

there was no difference between the 0.5 lb and the 1.0 lb/M rate. November applications did not respond at all in the sand based root zone but did green up nicely in the silt loam soil, suggesting fertilizer loss through leaching from November treatments on sand. While we will continue to investigate the effects of fall applications of fertilizer to putting greens and other types of turf, the following conclusions can be made:

- Don't expect miracles from fall-applied N. Color will improve slightly in fall and spring but the N will not increase root production, photosynthesis, or make any lasting impact on quality. The same spring and fall color responses can probably be achieved through much smaller applications than are currently being applied by most managers.
- Avoid high application rates in fall, as the turf is only able to absorb small amounts of N during this time. Some N will be lost over winter and early spring, and the remaining N will stimulate a flush of shoot growth in the spring at the expense of root development. We watched this happen in the

field in Madison and St. Paul.

- Based on our research findings, the best strategy for golf courses that currently practice spoon feeding is to maintain the spoon feeding program into mid-October.
- For taller cut turf, or turf that is fertilized with granular fertilizers, managers should avoid applying more than 0.5 lbs N/M past mid-October. Prior to this time, applications up to 1.0 lbs N/M continue to be suitable, especially if slow-release N is included.

(Note: We are proud to announce that Dan Lloyd completed his Master's Degree in August and has moved on to the University of Missouri where he will be a turfgrass research technician for Dr. Xi Xiong. His literature review and full research reports are in fact very interesting and worth a read if you find yourself in disbelief right now. To get a copy or for other questions concerning this article feel free to contact Doug Soldat at djsoldat@wisc.edu, office phone: 608-263-3631.)

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Love/Hate

By **Jake Schneider**, Assistant Superintendent Blackhawk Country Club

Like any self-respecting man, give me a list and you give me happiness. I hope that you enjoy the following uncomprehensive list about the love/hate relationships that are commonly found in this profession. 🌿

Love

- Mother Nature: She's a beautiful young lady who provides us with ample rainfall, abundant sunshine, and makes this job sooo much easier.
- Chainsaws: It's a real shame that chainsaws got such a bad rap from countless horror films. Rather than fearing for my life, I think of increased sunlight and airflow, decreased disease and competition from tree roots, and no more mountains of leaves in the fall.
- Golfers: I don't know about you, but without them, I wouldn't be getting paid. If Blackhawk had a packed tee sheet everyday, there would be one less thing to worry about. And, is there anything better than a golfer telling you how nice the course is looking; they're always so complimentary.
- October-March: Oh, the offseason. Sweet, sweet offseason— a time to kick back and decompress from the grind of the season.
- April-September: After a long winter of shop work and preparation, I'm ready to get back outside and see some green for the first time in months.
- Summer Help: What a welcome relief it is when school is out for the year and the kids start showing up. Finally, I have some bodies to do all of the work that I haven't had the labor for in spring.
- Golf Pros: Always working hard to make our jobs easier.*

Hate

- Mother Nature: She's a cruel old woman who thinks that weeks without rain, straight-line winds, and endless freeze/thaw cycles are downright hilarious. She makes my job a whole lot more difficult than it needs to be.
- Trees: If I wanted to be shaded in the summer, I would be holed up in some little cubicle in an office building. And, when I play Blackhawk, I hit more punch shots than I do regular ones, and I don't like to blame my mediocre game for this sad, sad fact.
- Golfers: Not replacing their divots, hitting more than one ball when you're obviously waiting to get some work done, driving their carts in every place that they shouldn't be, and constantly coming up with GREAT ideas to improve the course.
- October-March: First, I have to deal with working outside in the subarctic temperatures, and then, when I'm inside, I'm worrying about how the turf is holding up under the ice skating rinks that are now my greens.
- April-September: Early mornings. Late nights. Stressed. Ugh..is it fall yet?
- Summer Help: Is it really that difficult to follow directions? I'd be better off doing just doing this myself. Boy, am I glad that I was never like that (that may be stretching the truth).
- Golf Pros: Nothing bad to say about them.**

*kidding

**a blatant lie



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Mid Term Report

By **Brett Grams**, Chapter Manager, WGCSA

By the time you are reading this article fall (at least on the calendar) will have arrived. Labor Day is over, the kids have now settled back into the school routine, and the golf season for most of us is coming to an end. I hope the year was a good one for all of you and your operations.

