

The GRASS ROOTS

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

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ABOUT THE COVER

The 18th Hole at Erin Hills Golf Club during the US Open Championship.

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By American Golfer Brooks Koepka, 1990.

This quote by Koepka can remind us although pro sports involves money, the goal is still to succeed and win and make our families proud.

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THE GRASS ROOTS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Member Engagement

By Jon Canavan, Golf & Recreation Turf Manager, Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation & Culture

In July we held a WGCSA Board/Vendor meeting at Brown Deer Park. It was great to get feedback from our partners on what value they see in the WGCSA and how it helps their companies grow and serve their customers. A big question that came up was how to get more members to meetings. Being on the board for 7 years now I often circle back to that same question.

A few of my thoughts on why people don't attend:

1. Being too busy to make it to the meetings.
2. Not seeing value in the education that is being offered.
3. Thinking they won't have partners to play golf with.
4. Not having the budget to attend.
5. Not wanting to travel the distance to the Association events.

The WGCSA board is continually trying to offer new activities to keep members engaged. We have changed the format for

The WGCSA board is continually trying to offer new activities to keep members engaged. We have changed the format for our meetings and outings.

our meetings and outings. Last year we moved the couples' outing to Milwaukee and enjoyed an awesome night of camaraderie and mingling. This is a great opportunity to treat your spouse. If you did not attend last year you really missed out. We've also added a day of golf with no education, just to get together. The board is also vetting the idea of having a shop talk tour in January showcasing three different shops in one day. They would be from the smallest of operations to the biggest.

With that being said we still have some fantastic events left this season:


1. August 21st - Joint meeting with the NGLGCSAA at Green Bay CC.
2. September 18th - Wee One golf out-

ing at Pine Hills CC.

3. November 4th - Couples' outing at Harley Davidson Museum in Milwaukee.
4. November 29th and 30th - Golf Turf Symposium at Kohler WI.

Please make time to make it to one of the meetings. I often find that some of the best education that I get from these meetings is talking with my fellow superintendents.

Another question that was brought was how to bring that Equipment Managers into the association. If you did not already know, the GCSAA voted to add the EM class to their membership. This could have the potential for our association to offer mechanical education to our members. These educational offerings could be tied into the shop talk that we have been discussing.

I hope that everybody has a good rest of the summer. Hopefully the rain will slow down and it will actually dry out for a few weeks! 



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University of Wisconsin Snow Mold Reports

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

Author's Note: Portions of this article appeared in the August 2017 issue of Golf-dom Magazine.

The UW Turf Pathology team once again performed one of the largest snow mold product testing trials in the country in 2016-2017, testing 106 treatments (84 of which are non-experimental compounds) at 3 sites across the region: Cherokee CC in Madison, WI, Wausau CC in Wausau, WI, and Marquette CC in Marquette, MI (Figure 1). All trials were conducted on fairway height turf comprised of a mixture of creeping bentgrass and annual bluegrass. Special thanks to superintendents Eric Leonard, Randy Slavik, and Craig Moore for hosting trials at their respective courses listed above.

Though the area had a relatively mild winter once again that resulted in no snow mold at the Madison site, there was moderate pink snow mold observed at the Wausau site and high levels of pink snow mold at the Marquette site. Speckled snow mold is normally the predominant snow mold present at Marquette

CC, and the fact that pink snow mold was observed there this year speaks to the relatively mild conditions that were observed. The trial at Marquette CC had the highest disease pressure so those are the results that are included in this article (Table 1 starting on page 7). However, the full research reports from all three sites, including pictures of each treatment, are available at the University of Wisconsin Turfgrass Fungicide Testing Results webpage (www.tdl.wisc.edu/results).

The non-treated control at Marquette CC averaged 70% disease over four replications (Figure 2). Despite this high snow mold pressure, 58 of the 106 treatments tested in the trial averaged less than 5% snow mold. The highest-performing treatments had multiple things in common, but ALL of them contained multiple active ingredients from multiple chemical classes (Figure 3). Oreon is a new product from AMVAC that is a combination of PCNB and tebuconazole and can be an effective option for fairway snow mold control. Fame T is also

a relatively new product that is a mixture of fluoxastrobin and tebuconazole and has performed well in our trials for 2 consecutive years. Other treatments that performed well have become 'standards', meaning they have performed at a very high level in our trials over multiple sites and multiple years, and have become measuring sticks for any new products coming on to the market. These include Instrata, Interface + Mirage, Concert + Turfcide, Torque with 26/36, and QP Enclave.

Choosing a snow mold program is one of the most important disease-related activities most Wisconsin superintendents will conduct in a given year. There are a range of control options available for all sorts of environments, expectations, and budgets. I encourage you to use the results included in this report, and reports from other sites and years found at our website, and work with your preferred representatives to develop a snow mold program that fits your needs. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have at either plkoch@wisc.edu or 608-262-6531.



Figure 1: This drone picture of our 2016-2017 Snow Mold trial at Wausau CC was provided by EPIC Creative and shows the immense size of the experimental plot.



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WISCONSIN PATHOLOGY REPORT



Figure 2: Non-treated controls at Marquette CC averaged 70% disease, with pink snow mold comprising the majority of the disease present.



Figure 3: Torque tank-mixed with 26/36 provided excellent snow mold control, but when either product was removed the control provided dropped dramatically. These pictures are from the 2013-2014 snow mold trial at Wausau CC.

WISCONSIN PATHOLOGY REPORT

Table 1: Mean snow mold severity, turf quality, and turf color were assessed on March 23, 2017 at Marquette Golf Club in Marquette, MI.

	Treatment	Rate	Application Timing ^a	Disease Severity ^b	Turf Quality ^c	Turf Color ^d
1	Non-treated control			70.0ab	2.5rst	103zAB
2	Medallion	1.1 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	73.8a	2.3st	121v-B
3	Turficide	8 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	50.0c-f	3.3p-s	117.5w-B
	Foursome	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
4	Turficide	12 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	27.5g-k	4.8j-n	134s-B
	Foursome	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
5	Turficide	16 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	8.0n-r	6.0e-i	240.3a-j
	Foursome	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
6	Oreon	8 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	3.0pqr	6.8b-f	188.3e-w
	Foursome	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
7	Oreon	8 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	1.0qr	7.3a-d	273.5ab
	Daconil Weatherstik	4 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
	Foursome	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
8	Oreon	8 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	1.3qr	7.3a-d	173.3g-z
	Daconil Weatherstik	5.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
	Foursome	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
9	Oreon	8 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.0r	7.3a-d	199.5c-s
	Secure	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
	Foursome	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
10	Oreon	10 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	3.0pqr	6.8b-f	244a-g
	Foursome	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
11	Oreon	10 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.0r	7.3a-d	227a-m
	Daconil Weatherstik	4 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
	Foursome	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
12	Oreon	10 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.0r	7.3a-d	219a-p
	Daconil Weatherstik	5.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
	Foursome	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
13	Oreon	10 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.5r	7.3a-d	210.8b-p
	Secure	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
	Foursome	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
14	Oreon	12 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.0r	7.3a-d	242.8a-i
	Foursome	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
15	Oreon	12 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.0r	7.3a-d	234a-m
	Daconil Weatherstik	4 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
	Foursome	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
16	Oreon	12 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.5r	7.3a-d	217b-p
	Daconil Weatherstik	5.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
	Foursome	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
17	Oreon	12 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.5r	7.3a-d	216.5b-p
	Secure	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
	Foursome	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
18	Concert II	5.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.0r	7.3a-d	250.5a-e
	Turficide	8 fl oz/1000 ft ²				
	Foursome	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²				

^aEarly treatments applied on Oct 6th, 2016 and late treatments applied on Nov 1st, 2016

^bMean percent diseased area assessed on March 23rd, 2017.

^cQuality was visually assessed where 1 = dead, 6 = acceptable, 9 = dark green.

^dColor was assessed using a FieldScout CM1000 Chlorophyll Meter from Spectrum Technologies, Inc.

WISCONSIN PATHOLOGY REPORT

Table 1(cont): Mean snow mold severity, turf quality, and turf color were assessed on March 23, 2017 at Marquette Golf Club in Marquette, MI.

	Treatment	Rate	Applicatio Timing ^a	Disease Severity ^b	Turf Quality ^c	Turf Color ^d
19	Concert II Turfcide Foursome	5.66 fl oz/1000 ft ² 5.33 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	5.5n-r	6.0e-i	190.8e-v
20	Concert II Turfcide Foursome	8.5 fl oz/1000 ft ² 8 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.5r	7.8ab	225a-n
21	Interface Mirage	4 fl oz/1000 ft ² 1.4 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	3pqr	6.8b-f	212.8b-p
22	Interface Mirage	6 fl oz/1000 ft ² 2 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	1.3qr	7.3a-d	289.3a
23	Instrata	7 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	3.0pqr	6.5c-g	207.8b-q
24	Instrata Turfcide Foursome	7 fl oz/1000 ft ² 5.33 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.5r	7.3a-d	222.8a-o
25	Instrata	9 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	1.0or	7.0a-e	215b-p
26	Insignia Turfcide Foursome	0.7 fl oz/1000 ft ² 8 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	6.3n-r	6.3d-h	198.3c-s
27	Insignia Oreon Foursome	0.7 fl oz/1000 ft ² 8 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.0r	8.0a	235.3a-l
28	Secure Torque	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.6 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	6.8n-r	5.8f-j	165l-A
29	Secure 26 GT	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ² 4 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	15.0j-r	5.0i-m	174.3g-z
30	Secure Torque 26 GT	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.6 fl oz/1000 ft ² 4 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	3.8o-r	6.5c-g	185.5e-w
31	Daconil Weatherstik 26 GT	5.5 fl oz/1000 ft ² 4 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	15.0j-r	5.3h-l	206b-r
32	STK-53	1.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Early/Late	40.0d-h	4.3l-p	134.3r-B
33	STK-53	3 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Early/Late	46.3c-f	3.5o-r	135r-B
34	Timorex Gold	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Early/Late	26.3g-l	4.8j-n	123.3u-B
35	Timorex Gold	1 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Early/Late	38.8e-h	4.3l-p	125.5t-B
36	Briskway	0.725 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Early/Late	28.8g-j	4.5k-o	153.8n-B
37	STK-53 Briskway	1.5 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Early/Late	18.8j-p	5.0i-m	164.3l-A
38	Timorex Gold Briskway	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Early/Late	16.3j-r	5.0i-m	212.5b-p
39	Fame T	0.67 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	3.0pqr	6.8b-f	194e-u
40	Fame T	0.89 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	4.8n-r	6.3d-h	214.8b-p

^aEarly treatments applied on Oct 6th, 2016 and late treatments applied on Nov 1st, 2016

^bMean percent diseased area assessed on March 23rd, 2017.

