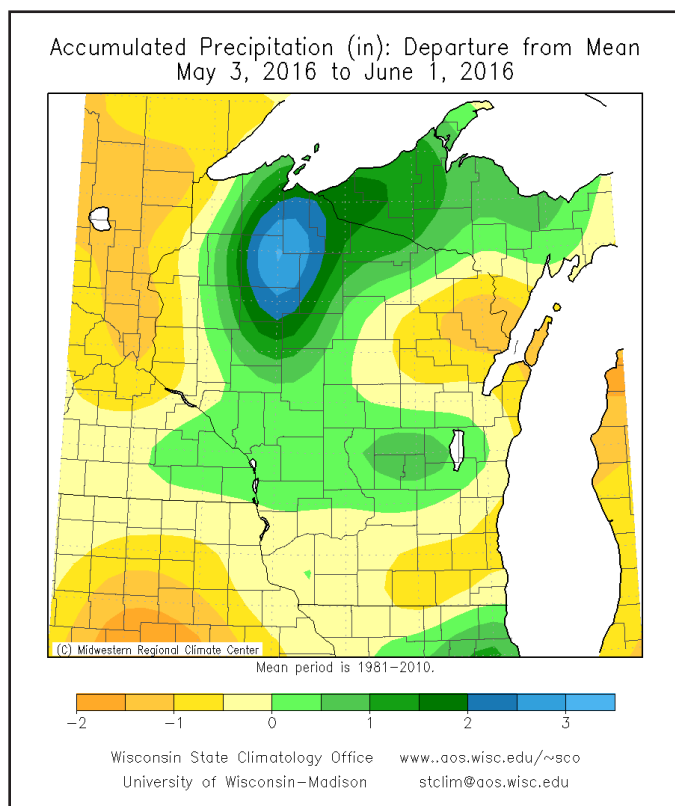
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

The rule will effect 4.2 million workers and I hope it will be a positive change but I fear for many it will be a negative financial change as the employer will try to get the same amount of work for the same or less money. Hopefully I am wrong.



The weather the past month has been wet for the center of the state, Fond du Lac included but dry for everyone else as seen in the map from the Wisconsin State Climatology Office in Madison.

The temperature map showed temperatures just a degree above normal for the southern half of the state and normal for the north-east third.

Mixed weather seems to be the new normal and we can truly say we had mixed weather this spring. Snow one day, 60 two days later and then snow again. But the past two weeks have been warmer, and crops and golf courses seem to be green and growing.

Our course and from what I hear talking to other turf managers most golf courses have produced a bumper crop of poa and rye grass seedheads this spring leading to a white look to fairways and rough that grows while you are making your next pass with the mower.

Andy Kronwall recently posted on the Abby Springs Maintenance Blog that longtime Superintendent David Smith retired after 34 years at the club. David was a WGCSA Board Member, a regular at events and a host of the WGCSA many times. Although soft spoken when he spoke, people listened as his words were well thought out and to the point.

Congratulations Mr. Smith and look at these pages next month for a few pictures of David through the years.

Club and Resort Business recently reported the 115 year old Forest Hills Golf Club or the former La Crosse Country Club will be going through a redesign this year. Besides updating the design the work will locate all holes on the east side of the Railroad track that bisected the property.

Best of luck to superintendent Roy Janzen and the rest of the Forest Hills team as they finish up this project.


If your club is going through a project our readers would love to see a few pictures and a short story about the work. Please contact me if you have any questions about how to submit articles or pictures or if want me to bring my camera over and take a few shots.

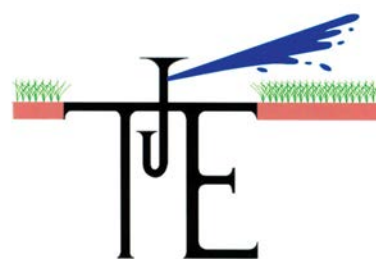
By the time you read this your editor will turn 50 years old. I can honestly say I do not want to be 50, nor do I feel 50 but there is not much I can do about it. I feel about the same as I did when I was 30 although my hair sparkles a bit more.

I guess age is relative to the owners perspective and hopefully most 50 year olds do not feel old. I have my AARP invitation so I can get discounts at McDonalds and other places so there are benefits to hitting the half century mark besides ear and nose hair that sprouts overnight.

I also reached 20 years at Rolling Meadows Golf Course this year. In 20 years I have met a lot of great customers and hired a lot of good employees. I suppose when I hire a child of a former student employee I can be considered old. We have been fortunate to find good employees and I can count on one hand the number of bad eggs we have had. over the years. Many of our students work until they graduate or obtain a internship in their field and many of our retirees work until they cannot anymore.

It does raise my eyebrows when I realize many of the students we hired this spring were born in 2000. That fact makes me feel older than turning 50.

Enjoy your summer, take time to watch, not just see the sunrise and appreciate the awesome industry we have chosen. 



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