The end of October will mark the end of my first 6 months as chapter manager. Like you, my summer season was a busy one with several large projects now near completion. It has been an enjoyable start to my efforts with the WGCSA. I have learned many things about the association and the important items that are being finished prior to ending our year.

I am happy to report that the new website will soon be ready for your use. We have updated many parts of the site and I am excited for all of

you to give it a try. I am sure there will be some bugs and issues to iron out but with the expertise of EPIC Creative we will soon have a website that will be as functional and helpful as technology allows for our membership.

The other large effort I have been working on will also be completed soon. The board of directors will be deciding on the final offerings of advertising, marketing, and sponsorship opportunities for our valued affiliate membership for next year. We have reviewed all the potential partnership opportunities and are creating three unique levels of partnership that will allow companies of all sizes to showcase their products, services, and dedication to the WGCSA members in a more streamlined and efficient manner.

Currently I am working on new member recruitment. It is my hope

to reach as many of the Superintendents in Wisconsin that are not members of our great organization and provide them with the information and benefits to becoming a member. Do you know a Superintendent that is not a member? Do you have a valued Assistant that may want to join? Is your favorite salesperson a proud member or the WGCSA? I would be happy to reach these potential members. Please contact me with any and all suggestions.

If I can be of any service to you please contact me at your convenience! I would be happy to help you with any chapter related issues.

Brett welcomes your comments and questions and can be reached at 920-643-4888 or bg.wgcsa@charter.net 

Welcome New Members

Jeremy Amosson, Bishops Bay Country Club, A

Shannon Barstow, Monona Golf Course, SM

Heather Henning, Racine Country Club, C

Mathew Matenaer, Focus on Energy, E

Scott Harris, Harris Yamaha Golf Cars, E

David Hassel, Brighton Dale Golf Course, A

Brendan Dolan, Westmoor Country Club, C

Geoff Jordan, Black Bear Golf and Tennis, SM

Andrew Ascher, UW River Falls, S

William Humphres, McHenry County Club, A

Lee Suwalski Jr, Kettle Hills Golf Course, C

Christopher Zugel, Whistling Straits, SM

Cory Kluge, Shamrock Heights Golf Club, A

Barton Scarborough, Devils Head Resort, A



Short but Sweet Field Day

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

Summer Field Day 2009 started out perfect. The sky was cloudy, providing a nice break from the summer sun, temperature was 68 degrees, and winds were gentle. The 226 attendees and 60 vendors were having a great morning before rain shortened the day. Rain was predicted to start about 3:00 p.m. but decided to make an early arrival at lunchtime. The rain put an end to the afternoon trade show as vendors and attendees alike headed for their cars. The day was still a success as the morning research tour and an hour of trade show only time were completed, and everyone had grabbed their lunch and were under the tent before rain started. One of the vendors in the trade show summed it up perfectly commenting that field day was, "Short but sweet."

However, not everyone left after the rain started. A very successful lawn care training workshop took place inside the Noer Facility during the afternoon. The workshop cost an extra fee but sold out for the second year in a row. Topics that were covered in the workshop included identifying and managing weeds, diseases and insects in turf. It also included calibration of sprayers and spreaders.

