

in surface soil moisture.¹

(However, the use of wetting agents is not a substitute for good subsurface drainage.) Under dry, hydrophobic conditions, wetting agents will keep the soil wettable and therefore significantly increase the amount of moisture in the upper soil surface.

Which product is best?

Now that we've established the basics of wetting agents and found that they will generally prevent hydrophobicity in dry weather, while facilitating downward water movement in wet weather, the next question is which product is best? The plethora of wetting agents on the market will vary in cost, application interval, phyto-

toxicity, and performance. The GCSAA conducted a multiple-site evaluation of several different wetting agents a few years ago. The results showed that wetting agent efficacy depended on location and climate, no clear "winner" emerged. Many new products have been developed since that study. If I were a golf course superintendent, the three main factors I'd consider before purchasing a wetting agent are: 1) What is the application interval? 2) How much will it cost? 3) What is the potential for phytotoxicity, 4) Are the claims backed by independent field trials? From the research I've studied and conducted, most wetting agents perform very well in

the field. If field studies show a group of wetting agents to have phytotoxicity and good prevention of LDS, then it simply becomes a cost issue. If a manufacturer is not testing their product in the field, then I recommend you avoid it.

¹ *When applied to turf with significant thatch, wetting agents will keep the thatch from turning hydrophobic, resulting in a softer feel to the turf which will give the impression that the wetting agent is holding water near the surface. If you have thatch, you should consider this fact (or test it out) before incorporating wetting agents into your maintenance schedule.*

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May/June 1984

By David Brandenburg, Golf Course Manager, Kolling Meadows Golf Course

Editors Note: This issue we highlight the WGCSA happenings from the May/June 1984 issue of The Grass Roots.

Seven members of the WGCSA were appointed by Dr. Irving Shain, Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin, to serve on a Select Committee to study the feasibility of building a University of Wisconsin golf course. Roger Bell, North Shore Golf Club, Tom Harrison, Maple Bluff Country Club, Rod Johnson, Sheboygan Pine Hills Country Club, Jerry Kershasky of Westmoor Country Club, Bob Musbach of North

Hills Country Club, Pat Norton of South Hills Country Club and Bill Roberts of Sentry World Golf Club were asked to serve.

The article goes on to say discussions on a possible golf course started in the 1950's and 60's with a faculty planning committee appointed in 1966. At that time it was proposed a housing development would be needed for the course to be financially feasible. The firm of Killian and Nugent was hired to develop the plans with a proposed 1974 opening.

Unfortunately, opposition from citizens, environmentalists and

special interest groups convinced the University and UW Foundation to not proceed. The project lay dormant until 1982 when the Fazio Golf Course Designers were asked to study the site. The Fazio plan along with a updated Nugent Killian plan were studied by UW officials, who concluded the project would have trouble obtaining the needed funds for construction and operation.

In the end, the Select Committee made up of the 7 WGCSA members, agreed that at the time there was not sufficient money to build a quality golf course, a requirement

Welcome the following New Members to WGCSA!

- Kerry Anderson**, E, Valent USA, Crystal Lake, IL
- Nicholas Ayers**, S, University of Memphis, Milwaukee, WI
- Patrick Bastron**, S, UW-Madison, Pleasant Prairie, WI
- Wayne Brandt**, SM, CNC Links, Manitowoc, WI
- Jeremy Braudt**, SM, Baraboo CC, Baraboo, WI
- Brain Danko**, SM, Oakwood Golf Course, Franklin, WI
- Brad DeBells**, S, UW-Madison, Madison, WI
- Mike Kudra**, C, Kenosha CC, Racine, WI
- Kathryn Lifke**, S, UW-Madison, Theresa, WI
- Daniel Lloyd**, S, UW-Madison, Madison, WI
- Brad Marks**, E, Sepro Corporation, Pendleton, IN
- Scott Nivalal**, C, Northbrook Country Club, Green Bay, WI
- Kevin Peterson**, SM, The Ridges Golf Course, Wisconsin Rapids, WI
- Jamie Plomedahl**, SM, The Bridges Golf Club, Lacrosse, WI
- John Rautmann**, C, Hidden Glen at Bentsdale Farms, Sheboygan, WI
- Jeremy Seiler**, C, Kettle Hills Golf Course, Jackson, WI
- Mike Semler**, D, The Bruce Company, Middleton, WI
- John Turner**, E, Bayer Environmental Science, Elburn, IL
- Jason Van Rossum**, C, North Shore Golf Club, Kaukauna, WI
- Tom Wanner**, E, Minnesota Wanner Company, Minneapolis, MN

