

Blustery Day At Ives Grove

By Andy Kronwell

Mark Hjortness, superintendent at Ives Grove GC in Racine, played host to 68 superintendents and associates on Monday April 21st. for the WGCSA April monthly meeting. The Red and White courses were the battlefields for a four-man scramble. Those who stacked teams were surprised to find that the payoff slots were 1st, 5th, and 10th place. Team Brian Schmidt, Rod Johnson, and Bruce Worzella took 1st with a 62. The Shaw brothers, Jim, Dan, Pat, and Charlie squeaked out a playoff victory with 68 for 5th place. Don Shaffer, Brad Davis, Karl Schimmel, and David Brandenburg shot 74 to claim 10th place.

Winners of the hole prizes were Chad Ball, Mark Betker, Keith Nienow, and Steve VanAcker. A stiff cold breeze off the lake, which seemed to be in our face 17 of 18 holes, didn't stop anyone from having a great time. Mark and his staff did a great job in preparing the course, despite the 7" of snow and gale force winds he experienced all within the two weeks prior to our meeting. The Ives Grove clubhouse



A good sized crowd of "soil blenders."

and proshop staff also did an outstanding job in making our April meeting an enjoyable one. Many thanks to all of them.

Christine Faulks was our guest speaker after lunch discussing the "trends in topdressing". A mini mixing facility was created at each table formulating a USGA specification topdressing mix and then a USGA specification mix with excess fines. Not one person in the room could tell by just looking at the two mixes which was USGA spec and which had excess fines. Christine's little experiment hit home the importance of having your topdressing mixes tested. Elaborating on the importance of topdressing mix testing Christine shared an independent Particle Size Analysis report comparing Waupaca sand and another popular sand. The findings of the report again made clear the importance of testing topdressing mixes.

The meeting was also the first time many had the opportunity to meet and visit with Dr. John Stier. He had just moved to the Madison area and this was his first ever WGCSA meeting. We hope he will be able to attend many more in the years to come. Welcome, John. 🌿



Dr. John Stier, Wayne Otto and Gordon Waddington



Chris Faulks and Dave Smith





Typhula Tour '97

By Steve Millett
Department of Plant Pathology
University of Wisconsin-Madison

I am going to tell you a story about Typhula Tour '97, my 3,000+ mile pursuit of the evil snow mold pathogens *Typhula incarnata* and *T. ishikariensis* across the beautiful state of Wisconsin. Typhula snow molds have been damaging golf courses even before the O.J. Noer Era. Since the Noer Era there have been tremendous improvements in our understanding of Typhula snow molds. This research will add to our current knowledge base and will hopefully help prevent extensive damage to valuable turf and reduce fungicide usage.

The aim of the 'Typhula Tour' is to determine the distribution of the snow mold fungi throughout Wisconsin, to characterize some of their differences and to determine if these two diseases should be managed differently. The following summary of 'Typhula Tour' is condensed from my research proposal.

Title: Distribution of Typhula species in Wisconsin golf courses

Need for research:

Based on a biogeographical analysis of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* (cause many row crop diseases) Reichert (1958) suggested that fungal plant pathogens are geographically limited. Reichert considered this approach useful in describing the ecology of the pathogen and found this information useful in disease management. A biogeographical description of a fungi's distribution pattern can be useful in locating unfavorable environments for disease and predicting disease development. It is commonly believed that *Typhula* species are geographically limited by climate. Furthermore, *T. incarnata* and the *T. ishikariensis* complex respond differently to the environment and to the chemicals used to control them (Matsumoto, 1992, Tani and Beard, 1997). Speckled snow mold (caused

by *T. ishikariensis* complex) has been reported as more difficult to control than gray snow mold (caused by *T. incarnata*) in Wisconsin (Worf, 1988a and 1988b). In Wisconsin, it is imperative to the successful management of gray and speckled snow molds that we know which pathogens are present and where they are located.

