



Member Offers

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

With the US Bank Championship at Brown Deere Park Golf Course in Milwaukee July 13 to the 19th it is a good time to review the tournament entry benefits granted GCSAA members.

Complimentary admission to designated golf events is a privilege of membership intended for only those who carry the appropriate valid GCSAA membership card bearing their name. The tournament admission benefits listed below are to be used as a general guideline. Prior to attending any tournament event, GCSAA recommends that members contact the tour's tournament office at the course where the event is to be held in order to verify that specific tournament's admission policy. As of February 1, 2009:

- PGA TOUR (Champions Tour, Nationwide Tour and World Golf Championship events included). Complimentary grounds admission to all PGA TOUR, Champions Tour, Nationwide Tour and

World Golf Championship events is available for all GCSAA Class AA, Class A, Class A-Retired, Superintendent Member, and Superintendent Member-Retired members and their immediate families, when they present a valid gold membership card, along with a picture ID. Cards should be presented at the admission gates.

- The Masters (Augusta National). The governing body at Augusta National has extended complimentary daily admission to include all Class A, A-Retired, and AA Life members possessing a valid gold membership card. You are required to present your current gold GCSAA membership card along with your driver's license at the Will Call booth each day to gain admission.
- PGA of America (PGA Championship and Senior PGA Championship events included). The PGA of America has extended complimentary grounds

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admission to all Class AA, Class A, Class A-Retired, Superintendent Member, Superintendent Member-Retired, Class C and Class C-Retired members and accompanying spouses. Members must present a current gold membership card and photo identification. Spouses must also present a photo ID. Juniors (17 and under) will be admitted into the Championships FREE of CHARGE when accompanied by a ticketed adult. Each adult may bring up to two (2) complimentary Juniors. Junior tickets may be purchased at the Main Spectator Gate and each Junior will have the same level of access as the ticketed adult.

- USGA (All USGA Championships). Complimentary grounds admission to all USGA Championships is available to Class AA, Class A, A-Retired, Superintendent Member and Superintendent Member-Retired members. Complimentary admission to all events, except the U.S. Open, will also be offered to the spouse or guest of these members. To receive a complimentary daily admission, members should park at general parking and take the complimentary shuttle to the Will-Call facility, where they will present their valid gold GCSAA membership card and another form of picture identification. This procedure will need to be followed each day of the championship that the member wishes to attend.
- At the U.S. Open, children age 12 and under will gain complimentary access on a daily basis when accompanied by a credentialed (tickets or badges) adult. Youths age 13-17 will be able to purchase reduced rate tickets when accompanied by a credentialed adult.
- At the Senior Open, Women's Open, U.S. Amateur and Walker Cup, youths age 17 and under will be allowed complimentary admission on a daily basis when accompanied by an adult ticket holder. Junior tickets can be obtained at Will Call or the main spectator entrance of each Championship.
- LPGA Tour. The LPGA Tour honors all current gold and green membership cards.

 GCSAA's Government Relations Committee joined members of the board of directors, staff and representatives from 10 allied golf associations in Washington, D.C., May 13, for National Golf Day. The coalition of golf leaders met with members of Congress and their staffs to bring a united message of the industry's very significant economic and social contributions. The committee also held its annual meeting while in Washington.

In addition to focusing on the National Golf Day message of the industry's contributions, the committee also pushed for passage of the H-2B Visa "returning workers" legislation.

At the committee meeting, members began crafting the 2010 Priority Issues Agenda, which outlines the association's legislative and regulatory priorities, along with the associated position statements. The committee also held a strategic discussion on steps that the golf industry as a whole can take now and in the future to address recent anti-golf sentiments in the media and with Congress. The group shared ideas on how to engage golf allies and other potential stakeholders to advance the key "golf is valuable" messages throughout the year.

"The amount of policy that the GCSAA Government Relations committee discussed this year in D.C. was staggering," said committee member John C. Madden Jr. "At our roundtable with the other allied golf organizations to recap our Hill visits, it was illustrated to me that - while there is always room for improvement in defining a unified clear message of our industry - golf's presence on the Hill is now known.

More information about the meetings can be found at GCSAA.org

 If you have a need to learn some new skills, prepare for a presentation or just need some education points GCSAA offers "GCSAA ON DEMAND" Webcast sessions.

Each presentation is available at the member price of \$45 and awards 0.2 education points for completion. Registration is available online in the education section of gcsaa.org, by calling GCSAA's Finance & Member Solutions at 800-472-7878 or by returning the fax back form. You may also download an evaluation form you can return after participating to receive your education points.

