

most of these guys have never heard about the mental and physical benefits of walking the golf course.

The other half of being brain dead on a golf cart involves being transformed into a mini-tank commander/golf cart driver. In other words, these guys drive anywhere and everywhere...over greens, through flower beds, into the wildflower areas. "Need a few more minutes to trample down the entire wildflower bed as you search for Mr. Titlist?"

"No problem, friend! Look as long as you like, you lost puppy."

Brain dead for walking golfers involves a new ball retriever on the golf gadget market. Sold exclusively to seniors, it has about a 200 foot extension and comes with hip waders...now older linksters can really hold up play as they hunt for golf balls in our waters...most of these guys have about 10,000 golf balls already to their names. Heaven forbid that they should lose a few...here, buddy, take one of mine and get going...traffic is backed up for miles!!

No. 5 – EMPLOYEE SUMMER BAILOUT That annual phenomena that happens every August—summer employees have had quite enough of work for the summer, thank you very much, and are quite anxious to get back to the good life...school!! They are not looking back, and really don't know about working weekends this fall. Sounds too much like me just a few short years ago.

What an ungrateful attitude! Scarcely a "thank you" for teaching them about the wonderful world of golf course management—getting up way too early, staying way too late, working way too many weekends. Weren't we also the ones to instruct them in some valuable career skills—shoveling, weed whacking, and rake, rake, raking until their arms went numb? We should be receiving their applause, don't you think?

They can feel very good about their summer employment...maybe use it as 'the anecdote' as they explain to their children about the benefits of hard work..."When I was your age..." actually creeps into conversations with our children these days.

No. 4 – COURSE PROJECTS—FINISH 'EM They say that the mark of a good contractor is that he pays attention to detail and sticks with a project until the end. If that's so, I'd be a very average contractor. Too many unfinished projects...

I have a small projects list consisting of leftovers from summer's major course improvements...it needs completing by the end of September. Three and a half legal pages long, it's all seeding, sodding, trenching and general cleanup...by the end of September. I'll get grilled if it is not finished...by the end of September.

I guess I'll be looking for a new course somewhere...by the end of September.

No. 3 – POWERS THAT BE/STUPID REQUESTS Everybody likes to be the boss, nobody likes to follow orders. But, hey, I really thought that there weren't very many native Americans down here...but I am obviously WRONG! We have tons of 'chiefs' here at this course, and too few resources...

But, hey, I like following through on your stupid requests...that brush pile in the shopyard is totally ugly, an eyesore, and IS top priority. And yes, we'll bring our efforts to a new level in the aluminum can sorting department, Mr. Top Dog.

And finally, Mr. Rookie Course Owner, why is everybody else raving about beautiful playing conditions/constant course improvements while you can scarcely find a positive aspect on any of your frequent course tours? Could it be that you are a jerk and do not know of what you speak? Try walking in my shoes sometime...it's not as easy as you seem to think.

No. 2 – END OF NICE WEATHER, END OF SEASON Although I tend to bitch and complain too much, I really do love working at the golf course. Otherwise, I wouldn't be there so much. We're all addicted to our courses, I think...What I really dislike is winter. Spring, summer, and especially autumn are the best. Late autumn always finds me looking back, trying to remember when the temperature last broke 80 degrees. I usually cannot remember, which is either an indication of a poor memory or the end of the season.

No. 1 – MISTAKES AND HINDSIGHT I hate making mistakes. I hate it when employees make mistakes...especially when they've been taught otherwise. Here are a couple of examples of 'errorcitos' made in the heat of the battle in August '95:

(a) Confront is a great herbicide, but do not spray it out just before 95-100 degree weather is about to strike. Being too aggressive in ones actions

can lead to trouble...and that little bit of white clover is really very insignificant. Slid out of that little problem with help from a bit of Nutralene and some fortunately timed rainfalls.