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^dColor was assessed using a FieldScout CM1000 Chlorophyll Meter from Spectrum Technologies, Inc.

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41	Fame SC Tourney	0.18 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.37 oz/1000 ft ²	Late	4.3o-r	6.3d-h	199.5c-s
42	Fame SC Tourney	0.36 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.44 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	3.0pqr	6.5c-g	215b-p
43	Torque 26/36	0.75 fl oz/1000 ft ² 4 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.0r	7.0a-e	218.8a-p
44	Torque 26/36 Spectro 90	0.75 fl oz/1000 ft ² 4 fl oz/1000 ft ² 4 oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.0r	7.0a-f	223.3a-n
45	Torque 26/36 NUP-15013	0.75 fl oz/1000 ft ² 4 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.0r	7.0a-e	243.5a-h
46	NUP-15014 26/36	1.5 fl oz/1000 ft ² 4 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.0r	7.3a-d	210b-p
47	NUP-15014 Pinpoint	1.5 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.31 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	1.3qr	6.8b-f	228.3a-m
48	Enclave	8 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.0r	7.0a-e	215b-p
49	Enclave	8 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Early/Late	0.5r	7.0a-e	188.3e-w
50	Strobe 2L Propiconazole 14.3	0.75 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.2 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Early/Late	21.3i-n	5.8f-j	185.8e-w
51	UW EXP Spreader Sticker	1.94 fl oz/1000 ft ² 8 fl oz/100 gal	Early/Late	55.0b-e	3.0q-t	112.3x-B
52	UW EXP Spreader Sticker	1.94 fl oz/1000 ft ² 8 fl oz/100 gal	Late	60.0abc	3.0q-t	106.5y-B
53	UW EXP Spreader Sticker Torque	1.94 fl oz/1000 ft ² 8 fl oz/100 gal 0.6 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Early/Late	10.0l-r	5.3h-l	167.8k-A
54	UW EXP Spreader Sticker Torque	1.94 fl oz/1000 ft ² 8 fl oz/100 gal 0.6 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	10.0l-r	5.3h-l	218.3a-p
55	A19188A A13705V Medallion Par	1 fl oz/1000 ft ² 2.6 fl oz/1000 ft ² 2 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.37 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	3.0pqr	6.3d-h	189.3e-w
56	A13705V A19188B Par	2.6 fl oz/1000 ft ² 1 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.37 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Early Late Late	10.5l-r	5.8f-j	224.8a-n
57	A19188B A13705V Instrata Par	1 fl oz/1000 ft ² 2.6 fl oz/1000 ft ² 5 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.37 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.0r	7.8ab	204.3b-s
58	A19188B A13705V Turfside Par	1 fl oz/1000 ft ² 2.6 fl oz/1000 ft ² 6 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.37 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	1.0qr	7.3a-d	227a-m

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59	A19188B A13705V Instrata Par	1 fl oz/1000 ft ² 2.6 fl oz/1000 ft ² 5 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.37 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Early Early Late Late	1.8qr	7.0a-e	230.8a-m
60	A19188B A13705V Par	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ² 1.3 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.37 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	11.3k-r	5.3h-l	162.5m-A
61	Concert II Banner Maxx Par	8.3 fl oz/1000 ft ² 1 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.37 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	3.8o-r	6.5c-g	224a-n
62	Banner Maxx Daconil Weatherstik	2 fl oz/1000 ft ² 5.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	7.5n-r	5.8f-j	225.5a-n
63	Banner Maxx Secure	2 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	8.0n-r	5.8f-j	208.5b-q
64	Daconil Weatherstik	5.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	36.3f-i	4.0m-q	177.5f-y
65	Secure	0.5 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	17.5j-q	5.0i-m	188.8e-w
66	A19188B A13705V Par	1 fl oz/1000 ft ² 2.6 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.36 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.5r	7.5abc	267.3a-d
67	A19188B A13705V A17856B Par	1 fl oz/1000 ft ² 2.6 fl oz/1000 ft ² 1 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.36 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.5r	7.5abc	190.3e-v
68	A21664A A17856B Par	0.8 fl oz/1000 ft ² 1 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.36 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	4.3o-r	6.3d-h	213.5b-p
69	A21664A A17856B Par	0.8 fl oz/1000 ft ² 2 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.36 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	2.8pqr	6.8b-f	182e-x
70	A15457K A19649B A17856B Par	0.236 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.157 fl oz/1000 ft ² 1 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.36 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	3.8o-r	6.3d-h	193.8e-u
71	A15457K A17856B Par	0.236 fl oz/1000 ft ² 1.88 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.36 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	6.3n-r	6.3d-h	184.5e-w
72	A14036B Par	9 fl oz/1000 ft ² 0.36 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	1.8qr	7.3a-d	203.5b-s
73	A21790A A21791A	4 fl oz/1000 ft ² 1.4 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.0r	8.0a	187.3e-w
74	A21790A A21791A	6 fl oz/1000 ft ² 2 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.5r	7.8ab	225.5a-n

^aEarly treatments applied on Oct 6th, 2016 and late treatments applied on Nov 1st, 2016

^bMean percent diseased area assessed on March 23rd, 2017.

^cQuality was visually assessed where 1 = dead, 6 = acceptable, 9 = dark green.

^dColor was assessed using a FieldScout CM1000 Chlorophyll Meter from Spectrum Technologies, Inc.

WISCONSIN PATHOLOGY REPORT

Table 1(cont): Mean snow mold severity, turf quality, and turf color were assessed on March 23, 2017 at Marquette Golf Club in Marquette, MI.

	Treatment	Rate	Application Timing ^a	Disease Severity ^b	Turf Quality ^c	Turf Color ^d
75	Insignia Trinity Daconil Ultrex Turficide	0.7 fl oz/1000 ft ² 1 fl oz/1000 ft ² 5 oz/1000 ft ² 8 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.0r	7.0a-e	187e-w
76	Insignia Trinity 26 GT Turficide	0.7 fl oz/1000 ft ² 1 fl oz/1000 ft ² 4 fl oz/1000 ft ² 8 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.0r	7.0a-e	218a-p
77	Insignia Trinity Daconil Ultrex Turficide	0.7 fl oz/1000 ft ² 1 fl oz/1000 ft ² 5 oz/1000 ft ² 6 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.5r	7.0a-e	269.5abc
78	Insignia Trinity 26 GT Turficide	0.7 fl oz/1000 ft ² 1 fl oz/1000 ft ² 4 fl oz/1000 ft ² 6 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	1.3qr	6.8b-f	197.3d-t
79	Interface	6 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	18.8j-p	5.0i-m	166.5l-A
80	Tartan Interface	1 fl oz/1000 ft ² 3 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	7.5n-r	6.0e-i	212.3b-p
81	Daconil Weatherstik Interface Mirage	5.5 fl oz/1000 ft ² 6 fl oz/1000 ft ² 2 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.0r	7.3a-d	235.8a-l
82	Daconil Weatherstik Tartan Interface Mirage	5.5 fl oz/1000 ft ² 1 fl oz/1000 ft ² 3 fl oz/1000 ft ² 2 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.0r	7.5abc	217b-p
83	Daconil Weatherstik Interface Tartan	5.5 fl oz/1000 ft ² 6 fl oz/1000 ft ² 2 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.0r	7.5abc	214.5b-p
84	Daconil Weatherstik Interface Mirage Tartan	5.5 fl oz/1000 ft ² 3 fl oz/1000 ft ² 1 fl oz/1000 ft ² 2 fl oz/1000 ft ²	Late	0.0r	7.5abc	219.3a-p
LSD P=0.05				16.56	1.25	71.79

^aEarly treatments applied on Oct 6th, 2016 and late treatments applied on Nov 1st, 2016

^bMean percent diseased area assessed on March 23rd, 2017.

^cQuality was visually assessed where 1 = dead, 6 = acceptable, 9 = dark green.

^dColor was assessed using a FieldScout CM1000 Chlorophyll Meter from Spectrum Technologies, Inc.



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2017 WGCSA Legacy Scholars

By Jeff Barlow, Certified Golf Course Superintendent, Waupaca Country Club

The WGCSA Legacy Scholars Program was developed to recognize outstanding students and offer educational aid to children/stepchildren/grandchildren of active class A, B, C, Class A retired or class AA WGCSA members. The WGCSA currently offers two Legacy Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. The application deadline was May 1st. This year we had 8 very qualified and deserving applicants. The two winners were notified July 1st.

Congratulations to our two 2017 WGCSA Legacy Scholars.

Laura Lee

WGCSA Member Relation: Daughter of Michael and Nancy Lee. Michael is the Class A, Certified Golf Course Superintendent for the Kohler Company in Kohler, WI.

