

# WISCONSIN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION FALL DINNER DANCE EVENT



By **Beverly Quast**, DHD Tree Products

Gee, we wish you had been there!!!

The Wisconsin Golf Course Dinner Dance hosted by Mike Jaeger at Minocqua Country Club in Minocqua held on the weekend of October 5-6, 2007 was a wonderful event. Too many of the superintendents from Wisconsin weren't there, though. We missed you and your wife! The weekend was fantastic!!!

Our accommodations at the Waters of Minocqua were very com-

fortable in a "woody" décor, an adequate breakfast bar and a swimming complex. There was a large room with video games, and board games were encouraged around the fireplace in the main entry great room for the entire family.

The food was in abundance, as always. We had the opportunity to gather and chat beginning on Friday night at the hospitality room, which was hosted by Joe Deschler from Horst Distribution and Mark Grundman from Jacklin

Seed Company. The ladies continued their tradition of playing games of "Spoons," and the consequences (a shot of "sweet juice") of being the odd-girl out. Some of the pictures will tell the story even better than these words. Afterwards, we found karaoke at the hotel bar, where some of us belted out a few songs.

Golfing Minocqua Country Club on a spectacular early October day was somewhat like being in Sedona, AZ...beautiful color all around. The



course, clubhouse and pro shop were about to be closed for the season, so they were happy to see us as their last customers. Thanks Mike! Their hospitality was generous and our dinners were superb. The three-piece band set up and began playing around 7:00 pm, but they knew not to be too disappointed when there weren't many dancers left at 9:30 (they'd been warned about how early superintendents are working each day), so they did the best they could to keep the dancers moving with their talents.

Sunday morning allowed us all to gather for a quick "good-bye." Since the ladies have this chance to get-together once a year, it's somewhat melancholy, but the time flies by until suddenly, we're back celebrating another year at "Spoons" just like it was yesterday.

Speaking for the ladies, and I hope they won't mind, "Thanks, husbands, we really do appreciate getting away to be with other wives who know what it's like being married to a golf course superintendent."

Hope to see many more of you at the 2008 Wisconsin Dinner Dance. 🌿





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# Bearable at Blackwolf

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

We were nervous driving out to the 2007 WTA "Golf Fundraiser for the Fellowship" at Blackwolf Run. The reason - the weather had just made a drastic change from unseasonably warm and beautiful to much cooler with a chance of rain. We passed through some cold showers on our drive to the course on October 11th, but it stopped for the day once we pulled into the parking lot. The temperatures stayed in the 40's, after being in the 80's the week before, and the wind persisted throughout the round of golf. But the enjoyment of this masterpiece of a golf course made the chilly temps bearable.

Blackwolf is such a tremendous design with the best conditioning. The WTA is forever grateful to Mike Lee, who was so generous to host the event for his fourth time, twice at the Irish Course and twice at Blackwolf. The 88 golfers were likewise pleased to play this wonderful venue. Not only was the golf fun but every participant went home with a bonus door prize, some worth way more than the registration price. The donors of the door prizes, listed on page 35, can't be thanked enough. Likewise listed on page 36 are the tee sign sponsors who also contributed to the success of the fundraiser. The event raised over \$9,100 which will go to support the Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in Turfgrass Research program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Several studies that have been funded by the turfgrass fellowships include a comparison between turfgrass and rain gardens to manage urban runoff, assessment of different inorganic amendments to improve putting




Beautiful scenery greeted us on every hole.



Rod Johnson eyes it up for another 1 putt.

green construction mixtures, and soil test selection and calibration for turf in Wisconsin. These three studies are the first in a lifetime of learning for turfgrass managers. The turf research fellowships will indefinitely provide funding for important questions to help us do our jobs better.

I wish they'd help us golf better too. That job was left to an insider group from Blackwolf, including Ed Sheets, Dave Richter, Bill Schwantes, and Chris Deckard, who won the four person best ball event. We congratulate them for their three under par score, and their hard work in preparing the course for the WTA golf fundraiser.

The day was a great success for the WTA and all participants. Blackwolf rewarded us once again with an outstanding round of golf even though we had to bear the cool day. 

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- Westmoor Country Club Green Committee

