

"The fairways are overgrown," he says. "We used to be able to see the whole hole from green to tee. You can't do that anymore. My philosophy is to design a course by ground features and not air features. Use tall grass and sand, not trees."

And trees require a lot of maintenance. Wayne hired arborists to be on staff for several years, but found that they were always hired away. So for the past four years he has hired a consulting arborist who reports on what needs to be done to the trees each year. The course crew does the actual work.

Wayne adds that the course was built in 1921 and designed by William Langford, a Scotsman. "They don't like trees on golf courses. They like open farmland. He's probably turning over in his

grave right now," Wayne jokes.

Fan of topdressing...

Another major change on the course is more to Wayne's liking. He was one of the first in the state to adopt sand topdressing on greens. He remembers learning about it at the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium in 1975, and he started doing it in 1976. "We still do it. It has really firmed up the greens. It has made a huge difference in how the ball rolls," he says, adding that the greens at Ozaukee are the original soil-based greens.

"The amount of play has increased so much that we would have had to have rebuilt all of those greens if it weren't for topdressing," he explains. "We've achieved a sand build-up of 3.5 inches over 25 years."

Another change Wayne has witnessed is the use of lightweight mowers on fairways and mowing fairways at shorter heights so that they practically look like greens. "The height of cut on fairways has gone from 1.5 inches when I started to four-tenths of an inch now," Wayne points out. "We're harvesting clippings now, too," he adds. "That really helps fairway maintenance."

Greens have also changed tremendously. "We used to mow them at a quarter of an inch," he says. "Now it's as low as a tenth of an inch. We used to be scared that our greens might die. Today we maintain them right on the edge with very little or no fertilizer, very little water, skinned down to the bone and just hours before death."

Ozaukee Country Club has seen

A Continuing Tradition of Quality
in Golf Course Renovation
Restoration and New
Construction



**the
bruce
company**
OF WISCONSIN, INC.

[608] 836-7041

FAX: [608] 831-4236

WWW.BRUCEGOLF.COM



WATERTRONICS®

Evolution Series



Super Sport - Turf

The “Evolution Series” pumping system is a proven concept from Watertronics that utilizes a VFD driven jockey/pressure maintenance pump and Electronic Butterfly Valve controlled main pump(s). This control system allows for VFD control of the pump that most benefits from it. Conventional VFD stations share one drive between all main pumps which can cause “across-line” start/stop surges.

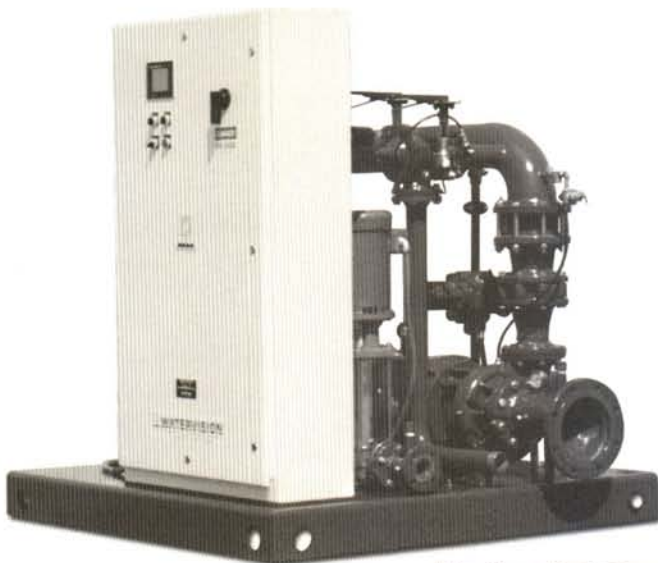
Benefits and features of an Evolution Pump Station include:

- VFD driven jockey pump which efficiently performs dual duties of pressure maintenance, while serving as the primary supplier of incidental daytime syringing and hand watering up to 150 GPM.
- Additional pumps are individually pressure regulated with Watertronics’ Electronic Butterfly Valve, ensuring surge-free starts and stops.
- Lower horsepower and smaller electrical in-rush of the VFD regulated jockey pump normally will not incur utility “time-of-day” penalties.
- Available with Watervision™ remote monitoring software and Pumplink™ irrigation control software interface.