all parties involved over the years agreed upon.

In 1984, that is where the project stood. As we know in the future University Ridge was built and operated as a successful golf operation, the University of Wisconsin can be proud of.



Dr. David Cookson wrote in his Players Perspective column that a golf course in Wisconsin should never be closed to walking play unless there is snow, or the thawing of turf on top of frozen soil.

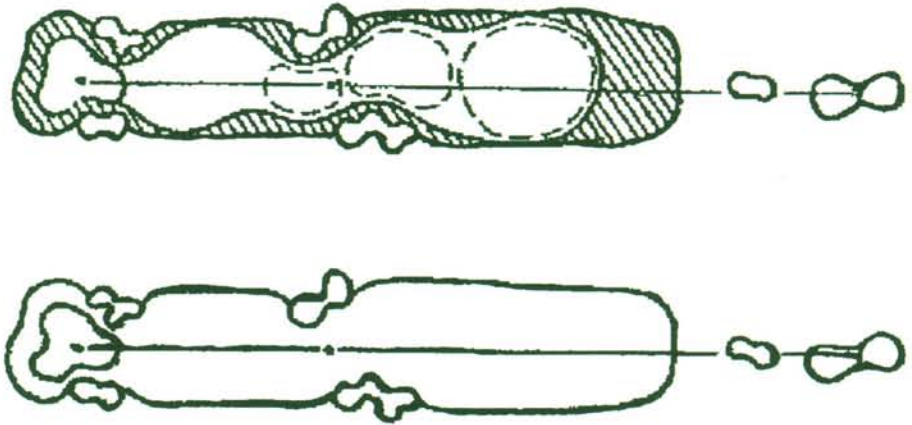
Dr. Cookson made reference to the short Wisconsin golf season and the all too often closing of courses due to rain. He felt that the hearty walking players who play in bad weather are quick to repair any ball marks and so small in number the amount of damage to the playing field is limited. In our favor, Dr. Cookson states it is the green superintendent who should make the call to close the course and when carts should be restricted.

The column finishes with "Golfers in Wisconsin are a hardy breed with a too brief season already. Don't totally close our course in season - ever! You will have better rapport with and respect from your members; you will take away a lot of headaches for yourself; and you will be doing what is right for those who love to play the game."



Bob Lohmann penned an article on the a newer concept called "Contour Mowing For Playability - And It's Worth It."

The column starts with; "Modern equipment utilization, unmaintained out-of-play areas, overgrooming is overspending, the natural look, native areas; these are all phrases of the 80s that everyone is saying and hearing. But let's not forget the elementary rules that a golf course must obey as stated by Bobby Jones over 45



This drawing by Bob Lohmann shows how contour mowing will reduce fairway acreage and playability of the golf course.

years ago: "The first purpose of any golf course should be to give pleasure, and that to the greatest number of players...because it will offer problems a person may attempt according to their ability. It will never become hopeless for the duffer nor fail to concern and interest the expert."

