

1. **Improve and recreate our Website.** Simply stated the www.wsgcsa.com was a very good website when it was first created in 2004. Now, five years later it needs a facelift and needs to offer more services and timely information for our members. We want to offer all members one of the best and easy to use sites in our industry. Our goal is simple in concept but challenging in execution. To date I have spent considerable time and effort identifying all things important to our members for our new website. We will be offering all the features of the present site but with more streamlined navigation and more content that will always be current and managed weekly. We will soon have the ability to register for meetings and events online, make payments for dues, advertising, donations, and other items via credit card. The member's only area will also be enhanced with more articles, more information, and a much improved online directory. These changes and goals need the best technical and web industry professionals to implement. We are extremely lucky to have such a company on our membership roles. Epic Creative out of West Bend, WI has been selected to create our new website. Our very own Chad Kempf is our websites project manager. As most of you know Epic has been a part of our industry for many years by offering their SVW video series and their latest work by supplying the industry with GCSAA.TV services. In addition they also offer web design and management to many large companies in our industry and beyond. Epic's generous discounting of services has allowed the WGCSA to contract with the great company at a very reasonable price. I will be working closely with Chad and his team in the next several months to have the site completed and fully functional by this fall.
2. **Improve database records and membership information for the chapter.** The chapter has been keeping records on members for many years but the multiple systems used by our chapter and also the services we receive from the WSGA have allowed for some "holes" from time to time. I have created a new database record system containing all the current and former member information from multiple lists and people that have been involved with this large task over the past few years. This work is not glamorous or much fun but is very important for the communication to all members going forward. Thanks to the help of Jim Vanherwynen, David Brandenburg, and Linda Scheffler at the WSGA I am happy to say that this time consuming task is complete. However, a database like this is never truly finished, members move, people change positions, change member status and the list will hopefully continue to grow. As you have changes to your membership status, or have

a change to your information please contact me (see information following). I would also like to ask you to help me grow our membership! Do you know of a superintendent not currently a member of our association? Do you have a deserving assistant that could benefit by joining the WGCSA? Make sure to ask your favorite sales people if they are supporting the WGCSA by being a member as well. I will be working on a new membership campaign in the coming months and your help now can help start this effort.

3. **Create a comprehensive and streamlined Industry Partners Program for the WGCSA.**

This has been my latest effort and will allow the WGCSA to capitalize on the many great affiliate and vendor members who graciously make our chapter stronger in numbers and finances. The WGCSA needs to improve our partnerships by allowing the vendor members more exposure to showcase products and build relationships within our industry. The board will be reviewing several versions of the plan but through expanded advertising opportunities and streamlined agreements plan lasting a full year our affiliate members will have the ability to choose the appropriate level of participation that is best for their particular company.

4. **Assist David Brandenburg with the business management of the Grass Roots.** We all know the success and proud history of our association's trade journal. I am proud to learn from and work with David in making sure *The Grass Roots* meets the needs of our membership now and in the future.

I am also working with the board and all committee chairs learning how I can help with the many behind the scenes duties and day to day functions of an organization of our size. I look forward to working with all of our members in the months and years to come. Please contact me if the WGCSA can be of any help to you and your career. N1922 Virginia DR, Waupaca, WI 54981, Phone 920-643-4888, Fax 888-790-7492, Email bg.wgcsa@charter.net.