Vertical Turbine

The “Evolution Series” control system is available on all Watertronics’ Vertical Turbine, Horizontal Centrifugal, Super Sport Turf, and BlackMax™ Submerged pumping systems. Call a Watertronics’ representative today and find out why our “Evolution Series” may be the best choice for your irrigation pumping system needs.



Horizontal Centrifugal



WATERTRONICS®

ELECTRONICALLY CONTROLLED PUMPING SYSTEMS

525 Industrial Drive, P.O. Box 530, Hartland, WI 53029-0530

Phone: 262-367-5000 • 800-356-6686 • Fax: 262-367-5551

Visit our website at: www.watertronics.com

an increase in the bird population during Wayne's 35 years there. "I have always been proud that we were very proactive in the Audubon program," Wayne says. "Until the early 1990's, I never saw a bluebird here. Now I see them all the time."

Other changes include: more time in the office doing paperwork, more compliance reports to the state, and more Mexican labor. Also, there are more universities that offer turfgrass majors and more Extension turf specialists. "When I started, O.J. Noer, Charley Wilson and the Green Section guys were really in demand when problems occurred," Wayne points out.

Balancing wishes of club members...

While club members enjoy seeing

and hearing birds on the course, there are some things they don't like. Brown spots on the turf is one of those things. "In 1994 we made a commitment with the board to use IPM - to use pesticides as a last resort," Wayne explains. "We have had to modify this, to do some preventive applications, because country club members do not like brown spots."

"It's the 'Augusta Syndrome,'" he continues. "That's a very green course, and they see it on TV. Or they golf in the south during the winter. About every seven years we really get clobbered with winter injury. Winter problems are greater than summer problems. We're close to Lake Michigan so it's cooler; we don't always get a quick recovery in

the spring. It has been as late as mid July before we've gotten the course in the shape we want it to be. When you're dealing with Mother Nature, you can't turn the heat up."

Another thing club members don't like? Earthworms. "It's immoral to kill earthworms," Wayne believes. "But members don't like to see the castings. And with shorter grass, they're more visible. We've tried to do things to drive them down deeper, but it's been tough."

"We deal with expectations," Wayne says of his profession. "If we do well one year, they expect better the next year. The closer we get to perfection, the more magnified the imperfections become."

Enjoys the profession...

In spite of the challenges and

"He makes friends with everybody"

Friendly. Renown in the turf industry. Innovator. Best grass grower. Young at heart. Fun to be with. Curious. A good golfer. These are words Dan Quast uses to describe Wayne Otto. Currently the owner of DHD Tree Products, Dan has known Wayne since 1973 when he became superintendent at the Milwaukee Country Club.

"He just came down to see me one day," Dan recalls. "From that time on we've been friends. Wayne's the type of person who makes friends with everybody. Everybody who meets Wayne likes him. He claims that, back in the old days, we met for lunch 105 straight Saturdays. Jim Latham was there, too. We'd sit around and drink beer and talk about turf all afternoon. That was a great part of his life."

"He's well renown and well respected in the turf industry - not just here in Wisconsin, but all over the country," Dan continues. "He loves the profession. He loves to grow grass. He seems to always be the first one to try new things - an innovator. I can remember back when sand topdressing was introduced into the business. Wayne was one of the first to start a sand topdressing program which later became the standard for taking care of golf greens. And Wayne was one of the first people in the country to be certified by the GCSA. He's always up-to-date on what's happening in the industry."

"I guess the bottom line is, Wayne is the best grass grower that I've ever met," Dan continues. "And I said that back 20 years ago, too. He has the best looking and fastest greens and the best fairways. And it isn't by accident because the soils there at Ozaukee Country Club are heavy. But he finds a way to do it."

One of Dan's favorite stories about Wayne goes back to before he even knew him. He remembers Wayne telling about his first

trip to the Purdue turf conference in the 1960's when he was working in Nebraska. "He asked his boss if he could go, and the boss said 'sure,'" Dan tells. "So he flew and took other transportation to get to Purdue. He stayed at a hotel. And when he got back he submitted all of his expenses to which his boss replied, 'I said you could go. I didn't say I'd pay for it.'"

