the 13th in preparation for the event the following day. Mild temperatures greeted us in Brainerd on the 14th with some passing showers. A small but dedicated following observed the results and asked questions, mingled with other company representatives and took pictures, drank coffee and ate doughnuts.

Following the hour and a half long field day at Craguns Golf Resort in Brainerd, it was on the road again for the drive to Stevens Point, WI. Dr. Kerns and I met some of the other weary travelers at Hilltop Pub for dinner to shake off the rust of the long drive, and despite our sharp dress and agreeable demeanor were promptly led to a nearly empty back room. I can only assume the two older women in the room wished it was empty. The field day at Sentryworld in Stevens Point is always our best attended, and 2010 was no different. Sunny skies, unseasonably warm temperatures, and howling winds greeted the 28 attendees who made the trek from as far as away as Kansas City or as short as the maintenance facility (Figure 1). The presentations from Brainerd were repeated, and discussions on fungicide longevity and what is truly considered snow mold "breakthrough" followed.

After two hours and a hearty lunch in the Sentryworld clubhouse, it was back on the road for a scenic but long drive up to Marquette, MI. Most of the Mold Heads that made the trip up to Marquette somehow ended up in the same restaurant again for dinner on the night of the 15th, suggesting an almost spiritual connection that brings men together when traveling the upper Midwest looking for snow mold control. That or all the hotels in Marquette recommend the same restaurant. We went to bed that night after the sun had set with warm temperatures and a tinge of summer in the air. We woke up the next morning to 40 MPH winds and snow flurries, quickly

reminding us it was still mid-April, and mid-April in the U.P. at that. There is an inverse proportionality between the quality of the weather at a Field Day and the dogged determination of the attendees, and the field day at Wawonowin CC 20 minutes west of Marquette proved that. The small, frozen group that attended the final field day saw what no other attendees could say they saw, acceptable snow mold control in winter conditions so severe that on average snow is on the ground more than half the year. The discussion at Wawonowin revolved around two things, (1) how making both an early and late application can be very beneficial under intense disease pressure, and (2) the complete shock by several of the travelers how it can go from 70 degrees one day to snowing the next.

The trip back to Madison on Friday completed the journey that was the 2010 Snow Mold Field Days.

In total, the 1300 mile round trip required 23 hours on the road to complete. The Mold Heads traveled to the lake country of Minnesota, the central sands of Wisconsin, and the shores of Lake Superior. They experienced gentle rain showers, brutal winds, summer evenings, and winter mornings. They saw treatments provide excellent protection at one site, and the same treatment provide no protection at another. In their travels across the upper Midwest they saw what we all know, if you want consistency...move to San Diego.

Thanks to those who traveled to and attended the 2010 Snow Mold Field Days. The final research reports with pictures of each treatment can be found at the Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab's website (www.plantpath.wisc.edu/tdl) on the 'Research' page. Discussion and further interpretation of the results will be included in the July/August issue of *The Grass Roots*.





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100% seaplant extract, PanaSeá Plus is a major component throughout the Emerald Isle product line because no other natural material has been proven to provide so many plant benefits. The scientific evidence behind the benefits of seaplant extract for turf is overwhelming. PanaSeá Plus increases photosynthetic rate and capacity, chlorophyll content, antioxidant levels, cell wall strength, drought tolerance, heat tolerance, fungicide efficacy, salinity tolerance and root mass and length.

All foliars are liquids, but not all liquids are TrueFoliars. In other words, just because you're spraying it on doesn't mean you're spraying it in. TrueFoliar fertilizers are absorbed through transcuticular pores which are far more numerous than stomates and are responsible for foliar uptake of nutrients. TrueFoliars, with varying levels of seaplant extract, macro- and micro nutrients, are also effective when traditional fertilizer programs are not likely to be, in the heat of summer when roots aren't functioning well. Choose among 8 TrueFoliar products for maximum control of

There are lots of ways to get a spike in color for three days, but color that lasts is a clear sign of healthy turf - turf that is stress-tolerant and disease resistant. Fairway SeaQuential 6-0-2 is a combination of 47% PanaSea Plus, fulvic acid with sulfur and two chelated forms of Fe to give long lasting color, healthy turf and minimal top growth.



CPR

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TrueFoliar K

TrueFoliar Si

TrueFoliar Ca

TrueFoliar N-K Balance

TrueFoliar MgMn

Fairway SeaQuential

Fairway 30-0-0

GroWin

Fairway 30-0-0 offers turf managers advanced foliar available ammoniacal, nitrate, and urea nitrogen in addition to PanaSeá Plus that results in consistent nutrition throughout the summer without surge growth. Used in combination with Fairway SeaQuential, Fairway 30-0-0 masks growth regulator discoloration, decreases disease pressure, provides tight, consistent turf quality throughout the season and improves summer stress tolerance.