Educational Status: Laura is a 2017 graduate of Kohler High School and plans to further her education at University of Wisconsin Whitewater studying Human Resource Management.

Achievements and Extra-Curricular Activities: People to People Ambassador Programs, Kohler High School Certificate of Honor in multiple classes, executive Board Member for Making a Difference, member of Key Club, Pep Band, Student Council, math team and National Honors Society. Volunteer work included Various Word of Grace Community Church Events, Gibbsville Reformed Church Camp Counselor, Brat Days Clean-Up, Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army, Progressive Beginnings for special needs kids, Red Cross Bake Sale, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk.

Quotes from Application Essay: "Over the course of my father's career in golf course management, he has continued to have a good attitude in his work and daily life. Having a good attitude creates a base for success, where his attitude has stemmed into quality, diligent work. Maintaining a good attitude about the work I am doing at that moment will help me push through and find the same sort of success my dad has found."



Catherine Lee

WGCSA Member Relation: Daughter of Michael and Nancy Lee. Michael is the Class A, Certified Golf Course Superintendent for the Kohler Company in Kohler, WI.

Educational Status: Catherine is a 2017 graduate of Kohler High School and plans to further her education at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater studying Public History.

Achievements and Extra-Curricular Activities: High School Forensics State Speech Award, SAIL Program Award, Kohler High School Certificate of Honor in multiple classes, Forensics Speech Club Executive Board Member, Key Club Executive Board Member, Making a Difference Volunteer Club Executive Board Member, National Honors Society Executive Board Historian, Kohian Yearbook Club, Art Club, National Art Society. Taught Sunday school at Word of Grace Community Church, served as a camp Counselor at Gibbsville Reformed Church's Kid's Camp, a friend and lunch buddy to a student with autism, volunteered at a Technology Drive, rang bells for the Salvation Army, helped run School Forensics meets and also volunteered at Progressive Beginning's Open House.

Quotes from Application Essay: "My father has gained many admirable attributes, propelling him to success both inside and outside his occupation. What sets my father apart from the other hundreds of employees at golf courses is the determination to place action behind words..." Just as my dad makes a verbal indication, and follows up with legitimate action, I will achieve dreams and plans a grander. This value of determination transcends golf courses, breeding triumph in classrooms and my life."



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GCSAA & WGCSA Leaders Meet During U.S. Open

By **Shane Conroy**, Field Staff - Great Lakes Regional Representative, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

During the week of the U.S. Open, leaders from the GCSAA and Wisconsin GCSA took advantage to get together and discuss matters related to the industry. Present at the meeting were: Jon Canavan, WGCSA president, Josh Lepine, CGCS, WGCSA vice president, Jeff Barlow, CGCS, WGCSA treasurer, Mike Bremmer, WGCSA director, Brian Bonlender, WGCSA director, Rob Johnson, WGCSA vendor representative, Brett Grams, WGCSA executive director, Rhett Evans, GCSAA CEO, Darren Davis, CGCS, GCSAA vice president, Rafael Barajas, CGCS, GCSAA secretary/treasurer, John Fulling, CGCS, GCSAA director and Shane Conroy, GCSAA field staff. Mike Bremmer hosted the meeting at the Wisconsin Club in Milwaukee.

During the meeting, a variety of pertinent issues were addressed, including the

Great ideas were provided from all involved and everyone felt confident in the current direction the WGCSA is taking to implement BMP at the state-level.

GCSAA's current key initiatives, which include:


- State-wide Best Management Practices implementation
- Government Affairs
- Professional development
- Recognition and promotion of profession

The Wisconsin GCSA key initiatives were also discussed which, coincide with some of GCSAA's initiatives:

- Execution of Best Management Practices


- Continual chapter growth
- Continue to produce quality chapter events and education

This meeting provided an exceptional opportunity for both parties. It provided an excellent occasion to gather information on what is being done at the local, and national levels to continue to elevate our profession. One area which was focused on, was Best Management Practices implementation strategies and approaches. Utilizing tactics and information from states who have previously implemented BMP, such as Michigan and Florida, the group was able to discuss a variety of developmental approaches. Great ideas were provided from all involved and everyone felt confident in the current direction the WGCSA is taking to implement BMP at the state-level.



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GCSAA

Growth as a chapter was also addressed. Constantly working to advance the profession and serve members, WGCSA president Jon Canavan brought up a variety of areas where the chapter has discussed growth programs and initiatives. With GCSAA representatives able to offer feedback and guidance, as well as take information back to headquarters, there was a lively discussion on remaining vigilant as an association as everyone present looks to the future to continue to grow the profession and association.

The group also used this time to discuss the labor issue in our industry. Finding talent at multiple levels in our industry is not exclusive to Wisconsin, this is na-

tional problem. This is being addressed at every level to ensure there is steady talent entering our industry. Currently GCSAA is working with various allied associations in an effort to expose more individuals at every age to the career opportunities which exist in our great profession. There is also an immediate concern to produce individuals in golf turfgrass management. With this immediate concern, programs and initiatives are being addressed with specific allied associations and firms, which was discussed with the group.

Being able to conduct these intelligence gathering meetings offers great value to all involved. I know I can speak for each GCSAA representative and say the meet-

ing produced both immediate and long-term results, as well as valuable information each one of us can use to improve the industry. I want to thank each individual for taking the time out of their schedules to attend, and offer input at this meeting; as well as to Mike Bremmer for hosting at his beautiful facilities. I also want to thank the WGCSA board and members for continuing to elevate not only our industry, but all of golf. With such a successful month of golf under the international spotlight in the state, all the credit to Zach Reineking, Phil Davidson, Steve Archibald and everyone on their crews for showcasing to the world how Wisconsin does golf. 



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Luke McGhee

By Josh Lepine, Certified Golf Course Superintendent, Maple Bluff Country Club &
Ben Labarre, Golf Course Superintendent, The Legend at Bristlecone

Author Note: Thank you to everyone who participated in the Membership survey. 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: **Luke McGhee**

Company Position: **Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, Westmoor Country Club, Brookfield, WI**

Years as WGCSA Member: **5**

Membership Classification: **C**

18 holes with Luke McGhee

1. How did you get started in the turfgrass industry? I originally went to UW-Madison for Landscape Architecture and Spanish but no longer enjoyed sitting inside at the studio. It wasn't until a co-worker mentioned to me golf course maintenance and how a family member of his was the Superintendent at Pine Hills Country Club (Rod Johnson). The next day I met with Doug Soldat to change majors.

2. What is the most rewarding part of your career? Being able to see a direct result of the work that was put in.

3. What would you consider to be your greatest career challenge? The greatest challenge in my career has been getting engaged, deciding to leave my position at Sand Valley and move back to the Milwaukee area. However, I am very grateful and blessed to now be working at Westmoor.

4. Which three adjectives describes you the best? Strong work ethic, respectful, funny

5. Tell us about your family. I grew up in Waukesha County, where my parents still live. I have a brother who lives in Kenosha, a stepsister in Caledonia and a stepsister in Medford, along with 4 nephews and nieces. I will also be getting married in November to my fiancé, Katie.

6. Any pets? No pets as of now, but we would like to get a dog after the wedding.

7. What drives/motivates you every day? To continue to learn and make the golf course better each and every day.

8. Who Would You Admire? My brother

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



Above: Luke and Katie in Puerto Vallarta

Below: Luke seeding and dimpling the 3rd green at Sand Valley



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

10. What's a fun fact that people don't know about you? I really enjoy woodworking and building crafts.

11. What do you do in your spare time, favorite hobbies? My hobbies include: working out, repurposing and building furniture/decorations, cooking, Mopar-muscle cars

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

13. What is the one thing you would like to learn/accomplish someday? Career related-When it's all said and done, I want to be able to say that I was a Superintendent that made a positive impact on the industry, the surrounding community and each course I worked at. Non career related - Own my own business.

14. What is your favorite turf management related tool or technique? Soil tests and verticutting

15. Favorites:

TV Show: Fixer Upper

Movie: Grumpy Old Men

Food: Salmon

Sports Teams: Badgers

16. Do you golf? Handicap? Best shot or golf story? Yes, hit some pars but mostly bogeys.

17. Top Bucket List Item? I had the opportunity to go to Bandon Dunes in December, but it is again at the top of my bucket list.

18. If you could provide one piece of professional advice, what would it be? Run your day; don't let your day run you.



Luke making due with the equipment on hand to get the job done at Sand Valley.

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Help a Diagnostician to Help You

By Kurt Hockemeyer, Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab Manager, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility

The Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab at the University of Wisconsin-Madison exists to serve the needs of turfgrass managers requiring some diagnostic help. Most of the time the samples sent into the lab are properly collected from the problem areas, the submission forms are properly filled out with sufficient information, and photos of the field symptoms accompany the sample. All of these things combined give your diagnostician all of the relevant information that they need to efficiently and accurately diagnose the issues affecting the turf. But oftentimes, one or more of these things is lacking or missing. This causes time to be lost when the diagnostician is trying to collect the missing information that can help them to diagnose a sample. This article is a kindly reminder of the things that you can do as a submitter to help your friendly, neighborhood diagnostician.

