

Ten Years of Personality Profiles

Occupations listed are those that were current at the time the articles were written. Letters after the name indicate those who have moved on to other jobs (M), those who are retired (R), and those who are deceased (D).

Golf Course Superintendents

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Woody Voigt(R) | Nov./Dec. 1994 |
| Al Vrana (D) | Jan./Feb. 1995 |
| Bill Sell (D) | March/April 1995 |
| Mark Kienert | Jan./Feb. 1996 |
| Randy Smith (M) | Sept./Oct. 1996 |
| The Shaw Boys: Dan, Jim, Charlie, Pat | Sept./Oct. 1997 |
| Michael Lee | May/June 1998 |
| Charles Shiley (D) via his widow, Mary | March/April 2000 |

Golf Organizations

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Gene Haas, WSGA (R) | Sept./Oct. 1990 |
| Lois Latham, wife and assistant to Jim Latham (R) | March/April 1991 |
| Bill Roberts, GCSAA president | March/April 1992 |
| Jim Latham, Great Lakes USGA Green Section (R) | Jan./Feb. 1994 |

Allied Industry

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Lee Bruce, The Bruce Co. | July/Aug. 1990 |
| Egon Herrmann, Kellogg Seeds (R) | Nov./Dec. 1990 |
| Christine Faulks, Greensmix | July/Aug. 1991 |
| Jerry O'Donnell, OM Scott and Sons Co. (R) | May/June 1992 |
| Curtis Larson, Wis. Turf Equipment Corp. | Sept./Oct. 1992 |
| Ed Devinger, Reinders (M) | Nov./Dec. 1992 |
| John Mortimer, Horst Distributing (R) | Jan./Feb. 1993 |
| Bob Lohmann, golf course architect | March/April 1993 |
| Charlie Wilson, MMSD/Milorganite (R) | July/Aug. 1994 |
| Dan DeVault, Hanley Co. (M) | May/June 1995 |
| John Buck, JW Turf | July/Aug. 1995 |
| Dick Nugent, golf course architect | Sept./Oct. 1995 |
| Terry Ward, MMSD/Milorganite (M) | Nov./Dec. 1995 |
| Tom Emmerich, irrigation designer | March/April 1996 |
| Dick Reinders, Reinders | July/Aug. 1996 |
| Bob Reinders, Reinder | sNov./Dec. 1996 |
| Don Stein, Kellogg Seeds (M) | March/April 1997 |
| Alan Nees, MMSD/Milorganite | May/June 1997 |

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Wayne Horman, Scotts | Jan./Feb. 1998 |
| Ray Knapp, Spring Valley Turf Products | Sept./Oct. 1998 |
| Vince Johnson, Johnson Turf Equipment | Jan./Feb. 1999 |
| Charlie Kisow, The Bruce Co. | July/Aug. 1999 |
| O.J. Noer (D) via his cousin, Peter Vea | May/June 2000 |

University of Wisconsin-Madison

CALS Deans:

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Leo Walsh (R) | May/June 1991 |
| Roger Wyse (M) | March/April, 1994 |
| Elton Aberle | Nov./Dec. 1998 |

Professors/Specialists:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Gayle Worf, plant pathology(R) | Sept./Oct. 1991 |
| Robert Newman, horticulture(R) | Jan./Feb. 1992 |
| J.R. Love, soils (R) | July/Aug. 1992 |
| Wayne Kussow, soils | Sept./Oct. 1993 |
| Chuck Koval, entomology (R) | Nov./Dec. 1993 |
| Ed Hasselkus, horticulture (R) | Sept./Oct. 1994 |
| Doug Maxwell, plant pathology | May/June 1996 |
| Jeff Gregos, TDDL | Jan./Feb. 1997 |
| John Stier, horticulture | Nov./Dec. 1997 |
| Phil Pellitteri, entomology | March/April 1999 |
| Chris Williamson, entomology | May/June 1999 |
| Laura Jull, horticulture | Sept./Oct. 1999 |
| Mike Casler, agronomy | Nov./Dec. 1999 |
| Geunhwa Jung, plant pathology | Jan./Feb. 2000 |