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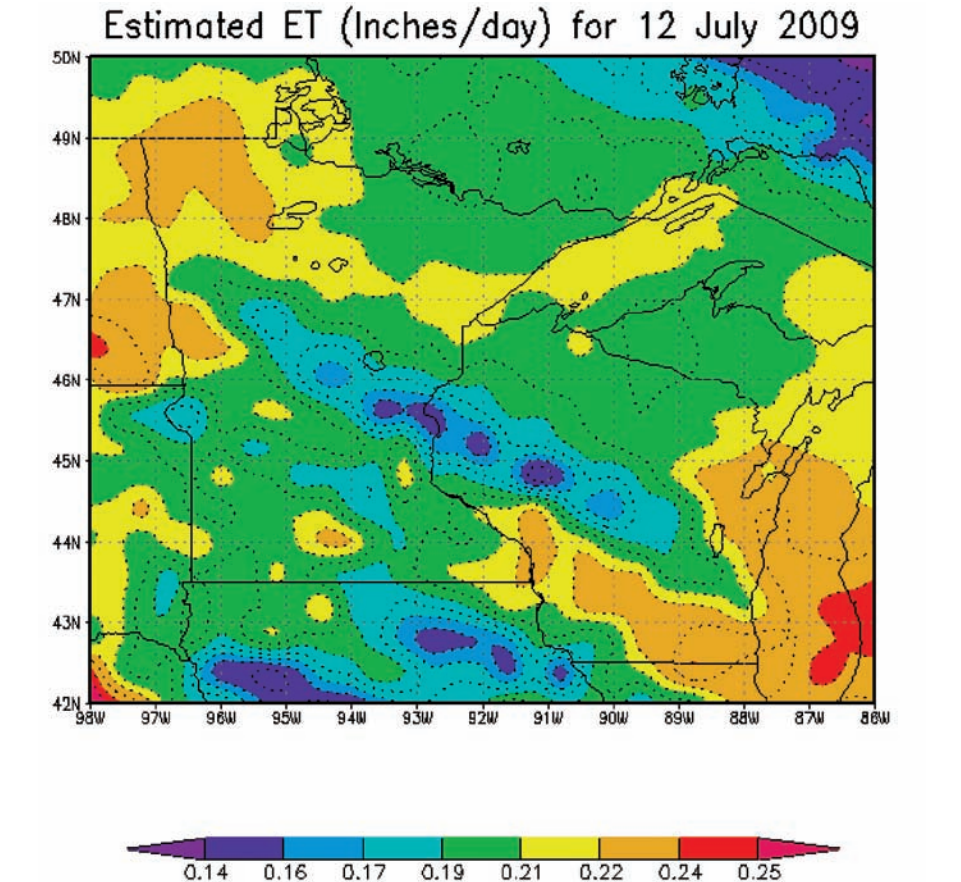
EPA's Proposed WasteSense Falls Short

By **Dr. Doug Soldat**, Department of Soil Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison

As a state specialist with UW-Extension, one of my duties is to work with governmental agencies to ensure that their policies related to turfgrass and urban soils are well grounded in science. Sometimes there isn't enough science to inform policy, in which case we strive to generate the data as soon as possible. Dr. Wayne Kussow anticipated the phosphorus regulations years before the whispers of phosphorus bans began. A pessimist might wonder about the ultimate value of that research because of the recent laws and rules restricting P use. However, it is clear to me that without his research the turf industry would have had no leg to stand on and would likely be faced with more severe rules and quite possibly even more negative public perception of turfgrass than currently exists.

The latest regulatory issue to cause waves among the turf industry is EPA's proposed voluntary program WaterSense (<http://www.epa.gov/watersense>). The WaterSense program is a specification that aims to reduce indoor and outdoor water use in newly constructed single-family homes. The program is loosely modeled after the agency's successful EnergyStar specification for consumer electronics. The proposed indoor specifications are non-controversial and include things like having high-efficiency toilets, showerheads, and faucets. However, the outdoor specifications are disappointing to say the least. They include two options.

Option 1: Reduce turfgrass to less than 40% of the landscapable area



ET rates for Wisconsin and Minnesota are available at the WI-MN Cooperative Agricultural Website <http://www.soils.wisc.edu/wimnext/> and provide valuable irrigation scheduling information.

Option 2: Landscape design shall be developed using a water budget tool based on 70% evapotranspiration adjustment factor (crop coefficient).