1. Collect samples from an area where the turf is actively being affected.

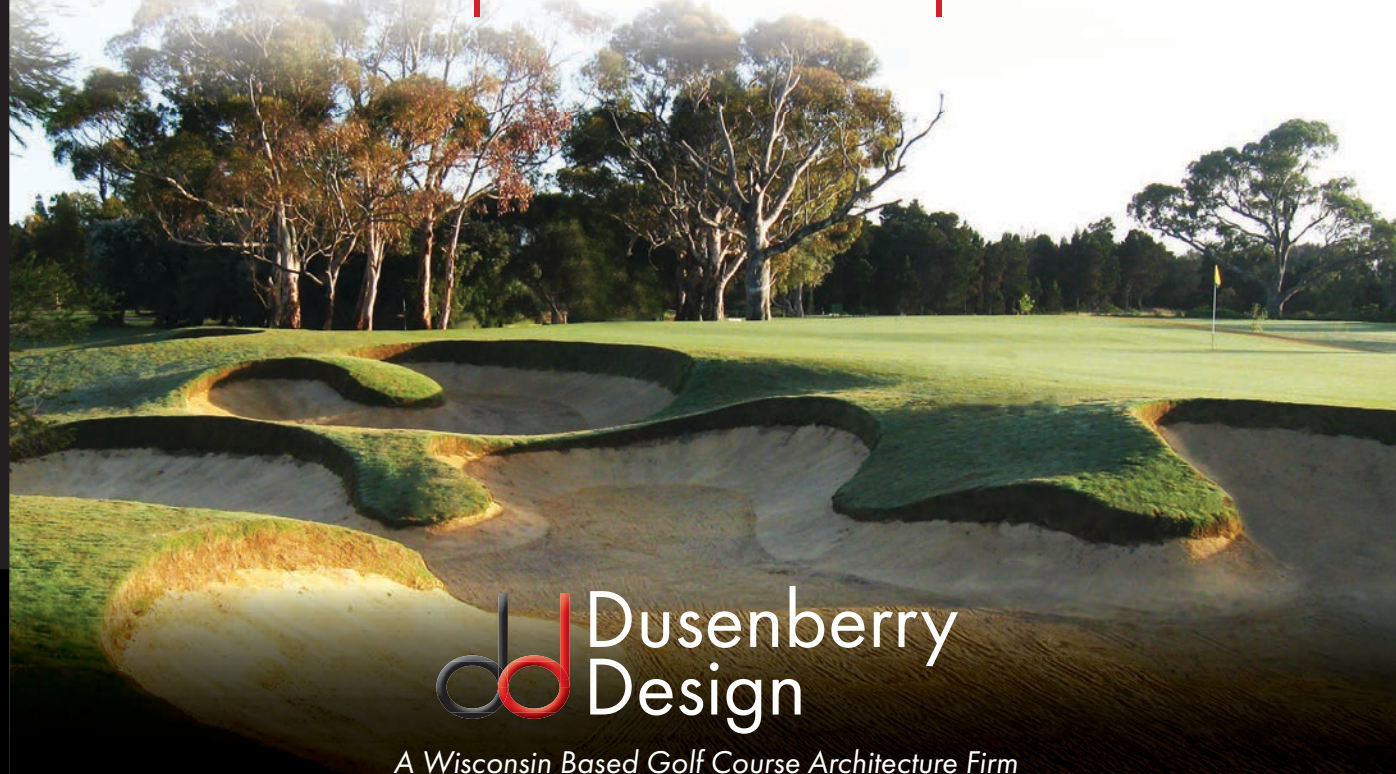
By pulling samples from the transition area between healthy and affected turf, you give your diagnostician the best chance to find what's wrong. In terms of fungal diseases, this is the area where the fungus is actively growing and infecting. If a sample were to be pulled from an area of completely dead grass, the only thing that would be found on the turf would be saprophytes, organisms that feed on already dead plant material. But by pulling from the transition zone, the pathogen can often be seen growing and moving on the turf from an already infected area to a healthy area. Same goes for insect problems. By pulling from the transition area, this is usually where the insects are actively feeding and causing problems, and therefore they can be found and diagnosed. Also, it's usually best to pull the

sample before a fungicide or insecticide has been sprayed. By delaying the spray for only 5 minutes to pull a sample, you can avoid the risk of your pesticide application completely inhibiting a pathogen or insect from showing up in the lab.

2. Fill out the submission form with as much information as possible.

The submission forms help to keep track of who has submitted a sample, but they also ask many relevant questions that can help a diagnostician. Sometimes these questions are ignored or only briefly answered because they don't seem relevant to the submitter. But all of those questions are on that form for a reason. Describing the symptoms in detail, when they appeared, getting worse or better, etc. is often the section that gets ignored. If all of this information is present right at the beginning of receiving a sample, this can help the speed of the diagnosis go much faster.

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3. Send photos of the problem

Photos of the field symptoms are not necessary for an accurate diagnosis, but they are usually extremely helpful. By giving the diagnostician some idea of what the problem looks like, they may be able to narrow down the list of possible causes and this can sometimes speed up the diagnosis. If photos are not possible, then a phone call can allow you to describe the symptoms in great detail and also give some information that you may not have been able to write down on the submission form.

The Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab website (tdl.wisc.edu) contains a lot of great information about submitting samples. It even allows you to pay by credit card right on our website. By submitting samples early in the week, you can ensure that you will get a response that same week. This also avoids the problem of samples sitting in shipping over a weekend where they can become completely degraded and it becomes very hard to diagnose anything at that point. A cup cutter size sample that includes 2-3 inches of soil and roots is usually sufficient. Soil probe samples are too small.

Once the proper sample is pulled, you can wrap it in foil to allow the sample to breathe while in shipping. Fill your shipping box with old newspaper or bubble wrap so the sample does not shift during transit. Ship however you want to the following address:

Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab
2502 County Hwy M
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Include a submission form along with your sample, putting the form in a plastic bag to avoid the paper from getting dirty or wet. Or you can fill out the submission form directly on our website and submit electronically. This electronic form goes directly to my email and also gives me a heads up that a sample is coming from you. Once I receive a sample, I may contact you for more information. But I will always try to contact you within the first 24 hours of receiving your sample. Either with the completed diagnosis, or with my preliminary thoughts.

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and recommendations, the cost is \$150. We also have a special contract member status. You can buy a certain number of diagnoses at a discounted rate at the beginning of the season, and throughout the season you will receive our bi-weekly TDL Newsletter detailing everything we are seeing the lab, forecasting certain issues based on upcoming weather patterns, and our thoughts on the growing season. We sell contracts starting at \$100, at \$100 increments, all the way up to \$1000. Each \$100 increment entitles you to one full written report with photos and recommendations, which is discounted from the normal \$150. A \$1000 level contract gives you unlimited sample submissions throughout the summer. If you are interested in becoming a contract member, please contact me. If you have any other questions, or just want to chat, feel free to do so. Thanks and good luck this growing season.

Kurt Hockemeyer
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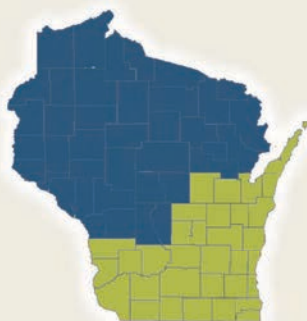


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My Summer Vacation

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

For over ten years, I've used my bi-monthly privilege to write in the Grass Roots to talk about turfgrass science. This time, I hope you'll permit me to share some less quantitative information about my recent trip to the International Turfgrass Research Conference in New Brunswick, NJ (hosted by Rutgers) in mid-July which doubled as the Soldat Family summer vacation.

Every four years, the International Turfgrass Society puts on a week-long conference a conference to talk turf. It's a great opportunity to interact with a truly international group of scientists studying turfgrass all over the world. I am able to see my colleagues in the US every year, and sometimes more often, but the ITSRC is really the only opportunity I have to see a majority of the international researchers at one event. I presented two of my research projects at the conference – one on using biosolids to grow sod, the other on how temperature and ET effect leaching.

One of the perks of my job is the travel associated with the scientific conferences and GCSAA chapter events that has allowed me to see a lot of this great country and many parts of the world. Usually, I go alone, but this time we loaded up the minivan with my wife Sarah, two boys (9 and 10 years old), and my parents and headed east.



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The conference started on a Monday in July, and we left the Wednesday before. After an over-night stop in Ohio, we made it to our first destination: Ithaca, NY – home of Cornell University where I spent four years working towards my Ph.D. My 10-year old son, Oliver, was born in Ithaca. He lived there for about 10 days before we had to pack up and move to Madison. We obviously had told him the story of his brief stay in Ithaca, but it was really fun to bring him back to see it. When we told him he was born in New York, like most people, he was thinking of big buildings and taxi cabs. His expectations were shattered (in a good way, I think) as we spent time on Cayuga Lake, hiked along the waterfalls, and explored the picturesque Cornell campus.



Figure 1. We stopped by our old apartment building in Ithaca and visited several waterfalls in the area, wearing our badger red of course.

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WISCONSIN SOILS REPORT

However, the best part of our Ithaca stay was definitely the trip to Bel Canto Farm (www.belcantofarm.com), owned and operated by Barb Rossi. Barb runs the show, but she has help from her husband Dr. Frank Rossi. If you know Frank, you probably have a hard time imagining him working with farm animals. But I can tell you he looks pretty comfortable and

happy doing it (**Fig. 2**), and puts the same energy and curiosity into helping out on the farm that he does when he is researching or talking about turf management. Barb and Frank were kind enough to let my city kids interact with the farm animals and learn where their bacon and breakfast sausages come from (**Fig. 3**).



Figure 2. Believe it or not, that is Dr. Frank Rossi in his overall feeding the Kunekune pigs.



Figure 3. Oliver petting Lola, obviously the queen of the yard; and Sam sitting on Barb's horse, Patrick while Barb (purple) and Sarah look on.