Bob goes on to explain the cost savings, and design factors that go into contour mowing. Reducing fairway acreage will save costs in mowing and product applications while adding distinction to the golf course features. ♣



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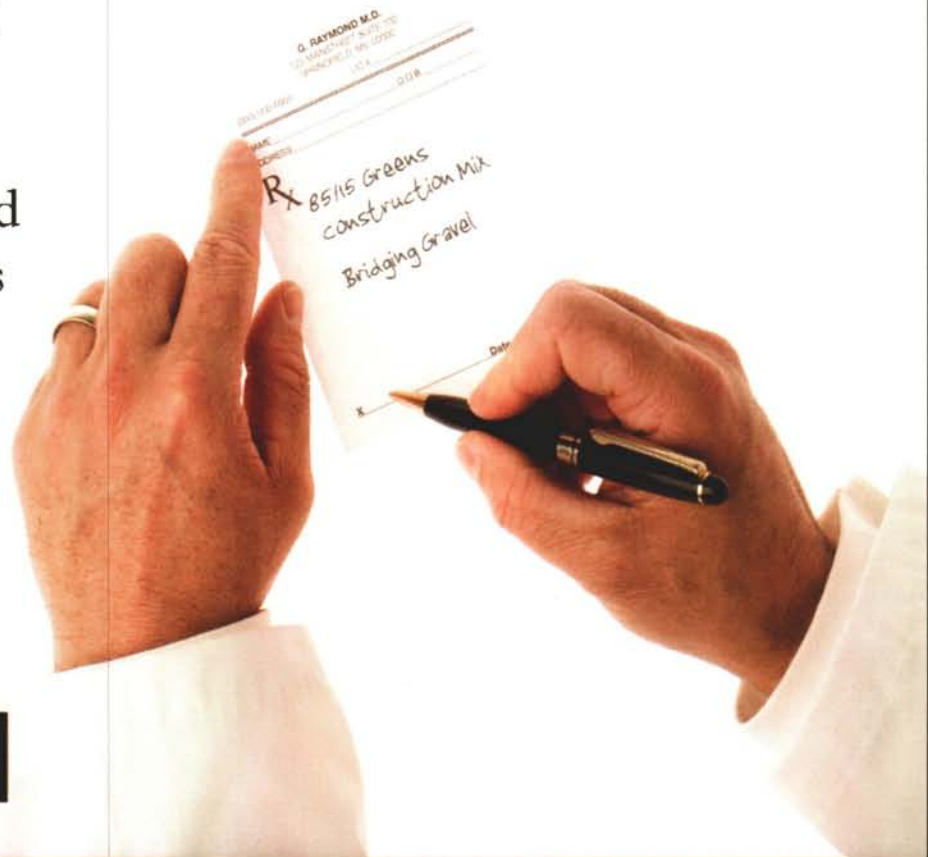
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Geneva National Hosts WGCSA

By *Jim Van Herwynen*, Golf Course Superintendent, South Hills Golf and Country Club

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association kicked off the 2008 monthly educational meetings at Geneva National Golf Club in Lake Geneva on Monday April 21, 2008. This event was the third and final year at Geneva National playing the Player, Trevino and Palmer courses respectively. This year we were blessed by having one of the best weather days of spring. It was a beautiful day with temperatures around 70 degrees which truly highlighted this beautiful piece of property. Host Superintendent Kevin Knudtson and his team did an outstanding job preparing the Palmer course to tournament ready conditions. As we all know to host a golf outing during the month of April in the State of Wisconsin is a daunting task - what a great job!


The day began with an enlightening presentation by Jake Britton, Control Consultant, for Clarke Mosquito Control out of Davison, MI. Unfortunately for me I did not hear his entire presentation due to registration needs, but here is what I took home from his presentation. There was a brief discussion of the mosquito life cycle and their biology. There are many different species of mosquitoes some of which are disease carrying and some that are just nuisance biting mosquitoes. Mosquitoes breed in many different habitats including small water sources. Some of the examples discussed were swamps, woodland pools, containers, ditches and water hazards on golf courses. I've even heard that mosquito larvae can live in collection pans under potted plants on out-

door patios and decks. Dumping the collected water on such planters can greatly reduce their numbers where people tend to congregate. Controlling mosquitoes can be done in two different ways. One method is larviciding, which is controlling them when they are in the larval stage of development. Secondly, as Jake puts it: "adulticiding", or controlling the mosquitoes when they are in the adult stage of development. Many products were discussed for larviciding from biological control products to insect growth regulators. Adult control products were also discussed at length along with various types of equipment used to apply the adulticides. You can learn more about mosquito control at www.clarkemosquito.com.