Dan has traveled to a lot of turf conferences with Wayne. He has also gone to Scotland with him. "We played 16 rounds of golf in 15 days, and we walked them all," Dan recalls. "We visited all of the classic golf courses and looked at all the great architecture. He enjoyed Scotland so much because, over there, there aren't any trees on the courses. They think Americans are crazy to have trees - that isn't golf."

"Everywhere we'd go, he'd get out his pocket knife and cut a little piece of the turf," Dan continues. "He wanted to see not only what was on top of the ground, but what was under the ground, too. We're standing on the 18th green at St. Andrews and he's cutting out a piece of the turf. I told him, 'You're going to get us thrown into jail one of these days.'"

"Then we went down to the Masters one year. He did the same thing on a fairway," Dan recalls. "A policeman came up to stop him. I thought we'd get thrown out and never be able to come back again. He had to put that piece of turf back, that's for sure."

"He always was a good golfer, and he always enjoyed the game," Dan says. "A lot of superintendents don't."

"I know how old Wayne is but, when I look at him, he just seems young. He's young at heart. He's active. He's ready to go. He's just a fun guy to be with. You're always happy to see Wayne," Dan concludes.

NOT JUST PAR FOR THE COURSE

For over 20 years Waupaca Sand and Solutions has been working to provide you with premium products that outperform all others. Today, as the largest supplier of golf course sand and materials in the Midwest, we can provide you with custom-engineered products that are not just par for the course.

TOPDRESSING MATERIALS

Fines Free Topdressing Sand™
Standard Topdressing Sand
Premium 80/20 Topdressing

BUNKER SANDS

South Rim Bunker Sand™
North Face Bunker Sand™



PRECISION BLENDED CONSTRUCTION MIXES

GREENSMIX® Construction Mix
7-2-1 Construction Mix
Tee Mix
8-1-1 Construction Mix

SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

Petal Power Bedding Mix
Green Dyed Divot Sand
Cartpath Materials & Landscape Products
Bridge and Trench Gravel

As you grow, so does our commitment
to making your job easier.



A DIVISION OF FAULKS BROS. CONSTRUCTION, INC.

715-258-8566

www.waupacasand.com

Waupaca, WI • Rockford, IL • Antioch, IL • Muscatine, IA

frustrations that come with the job, I'm convinced that Wayne has loved being a golf course superintendent. "I look forward to one day after the next. I really like the business and the golf course," he says. "There's no better place in the world at 5 or 6 in the morning - the smell of fresh air, birds chirping."

He has also enjoyed being involved in the industry. Wayne was president of the WGCSA from 1977-78. He was president of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation in 1983. He's been a director of the O.J. Noer Research Foundation since 1989 and a Green Committee member of the USGA since 1991. He served on the WTA board in the late 80's and early 90's. He has helped with the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium for at least 25 years. He has given talks, hosted tournaments and participated in turf studies.

I ask Wayne why he has been so involved. "Giving something back," he answers. "There are two kinds of people - givers and takers." Wayne is a giver.

"I enjoy being involved," he continues. "The association with others in the profession keeps you current. You've got to get out and see what everyone else is doing. And the people are great to be with. I have a friend in the grocery business who can't believe how friendly golf course superintendents are. We have friendly competition. In the grocery business, it's cut-throat."

Wayne also feels the need to be educated. The Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium is one of his favorite ways to do this. "Whether it's talking in a huddle or listening to a formal presentation, I always get some ideas of what to do or what not to do," he says. "I'm always learning."

Because he's been a Wisconsin golf course superintendent for 35 years, Wayne is well known in the state. "It's changing though," he admits. "Now I go into a room and look around and say, 'Who are all of these people?' It doesn't seem that

long ago that I was one of the young pups."

There are fewer superintendents over the age of 50 compared to when Wayne started in the business. "Sometimes the course doesn't have confidence in the older guys anymore," Wayne believes. "At a certain age they feel no one will steal you from the course anymore. The most power you have on the job is the first day."

After the last day of his job at Ozaukee, Wayne hopes to do some consulting. "I don't like that word," he says. But he feels he has something to offer. He'd like to be able to help superintendents work through turf problems instead of seeing them be fired.

Loves the course for golf, too...

