

TOURNAMENT MEETING AT GREENWOOD HILLS C.C.



By **Mike Berwick**, Golf Course Superintendent, Golf Courses of Lawsonia, Inc.

Superintendent Scott Sann hosted the 2000 WGCSA Tournament at Greenwood Hills Country Club in Wausau on September 11. It was the first monthly meeting held at Greenwood Hills and the first that Scott has hosted. Unfortunately, only 46 members and affiliates, including about 6 members of the NGLGCSA, showed up to enjoy the event, which began with a hearty soup and sandwich lunch.

Following lunch the educational session featured Mr. David Oberle, formerly of Greentrac.com, speaking about "E" Commerce and the use of the Internet. Mr. Oberle gave a general discussion about getting started using computers and the Internet, and discussed different uses of the Internet that could be beneficial to superintendents. He stated that there was a wealth of information that was available on the Internet, the use of bulletin boards and chat rooms for communication with other superintendents and industry experts, and the use of the Internet for ordering and purchasing equipment and materials. He stated a number of reasons why he thought the Internet would be a good way to do business in the future.

After the session, the golf event began with a shotgun start at 1 o'clock. Despite 3 inches of rain the night before, the course was in "tournament" condition. The tree-lined course featured numerous elevation changes, and fast and true, undulating greens. It also offered a number of wonderful views of the surrounding area.

After golf, attendees met in the Greenwood Hills Restaurant for a cash bar and delicious selection of hors d'oeuvres featuring barbecued ribs, chicken wings, spicy meatballs, and chef prepared pasta dishes. The golf awards are as follows:

WGCSA Fall Tournament Winners:

2000 WGCSA Champion (Low Gross)

Seth Brogren

Flight A (0-16 Hdep.)

First Mike Lyons
Second Mike Berwick

Flight B (17-32 Hdep.)

First Tom Schaller
Second Bob Brooker

Peoria Event

First Ken Velpel
Second Lloyd Cook

Winners of Flag Events:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| #1 Closest to Pin from off green | Mark Grundman, Steve Spears |
| #2 Closest to Pin in One | Mark Livingston |
| #4 Longest Putt | Steve Schmidt |
| #6 Longest Drive in Fairway | Fuzzy Feldman |
| #9 Closest to Pin in Three | Jason Lemanski |
| #10 Longest Putt | Mark Livingston |
| #11 Closest to Pin in One | Mike Casler |
| #15 Closest to Pin from off green | Greg Kallenberg |
| #17 Closest to Pin in One | J.D. Huseboe |

Special thanks to Scott Sann, Professional Kerry Fitzgerald, Club Manager Ken Peterson and the entire staff at the Greenwood Hills Country Club for inviting our organization and for a great day. ♣



Scott Sann, host of September meeting at Greenwood Hills.



Dave Oberle, the speaker at Scott Sann's meeting, talked about e-commerce and internet applications.



The Deer Hunters

By **Monroe S. Miller**, Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

I had been able to dodge it for years, which naturally led to my confidence that I would be able to do it again this year. We were going to Mother Fletchers on Friday night to hear the Tams; I had waited in line for tickets as soon as they went on sale. There was an alumni group meeting for brunch Saturday morning we had accepted an invitation to attend. The Badgers were playing their last game of the season at Camp Randall Saturday afternoon - a NEVER miss on our autumn schedule. The Madison Symphony

was playing a Charles Ives program Saturday evening. After a short night, it was off to Green Bay on Sunday for the Packers/Steelers game in Lambeau Field at noon. The weekend, obviously, was going to be the most exciting of the year. Adding to all the pleasure was the fact that the golf season was over, done and in the books. I could hardly wait for the weekend to arrive.

Looming large, however, was the annual and inevitable invitation from Bogey Calhoun to spend

the opening of the deer season with him and Tom Morris and Steady Eddie Middleton and Scottie Fennimore and each of their long-standing hunting buddies and family members. These guys thought about opening day all year long, starting with the end of each deer season. I was dreading the year I would get trapped into lugging a shotgun into the woods with them.

"I don't need to go along," I'd tell Bogey. "I have heard so many stories over the years that I feel like I've gone with you lots of

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times. I would just slow you guys down." Somehow or other I had always gotten out of going.