Grass Roots Contributors

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Lori Ward Bocher, Personality Profile columnist | July/Aug. 1993 |
| Jennifer Samerdyke, cover artist | March/April 1998 |
| Steve Scoville, cartoonist | July/Aug. 1998 |

Miscellaneous

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Russell Weisensel, Wis. Agri-Business Council (R) | Nov./Dec. 1991 |
| M.C. "Milt" Engelke, Texas A&M turfgrass breeder | May/June 1994 |
| Todd Edlebeck, Lambeau Field grounds supervisor (now has different position with Packers) | July/Aug. 1997 |

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Straddling the Environmental Border of Lake Tahoe

By Dr. John Stier, Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin - Madison

Ever wonder how life as a superintendent is elsewhere? This May I took a peek while attending the national extension natural resources conference at Lake Tahoe. This large, deep lake straddles the border of California and Nevada. A renowned ski resort area, the entire lake is ringed by 9,000 ft peaks, wilderness areas and national forest. Hemmed in between the lakeshore and the mountains is a thin line of homes, stores, and several golf courses. Extension specialists were there representing water quality, forestry, agriculture, and other diverse programs. Wayne Kussow and I presented a poster titled "Golf Courses and the Environment". We got great coverage as its location was next to the entrance of the main conference room.

One of the things that amazed me was the number of times turf management issues arose during the conference. While I had anticipated an

apathetic, if not hostile, response to our poster, I received only favorable comments. Several of the presentations dealt in some fashion with turf. A presenter from Pennsylvania discussed an extension-led career day program for elementary children which included a session on golf course management. They saw this area being important to the environment and as having excellent career potential. A fire control expert touted the benefits of an irrigated lawn as a buffer to save homes from wildfires. Other presentations were less complimentary.

A presentation from Minnesota dealt with sources of water pollution in the state's lakes. One of the two primary culprits identified was lawn and golf course fertilizer. This was determined by a survey of lakeshore residents on what they thought were the most important issues affecting lake quality. The keynote speaker for the conference was Dr. Charles

Goldman, professor of Limnology from the University of California-Davis (limnology is the study of lakes, ponds and streams). Dr. Goldman, who has studied Lake Tahoe for over 20 years, gave a historical perspective on development in the lake basin and an overview on pollution. He identified one major source of phosphorus pollution as eroding soil and even dust from bare soil entering the lake. The other culprit was (is) golf course fertilizers. This "fact" sat me straight up in my seat as the other people sitting at my table all looked at me. Dr. Goldman went on to discuss his partially successful attempts, and frustrations, at getting area golf courses to change their fertility practices. No data were presented or discussed to provide a basis for turf fertilizers as being the cause of the pollution. Instead, it was assumed fertilizer just runs off from turf areas. If this is truly the case, then why do we bother to fertilize turf? One of the projects our poster highlighted was Wayne Kussow's runoff research. This research indicated turf allows negligible amounts of runoff due to a high plant density, while a properly fertilized turf results in less runoff than a non-fertilized turf for the same reason.

The second day of the conference I spent visiting two of the area golf courses. I wanted to find out what their management practices were like and what they had to do to satisfy environmental concerns.

Restrictions on the California side allow little leeway

Lake Tahoe Golf Course, built in the 1960's, lies on the California side of the lake. Snow-capped mountains bound the course on the south side. The day before my visit the golf

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course had received nearly three inches of June, and mountain passes were closed to most vehicles. The superintendent, John Senulfsky, had jury duty that day so I met with his foreman, Ed Shattuck. Ed had been a superintendent for 21 years before taking his current position. Management practices were restricted by two entities. The La Hotten Water Quality Agency does not allow herbicide use on the golf course. The golf course is **required** to have water tests conducted regularly, with specific tests run for pesticides that are used (fungicides and insecticides). American Golf, which owns the course, restricts most of the fertilizer to ureaformaldehyde, a slow-release form of nitrogen. Other variables, not necessarily unique to California, combined to ensure a challenging position for the superintendent.

