



Ken Holthaus

industry and in developing the installation techniques that are in use today. Ken's career spanned the range of irrigation technology that began with the installation of center sod cup quick coupler systems through multiple row weather station/computer controlled systems we have today.

Through this career, Ken was involved in numerous golf irrigation projects and enjoyed the relationships that developed with the golf course superintendents and the other industry professional that he worked with.

I was first introduced to Ken in 1985 when I was employed at Reinders selling golf irrigation equipment. That meeting developed into a professional relationship that spanned 25 years and 35 golf projects.

For a young man trying to establish a consulting business, Ken was my ready reference. When I would encounter a design challenge, I could always count on Ken's vast experience to offer a solution. As golf course superintendent mentors an assistant, so Ken served as my mentor and became an even better friend.

Ken is survived by his wife Elaine, daughter Nancy, son Brad and four granddaughters. Our condolences go out to Ken's family, friends and the staff at Midwest Irrigation.

Ken will be missed.



Wisconsinites have plenty of opportunities to watch some great amateur and professional golf. The State Amateur, Junior and Wisconsin State Open are free to all spectators, while GCSAA members gain entry into the John Deere

Classic, The PGA Championship and the BMW Championship.

- 93rd Western Junior Championship - June 21-25, Blue Mound Golf and Country Club, Wauwatosa
- John Deere Classic - July 8-11, TPC Deere Run, Silvis, IL
- 109th Wisconsin State Amateur Championship - July 19-22, The Bull at Pinehurst Farms, Sheboygan Falls
- 92nd PGA Championship - August 9-15, Whistling Straits, Haven



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- Wisconsin State Open - August 23-25, The Legend at Bristlecone, Hartland
- BMW Championship (Former Western Open) - September 9-12, Cog Hill Golf and Country Club, Lemont, IL

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For those of you who did not have a chance to watch the exit polls on CNN the night of the Wisconsin spring election I did manage to win a seat on our local village board. So far it has been an enjoyable eye opening experience as I learn the many different facets of a small village.

You quickly gain a lot of respect for the employees we have and the many jobs the Village Clerk, Director of Public Works and Police Chief have to do as they keep an eye on the village and it's concerns. Even though it is a small community we have the same tasks and responsibilities of a large city, only without the staff.

I have been appointed to the Public Works Committee and have been named Weed Commissioner. I first thought that was due to my agronomic background and considered it an honor. I was quickly brought back to earth when I realized it's the job the give the "newbie" on the board. When the village receives a complaint about a

property not keeping the lawn mowed my job is to do an inspection and decide if the lawn is over 6".

If the lawn is over 6" tall I alert the village clerk to send the resident a letter of notice to mow the lawn in 5 days or have it mowed by village staff at the homeowner's expense. At least I don't have to mow the lawns!

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How did your facility fair in 2009? The warm fall gave some Wisconsin operators needed rounds and revenues to get through the winter. Year end numbers for the United States from Golf Datatech showed rounds were down by less than 1% which is considered a victory considering how the recession has affected other industries.

However, revenue was down nearly 6% as more rounds were sold at a discount in order to attract customers. Unfortunately all this happened as our prices continue to increase causing many operators to cut budgets and try to do more with less once again.

More courses closed nationwide than opened for the 3rd year in a row which is a good thing unless you worked at one of the closed courses. Industry estimates are that up to 1,000 more courses may close in the next 5 years. There is

no easy answer to the problems the golf industry is facing. Counting on early springs and rain only at night is not a feasible business plan.

Hopefully with proper planning and implementation we can make it through this challenge with better skills and the respect of our customers.

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One of my favorite quotes is "We judge others by their actions, but we judge ourselves by our intentions." It has been attributed to Ian Percy a motivational speaker but also as an American Proverb so I am not sure who originally penned it but I think it says volumes.

It is easy to do this as we mix our intentions with who we really are or how we really behave. However for us to be effective and respected leaders at our facilities we need to take a honest look at our actions as that is how our staff, customers and employers judge us.

Most of us have areas we can improve but we need to take a few moments to look at how we really perform and behave to truly judge ourselves.