Until this year. Despite our busy schedule. Despite Cheryl's objections. Despite a Badger and a Packer game. Even though I don't like venison (even when it is well cooked). Calhoun would not take "no" for an answer. He enlisted Tom Morris to put the heat on me, something Tom was uncomfortable with doing. In the end, my protestations notwithstanding, I collapsed under the pressure, took the heat from my wife and agreed to be in the woods with the guys at dawn on opening day of the deer hunting season.

As I look back, I now know how little I understood about deer hunting in Wisconsin. The focus was always on the tromp through

the woods on early Saturday morning, usually when it was cold. Worse was being the man on the stand, whether on the ground or in a tree. He dared not move or cough or even shiver. To me, it was less than fun. Then, if you happened to get unlucky (from my perspective) and actually shot a buck, you had the mess to deal with - gutting the animal immediately. After that was the job of lugging it back to a road that could be reached by your truck. It could be, in the hills of southwest Wisconsin, damn hard work. Worse luck was a shot that hit an animal but didn't kill it. Our hunting ethics absolutely required tracking the animal until you either found it dead or until you got close enough for a shot to finish the kill. Not my idea of enter-

tainment. Work on a golf course provided me with plenty of exercise and fresh air; hunting was simply more of the same.

Deer hunting with Bogey, Tom and the rest of the boys was more involved, however, than even I had calculated. We took the day before the season opener - Friday - off to get ready. We zeroed our weapons, bought supplies and cleaned up the building where we were spending the night. I had volunteered not to stay there, preferring instead to drive up to the hunt early in the morning. "You'll never show," Tom said with Calhoun, Middleton and Fennimore vigorously agreeing.

The accommodations were, well, rustic. Our headquarters were on the old Morris homestead where Tom grew up and where his

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brother still farmed. It was in the hills not far from the Wisconsin River, rough land but beautiful beyond words. Contour farming on the ridges and softer slopes added to the natural beauty. And the farms were cut out of deciduous woods, more wooded land than cropland, to be sure. It was, obviously, ideal deer habitat.

We did some scouting, on foot of course, and they showed me where the stands were and where the drives would take place. The Morris' had lots of land to hunt on, and neighbors all allowed the Morris' and their group to hunt on what I guessed must have been nearly two thousand acres. I was impressed and warming a little to the activity planned for sunrise the next day.

The guys were fanatic to a

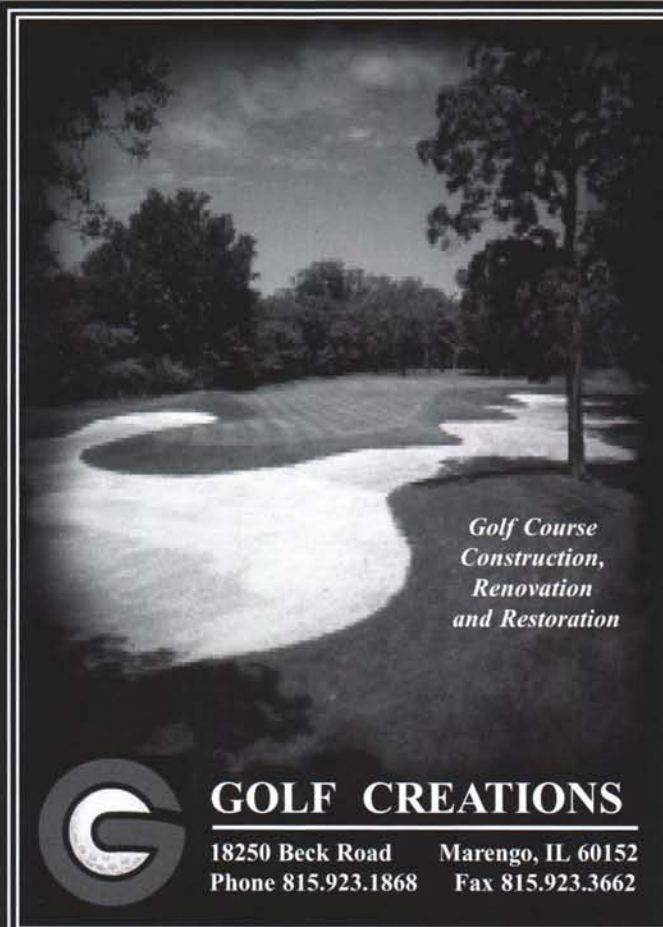
degree I hadn't even imagined. Bogey had all of his hunting clothes buried in the ground, packed with field corn, corn stalks, apples, soil and rough grasses. "I don't want my human scent scaring them away," he said as I was laughing uproariously at him. Turned out some of the other hunters in our group did the same.