Lake Tahoe GC employs primarily what they termed "ski bums" and retirees. Like Wisconsin, finding good labor is a difficult chore. Rocks abound in the area, and the soil is a rocky silt. Like many golf courses, *Poa annua* was a dominant grass on the push-up greens and fairways. To top it off, the course gets 60,000-70,000 rounds of play each year, most of it tourists. The day I was there the parking lot was overflowing, and the temperature was in the low 40's. Ice damage is a constant concern during the winter, and winterkill of the *Poa annua* can be expected.

The Nevada side

Mr. Steve Seibel is the superintendent at Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course on the Nevada side of the lake. The course is privately owned and clearly an upper level public course. Like Lake Tahoe GC, the course is full from morning until evening, even though greens fees run \$175 to \$200 per round. Over 90% of the play is from tourists. Many of the 25 person summer crew are seasonal workers from Mexico.

The course opens in May, but is subject to frost until early July (the week before I arrived the temperature dropped to 16 F, injuring many of the woody ornamentals). Because the inconsistent spring weather can injure turf one day and the course might be open for play the next, sod is used for renovation and restoration projects. The sod has to be trucked in across the mountains

from Reno. Originally bentgrass, the greens and fairways contain a significant amount of *Poa annua*. Renovated fairways are being sodded with low-mow Kentucky bluegrass cultivars maintained at 7/16 inch. The tees, also originally bentgrass, are overseeded with ryegrass. Roughs are a combination of Kentucky bluegrass and ryegrass. Topdressing sand comes from the

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A water clarifier is used to remove sediment and pollutants from wash pad water to prevent discharge into Lake Tahoe.

Sacramento area—the freight charges cost more than the top-dressing.

A proactive approach

Legislation isn't quite as tight on the Nevada side as it is on the California side. Still, Steve doesn't take chances and manages the course in an environmentally proactive manner. Edgewood GC is on the edge of Lake Tahoe. Construction and renovation projects have to be approved by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). Approval must be sought for projects ranging from greens reconstruction to cart path installation. Earthmoving is restricted from May 1 to October 15 in an effort to reduce potential sedimentation and phosphorus loading into Lake Tahoe. Steve has spent a considerable amount of time building a relationship with TRPA. Part of this occurred when Steve offered to work with TRPA to develop a nutrient management plan. By taking the initiative, he had more control over the plan than he likely would have had if he had waited for a TRPA mandate. For example, greens can receive no more than 6 lb N/M annually, fairways no more than 4 lb N,



A view of Lake Tahoe.



The clubhouse at Edgewood GC is extensively landscaped. By mid-May, the deciduous trees still did not have leaves due to the cool climate.

and roughs no more than 2 lb. While these amounts are within the realm of most golf course practices, the fact he took the time to develop the plan with TRPA has paid off. Along the way, the TRPA members have become more educated about golf courses and the environment.

Water, fish, and weeds

Edgewood Creek, which runs through the golf course, drains directly into Lake Tahoe. When the course was built the creek was rerouted. Steve and his crew have recently rebuilt the creek, working with the Dept. of Fish and Game to add fish ladders to make it more fish friendly. They have installed catch-ponds along the creekside to trap sediment as it flows down from the mountains and keep it from entering

Lake Tahoe. They have added two acres of wetlands in the last five years, bringing the total wetland acreage on the course up to nearly 6 acres. One of the wetlands, on the 13th hole, recirculates the water to a new stream on the 4th hole. A water clarifier was installed for washing equipment at the maintenance shop. This device filters sediment/pollutants from the wash water before it enters the drain. To satisfy public concerns, 2,4-D is not used on the golf course; instead, Confront (triclopyr and clopyralid) is used as a spot spray.