Of these two options, the second has the most scientific merit, although it's not without concerns. For example, we know that crop (or landscape) coefficients vary by region, landscape type, and time of year; and it is therefore not desirable to impose a single value across the nation. Additionally, accurate ET data are probably not widely available throughout the US (WI and MN have

access to very accurate ET data, but we are likely unique in that regard). On the other hand, we know that most people (homeowners and professionals alike) would use less water if they switched from the visual and/or experience method to some type of ET-based irrigation.

Unlike Option 2, there is little to no scientific data backing the specifications found in the first option. In fact, research can be found that demonstrates that turfgrass is similar or better than landscape plants with regard to water use (Beard, 1993; Cisar et al., 2005). This information

obviously depends heavily on the climate, plant selection, and how irrigation requirements are determined. The Beard (1993) article is particularly thought provoking. He poses the question, why are grasslands found naturally in drier areas than trees and shrubs? He summarizes research comparing ET rates from trees and shrubs and concludes that grasses use less water than trees and shrubs. Similarly, Cisar et al. (2005) found that once established, mixed species landscapes use more water than a St. Augustine lawn in Florida.

Finally, it is important to remember that turfgrass doesn't waste water, people do. A study by Peterson et al. (1999) found that homeowners in the Southwest US did not change their irrigation practices after switching their landscapes to xeriscapes (low water use plantings). Although the new landscapes required less water, the homeowners continued to over-water them. The EPA and other agencies concerned about reducing water use should pay close attention to this finding because it suggests that the only way to really save water is to require that irrigation is applied water based on crop needs and environmental demand.

Unfortunately, the EPA decided to include Option 1 and admitted that the 40% number was not based on science, but rather borrowed from other "green" programs like the US Green Building Council's LEED Certification Program. Unfortunately, Option 1 is clearly the easiest option for a home builder to implement, and I would hazard a guess that 95% of all new WaterSense homes will use this option.

But perhaps most concerning of all, the WaterSense specification states that turfgrass cannot be grown on slopes exceeding 4:1 regardless of which option is selected. This is another decision that has no credible science supporting it. This aspect of the specification will prove extremely problematic for humid regions, where intense rainfall can lead to erosion of

poorly vegetated slopes. On a conference call with interested parties in June, the EPA stated that they recognize that turfgrass prevents soil erosion, but that many other plantings can do so just as well. They have failed to compile a list of those plantings, or acknowledge any research that has compared the erosion potential of turfgrass compared to ornamental plantings. Builders cannot be expected to choose the proper erosion control without guidance.

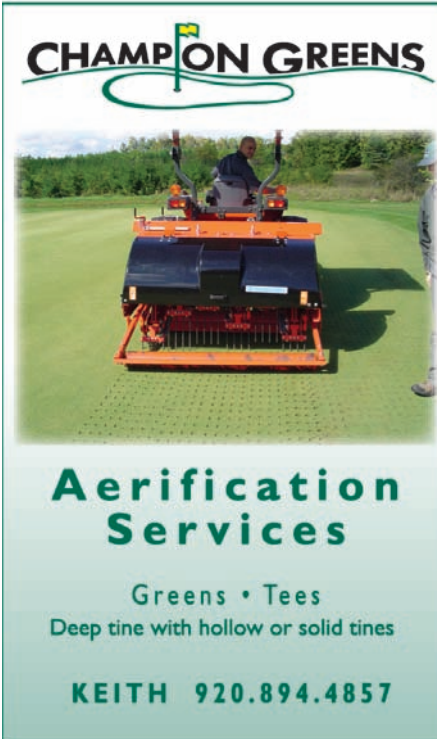
At least two scientific groups (Turfgrass Science division of Crop Science Society of America, and NCERA-192 a group of turf researchers from the North Central US) have written formal letters opposing the Option 1, and the 4:1 slope limitation. Other industry groups have responded with comments and position letters of their own (WI Green Industry Federation, Turfgrass Producers International, National Turfgrass Federation, and others). Although at the time of writing, EPA is still accepting public comments and has not finalized the specification, it seems to me that they are unwilling to consider eliminating Option 1 (40% turf or less), or the 4:1 slope limitation. The turf industry must be prepared to deal with states and smaller governmental agencies that will assume (justifiably) that the EPA's specifications were carefully vetted and are science-based, and implement copycat rules and building codes.

