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## ABOUT THE COVER

We honor our national organization with this issue of The Grass Roots. GCSAA is 75 years old this year and the celebration began at conference in Dallas. September will see an event for all members at headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas; the year-long festivities conclude at the 2002 conference and show in Orlando.

Graphic designer J.L. Samerdyke has created a cover that reminds us of the days when our ancestors gathered and organized. Let it serve as an inspiration to do our part for the profession in our own time.

*"The past is but the beginning of a beginning."*

- H.G. Wells

## THE GRASS ROOTS

THE GRASS ROOTS is a bi-monthly publication of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association, printed in Madison, Wisconsin by Kramer Printing. No part of THE GRASS ROOTS may be reprinted without expressed written permission by the editor.

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# Sky is Falling

By **Kris Pinkerton**, Golf Course Superintendent, Oshkosh Country Club



For those superintendents and other distinguished individuals who view the Noernet on a regular basis, you may recognize the title of this article. Then again, I'm not quite sure what it has to do with the topic of runoff! Oh well! What is important is that Rod Johnson and Jordan Sensibar brought this to our attention.

**DNR News Release:  
January 24, 2001**

NRB approves public hearings of polluted runoff rules

MADISON, Wis.— *Wisconsin moved one step closer Wednesday to controlling polluted runoff, now regarded as the biggest threat to the state's lakes, rivers, wetlands and groundwater.* (And so on)

It is my understanding that what is before us is a number of proposed rules that ask everybody who contributes to runoff pollution to take steps to control it. Before going any further in my comments and so forth, all this can be found at the DNR website: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/cae/r/ce/news/RBnews/2001/0>

10124BCO.htm

Just above the heading titled: **(Some key changes from the 2000 draft runoff rules)** click on the link. That will take you to some 500 plus pages of the revised 2001 draft rules! Click on NR 151 Runoff Management (66 pages) to read about what could potentially affect each and every one of us in the green industry.

Where did this come from and why are we only hearing about it now? Apparently lawmakers in the 1997-99 state budget instructed DNR and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to overhaul the programs to increase their effectiveness. The agencies and advisory groups worked for two years to produce the first draft rules that went to public hearing in March 2000. I can only assume that most of us were not aware of these sweeping changes because non-agricultural properties (golf courses included) were not included in the first draft.

We are now! Rumor has it that the Ag people said wait a minute, what about all those homeowners and golf courses that spread phosphorus all the time! Not to leave anyone out, "non-municipal properties which have over 5 acres of pervious area where fertilizers or pesti-

cides are applied and discharge runoff to waters of the state or to a separate storm sewer that discharges to waters of the state." Every one included! Those working for municipalities, you've been in the mix all along!

**PROPOSED NR 151.14 (3) REQUIREMENTS.** No later than March 10, 2008, lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides used on these properties shall include application of fertilizer based on soil test results and use of pesticides in accordance with an integrated pest management plan. Note: The owner should consider using slow release fertilizers to reduce the concentration of nitrates reaching groundwater.

Seems harmless, right? So, how do we soil test for nitrogen? As far back as I can remember, nitrate analyses are not included in soil test results because they are subject to rapid change and variability. What if slow release fertilizers don't fit into your program all year long? I know that I'm not the only superintendent spoon feeding his greens during the summer! And what about potassium? I know a number of courses that have a high content of potassium in the soil, but only a small portion is normally available for uptake by the turf-

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grass plant. Hopefully you can see where we could potentially be heading. Do we want the DNR or local law enforcement interpreting our soil tests?

Again, the same vague language, "use of pesticides in accordance with an integrated pest management plan," should scare most of us! As stewards of the environment, I believe most of us are already using IPM. We may not all have the plan on paper, but still are practicing the principles in our day to day decision making! So, are we to allow the DNR or local law enforcement to again decide for themselves if we, first of all, have a IPM Plan and second, is it being followed?

In backing up just a bit, also affecting a lot of golf courses will be the remainder of **Subchapter III - Non-Agricultural Performance Standards**.