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You can start planning now for the 2010 Golf Industry Show in San Diego. The interactive Web site www.golfindustryshow.com launched this week with information about the new two-day schedule for 2010, USGA joining the show partnership, and schedules for the event, Feb. 10-11, plus links to the concurrent education conferences of GCSAA, CMAA and NGCOA.

Throughout the months leading up to San Diego, additional information will be added, such as the full exhibitor listing, housing information, and complete hour-by-hour schedules.

The Golf Industry Show is an innovative trade show designed for the owners/operators of golf facilities and the professional members of the golf course and club management industries. The event combines education, networking and solutions for golf course superintendents, owners, operators, club managers, chief operating officers, architects and builders.

The Golf Industry Show is presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) and Club Managers Association of America (CMAA), along with participating partners Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA), American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) and the National Golf Foundation (NGF).

The USGA will join the Golf Industry Show beginning in 2010 as a participating partner.

In addition to the inclusion of the USGA, the Golf Industry Show will follow an enhanced format in 2010. Based on feedback from attendees and exhibitors, the schedule will be modified so that all events (education conferences and trade show) are held on weekdays. Responding to member and exhibitor desires to preserve more



San Diego offers show attendees a world of recreational opportunities.

of their weekends, the trade show portion of the event will be conducted Wednesday and Thursday (Feb. 10-11), with virtually no competing events. GCSAA, NGCOA and CMAA education will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Friday, with CMAA education continuing through Saturday. In addition to the inclusion of the USGA, the Golf Industry Show will follow an enhanced format in 2010. Based on feedback from attendees and exhibitors, the schedule will be modified so that all events (education conferences and trade show) are held on weekdays. Responding to member and exhibitor desires to preserve more of their weekends, the trade show portion of the event will be conducted Wednesday and Thursday (Feb. 10-11), with virtually no competing events. GCSAA, NGCOA and CMAA education will be held on Monday, Tuesday and

Friday, with CMAA education continuing through Saturday.

Tradeshows Week magazine has listed the 2008 Golf Industry Show in Orlando as the 77th largest trade show. *Tradeshows Week* compiles data submitted from trade shows and ranks the 200 largest annual trade shows in the United States. Rank is determined by net square feet of paid exhibit space. There are approximately 3,500 trade shows that occupy 5,000 square feet or more of exhibit space each year in the United States.

Overall attendance at the 2008 Golf Industry Show in Orlando was a record 25,737, and there were a record 10,553 qualified buyers - those who can directly influence a purchase decision. The trade show itself was the largest ever with 965 companies represented with exhibits covering a record 300,900 square feet. 



State Amateur at Merrill Hills

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. One of Wisconsin's biggest tournaments each season is the Wisconsin State Amateur hosted by the Wisconsin State Golf Association.

The 108th Wisconsin State Amateur will be held at Merrill Hills Country Club in Waukesha July 20 to 23. Set in the picturesque hills of Waukesha the club which opened in 1929 plays 6,728 yards from the back tees.

The golf course offers a visually appealing layout as it routs through some terrific rolling terrain. The fairways are lined with trees to add to the beauty, challenge and privacy of each hole. Many of the greens slope from front to back so they receive shots well, while leaving no easy putts. The raised bunker pads allow for some deep greenside bunker shots to challenge even the best of players.

For its members the club offers a 24 acre practice area with 3 putting greens and 2 chipping areas. The range tee is large and reminiscent of a resort course in size, however it sees a lot of activity as the members work on their games.

Merrill Hills offers a full service clubhouse for dining, a pool with water park features, and tennis courts to round out the members experience.

The club reportedly came to its location due to a dead cow. Golfer and insurance agent Earle Hardy went out to the then Decatur and Margaret Merrill Farmstead to investigate a dead cow and observed the property would make a wonderful golf course. 7 years after that visit the 160 acre farm was purchased by a group of



The range tee and two target greens at Merrill Hills.

golfers from Waukesha looking for a new place to play.

Originally called Waukesha Country Club the layout designed by member C. H. Hardy legally changed its name to the Merrill Hills Country Club in 1936. The first superintendent, Fred Peters had been a mechanical engineer at Alloy Products before operating the club from 1930 to 1944. No superintendent is known from 1945 to 48 and other keepers of the green include Albert Decker 49-60, Frank Maurina 71-75 (WGCSA President while at Tripoli County Club in 1960), Jack Soderberg 76-85, Dan Bauer 86, Mike Kositske 87-91 and current superintendent Randy Van Fleet who started in 1992.