Because of the WaterSense program and the expected proliferation of local laws from it (probably including golf courses), the UW-Madison turfgrass research program will continue to look for scientifically sound ways of reducing water use on turfgrass areas. In Soil Science, we have examined using surfactants and ET-based irrigation to reduce irrigation requirements on putting greens, and we are looking at the practicality of large-scale water harvesting and subsurface drip irrigation for homes, schools, and commercial sites. This

fall, we will be finishing construction of an automated rain shelter at the O.J. Noer Facility, allowing us to compare drought tolerance, irrigation strategies, and many other variables in a tightly controlled environment. Hopefully, this information will lead to better science-based policy in the future.

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- Beard, J. B. 1993. The xeriscaping concept: What about turfgrasses. *Int. Turfgrass Soc. Res. J.* 7:p. 87-98.
- Cisar, J. L., G. H. Snyder, J. E. Erickson, S. H. Daroub, and K. E. Williams. 2005. Comparison of actual and predicted water budgets from two contrasting residential landscapes in south Florida. *Int. Turfgrass Soc. Res. J.* 10(Part 2):p. 885-890.
- Peterson, K.A., L.B. McDowell, and C.A. Martin. 1999. Plant life form frequency, diversity and irrigation application in urban residential landscapes. *HortSci* 34:491. 🌱



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TGIF Expands its Offerings

Compiled by David Brandenburg, Golf Course Manager, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

GCSAA assistant superintendents (Class C) now have full, free access to Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information File, a searchable database presented in partnership with the Turfgrass Information Center.

The database includes the complete archive of Golf Course Management magazine, for which MSU recently implemented an advanced search option to provide users a more comprehensive list of article results.

The "dig deeper" option is available as a check box within the search interface of the GCM archive, which includes all issues from 1933 to the present. This feature allows the user to search the full text of all GCM articles indexed within TGIF (approaching 11,000) at the word level, using the OCR text (uncorrected) from the scanned pdfs. According to MSU, in some cases it will be possible to identify material previously "invisible" to the search engine, and in almost all cases, it will substantially increase the volume of material retrieved.

TGIF includes more than 320 journals and magazines, research reports and conference proceedings. It also has extension bulletins, books and book chapters, technical reports, theses and dissertations, scanned golf course plans, photos, *The Grass Roots* and much more.

Applications for the 2009 GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards are now available. The ELGAs, presented in partnership with Syngenta and Rain Bird, Golf Division, recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses for their commitment to environmental stewardship. The deadline for applications is Oct. 18, 2009.

Applicants are judged on five areas: Resource Conservation, Water Quality Management, Integrated Pest Management, Wildlife/Habitat Management and Education/Outreach.

National winners will be determined from the top public, private, resort and international applicants. From the national winners, an overall winner will be announced. In addition, Chapter and Merit prizes are also awarded.

All ELGA winners receive:

Recognition in Golf Digest and GCSAA publications
Recognition at the 2010 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in San Diego.

An invitation for the winner's employer to attend the recognition activities in San Diego.

A personalized trophy or certificate of achievement
National, regional and local publicity

For more information about the ELGAs, contact Greg Lyman, GCSAA's director, environmental programs, at glyman@gcsaa.org or at 800-472-7878, ext. 3625.

New GCSAA COO J. Rhett Evans began his duties on Thursday, July 9, at the association's headquarters in Lawrence, Kan.

