



## Communication Key to Future of GMO

By Rob Schultz

Some amazing developments have taken place in this state during the past few months.

Reggie White signs with the Green Bay Packers. Rashard Griffith commits to play basketball for the University of Wisconsin. Some of the best athletes in the country commit to play football for Wisconsin.

The right people suddenly are in the right place to make the right moves for some of Wisconsin's top sports teams. And that is the key to any successful organization.

That also is the key to the future of the Greater Milwaukee Open. Officials for the PGA Tour event have made some bold moves in the past few months and, after what initially appeared to be a step backward, it may turn out to be a huge step forward.

In fact, the GMO's plans will have as great an impact on golf in this state as White's signing had on Packer fans in this state.

There were plenty of reasons for the GMO to move from its present site at Tuckaway Country Club in Franklin to Brown Deer Park in Milwaukee starting next year.

A major reason was Tuckaway itself. It's a course with major drainage problems created by the huge housing projects that have sprouted up in the area in recent years.

But Tuckaway also is a private course and that rubs against the grain of what philanthropists Lloyd and Jane Pettit envision for the site of the tournament they have helped finance. They want a public tournament on a public golf course.

That's where Brown Deer Park comes into play. The tournament will be held on the Milwaukee County-owned course starting next year and probably will continue to host the tournament for the next three to four years.

Much needs to be done to successfully pull off a PGA Tour event at Brown Deer.

Pessimists, like myself, have likened Brown Deer to San Diego's Torrey Pines because of the battering it takes from public golfers and the proximity of its greens and tees near the clubhouse that will make it difficult for gallery movement. It's also difficult for a public course to become tournament-ready when the grounds crew is unionized and employed by a municipality or county.

Optimists, like Andy North, who will help renovate Brown Deer, liken the situation to the Western Open and its successful move to public-course Cog Hill and say the public will flock to the place because they'll be able to watch the world's best golfers play a course they, too, can play.

The best thing the GMO has going for it is the Milwaukee County Parks system, which is one of the best and most futuristic in the country. The county parks system, in conjunction with the state PGA, which operates most of its courses, is bending over backwards to help the GMO officials make the tournament work.

The county plans to re-renovate Brown Deer Park; improve the clubhouse and the driving range and stand aside while North and partner Roger Packard redesign some greens and tees. The county is even going to put up a fence around the course the week of the GMO and take it down the following week.

But, more important, Milwaukee County and GMO officials understand that Brown Deer Park is probably just a stop-gap, or band-aid, to the long-range problem of finding a permanent home. Tournament and county officials are continuing to look at building a new course, or courses, at other sites. And the most logical would be for a North-Packard design at Bender Park,

which is located on the Lake Michigan shoreline in Oak Creek. County and GMO officials have been looking at that site for over four years.

That would be the big golf deal this state is waiting for. It could be the golf complex that everyone around the state will look forward to playing each year. It could have a national impact that would enhance the state, and Milwaukee's, reputation as a great place for golf.

What has been interesting to watch regarding the GMO's discussion for a new home in the past few months has been how tournament, state PGA and county officials have teamed up to make such a situation work.

There were some communication problems initially as each group came up with ideas but some failed to include the others when those ideas were put on paper. For instance, some county officials felt left out, but were brought in to the fold before any real damage was done.

It was all part of the learning process. Many of the initial problems have been worked out regarding Brown Deer Park and everyone is communicating. That should make the discussion about a permanent home, perhaps at Bender Park, go much smoother.

The common denominator to the sudden successes in Wisconsin sports has been communication. Ron Wolf's and Mike Holmgren's communication with Reggie White helped him to sign with the Packers. Stu Jackson's communication with Rashard Griffith and his mother helped him to commit to the Badgers.

And now, improved communication between the state PGA, Milwaukee County parks system, the Pettits and the GMO should help create a better GMO for years to come. 🍀



## OH, BY THE WAY...

By Monroe S. Miller

It is nearly ancient history now, but it should be recorded that *THE GRASS ROOTS* was selected winner as "Best Overall" in Category I competition of the 1993 GCSAA Chapter Editor's Contest. The judging was done during the GCSAA Conference and Show in Anaheim during the last week of January.

For this editor, the award is especially meaningful this year. The judges were my peers — chapter editors from all over the country. We were divided into three groups and no editor judged his or her own chapter publication.

There were three categories of judging: (1) publications edited and produced by practicing golf course superintendents who work without a salary; (2) publications edited and produced by practicing golf course superintendents who receive pay; and, (3) publications produced by professional editors/publishers.