The lawn care workshop was a nice complement to all the information that was presented during the morning research tour. Twelve turfgrass research sta-

tions were highlighted during the tour. Talks focused on golf, home lawn, athletic field, and sod production turf. The list of research topics included:

- Cutless® PGR for controlling *Poa annua* in Fairways
- Velvet Bentgrass Nitrogen Type and Rate Evaluation
- Rainwater Harvesting and Subsurface Drip Irrigation on Turfgrass
- Development of Dollar Spot Forecasting Model
- Primo MAXX® Effects on Fertilization and Growth Regulation
- Residual Activity of Acelepryn for Control of Black Cutworm in Low Cut Creeping Bentgrass
- JumpStart® Kentucky Bluegrass for Lawn and Sports Turf
- Velvet and Creeping Bentgrass Management for Shaded Putting Greens
- Grasses for Sustainable Landscapes
- Uptake and utilization for Fall-Applied N to Soil and Sand-based Putting Greens
- Non-traditional Fungicide Timing for Control of Snow Molds and Dollar Spot on Wisconsin Golf Courses
- Effectiveness of Early-Season Fungicide Programs for the Control of Dollar Spot



Birds eye view of Field Day during the morning trade show.

Following the research tour came one hour of trade-show-only time. The trade show included 28 companies displaying turf equipment, supplies, and services to improve everyone's turf management. The sales representatives were helpful in discussing all aspects of their products and services. The list of exhibitors is mentioned here. Please be sure to give them your business and thank them for helping to support Field Day.

Although shortened by the rain, Field Day 2009 filled all attendees' appetites for new turf knowledge. This year's WTA Summer Field Day provided many new ideas to help us manage our properties. 

**2009 Wisconsin Turfgrass Association
Summer Field Day Exhibitors**

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| BASF | Kenne Enterprises |
| Bayer | L T Rich Products |
| Burris Equipment Company | McFarlanes |
| Capstan Ag Systems | Midwest Turf Products |
| Contree Sprayer & Equipment | Midwest Turf Specialties |
| Deer Creek Seed | Pauls Turf & Tree Nursery |
| DHD Tree & Turf | Pendelton Turf Supply |
| Dow AgroSciences | Reinders |
| Floratine Turf Products | Spring Valley |
| Frontier FS | Syngenta |
| Greater Earth Organics | UAP |
| GreenJacket | Valent |
| Horst Distributing | Waupaca Sand & Solutions |
| John Deere Golf | Wisconsin Turf Equipment |



Field Day attendees listen to Dr. Soldat and Bill Kreuser.



Seasons Bring Change

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

Be sure to check out the Personality Profile of Brett Grams the new WGCSA Chapter Manager in this issue. Most of you know Brett from his time at Waupaca Country Club and Waupaca Sand and Solutions and will have the opportunity to work with him in his new position.

As a Past President of the WGCSA I commend President Riley and the Board of Directors for acting on the idea of chapter management after other boards only talked about it. We have a great association and have had a great relationship with the Wisconsin State Golf Association office. Unfortunately the association lost so much efficiency and information each time the board turned over, as new superintendent volunteers tried to get up to speed on important committees. Then as soon as everyone was comfortable with their tasks it was time for a new election, and board members moved on to new committee assignments. Brett will be able to lesson the learning curve and allow the board to focus on guiding the association rather than doing busy work.

The other loss for the association was board member turnover as the time commitment was too much for superintendents, and they choose to leave the board to focus on responsibilities with family and work. With Brett's organizational skills and industry knowledge, future boards will continue to lead the association but with greater efficiency and skill but less time away from other priorities.

Congratulations Brett, you will do great.

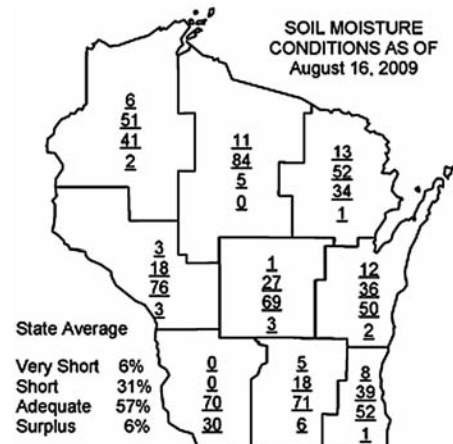
Although dry, the September weather has offered the summer we never had. Warm temps with ample sunshine have helped golf courses complete fall maintenance and recover some golf rounds with beautiful weekends.