Whether dealing with new construction, reconstruction, or a small repair job, when it's necessary to reestablish turf quickly, absolutely nothing works as well as Emerald Isle's GroWin. GroWin speeds up initial plant growth and rooting by providing macro- and micronutrients in a matrix that supports the microbial activity associated with nutrient availability. Put quite simply, GroWin allows every plant to achieve its full genetic potential faster than any other product on the planet. The result is turf that is ready for play sooner - up to a month sooner. Also, for better divot repair, add one bag of GroWin per cubic yard of divot mix.



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# May 10th Wild Rock Meeting

By Brett Grams, WGCSA Chapter Manager

ur second monthly meeting of the year took us to the Wisconsin Dells.

The day was started off with a timely and informative presentation by our own Dr. Chris Williamson. Dr. Williamson provided details of his research on earthworms and ant control. These two common pests impact many of our golf courses in Wisconsin and beyond. The nuisance and surface disruption are a significant problem and Dr. Williamson shared his knowledge and his testing of multiple products to help with controlling the problems.

A tasty burger and brat lunch allowed for more discussion and conversation and then the golfers headed out on the course for the shotgun start. Wild Rock GC is the Championship Course located at the massive Wilderness Resort. Host Superintendent Mike Blazich had the golf course in fine condition for the 76 players in the event. Wild Rock GC is the four year old Mike Hurzdan designed golf course that uses the unique landscape of the WI Dells area. The course goes from hilly woodlands, to open meadows and even a hole located in an abandoned quarry.

The event was a two man best ball format and prizes were awarded for both gross and net team scores. The net division was close with two teams shooting an impressive score of 58. The team of Mark and Bruce Livingston edged out host Mike Blazich and Cubby O'Brien in the scorecard playoff. Taking third with a 61 was Tom Merkel and Don Schaefer. The Gross Division was won with Rob Johnson and Greg Mark shooting 73 and Dr. Kerns and Dr. Williamson shooting 74. Taking third was Aaron Goninen and Jake Schneider carding a 77. Thanks to our generous hole and event sponsors we were also able to award eight hole events to participants and 32 of the 38 teams participated in a voluntary net skins game. Six teams were able to cash in on the skins pot.

#### **Companies Sponsoring the Wild Rock Meeting:**

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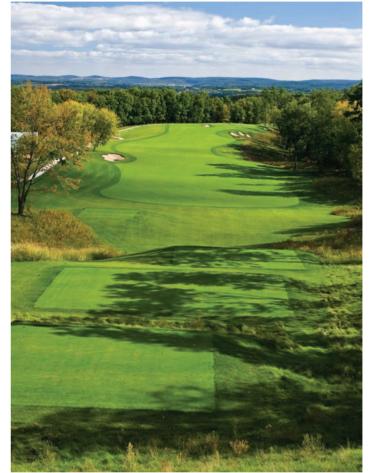
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What a view from the 6th Tee at Wild Rock GC



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# Pace of Play

By Jeremiah Hoffmann, Golf Professional, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

As the weather continues to improve (although as I write this it is 40 degrees and raining!) and we enter the outing and event season, it's a good time to think about course set up and pace of play. Golf Professionals and Superintendents can work together to improve pace of play through course set up.

Efforts can be made in a more permanent manner as well as individual event set ups. A big concern in today's "instant" society is pace of play. People do not want to be on the golf course for 5 hours, they just don't have that much time. The quicker they get

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around your facility, the more likely they are to return.

Sit down with your golf professional and discuss what you both see as potential bottle necks or areas of concern. Discuss changes to mowing and course marking practices that may make it easier for your players. For bigger events, try to choose easier pins and play the golf course a little shorter. Here is a simple list of items to discuss and keep in mind concerning pace of play.

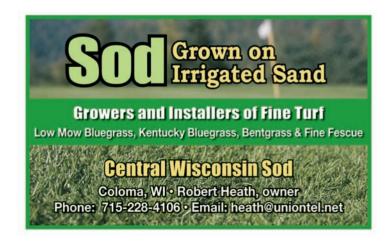
First, a couple things to remember about your customers in regards to pace of play:

- Everyone thinks they play fast
- It's always the group ahead of them that is causing all the problems
- They all believe they are better players than they are
- They all think they can hit the ball a lot further than they can

As for your golf course, a few things to discus:

- If you have gorse areas, are they coming into play too much
- Are the pins too difficult on a day-to-day basis
- Are the greens too fast for their undulation
- For larger events, consider playing par 5s a little longer. This makes fewer people wait to try and knock it on in 2
- For some events move the tee markers forward to shorten the course
- Set up your hardest holes as easy as they can be
- Keep water coolers, beverage carts and port-a-potties away from potential slow down areas

Hopefully you have a successful outing season and all your rounds will be played in four hours or less!





