

Environmental Sciences).

The combination of the insecticide and the nematode improved grub control from each product used alone. Further, some important mechanistic and logistical issues are being reconciled.

First, the nematode can be effectively tank-mixed with the insecticide without any loss in efficacy, an uncommon attribute among most biological control organisms. It appears that the efficacy of the combination allows each compound to be used at a reduced rate. Benefits include increased efficiency of the nematode, which can be costly to produce at high levels, and a 50% reduction in insecticide needed, which reduces overall pesticide usage.

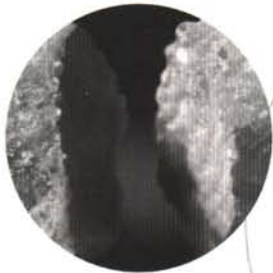
From a scientific perspective, a key finding was the mechanism of the observed activity. It appears that the insecticide slows the grub's movement which facilitates the nematodes' ability to attach to and penetrate the grub. This finding alone could explain the reduced effectiveness of other nematode

species that simply are not able to acquire their target. Incorporating this information into biological control studies could lead to important breakthroughs in soil insect management.

Judgment

A society can be measured by its investment in education and research. Junk science scandals and a need for short-term gratification have encumbered scientific advancements. Turfgrass research is but a small part of our national scientific community, yet it offers a highly integrated approach to understanding intensely human-managed landscapes.

A diversity of research that is a blend of basic and applied science is a requisite for meeting the needs of the turf industry. Results from this research should be readily implemented and focused on integrating technologies in an effort to improve our environmental compatibility. After all, our compatibility is how the majority of society will judge our efforts, not greens that roll eleven feet. ♣




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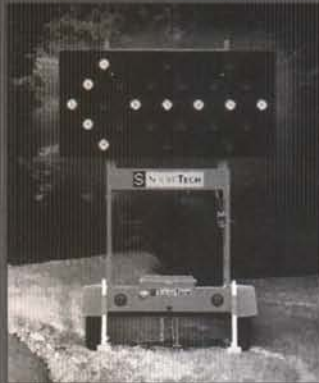


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Racine Country Club – October Meeting



By *Dustin Riley*, Golf Course Superintendent, Oconomowoc Golf Club

The 2003 WGCSA Member/Guest was held on Tuesday, October 14 at the Racine Country Club in Racine, Wisconsin. This event is set to build upon the successes established by the previous hosts, Pine Hills CC and West Bend CC.

The purpose of the event was to enhance the relationships between WGCSA members and the influential golfers at their clubs. Members were encouraged to invite a guest(s) along for a full day that includes a morning education session and an afternoon two-person scramble. Suggested guests were green committee chairs, club presidents, board members, owners, golf professionals or managers. This meeting was an excellent opportunity to improve personal and professional relations with an influential player as well as an opportunity for WGCSA to strengthen its relationship in the golf community.

This year's educational speaker was Mark Kuhns. Mark is the Director of Grounds at Baltusrol Golf Club and has recently been elected to a position on the GCSAA Board of Directors. Mark shared his experiences in preparing a golf course for a major professional golf tournament. He also shared other experiences as the golf course superintendent at such prestigious golf courses like Baltusrol Golf Club, Oakmont Country Club and Laurel Valley Golf Club.

Mike Handrich, golf course superintendent, provided the quality playing conditions that Racine CC is known for. Mike is a 1983 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, acquiring a Bachelor of Science degree in Turfgrass Management. As a student, Mike interned at Blackhawk CC in Madison and also at Columbine CC in Denver, CO. In 1984, Mike served as the assistant superintendent at Eagle CC in Bloomfield,

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CO. At Eagle CC, Mike assisted in the construction of 9 new holes, which allowed the course to expand into a semi-private 18-hole facility. Mike then returned to Wisconsin to serve as the superintendent at Ville du Parc CC in Mequon. In 1989, Mike assumed the responsibilities at Racine CC. He continues his role at Racine CC with the support of his wife, Karen, and two daughters, Holly and Jessi.