Wayne is an avid golfer who loves to see different courses. He and Rod Johnson have been taking an annual golfing trip for years, and he went on a golfing expedition to Scotland with Dan Quast (see sidebars). "The best trip I ever had was going to Scotland in 1985," Wayne admits. "St. Andrews. That's where it all started. I actually wanted to stay in Scotland."

Wayne explains that the golf courses are more natural in Scotland. Fairways are mowed 12 times a year. "We mow greens more than that in one week," he quips. "And with their cool, cloudy, maritime climate, there are no trees on the courses," he adds with a smile.

His annual golfing trips on the way to the GCSA annual meeting every year since 1987 are work, according to Wayne. "My wife says it's a vacation." Sorry Wayne, I think I agree with your wife.

Wayne's wife, JoAnn, has her own medical transcription business. They have three children between the two of them. Wayne's stepson, Erik, is a golf course superintendent at Lincolnshire Country Club in Crete, Illinois. His daughter, Camille, lives in Lincoln, Nebraska. Wayne also has a son, Wayne, Jr.

When he's not working or playing golf, Wayne loves to work in his garden of flowers and ornamentals. And he and JoAnn recently bought a camper and traveled to Florida. "That is something I thought I wouldn't like, but I found out I did," he admits.

As the interview winds down, I ask Wayne if there's anything else about him that other superintendents may not know. He thinks for a moment and then answers: "My wife says that one thing she admires about me is that I talk to everyone the same way - from the guy in a bar to the president of the board. I have to. I don't know any other way. Here I am. What you see is what you get."

Wayne, I think most golf course superintendents would say that what they see is just great. They wouldn't have you any other way.

And my son, Andrew, thinks so, too. As we pull away from the course he says, "Those guys (Wayne and Karl) were real nice to me. I couldn't believe they'd be that nice to a kid." 🌿



Agriculture Division

Gardens & Professional Care

John Turner
Field Sales Representative

Bayer Corporation

40 W 665 Campton Woods Drive
Elburn, IL 60119
Phone: 630-443-7807
Fax: 630-443-7839
Voicemail: 888-242-4200
Extension: 3201
john.turner.b@bayer.com



Reinders and the Toro Groundsmaster® 4500-D/4700-D

Consistent, Dependable, Productive, Performance



Consistent

Five or seven Contour™ Plus rotary cutting units follow the contour of the terrain for a consistent cut.



Dependable

Full-time, bi-directional, 4-wheel drive assures dependable traction when climbing hills.



Productive

9' or 12.5' cutting swath boosts productivity in open areas and trim applications.



Performance

60-HP Kubota® turbo-charged engine delivers outstanding power for superior mowing capacity.

Reinders

Solutions & Supplies for the Green Industry

Proud Supplier of Turf Equipment and Irrigation Products to the Milwaukee Brewers and Miller Park



ELM GROVE
(262) 786-3301
13400 Watertown Plank Road
(800) 785-3301

MADISON
(608) 244-0200
4217 Nakoosa Trail

APPLETON
(920) 788-0200
900 Randolph Drive

STEVENS POINT
(715) 342-3600
3510 Post Road (Hwy. 54 & 51)
Plover

KENOSHA
(262) 857-3306
20830A 75th Street (Hwy. 50)
Bristol

www.reinders.com



You Are At-Risk

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

I stopped by a skin cancer-screening booth at the IGCSAA National Convention this year. I did this because, as my co-workers remind me daily, I am getting older. I'm noticing little spots on my skin and was curious if some of these may be early signs of skin cancer. I've worked outdoors for my whole career and have rarely, until recently, worn sunscreen. This, I would venture to say, is a typical story for many of you. Even now I don't wear it enough because it weakens during the day or I get too busy to reapply when it washes off. There are as many excuses as there are sunscreens on the shelf.

I'm writing this article to ask you to please wear more sunscreen, make it available to your employees, especially get your kids in the habit of wearing it, and consider wearing more long sleeved shirts and long pants. People do seem to be more aware of skin cancer of late because I notice many more full brimmed hats and sunglasses than I used to see.

Yes — sunglasses are important too, because skin cancer can even start in your eyes. That is why doctors recommend wearing sunglasses that block out at least 99% of both Ultra Violet A and UV B rays.