I was starting to have a good time; the enthusiasm of the guys was contagious. As I thought back to my own youth, I recalled the Guernsey yearling heifer we found dead in the woods, obviously the victim of mistaken identity by some hunter. She really did not look like a buck deer. Such an incident impacts on one's attitude about hunting, or at least it did with me.

Too many hunters then disre-

spected private landowners, even those of us who did not post our farms NO HUNTING. There was one who parked his vehicle in front of the gate to one of our fields which was where we were spreading manure at that time. The solution was to back the spreader close to the rear of his car, engage the PTO while the tractor was in neutral, and unload 200 bushels of cow manure tight against his car. Great solution to a problem caused by a jerk. I know first hand too many similar incidents that left me feeling not very charitable toward the sport of hunting.

But I could tell my colleagues and new buddies were different. They didn't do any baiting with a salt lick or corn or apples. Of course, with the amount of crop-



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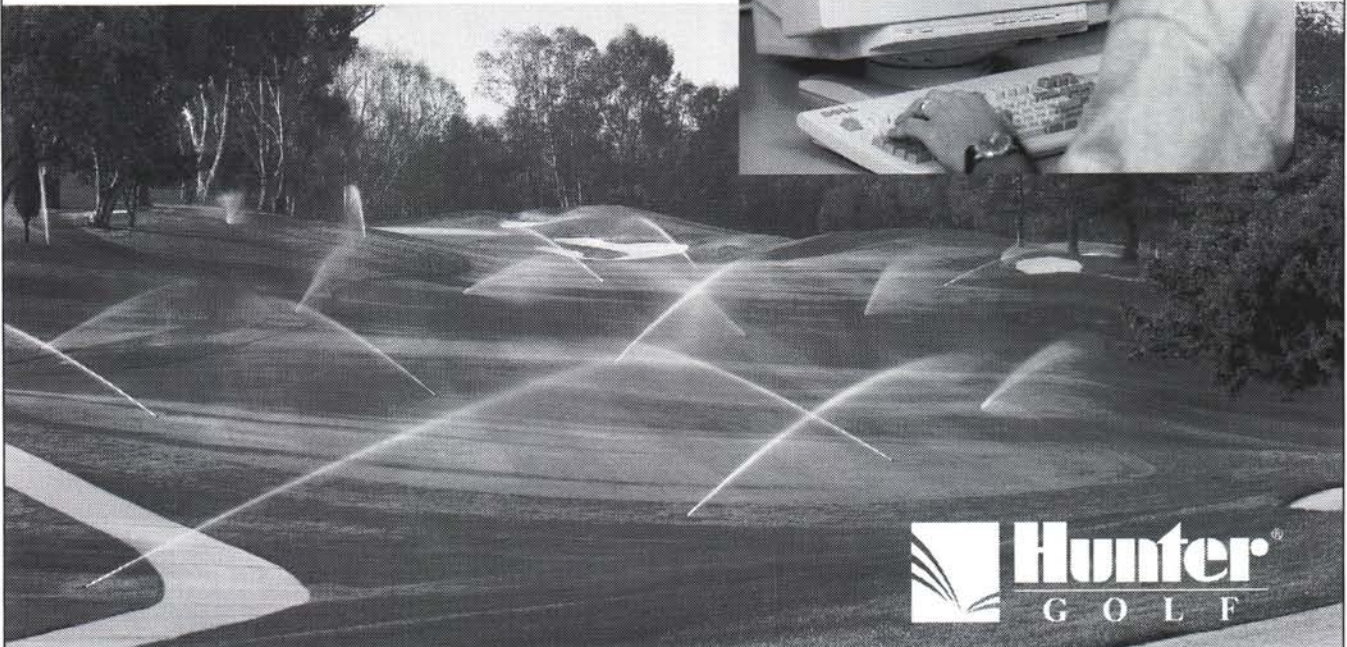
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land, the deer were well fed. I also experienced from the guys the notion of fair chase - a balance between the hunter and the hunted. They weren't going to extremes to insure they each got a buck. It was not viewed as an entitlement, but rather a privilege. They had the highest respect for landowner rights, too often neglected as I had experienced in youth. The weapons were in good working order and as accurate as they could make them.

And they made it fun, as I realized that Friday night. A big wood stove in the middle of one side of the machine shed made it toasty warm. They rented a Bucky portable toilet and parked it outside the walk-in door. A generator provided power - there was no permanent electrical service to the building - and extension cords provided plug-ins for bare light bulbs. It was as light and bright as it is at high noon on most days!