Roger Packard designed Racine Country Club in 1909. Since then, Racine CC has developed a certain reputation for FAST GREENS. Mike and his staff should be commended for maintaining that reputation through many years of unpredictable weather. Despite the cooler, wet weather, nearly 112 players proceeded to play a wonderfully maintained golf course in a Two-Person Scramble. Although slowed by the morning and early afternoon rain, the greens still provided the speed many attendees had heard about. There were two skins games also included on a volunteer basis. The first skins game involved rewarding cash to any



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team which recorded the lowest gross score on a particular golf hole. Unfortunately, there were no skins awarded and the \$500+ was donated to the University of Wisconsin Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. The second skins game involved the lowest gross team putting attempts on individual holes and the lowest total team putting attempts for the day. As with the lowest score skins game, there were no individual low gross putting winner. However, the putting skins collection was then split and awarded to Marc Schwarting and Daren Rose with a low total of 26 team putting attempts over 18 holes. Second lowest went to Bob Lohmann and Mike Benkusky with 29 total putting attempts over 18 holes.

The Two-Person Scramble results are as follows:

- 1st, 67: Randy DuPont and Eddie Teresa \$250
- 2nd, 68: Rod Johnson and John Wallrich \$160
- 3rd, 69: Bob Lohmann and Mike Benkusky \$120
- 4th, 69: Don Selm and Bob Becker \$120
- 5th, 70: Todd Quitno and Dan Weck \$80

Hole Events:

- Closest to Pin #4: Bob Becker
- Longest Putt #6: Jeff Millies
- Closest to Pine #8: Gene Curran
- Closest to Pin #10: Lee Reinke
- Longest Putt #13: Scott Schaller
- Closest to Pin #16: Scott Schaller

The WGCSA Member/Guest meeting at Racine CC was a success. Providing an opportunity for all superintendent members to include and educate an influential golfer is another step in improving personal and professional relations. Thanks to all superintendents and facilities that volunteered to host a WGCSA this season. ♣



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Transition Time

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

Autumn is my favorite time of the year. Although the fall coloring of the landscape starts in September, it doesn't reach its zenith until mid-October where I live. The leaves intensify the light of the sunshine, many days are hazy, and sometimes it is warm enough during those October days to work on the golf course only in shirt sleeves. Almost always we have Indian summer after a frost or two and some cold weather, an added bonus to an already wonderful month.

Autumn is traditionally harvest time in the country, although in Wisconsin most of the hay is in the mow and the oats were combined in mid-summer. Corn is quickly picked with big equipment and usually shelled right in the field by the same machine that picks it, leading some to ask about the corn shocks that are associated with the autumn scene in rural Wisconsin and elsewhere. Shocking the corn crop left the farm scene 50 or

more years ago. If you see one nowadays, it is purely a decoration trying to capture the past and the season. Sort of like pumpkins. The show pumpkins give us in autumn is way out of proportion to their value. Today they are used as jack-o-lanterns as we buy pumpkin pie filling at the store. You have to go back to the time of my grandparents when pumpkins were used as a food source.

Cheryl and I spent the best days of fall on our annual leaf peekers trip to the northeast. Five inches of rain in mid-September set us up for the best fairway aeration I've ever experienced. When we left for New England, the course was already healing up quickly and growth was falling off.

We were gone for two weeks. It was a rest that I needed after months on end of working every day of the week. We cut our trip short a few days so that we could return in time for a retirement

party. The golf pro at our club is retiring after 32 years at the course and we wanted to be in town for that. Fortunately we returned to glorious weather that continues even as I write this.

So now we are at November. The trees are nearly leafless, the natural areas on golf courses are bleached out, but the short cut grass is still green. The exuberance of October is gone; still to arrive is the quiet and serenity of snow when it blankets the golf course. I hope we have plenty of it this winter. November seems the time when we shift from fall to winter, a lot like the way March bridges winter and spring. It is a transition time. The ducks and geese are migrating south and we think about Thanksgiving being just around the corner.

For a golf course superintendent, it is a wonderful time of the year. Often when visiting in the east, I have visited places where John Burroughs, the great naturalist, spent his life in and around the Catskill mountains in New York. John once wrote this, one of his many reminders of how lucky we are to have a world like ours to live in:

"I would gladly chant a paean for the world as I find it. What an interesting place to live in! If I had my life to live over again, and had my choice of celestial abodes, I am sure I should take this planet, and I should choose these men and women for my friends and companions. This great rolling sphere with its sky, its stars, its sunrises and sunsets, and with its outlook into infinity - what could be more desirable? What could be more satisfying?"

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This time of year, especially, we know John got that right.

The Symposium will likely be over by the time this reaches WGCSA mailboxes. By then it will be time to make up your Christmas list. Soon enough that holiday will be here, too.