(b) Fungicides really are great tools, and yes, interval recommendations should be closely followed, especially in extremely tough disease pressure situations. Stretching out the interval too much will really lead to problems, such as dollar spot/brown patch, the likes of which I'd never seen before. Hindsight then kicks in, as does the mental boot in the butt. I am now brought in as a consultant to help others identify these two diseases...I really know what they look like...

Well, there it is folks. A completely objective look at what ticks me off. I'll bet that there is some commonality there for all superintendents...

Actually, there are a few more things that make my blood boil on a daily basis...just ask my crew members. They actually told me the other day that observing me talking/cursing to myself as I inspect the course is really quite humorous. Do they respect me, or what?

Maybe I need to lighten up, go back out onto the course and watch the golfers tear up my golf course. That's always good for a few laughs. And that's what we all need right about now...a few laughs. 🍀

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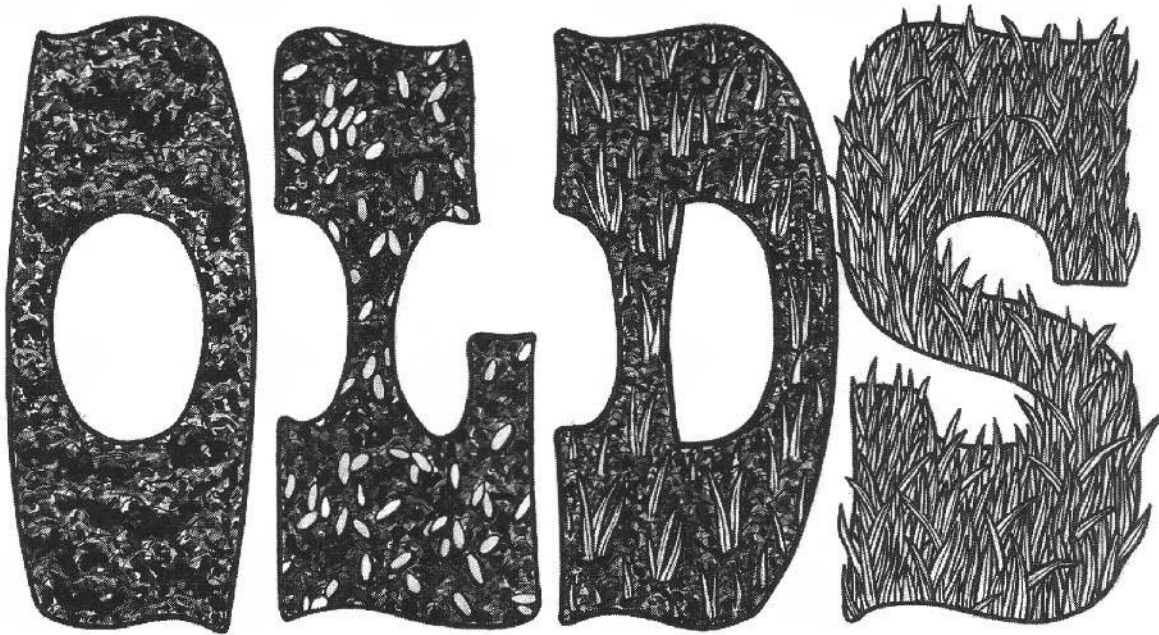
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WGCSA At Lake Wisconsin

By David Brandenburg

Fifty-six WGCSA members met at Lake Wisconsin Country Club on July 10th to enjoy the great conditions provided by host Superintendent Kendall Marquardt. Our July meeting represents a midway point in our season and is a good way to relieve some midsummer stress with sun, golf and conversation.

For those who have not been to Lake Wisconsin it provides a variety of golf holes with elevation changes, island tees and holes set into the woods. All this overlooks beautiful Lake Wisconsin which provided a nice summer breeze. Kendall and his staff must of worked hard as the golf course was in excellent condition.

Our event for the day was a two man bestball with Rod Johnson and Bruce Worzella winning the gross division, followed by Scott Schaller and Mark Kienert in second and Joe Kessenich and Steve Barrit in third. In the net division Jim Ferry and Conrad Stynchula took first place followed by Don Stein and Larry Lennert in second with Mike Lees and Ron Gruenwald in third.