Evans, formerly director of the parks, recreation and commercial facilities division for the city of Mesa (Ariz.), will plan and direct key aspects of organizational operations, including policies, objectives and strategic initiatives. He will be responsible for developing and implementing key programs that support GCSAA's short- and long-term financial and operational goals to ensure future sustained growth.

Evans earned both his undergraduate (sociology major/emphasis in business) and graduate (recreation management and leadership/emphasis is public administration) degrees from Brigham Young University. He is also a graduate of the Public Assembly Facility Management School.

Evans has been with the city of Mesa since 2001, serving as director of the convention center and amphitheatre until 2005 before he advanced to his current position. With the city he managed a staff of more than 700 through a team of 12 supervisors and three assistant directors, in all program areas, including a convention center and amphitheatre, spring training baseball complex (Chicago Cubs), cemetery, two golf courses, recreation and aquatic complexes and 2,600 acres of park space.

With the appointment of Evans, GCSAA CEO Mark Woodward, CGCS, has completed his executive team, which includes Cam Oury, managing director, finance; Teri Harris, managing director, development; Carrie Riordan, managing director, member programs; Jeff Bollig, managing director, marketing and communications; and Eileen Bangalan, executive operations administrator.

The July issue of Golf Course Management magazine marks another step in the magazine's efforts to deliver news and information to its readers in as many ways as

possible with the launch of a full searchable digital edition of the magazine.

Readers will have the option of selecting from two different digital editions - one a version that Advanced calls "Digital Anywhere," and the other a version enhanced by Microsoft's Silverlight plug-in. Both versions are fully searchable by keyword. All web and e-mail addresses are "live," meaning readers are always one click away from learning more about a product in an advertisement or reaching out to the author of a story. The digital edition can also support animation, audio and video, offers options for sharing stories or even individual pages with colleagues and a live help function that connects you directly with personnel at Advanced Publishing.

If you currently receive GCM and have an e-mail address attached to your record with GCSAA, you'll receive a monthly e-mail notice when the new digital issue is available. If your GCSAA record doesn't have an e-mail address, you can always call 800-472-7878 and have that added, or you can simply visit <http://digitalgcm.gcsaa.org> to check out the latest issue.

At the Golf Industry Show in New Orleans the annual Certification Luncheon highlighted the new and continuing certification of GCSAA members. Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendent Members highlighted include

30 years (6 renewals) - Jeff Bottensek and John Krutilla

25 years (5 renewals) - Douglas DeVries and Randy Witt

20 years (4 renewals) - Chad Ball, David Beno, Phillip Hall, Rodney Johnson, Mark Kienert, Joseph Kuta and Bruce Worzella

15 years (three renewals) - Paul Bastron, James Crothers, James Hall, Michael Handrich, Michael Kactro, Richard Lange, Kristopher Pinkerton, Paul Schippers, David E. Smith and Jack Tripp

Other Certified Members - David Brandenburg, Marc Davison, Joseph Fryman, Carl Grassl Jr., Retired, Phillip Hall, David Hassel, James Hasz, Mark Hjortness, Michael Hubbard, David Jahnke, Steven Johnson, Michael Lee, Josh Lepine, Bruce Livingston, David Longville, Kendall Marquardt, Jeff Millies, Dale Morrison, Daniel Mosblack, D.J. Osborn, Retired, Danny Quast, Retired, Neil Radatz, Robert Rafferty III, Dustin Riley, K. Clark Rowles, Scott Sann, Scott H Schaller, Paul Schippers, Patrick Sisk, Randy Slavik, Chris Smith, Alan Steichen, Gary Tanko, Randy Van Fleet, James VanHerwynen, and Phillip Zeinert 🌱

ELIMINATE GUESSWORK WHEN SPRING FEEDING

Spring fertilization varies greatly on a number of factors. Cultural practices performed, soil amendments made, irrigation and drainage upgrades, fertilizers applied, and what happened last fall plays a significant role with this season's success. However, having a sound fertility program will provide you with your best chance of success for the upcoming season.

