

day we played the Player Course, and as you may have already guessed, was designed by Hall of Fame golfer Gary Player.

The event for the day was a four person scramble. Prizes were awarded for the 1st and 10th place finishers. Taking 1st place with a score of 60 was the team of Conrad Stynchula, Mark Lockhart, Mike Schmieden and Travis Krauklis. Tenth place, with a score of 66 was the team of Jack Knulty, Jim Knulty, Bob Kronn and Bob Kronn Jr. Five flag events were also awarded. Closest to the pin on #4 went to Tim Christians. Closest to the pin on #6 went to Laura Beaudoin. Closest to the pin on #13 went to Steve Abler. Closest to the pin on #15 went to Dave Busse. Long drive went to Dena Zejdal. Congratulations to all.

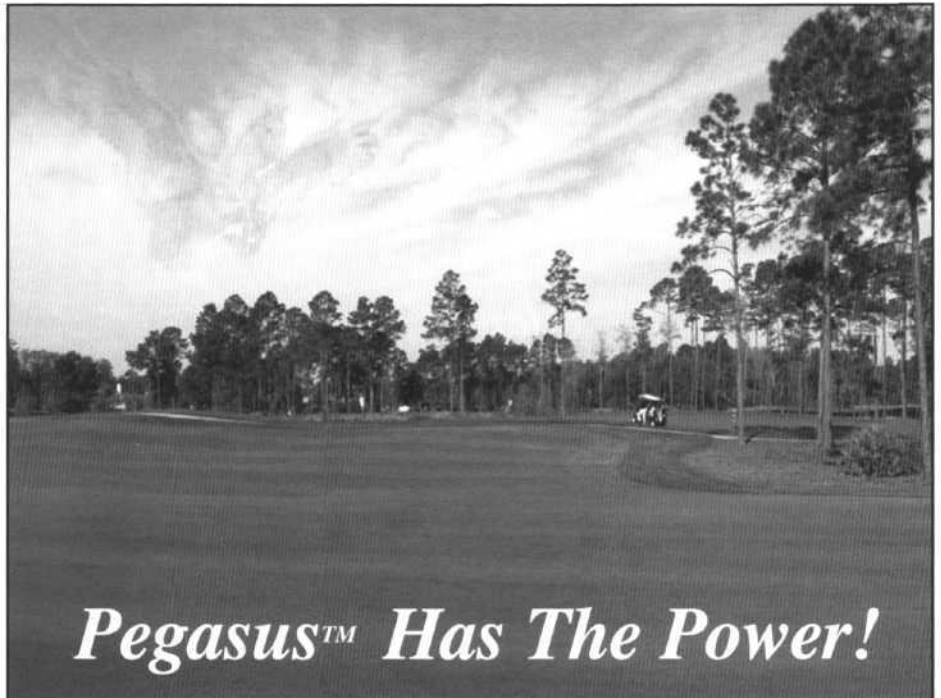
Special thanks to host superintendent Jeremy Amosson for volunteering to host the April meeting. While everyone's golf game was rusty, Jeremy and his staff had the golf course in mid-season form.

Mee-Kwon Park Golf Course was the site of the June meeting. Mee-Kwon is part of the Ozaukee County Park system and, as its name implies, is truly a parkland style golf course. Spread out over 200 plus wooded acres, playing golf was anything like a walk in the park. Playing at almost 6,500 yards and at par 70 Mee-Kwon's strong par 4's and 3's make it sneaky tough. Add in some large greens and some wind and it was quite a challenge. What really caught my attention was the enormous size of the teeing surfaces. You could land a small aircraft on some of them. I know a lot of superintendents who wish their tees were half that big.

The event for the day was a Two Man Best Ball. In addition, Steve Abler ran the "Syngenta Ace Challenge." Superintendents and assistants could participate for \$5 and whoever was closest to the pin

won a rainsuit and was eligible for a random drawing to advance to the national finals. Bill Knight was the lucky winner and \$115 was raised in the process. Syngenta matched that dollar amount so \$230 will be donated to the TDL. Thanks Syngenta and thank you,

Steve, for your time and effort. The winners in the gross division were Gordie Waddington and Dennis Dary with a score of 72, and in the net division Jeff Nelson and Ken Schwark with a score of 60. There were also five flag prizes given out. Closest to the pin #3 the



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before mentioned Bill Knight, longest drive on #7 Todd Fregien, closest to the pin #14 Joe Kuta, long putt #15 Al Nees, and closest to the pin #16 Gordie Waddington. Good job!

I'd like to thank Ozaukee County Parks Director Bill Knight and host superintendent Bob Gosewehr for making the June meeting possible. The golf course was in wonderful condition and the hospitality extended greatly appreciated.

July's meeting was held at Lake Arrowhead Golf Club in Nekoosa. Located in God's country (or should I say sand country), Lake Arrowhead has two championship golf courses, the Pines and the Lakes. The Pines was designed by Killian and Nugent while the Lakes was a solo effort by Ken Killian.