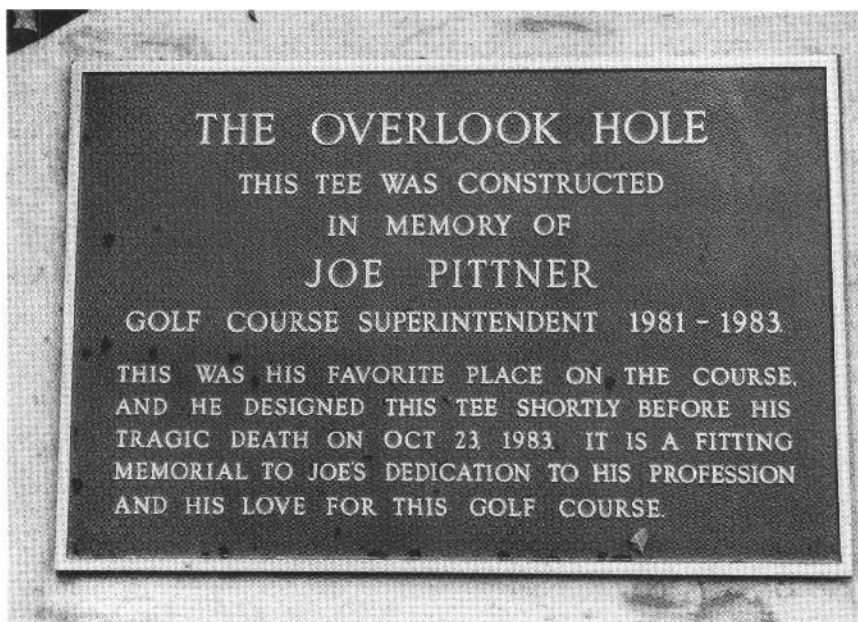
Flag event winners were Chuck Frazier, Rod Johnson, Dan King, Ernie Urbahn, Andy Kronwall, Todd Crambitt, Jim Shaw, Derek Knedler, John Gallus, Mark Kienert and John Maguire. The flag event prizes were provided by Hanleys, Reinders, Wisconsin Turf and the Lake Wisconsin Pro Shop.

Our thanks go to them for providing and Kendall for asking.

It was a treat to work with Ray Kizer the Lake Wisconsin Golf Professional for close to 30 years, as he and his staff were very helpful scoring the event. Many thanks go to Kendall and the entire Lake Wisconsin staff for providing a wonderful meeting. 🙏



The "overlook hole" at Lake Wisconsin CC. The lake is visible on the horizon, through the haze of this humid July day.



A bronze plaque honoring Joseph Pittner. To those who knew him, it doesn't seem he's been gone for a dozen years.



Ray Kizer has been the golf pro at Lake Wisconsin for many years. Bruce Worzella took this picture of a plaque honoring Ray's father Roy at an Austin, Texas municipal course during the GCSAA golf tourney in 1993. Few are so fondly remembered...



Editor's Note: I received this great letter from Jim Latham. I could not possible summarize and share the news he tells. So I am opening my mail to you, simply because so many wonder how Jim and Lois are doing. This guy wrote great articles for THE GRASS ROOTS for years, and he writes a great letter, too! Drop them a line, won't you?

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111 Hill Terrace - White Bluff 21
Telephone (817) 694-6252
FAX (817) 694-6273

July 23, 1995

Dear Munro,

The other day Lois and I were recycling some CD disks in our Yankee pickup (Chevy Blazer) and a couple of new things replaced those enclosed. Since we don't play the indoor equipment very much, we thought you might get more use out of them than we would, especially after reading your piece on Scotland in THE GRASS ROOTS. Hopefully, any remembrance purchases you have made do not include these productions.