The wonderful things

There are some benefits to being a superintendent in the mountainous west. Most precipitation is snow. A rain-free, hence flood-free,



A view from the maintenance shop at Lake Tahoe GC in California.



The driving range at Lake Tahoe GC faces the mountains.

summer is not uncommon. Typically the snow depth on the golf courses is 3 to 4 ft between mid-November and mid-March. A high temperature in the summer may be 78 F. Because humidity is low and temperatures are moderate, there are few turf diseases. Snow molds are the only disease routinely encountered and treated on a preventive basis. Typhula

problems are infrequent, with most of the disease caused by *Microdochium nivale* (pink snow mold). Job security may be better: both superintendents had been at their present course for quite a while; Steve started 24 yrs. ago. The mountains add a spectacular backdrop to any given day. As many things as were different, though, the challenge remains the

same as it is in Wisconsin: to provide a perfect golf course environment day in and day out. 🌿

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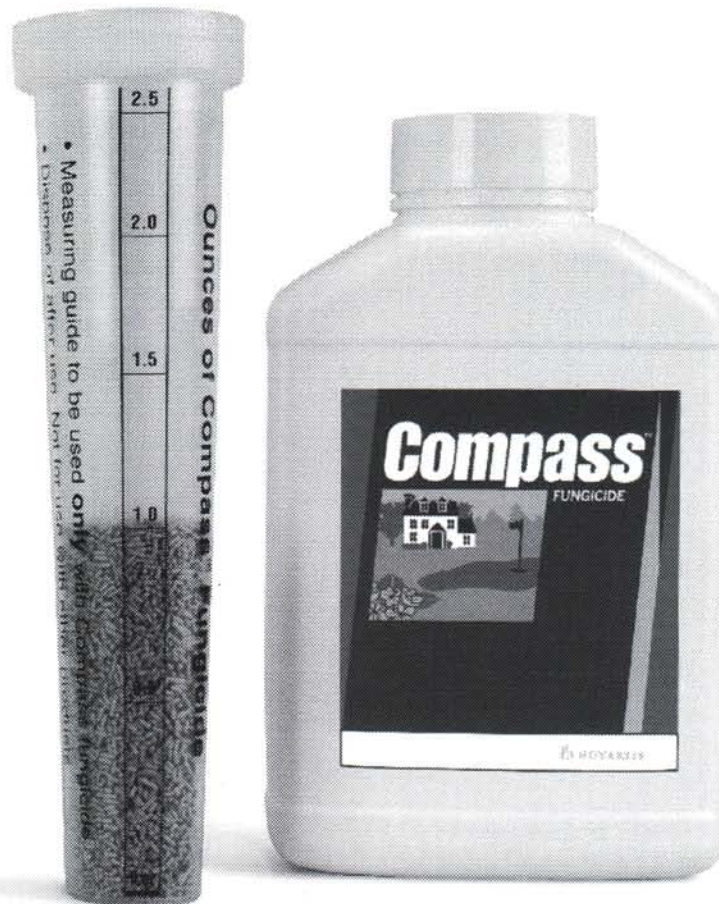
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Thresholds Are Different For Everyone

By Dr. R. Chris Williamson, Turfgrass and Ornamental Entomologist, University of Wisconsin-Madison



Thresholds, whether economical or aesthetically based, are widely used indexes in making integrated pest management (IPM) decisions. In turfgrass, with the exception of sod growers, most pest management thresholds are aesthetic.

A threshold is merely an arbitrary level at which a pest (i.e., disease, insect, or weed) reaches, in density or intensity, whereby a management action should be or is implemented. This threshold level is frequently referred to as the action threshold.

Action thresholds are dynamic and may change within a growing season. They are affected or influenced by several factors including economic costs, potential environ-

mental impact, value of a specific turf site (i.e., green, fairway, tee, or rough), and production or growing environments.