**NR 151.11 Construction site performance standard for new development and redevelopment.** This applies to anyone disturbing 5 acres or more of land before March 10, 2003, one acre or more after March 10, 2003, and also grading or otherwise removing topsoil from the bank of any navigable stream, lake or other body of water exposing more than 10,000 square feet. Requirements include written plans to reduce sediment and the pollutants from entering waters and storm sewers, and best management practices to help reduce the sediment load carried off in runoff and so on!

**NR 151.12 Post-construction performance standard for new development and redevelopment.** This applies for the most part to those parties affected by NR 151.11 above. It requires a full blown storm water management plan which takes into consideration total suspended solids, peak discharge rates, infiltration by design per storm event, buffer areas and fueling and vehicle main-

tenance areas. This encompasses some (8) pages of terminology.

**NR 151.13 Developed urban area performance standard.** This section is written for municipalities and yes, the golf courses which are a part of them. Requirements again are very detailed and certain segments apply to golf courses.

There is another annoying note that I found in the Transportation Facility Performance Standards. Under the section of "Buffer area," 'Note: It is recommended that seeding of non-aggressive vegetative cover be used in the buffer area.'; "Native vegetation is preferable and short-rooted vegetation, such as Kentucky bluegrass, is least desirable." Interesting stuff!

Dr. John Stier has sounded the alarm down in Madison and he will begin to form a committee to chal-

lenge the issues at hand. Sometime during the first week in February, the DNR will have made available at their website, locations, dates and times when these hearings will be held. So far, I can tell you that each site will have two meeting times (1:00p.m. and 6:00p.m.). Hearings are to be held during the middle two weeks in March at the following cities: Madison, Richland Center, Green Bay, Waukesha, Wausau and Eau Claire. Again, please check their website for confirmations.

It is extremely important that we have representation at each of these meetings. Without voicing our opinions and facts, NR 151 and its subchapters will no doubt be passed into law without any trouble! Constructive comments can be e-mailed to "Mary Ann Lowndes" <[LowndM@mail01.dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:LowndM@mail01.dnr.state.wi.us)>



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# Poa trivia



By Cubby O'Brien  
Simplot Partners

By now, those who attended the national conference in Dallas have digested all of the information gathered at the various classes and seminars. You've also gotten a glimpse into the newest equipment and new chemistries offered by the manufacturers. You're probably reflecting a bit on moments spent chatting amongst old friends and colleagues with whom you've shared tips and war stories. I hope it was a good show for you. It can be a little overwhelming with the size of the trade show floor and scope of education available to you. I think those that glean the most out of the show have a plan and execute it. You probably encounter some distractions along the way, deal with them, and get along to the business at hand, staying on track to achieve your goals.

You must be "chomping at the bit" to get out on your course and implementing that which you've learned over the winter. The obvious parallel to the above paragraph is that those who have a plan for the upcoming season and stay on track are those who will get the most out of their efforts. You can bet there will be distractions along the way. They may come in the form of weather that you didn't expect (expect the unexpected here). It could be diseases you've never encountered before. Maybe a tournament you've been asked to host or employee issues that arise unexpectedly. How about equipment failures? The list goes on and on but you know what? You've all "been there done that". It's called experience. The ones without it, first, second or third year superintendents, need to

rely on the experience of their teacher, their old boss, YOU.

It's been a while since I've seen so much snow in December and so much rain in February. It's creating ice where there was none before. What kind of problems will arise from this, I couldn't say for sure. I'll bet if you ask some of the guys with "experience" they'll be able to tell you. We have a special network in this business and we should all take advantage of it. Whether you network at the national, by the phone, at monthly meetings or even the internet, accessing the knowledge that is available to all of us through the experience of others is crucial to successfully navigating the distractions we encounter. It can help us stay on track to achieve our goal, a successful season.

## **Birthdays**

I don't normally print birthdays but this one is kind of a biggie. The GCSAA is 75 this year as I am sure all who attended the national know. Happy birthday and many, many more!