Well, it got summer up there! It was cooler here but it was just as uncomfortable, since the Gulf supplied us with enough humidity and lack of air movement to really steam things up. But that's normal and no one complained too much. We finally got summer down here a few days ago. Yesterday we took our ailing computer to the hospital in Waco where it was 104, but the 20 mph wind helped. By the time we got home at 6:30 p.m., it had cooled down to 101. Nighttimes are about 80. Like winter in Wisconsin, we try to stay inside as much as possible.

Now I know why there are so many Baptists in this part of the world. The experts on heat stress tell us to use plenty of salt on food and take in a lot of fluids. BUT the fluids should not contain caffeine or alcohol (even beer) because they are diuretic and the water loss is from the wrong place. Drinking plain water gets boring.

Lawn mowing becomes a real chore when it's hot and I'm doubly glad that our small house is on a small lot. I just wish that I had gone ahead with my original plan to plant buffalograss. Zoysia is NOT a low labor-input grass, using a rotary mower. I'm STILL pushing my self-propelled rig through all 3 of the Engelke experimentals, even those our G.C. Superintendent brought a 3-plex verticut over a couple of weeks ago. Had to empty the baskets after about 40 feet of run. Couldn't tell anything had been done. Maybe the growth is due to the 40 - 50 lbs. of Milorganite I applied at planting last September. Not even Noer would claim that kind of residual. Anyhow, we have joined the elite by becoming a 2-car, 2-mower family by investing a bundle on a used reel type, and then put down \$30 for a pint of Image to get rid of the nutgrass that grows an inch a day.

(Continued on page 45)

Almost forgot to tell you that I took my first shot at a snake yesterday. Missed. It was looking out from under the concrete pad for our A/C unit and I aimed a bit too wide. What kind of snake? A Snake snake. That was enough for Ms. L.

I'm enjoying the travel with the USGA Research Committee to monitor the projects being funded in this round of grants. Some of these things are deeeeeep. A whole lot more hi-tech than I could imagine. This basic research will set the foundation for a lot more practical stuff in the future.

A special subcommittee on mixes for and management of greens met one day last week at the DFW airport to go over 38 preproposals for new research on grow-in and post grow-in problems. I'm glad to say that one from the UW-Madison was accepted and Dr. K. will be asked to submit a full proposal for consideration by the entire committee in November. The major problem with Wayne's project was an estimate of cost. We OK up to \$20,000 per year for up to 5 years, so he needs additional support from OJN, WGCSA, and others to do the whole thing, but some items can be pruned and finessed and some items must be changed in the final form.

All 10 of us liked it so the important phase has been passed. Twenty were dismissed during the day-long evaluation process. This new round of research will (hopefully) answer questions on particle shapes, calcium content in sands, organic and inorganic amendments, microbiological (good and bad) activity, what happens during grow-in and afterward, and how to avoid some of the problems associated with the push to open greens too soon. Wouldn't it be nice to tell people that planting in September and playing in May was a dumb deal AND be able to prove it?

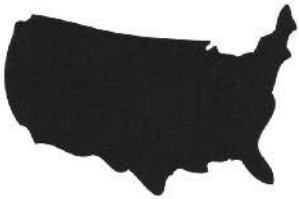
I had hoped to be able to make the UW-Madison Field Day, but the date conflicts with monitoring visits to A&M and Miss. State. I'm sure you and a few henchmen can keep Rossi, et al in line, though.

I guess I'll shut this down and watch it rain. That bodes for a real steamer today, so I can get back to the Green Section history project.

Please give our regards to the troops.

Sincerely,

Jim & Lois



Plant Breeder Fights to Save Elm Stock

By Judith Bradshaw-Rouse

Editor's Note: This edition of FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY should, for me, be titled FROM OVER THE HILL since it features UW-Madison Plant Pathologist, Dr. Eugene Smalley. It interests me because I lived through the disaster of losing hundreds and hundreds of American Elms from my golf course two decades ago (we only have a few left today) and will interest other golf course superintendents of my generation. I also have a number of hybrid elms mentioned in the article, and have visited the Elm Research Institute in Harrisville, New Hampshire. The article appeared in the Monday, July 10, 1995 edition of The Capital Times and is reproduced here with permission gained through the kindness of Rob Schultz, sports reporter from TCT and GRASS ROOTS contributor. Enjoy.

