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# May Meeting Takes WGSCA to Rock River Country Club

*By Bill Knight*

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The May meeting of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association was held at the Rock River Country Club on May 17th in Waupun and was hosted by Al Fude, golf course superintendent at RRCC. The course was in great shape for the thirty golfers who took part in the four-man Calcutta event. The weather for the day was off and on. When the sun was out, the sweaters came off. When the clouds rolled back in, the sweaters and jackets had to go back on.

After an excellent prime rib dinner, we had a special presentation. Rod Johnson presented GCSAA past president Bill Roberts with a check in the sum of \$10,000 for the GCSAA S&R fund. The money was generated from the sale of pesticide posting signs and compliance kits sold and distributed by Rodney this past year.

The money will go to the research study that is investigating the possibility of a link between golf course superintendent mortality and the use of pesticides. The study was initiated by the GCSAA and is underway at the University of Iowa.

This was a huge gift and Rod deserves a tremendous amount of credit for the inspiration and work involved in generating it.

The speaker for the evening was Mark Grundman and the topic was "Wildflowers and Prairie Grasses." Mark emphasized that you must know your growing area before even beginning the development of populations of these plants. Some places will simply not support them. You need to burn prairie areas every five years. If you cannot burn, there are short term plants to consider, but they must be reseeded every few years. It will cost about \$3,000 an acre due to the fact that the seeds must be hand picked.

The winners of the day's events were:

- 1st Place: Greg Kallenberg (194)  
Steve Schmidt  
Dennis Robinson
- 2nd Place: Bill Knight (190)  
Bob Stock  
Tom Emmerich
- 3rd Place: Al Fude (189)  
Scott Schaller  
Kris Pinkerton  
Bob Vavrek



Mark Grundman gave an excellent talk about naturalized areas.



WGSCA president Bruce Worzella gave Bill Roberts the check for GCSAA for \$10,000.

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## GCSAA Offers Special Grants to Grad Students in Turf

In late May, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America announced a program giving outstanding graduate students in the field of golf course management education and research an opportunity for grant support of their graduate education.

Called the Graduate Student Grants Program, the GCSAA will provide annual awards of \$5,000 to individual students pursuing advanced degrees in academic fields related to golf course management.

The GCSAA Scholarship and Research Foundation is sponsoring the program. Its goal is to identify and encourage tomorrow's leading educators and researchers.

Students currently enrolled in a MS degree or PhD degree program are eligible. Eligibility requires students to declare plans for a career in an academic setting in a university.

Applicants will be evaluated on academic excellence, potential to make outstanding contributions in research/education, peer recommendations and previous accomplishments in the field.

As an extra bonus, winners will receive an expense-paid trip to the GCSAA Conference and Show.

This is the latest in a long list of outstanding programs the GCSAA S&R Foundation offers. That list includes the likes of the Pesticide Exposure Study, research grants, undergraduate educational scholarships, legacy awards and recognition programs.

The Grad Student Grants Program will be welcomed by the institutions that serve us so well. These scholarships could well give encouragement to that future faculty member who will uncover the secret to winter hardiness!