Research Methods

Objective: Determine the distribution *T. incarnata* and the *T. ishikariensis* complex in Wisconsin golf courses.

Hypothesis: *T. incarnata* is found throughout Wisconsin while the *T. ishikariensis* complex is mainly found in the northern half of the state.

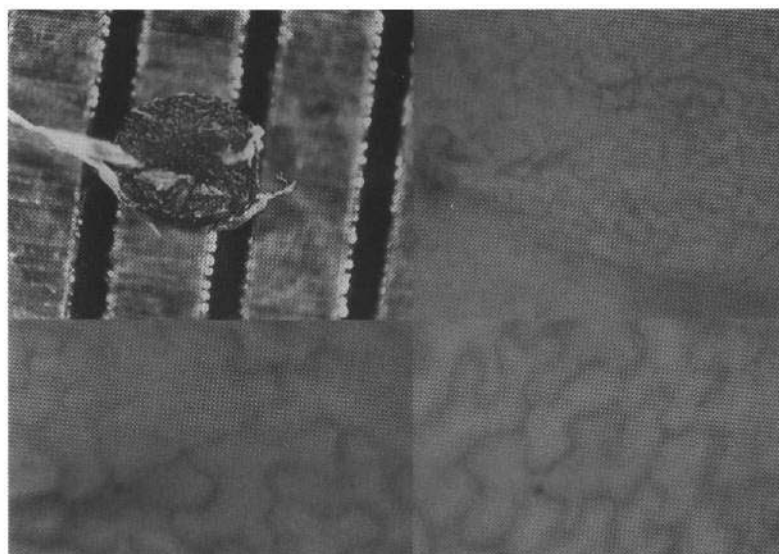


FIGURE 1
A.

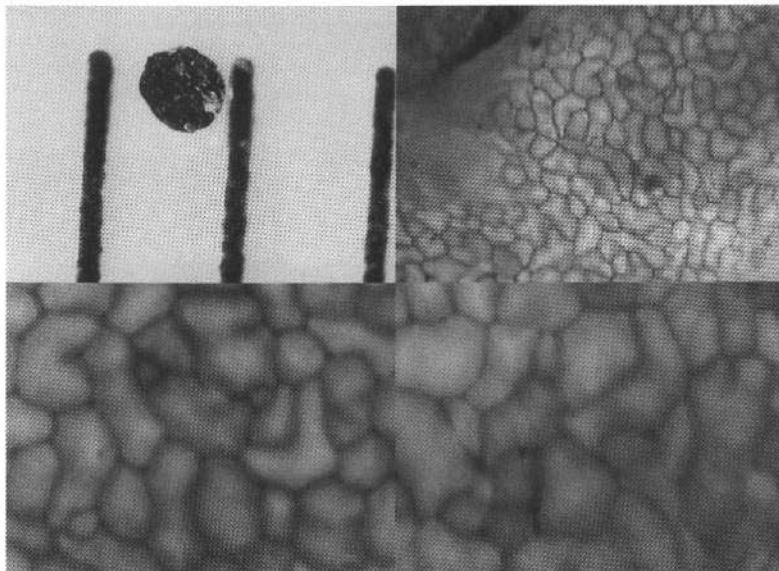


FIGURE 1
B.

Figure 1. Sclerotia of *T. incarnata* (A) and *T. ishikariensis* (B). Upper left scale is in millimeters and going clockwise are the rind cell patterns of 400x, 1000x and 1000x. (Courtesy J. Gregos).

Rationale: Matsumoto et al. (1982) found that the distribution of *T. ishikariensis* is strongly restricted to areas with prolonged snow cover duration. It is generally believed that *T. incarnata* is distributed throughout Wisconsin and that the *T. ishikariensis* complex is found in the northern half of the state. My research will document the distribution patterns of these fungal pathogens.