**Door Prize donors for WTA Golf Fundraiser 2007**

- Agrotain .....Windshirt and a fleece vest
- Aquatrols .....Applebee's gift certificate
- Argue-ment GC .....Foursome of golf with carts
- Arthur Clesen .....Windshirt
- BASF .....Assorted golf attire
- Big Fish GC .....2 x Foursome of golf with cart
- Blackwolf Run .....20 golf shirts and 20 caps
- Bridges GC .....Foursome of golf with carts
- Bristlecone Pines GC .....Foursome of golf with carts
- Bull at Pinehurst Farms .....Foursome of golf with carts
- Bullseye CC .....Golf Bag
- Charlie Schwab .....Putter, 2 dozen Nike Mo Jo golf balls
- Cleary Chems .....Fleece jacket
- DHD Tree Products .....Golf bag
- Dow .....Eagle fungicide
- Drugan's Castle Mound GC .....Foursome of golf with carts
- Evergreen Country Club .....Foursome of golf with carts
- Jacklin Seed .....2 gift certificates to Cabela's
- Lawsonia GC .....Foursome of golf with carts
- Lesco .....Golf caps
- Lohmann Golf Designs .....Bunch of hats, golf balls, shirts
- Midwest Turf Products .....2 x Home Depot Gift Certificates
- Milorganite .....Golf shirt, jacket, and hat
- Monroe CC .....Foursome of golf with carts
- Old Hickory CC .....Windshirt
- Pendelton Turf .....Gift certificates to Home Depot and Gander Mountain,  
2 dozen golf balls
- ProSource One .....4 dozen NXT golf balls
- Somerby GC .....Golf Bag
- Stoughton CC .....Foursome of golf with carts
- Syngenta .....2 pair Oakley sun glasses
- UAP, Shawn Hilliard .....Bag of premium turf seed
- Washington County GC .....2 x twosome of golf walking
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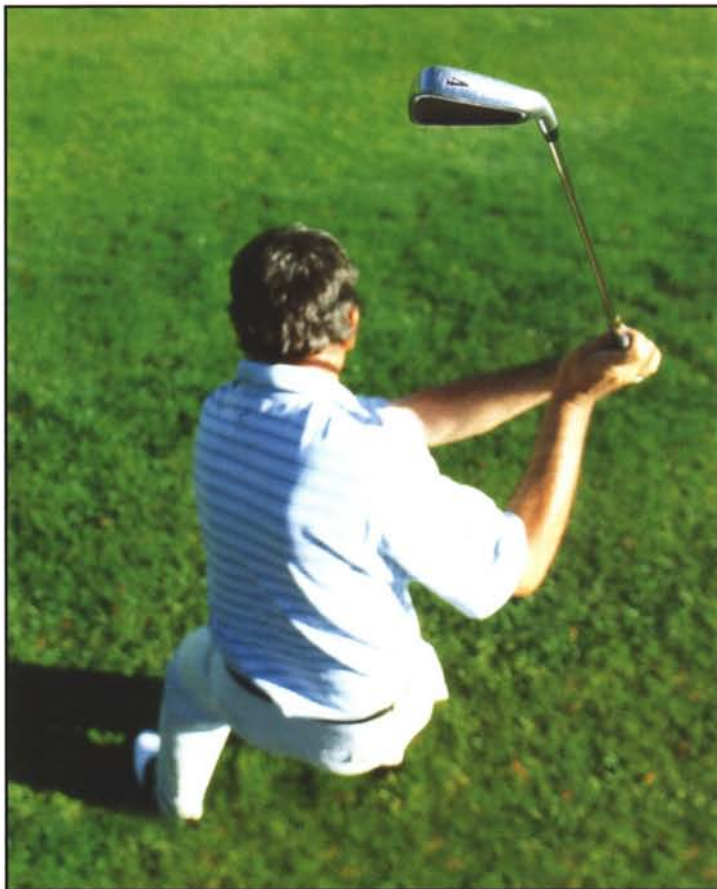
Nothing but smiles from Scott Bushman, Mike Bremmer, Jon Canavan, and Tom Wentz.



Ben LaBarre and Paul Koch sporting their Badger Red for the fundraiser.



This green committee knows the value of supporting the WTA.



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# A Tale of Two Summers: The 2007 TDL Year in Review

By Paul Koch, Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The significant snow and ice that has recently fallen across the region mere days after golfers were still on the golf course doesn't really surprise those that have been around the Wisconsin turfgrass industry for years. But even the most seasoned veteran has to agree that across much of Wisconsin the growing season of 2007 provided plenty of extremes.

The spring began with something unfamiliar to many courses in southern Wisconsin, the return of gray snow mold (*Typhopula incarnata*). While the damage was not widespread and for the most part recovered within one to two weeks, there certainly were some very tense moments for some superintendents when they took their first look at the golf course following snow melt. The courses that saw the most significant damage were those in the far southeastern corner of the state that had applied only PCNB in a singular snow mold application in the fall. A severe early season snowstorm followed by nearly two months of open ground which was then followed by nearly two months of snow cover made for a very difficult winter for snow mold fungicides, and in some cases significant breakthrough. Courses that applied more than one fungicide in the fall for the control of snow molds did not see any significant symptom development.

The following several months saw little in the way of disease activity across most of Wisconsin. Normally spring in the Midwest is an optimum time for the development of *Microdochium* patch, but not a single sample submitted to the TDL in 2007 was diagnosed as such. Much drier and windier than average conditions were likely the driving force behind that decline. Aside from the normal amounts of take-all patch and necrotic ring spot, the spring and first half of summer were almost disease free at many golf courses.

The two major exceptions to this at some facilities were *Bipolaris* leaf spot (*Bipolaris sorokiniana*) and foliar and basal rot anthracnose (*Colletotrichum cereale*). *Bipolaris* leaf spot has been a continuing and frustrating problem at many older golf courses in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Even in the drier conditions of this past summer, symptom development was still severe and intensive, and costly fungicide programs needed to be implemented to control this disease (Figure 1). Anthracnose was likely worse this year due to the dry conditions that persisted throughout much of the season. Courses that had significant winterkill in the winter of 2004-005 and had become



Figure 1. A check area left unsprayed at this Wisconsin golf course showed just how damaging *Bipolaris* leaf spot can be without fungicide protection.



