



Fall Business Meeting

By **Jim VanHerwynen**, Certified Golf Course Superintendent, South Hills Country Club

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association held its Fall Business Meeting Tuesday November 18, 2008 at the American Club in Kohler prior to the start of the 43rd annual Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium. All members of the WGCSA are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The meeting was called to order by President Dustin Riley, CGCS promptly at 11:00 a.m. All Board members including Vice President - Brian Zimmerman, Treasurer - Jeff Millies, CGCS, Secretary - Matt Schmitz, Past President - Mike Lyons, and Directors: Chad Harrington, David Swift, Mark Storby, Jim VanHerwynen, CGCS, Brett Grams, Waupaca Sand and Solutions were present.

Report of Officers and Directors:

After review of the Minutes from the Spring Business Meeting President Riley reviewed the Class C Proposal given to the WGCSA Board by Kevin Knoblauch, Assistant Superintendent of Milwaukee Country Club. The proposal addresses the desire of the Assistant Superintendents in the WGCSA to form a sub committee within our association and possibly have a Director seat on the WGCSA Board. The request is being seriously considered and the WGCSA board has asked for a show of support by the Assistant Superintendents through a pseudo committee and the board has offered financial support to get the proposal started. The reason for the proposal is to get Assistant Superintendents more involved in continuing education options.

The Michigan State Turf Information File will digitalize all of

the past Grass Roots magazines and have them posted on the TGIF website. All Superintendent Members (SM) will have access to the full TGIF Library. Class C, D and E, Honorary and Affiliate members will have access to the Grass Roots section only.

Monroe Miller has been selected to receive a GCSAA Distinguished Service Award. The award will be presented at the Opening Session of the GIS show in New Orleans, Louisiana on Thursday February 5th from 9-10:45 a.m.

Shelly Biro of MMSD has secured a site for the Wisconsin Room at this year's GIS. The event will take place Thursday February 5th at Café Giovanni's.

David Swift, Director announced he is retiring from the WGCSA Board of Directors and reported the 2009 membership renewal statement is out. He stated we incurred approximately 20 new members in 2008 and encouraged everyone to get there renewal forms in early as this helps with the logistics of putting the directory together in a timely fashion. David was thanked for his commitment on the Board.

Chad Harrington, Director reported that there have been extra educational opportunities i.e., the CMAA's meeting at Green Bay CC. If the WGCSA does not officially host an event we are still eligible at times to receive credits through GCSAA for such events as long as the educational chair is alerted before the event. GCSAA has listed WGCSA in the top five Chapters in the country for educational opportunities!

There will be a GCSAA seminar on December 9th titled Operations Management hosted by Bruce Williams in Fond du Lac at the

Ramada Plaza Hotel. Chad also stated that there will be an Assistant Superintendent Association meeting held this winter in the central part of the state as well. He asked, if any Superintendent's receive the mailer to please pass it along to their Assistants.

Matt Schmitz, Secretary reported that he has received emails regarding the WGCSA website. He advised if anyone is having problems to call or email him or Jeff Millies to rectify any problems. Matt also reported that they will make a link on our website for the TGIF and be as user friendly as possible.

Jim VanHerwynen, Director thanked the host clubs, participants and vendors who helped provide the successful calendar of events in 2008. He encouraged anyone who may be interested in hosting an event in 2009 to act quickly as the dates are filling up fast!

Mark Storby, Director reminded

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everyone of the upcoming "Day on The Hill". He has worked with Brian Swingle who is considering combining our group with other large organizations to make our presence felt. The date and time should be finalized soon. Mark has recently become a member of a grass roots effort called RISE. RISE is an organization that helps the Green Industry's that are affected by regulatory issues. They have a loud voice on strong issues that could get out of hand if no opinion is voiced. For more information go to pestfacts.org or contact Mark Storby directly.

New Business:

The possibility of hiring an Executive Director/Chapter Manager for the WGCSA is being investigated. Steve Randall, Chapter Liaison for the GCSAA spoke to the Board in length to help pursue options. Through strategic planning, developing a mission and vision statement and

performing a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis, the WGCSA is moving forward to strengthen our association. A RFP (request for proposal) was sent to five management companies and their responses are still coming in. The Board hopes to have some direction by the Spring Business Meeting however there is more research to do moving forward.

Jeff Millies, Treasurer reviewed the 2008 year to date and 2009 budget. He also reported on the delegates meeting. He reminded everyone of three surveys coming this winter from the GCSAA. In November the Members Needs Assessment Survey, in December the Compensation Benefits Survey and in February the Energy Survey. Please, if at all possible, participate if you can.