Experimental approach: A systematic random sampling technique was used to estimate the distribution of *Typhula* species. The sampling frame divides the State into three climate zones which is based on annual snowfall, USDA plant hardiness zones, estimated annual snow cover days and frost depth zones. Within these three zones, seven golf courses within a 70 kilometer radius from Madison (zone 1), Stevens Point (zone 2) and Woodruff (zone 3) were randomly selected to survey. Five snow mold samples were taken from four different holes for a total of twenty samples per course. Sclerotia are being taken from these samples to identify the species and biotypes. One way to identify these species is

by their sclerotia (Figure 1). The sizes, color and sclerotial skin cell patterns (rind cells) aid in identification. Sclerotia of *T. incarnata* start out pale when the snow melts, turn pink, darken to a reddish-brown, are globular to flattened, usually firmly attached to plant tissue, smooth when fresh, wrinkled when dry, 0.5 to 5mm in diameter and gelatinous and resilient in texture when soaked in water. The sclerotia of *T. ishikariensis* are abundantly produced, readily detached from plant tissue, globose to slightly flattened, light brown to almost black and 0.2 to 2 mm in diameter.

Impact on future research: Hopefully this research will reveal what species we have, where these species are found, how they behave and how they should be managed. Another important impact is that this gained knowledge will be used to help locate future representative management trial sites.

'Typhula Tour' highlights: I got to drive Jeff's T-Bird, saw American bald eagles soar at Dan's, saw a red

pine in the middle of a green at Mike's, visited the northernmost golf course in Wisconsin and met a lot of cool people. But most of all, I collected more than 460 samples in 21 days. Please tune in next time for the exciting results of this survey.

Literature cited

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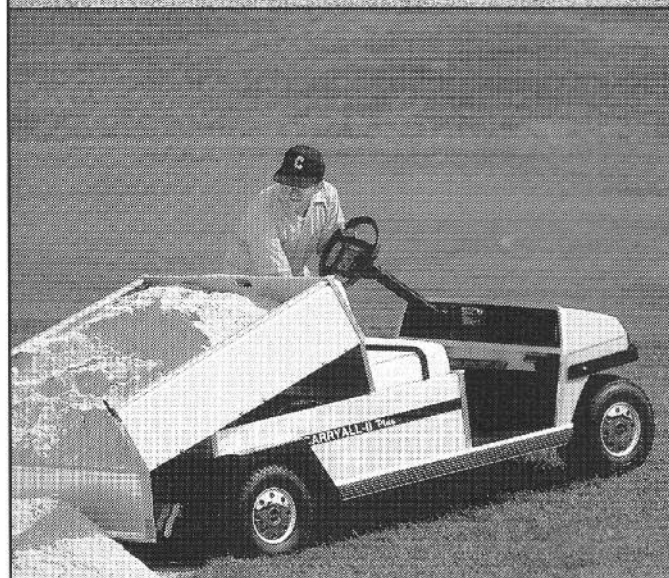
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MAY WGCSA MEETING

By Andy Kronwell

The May WGCSA meeting was held at Christmas Mountain Village in Wisconsin Dells, hosted by Chuck Wollner. Despite the unseasonably cold weather prior to our meeting Chuck had the golf course in great shape. We had 48 members in attendance to enjoy the day of golf followed by a terrific dinner.

The golf event played was a 4-person one best ball tournament. A three-way tie shooting 78 was broken by counting back from the 18th hole. First place was awarded to the fore-

some of Jim VanMeter, Conrad Stynchula, Jim Ferry, and Pat Staehler. Second place was Kendall Marquart, Carl Marquart, Steve Meyer, and Paul Derezinski. Third place went to Mike Berwick, Rod Johnson, Steve Schmidt, and Mark Kienert.

Hole prizes were awarded for long drive on #18 to Mike Berwick, closest to the pin on #12 to Kendall Marquart, and long putt on #8 blew away in the gale force winds.

