

Mike Werth to Compete in the National 2005 'People vs. the Pros' Tournament at Barton Creek in Texas!

By **Marc Davison**, Golf Course Superintendent, Green Bay Country Club

Mike Werth, superintendent for the Monroe Country Club, will represent golf's unsung heroes - the superintendents - in the 2005 People vs. the Pros tournament presented by BASF. He will have a chance to compete head-to-head against professional Justin Leonard at Barton Creek Resort and Spa Sept. 12 in Austin, Texas, and win \$100,000.

Playing with his USGA handicap of 16, Werth's net score of 69 beat out participating superintendents from across Wisconsin during the June 13 regional qualifier at the Green Bay Country Club.

"This is the first time that I've ever won a golf event!" exclaimed Werth.

Mike will now go on to compete against 288 other amateurs for a chance to play with his handicap against professional golfer Justin Leonard.

A casual golfer, Werth is looking forward to the challenge at Barton Creek.

"I play in a weekly nine hole league each week," said Werth, "I have to credit our golf pro at Monroe Country Club for pushing me and keeping me involved in playing each week."

The regional qualifier was the ninth of 17 tournaments held nationwide on the road to the People vs. the Pros third annual tournament.

Dr. Toni Bucci, business manager for BASF Professional Turf and Ornamentals said, "Sponsoring these events locally and being a presenting sponsor at the national tournament provides BASF a national platform to recognize the professional dedication of golf course superintendents. It's our way of saluting the crucial work that superintendents around the country are doing to provide quality turf for

their home courses and especially for the golfers who play on them."

Additionally, at every regional tournament, BASF will donate \$2,000 to the hosting GCSA chapter to help support their superintendent's educational fund.

The People vs. the Pros tournament allows two amateurs-one in a 50-and-over division and one in a 49-and-under division-to compete head-to-head against PGA pros Ben Crenshaw and Justin Leonard, respectively, in an 18-hole stroke-play match. The winner in each division, be it pro or be it amateur, will win \$100,000. The runner-up will receive \$50,000.

Last year, professional golfers John Daly and Gary McCord were defeated by amateurs John Sniegowski of Cadillac, Mich., and Phil Johnson of McKinney, Texas.

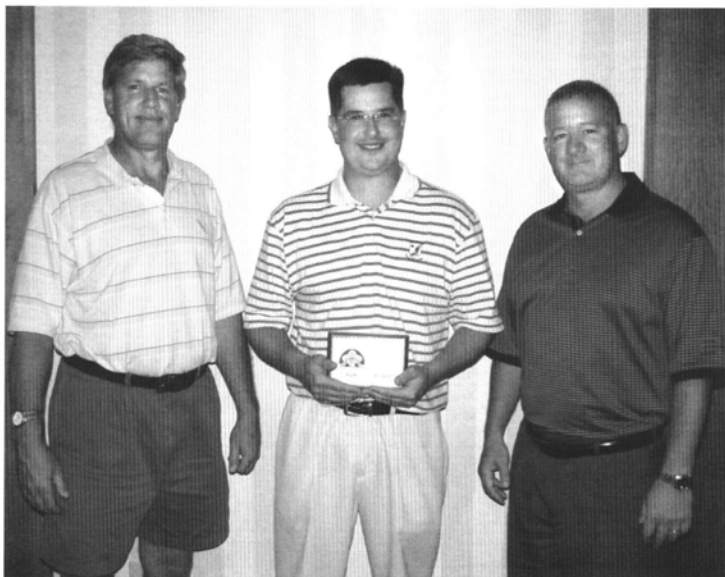
In addition to the grand prize tournament, BASF Professional Turf and Ornamentals will host the second annual BASF Superintendent's Cup on Barton

Creek's Fazio Foothills course where the two golf course superintendents with the lowest net scores from the three-day, 54-hole handicapped stroke-play event, will in a head-to-head match play for \$10,000 cash and BASF products for their home course. The runner-up will receive \$5,000 cash.

Last year, Kip Wilson, superintendent at the American Legion Golf Course in Kokomo, Ind., defeated Matthew Fitzpatrick of Dublin Country Club, Dublin, Ga., at the inaugural event played on the famed Pinehurst No. 2 course.