Typically, spring applications are applied after the early flush of shoot growth has occurred, but predicting spring weather can be a challenge when it comes to soil and air temperature, and precipitation. That's why choosing a fertilizer that performs in cool climates is so vital.



John Meyer
Regional Manager
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Coated products are a great example of fertilizers that don't offer immediate plant nutrition and are subject to leaching once the protective coating breaks down.

Still other products rely on a process called mineralization, depending on soil microbes to break down nitrogen. Whereas soil microbes aren't fully active until the soil temperature reaches 55 degrees - which might not happen until late spring depending on the region - UMAXX begins working immediately and is not dependent on soil temperature for nitrogen release.

Although fine-tuning a spring fertilization program varies on many factors, its importance will be felt all summer long and even into the fall. The benefit of using an all-weather, long-lasting performer such as UMAXX provides immediate benefits, as well as a positive long-term impact. UMAXX gives the freedom to apply as a nitrogen component in a blend or part of a soluble fertilizer program. UMAXX offers consistent performance regardless of temperature or application type.

For more information on UMAXX contact me at 952-334-6845 or jmeyer@agrotain.com

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Teamwork at Blackwolf Run to Prepare For The Wisconsin State Open

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

Ron Bierwirth a 13 year WGCSA member is charged with preparing the Blackwolf Run Golf Course for the 89th Wisconsin State Open August 17, 18, 19. Normally the superintendent of the 36 hole facilities Meadow-Valley 18, Ron will host the State Open on the Meadows holes 1-9 and the Rivers holes 5-13. This change is because while Ron and his staff will be hosting Wisconsin's best professional and amateur players, Rivers Course Superintendent Jeff Wilson will be re-grassing the Championship Course that the US Women's Open will be played on in 2012.

Wilson and his staff have no easy task as the greens were fumigated and reseeded to A4 Bentgrass while the fairways were fumigated and seeded to Memorial Bentgrass. Tees were stripped of sod and also seeded to Memorial. While the grass fills in the staff is removing the sand and redoing the drainage in all the bunkers on the affected holes.

Ron was quick to point out the work is not a revision of Pete Dyes original design but a opportunity to incorporate new grass technology while maintaining Dyes original design. The areas we examined on our tour showed the new grasses were coming in great without a poa plant in site.

In 2010 the holes being re-grassed now will be open to play, and the holes open for play now will be re-grassed. I enjoyed the opportunity to tour both courses with Ron, who in some ways is hosting the State Open as a new superintendent for 9 of the holes he is responsible for.

Ron started in golf as a caddie at Pine Hills Country Club in



Hole 11 for the State Open plays 402 yards to elevated green



Hole 1 for the State Open plays 427 from the back tees.

Sheboygan which is still today one of his favorite courses. He received his degree in Math Education and entered the restaurant business

working his way up from dishwasher to general manager in a number of states. Bierwirth found the restaurant business to be fun, but often to



Hole 9 will play 231 yards through this narrow gap for the State Open.



Hole 17 for the State Open plays 240 yards from the back tee.

much fun and felt burned out with the lifestyle that comes with operating a nighttime business.

Looking for a change Ron moved home to visit his parents and answered an ad for help at Blackwolf Run as a laborer and

equipment operator in 1990. Ron put his people skills to use and moved up to an assistant superintendent and then superintendent of the Meadows Valley 18.

Ron lives in the Kohler area and he and his wife Jody a Guidance

Counselor at a local school have one son who is 10 years old. Golf has taken a back seat to other activities but he still enjoys playing.

As we toured the course, Ron pointed out more than once how teamwork is the key to Blackwolf Run's success. He credited the assistant superintendents Bill Schwantes and Chris Deckard whom he works with as well as Rivers Course Superintendent Jeff Wilson for his success. Everything is a team effort. For the State Open and again the US Women's Open both staffs will work together to make the tournament come off without a hitch.