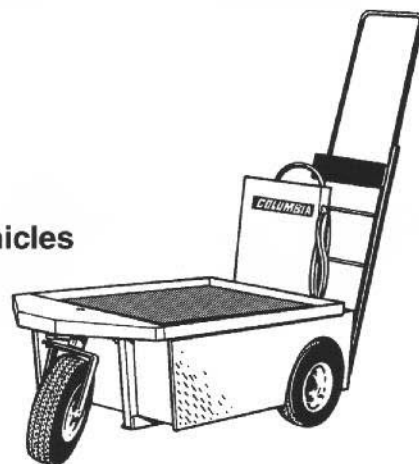
Closing out the day was our

Florida guest, Mr. Joe Hubbard. Joe is the superintendent at Jonathans' Landing at Old Trail located in Jupiter, Florida. Jonathans' Landing at Old Trail is a 54-hole private club hosting 110,000 rounds of golf annually. Joe is well known as "The Ethics Sheriff" of Florida, which was the basis of his presentation to our group.

An overview of his presentation will be published in a later issue of *The Grass Roots*. ♣

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Romey Orth's Wisconsin Golf Course Museum

By Monroe S. Miller

Whenever anyone asked Vroman Orth what he did, he always replied, "I collect." Then he would quickly add, "and I manage a golf course for a living."

Romey (hardly anyone knew him by his birth name Vroman) was a quiet man who had been around golf courses all of his life, learning from his father Fritz. He even took Fritz's place at the Covered Bridge Country Club after Fritz suffered a heart attack on the golf course and passed away. His ashes were scattered on the hill leading down to the covered bridge in the middle of the golf course. Romey always said, "that's the way I want to leave this earth," not an uncommon thought among golf course superintendents.

Southeast and south central Wisconsin was home to Romey his entire life. He spent a few years at CBCC, and each subsequent step of

his career took him to a better course and club. When he retired he had spent a long time at the Eastbourne CC, one of the state's premier clubs.

The more than five decades he'd been around and on golf courses gave him endless, almost infinite opportunities to practice his collecting. Everyone, and I mean everyone, knew they did not dare throw anything away from their shop unless they asked Romey first. Trips to a junkyard with a load of scrap iron were preceded by a call to him to see if he wanted any of it. Usually he'd say, "I'd better come and look." And then he would.

Turf equipment dealers and distributors in Wisconsin and the states around all knew Romey Orth. He was well appraised of what they had sitting on their used equipment lot and over the course of many years he acquired worn out iron for the cost of hauling it away.

Although no one ever pushed hard to find out what he did with his treasures, once in awhile somebody would ask, "Romey, what in the hell are you going to do with all that junk?"

"Someday you'll see," Romey replied. "Just be patient."

He had a small farm—forty acres—a few miles outside of Eastbourne. It was situated neatly on a hilltop at the edge of an oak savannah and had been a prosperous dairy farm until it was sold off in pieces as an older farmer and his wife retired. Romey bought the last forty acres, which included the buildings.

The house was a classic farm house—several chimneys, a large wrap around porch that offered a great place to sit in the big swing on summer evenings. The dairy barn was large and had stanchions for thirty-six cows. The calf pens, horse stalls and the stanchions for the yearling heifers occupied as much room

as the milking section. Two large silos were centered on the west side of the barn, and there was a large stylish cupola on the center ridge of the roof.

The farmstead also had a combination hoghouse on the exposed ground floor and a chicken coop above, at the ground level on the other side. The ensemble of buildings also included a large corncrib, a grand machine shed, a beautiful stone spring house and a granary.

It was an immaculate homestead, just as one would expect considering the way Romey ran the Eastbourne golf course.

All of the Orth boys worked for their dad during their youth, just as Romey had worked for Fritz. As they went off to college and settled in on a campus, they immediately lined up a golf course job. One of them spent years at my course, more years than I can remember. When he left he had earned a PhD in history, one of the premier departments on the Madison campus.

It seemed odd, at graduation, that Jimmy Orth was now Dr. James V. Orth. Jimmy was one of the lucky ones—the day after he received his degree he went to work for the Wisconsin State Historical Society.