WISCONSIN SOILS REPORT

After leaving the farm, we headed west to Cooperstown to visit the National Baseball Hall of Fame. We are a baseball family, so everyone was looking forward to this stop. Wisconsin is well represented in the Hall of Fame, with several players in the Hall including Bud Selig, who was inducted this year. The plaques of the newest members were not ready, but the marble bases were mounted on the wall and signed by the inductees (**Fig. 4**). We also learned about the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, with 3 of the 15 teams residing in Wisconsin (Kenosha,

Milwaukee, and Racine). The Klement's racing sausages had their own display, and the Wisconsin State Journal's headline from the August 1948, when Babe Ruth died was prominently featured in the Babe Ruth exhibit. Before heading on to our next stop, we caught a few innings of a Little League game on Doubleday Field, built in 1939 and only a few block from the Hall. We ventured on from Cooperstown, to Hartford, CT where my Dad's brother lives. I left the family there and headed down to New Brunswick to participate in the conference.

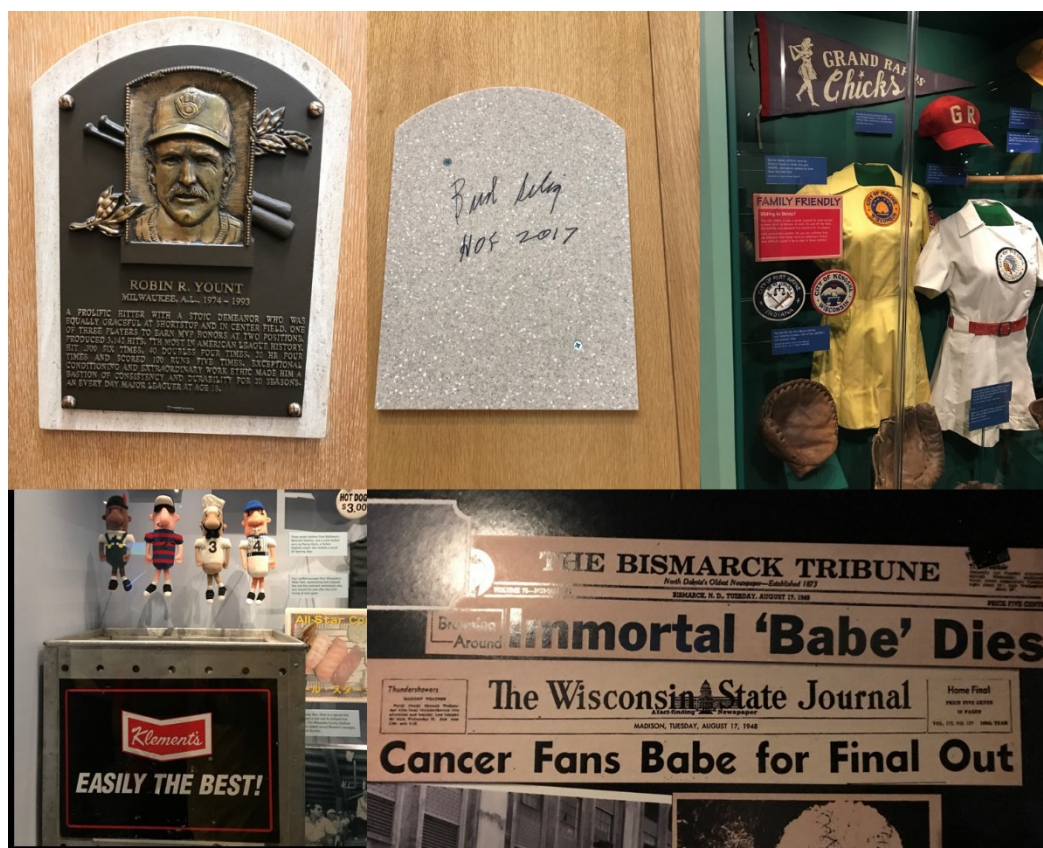


Figure 4. Wisconsin-related items at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY.



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WISCONSIN SOILS REPORT

The exchange of scientific information was as good as any other conference I have attended, but the real value in attending these events is the networking and the chance to catch up with old friends (Fig. 5). There were over 400 attendees, representing dozens of countries. The Rutgers team did an outstanding job of hosting the conference and made me proud to be part of the host country (although I had nothing to do with it!). I presented my research on Monday and Tuesday, and Wednesday was reserved for field tours. I was able to tour Yankee Stadium with grounds superintendent Dan Cunning-

ham (Fig. 6). At the time, he and his crew were preparing for a New York City FC game – one of 17 for the year. Just like at Miller Park, there are almost no true off days. When the Yankees or Brewers aren't in town, you can bet that something else is happening there. It was amazing to me how calm Dan and his crew were, however. It was clear this was not their first rodeo. Indeed, Dan has been a staple at Yankee Stadium for the last quarter century. He discussed some of the innovations he brought to the infield skin to battle moisture management, and had some interesting ideas for improving it – including


cooling the skin like and ice rink to lower the dew point. This inventiveness is one of my favorite parts of working with the turf industry. The creativity of sod growers, golf course superintendents, sports field managers, and the like has driven the continual improvement of their craft. Finally, it was time to head home. The conference continued through Friday, but with a long drive ahead and Field Day only a few days away I needed to get back to get to work. The trip was a success on many levels and I am thankful for the friends, family, and colleagues that made this a memorable trip. 



Figure 5. Familiar faces. Clockwise from upper left: Dr. Chris Williamson delivered a talk about deterring white grub predation using Milorganite; It's always a pleasure to see Dr. Trygve Aamlid of NBIO in Norway - Dr. Aamlid hosted Maple Bluff's Jens Arneson for a summer at his home in Norway in 2012; Dr. Rossi, Dr. Kreuser and I had a nice chat with the legend Dr. Paul Rieke; Dr. Geunhwa Jung was all smiles as usual; and finally it was good for Dr. Koch and I to have a chance to catch up with Dr. Jim Kerns.

LAUGHTER ON THE LINKS

A U.S. citizen is vacationing on his own in Ireland. He decides to play a round of golf and is paired with three local gents. He takes a few practice swings, steps up to the first tee, and proceeds to hook the ball out of bounds. He shakes his head, reaches in his pocket, and re-tees another ball. He tells his playing partners that he is taking a Mulligan. He pounds one down the center of the fairway about 280 yards out.

With a big smile, he asks the others "In the U.S., we call that a Mulligan; was wondering what you called it here in Ireland."

After a moment of silence, one of the locals replies, "Hitting three."



Figure 6. Getting a tour of the field at Yankee Stadium with Superintendent Dan Cunningham (white shirt) was one of the highlights of the trip.

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AmFam Championship The Other Story

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

As I sit here Monday morning, June 26th, I am breathing a sigh of relief; I survived the AmFam Senior Golf Championship. The work I did for the AmFam tournament is nothing compared the work and planning Phil Davidson did or what Zak Reineking did for the US Open, well done gentlemen! Working with a Senior PGA event, the O.J. Noer Facility became the host to the Golf Channel, Emergency Command Center and John Daly's motorhome and hot tub was a new experience for me.

As with any successful event, the key is pre-planning. The AmFam Tournament and Assistant Tournament Director Kip met with me in March. One of the top agenda items was the request to host the Emergency Command Center (ECC). The ECC consists of UW-Madison Police, Madison Police, Dane County Police and Dane County 911 for paramedic and ambulance services. I was more than happy to be of assistance and allow this group to be in close proximity to University Ridge Golf Course. A few weeks later I had another meeting with various representatives of the ECC to tour the O.J. Noer Facility. Near the end of the tour they felt the O.J. Noer Facility would be a perfect location. They would use the lunchroom all week as the command center and reserve our conference room for confidential meetings and telephone calls. At the end of the meeting I asked if the command center had its own Wi-Fi service. They responded no, they planned to use our network. I was more than willing to cooperate but the O.J. Noer Facility has a DSL connection. Our download speed on a good day is 12 mbs and upload never surpasses 5.7 mbs. They made it perfectly clear this was not acceptable for their needs and this would be a deal breaker. That meeting ended with them wanting to use our site but if the Wi-Fi could not be upgraded it would not be feasible.

A few days later the tournament director sent me an email asking if I could meet with Charter to attempt to solve the wifi issue. Mid-April I met with Charter. They were already making a splice into a nearby existing line to provide Golf Channel with hi-speed-internet; they would just make a second splice for ECC. Charter would then run a temporary hi-speed internet line into the building. After a few more conversations it was settled, the week before the AmFam Championship, Charter would make the splices for Golf Channel and ECC. The Friday before the event a Charter truck arrived around noon and said the crew would be there later that day to answer any questions. Well it is Charter so guess what, NO ONE showed up. On Sunday I informed the tournament director that Golf Channel advance team was here and we were preparing for Monday's crew arrival and we still had no internet. Late Monday morning Charter arrived and made the splices. We ran the cable to the Golf Channel trailer and laid the cable to the O.J. Noer Facility then rolled it up awaiting cable protectors to encase the cable as it ran across the parking lot. Tuesday morning the cable protectors arrived and we ran the cable

into the building 10 minutes before ECC team arrived for set-up. One more issue they had a cable but no modem, this was worked out over the next few hours.

On Monday the trailers began to arrive and Joe Stovechek was in full command arranging the compound just as he designed it. The week before at the U.S. Open at Erin Hills we can all remember all the rain, but here at the O.J. Noer Facility we seemed miss most of it (Sorry to remind you of all that rain Zak). The week before the AmFam, you could have landed a jet liner in our parking lot without a problem. Then the rains started, trailers began to arrive and the mess began. Monday morning the golf cars for the crew arrived.



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NOTES FROM THE NOER

As they attempted to unload them, the driver realized his trailer was broken and he could not get the ramp down. After a few minutes of two seasoned veterans debating ideas back and forth we made a plan and I discovered I can fix semi-trailer ramps. The next issue was where to park two tractor trailers and one tractor and trailer. Where to leave them was an issue because the upper O.J. Noer Facility parking area was reserved for John Daly's motorhome and hot tub.