After the educational presentation we were treated to a fantastic "All-American Cookout" style lunch buffet and time on the practice range and putting green to warm up for the golf event. After golf we all gathered for hors d'oeuvres, camaraderie, beverages and the announcement of the winners for the days events. At the end of the day in first place with a threesome shooting a 61 were: Dave Busse (Rock River CC), Jon Burmania (Rock River CC), and Todd Freigen (Pendelton Turf). In second place there were three teams that tied with a 62. The team, also a threesome, that won due to the fact that they were the only team to birdie hole #9 which is the hardest handicapped hole were: Brian Schmidt (Reinders Inc.), Rod Johnson (Pine Hills CC), and Mark Petigoue (Thunderhawk GC). Hole event winners included closest to the

pin, hole #8 Rod Lesnick (Royal St. Patricks), closest to the pin, hole #13 Cubby O'Brien (Midwest Turf), and longest drive, hole #17 Brian Schmidt (Reinders Inc.). Congratulations to all of you and thank you to all of the vendor sponsorships that helped make this event a success. Please remember to register early, **participate** in the education, as there is much to be learned and I look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming events. As always do not hesitate to call me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding any of the events this year at (920) 922-8455 or email me at jkvanherwynen@charter.net.

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Heads Up

By Robert Vavrek, Senior Agronomist, United States Golf Association

Old irrigation systems rarely provide uniform water coverage across the fairways, surrounds and other high play areas of the course. The expectations of today's golfers for firm, consistent playing conditions far exceeds the capabilities of antiquated single row fairway designs, worn nozzles, and damaged/misaligned heads that are commonly found scattered throughout an old layout. In fact, overly soft, wet playing surface conditions are among the most common golfer complaints heard on Turf Advisory Service visits throughout the season. In general, courses eventually spend a fair amount of time and money on pump house maintenance and controller upgrades, but little attention is paid to the basic sprinklers unless

one sticks on all night or fails to turn properly for several consecutive nights during the heat of summer.

Less than ideal installation procedures, frost heaving, damage from maintenance equipment and topdressing accumulations around sprinklers are several factors that can affect irrigation system performance. Considering the current economy, approval for that comprehensive irrigation system upgrade may take a few years longer than expected. Consequently, make the best of what you have by making an extra effort to raise and level the low, problem sprinklers - a simple, but labor intensive task that is often put on the back burner...forever.

No doubt, fall would be the best time to raise sprinklers to provide

time for the disturbed soil to settle over the winter, but don't use that as an excuse to put off the project for another year. There is still ample time to train a crew and initiate sprinkler maintenance for at least some of the high priority sites on the course before the heat stress of mid-summer arrives. By the end of the season, familiarity with the procedure will make for a more efficient operation. As time permits, test for irrigation coverage uniformity and contact irrigation suppliers regarding nozzle upgrades that may significantly improve coverage at a fraction of the cost of complete sprinkler replacement. 

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Summer Brings Tournament Golf

By David Brandenburg, Golf Course Manager, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

Summer brings excitement for all golf courses as each one hosts a variety of local and statewide tournaments. Two of Wisconsin's biggest tournaments each year are the Wisconsin State Open hosted by the Wisconsin PGA and the Wisconsin State Amateur hosted by the Wisconsin State Golf Association.

The 107th Wisconsin State Amateur will be held at Old Hickory Golf Club in Beaver Dam July 21-24, with Mike Lyons the host superintendent. Old Hickory began as an interesting nine-hole layout designed in 1920 by Scottish-born architect Tom Bendelow. Bendelow's design would be among the more than 400 venues he created. Among his efforts were Medinah CC #3 and Skokie CC, both in Illinois, and Tripoli CC in Milwaukee. Later *Milwaukee Journal* golf writer Billy Sixty, Jr. and golf course designer Robert Greaves finished the project.