Jim, and all the boys for that matter, spent a lot of time at the home farm. It was a close family and at those rare times when I'd wonder what they did with their time on the farm, I figured it was just to visit with their parents and help out with the inevitable chores that come with owning a piece of land. Once Romey retired it seemed they made the trips to Eastbourne even more frequently.

I would see Jim pretty often, usually because he'd stop for a cup of coffee on his way to the State Street building where he worked. "A guy gets addicted to this stuff working on a golf course," he'd tell us with a

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laugh. If I was busy, he would take a cart for a quick spin around the golf course.

One day I came right out and asked Jimmy, "what are you and your brothers and your dad up to out there, anyway?"

His face flushed and I knew he was hiding something. "I can't spoil Dad's surprise, so don't ask about it, please. I promise you will know by next spring. It will all make sense by then. Actually, we are all surprised you haven't asked more questions before this."

I didn't stop wondering, but I did as Jim requested; I didn't ask him anymore nosy questions. Patience was in order.

And, lo and behold, Jim was right. Romey, although retired, stayed active in the WGCSA and volunteered his farm for the first monthly meeting in the spring of the next year. The guys were a little hesitant at first—no golf course at the Orth place (as far as any of us knew)—but out of respect and trust, they agreed.

The meeting notices went out; the meeting was promoted as one "you won't want to miss. Romey promises it will be unforgettable. Lunch at noon and educational session at 1:30 p.m. Entertainment at 2:30 p.m. Pig roast at 5:00 p.m."

A group of us got together for the ride to Romey's—Tom Morris, Scott Fennimore, Bogey Calhoun, Steady Eddie Middleton and me. The conversation for the entire trip east for

the meeting centered around speculation about the nature of the meeting. It was Calhoun who said, "Romey is probably going to put a hundred guys to work fixing up that junk he has collected for 50 years."

Bogey wasn't far from the mark. About a mile before we were supposed to turn left from the state highway onto Dairy Ridge Road, there was a billboard on the right side of the road that announced VISIT THE WORLD'S ONLY GOLF COURSE MUSEUM- Next left, then two miles.

It was dead silent in the Explorer. We all stared at the sign at the same time, read it and looked around at one another. Finally, Tom broke the silence. "For once you were right Calhoun. That old rascal did fix up all that junk he's scavenged his entire life, some of it before we were born!"

The entrance to the Wisconsin Golf Course Museum was several hundred yards before the entrance to Romey's farm. It was new asphalt, wide and jet black in the warm Wisconsin sun. A cedar sign announced that we were on Magnolia Lane. The road made a big sweeping arc from the entrance toward the building. The parking lot was new and big and beautifully landscaped and occupied the front and both sides of the building. The first thing you see was a new building—brick faced with white columns at its entrance. It was removed from the house where Romey lived and the rest of the farm buildings. A generous, immaculate lawn area fronted the building.

The Orth boys were parking cars and getting people to the big red and white tent that had been put up on the lawn. Jimmy Orth smiled when he saw me, and as I rolled down the window he said, "see why I didn't want you asking me any questions?!"

"I get it, now," I replied as we shook hands through the window.

Guys from all over Wisconsin were there for the meeting. A huge nylon banner that fluttered in the breeze announced 'The Grand Opening of the Wisconsin Golf Course Museum.' The talk was about golf course conditions—we always talk about that—and plans for the year. But mostly, we wondered what was behind the doors of this stunning new building in the rolling and lush Wisconsin landscape.

White posts had been set in sand pails on either side of the entrance to the new and formidable building. It was obvious we were there for a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The meal was served—brats, sauerkraut, baked beans (a Calhoun favorite; it would be a brutal ride home), cheese, milk and coffee and a big bowl of ice cream for dessert—and as guys finished eating, they started to nose around the new building.

"The thing is enormous!" Calhoun gushed. "I wish my shop was this big."

"Get back here, you guys," Romey scolded. "Morris, give me a hand in keeping these characters corralled." Tom smiled and said, "Count on it, Romey."