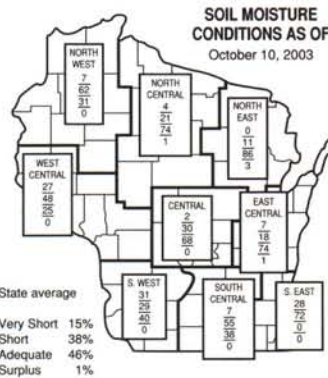
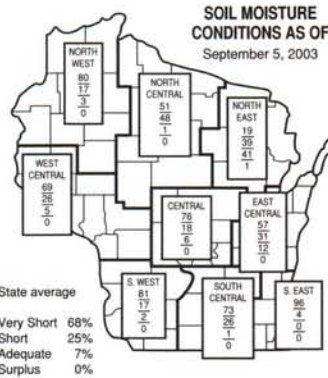
The moisture status around the state is shown here. In our town, in late October, we are still 7 inches below normal. This follows last year when we also finished below normal for the year in moisture.

One of the fun events of late summer past was a surprise birthday party, a 50th birthday party. Jeff Parks was caught totally by surprise by tons of friends who gathered at University Ridge to celebrate with him. It was successful because of careful planning by his wife Linda and daughter Ginny. For me, it was almost depressing. Wasn't it just a couple of years ago Jeff worked for me, starting at the age of 18? As the saying goes, "time flies." He certainly has had a full and successful career as a golf course superintendent in Wisconsin.



Jeff Park turns 50! August 2003.

Like most Americans, I am still worried about our economy. It seems to be improving, but the bad news doesn't seem to stop. And it



hits close to home, in our state and in businesses related to us.

Of course we all know Jacobsen

moved out of Wisconsin. Tecumseh has little manufacturing left here. And now our favorite tool manufacturer, Snap-on, plans to shut down its factory in Kenosha, potentially costing 300 jobs.

Up in Neilsville, FleetGuard Nelson's plant will close by next July, putting 200 people out of work. The factory makes mufflers for equipment like we use on or golf courses, as well as for RVs. It is the largest employer in Clark County and has been doing quality work since the 1950s.

Decisions being made in California could cut thousands of more jobs. The California Air Resources Board voted in late September to limit emissions from lawn mowers and other gas powered equipment. This would require small engines to have catalytic converters, improved carburetors and leak-proof fuel tanks and lines. Briggs and Stratton Corporation of Wauwatosa claims the emissions from small engines contributes to less than one percent of California's air pollution, and the changes will require new

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factories be built to produce redesigned engines. It would be much cheaper to build the factories overseas and could cost up to 22,000 jobs tied to Briggs and Stratton and its vendors.

If California goes through with these bureaucratic changes that could cause serious problems for workers in Wisconsin and elsewhere, we need to return the favor to them, some way.

With jobs disappearing so quickly all over America, one wonders how Americans will have money to buy the things that are now being made overseas, or the money to buy a round of golf. It is a scary and serious and pressing problem.

Reports I have read say that gypsy moth populations have reached destructive levels in SE Wisconsin this year. Traps collected more than 300 males this summer - a clear indication of tree defoliation coming next year - in a

wide arc from Kewaskum and West Bend south to Erin and Merton, east to Richfield, Lisbon, Menomonee Falls, Germantown, Mequon, River Hills and Fox Point, and south to Brookfield, New Berlin and Muskego, according to moth trapping results.

There isn't a whole lot to do about them this time of year other than looking for egg clusters after the first killing frost and spraying them with a soybean oil solution that suffocates the eggs.

Finally I am able to write an addendum to the story about one of Wisconsin's great industrialists that appeared in *The Grass Roots* two years ago.

That story, for me, was incomplete because it didn't report any first hand experiences concerning J.I. Case's youth in New York State.

This fall Cheryl and I drove about 75 miles out of our way while on vacation to visit Williamstown, New York. Jerome Increase Case was born on a farm a short distance outside of Williamstown, in 1819. I had no idea of what to expect. Fortunately for me, Cheryl is a good sport and willing to investigate things like this.

As it turns out, Williamstown is quite proud of J. I. Case. Almost as soon as you arrive in Williamstown from the west, you are greeted by a sign in the village cemetery noting that Jerome Case was born near here. His parents, Caleb and Deborah, are buried a few steps from that sign, along with a number of other Case family members (Jerome was the youngest of four sons).

A couple of friendly residents of Williamstown directed me to Case



This gravestone marks the resting place of J.I. Case's parents, Caleb and Deborah Case. They farmed just outside of Williamstown.