The day I visited, the staff was having a crew picnic with brats and hamburgers with all the fixings with Ron as one of the grill masters. Ron expressed these functions help reward the staff while bringing both course staffs and the landscape crew together for fun and recreation.

One of the challenges of the property is the difficulty in getting from one hole to another without interrupting the players. With mounding, rivers, woods and ravines driving from one area to another is difficult. With the current mix of holes it is a mile drive from the 9th green on the Rivers to the 10th tee of the Meadows course. The staffs have perfected their routes and most jobs are completed long before a golfer reaches that hole. Out of site and out of mind maintenance! A mix of full and part time employees help the facility stay topnotch without having massive overhead.

In preparation for the Open, Bierwirth does not expect to make many changes to the maintenance routine but he will increase the frequency of the routines.

Blackwolf Run was started in 1985 when Pete Dye began his work on the great piece of property. The natural terrain mixes with Dye's trademark pot bunkers



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and undulating greens. The course was named after Black Wolf, a chief of the Winnebago Indians (now known as the Ho-Chunk Nation). According to Gustave Buchen's local history, "Historic Sheboygan County," the Chippewa and Menominee Indians joined forces to drive out the Winnebagoes. Their intent was to occupy this splendid, beautiful hunting ground. Several battles were fought, and although the Winnebagoes were outnumbered, Black Wolf led his band up the mouth of the river, waded up the shallow water of the lakeshore and overtook his enemies. Black Wolf was a prominent chief in the history of the Winnebagoes in Wisconsin during the early 1800s.

Opened in June of 1988, the layout featured an 18-hole course, with an additional nine added to the Meadow Valleys course in July 1989 and the fourth nine completed in August of 1990. Both courses have consistently won awards and have been ranked as among the top public courses in the world.

The course hosted the United States Golf Association in 1998 for the Women's Open Championship. The event was won by 20 year old Se Ri Pak in a playoff over Jenny Chuasiriporn.

In 1995, the River Course was selected as site of the Andersen Consulting World Championship of Golf, the precursor to the current WGC events. The U.S. portion of the event was won by Mark McCumber. The following year, the event returned to the River Course, and Greg Norman captured the International section of the Championship. When the Championship returned in 1997, Ernie Els defeated Steve Elkington in the title match of the International bracket.

The Wisconsin Section of the PGA previously held the Open at Blackwolf Run in 1991, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007.

The State Open is played over 72 holes with 18 holes Monday, 18 holes Tuesday and the low 60 plus ties qualify for the final 36 holes on Wednesday. The event is open to any legal resident of the State of Wisconsin, golf professionals working as such within the state, PGA professionals working as such within the

Wisconsin Section, PGA and all exempt players.

Qualifying for the 2009 Open was held at Wild Ridge GC, Trappers Turn, Trout Lake GC, Thornberry Creek, Geneva National, Pine Hills CC, Tuckaway CC and The Oaks GC.

In 2008 at Eau Claire Golf & Country Club Ryan Helminen of Appleton survived a shaky 15th hole and birdied two of his last three to win the Wisconsin State Open. The assistant pro at Sentry World in Stevens Point went into Wednesday's two rounds with a 2-stroke lead and opened the day with a 1-under 70. In the final round, he hung on for a 72 after salvaging a bogey on the 15th hole.

Helminen's total of 5-under 279 was good enough for a 4-stroke victory over Patrick Stolpe, an Oostburg native now from Scottsdale, Ariz., and Mike Johnston, from Milwaukee.