The Fond du Lac area has not had rain since August 28 or 22 days running. Even more unbelievable we only had one fully cloudy day that entire time after a cool and often cloudy August. Labor Day weekend was so sunny I had one young man (who no longer works for us) call in sick with sunburn! I am not sure how you can go spend an entire summer in the sun and then get sunburn in September when the days are short and the sun low on the horizon but he supposedly did.

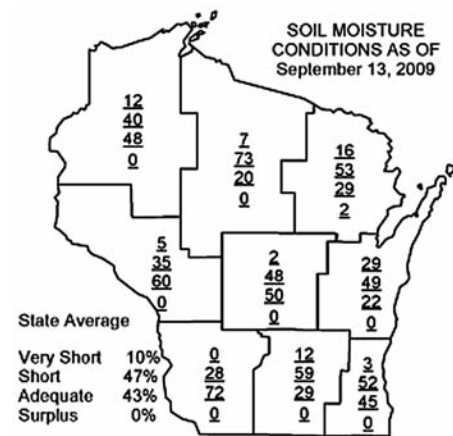
From the Wisconsin Crop Progress Report compiled by the Wisconsin Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service Aug 16 graphic only the mid north was suffering from widespread dry conditions in comparison to the September 13 graphic where 57% of the state was suffering from dry conditions. Hopefully October will balance out with gentle rains to prepare the trees and landscape for winter but allow a good harvest for farmer's crops.

Congratulations to Morgan Millies for receiving a GCSAA Legacy Award for \$1,500. 20 awards funded by the Environmental Institute for Golf and sponsored by Syngenta were given this year.

The awards are based on academic achievement, community involvement, extracurricular activities and leadership skills. Applicants must be enrolled full time at an



Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office



Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office

accredited institution of higher learning, or for high school seniors, accepted at such an institution for the next academic year.

Millies attends 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, WI. Jeff also serves as the WGCSA board of directors as Treasurer. You may remember Morgan recently won a GCSAA 2009 Joseph S. Garske Collegiate Grant. Mom and Dad must be proud!

Fall is a great time of year for golf course superintendents with cool nights and less stress to employees and the turfgrass. Temperatures, day-length and colors change rapidly in mid September to mid October as winter approaches.

My "year of change" continues both at home and at work. With Kayla off to college the house seems empty at times and even her brother misses her. Although with cell phones, facebook and texting it seems she is just across town for the day rather than over an hour away. She is getting acquainted with the campus, dorm life and many students at UW-Green Bay in comparison to Lomira High School. In ways it makes me miss my time at UW-Whitewater and wish I knew then what I know now about life. However, life does not offer do-overs; we can only use our experiences to guide our families and employees to make good decisions.

4 years of planning at work are coming to fruition as this season ends and the golf course and golf shop operations merge into one entity. Since 1972 Rolling Meadows has had a contractor golf professional and that system worked for years while revenue was plenty and expenses low. However in today's market we cannot afford to give up the profit from carts, range and golf shop sales to an independent contractor.

With change comes fear of the unknown and more stories and rumors than you can imagine from customers and staff. Jeremiah Hoffman who will take over as our Golf Professional covers some of that fear and conflict in a new *The Grass Roots* feature called "From the Golf Shop". The one key we have learned through the process is not to believe most of what you hear and constant communication is needed to keep the miss-information to a minimum.

By the time you read this we will be in the final full month of the 2009 golf season. October brings a mix of weather but overall is a great time to work normal hours and enjoy the changing season. Most of us are submitting budgets and plans for next year to be approved by boards, owners and investors. The economy will not improve overnight and some of us will face increased budget cuts and layoffs while some courses saw recovery in 2009 and are planning projects and equipment purchases.

Furlough has been a popular term in the press lately as all state workers have been forced to take them through the next two fiscal years. Furlough is just a fancy word for pay cut to professors and other professional state workers. They like many others will just have to work longer on the days they are working to make up for the days they are supposed to be off without pay.

Also on the negative is 24 hour operations like prisons and law enforcement will be forced to pay employees

overtime to fill in for employees on furlough. So we won't pay this employee \$20 an hour to work, but we will pay the other employee \$30 an hour to fill in. Then next week we can switch it around. Makes perfect sense to me.