Thanks to University of Wisconsin-Madison Emeritus professor Eugene Smalley, elm trees are making a comeback after the most devastating shade tree disease in the United States—Dutch elm disease—nearly wiped them out 30 years ago. Today, tree lovers from around the world can purchase and plant improved elms that are the product of UW research.

But far from resting on their laurels, plant breeders Smalley, emeritus professor of plant pathology, and Ray Guries, professor of forestry, are trying to construct the Super Elm, a tree that can survive temperatures down to 30 degrees below zero.

The Super Elm and previously released elms were created using elm stock taken from a collection of trees at the UW Arlington Experimental Research Station, located 35 miles north of Madison.

The only snag is that the extensive collection of elm trees might face an ax—this time from budget-cutters.

The collection, which is the largest in the United States, contains winter hardy elms from China and the Soviet Union; Dutch-elm-disease resistant elms from Korea and Japan; and tall, arching elms from Europe and North America.

Smalley began the elm collection in 1957 when he was hired by the university to find the miracle cure for Dutch elm disease. Using a letter-writing campaign, he contacted arboretum heads and professional foresters in North America, Europe and Asia requesting elm seed. In one case, a friendly foreign attache from the Soviet Union connected Smalley with a scientist at the Seed Institute in Russia, who mailed him seeds.

Elm seeds take 10 to 15 years to develop into flowering trees before you pollinate them and harvest progeny, said Smalley. While he waited for the seeds to grow, he inoculated American elm trees, which came from previous research programs, with the DED fungus. From these early inoculations, Smalley produced in 1973 his first disease-resistant American elm, named Saporro Autumn Gold.



Because the elms were painted close together to save space, the gardeners must fertilize and weed them frequently, Smalley said.

Dr. Eugene Smalley

In European countries where Dutch elm disease also denuded the city landscapes, English royalty and the public alike received Saporro Autumn Gold with open arms. In 1983, Smalley was invited to plant elms at Hyde Park, and at Windsor Castle with Prince Phillip.

In the United States, nursery owners were slow to accept Saporro Autumn Gold.

"Most companies in this country were not interested in producing and selling Saporro Gold," recalls Smalley. "It's a big investment of time and money."

Still, Smalley continued to collect elms for his breeding program. Ultimately, he wanted an elm that had both the tall, graceful, arching shape of the American elm and the winter hardiness and pest-resistance of the Chinese elm.

One of the best ways to build a working collection, according to Smalley, is to harvest elm seeds in person.

In 1983, Smalley went to China for six months to collect elm seeds. His trip was supported by a fellowship from the National Academy of Sciences.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s China was just opening its doors to the West. Smalley was the first American to enter the Shandong province. Chinese people crowded around to see him everywhere he went.

Weidong Wu, assistant professor of poultry science at the UW, was living in China at the time of Smalley's visit.

"That was the first time I had such a close, face to face, encounter with an American," he recalls. "I expected him to be very tall, like John Wayne in the movies; instead, he was smiling and small, a grandfather type of person."

Since then, Smalley has made several trips to China to collect hardier elms sources for his breeding program.

However, because it takes the trees so long to grow and flower, elm breeding takes a long-term commitment.

"This collection is a valuable resource for future elm research. It is available to anyone who wants to use it for research or practical purposes," says Craig Grau, head of the department of plant pathology. "We have a strong commitment to preserve it."

However, preserving Smalley's elms is difficult because of down-sizing at the UW, says Grau.

After Smalley's current contract with the UW runs out in the summer of 1996, it is uncertain what will happen to the collection.

In an attempt to protect his collection, Smalley transferred its custody to Guries in the forestry department. According to Guries, he can collect useful hybrid elms for at least 10 more years even if he does not receive any additional funds.