## **Babies**

Todd Fregien and his wife are the proud new parents of Riley, born on September 22 at 6 lbs. 6 oz. Todd is assistant superintendent at the new Hidden Glen at Bentdale Farms under Scott Conley. The course is scheduled to open in 2001.

Jim Ceeman and his wife Jayne celebrated the birth of their new baby boy, James Louis, on December 10th. James weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz. Jim is the superintendent at Ironwood Golf Club near Sussex. Jim is in the middle of overseeing the addition of nine new holes at his course.

## **Career moves**


Pat Sisk is the new superintendent at Milwaukee Country Club. Pat and his wife Gina have a daughter, Elizabeth, and a son, Patrick. Pat received an associate in science degree from UMass in 1987. He worked at the Country Club of Fairfield for six years before coming to Wisconsin. Pat worked for the newsletter at the last state chapter he belonged to, so hopefully we can expect some insightful articles from him for The Grass Roots. Welcome to Wisconsin, Pat.

Dan Quast, is retiring after 12 years as superintendent at Medinah CC. We wish him the best.

Curt Larson is retiring from Wisconsin Turf after 39 years of service with that company. John Jenson tells me that Curt will be helping out on a part-time basis during spring and summer. Congratulations Curt!

## **I hate mieces to pieces!**

Those are the words Kendall Marquardt was heard mumbling after his shop was destroyed by fire on Tuesday, December 19th. There was some evidence that mice may have chewed insulation from some wires causing a short. Lake Wisconsin CC will have a new shop to match his improved course. Last year they installed new irrigation along with a holding pond and some mounds created out of the spoils. They also renovated a couple of tees as well.

See you this spring! Please contact me with any new information by calling (630) 514-8754 or e-mail me at [cobrien@simplot-partners.com](mailto:cobrien@simplot-partners.com). 

MISCELLANY

## BIGGA – 2000

By Lyle Christopherson, President, Wisconsin Turf Equipment Corporation

The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association held its annual BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition & Educational Seminar Programme January 24 – 26, 2001 at the Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate, England.

This fall I attended a joint National/Smithco/Turfco dealer meeting in the Twin Cities. I was taking part in the most enjoyable part of the meeting – sitting around taking part in our favorite beverage. As the evening progressed, our conversation grew more intelligent. We got on the subject of trade shows and the vast amount of local, regional, national and international shows that pertain to our industry of turf. The shows cover golf, sports turf, parks, landscape, schools, sod growers and more. We all were discussing our favorite and notable shows. Bill Kenny of the Smithco Co. was telling of the BIGGA Show. While it is not the biggest one he takes part in, it is a very enjoyable show to be a part of. I mentioned that I would like to be able to attend the British show some year. So here I am, some 8,000 plus miles later.

My wife Darlene and I left Chicago's O'Hare Field at 5:00 p.m. Friday, January 19, 2001. We stayed just a few blocks from Buckingham Palace. This is where we met up with our traveling mates. The group grew a little from conception, consisting now of Stan Kinkead of National Mower, Bill Kenny of Smithco, Scott Kinkead of Turfco, and Dan and Maggie Miller of North Star Turf. Also with us were five superintendents and two assistant superin-



Royal Hill, convention center site of BIGGA 2001.



Buckingham Palace



Old Swan Hotel

tendents, some of whom were accompanied by their wives. The group now totaled 18.

We met at the corner pub to determine the best strategy for each to absorb as much of London as we could in a short time. Darlene and I chose the double decker bus tour since we had already done a three hour walking tour past Buckingham Palace, Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square, Trafalgar Square, Westminster Abbey and a walk along the Thames River while we were waiting for the others to arrive in London. The Big Bus Tour worked well as the ticket is good for 24 hours and we were able to get on and off as many times as we wanted. Saturday night we all met at the corner pub again to compare notes.

It was raining on Sunday, so before leaving the hotel I purchased an umbrella. Of course we had many umbrellas at home, but why bring them to London? We boarded the Big Bus and off to Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum and another walk in the rain. At

this point my wife decided it would be nice if she could have an umbrella too! She really didn't look all that wet, but I did break down and purchase a second one.