All the facts stated in this article are directly from three booklets that I picked up at that cancer-screening booth. The booklets are "What You Need To Know About Melanoma," from the National Cancer Institute, "Skin Cancer, The Bare Facts" by W.R. Spence, MD, and "For Every Child Under The Sun," from the Skin Cancer Foundation.

Another fact from the booklets is that the sun is the cause of at least 90% of all skin cancers. Thus skin cancer is preventable by taking several precautionary obvious steps of using sunscreen and covering up more. Another fact is that the average person receives 50 to 80% of their lifetime sun exposure by the age of 18 — except for guess who? One example is people in the green industry that make a livelihood in the sun. Because the average person sees more sun early in life tells you why it's important to teach kids good sun-protection practices. It's just as important as wearing seat belts or not playing with fire. Although it's not as obvious since effects from the sun may not be apparent for 20 to 30 years.

Damage to the skin from sunburns or tanning accumulates over years. Did you know tan skin is a sign of damage? Tanning is the skin's protective response from getting further damage. However, permanent damage has already been done by the time the tan develops. Skin can repair some of the superficial changes, which is why a

sunburn lasts only a few days, and a tan fades. But the underlying damage remains. The injury accumulates over the years with each successive exposure to the sun. One of the booklets poked fun at the term "healthy tan" as being a contradiction in terms.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans are diagnosed each year with skin cancer. The good news is that it is one of the most curable and also preventable forms of cancer. Two kinds of skin cancer are most common: basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma. Those cancers usually occur on skin that is exposed to the sun, and, if caught early, they are easily treated.

A third kind of skin cancer, malignant melanoma, is much less common but far more deadly. It is fast-spreading and can kill within months of its first appearance. Melanoma can be cured if it is diagnosed and treated when the tumor is thin and has not deeply invaded the skin. However, if melanoma is not removed at



**Everything To Make Your
Course Beautiful**

**Turf Seed • Fertilizers • Repair Parts
Golf Course Accessories • Equipment**

LESCO[®]

800 - 321 - 5325

LESCO is a registered trademark and Grow With Us is a trademark of LESCO Technologies, LLC.

TURF PROS



Nobody knows turf like the folks at Olds Seed Company. Whether it's a tee box or fairway, rough or green, the experts at Olds evaluate your specific situation, make recommendations, and deliver exactly what you need to make your turf look its finest. (Which makes you look pretty fine, too.)

Choose from our wide selection of proven bentgrass performers, such as:

- Providence
- Penncross
- Pennlinks
- Penneagle
- Putter
- Dominant

And ask about our custom mixture programs formulated for your site and budget.

You'll never come up short at Olds. We contract with numerous research and production firms so we have access to the best varieties available. Give us a call today and we'll help you improve your turf score.



P.O. Box 7790 • 2901 Packers Ave.
Madison, WI 53707-7790

800-356-7333
608-249-9291

Seed you can count on

Plus a whole lot more

Mulches
Establisher

Low Maintenance
Care-free Fine Fescue

Erosion Control/Blankets
Futerra

Wildflowers/Grasses
For reclamation areas

its early stages, cancer cells may grow downward, invading healthy tissue. When a melanoma becomes thick and deep, the disease often spreads to other parts of the body and is difficult to control. Even though melanoma is a very dangerous form of cancer, a 5-minute monthly self-exam can reveal cancerous changes enough to increase recovery chances considerably.

The self-exam described in the booklets said to look for a change in the size, shape, color or feel of an existing mole. Moles are clusters of the pigment forming cells of the skin with surrounding tissue that cause benign (non-cancerous) growths. They are round or oval and smaller than a pencil eraser. Most people have between 10 - 40 of these flesh-colored, pink, tan, or brown areas on their skin. Moles can be flat or raised. They can be present at birth or occur later on — but usually before age 40. Moles generally grow or change only slightly over a long period of time. The booklets also said that moles generally fade away in older people.

The things to look for during your monthly 5-minute self-exam are moles that change, newly appear, or become ugly. Look for changes in the borders, variations in color, and/or variations in texture. Don't overlook your scalp either. It is important to see a doctor if you find changes or if you are at all suspicious.

And be more careful out there. Although anyone can develop skin cancer, you are more at risk if you have light skin and/or freckles, have light hair or eye color, or have a tendency to burn easily. You should be more careful if you have a family history of skin cancer also, even though greater than 90% of the cause is from the sun. So people who spend long hours in the sun or periods during the intense sunny part of the day are most at risk. That includes most of us reading this newsletter.