This year's open will challenge the states best players as only the Dye design can. Spectators are welcome and entry is free so take some time and enjoy a beautiful summer day seeing this gem of a golf course and you might just see some great golf shots along the way! 🌿

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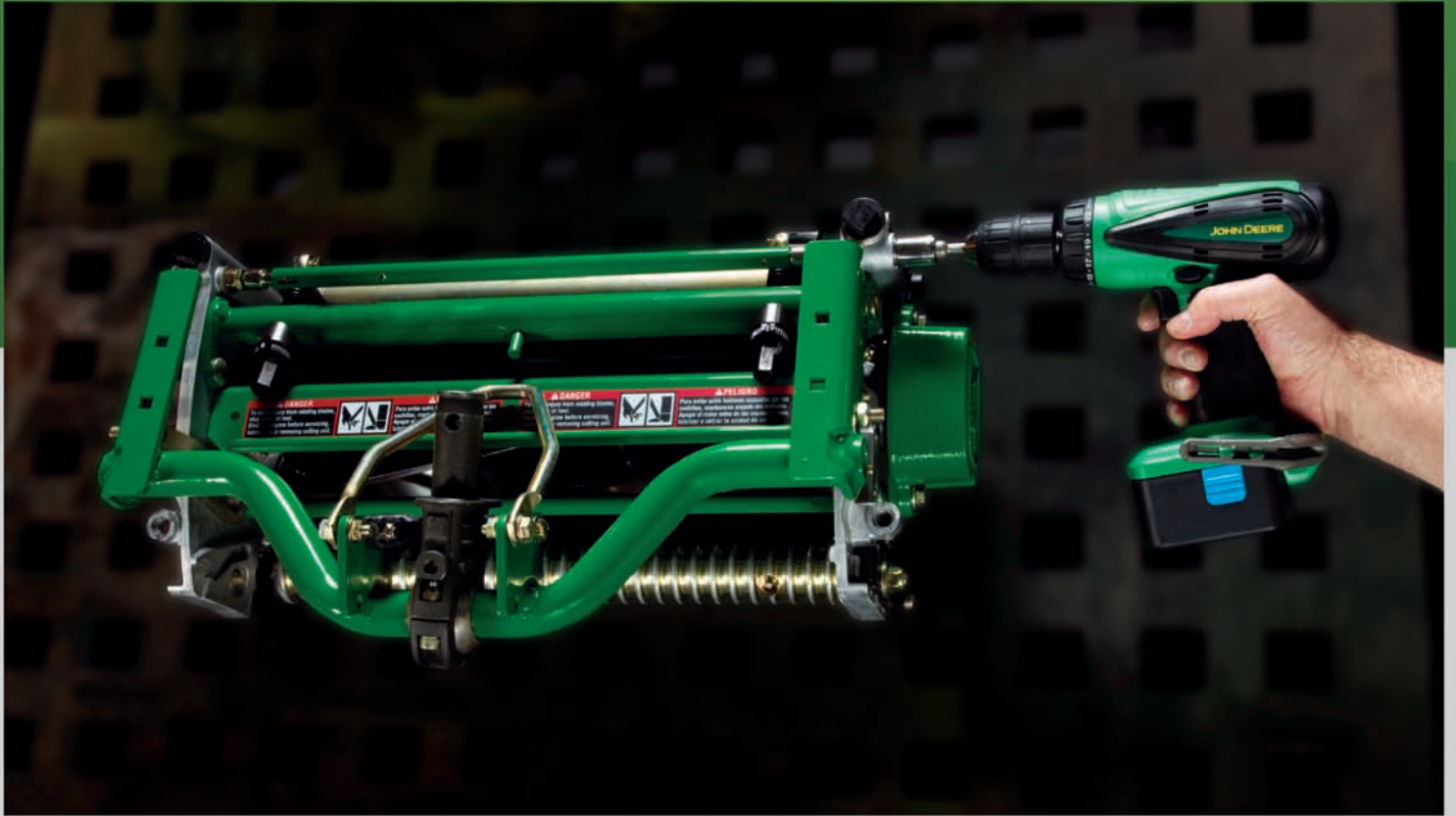
 

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