Figure 2. This plant was severely stressed by drought and intensive maintenance conditions, leading to an infection of anthracnose basal rot which will eventually kill the entire plant.



repopulated with annual bluegrass plants were hit especially hard, with significant hand watering and multiple fungicide applications required to keep the plants alive (Figure 2).

Just because disease in the first half of the summer was more tolerable doesn't suggest golf course superintendents had it easy. While many superintendents reported spraying fungicides only a handful of times in the first three to four months of the season, they also reported huge increases in the volume of water being applied by their irrigation systems to their thirsty golf courses. Devastating droughts gripped nearly all of Wisconsin for much of the summer, which was especially painful for the courses in the northern portion of the state that have now experienced moderate drought for several consecutive seasons. Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle even declared a statewide drought emergency in early August to help aid farmers affected by the dry conditions.

When conditions seemed as if they could get no drier, it finally decided to rain. The night of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association's Summer Field Day the O.J. Noer center received several inches of rain, enough in fact to park many large semi trucks hauling equipment away from the show in the mud. And it rained some more. And some more. Madison ended up with nearly 20 inches of rain over a several week period in August, obliterating records and making national news. Other areas across the state had staggering rainfall totals as well, quieting the drought discussions but causing a host of new problems. Aside from the revenue losses many golf courses sustained due to the lack of play, as well as costs incurred cleaning up flood damage, the moisture in the soil coupled with higher temperatures and humidities ramped disease pressure up exponentially. Dollar spot suddenly became very difficult to control. Brown patch and Pythium blight were almost commonplace if not sprayed for. The most difficult disease to control during this period was summer patch, which caused significant amounts of damage to bluegrass or fescue roughs and fairways. The number of sample submissions to the TDL on August 1st stood at only 81 samples, a huge decline from previous years. But the increase in disease activity caused several samples a day to flood into the lab for weeks, and by the end of September the total sample count stood at 145.

Temperatures moderated and rainfall dropped off again as we entered fall. Most of the submissions to the lab were a result of either the extreme drought in the first portion of summer or the heavy rains during the second. About the only disease problem seen on golf courses during the fall was some light to moderate dollar spot outbreaks. Dollar spot was even being reported as late as the last week of October in the Twin

### 2007 TDL Diagnoses

<u>Diagnosis</u>	<u>Professional*</u>	<u>Homeowner*</u>
Take-All Patch	8 (11)	0 (0)
Abiotic	22 (11)	29 (44)
Microdochium Patch	0 (9)	0 (0)
Leaf Spots	10 (8)	5 (0)
Insects	2 (5)	2 (2)
Anthracnose (Foliar and Basal Rot)	6 (4)	0 (0)
Fairy Rings	1 (3)	1 (3)
Necrotic Ring Spot	2 (2)	11 (16)
Summer Patch	5 (2)	5 (0)
Rhizoctonia Brown Patch	6 (2)	3 (4)
Rhizoctonia zeae	0 (2)	0 (0)
Rough Bluegrass ( <i>Poa trivialis</i> )	1 (0)	8 (11)
Typhula Blight	2 (1)	0 (1)
Weed ID	1 (0)	12 (39)
Dollar Spot	4 (0)	0 (3)
Pythium foliar blight or root rot	2 (NA)	3 (NA)
Fungicide Resistance Assays	6 (NA)	0 (NA)
Other	2 (13)	6 (0)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80 (73)</b>	<b>85 (123)</b>

Table 1. \*Numbers in parentheses are diagnoses in 2006

Cities and mid-November in southern Wisconsin. I'm not sure when, or if, we'll be able to end fungicide applications for controlling dollar spot in future seasons.

A breakdown of submission diagnoses at the TDL in 2007 can be found in Table 1, and while overall number of sample submissions to the lab dropped significantly in 2007 compared with 2006, the entirety of that drop can be attributed to the drop in homeowner submissions. There was a large increase in abiotic problems submitted to the lab this year, mostly due to drought and annual bluegrass problems. Many of the other disease submissions to the lab ended up being on par with an average year, which I guess could be expected in a summer of two extremes.

### TDL Contract Memberships

If your course has had turf decline for unknown reasons in the past, or you need verification of a problem to prove to the board a certain action needs to be taken, or you just feel like supporting your local turf resources; then it may be time to consider becoming a contract member with the Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab.

The Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab does not receive any state or university funding, so the money brought in from contract members forms the foundation of the lab. While all samples submitted to the lab, from contract members and non-contract members alike, get our complete attention; there are some special benefits to becoming a TDL contract member.

Contract members that submit samples to the lab get a complimentary written report, which is an additional \$50 for non-members. The report includes color pictures and recommendations for controlling the pest that can be useful in explaining the situation to your staff or the clubhouse. Contract members also get biweekly email updates throughout the growing season with explanations of the most common problems being brought into the lab at that time, and also what to



**Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab Order Form**  
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**www.plantpath.wisc.edu/tdl**

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