Skin cancer is greatly preventable even for people who work in the sun. Most dermatologists recommend that you use a sunscreen with an SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 23. Additionally they recommend you wear protective clothing and hats, protect eyes with sunglasses, wear lip balm with sunscreen, and remember there are dangers of UV radiation on cloudy days or even in the winter.

We, in the green industry, have to be more careful than the average person because of where we work for a living and the cumulative amount of sun exposure we encounter over a lifetime in our business. Much more information is available on skin cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment by calling the National Cancer Institute at 1-800-4-cancer (1-800-422-6237). ♻️



Proudly Serving the Turf Industry in Wisconsin

Terra's full line of turf industry products includes:

- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Fertilizer
- Grass Seed
- PGRs
- Fungicides
(Including Thalonil™ 90DF and 4L)
- Colorants
(Including Terramark™ SPI and Terramark Lake Colorant)

**For the products, services and advice you need,
Talk to Terra**



Terra International, Inc. • 3525 Terra Court • Sun Prairie, WI 53590
Conrad Stynchula CGCS • (800) 456-0948 (office) • (608) 235-4999 (mobile)



J. I. Case: Wisconsin Industrialist

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

Many times, on the pages of this journal, I have written of the pride we should feel in Wisconsin for our long history of manufacturing farm machinery and turf equipment. Well known are the stories of the Jacobsens of Racine, the Toro plant in Tomah, and John Deere's facility in Horicon. Other smaller companies make golf course equipment from Port Washington to Cameron and many towns in between.

To those of my generation and older, we also have felt pride in living in the home state of Allis Chalmers, Van Brundt and Case. Although Oliver tractors were made in Iowa, the company name-sake was an engineering graduate of the University of Wisconsin – Madison. All the histories are interesting, but none more so than the company started by Jerome Increase Case.

In my youth, I always loved Case tractors. A neighbor had a smooth running model SC, unique for its unusual steering assembly and classic grill. An uncle bought a Case 300 new and I envied him for it. I was still young when I drove it towing a load of hay from his farm to ours, a distance of probably seven miles. The trip included a run the full length of main street – Lincoln Avenue – in my hometown. Heady stuff for a kid! I wonder how many other kids of that era fell in love with a Case VAC or a Case 200 while mowing roughs with a set of Jacobsen Fairway Blitzers?

I credit Mike Handrich for inspiring me to learn something about the Case Company and its founder, Jerome Increase Case. The green committee chair at Racine Country Club is Edward J.

Campbell, retired president of Case Corporation. For an afternoon and evening last fall, Cheryl and I toured the Case historical sites in Racine with Mike and Karen, and spent some fascinating time with Mr. Campbell visiting about this great Wisconsin company with worldwide operations.

Like Cyrus McCormick and John Deere, Jerome Case was an immigrant to the Midwest. All three came from their places of birth in the east. Case left New York in 1842 – he was 23 years old then. He was a farm boy from Williamstown, New York, the youngest of four sons in the family that also included three sisters. As with so many leaders and inventors I have read about (John Muir and John Burroughs come immediately to mind), Jerome spent much time as a child reading. His education amounted to brief terms at a rural school at times of the year when the farm work load was lighter. He read what he could get his hands on – the Bible, almanacs and from western New York, the *Genesee Farmer*.

At that time in our history, grain (wheat, oats, barley, rye) was separated from the straw by manual flailing. Jerome saw an ad for a threshing machine in the *Genesee Farmer* called a "ground hog" thresher and talked his father into attending a demonstration of the machine. It was powered by a horse tread. Wheat was fed in one end and the whirling cylinders separated the grain from the straw. Both fell to the ground at the opposite end. The ground hog allowed for a production of 100 – 200 bushels a day, exponentially more than possible by hand flailing.



Jerome Increase Case, 1818-1891.

In 1937, the state of Wisconsin chose him as the outstanding Industrialist, joining Hamlin Garland in Literature, Robert M. LaFollette in Politics and Frederick Jackson Turner in History.



Retired Case IH president and Racine Country Club Green Committee Chairman Ed Campbell.