The final match-up between pro and amateur will be broadcast on ESPN on Sept. 19 and will feature highlights from the Superintendent's Cup event.

For more information on People vs. the Pros, visit www.peoplevsthepros.com. For more information on BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals, visit www.turffacts.com. ♻



Marc Davison, Wisconsin GCSA chapter president (left) and BASF Professional Turf and Ornamentals senior sales representative **Dave Oberle** (right) congratulate the tournament winner **Mike Werth** (center). Werth is the superintendent for Monroe Country Club.

The Summer Season Is In Full Swing

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

If there were a time of the year I wish I had a crystal ball to glimpse into and see what the future held, it would be for the months of July and August. July and August are full summer, full of great heat and humidity, even in northern states like Wisconsin. It would take a crystal ball; the medium to long range weather forecasts are still unreliable to the point of dubious value.

Will we have some decent rainfall in the next two months to make up for what we did not receive in June? Some parts of Wisconsin are extremely dry and catching up will require some serious rainy spells to return to normal levels of soil moisture. By late June the NWS said drought conditions existed in southeastern and south central Wisconsin, leaving metro Milwaukee with its fourth driest spring in history. Concerns about grass fires have heightened, but mosquitoes have

been non-existent because moisture has been nearly non-existent.

Will the weather continue hot and humid and bring on more plant diseases than we have already had to deal with? Will infections be such that they will bust more than a few budgets?

Will our levels of play be back, or will we still be lagging in rounds of golf or members?

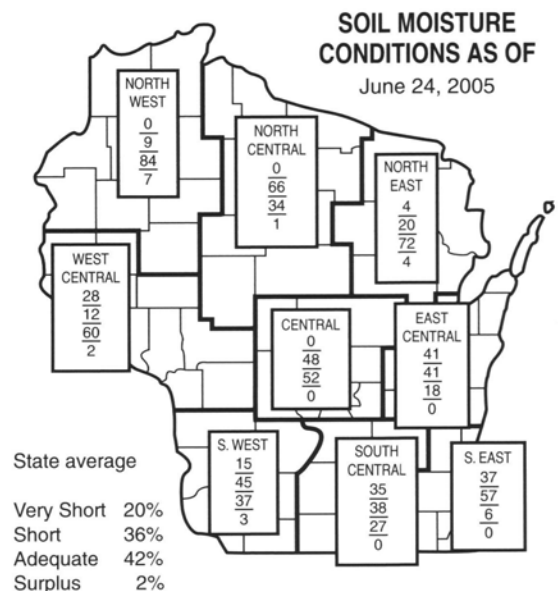
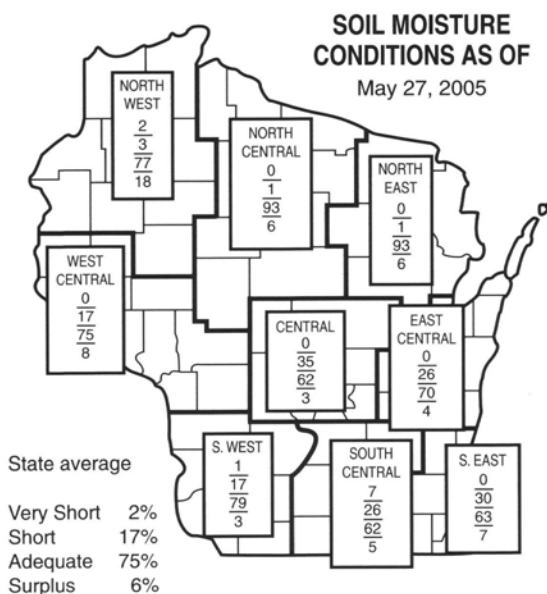
After a dreadful spring of working hard to bring many of our courses out of winter injury conditions to something close to normal, we sort of deserve some moderate weather in July and August. I wonder if we will get it...