On Monday Dan Miller and I joined Stan Kinkead, Scott Kinkead and Bill Kenny to call on a dealer at Didcot, which is about an hour north of London by train. We were met at the station by Peter Bateman and Lance Bassett of Allen Power Equipment Ltd. Allen Equipment is an importer, distributor and manufacturer. They explained they sell to approximately 50 dealers that supply some 2,600 golf courses in the United Kingdom. After touring their facility, they took us to a pub that dates back to 1352 AD – The Barley Mow – on the banks of the Thames River. The dining room ceiling was so low I could not stand upright. The building was the only one I would see with a thatched roof.

We boarded the train to York, some three hours north of London, on Tuesday. We toured the York Ministry, built between the years

1291 and 1350. We also found a very unique pub in York for lunch. Pub hunting became one of the highlights of the trip. From York we boarded a small two-car train to Harrogate – standing room only! We checked into the Old Swan Hotel (note: heavy on the old part of the name). Dan Miller and I had made arrangements to have dinner with Harold Pinto, President of Textron UK. We were also invited to the Textron Dealers awards banquet the following evening. The guest speaker for the evening was Jackie Stewart.

The show itself was similar to but a smaller version of our GCSAA show. Along with the normal big three equipment suppliers, there was a heavy showing of deep tine aerators and equipment that is used to remove narrow strips of soil and replace it with drainage sand or gravel while doing minimal course damage. Soil drainage is a larger problem in the UK than here in the States.

From the eyes of a short time observer, it looks like the UK is coming up with some very strict chemical regulations in the very near future.

In a nutshell, most products are the same as at our national show. Most of the dealers are faced with the same challenges as we are here. The superintendent and the greenkeeper are both trying their hardest to turn out the best conditions they are capable of with the tools they are given.

Yes, the world is getting smaller and knowledge can pass around the world in seconds. But yet the more things change, the more they stay the same.

We headed back to London to prepare for the long flight home. ♣



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# Super/Pro Scheduled

By Rod Johnson, Golf Course Superintendent, Pine Hills Country Club

HorseShoe Bay, in beautiful Door County, will host the 2001 Super/Pro on Wednesday, May 30. Our hosts for the day will be Brian Ferrie, Golf Course Superintendent, and Tim Bauman, Golf Professional. The October 2000 meeting of the WGCSA was held at HorseShoe Bay. Those present can attest to the quality of this golf course. The site leads to the promise of a full field.

The playing format of the event will return to a modified alternate shot. The winning team will consist of a superintendent member of WGCSA and a golf professional member of the Wisconsin Section of the PGA. Team members must be employed by the same golf course.

Teams not meeting the listed criteria are most welcome to participate. Those teams will be placed into a separate flight. There will be separate prize funds for

the two flights. Golf professionals will be paid out in cash. Amateur prizes will be golf shop certificates.

The event is generously sponsored by Club Car. Any proceeds over expenses are split between the Golf Foundation of Wisconsin and The O.J. Noer Foundation.

The Super/Pro originated in its present form in 1995. It has experienced steady participation. Many superintendents and golf professionals find it difficult to match their schedules during the golf season. The Super/Pro offers an annual opportunity to get together for a full day. It is not just a golf event, but is also an opportunity to open the lines of communication and expand the understanding between professions. Mark your calendars now and plan on attending.

## Super/Pro Champions

<u>Year</u>	<u>Champions</u>	<u>Site</u>
1995	Ozaukee CC Wayne Otto Rich Tock	University Ridge
1996	The Bog Pat Shaw Steve Fischer	Green Bay Country Club
1997	Oshkosh CC Kris Pinkerton Tom Olson	The Bog
1998	Johnson Park John Feiner Charlie Brown	Lawsonia Links
1999	Johnson Park John Feiner Charlie Brown	Quit Qui Oc
	North Hills CC Randy Dupont Ed Terasa	
2000	North Hills CC Randy Dupont Ed Terasa	Trappers Turn
	Pine Hills CC Rod Johnson John Wallrich	



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