Judging was based on originality, excellence in editorial content, and design. And I think it is fair to say that using editors as judges eliminates a lot of questions about the unseen judging process of years past.

The award is shared equally among all the marvelous writers whose words appeared in *THE GRASS ROOTS* during 1992. They are the ones who make our journal stand out. There is even greater appeal when you consider their work is done without compensation.

An enormous pleasure for me was gathering with these colleagues in the editing business, ink stained hands and all! As silly as it sounds, it was fun to put faces and names together. A number of us have visited over the phone, exchanged correspondence and read each other's editing efforts, but had never shared a handshake before this. Experiences like this one can often result in lifelong friendships.

So to all of them, good luck for next year. To all of our writers and contributors and advertisers (thanks to them for paying the bills) and printers (especially Sherri and Pam), let us keep up the good work and cross our fingers for next year. 🍀



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# Reinders Continues Tradition With Another Successful Conference

By Randy Smith

The 11th Reinders Turf and Irrigation Conference, Equipment Show, and Service Clinic was held on March 17 and 18 at the Waukesha County Expo Center.

Employees of Reinders and 21 guest speakers provided the education for the seminars, work shops, and service clinics. Thirty one exhibitors displayed the equipment, supplies and services to over 1400 attendees.

Reinders Brothers is a major turf industry supplier for Wisconsin and northern Illinois. They have offices, warehouses and service departments in Elm Grove and Appleton.

On May 1, Reinders is opening a new branch in Madison on South Stoughton Road with Mark VanHerdn as Manager. Turf and irrigation supplies and a service department will be available at the Madison location.

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The Reinders Team



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## ANSWERS to The Wisconsin Golf Course Quiz found on page 13.

1. The Dutch mill shown here is the famous symbol for Tripoli Country Club. The mill was designed by architect Armin Koch, who also designed Tripoli's clubhouse. Mr. Koch felt that the lovely natural pond, which is the water hazard for the seventh hole, and the winding stream deserved an attractive pump-house.

The first mill was built sometime during the late twenties. It burned down one Sunday in March of 1959 after being struck by lightning. The original architectural drawings were located and an exact replica was built and still stands today.

As with the first mill, this mill houses the golf course irrigation system pumps.

Jim Belfield provided the history and photos.

2. This photograph shows you an exciting new outdoor classroom at the University of Wisconsin-Madison: the Allen Centennial Gardens.

The gardens occupy 2.5 acres that surround the historic Agricultural Dean's Residence. The residence, a short walk from any of the offices of Dr. Kussow, Dr. Koval, Dr. Meyer or Dr. Rossi, was one of the first buildings on the agricultural campus. It served as the home for the College's first four deans.

In fact, I am young enough to remember when Dr. E.B. Fred lived in the home. He was president of the UW after his term as dean of CALS.

The house was placed on the National Park Service's Register of Historic Places in America in 1984. This marvelous Victorian Gothic house is truly an oasis on a very busy campus.

There are many components to the Allen Horticultural Gardens—a Victorian garden, a herb and medicinal garden, the Viburnum garden, a small fruit garden, a Wisconsin wildflower garden, an edible garden, a "sinister" garden (mildly poisonous plants), and an exotic garden.

We aren't done yet! Continue your tour and you can enjoy a terrace gar-

den, a French garden and an Italian garden (you might see Dr. Rossi in contemplation there!). There is an arbor and vine display, an orchard garden, a hillside garden, an iris garden and a water garden.

Keep going! Spend time at the ground cover garden, see the annuals garden and the bog garden. You will marvel at the rock-alpine garden, see rare plants at the dwarf conifer demonstration, and step back in time in the New American garden. There is an ecology demonstration that is very educational.

And, as a WGCSA member, you should complete your Allen Centennial Garden tour on the Tapis Verte (green carpet) of the Lawn Garden. The lawn garden is highlighted in the photo and on the cover.

The circular lawn garden features twelve different turfgrasses: Midnight Kentucky Bluegrass, Ruby Creeping Red Fescue, Amigo Tall Fescue, NK200 Perennial Ryegrass, Scaldis Hard Fescue, Highland Colonial Bentgrass, Rubens Canada Bluegrass, Sabre Rough Bluegrass, Kentucky Bluegrass blend (Midnight, Eclipse and Merit), Redtop, Wintergreen Chewings Fescue, and a Lawn Mix (Kentucky Bluegrass, Perennial Ryegrass and Red Fescue).

By the way, the dean's house is now used as offices for Professor Marsh Finner and his staff of the Agricultural Experiment Station of the UW-Madison.

Sometime when you're in Madison, consider a visit to this beautiful area.