## A Season Upon Us

By Brett Grams, Chapter Manager, Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association

The golf season came to an earlier than normal start with some warmer and very dry weather in April. So far May showers and cool weather make me think Mother Nature has her months confused. What would our great state be like without this consistently inconsistent weather?

While most of you have been busy preparing your golf courses and dealing with weather extremes, I have been able to make it through my busiest time of the year. Membership renewals, the improved Members Handbook, finalizing the last of our Industry Partnership agreements, website updates and completing our inaugural PAR4 Research auction have kept me very busy since the start of the year. I am happy to report that overall things are proceeding nicely. The hard working WGCSA Board of Directors has allowed me to focus on these time consuming items and I will soon have some time to begin some new projects continually trying to improve day to day functions while hopefully making sure all members needs are addressed in a timely fashion.

I hope you enjoy our new look and color additions to the Members Handbook. The improvements to our annual directory could not have been accomplished without the generous advertisers! I cannot thank our generous Affiliate Member Companies who have utilized this new advertising opportunity along with the ads now featured on our website. These improvements would simply not be affordable without the revenues the ads generate. Please remember all of our Industry Partners as you make purchasing decisions and let them know you appreciate their dedication to our industry and chapter.

It is important to thank the PAR4 Research Auction Committee. Chairman Dustin Riley was successful in forming a dedicated team to plan, implement and execute a major new fundraiser for the WTA and UW Turfgrass Program. Please see the list of Committee Members and the generous donors of the first annual auction that came to completion on May 9th. Although the final financial records are a few days away I am happy to report that we expect our revenues after expenses to be close to \$9000.00. It is interesting to note that approximately 60 facilities donated rounds of golf this year. Currently, our 425 members represent approximately 285 clubs/courses. If we can encourage our current 21% participation rate to grow, the amount of funding can easily be four times or more what we were able to raise this year! We have already started to plan and improve our efforts for next year and all involved hope that more of our members will consider taking part in the future. We would enjoy hearing your feedback, suggestions and ideas on how to improve our efforts!

As we head into the summer months we have a great lineup of events if you are able to find some time to get away. The WIPGA will again organize and run our June event. The popular Super/Pro heads to Morningstar Golfers Club in Waukesha on June 8th. Superintendent Travis Krauklis and staff will be our hosts. Then on July 14th Mike Upthegrove will welcome us for a second meeting in recent years at Watertown CC. Hopefully rain will not be the major issue this time around. Also in July, you and your staffs are encouraged to attend the WTA Summer Field day on Tuesday July 27th. I have heard that the staff at the UW is planning some new changes for this year's event. Please be on the lookout for more information coming from the WTA in the promotion of the Field Day. Our participation has been up at our first two golf meetings compared to the past few years and I hope this momentum continues throughout the rest of the year.



#### CHAPTER CONVERSATION

Do you have a question for me? Do you need access to the Members Only portion of the website? Please contact me as needed so I can be of assistance. I will promptly reply back to emails sent to bgrams@wgcsa.com or feel free to call me at 920-643-4888.

#### 2010 PAR4Research Auction Committee Members Dustin Riley (Chair), Bryan Bergner, Jon Canavan, Brett Grams, Mark Grundman, Mark Kienert, Ben Pease, Jake Schneider, and Stacy Solberg