(Continued on page 29)

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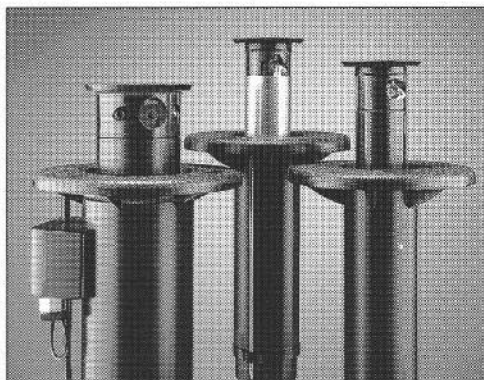


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(Continued from page 27)

A small podium had been set up and a loud speaker system was given a test by Jimmy Orth. "Testing. Testing. OK, Dad, Let's do it!"

Romey worked his way through his friends and colleagues. He knew them all and they were patting him on the back, cheering him along. The old man was grinning, and his rugged weathered face had happiness written all over it.

He made it to the front, took the mike from Jim, and slowly looked over the crowd as if to savor the moment. The only other sound was from the birds in this beautiful and quiet corner of Wisconsin. The banner fluttered lightly in the gentle breeze. The guys were, unbelievably, silent. Romey cleared his voice and started.

"I'm glad you boys all came today. And I thank God for such a wonderful day. I am a very happy man; finally I can show you what has been a fifty year labor of love for me and the rest of the family."

He paused, then started again, looking at Jim, then Betty and the rest of the family.

"As I think about it, most of you in the audience have a piece of this museum. I cannot think of any Wisconsin superintendent who hasn't, at one time or another, brought me some relic or antique related to golf courses. Today I want to share with you first—my good and faithful friends—and then with the whole world, some of the rich history of golf course management and greenkeeping in Wisconsin. It would be the same almost anywhere else in the country. I hope word gets around and we have visitors from everywhere golf is played.

"What you are going to see as you roam around the museum my family and I have worked on so long are things that we hope will bring back special memories in your working lives, remind you of special moments of your career and bring to you an awareness of what has gone on before your time. The collection is preserved for all time, for any who

want to see and touch and remember what was before us, how work was when we were young or when our ancestors were young.

"This museum will, I hope, be used to measure our progress as the years continue to go by. The highest compliment for me would be for others in other states to follow this example and start other golf course museums.

"Golf course management has been a wonderful career for me, as it was for my father and will be for at least some of my children. It was a fun way to spend my life. I love it deeply, just as my father before me loved it.

"Enjoy yourself today as you wander up and down the aisles of time. Thank you for spending this great day with me."

And with that Romey stepped down, took the scissors from Jim and cut the white ribbon. I snapped a picture. The Wisconsin Golf Course Museum was now officially open!

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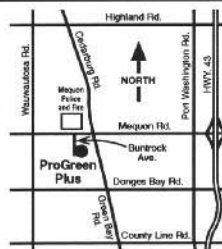
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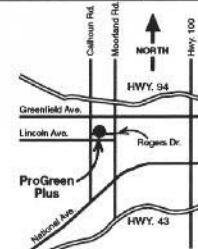


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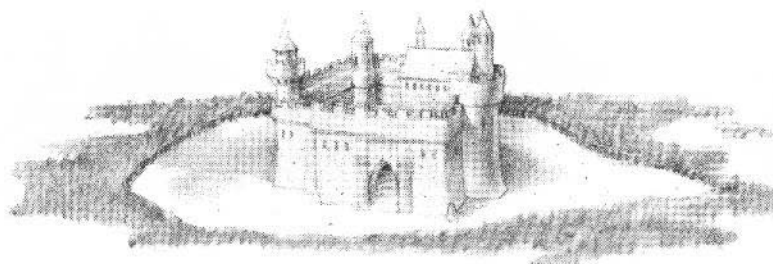
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