For the second consecutive year, BASF gave us the opportunity to host a People vs. the Pros qualification tournament. As a host chapter we were guaranteed that one of our member superintendents would win a trip to the 2006 BASF People vs. Pros at Pinehurst to compete for a chance to play either Retief Goosen or Gary McCord, plus play in the BASF Superintendent's Cup with a chance to win \$10,000 cash and \$10,000 worth of BASF products. In addition, BASF donated \$2,000 to our chapter's education fund.

On a beautiful summer day, superintendents took on the Pines course in hopes of winning a trip to Pinehurst. When all the strokes were added up, the winner was our very own President Mike Lyons. Mike shot a net score of 67 followed by Scott Bushman's 69 and Lee Mahnke's 71. I asked Mike if he would take me along as his caddy but he said his wife Dawn probably wouldn't like that. Oh well, maybe next year.

There was also a non-qualifier division and the winners for 1st low gross was Bruce Schweiger 74, 1st low net Ed Witkowski 72, and 2nd

low net Bob Speltz 72. The six flag event winners are as follows: closest to the pin #4 Rod Johnson, closest to the pin #7 Seth Brogen, long drive Mike Skenandore, long putt #11 John Cooper, closest to the pin #14 Rod Johnson (AGAIN). Rod, what happened on the other

16 holes? And closest to the pin on #17 was Gene Hogden. Congratulations to all the winners. By the way, Mike, you do know you are not eligible to win next year, right? Better odds for the rest of us.

I would remiss if I did not mention the fantastic job that our host




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superintendents Eric Jasin and Pat Wallner did. I think I speak for all the participants when I say that the course was more than tournament ready. Thanks guys.

Special thanks to BASF for sponsoring the People vs. the Pro qualification tournament and for selecting the WGCSA as a host chapter. Also, many thanks to David Oberle for all his hard work behind the scenes getting the tournament organized and making it happen.

Royal St. Patrick's was the site of our August meeting. As its name suggests, it is a links style golf course. Designed by Rick Robbins, Royal St. Patrick's opened in July of 2003 and can play to 7,071 yards with bentgrass greens, tees, and fairways. Some of the links style features include fjords, burns, fescue-covered moorlands, and sod-walled pot bunkers.

The day's event was the annual Superintendent Tournament and once again "Mother Nature" provided us with sunny but somewhat windy conditions. Mike Skenandore had no problems with the wind as he won the tournament with a score of 74. Our A-Flight champion was Marc Schwarting with a score of 70. Our B-Flight champion was Bill Knight with a score of 78. Congratulations guys; your plaque is being engraved as you read this. Flag event winners are as follows: Closest to the pin #4 Dale Marach, long drive #7 Ed Witkowski (he's at it again), closest to the pin #8 Rod Lesnick, closest to the pin #12 our champion Mike Skenandore, and closest to the pin #15 Sean Vance.

After golf, our guest speaker, Mr. Daniel Becker, gave a presentation entitled "Golf Course Design and Construction in Wisconsin." Daniel views golf courses as works of art

and that experiencing the art has more meaning when there is an understanding of the processes used to create the art. He stressed that superintendents should try to find old design and construction plans along with old photographs in order to get a better feel for the architects original intent. We should also take into consideration this intent when we attempt any future renovations on our golf courses.

Thanks go out to superintendent Hank Koss for offering to hold the August meeting at Royal St. Patricks. Hank and his staff had the golf course in excellent shape. Now if they can only do something about that wind!

September was our final meeting of the season. The annual Superintendent/Guest event was held this year at Ozaukee Country Club. Designed by Langford and

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I said "would have", because our streak of great weather unfortunately ended. A steady all day rain ended the golf after six holes. On to plan B! If there's one thing superintendents are good at it's changing plans at a moment's notice.

Our guest speaker, Bob Vavrek from the USGA Green Section, quickly went from the after dinner speaker to the before dinner speaker. Bob's presentation was the always informative, always entertaining "Year in Review". Throughout Bob's travels this year, the common theme was dollar spot and fairy ring. Dollar spot became like that old sci-fi movie about the thing that wouldn't die. There aren't many years where dollar spot remains active in bluegrass surrounds and roughs for so long a period of time. Hopefully this winter's snowmold pressure will not be as intense as this summer's dollar spot pressure!

It's too bad the weather did not cooperate. I know a lot of people were looking forward to playing Ozaukee CC. I also know that host superintendent Karl Wehausen was looking forward to having us experience the "Land of Oz." Hopefully we can try again in the near future.