Brian Zimmerman, Vice President presented the Scholarship and Research proposal approved by the

board for a membership vote. The proposal passed unanimously.

Mike Lyons, Past President - WGCSA presented the nominations for election on the Board. By unanimous vote all offices were elected to second one year terms while Jim VanHerwynen was reelected to a two year director's term. Joining the board as a director was Scott Bushman, Superintendent at Fox Valley Golf Club.

Good of the Association:

Dr. John Stier from the UW-Madison encouraged the continued support for education at the UW from the WGCSA as the state colleges are going through tight budgets as we all are. (More can be read on that issue in Dr. Stier's "Gazing in the Grass" column this month.)

Until the next meeting take care and enjoy some much needed time with family and friends. 🌱

WGCSA Scholarship and Research

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
WGCSA Legacy Scholarship	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
JR Love Scholarship	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Miller, Literary Scholarship				\$1,000
TDL	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
USGA Foundation	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OJ Noer Foundation	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
TGIF Subscription	\$500	\$1,000	complete	
Stier, Velvet Bent for Greens	\$8,500	\$10,000	\$11,000	complete
Williamson, Sod Webworm		\$6,000	\$6,000	complete
Soldat, Fall N			\$7,500	\$7,500
Koch, Fungicide Residue			\$8,000	\$8,000
Jung, Snow Mold	\$12,150	complete		
TDL Microscope Camera	\$5,000	complete		
Totals	\$31,650	\$22,500	\$38,000	\$22,000



November / December 1985

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

Fall of 1985 was a busy time for the WGCSA, with plenty of big name visitors attending the association events. Golfer Andy North, fresh off a victory at the 1985 US Open made an appearance at the Golf Turf Symposium as luncheon speaker. He made some interesting reflections about his career and took questions from the crowd.

Ted Woehrle, Golf Course Superintendent at Oakland Hills Country Club in Detroit where North won the Open also attended. North was presented with a leather-bound, numbered, limited edition copy of "The Life of Old Tom Morris" by then WGCSA President Monroe S. Miller.

Wisconsin State Golf Association Executive Director Gene Haas was on hand to present the WSGA Wisconsin Golf Hall of Fame Award to the late O.J. Noer. The Symposium is dedicated to O.J.'s memory and he was the first non-golfer selected to the honor. (*Monroe Miller was the second non-golfer selected when inducted 20 years later in 2005*). Mr. Noer's daughter Mary Noer Van Der Burch traveled from her home in Pebble Beach, CA to accept the award. With the award, Mrs. Van Der Burch also received a color caricature of her father painted by *Grass Roots* illustrator Gene Haas.

If that was not enough excitement for one day the Noer Foundation President Tony Grasso was on hand to present its Distinguished Service Award to Jim Latham who had just retired from Milorganite after 25 years to rejoin the USGA.

The topic of the 1985 Symposium was "Grooming - The State of The Art - New Problems for New Times." Speakers were, Dr. Joe Vargas, Michigan State University with "Fairway Clipping Removal - The New Messiah." Kevin Dushane of Bloomfield Hills near Detroit talked on lightweight fairway mowing and clipping removal. Bob Randquist of Southern Hills Golf and Country Club in Tulsa shared his knowledge and experience with hand mowing putting greens.

Mr. Bruce Boegel a member of Ozaukee Country Club addressed the group on the golfers perspective of course maintenance. This was followed by Dr. John Street, Associate Turf Professor from Ohio State University. Dr. Street addressed the strategy and problems of long-term low nitrogen fertilization programs.

The first day wrapped up with Mr. William Ward, of Morris Park Country Club in South Bend. William led a discussion on the use of Roundup herbicide to con-

vert his mixed fairways to bentgrass.

PGA Tour Agronomist Billy Buchanan started the second day with a talk about the compromise between turf management and player enjoyment. He also provided tournament preparation guides from his experience with the PGA tour.

Dr. Clint Hodges, Professor of Horticulture and Plant Pathology at Iowa State University spoke on the interaction between herbicides and *Helminthosporium* leaf spot.

Jim Latham started a new role as he led the "roundup" a review of the different speakers. Members of the committee; Jim Belfield, Jim Latham, Monroe Miller, Wayne Otto, Danny Quast, Jim Spindler and Woody Voigt were thanked for providing a excellent program.