This prominent yet simple sign tells visitors to Williamstown, New York about their most famous son.



This photo shows the relationship between the historical marker and the Case burial spots. J.I. Case is buried in Racine.

Road, presumably named because it passed the Case farmstead. They told of a large celebration in 1991, the centennial anniversary of Case's death.

A small museum is in the center of town, but it was closed the day I was there. My guess is it is a treasure trove of Case's early history. I am probably going to have to go back and find out.

Any correspondence relating to The Grass Roots is appreciated by the editor; double that when it comes from a successful and long time golf administrator (and author) like Gene Haas. Double the pleasure again when that correspondence from Gene comes with original artwork. I am sharing here with you (page 51), that note and artwork, for your enjoyment.

Can you tell who the members of the Pitch Fork Boys are?

Another longtime WGCSA member and friend to all of us sent me the following letter and newspaper clipping that brought a smile to his face, and it most surely did to mine. It is interesting to read

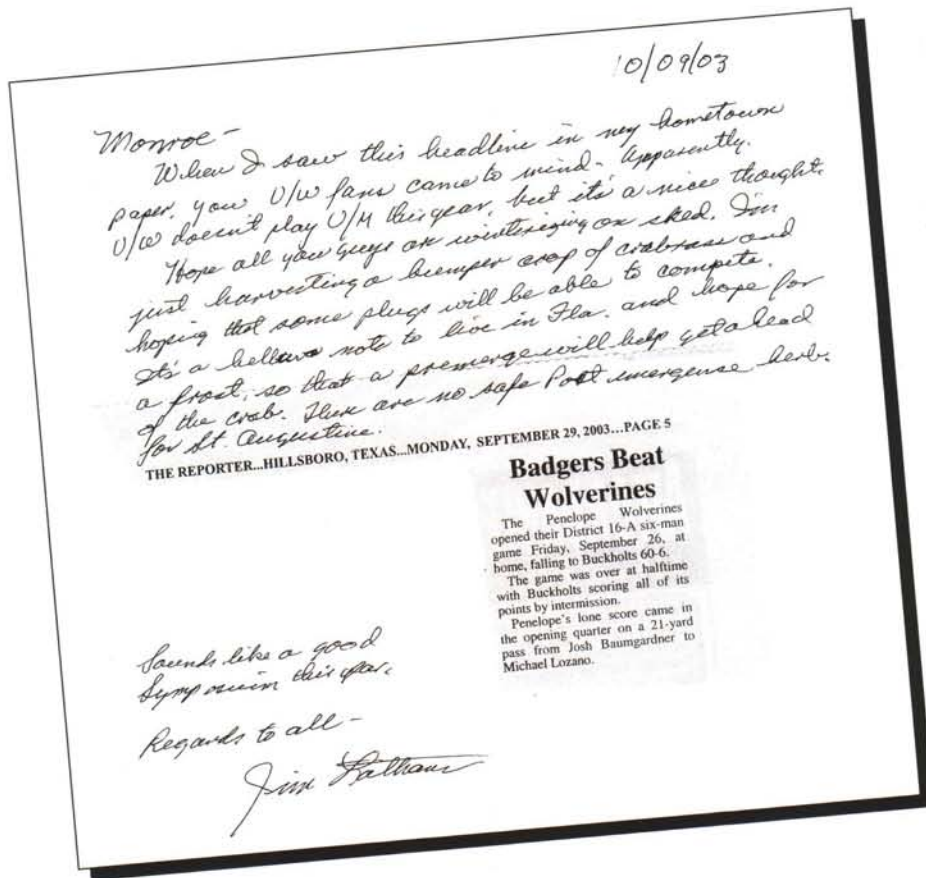
about his crabgrass problem in Florida. I suspect as the cold weather arrives in Wisconsin, Jim Latham will quickly forget about the problems with his least favorite grassy weed.

The September 10, 2003 issue of Sports Illustrated paid a compliment to Wisconsin. In an article by Chris Ballard, Madison was judged the "Best College Sports Town" in

the country, finishing ahead of Athens, GA, Austin, TX, Gainesville, FL and Boulder, CO.

It's a pretty good golf town, too,

So, that's it from this quarter. Have a safe trip over the river and through the woods for Thanksgiving, and take lots of time for your family at Christmas. We'll be looking at the 2004 season in a matter of a few weeks. ♣



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