Yes, Mr. Daly wanted a place to park his motorhome which was close to the AmFam site and not on grass. The AmFam committee thought in front of the pesticide building at the O.J. Noer Facility would be perfect. Arrangements were made to get him power and water for his motorhome and a way to fill his hot tub. Wednesday came he had to withdraw, maybe next year. With his withdrawal, plenty of space around the pesticide building opened up for us to park all the semi tractors and trailers.



Back to the Golf Channel, during Monday set-up we had a fair amount of rain so moving a few deliveries into the trailers was a task. The office supply driver would not drive the delivery truck on the grass to deliver the copier due to the high probability he would get stuck. We discovered the Toro heavy duty workman worked like a charm. We loaded the printer onto the Workman and backed it up to the trailer and delivery was complete. Joe now had another issue, how was he going to get an empty porta-potty out to the trailer on number nine fairway? I saw the light go on, we could load it into the Workman and I could drive it out there, if it worked for a printer it should be perfect for a porta-potty. A few days later everyone one was being very nice to me. On Sunday Joe asked if I could bring the porta-potty back to the O.J. Noer Facility for pick-up on Monday following the tournament. I said sure since I was going to be there anyway to supervise take down and there departure. What I did not understand was he meant for me to drive out, help load a well-used porta-potty and drive it back to the O.J. Noer Facility. I found another thing I am qualified to do, haul around a full porta-pottie.



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NOTES FROM THE NOER


The pre-tournament Monday was also a big day since the Golf Channel production boss was to arrive, Jackie Moretti. She was not here last year and I did not know what to expect. Monday came and went and she was a no show, it was raining all day. Tuesday she was there putting her stamp of approval on the tournament activities. Jackie was in full command of the production and very professional, but she had a lighter side which made the week very enjoyable. As the week passed, Jackie was a pure pleasure to work.

Once all the trailers were in place and staff was here there were just a few issues. The day before telecasting began they had to move a TV tower on number fifteen. When the cameraman arrived and did his trial run there were two branches in the way. A quick call to Phil and he said the branches could go. Early Friday morning I ventured out with the Jackie to meet the cameraman and cleared a path for the camera. Another skill, I can cut branches for Phil.

After day one, I was informed by Jackie that someone had been exposed to wild parsnip. Saturday morning I delivered some DNR suggestion on identifying wild parsnip and ways to deal with the rash once exposed. As far as I know, no one from Golf Channel left with a wild parsnip rash.

As the week wore on the rains kept coming and the west end of the O.J. Noer Facility, the cart path to the course and various other places became a complete mud pit. One Golf Channel person seemed to have trouble getting their golf cart to the course

through all the mud. Thankfully we had cut an alternate path that served us well during our AmFam mudder event. After these few issues Jackie and Joe had their staff humming like a fine tuned machine and there was not much else we needed to do for them just sit back and watch.

Now that the event is over I am looking forward to next year. Jackie and Joe from the Golf Channel were great to work with. We had a great deal of fun. I sure hope next year Golf Channel will send Jackie and Joe to run this broadcast. 



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Grand Geneva Resort Hosts And Blasi Educates At June Meeting

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

WGCSA members and guests were treated to another great venue when our June meeting was held at the Grand Geneva Resort. Seth Brogen is the Golf Course Superintendent of the Highlands Course while James Crothers is the Certified Golf Course Superintendent over the entire 36 hole facility with air strip, ski hill and resort properties.

Construction began on the property in 1966 with the resort opening in 1968 as the The Lake Geneva Playboy Club. The Brute course opened in '68 with the Briar Patch coming on board in 1971.

The resort with its airstrip was a popular stop for entertainers from Sonny and Cher to Bob Hope. Visitors to the golf courses included John Denver, Mickey Mantle, Jim Brown and many other NFL and MLB players.

In 1993 the Marcus Corporation purchased the resort and re-branded it as the Grand Geneva. The Briar Patch Course was turned into the Highlands and all areas inside and out were given a face-lift.

Regular updates have continued with new pools, convention space and ballrooms providing for a great all around resort for vacations or business trips.

Our day started with golf course architect Jay Blasi discussing "The Value of Master Planning". Jay touched on golf course feature life cycles, proactive vs reactive work and how to determine the return on investment of capital projects.

Even great golf courses need master plans because features do not last forever as items wear out from time or use. But also because committees change and the new people on the committee want to do something while it is their turn at the helm.

Jay discussed how committees can be reactive rather than proactive. Or in other words they often concentrate on what they perceive needs to be changed now rather than planning for future years.

A master plan with member communication and education at every step is the best way to plan for the future.

For a club to develop a master plan the first two steps are to perform a profes-

sional audit to evaluate all the current course features and to set goals for where the club wants to be in 20 years.

The club must consider who it competes with and what makes it special. With the audit results and goals in mind a designer can prepare a conceptual master plan for the club and then refine that into a final master plan.

Of course once the plan is in place the real work begins as projects must be planned, financed and executed while keeping the members happy.

Blasi discussed his work at Sentry World and how it went from a simple greenside bunker project to full blown revision.

The audit showed the layout was too short for pros, too long for short hitters, the bunker designs were varied and the layout had a number of blind shots. The audit also showed features such as bunkers and irrigation were wearing out and the course had lost over 100 trees in a storm that changed the way the holes played and looked.

In the end Jay's goal was to achieve a layout that would carry on past the cur-

rent committees and chairman.

Sentry World was 31 years old and all the greens, tees, bunker drainage, cart paths and irrigation piping was original.

By the end of the goal setting it was clear the course could use more than a slight update. In the end the course was closed for a year for a complete regrassing and revision.

Green size went from 99,000 sqft to 128,000 sqft with roll-offs around most greens. Tee size was increased from 148,000 to 216,000 sqft while total bunker square footage was reduced from 159,000 to 88,250. The reduction in bunker area along with using the Better Billy Bunker method of construction should save the club in labor and sand costs for a long time.

Blasi was quick to point out not all clubs can shut down for a year and often do master plan work over a series of smaller projects.


With our minds full of information we then fed our bodies with a tasty lunch of Burgers N Dogs along with salads, slaw, watermelon and cookies.

The Highlands course was originally designed by Jack Nicklaus and Pete Dye and transformed by Bob Cupp in 1996. In 2006 the course was updated by Bob Lohmann with major renovations completed on holes 9, 12 and 15.

The course was a treat to play and Seth and his staff had it in terrific condition. Of course to keep the wet summer going our blue skies turned to a pop up thunder storm on our sixth hole to bring the players in for what turned into a delay of over an hour.

We lost a few golfers who gave up on the rain but those that stayed went out to enjoy a course that drained very well and sunshine the rest of the afternoon.

In the 2-man scramble low net winners at 59.75 was the team of Bob and Matt Lohmann. Low gross at 66 was Paul Thompson and Doug Krause with Paul Bastron and Mark Petitque in second at 67.

Thank you to James Crothers and Seth Brogen for their hospitality and to Jay Blasi for the education! 



Educational Speaker Jay Blasi informed us about master planning.



Top: This statue overlooks the practice putting green.

Above: The brain trust of Bushman, Grams and Brogen figure out the scores.

Below: Scott Anthes and Tom Wentz discuss stragy during the rain delay.



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Top Left: Jake Silkey, Jon Canavan and Rob Johnson rounded out our foursome.

Top Right: Looking back on the Par 5 11th.

Right: Jim Stoller, Gary Sullivan, Nick Bannach and Aaron Ehlenfeldt

Below: The par 3 12th hole plays between 128 and 217 yards.





WEST BEND COUNTRY CLUB FLAG EVENT WINNERS

Closest To The Pin:

Hole 7 - Matt Leinen

Hole 12 - Chris White

Longest Drive:

Hole 2 - Mike Benkusky

Hole 14 - Matt Lohmann

Longest Putt:

Hole 5 - Matt Wittkowski

Hole 16 - Chris White

Top: Our Host Seth Brogen

Right: The Par 5 Second Hole

Below: The Par 3 7th Hole is well guarded short and left.



2017 WTA Summer Field Day

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

It was great to see everyone at the O.J. Noer Facility on July 25th attending the WTA Summer Field Day. Compared to the previous week, the weather was a fabulous 78 degrees, light breeze, sunny and low humidity. With Mother Nature's help, everyone remained dry and received a lot of great education at this year's event. Pre-registration numbers were typical but the weather drove the on-site attendees. The green industry vendors came out in force to support the efforts of the research being performed at the O.J. Noer Facility. This year's attendance was 249 people down 6 people from last year.

The morning started with welcoming remarks from Dr. Soldat. He was followed by WTA president, Paul Huggett. With all the pleasantries taken care of, attendees divided themselves into five groups and the education began. The topics for the morning tours were:

- Reduced Risk Herbicides
- Low Input Turf Selections
- Lawn & Sports Turf Snow Mold Control
- Herbicide Evaluations
- Hose End Sprayer Calibration
- Mosquito and Other Nuisance Pest Abatement

The morning sessions have been very well received by attendees as they offer information that is applicable to all turfgrass managers. The highlight this year was watching Dr. Koch discuss snow mold while the temperature climbed to 78 degrees. I was not sure how he was going to make this tour stop happen but his use of posters and photos from last years' sports turf snow mold trails made this tour stop one many were talking about (well done Dr. Koch).

Dr. Soldat and Nick Bero continued to demonstrate options for more sustainable turfgrass management by using reduced risk herbicides and low input turf varieties. As the world changes, there are more and more products being offered that can provide acceptable herbicide control while reducing risk to the environment and applicator. In this way, the turf industry is much like the field of medicine; continually developing new treatments that are more efficient than those that were previously used. The low input turfgrass continues to stress the proper turfgrass selection for the specific site. The difference it can make between success and failure relies on the accurate selection to both of those issues. One thing Dr. Soldat has taught me is that not everyone wants or requires that perfect sod looking lawn. If we ask the correct questions, we can help make the proper selection for the desired result.