July is a significant month for golf and for American history. The Fourth of July provides a huge golf weekend, maybe the biggest of the summer and possibly our most patriotic holiday. Calvin Coolidge was born on July 4th, and both

John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died on the 4th, both in 1826. In 1832, "America" was sung for the first time, and in 1848 the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid.

July 15th has been celebrated in England for a long time as St. Swithin's Day. This holiday should interest weather sensitive people like golf course superintendents. According to an old belief, if it rains on St. Swithin's Day, there will be forty more rainy days following it. We need rain, but not like that predicted by a rainy St. Swithin's Day. Two days I could handle; forty days could force a guy to look for a different line of work.

The weather of recent weeks is highlighted here, thanks to the record and stat keepers at the Wisconsin Ag Statistic Service.



The gypsy moth quarantine has moved to two more Wisconsin counties. In mid-March, Juneau and Sauk counties officially joined 39 other Wisconsin counties considered to be infected with the gypsy moth.

The gypsy moth was first discovered in Wisconsin in the late 1960s, and the leading edge of the infestation has now reached the middle of the state. This seems proof that although it may be impossible to stop the moth's spread, efforts to slow it have been useful and a lot less damage has been done.

This isn't the only invasive species we are battling in Wisconsin. It has gotten serious enough that Gov. James Doyle declared June 2005 as "Invasive Species Awareness Month." The

State Legislature created the Governor's Council on Invasive Species to demonstrate its firm commitment to the invasive species problem.

Our friends at the Wisconsin Landscape Federation have changed their name to the Wisconsin Green Industry Federation. They felt the new name would more clearly reflect those under their umbrella. So, the WLF is now the WGIF!

AS soon as I receive each issue of CUTT - Cornell University Turfgrass Times - I sit down and read it front to back. It is an excellent journal, edited by our pal Dr. Frank Rossi.

The most recent issue came in

early June; when I finished reading Frank's article "A Preliminary Assessment of Putting Green Mowers" I felt as though I should put this issue of CUTT in an ice bucket to cool it off; it was hot!

The article reported on work at Cornell last year that measured the effect of mower type and cutting frequency on putting green performance, which included anthracnose incidence.

The first thing I thought was this is the kind of study seldom (if ever) done on golf turf. Secondly, the results were dramatic and very surprising.

Shortly after CUTT arrived, Golf Week Superintendent News arrived with a cover story about Dr. Rossi's work

Needless to say, one manufacturer is steamed and the other

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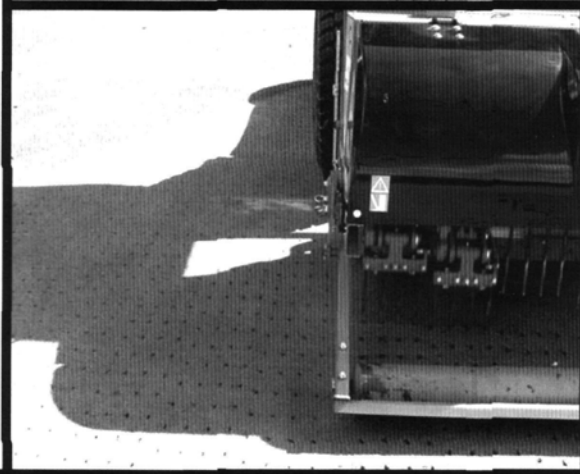
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says, "That's what we'd expect!"

The work goes on this summer; keep an eye open for reports on the results. Other investigators will probably initiate their own studies to see how the results shake out under conditions all around the country. Frank could be plowing new ground - engineers will have to consider how their designs could impact turf quality in ways other than they normally have. It is a fair bet that golf course superintendents will have a jeweler's eye on these data and factor such into buying decisions.

I am not worried about the grief that will likely be heaped on Frank's shoulders; his are good and wide.

•

I am not sure what to say about the extreme honor given to me by the Wisconsin State Golf Association, other than it is a humbling experience. I believe that it is normal to wonder "Why Me?" and then have names and faces race through your mind, people you feel are far more qualified.

The Hall of Fame selection seems even more special because, as Gene Haas noted in his article, this may make it more likely other superintendents will

be similarly recognized for contributions to golf.