Maintaining the elms is expensive, admits Smalley. Currently, it takes a full-time gardener and several part-time summer helpers to maintain the collection. Because the trees were planted so close together to save space, the gardeners must fertilize and weed them frequently.

Smalley would like to see the collection preserved for future generations of elm breeders and tree lovers, but there is little more he can do.

"That is the way it is," says Smalley. "I can't take them to heaven with me."

One possibility is to create an Elm Research Institute.

"It would be a simple matter of doing a little paperwork at the dean's office," Smalley says.

The institute would be supported by royalties from his patents on elms—Saporo Autumn Gold, Regal, New Horizon, American Liberty and Independence—which generate about \$5,000 each year.

But \$5,000 isn't enough to support the staff required to mow the lanes and fertilize the trees.

If and when Smalley decided to create the institute, says Guries, it will need the support of a generous benefactor. ♣

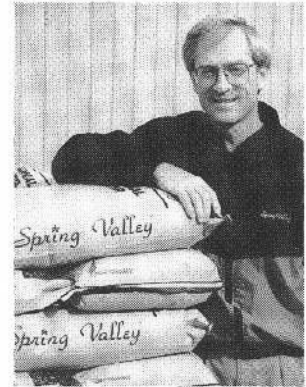
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Mike Lee, Blackwolf Run Host Highly Successful U.S. Round of Anderson Consulting World Championship

By Monroe S. Miller

If you are among the few in Wisconsin who haven't seen the Blackwolf Run golf courses in Kohler, you had the chance to see them from your living room the last weekend in July.

ESPN let the world see the great golf course that Herb Kohler conceived, Pete Dye designed and that Michael Lee and his staff manage these days. The views were absolutely beautiful.

Despite the tough summer weather—Kohler had been especially short of moisture—the playing conditions for the competition were superb. Paul Azinger, one of the competi-

tors, said it was one of the best public facilities in the world.

The Anderson Consulting World Championship of Golf is a new event this year. It started with an international field of 32 players from four regions of the world—the U.S. Europe, Japan and the Rest of the World. The U.S. portion played at Blackwolf Run was won by Mark McCumber, who will play in the finals at the Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, Arizona on December 30 and 31.

Congratulations to Mike and everyone else in the Kohler Co. who gave us yet another reason to be proud to be involved in golf in Wisconsin. ♣

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North Central Turfgrass Researchers Visit Madison

By Dr. Frank S. Rossi
Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin-Madison

History. In the early 1900's the United States Department of Agriculture established regional crop specific research groups. These groups were created to address the needs of the growers in the region. In the mid 1960's regional turfgrass research groups were initiated. The North Central group known as, NCR-10, includes researchers and extension personnel from 11 mid-western states (MN, WI, NE, MO, MI, ND, IA, IL, OH, IN, KS). Each year the group meets at one of the turfgrass institutions and on June 20 and 21 they converged on Madison.



Dr. John Street of Ohio and Dr. Zachary Reicher of Purdue University visited the Noer Facility to gather information they might use in the construction of their new turf research facilities.



Wayne Kussow holding court. To his right see Dr. Dave Minner of Iowa State.

I was responsible for setting up the itinerary for the meeting that typically draws 20 to 25 individuals. As a young turfgrass researcher, I was honored to have the opportunity to host leaders in our field such as, Dr. Bob Shearman from Nebraska, Dr. Don White from Minnesota, Drs. John Street and Karl Danneberger from Ohio State and Drs. Nick Christians and Dave Minner from Iowa State, to name a few. In all over 45 individuals attended!

Research Reports. The meetings began at the Holiday Inn-Madison West, site of our own Turf EXPO, where introductory remarks were made by Wayne Horman, President of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association. For a young guy, I am regularly impressed with Wayne's ability to establish a leadership posture addressing what many would consider an intimidating audience. Also, it is significant to mention that the WTA provided a \$1500.00 grant to support the hospitality functions at the hotel and later that evening at Quivey's Grove in Verona.

(Continued on page 51)

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