Bogey had salvaged big pieces of carpeting that were discarded during a clubhouse renovation and rolled them out onto the concrete floor. Banquet tables borrowed from the clubs for the weekend sagged under the weight of food and dishes and supplies. Card tables were set up for entertainment, but there was no television, no VCR, no CD players. We were left to our own devices for entertainment, just as it should be. Card games filled the void that conversation didn't.

The food, as you might guess, was excellent. And we ate like pigs that night. We drank a little beer (okay, a lot of beer), ate pickled boiled eggs and told stories while the card games were going. It was super.

We hit the hay, figuratively speaking, fairly early. I was not warned that no shower facility would be available nor that I'd sleep in my sleeping bag on the floor, not on a bed. I thought I was

back in the Army. And if sleeping wasn't difficult enough under those circumstances, there was the snoring and the passing of gas. It was what you'd think it would be like trying to sleep in a smelly sawmill.

Four a.m. arrived and I was unrested, but anxious to get to the woods. As dreams do occasionally come true, it had snowed during the night as the guys had hoped. Tracking deer would be easier now, and the cool temperatures insured no meat would spoil.

We gave the men at the stands time to arrive before we started the drive. I had a chance at a deer - one chance since I had a single shot 12 gauge. Of course, I missed, but Tom followed my shot with a clean shot right to the rib cage. The eight-pointer was dead when it hit

the ground. By days end, our group had tagged six bucks and the spirits were high, mine included.

Since then, I have done some reading about hunting as Wisconsin's Aldo Leopold viewed it. He was an intelligent, thoughtful man and the father of American game management. He once wrote: *A peculiar virtue in wildlife ethics is that the hunter ordinarily has no gallery to applaud or disapprove of his conduct. Whatever his acts, they are dictated by his own conscience, rather than a mob of onlookers. It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of this fact.*

All I could think of is how much Leopold's philosophy about hunting is like the game of golf. Now I am thinking maybe I will go again next year. ♡



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A Successful Year 2000 Draws To A Close



By **Monroe S. Miller**, Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

September weather in November - again this year. While I was putting up Halloween decorations - lights, cornstalks, pumpkins - I couldn't miss the perfect analogy to Frank Dempster Sherman's sparse lines:

Deep in the ashes one live ember

Lingers two similes to show:

*June in the arms of old
December,*

A red rose in a drift of snow.

In my case, the faded color of cornstalks and straw, and the deep orange of pumpkins and the lights contrasted with the green leaves and pink blossoms of roses in front of my house.

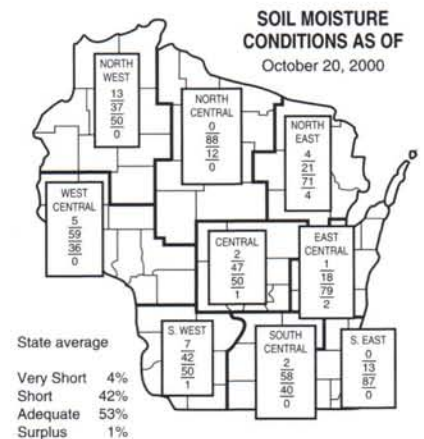
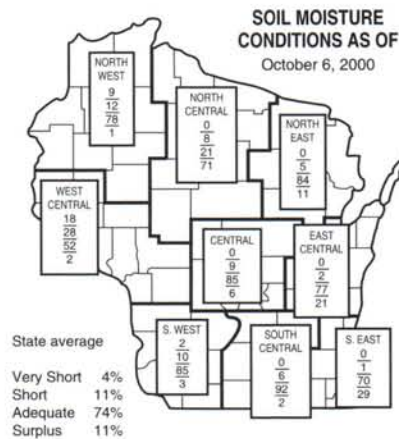
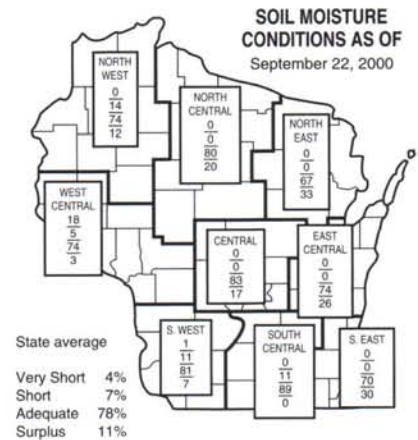
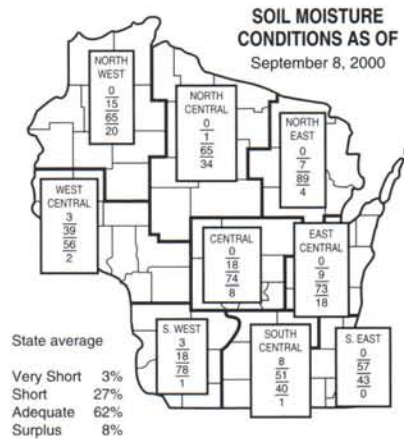
Autumn 2000 was like autumn 1999, 1998 and 1997 - warm and dry. This year, however, many of us are smarter and waited longer to drain and purge irrigation systems. I did it twice last fall due to the lack of precipitation. Better smart late than never. The rain that came in the week of November 6th opened the door for us to wrap up those critical tasks before winter - taking care of irrigation systems and protecting grasses from the snow molds. Although I fret over abnormal weather, we used it to our advantage, like many others did, to complete a couple of significant golf course projects.