The September WGCSA Tournament Meeting was held at Brynwood Country Club and hosted by Superintendent Steve Blendell. Speaking to the group at dinner was Jim Irwin, then the voice of the Packers, Bucks and Wisconsin Badgers. Mr. Irwin spoke for some time on his then 22-year career as a broadcaster in Wisconsin sports before opening the session up to questions.

Winners of the annual tournament were Bruce Schweiger - Championship Flight, Dale Parske - A Flight and Jack Soderberg - B Flight, Ed Witkowki - Salesman Flight.



The Fourth Annual Wisconsin Turfgrass Association outing was held at Maple Bluff Country Club with WTA President Tom Harrison serving as host golf course superintendent. It was a cold day but a good time was had by all while raising money for turf research. From the pictures there seemed to be some kind of "Hat of the Day" award won by Rod Johnson after tough competition from Dan Quast, Skip Willms and Pat Norton. Roger Bell won the "Mighty Duke Jock of The Day" award. Fortunately, for readers, he was carrying the prize not wearing it.



Rod Johnson,





Mike and Carolyn Lees accept the W.G.C.S.A. Couples Classic Traveling Trophy.

38 couples attended the Diner Dance at Sentry World Golf Course in Stevens Point. Bill Roberts served as host superintendent and master of ceremony. Mike and Carolyn Lees won the coveted "Couples Classic Traveling Trophy" now called the Mr. and Mrs. Mow award. The Lees scored a 44 in the 9-hole modified alternate shot format.



The October Monthly Meeting of the WGCSA was held at Nakoma Golf Club in Madison with Randy Smith serving as host superintendent. In the golf event Roy Zehren, Pat Norton, Rod Johnson, Scott Gardener, Erv Graff and Kelly Johnson were hole event winners.

Speaking at dinner was *The Grass Roots* columnist Dr. David Cookson. Dr. Cookson pens the "A Players Perspective" and is considered a leader in amateur golf throughout the country.

Dr. Cookson felt it was time putting greens be mowed every day including Mondays. He complimented the group on their judicious use of water allowing for firm conditions and fast putting green speeds. Dry conditions are also necessary for quality bunkers and sand bunkers. As an avid golfer, Dr. Cookson thought fairway aerification was done way to often for many course's soils and that golf courses should never be closed to walking players.

Dr. Cookson finished with several comments on the relationship between the superintendent, greens chairman and Green Committee. Communication was the key then just like today. No one likes surprises especially club leaders.



Dr. Gayle L. Worf, from the University of Wisconsin Madison Department of Plant Pathology wrote a article on snow mold. After a brief history of *Typhula* (gray snow mold) and a discussion on the casual fungus for pink snow mold Dr. Worf discussed some treatment options available at the time.

The mercury products Calo-clor and Calo-gran

were widely used, as was PNCB (pentachloronitrobenzene). Success was just being found with an early fall application of Daconil 2787 (chlorothalonil) or PMA-Thiram.

In southern Wisconsin, chloroneb was performing better than PCNB when used alone or with the mercurial products. Research was being done on application timing and in two years of trials, neither the early nor right before snowfall treatments had emerged as a guaranteed success at all stations.



This was truly a great issue for many reasons but Editor Monroe Miller wrote a great deal of it in his historical and eloquent way. I had a hard time putting this issue down as it shows the great writing ability of our former editor. It is one issue I urge you to look up when *The Grass Roots* becomes available on the Turfgrass Information File. Monroe wrote his last Presidents Message full of inspiration, humbleness and thanks for everyone who supported him.

Millers "Editorial" was a tongue-lashing of the Club Manager Association of America for an article on clubhouse managers moving into general manager roles with a less than glamorous look at the superintendent's profession.

As Monroe stepped down as President, he began a new column "Jottings from the Golf Course Journal." His first one was titled "Let it Snow!" and was a great history of the snowflake. However, it was his introduction to the new column that caught my eye as Monroe gave a dissertation into why each of us should keep a journal in our private and professional lives. He wrote on how he began writing as a youngster and how enjoyable it can be.

Somewhere Monroe found time to debate Jerry Kershasky in a twin article column titled, "Aerifying Fairways With Ryan Greensaires: Two Opinions." Golf courses were just starting to move away from the pull behind drum type aerifiers and moving to slower and labor intensive equipment because it was more effective at removing cores

This was followed by a two-page article titled "Preparing a Resume - The Personal Advance Campaigner. This well written piece explained how a proper resume is a door opener for superintendents to get a foot in the door for a new job.

Monroe finished this issue with a one page history and dissertation on Thanksgiving appropriately called "Happy Thanksgiving"

This issue is a great example of why Monroe Miller won the Best Unpaid Editor award for his work with The Grass Roots from GCSAA for 19 years in a row. He was more than a editor, he was a writer in every sense of the word.