Certified Golf Course Superintendent Randy Van Fleet grew up in Columbus, WI and found

his way into the golf business by way of his summer job at the 9 hole Columbus Country Club. Randy enjoyed playing the game and graduated from the University of Wisconsin Madison in 1982. Before arriving at Merrill Hills Van Fleet was the golf course superintendent at Quincy Country Club in IL.

Randy and his wife Cara and three children make their home in Muskego. His current hobby include his kids as playing golf takes a bit of back seat while he enjoys the many activities his family is involved in.

To enter the 72 hole stroke play event players need have a USGA index of 9.4 or under to qualify at one of 9 qualifying tournaments or be one of the approximately 36 exempt players based on past championships and amateur play.



The 484 yard 13th at Merrill Hills will play as a par 4 for the Amateur players.

This year qualifying sites include District 1 - Drugans Castle Mound GC, Holmen and River Falls GC, River Falls, District 2 - Lake Arrowhead GC Pines, Nekoosa, District 3 - Johnson Park GC, Racine, District 4 - Legend at Bergamont, Oregon, District 5 - Golf Club at Camelot, Lomira, District 6 - Hawthorn Hills GC, Saukville, Western Lakes GC, Pewaukee, Muskego Lakes CC Muskego. Players must qualify in the district of their home course unless providing a good reason why they cannot do so.

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. The Sinnissippi cup gets its name because the first amateur in 1901 was played at the Sinnissippi Country Club which is now the Janesville Country Club.

Players not only compete for the Sinnissippi Cup but

any WSGA member golf club with three qualifiers can compete for the Yule Cup. The Yule Cup is given to the winning three man team after the first 36 holes of play. Merrill Hills members won the Yule Cup in 1967 when the course hosted the Amateur for the first time.

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 Old Hickory Golf Club in Beaver Dam Ben Bendtson of Racine Country Club finished 7 under par and defeated Danny Zimmerman of Hawks Landing Golf Club in a 2 hole playoff.

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 playing the best golf courses Wisconsin has to offer. I hope to see you there. 🌿

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As Spring Changes to Summer

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

Congratulations to Shane Griffith for being named a Outstanding senior student at the University of Madison College of Life Sciences (CALs). Griffith a senior in the Department of Soil Science and in the Turf and Grounds Management Program was given the award in early May.

Dean of CALs, Molly Jahn introduced Shane at the awards ceremony with this praise: "Shane had a very impressive undergraduate career. He served as the Badger Turf and Grounds Club President and participated in numerous internships, one of which was with Torrey Pines Golf Course where he helped prepare the course for the U.S. Open. Shane also led a group of UW-Madison students in a national competition for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Shane's outstanding academic performance and engagement in professional pursuits provides an outstanding model for future students."

Dr. Doug Soldat states "I know I speak for the other turfgrass faculty members and all in the industry who've had the pleasure of working with Shane when I say that we are very proud to see him recognized for his accomplishments. Shane plans to graduate in January 2010, and will continue in the Department of Soil Science working towards a Masters Degree on a project intended to improve the economic and environmental sustainability of sod production using municipal biosolids. Congratulations Shane, and keep up the good work!"

Congratulations also go to Patrick Bastron who authored this month's Badger Turf and Grounds Club Column for receiving a United States Golf Association Green Section Internship for 2009. Patrick a Senior at University of Wisconsin Madison under Dr. John Stier will have the opportunity to travel with a USGA Agronomist for one week this summer. He will travel on the Turf Advisory Visits and receive hands on experience from not only the Agronomist but also the staffs of the golf courses they visit.

Pat is from Pleasant Prairie, WI is currently the Vice President of the Badger Turf and Grounds Club and interned at Interlachen Country Club in 2008.

We have a lot of talented young people in the Badger State as we congratulate Morgan Millies for receiving a GCSAA 2009 Joseph S. Garske Collegiate Grant

Millies, from Big Bend, Wis., earned the \$1,000 third-

place scholarship. She will attend the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse as a pre-med student. Her father, Jeffrey Millies, CGCS, is a 24-year GCSAA member and is the GCSAA Class A superintendent at Edgewood Golf Course in Big Bend, Wis. Jeff also serves as the WGCSA board of directors as Treasurer.

The Garske Grant was established in honor of Par Aide company founder Joseph S. Garske. It is funded by Par Aide and administered by The Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of

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GCSAA. The program assists children of GCSAA members to fund their education at an accredited college or trade school. The grant is renewable for a second year with proof of enrollment and a grade point average of 2.0 or higher.