We all have to applaud the Hall of Fame Committee for open-mindedness in this choice. After



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all, it would seem fair to ask, "What did he win?" In my case that would only be some euchre games over the years and an occasional cribbage game (although Cheryl is a far better player).

This should also give hope to the grinders of the golf course business. Most projects require more sweat and toil than brains. I admit to not having very many original thoughts and ideas; hard work and persistence are my strengths, and they are available to any of us. In fact, determination seems to be a common trait among us.

If I understand correctly, there is to be some kind of an event and every WGCSA member will be invited. It is your honor, too.

It was one of those lucky things a person stumbles into in his life. I remember reading in *Golf Journal* a few years ago where Herbert Warren Wind was living. It was in Bedford, Massachusetts, across the interstate from where we were staying for a few days in Lexington.

I have most of HWW's books and I decided to haul them east on vacation and see if I could get him to autograph them.

The long and short of it is he did. And Cheryl and I enjoyed his company and correspondence after that.

Herb, who named the 11th, 12th and 13th holes at Augusta "Amen Corner," wrote for *The New Yorker* for over 25 years and was one of the first writers hired by *Sports Illustrated* when it was founded.

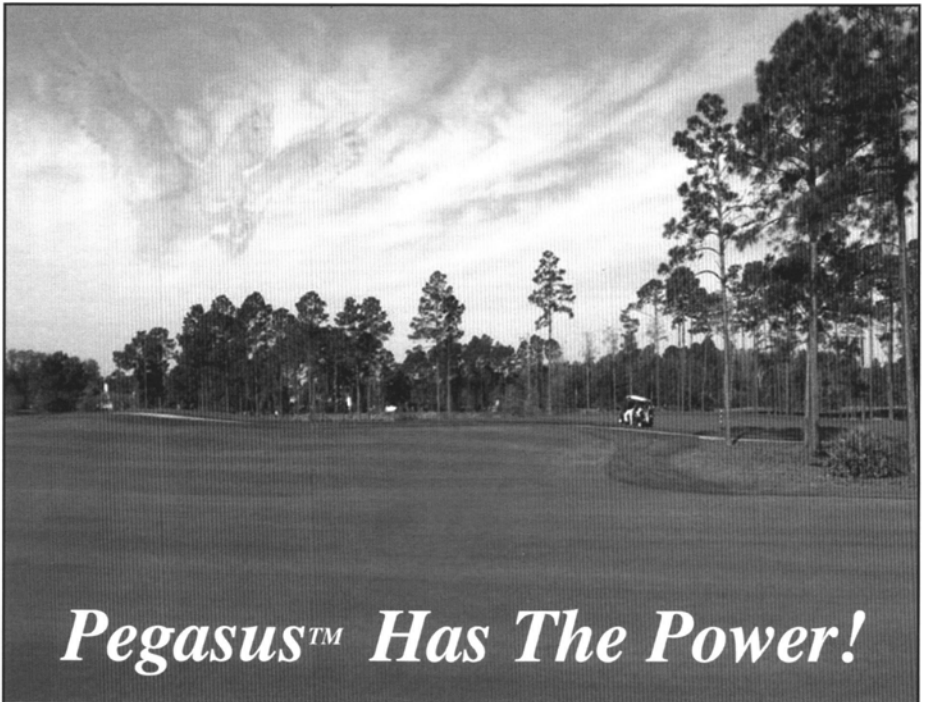
He was a kindly and bright guy and I am proud to have known him a little bit. His passing is a great loss to golf.

We are at the plateau of the golf season now. By the time the last few days of July roll around, the average daily high temperature of

83 degrees F. goes down a degree; Tom Harrison and I celebrate that day, albeit only by a phone call most years. The Packers will be training and the newspapers will be starting features about the

Badger football team and you just know the cooler days of autumn are near.

It has been a rough year in many respects so far; let us hope the worst is behind us. ♣



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What the WTA Has In Store for You This Summer

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

The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association is bringing you two superb events that you will not want to miss this season. One is focused on education while the other is just for fun. They are, of course, the Summer Field Day and the *Fundraiser for the Fellowship Golf Outing*. Summer Field Day is slated for Tuesday, July 26, and will be held at its traditional venue of the O.J. Noer Facility in Verona. The *Fundraiser for the Fellowship* is Tuesday, October 11, at the Irish Course at Whistling Straits.