Set in the rolling hills outside of Beaver Dam the course features oak and hickory tree lined fairways, elevated greens and rolling hills that will challenge the states best amateur players.

To enter the 72 hole stroke play event players need to have a USGA index of 9.4 or under to qualify at one of 9 qualifying tournaments or be one of the approximately 40 exempt players based on past championships and amateur play. This year qualifying sites include District 1 - Skyline GC, Black River Falls and New Richmond GC, New Richmond, District 2 - Foxfire GC, Waupaca, District 3 - Krueger Haskell GC, Beloit, District 4 - Yahara Hills West, Madison, District 5 - Brown County GC,



Old Hickory Golf Club, hole 1, par 4, 317-390 yards.



Eau Claire Golf and Country Club, hole 5, par 4, 328 to 434 yards.

Oneida and District 6 - Mee-Kwon Park GC, Mequon, Naga-Waukee GC, Pewaukee and Deertrak GC, Oconomowoc.

180 players make the field with a cut after 36 holes for the low 70 players and ties. 4 days of 18 hole

play will challenge the states best players and award the true State Amateur Championship the Sinnissippi Cup.

Players not only compete for the Sinnissippi Cup but any WSGA member golf club with three quali-



Old Hickory Golf Club, hole 11, par 4, 283 to 421 yards.



Eau Claire Golf and Country Club clubhouse.

fiers can compete for the Yule Cup. The Yule Cup is given to the winning three man team after the first 36 holes of play.

Past winners of the State Amateur include US Open Winner Andy North, and PGA Tour players Steve Stricker, JP Hayes and Mark Wilson. Last year at Bristlecone Pines Travis Meyer of River Falls won with a 1 under par 283 over defending champion Daniel Woltman and Jeff Kaiser who each shot 285.

The Wisconsin State Open will be held at Eau Claire Golf & Country Club in Eau Claire, August 18-20, with John Granholt the host superintendent. John has been at Eau Claire for 28 years and last hosted the State Open in 1994.

Eau Claire Golf & Country Club was designed by Tom Vardon and established in 1901. The links features 250 acres of mature, wooded terrain, including sweeping hillsides and towering white pines in Wisconsin's Chippewa Valley. In 2003 a new clubhouse and practice facility opened.

The Wisconsin State Open has been played since 1919 and attracts a field of top club professionals, mini-tour players and amateurs. The open was considered a PGA tour stop in the 1930's.

Players enter the open through exemption or qualifying at one of 8 district qualifier tournaments. District 1 – La Crosse CC, Lacrosse, District 2 – Timber Ridge GC, Minocqua, District 3 – Oshkosh CC, Oshkosh, District 4 – Bishops Bay CC, Middleton, District 5 – Janesville CC, Janesville, District 6 – Fire Ridge GC, Grafton, District 7 – Hartford GC, Hartford and District 8 – Wild Ridge GC, Eau Claire.

Exempt players include past open champions, the previous years top 40 players along with winners of a number of state tournaments.

The Wisconsin State Open is played over 72 holes with the low 60 and ties playing the final 36 holes on the third day. In 2007 at Blackwolf Runs River Course Daniel Woltman as an amateur shot a 7 under 281 with

a final round 68 to beat out Jim Schuman who shot 283. Woltman is a member of the University of Wisconsin Golf Team and Schuman is his coach leading to a competitive finish.

The list of past winners is impressive and features Skip Kendal, Jerry Kelly and Steve Stricker. Stricker is one of 4 players who have won 5 times. Steve won first in 1987 as an amateur and in 1990, 1991, 1998 and 2000 as a professional.

Both the Wisconsin State Open and State Amateur are open for spectators at no charge. It is a great way to see some of the best golfers Wisconsin has to offer, and some of the best golf courses Wisconsin has to offer. I hope to see you there. 🌱



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