Continued thanks to our contributors to *The Grass Roots*. This issue alone is filled with research that may change your common practices on the golf course. Dr. Stier on shade, Dr. Kerns on spots and Paul Koch on snow mold control or the lack of control in some cases will help us in our everyday jobs. Dan Lloyd and Dr. Soldat's work with Late Fall N applications will blow your mind if you have one left after Bill Kreuser simplifies why Primo used to be so unpredictable. These two graduate students have done excellent work, and are must reads.

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Superintendent / Guest Meeting at Ozaukee CC

By **Brett Grams**, Chapter Manager, WGCSA

On Monday September 17th morning rains welcomed the attendees of the annual Superintendent/ Guest meeting held at Ozaukee CC in Mequon, WI.

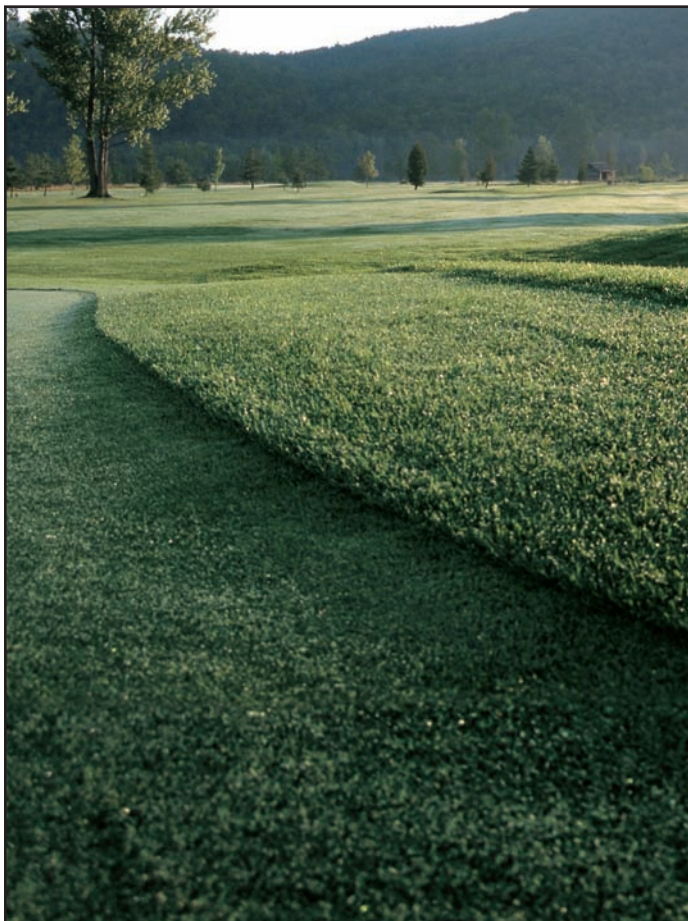
The morning rains were only a hindrance for Colin Seaberg and his staff as they prepared the course for play. The attendees were able to avoid the wet morning weather in the beautiful clubhouse as we listened to General Manager Scott Bertrand provide us with a brief history of the club and course. Mr. Bertrand explained that the club was incorporated in the early

1920's with the course opening for play in 1922. The architects were Langford and Moreau and the membership has left much of the courses original layout and features intact. Ozaukee CC has a rich history and has held many tournaments including the Western Open.

After Mr. Bertrand, I was able to give my presentation on the WGCSA. I talked about the "Past, Present, and Future of the WGCSA". The early history of the WGCSA is readily available in the "Caring for the Green" by Mr. Gene Haas. I used the book to summarize

some of the early history of our association. I then talked about the present happenings of the WGCSA. We certainly have grown from 30 members to over 420 members today. My presentation ended with me discussing some early work on the upcoming new website and I also explained the progress on the Industry Partner Program being created for the affiliate members.

After a great lunch buffet we headed out on the course and shortly after the shotgun start the sun began to shine showcasing the beautiful golf course. Ozaukee CC



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