Summer Field Day is the premier turf research day for Wisconsin's turf professionals. This event gives the University Turf Program an opportunity to show off the research they're doing for Wisconsin's turf industry. It a venue for you to meet all the UW-Madison turf researchers under one roof to discuss everything related to growing grass.

Some of the talks featured on this year's research tour are listed here:

- Strategies for Moss Control on Putting Greens
- Phosphorus Runoff in the Urban Landscape
- Easy Germination Blankets
- Tolerance of Different Kentucky Bluegrass Cultivars to Newly Labeled Annual Bluegrass Herbicide
- Which Snowmold Fungicides Delay Onset of Dollar Spot
- Turf Variety Trials
- Fungicide Trials
- Broadleaf Weed Control
- Winterkill
- Bentgrass Aggressiveness to *Poa Annua*
- Management of Velvet Bentgrass Putting Greens
- New White Grub Control Chemistries and Their Impact on the Turfgrass Industry

Additionally, the researchers will answer other questions that aren't covered on the tour. Bring in turf samples and lists of questions. They will do their best to give you practical solutions to make your job easier and better.

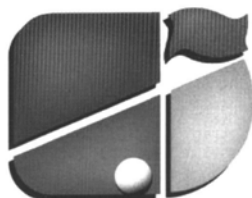
But that's not all. Another reason to come to Field Day is for the trade show. Every product, service, and piece of equipment that you could possibly need is on display. There were 34 exhibitors at last year's show and we expect as many or more this year. These knowledgeable sales people and factory representatives have answers for all your commercial needs, and many let you test drive equipment to compare features between different makes and models.

New at Field Day this year is an optional tour of Camp Randall, in the afternoon, to learn about the new "Field Turf" that your Badgers will be playing on. This Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association sponsored tour leaves the Noer Facility at 1:30 and is open to all Summer Field Day attendees. We would like an approximate head count though, so please check yes on your registration form if you are planning to attend.

You always get your money's worth at Field Day. In addition to the research tour, trade show, and Camp Randall visit, there is great food, plenty of time to meet with your peers, and so much more to explore. You can check out the new developments occurring at the Noer Facility this summer. We are renovating an adjacent 11 acre field in preparation for hosting the 2007 Turf Producers International Summer Field Day. We hope you attend field day and bring your friends. Call Audra, at 608-845-6536, if you have any questions about this educational day.

The other important event on the WTA agenda is the **Fundraiser for the Fellowship Golf Outing**. We return to the Irish Course at Whistling Straits where we held the fundraiser five years ago. The course was breathtaking then and will, with maturity, be more so the second time around. Many of you visited The Straits Course during the PGA Championship last year. The Irish Course has much the same feel as that famous layout. Course architect, Pete Dye, is known for creating 18 completely memorable and utterly unique golf holes with the Irish Course. You've got to see it to believe it.

And you can do just that during the Fundraiser on October 11th. In addition to an incredible round of



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golf, your \$165 registration includes lunch and door prizes. Everyone leaves with something other than memories of playing one of the world's top courses. Some of the door prizes are worth more than the cost of registration.

One more benefit of attending the Fundraiser is to support the Graduate Fellowship in Turfgrass Research program at the UW-Madison. This Fellowship is a University research program that pays for a graduate student to study a specific turfgrass related project. Once a Fellowship is fully funded, it goes on forever. It will fund new and important turfgrass projects for generations. When one project is completed, a new investigation will start.

A registration form for the golf outing was included in your last WTA newsletter. Once again, call Audra if you didn't receive one or if you have other questions about the Golf Outing. This event promises to be an outstanding way to wind down your golf season for 2005.



A few of the beautiful scenes you'll experience at the Fundraiser for the Fellowship Golf Outing.



The place you want to be on July 26th is the WTA Summer Field Day.



Attendees appreciate the personal attention they receive in getting questions answered during the research tour.



All your commercial questions get answered during the trade show segment.