It has been a long golf season, beginning way back on March 7th at our course. But it has been a really good one. As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we do have a lot of be thankful for this year. And I am thankful the cold weather is close at hand. If you live in Wisconsin I assume you like cold weather. Maybe we even need cold

weather, like I know Wisconsin golf courses do. I am set with heavy coats, warm gloves and big boots. Let it snow!

Weather data from the Wisconsin Ag Stat Service finishes the story for this season.

Although there are still some doubters around, the evidence seems more and more convincing that global warming is for real. The past five years have provided even stronger evidence that human activities are influencing climate and that the Earth is likely to get hotter than previously predicted, according to a UN panel of scientists. They are talking about the greenhouse effect, of course.



The studies of the panel show the warming is a real problem and will have to be taken into account in future planning. If greenhouse emissions aren't curtailed the Earth's average surface temperatures could increase substantially more than earlier calculated. The scientists concluded that average global temperature increases rang-

ing from 2.7 to as much as 11 degrees F. will occur by the end of the century if we continue to march as we are. Five years ago the projected estimates were 1.8 to 6.3 degrees F.

Either way, regardless of the attitude of some naysayers, we are going to have to change our ways or we'll have twelve months of golf in Wisconsin before we know it.

Martin Mikulski, a long time member of the WGCSA, passed away on October 9 at his home in Hortonville. He was 84. Marty served as golf course superintendent at the New London Golf Club, Clintonville Riverside, Hortonville Grandview, and at South Hills CC in Fond du Lac.

Sympathy to his wife Myra and sons Lyle and Arthur, and the members of his extended family.

The CALS faculty at the UW - Madison scored high in a new

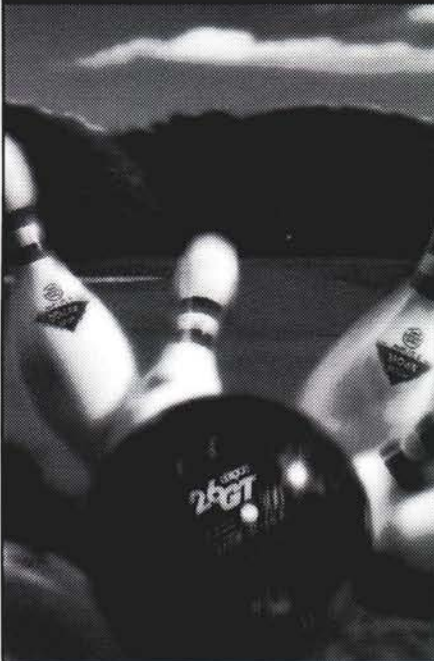
USDA grants competition. Eight projects were awarded \$6.6 million of a \$113 million national program.

The success is more evidence of the research capacity available at CALS. We are lucky to have such open access to the turfgrass sciences faculty.

The lack of rainfall and the press of business canceled a meeting of the WGCSA officers and board and past presidents on November 6th to discuss the GCSAA's proposed PDI. I have no idea of what the membership is thinking, so I was planning to suggest a survey of the members to determine that. It wasn't an original thought; other chapters around the country have been doing that. My guess is that President Pinkerton will do the same for us now.

If that survey comes to pass, **COMPLETE YOUR SURVEY.** The proposal is NOT member driven, as

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