Course Name	City	ST	Superintendent
Abbey Springs GC	Fontana	WI	David Smith
American Legion GG	Wausau	WI	Todd Clendening
Autumn Ridge Golf Course	Valders	WI	Chad Harrington
Bass Lake CC			
Blackhawk Country Club			
Brown Deer Park GC	Milwaukee	WI	Jon Canavan
Bull's Eye CC			
Butte Des Morts CC	Appleton	WI	Steve Schmidt
Chenequa Country Club	Hartland	WI	Jim Shaw
Destination Kohler	Kohler	WI	Mike Lee
Drugan's Castle Mound			
Eau Claire Golf and CC			
Edgewood Golf Course	Big Bend	WI	Jeff Millies
Evergreen Golf Course	Elkhorn	WI	Bill Rogers
Fox Hollow Golf Course	LaCrosse	WI	Tim Chapman
Fox Valley Golf Club	Kaukauna	WI	Scott Bushman
Geneval National Golf Club	Lake Geneva	WI	Kevin Knudtson
Green Bay CC			
Greenwood Hills CC	Wangan	WI	Scott Sann
Hidden Glen Golf Club	Cedarhurg	WI	Scott Conley
Lauderdale Lakes GC	Elkhorn	WI	Chris White
Luck Golf Course	Luck	VV I	Seth Peterson
Mascoutin Golf Club			
Mid Vallee Golf Course	Danara	VV I	Pata VandaHay
Nakoma Golf Club	Madigan	VV I	Croid Holton
North Brook Country Club	I uxomburg	VV 1	Dovo Moroch
North Hills Country Club	Monomonoo Falle	VV I	Pandy Dunont
North Shore Country Club	Meguer	VV I	Carrot Luck
Oconomowoc Golf Club	Ocenemowses	VV I	Dugtin Dilor
Old Hickory Golf Club	Dogram Dam	W 1	Dustin they
Oneida Golf and CC	Croop Pov	W 1	Monte Ctonber
Oshkosh Country Club	Oahlragh	VV 1	
Ozaukee Country Club			
PGA Championship	Mequon	VV 1	Doog Not Apply
Prairie Woods Golf Course	Sileboygan	W 1	Dwg Harbigan
Prairie woods Golf Course	Avaion	W1	Bryan Harbison
Rhinelander Country Club	Kilmelander	W1	Dovid Providenburg
Rolling Meadows Golf Course	Fond du Lac	W1	David Brandenburg
Sentryworld GCShamrock Heights	Stevens Point	W1	Gary Tanko
South Hills CC	New London	W I	
	Spooner		
Spring Brook Golf Club	WI Dells	W1	Dar Mor
Stoughton Country Club	Stoughton	W1	Mark Livingston
The Bull at Pinehurst Farms	Sheboygan Falls	W1	Pat Shaw
The Club at Strawberry Creek			
Timber Ridge Golf Club			
Trappers Turn Golf Club			
Trout Lake Golf Club	Arbor Vitae	W1	Randy Swonger
Tuckaway Country Club	Franklin	WI	Jim Poitz
Two Oaks North			
Utica Golf Club			
Waupaca Country Club			
Westmoor Country Club			
Westridge Golf Course	Neenah	WI	Tom Bottensek
Zimmerman's Kettle Hills	Kichfield	W1	Jeremy Seiler





## Protect Conifers on Your Courses by Preventing Heterobasidion Root Disease

By Dr. Glen R. Stanosz, Departments of Plant Pathology and Forest and Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Editors Note, Dr. Stanosz joins us this month from the Forest and Wildlife Ecology area of the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconin Madison. His work with confers should be of interest to many golf course superintendents to ensure a healthy tree population. For more information Dr. Stanosz can be reached at 608-265-2863 or my e-mail at grs@plantpath.wisc.edu

#### Occurrence and spread

Heterobasidion root disease is among the greatest causes of damage to conifer forests throughout the world. Several closely related fungal species in the genus Heterobasidion cause this disease. One of these pathogens was found in Wisconsin for the first time in 1993, but by 2010 was known to be killing trees in at least 21 counties in central, southern, and western Wisconsin. More infestations are likely to be discovered each year. Trees most at risk in Wisconsin are pines, spruces, firs, Douglas-firs, and larches. Experience in other states indicates that trees in recreational areas (such as wooded portions of golf courses) can be affected, as well as those in forests. Infection centers often begin when wind-blown spores of the fungus land in recent wounds, such as freshly cut stump surfaces. Following stump colonization, the fungus spreads through interconnected root systems to attack other trees. Growth is reduced and trees eventually die. The pathogen persists for years in stumps and roots of killed trees, and can infect young trees planted in previously affected areas.

#### Disease symptoms and signs

Look for:

- groups of affected trees with dead trees in the center and dying trees around the margin;
- thin tree crowns with yellowish needles; reduced twig growth with tufting of needles branch tips;
- dried resin at bases of tree trunks and on roots;
- rotted stumps and roots with white to yellow, stringy decayed wood;
- fungus fruiting bodies low on stumps and trees; these vary in appearance from irregular, small, white bodies (that might resemble popcorn) to shelf-like brackets; fruiting bodies have brown upper surfaces, and white edges and lower surfaces with tiny pores; they may include twigs, needles, and leaves.

Identification of *Heterobasidion* pathogens requires recognition of fungal fruiting bodies or culture and microscopic examination. A qualified plant pathologist should be consulted. Because this serious disease is so new to Wisconsin, suspected cases should be reported.

#### **Prevention**

Control measures are directed toward **preventing** establishment of this root rot pathogen in new locations. The chemical borax has been used to prevent infection of conifer stumps that are not already colonized. Borax may be purchased and used for this purpose in the form of the EPA registered pesticides **SPORAX** (sodium tetraborate decahydrate) and **CELLU-TREAT** (disodium tetraborate decahydrate).

**SPORAX** is a powder can be applied from a can or jug with a perforated lid, resembling a large salt shaker.



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