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Changing Faces

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

We in the Midwest are usually a few years or decades behind our friends around the country when it comes to change. Technology, fashion, fads and slang usually start on one of the coasts and work its way towards the Badger State. One example of slow change is the changing race demographics of Wisconsin. The United States has long been known as a large melting pot of nationalities, but most of those nationalities were of white descent.

That is changing rapidly as a more diverse group of races is immigrating to the United States. At the same time ethnic neighborhoods and towns are becoming a thing of the past as jobs, marriage and family have us working and living together.

Truth be told, outside of a few large Wisconsin cities, 20 or even 10 years ago the number of residents of African, Hispanic or Asian heritage living in less urban areas were small in number. That is quickly changing as the racial demographics of small towns and villages are becoming more diverse. You can see the changes at the store, in the schools, at parks and at festivals. However, one place we do not see the changes in race diversity is checking out at the pro shop counter or playing the links we provide. Golf for the most part in Wisconsin is a white persons game.

Is this a talk on racism and prejudice? Not at all, but rather a belief our industry needs to realize that a large segment of our population does not play golf on a regular basis. The percentage of per capita golfers is higher for white residents than it is for non-white groups.

Quite a few of the First Tee programs are located in the inner city and have made tremendous gains

allowing children of all races to enjoy the game of golf. However, that effect will take years to trickle down to more players for the average golf facility. Clearly, having more golfers is the goal of the 99% of golf courses.

In spring of 2006 I attended the GCSAA Career Development Committee Meetings in Lawrence KS. Diversity in the golf industry was a major topic of discussion and meeting at the same time was the GCSAA Diversity Task Group. Our two groups spent time discussing the benefits of increased ethnic diversity in golf and the challenges to overcome to reach greater diversity.

We are fortunate in the Midwest to have a large number of employable people looking for golf course jobs. In my own case, most of my seasonal staff has been retirees and students. There are ample numbers of bodies available for work throughout much of our area. However, I see more managers turning to a seasonal Hispanic or Asian workforce, as babysitting teenagers has become a challenge not worth undertaking. Our staffs are starting to resemble our diverse society but the players have not yet reached that point.

Is this simply a message on discrimination? Not really, and I assume you know and believe discrimination is wrong and has no place in America today. However, diversity in golf goes beyond employees. Diversity in golf has to include the customers. As the business of golf becomes more competitive, we need to realize golf facilities are missing a large segment of our population for customers.

As golf course superintendents, we have a limited ability to grow the game. We do not give lessons and most of us do not choose the advertising plans or beginner programs at our courses. We can provide for less experienced golfers with forward tees and less forced carries but there is more we can do to expand racial diversity in golf.

We employ workers from various backgrounds and have the unique opportunity to grow the game through our employees. Over and over again, research has shown that golfers like to play with friends and associates. When a golfer has friends to play golf with, they play more. They more they play golf the better it is for the entire golf industry.

Regardless if your staff is 3 old guys and 2 students or 15 Hispanics or a mix of races and backgrounds, you have a captive audience to teach the game of golf

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and instill in them the enjoyment and competition that can be found.

Staffs are as diverse as golf operations, so every situation is different depending on the type of course you have and the club rules. It is not possible at all clubs to take the employees out for a round of golf and that is not an appropriate way for true beginners

to learn the game. However, many of us can find some time for a staff outing to the driving range with some donated or lost and found clubs. Invite one of the golf professionals out to lead a quick group lesson or perhaps someone on staff can lead them in the basics.

A mix of staff interaction and the enjoyment of playing golf has

the opportunity to be a fun way to grow the game and crew camaraderie. Many of us started in the golf business because we enjoyed playing the game of golf. Take an opportunity to show your staff how enjoyable the game is and you may hook some of them on a life-long sport. ♣

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Coming Events

December 9 - GCSAA Seminar, Operations Management
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Jan 13 - WTA Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO
Boerner Botanical Gardens, Hales Corners

Feb 2-7 - Golf Industry Show
New Orleans, Louisiana

Feb 5 - WI Hospitality Room
Cafe' Giovanni, New Orleans

March 2 - WGCSA Spring Business and Education Meeting
Ramada Hotel, Fond du Lac, WI

March 4 - Northern Great Lakes GCSA
Spring Symposium, Wausau, WI

March 11, 12 - Reinders Turf and Irrigation Conference
Waukesha Expo Center, Waukesha, WI

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