The vendor area is a popular spot to kick tires, network and be educated by vendors and company representatives.

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Above: Dr. Soldat presented information on reduced risk herbicides and low input turf varieties.

Left: Dr. Williamson discussed the unofficial state bird the mosquito and other nuisance pests.

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Dr. Williamson's talk was spot on as he talked about mosquitos and other nuisance pests. After all the rains in the past few weeks, his station might have been over-run with mosquitos. With all the recent rain and humid conditions, his talk was very timely.

After the morning tours there was ample time for attendees to visit with our various vendors and solve all the world problems or at least search for answers on their turfgrass issues. The vendor session was followed by lunch served by Gaylord Catering. Gaylord has been catering the WTA Summer Field Day as long as I can remember and they always do a terrific job. Kudos to Gaylord Catering!

After lunch the golf tour began. There were stops at many of the current research projects taking place at the O.J. Noer Facility. The afternoon tour is a more casual tour with a short presentation at each stop by a graduate student or professor explaining what the project involves and some early results or trends. As these trials come to a close this fall, the professors will post results on their respective websites for all to read. Some of these projects will become presentations at the WTA Winter Conference January 8th, 2018 at the Pyle Center in Madison.

Overall it was a perfect day. I really enjoy seeing the who's who of the midwest turf industry here at the O.J. Noer Facility.

The next WTA event is the fall golf outing at Chenequa Country Club. This great event is being hosted by Jim Shaw and will take place on Monday, October 2nd. I hope to see you there. Check out www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org for more details.



Top: Dr. Koch presented snow mold information. It may be summer but winter will be here before we know it.

Middle: Bruce Schweiger entertains the crowd as usual.

Bottom: Heavy rains has brought extra work for the staff at the Noer Center. This flood was from July 22, just 3 days before field day.

Event Schedule!

**Aug 21 - (Monday) Joint WGCSA - NGLGCSA Meeting,
Green Bay Country Club, Green Bay**

**September 18 (Monday) - Wee One, Pine Hills Country
Club, Sheboygan**

**October 2 - WTA Golf Fundraiser - Chenequa Country
Club, Hartland**

**November 4 (Saturday) Couples Dinner - Harley David-
son Museum, Milwaukee**

**November 29 & 30 (Wednesday / Thursday) Golf Turf
Symposium, American Club, Kohler**

**Visit our website at www.WGCSA.com for the most up to
date calendar and registration forms.**



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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.

Wisconsin Serves As Tournament Central

By David A. Brandenburg, Editor, The Grass Roots

What a year for golf in Wisconsin. In a short span we hosted the biggest event of the golf season when Erin Hills welcomed the United States Golf Association's U.S. Open followed immediately by the American Family Championship at University Ridge hosting the Senior PGA Tour for the second year. Shortly after that the inaugural Thornberry Creek Classic was held at no other than Thornberry Creek with the world's best women golfers.

Although there are differences in the size of operations for the 3 events each course did a great job showcasing golf in Wisconsin.

Erin Hills welcomed over 120 volunteer groundskeepers for the week and received the use of dozens of extra mowers for the week. University Ridge had a handful of volunteers to help while Thornberry Creek got the job done with their normal staff and a few extra pieces of equipment.

Unfortunately each course had to deal with rain during the tournament week but all three courses handled the rain well and


the tournaments went on without a hitch.

As your editor and chief photographer I feel honored to get to visit these courses as a member of the press. The only challenge is picking out what pictures to use from the 100's I take.

Erin Hills is unique in that it was built to host a U.S. Open and is set on a 652 acre site made by the god and the glaciers to be a great golf course.

University Ridge is set on 550 acres and is the home for the University of Wisconsin men's and women's golf teams and the colleges cross country team.

Thornberry Creek is a 27 hole course with the non-tournament 9 featuring 2 flagsticks on each of the oversize greens so a customer can play twice and have a different course each time. It is a 2.5 mile drive from the maintenance facility to the 12th hole with no real shortcuts so employees plan ahead.

Congratulations to all the courses and their staffs for successfully showcasing golf in Wisconsin for the world to see. 



A army of 120 volunteers from around the world need a place to relax and unwind. The hospitality tent had games, cold treats and couches for volunteers to relax for the week. Steve Abler provided the picture above and of the sponsors who helped make the tent possible.

Volunteers from out of the area stayed at Carroll College and were bused in and out of the course.



COVER STORY - ERIN HILLS



Top: This Toro cart was decked out for the occasion.

Center: Pat Sisk and Dr. Rossi assist the cup changing crew on hole 6. When the world is watching perfection is the goal.

Bottom: The bunker crew on hole 18 taken from hole 8.



COVER STORY - ERIN HILLS



Top: Josh Lepine and Brian Bonelander near the 13th hole were glad to be part of the crew no matter what job they had.

Center Left: The extra Toro fairway units ready for the afternoon mowing. Toro, Jacobsen and Smithco among others provided extra equipment to ensure the staff could finish quickly if needed to due to weather delays.

Center Right: Jerry Kershasky mowing fairways courtesy of a picture from Golfdom's Seth Jones.

Bottom: Mowing, checking moisture and watering as needed on the 11th green with the 10th green in the far background.



COVER STORY - ERIN HILLS



Top: In this picture taken by Paul Willoughby and provided by Kate Lifke ominous skys roll in as Kate rolls the first green.

Center: Garrett Luck mowing the approach on the 5th.

Bottom: The second hole is full of activity with mowers on the greens, approach and fairway with the walking divot crew just finishing up. Most volunteers did a variety of jobs during the week.



COVER STORY - ERIN HILLS



Top: Superintendent Zach Reineking and Assistant Alex Benson-Crone discuss the afternoon activities. Zach has been at Erin Hills for 12 years.

Middle Left: The media center was humongous to fit press from around the globe.

Middle Right: Steve Abler and Ken Schwark between the 9th and 18th greens.

Bottom: The challenging par 3 9th Hole with the 18th in the background.



COVER STORY - ERIN HILLS



Top: One team of fairways mowers making short work of the task in this photo submitted by Derek Kastenschmidt.

Left: After a Wednesday morning storm volunteers and staff switched their attention to bunker maintenance for the practice rounds.

Below: Kate Lifke doing helping the bunker team on the 4th hole.



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COVER STORY - UNIVERSITY RIDGE



Top and Left: Hole 7 “Drumlin” is a Par 4 playing 429 yards and is well protected by sand bunker.

Saturday’s “Celebrity Foursome” of Brett Farve, Andy North, Darius Rucker and Derek Jetter had a large following of fans. It didn’t hurt they were a foursome behind Freddy Couples and Steve Stricker.



COVER STORY - UNIVERSITY RIDGE



Top Left: Assistant Superintendent Dave Helke is assisted by Caleb who returned for the tournament from his job at Sand Valley.

Top Right: Scott is new to the staff and is a engineering student at UW.

Left: Mowing the first cut on hole 9.

Below: The challenging par 4 10th Hole called "Elm Valley" plays downhill to a challenging two-tiered green.

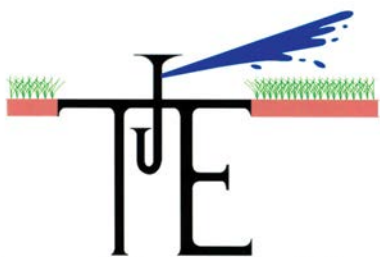


COVER STORY - UNIVERSITY RIDGE

Top: Dan is mowing the 18th Green and is a UW Student.

Center: Luke is a volunteer who works at Maple Bluff Country Club.

Bottom: Assistant Superintendent Paul Karklus has previously worked at Geneva National and Odana Hills. Paul was nice enough to give me a ride back to the clubhouse area and we had a nice discussion on tournament preparation.



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COVER STORY - UNIVERSITY RIDGE



Top: Host Superintendent Phil Davidson has been at U-Ridge for 10 years and is originally from Decatur, GA.

Right: The 9th Hole called “Hedgerow” brings players back to the clubhouse area plays 554 yards uphill.

Bottom: Drew who attends North Dakota State mows the Par 3 Eight Green.



COVER STORY - THORNBERRY CREEK



Top: The driving range was popular for players and spectators alike as all attendees walked past the new practice facilities as they entered the grounds.

Middle: Mowing the 6th Green

Bottom: Mowing the 15th Fairway. At Thornberry they mowed fairways in the evening to get a dry cut and then just rolled them with the mowers at a faster speed in the morning to knock the dew off and freshen them up.



COVER STORY - THORNBERRY CREEK



Top: Host Superintendent Steve Archibald has been at the course for 24 years. His cart is numbered in remembrance of his favorite player, Walter Payton.

Center: Hazard stakes by the event rules trailer are ready if needed.

Bottom: The bunker crew making straight lines on hole 4 and then the single rakee on hole 15.



COVER STORY - THORNBERRY CREEK



Top: Assistant Superintendent Pete Nowak spoke with me regarding the challenge of fabric bunker liners and the benefit of leaving milkweed for the monarch butterflies.

Center Left: The turkeys are checking out the Packer Logo on the 1st Hole.

Center Right: Hole 16 offered the Military and Veterans Pavilion offered a special place for active and discharged military to relax and watch the action. Military personnel attended to the flag for each group.

Bottom Left: Christopher is assisted by Luke to set cups for the day. Steve had great praise for Christopher's cup cutting ability.



COVER STORY - THORNBERRY CREEK



Top: The Par 3 Second Hole plays 97 to 169 yards downhill and is well protected by bunkering on the right side.