This is a great idea that merits our full support. 🌱

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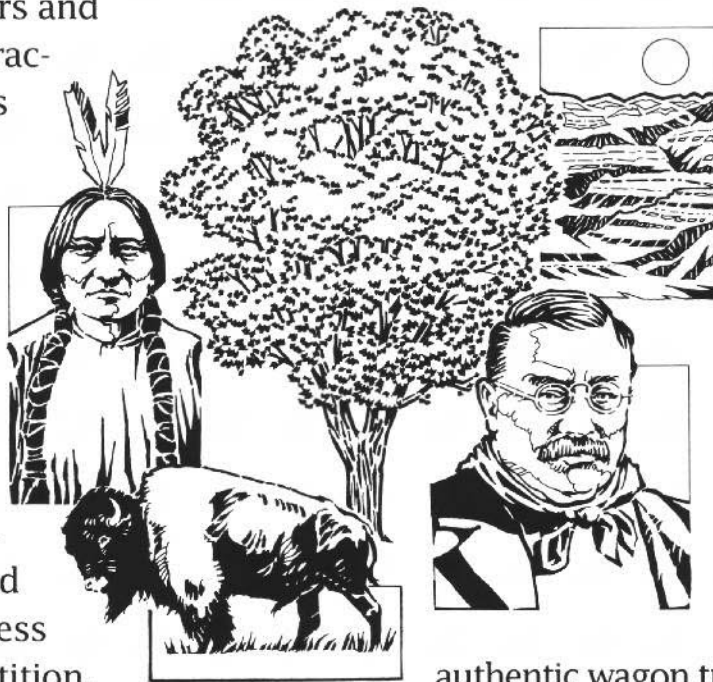
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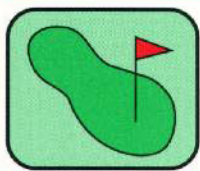
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# Planning For *The Game*

By Chad Eberhardt

Planning for any phase of golf course management is important but planning for a particular event is vitally important.

The first time you take a look at your season schedule, you highlight an event as crucial. Whether you're hosting the city tournament or a PGA tour event, you know that everyone on your golf course team needs to be on the same page and at peak performance.

A golf year can be divided into pre-season, regular season, and post-season.

During the important pre-season period, when all phases of the game must be taught, I like to have the basic activities for each practice session completely mapped out. A written checklist of all phases is made out well in advance of our first game (Memorial Day weekend) so that nothing is left to chance.

The pre-season is an important time for the development of proper mental attitude. The mental attitude of the squad is just as important, and just as coachable, as are the fundamentals.

It is sometimes difficult for those members of the team who don't frequently get the glamour positions (green or fairway mowing) during regular season events to maintain good morale. But if a coach can convince each team member that he is a necessary part of the group, then, and only then, the job becomes easier.

As coach you must have a continued valuation of each team member, use every man as much as possible, and give him as much work in practice as possible.

Basic psychology tells us that a person must know that he is needed and belongs, and that that same person experience a certain degree of success for continued interest. Team morale is partly built on continued interest.

Since my goal is for every player to be on the same page for *the game*, then the pre-season goal ought to be to get them to open the same book.

Once the regular season begins, I use weekdays as practices for weekend games. Quality and efficiency gradually improve with each passing week as the team narrows in on the same page of the book.

With consistent progress we won't need a monumental effort to get the course ready for *the game*.

Consistent progress can only be attained as long as you never lower your expectations for your team.

You won't lose control of the team as long as they feel that they are working toward something. After all, they don't really want to let you down, and they won't give up on you unless you give up on them first.

During the regular season, I have realized the psychological value of "off days."

A day when the sun is shining, and the golf course doesn't need much attention is picked. An "off day" consists of basic morning chores followed by a general clean-up of the shopyard by everyone. We get someone to fire up the grill and prepare for a cookout.

After eating, everyone has the rest of the day off to do whatever they want. Usually they'll hang around and organize a pick-up basketball game for the rest of the day.

These "off days" come along unannounced. The veterans on the team can usually sense an "off day" in the making.

The team comes to practice the next day full of vigor. "Off days" help to combat fatigue and ready the team for the final drive to *the game*.

Once *the game* arrives, it is important that the players realize that their successful season of hard work and dedication can quickly be erased by taking *the game* too lightly.

The possibility of an upset increases drastically if players look past the fact that they will be performing in front of some of the harshest critics. The fans who will be golfing have seen and expect nothing short of perfect conditions.

Therefore, if you're coaching a strong team, don't let them get too comfortable with how successful they've been. Keep the specter of upset implanted firmly in the players' minds.

As long as everybody on the team stays on the same page, *the game* will be a very enjoyable and rewarding time for you, your players, and the fans.

Keep 'em focused...Coach! 🌿

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