3, 4 & 5. Talk about wearing your pride where all can see! The following people are the owners of the personalized license plates you see in the photographs.

IPM belongs to Karen Delahut, who works at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the area of...IPM!

The "UW TURF" plate is found on the vehicle of Dan Barrett, golf course superintendent at Trout Lake Golf and Country Club. Dan is proud to be an alumnus of the UW Turf program. VARSITY!

And who else but Tom Emmerich would have a nifty personalized plate like "IRRIG8"?

6. The most interesting shape given to a golf green in Wisconsin has to be the one in the photo from Lake Breeze Golf Club in Winnebago. It is the green for the par 4, 389 yard first hole. Golf course superintendent Jim Hasz tells us it is approximately 6,000 sq. ft. in area. How would you like to line up a putt from Ephraim to Bayfield?! Thanks to Wayne Horman and Jim for the picture and the information.

7. The interesting stone work shown in this photo is from the first tee at Racine Country Club. At construction, sand bags were filled with wet concrete and then stacked in place. The concrete hardened, the sand bags decomposed and the result was an interesting retaining wall with unique texture and appearance. Thanks to Wayne Horman and Mike Handrich for the picture and the information.

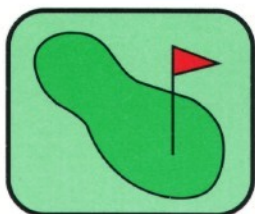
8. This is a photograph of the hill climber at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison. It carries players and their clubs from the ninth green to the clubhouse. Also called "the trolley" or "the lift", it was first designed and installed in the early 1950s by Mr. Mickelson, a member of the club. It was done, surprisingly, at no cost to the club.

That one was actually the drive unit from an elevator that was connected to a cart by four cables. The cart moved up and down the hill on a track.

In 1989 the original 1950s hill climber was replaced because of age and safety concerns by the one shown in the photo.

It provides a scenic, albeit slow, ride through the woods on the way to the back nine or the clubhouse. 🏌️





# Building A Championship Team

By Chad Eberhardt

My main theory on how to develop a winning golf course team is very simple — WORK!

If your players are willing to work hard, and you give them the proper leadership and guidance, then success will result.

It is very important for the players to have a complete understanding of what they must do in order to have a successful season.

Building a winning team is something that cannot be accomplished overnight if the program is starting from scratch. Regardless of the time element involved, your program has little chance of succeeding unless you have the sole responsibility and authority of selecting your staff of dedicated people.

In order for a good head coach to have a good program he must surround himself with a good assistant. Take a look at successful teams in any sport or at any level. A common denominator can be found in the strength of the assistant coaches.

Bill Walsh, former head coach of the San Francisco 49ers, has produced many successful NFL head coaches from the assistant ranks. Or have you ever noticed how many of his own assistants the University of North Carolina's Dean Smith matches wits against on the roundball court?

Neither Walsh nor Smith loses any sleep when an assistant coach moves on to join the head coaching ranks. They feel the pride of a father. They'll continue to offer advice and share coaching tips with their former assistant. And they have plenty of confidence in their own program to continue to attract and produce many more successful assistant coaches.

There are many characteristics to look for in an assistant coach.

The first trait, **dedication**, is a must. If the person is not truly dedicated to their work, and they dread spending

many extra hours working and planning, then they are in the wrong business.

Good assistants are dedicated to the extent that they "want" to do whatever is necessary. There's a big difference between "wanting to" and "willing to" do something.

Our profession is definitely not an 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. job. The assistant who is "willing" to work a little extra is not the one I want on my staff. The assistant who "wants" to do whatever is necessary in order to be successful, regardless of the time element involved, is the person whom I want to assist me.

An assistant should constantly be attempting to improve themselves (**initiative** and **ambition**).

It is also very important for a head coach and his assistant to know that they have mutual trust and **loyalty** in each other. If you can't trust your assistant, you don't want that person around.

An assistant golf course coach must be a **sound thinker** with a **good understanding of turf management**. Your assistant should be expected to study, plan, discuss, and come up with ideas that will aid you and the team. Your program can quickly go stale and unprogressive if you don't listen and discuss all ideas with your assistant.

While managing your crew as a team in the sport of golf course management, always keep in mind that in order to get the maximum from your assistant, **you** must set a good example. Since others will follow a leader who actually leads, rather than one who tells them what to do.

I believe a head coach must work longer, harder and stay a step ahead of his assistant and the other coaches in our profession.

**You** must be dedicated to our sport, well organized, a sound thinker, and have the ability to delegate authority and responsibility to your assistant if you expect to build a successful program.

Be the best ... Coach! 🌿

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