Well that about covers it. In closing I would once again like to thank all of the host superintendents. The great thing about this year was that every one of the host superintendents volunteered their courses for meeting sites. If you think about it, that's what makes the whole process work—stepping up to the plate for the good of the association. I really can't thank them enough. I am currently working on next year's schedule and have a few months that need to be filled. If you are interested e-mail me at rmdnhcc@earthlink.net

Finally, I would like to thank the following vendors for sponsoring holes at our monthly meetings: BASF, Syngenta, DHD Tree Products, Pendelton Turf Supply, Lesco, Dow Agrosiences, Midwest Turf Products, and J.W. Turf. The WGCSA greatly appreciates your support. ♻️

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The Grass Profession

By **Rusty Stachlewitz**, Executive Director, Midwest Sod Council

Editor's Note: You may get to know Rusty Stachlewitz next year as the huge International Turf Producers Equipment Show comes to the Noer Facility at the time of our own WTA Field Day next summer. The Show, in the planning for several years, will be worth the visit. This article appeared in the October 2006 issue of ON COURSE, the official publication of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, and is offered to you with their permission.

"Hey Turf Guy, my lawn has brown patches. What's going on?"

Before I tackle such a challenging question, it might be worthwhile to present my credentials. At the present time I am the executive director for the Midwest Sod Council and the fundraising director of the International Turf Producers Foundation. During my career I have also been a golf course superintendent/general manager and a college turfgrass professor. I tell you all this so I can tell you this: I am a turfgrass expert, or more exactly, a turfgrass sod expert. I share this with you not because I proclaim it to be so, but because everyone else believes it to be true. That being the case, one can only assume that it must be true. Of course, since others have such a flattering perception of who and what I am, it also creates a dilemma of sorts. Such a distinction can also mean different things to different people. To some I am a guru, a wizard with problem solving solutions, the all-knowing Carnac that Magnificent, but to most I am just a schmuck who has wasted most of his life on grass (if you don't believe me, just talk to

my wife). But alas I say, let us pause and consider Grass. That's it? Grass - take a moment to think about it.

To some I am a guru, a wizard, the all-knowing Carnac the Magnificent.

Most of you who are reading this article are no doubt in the same situation as mine. Because of your impressive background, your current title, the scope of your responsibilities, your unlimited experience and thirst for knowledge, you

are expect to have a perfect lawn (many of you may know I chose to live in a townhouse at the start of my career). As an all-knowing guru you are expect to have all the answers. You are expected to dispense your knowledge and profound wisdom freely and openly. Did I mention my neighbor is an accountant? I don't ask him to stop over and help with my taxes. Another neighbor is a mechanic. But I have never once had him come over and jack up the ol' car

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and do an oil change. And yet, why is it that without fail every summer (and most springs and falls) I get quizzed and interrogated like an undergraduate at the close of a semester. "I have a problem." "Look at this." "What is this?" "What caused this?" "How can I prevent this?" and my personal favorite, "Have you ever seen anything like this before?"

These are the easy ones. I can physically see the problem. I can watch how they do things. I have a clue before they even call me as to what the problem might be because I have seen the lawn and I am naturally inquisitive. This is not the case with the rest of my "consulting" work. Every summer I get phone calls from my college roommate in Michigan. "Hey Turf Guy, my lawn has brown patches. What's going on?" is the query from 300 miles away. How do I know? But I try to appease him. We do a rundown of weather and fertilizer applications, mowing and pet traffic. I come to an answer, and he hangs up. I am probably seldom correct, but it is Kentucky bluegrass and it will grow back. Or better yet, I can get him in touch with one of my sod farm friends who can redo my distant friend's yard. Although I try to explain to neighbors, relatives, co-workers and former college roommates that it is

impossible to diagnose the problem over the telephone, the calls continue year after year much like the season that come and go. Ever try getting a prescription from your doctor over the phone? "I have this rash on my thigh. It kind of oozes and weeps a yellow substance. Is this normal? Did I mention I just got home from Bangladesh?" This one will take an office visit.

To the rest I am a schmuck.

My brother has a Ph.D. in toxicology. He is one of 200 people in the world certified to do what he does (whatever that is). Apparently he is in the top of that very elite group. He is working on cures for Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. His is an admirable profession. I, on the other hand, work in turfgrass management. He went to school for eight years. He travels to Germany and Japan on a regular basis. Imagine our family get-togethers during the holidays. My brother shares his colorful tales about his exciting exploits and me, I'll mumble a bit reminding everyone that he still hasn't found a cure for anything and he has been doing this for 10 years! As he shares his attention-grabbing tales of exotic travels, I field the lawn questions from my uncles, aunts, cousins and family



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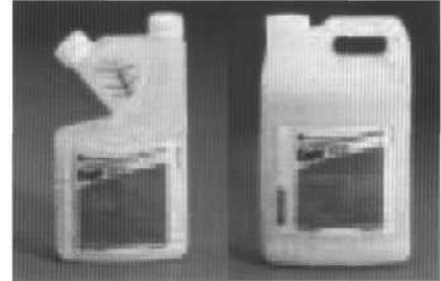
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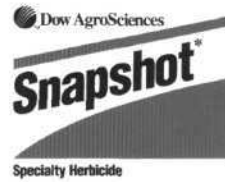
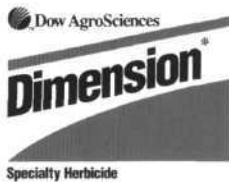
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