Consequently, because one or a combination of the aforementioned factors can be very different for individual turfgrass managers, arbitrary thresholds are often different for everyone. For example, aesthetic thresholds for turfgrass pests that are established by the golf course superintendent at Augusta National may be substantially different than those by a municipal golf course.

Another example is that of a golf course that has predominately sandy soils and is located near or is surrounded by large bodies of

water versus a golf course that has heavy clay soils with relatively no change in slope and is not near a river, stream, or lake. In this situation, there are vast differences in the potential environmental impact.

When establishing or determining threshold(s) for your specific pest complex, consider the level of damage or tolerance that you (i.e., your green committee or membership) are willing to accept, and yet maintain a quality-playing surface. It would serve you well to include either your green committee chairperson or chair people in this decision making process. Such action would develop and/or continue to strengthen your line of communication with them. As a result, if and when critical situations arise, your green committee and membership are more likely to be and appreciative or understanding of your situation. ♣



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Fundraising For Turfgrass Research At The Bog

By Tom Schwab, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Golf Fundraiser is back on track after a short hiatus in 1999. The fundraiser was held at The Bog in Saukville on June 8th, 2000. Sixty-two individuals participated in the golf event and another thirty-six sponsors gave \$100 donations towards the success of the outing. Approximately \$4,600 was raised, after expenses, to better the turf industry of Wisconsin in many important ways. Some possible uses of these funds may go to support the Wisconsin Turf Industry Survey, back the Turf Diagnostic Lab, grow the WTA endowment fund, help educate future turf students, or to solve important turf questions for our industry. WTA past president Bob Erdahl and administrative secretary Audra Anderson did a superb job organizing this event.

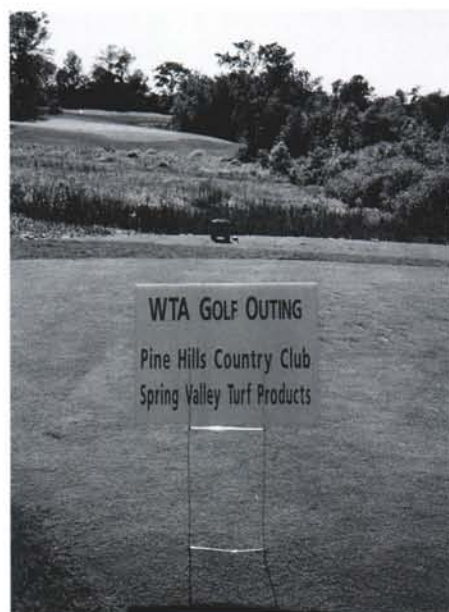
In addition to being a noble event, it was a blast. The venue was spectacular, weather was perfect, and high spirits a plenty. A break like this was especially needed after the flooding and record rains that many of us

endured the previous month. General manager Pat Shaw and superintendent Tony Gonzales had the course in spectacular shape with little evidence of the record May rains, other than participants were required to keep carts on the paths. The day was slightly cool, in the 60's, but the sun was shining all the way through. And the wind was blowing just enough to wave the cattails and add an additional challenge to the course.

The Bog can be described as challenging, breathtaking, unique, diverse with natural features, and impeccably designed and maintained. Each hole is separated from the other with wetlands, flora, and hills so that we rarely even saw the other 15 foursomes in the event. The WTA fundraiser has been held at many wonderful golf courses, and The Bog is yet another that will be remembered for many years to come.

Attendees enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch before golf and plenty of hors d'oeuvres after. In addition everyone enjoyed a long warm-up on the range that helped

participants take home some of the many flag and event prizes. The day's event was a one-person best ball tournament that was paid to two randomly drawn places. The winners were not random though — as the quorum of Otto, Wörzella, Nees, and Ziegler still



Gorgeous views like this were seen on every hole. The sponsor signs only added to the beauty.



From left to right - Mr. Cool, Mr. Mertens and Dr. Stier



Mr. Otto exhibiting his winning technique.