You may be receiving this issue a little later than normal. This tardiness of this issue is my fault. Thanks to the writers for getting things in on time, but I am the one dragging my feet. Family and work come before volunteer activities and it is amazing how busy we can get in our lives. It's not like we are running the country or even the state but we still seem to fill our days up with activities.

Our families year of change continues as our oldest, Kayla graduates from high school. I am just the cheap labor while my wife planned for hours and hours to pull off her grad party last weekend. It seems like such a simple thing, haul some food, buy some drinks and people will show up. But every little thing takes time and effort. We are lucky to have great family and friends to help or I think we would still be cleaning up the shelter where we had the party.

It's hard to believe I am the father of a 18 year old. How can I be so old? They say time flies when you're having fun! Fun times or stress times, life moves by pretty fast. Next week we have registration at college and before long she will be a resident of UW Green Bay. Far enough to miss her, but close enough to visit her when we want.

The year of change also continues at work with one big change that is going successfully. My management style and structure has always been hands on to a fault. 99% of the time I ran the crew, assigned first and second and third jobs every day, while James filled in when I left or was busy. That worked for the most part but left my time overstretched and James in a uncomfortable spot of trying to decipher what I wanted when I was not there for those many

reasons golf course managers are doing something else.

Despite the best of plans and intentions, reality shows at a busy medium budget daily fee golf course we fly by the seat of our pants while trying to get more done with less. Planning and communication is a goal but not always used to its full potential.

Starting this spring, James runs the crew on a daily basis and I fill in when he is unavailable as is common at many clubs. I think I have done a good job biting my tongue when something is not "how I would of done it", although it bothers me to give up some control and actually delegate. In the long run this will be more efficient for our operation and better for the customers.

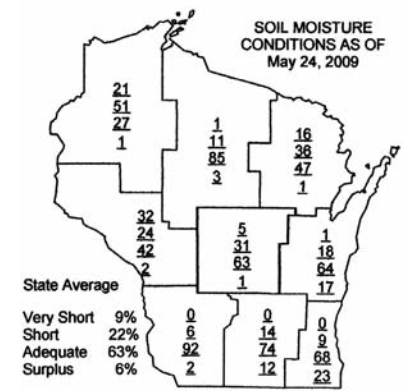
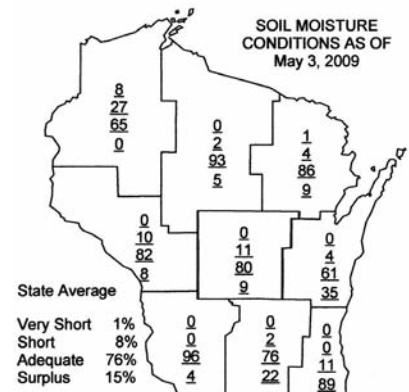
My personal year of change continues with a date at the tattoo parlor. (Don't read that Mom!) Kayla is 18 and was going to get "tatted" with our without me so we are going together much to the chagrin of Mrs. Brandenburg who thinks we are nuts. Just to recap, I jumped in Lake Michigan on New Year's Day, tried a beard for a few weeks and now a tattoo. That's not nuts, just a little mid-lifish. Besides it is all cheaper and safer than a new Harley or sports car!

I am not sure I like spring weather anymore! Although our course came through with less damage than last year we still had an unacceptable amount of dead grass this spring. Green damage was mainly caused by freeze thaw cycles again, and had no rhyme or reason to it as in 2008. Some of the holes we cleared the snow and ice off in midwinter had damage while others did not and at the same time some holes we did nothing to had damage while others did not. On the positive side we did not lose much bent this year as it seems only the *poa annua* died.

Outside of a couple low areas with ice damage most of the

fairway damage was from snow mold. We have never treated for snow mold and usually have little damage from this disease. However the large amount of damage this season forces us to consider our treatment options. Throw a second cold wet spring with slow green up on top of the damage and I am still looking at unhealed spots on May 30! Bob Vavrek if your reading this, why does the *poa annua* germinate on the gravel cart paths and come up with a terrific vigor but will not pop on the fairways or greens?

I think we have had four seasons some days this spring as we have had snow, wind rain and 60 degree sunshine all on the same day. From the attached Soil Moisture Conditions courtesy of the USDA



National Agricultural Statistics Service you can see soil moisture has been adequate for most of the state in May with some areas experiencing surplus water and others dry conditions.