Bottom: The 18th Hole plays 346 to 409 yards uphill with a dogleg left. The tournament 18 holes at Thornberry Creek is unique in that the 9th hole does not return to the clubhouse.



Amplly Moist

By David A. Brandenburg, Editor, The Grass Roots

Considering that most areas of the state have had ample moisture since last fall we are truly nearing a “year of moisture”. In some ways it is good to fill lakes and groundwater reservoirs but when trying to produce a crop or a playing surface it can be a challenge.

Some courses have had floods well over the 100 year level more than once this summer. For us here in Fond du Lac it has been wet but since June we have been mildly wet compared to other areas that have had monsoon rains.

Congratulations are due to 3 GCSAA Legacy Scholarship Winners from Wisconsin out of the 20 offered nationwide.

Race Archibald, son of Steve and Amy will attend Eastern Illinois University and major in communications / journalism.

Alexa Ferrie, daughter of Brian and Kristine is attending the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities majoring in business and marketing.

Jacob Schaller son of Scott and Joan will attend the University of Wisconsin Madison and major in consumer science-human resources.

Each student will receive \$1,500 from the Environmental Institute for Golf and Syngenta. Congratulations to the students and parents of these hard working men and women.

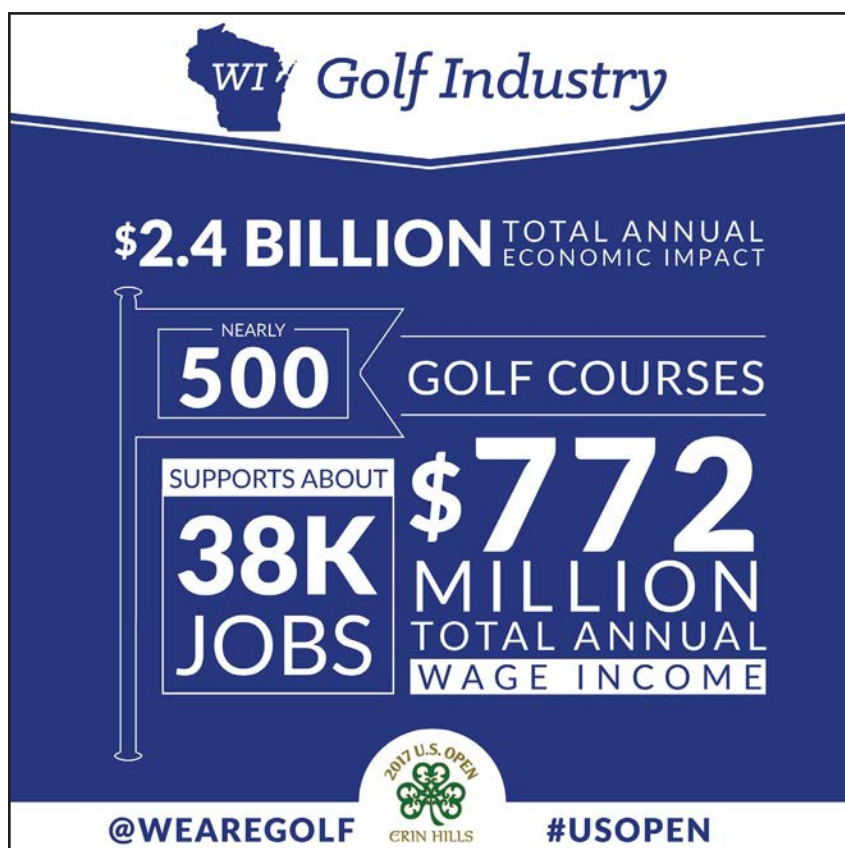
Congratulations to Brett Hosler, Ozaukee Country Club for achieving the status of Certified Golf Course Superintendent in April. Also congratulations to James Hasz, Lake Breeze Golf Club, Christopher Zugel, Whistling Straits who renewed their certification in June and Garrett Luck, Hidden Glenn at Bentdale Farms who renewed in May.

In sad news long time affiliate member Roy Zehren passed away June 10th. Roy was proud of his service in Korea where he earned a Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his work as a combat photographer.

Roy worked in landscaping and founded Natural Athletic Turf doing work with golf courses and sports fields. He was an active member and very willing to share his experiences with all of us.

As summer turns to fall I hope those of you in the “wet zone” are able to firm up and return to normal moisture levels for aeration and fall projects and leaf cleanup.

Thank you to the writers for the information in this issue and the advertisers for making this all possible. 🌱



This graphic highlights the economic impact of our game in Wisconsin. Despite the recent downturn in the number of golfers and golf properties the game remains a large part of the badger state economy.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



On my way to and from Thornberry Creek I came accross Hidden Valley Driving Range in Oneida. This range caught my attention due to the bus but when I pulled in they were mowing with two pickup trucks pulling gang mowers.



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Oconomowoc Golf Club Hosts Wisconsin State Amateur

By David A. Brandenburg, Editor, The Grass Roots

The 116th Wisconsin State Amateur Championship was held at Oconomowoc Golf Club July 17th - 20th.

Located on a incredible property north of the city Oconomowoc Golf Club was designed by Donald Ross and opened for play in 1917. Due to WWI only 9 holes were finished until 1924 when the club had 18 holes.

During WWII 9 holes were taken out of play until sometime in the 1950's. From 1995 through 2002 architect Craig Schreiner worked with the club to restore many of the Ross features.

The club offers a terrific layout for the members and a true challenge for the State Amateur players.

The Amateur starts with 156 players with a cut to low 70 and ties after 36 holes. Matt Tolan of Eau Claire took first place with a record tying 72 hole score of 273. Matt is just 18 and plays golf at South Dakota.

The ground staff at Oconomowoc is led by Certified Golf Course Superintendent Dustin Riley who has been with the club since 1999. Dustin entered the business as a summer employee at Camelot Country Club working for David Brandenburg and never left the industry.

He also worked at South Hills Country

Club in Fond du Lac and as assistant superintendent at North Shore Golf Club in Menasha.

Dustin received a BS in Soil Science from UW Madison in 1994 and a 2 Year Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program from Penn State in 1997.

Two unique traits at Oconomowoc is the club does not have tee times so the staff is never sure how many players are going to show up on a given day and the members own their own golf cars.

Dustin was sure to thank his staff for their hard work and I was impressed the way they moved through the property like a well oiled machine in preparation for the days play.


Dustin expressed, "The whole team has been fantastic. I have a lot of new faces on the team this season. The Assistants, Eric Schmitt and Andrew Kersten, have done an excellent job adjusting to my quirks and expectations. Special thanks needs to go my Shop & Equipment Manager, Smokey. He's always there when I need something extra from him. Which is rare, since he's always on top of his responsibilities. He has the best attitude. If we ever experience a breakdown, he'll pause his current duty and address the concern im-

mediately to get the team member back out onto the golf course."

Riley also wanted to thank his wife Jamieleen and children Dayle, Riann and Mac for their support and understanding when his work schedule interferes with his participation in certain summertime activities. Of course when he does break away from the duties on the course he enjoys his family time.

Dustin wanted to recognize three people who were key to his career development and advancement. David Brandenburg for providing his first opportunity to work on a golf course. Dr. Frank Rossi for providing him the energy and desire to constantly learn about turfgrass.

And 3rd Dr. Rossi for putting Dustin in touch with his mentor Scott Schaller. His mastery of staff management and team efficiency is phenomenal. Not to mention he is one hell of a turf manager. Dustin said his work ethic, passion and successes are all a result of Scott's tutelage and guidance.

Congratulations to Dustin Riley and the entire staff at Oconomowoc Golf Club for providing a excellent golf course for not only the State Amateur but the members at Oconomowoc. 

2017 WSGA State Amateur Championship Qualifing Sites

Cedar Creek GC, Onalaska
Oakwood Park GC, Franklin
Johnson Park GC, Racine
Mill Run GC, Eau Claire
Butte Des Morts CC, Appleton
Edelweiss Chalet CC, New Glarus
Wanaki GC, Menomonee Falls
Rolling Meadows GC, Fond du Lac
Bull's Eye CC, Wisconsin Rapids



WISCONSIN STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION



Previous Page: Sand Hill Cranes on hole 4.

Top: Cup Changing on Hole 5

Center left: A double rake speeds up the job on hole 1.

Center Right: Blowing the 16th Fairway.

Bottom: The morning view of the 8th green, 2nd and 9th tees as seen from the 3rd hole.



Member 9 With Dustin Riley

1. What was your first vehicle? *1981 Cutlass Supreme.*
2. Favorite piece of golf course equipment? *Chainsaw...It's amazing how much turf improves when you provide sufficient sunlight*
3. 18 hole Handicap? *14.*
4. What is your current vehicle? *Club Car Carry-ALL (electric)*
5. Favorite TV shows? *Survivor. I enjoy the obstacle races and the social manipulation of the contestants.*
6. Favorite professional sports team? *Green Bay Packers.*
7. Favorite main course meal? *Grilled Ribeye, Bacon Wrapped Baked Potato, Grilled Asparagus*
8. Pets? *Do kids count? I have 3 of those. If not, then I guess our 2 guinea pigs qualify.*
9. Favorite thing about working in the golf industry? *I enjoy watching the Grounds and Greens Team begin their 1st Jobs. I enjoy the transition the golf course makes at daybreak. It transforms from a wildlife refuge into golf course*



The Turf Maintenance Team At Oconomowoc Golf Club

WISCONSIN STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION



Top: Rolling on the 5th Green

Center Left: The par 3 6th.

Center Right: The par 3 12th

Bottom Left: The par 5 8th Hole is well protected

Bottom Right: Mowing of the 7th hole green and approach.



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