Enjoy the early summer and good luck to you and your clubs as we enter the heart of the 2010 golf season. 🌱

Welcome New Members

Harrison Beal, Class C, Oconomowoc Golf Club

Chris Duoss, Class SM, Lauderdale Lakes Country Club

Dwight Zimmermann, Class SM, Kettle Hills Golf Club

Coming Events

July 12 Monday

Watertown CC, Watertown, Host - Michael Upthegrove

July 27 Tuesday, Summer Field Day

OJ Noer Research Facility, Verona

August 9 Monday, Oneida Golf and CC

Green Bay, Host - Mark Storby

September 20, Monday, Wee One Fundraiser

Pine Hills C.C. Sheboygan, Host - Rod Johnson

October 8 & 9, Couples Weekend

Saddle Ridge GC, Portage, Host - Seth Brogen

October 4 WTA Fundraiser for the Fellowship

Blackhawk Country Club, Madison, Host - Chad Grimm

Nov 16-17, Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium, Kohler

WGCSA Mission Statement

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association is committed to serve each member by promoting the profession and enhancing the growth of the game of golf through education, communication and research.

WGCSA Vision Statement

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendent Association is dedicated to increase the value provided to its members and to the profession by:

- Enhancing the professionalism of its members by strengthening our role as a leading golf organization in the state.
- Growing and recognizing the benefits of a diverse membership throughout Wisconsin.
- Educating and promoting our members as leaders in environmental stewardship.
- Offering affordable, high value educational programs at the forefront of technology and service.
- Being key to enjoyment and the economic success of the game of golf.



Abbey Springs GC Kicks Off 2010 Monthly Meetings

By **Brett Grams**, WGCSA Chapter Manager

Almost 70 attendees met at Abbey Springs Golf Course on Monday April 19th to enjoy perfect Spring Weather, a very informative speaker, and to play golf on “Wisconsin’s most beautiful golf course”.

The morning educational session was presented by Mr. Larry Lennert of Aquatrols. His topic was titled Controlling Your Water, Control Your Results. Mr. Lennert discussed how to conduct accurate irrigation audits on greens and tees and provided attendees with the instructions and formulas to calculate how uniform your irrigation system is applying water to playing surfaces. He also discussed how to use some of the soil moisture measuring tools on the market and ended with a brief discussion on the soil surfactant chemistry that is currently available and their proper use.

After an excellent lunch buffet 16 foursomes headed out on the golf course to play in a four man scramble. The course had numerous flag events for everyone to play. Closest to pin #2 was won by Ed Witkowski who also won the same event on the 6th hole. Closest 2nd shot on hole 8 went to Greg Mark. Long drivers of the event were Aaron Kabat and Al Pondel on holes 9 and 14 respectively. Chris Duoss also had the irons dialed in and took both Closest to pin awards on #11 and #16. Miron Seaver found his 2nd shot closest for the day on #17. These prizes are courtesy of generous hole and event sponsor companies.

After golf we again gathered at the newly recently renovated clubhouse for prize and appetizers. The team of Greg Stoeger, Aaron Kabat, Greg Mark, and Kevin Knudtson took first with score of 61. Tying for Second place but winning the scorecard playoff was Chris White, Chris Duoss, Darren Dase, and Miron

Seaver with a score of 64. Finishing third with the same score was Jack Knulty, Bob Kronn Jr., and Tom Harmon. To keep things interesting we also paid out 8th place. The team of Steve Van Acker, Paul Schaefer, Brad Legnaioli, and Al Pondel was able to find themselves right in the middle of the field to win the last of the pro shop credit.

A big thanks goes out to the talented staff at Abbey Springs and also long time Superintendent and WGCSA Member Mr. David Smith, CGCS. The course was in fantastic condition for such an early season event. 🌱



Larry Lennert speaking on Controlling Water

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Host David Smith Relaxing After The Round



One of The Reasons Abbey Springs Claims it is The Most Beautiful Golf Course In Wisconsin



Distinguished Turfgrass Entomologists Remembered

Dr. R. Chris Williamson, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin - Madison

Within the past year, the turfgrass industry has experienced the loss of two highly influential and distinguished turfgrass entomologists, colleagues and friends. Drs. Paul Heller (Professor, Penn State University) and Haruo Tashiro (Professor Emeritus, Cornell University) were two of the early entomologists to do research as well as provide relevant extension information on insects and mites in the turf system. Their work has profoundly influenced the turf industry, and they helped pave the way for the turfgrass entomologists of today.

Paul Heller, known also as “Big Bug” by his students and friends, was the epitome of a mentor and advisor to students as well as his numerous industry constituents. He had a tremendous influence in many of his student’s lives and career paths. Paul constantly and selflessly strived to improve his classes for the benefit of his students. He was instrumental in the creation and teaching of his Penn State World Campus on-line classes. Paul’s work with golf course superintendents and other industry stakeholders was something he thoroughly enjoyed, becoming friends with many of them over the years. Another aspect of Paul’s life and influence is his involvement at the local Christian radio station in State College, WTLR, where he was most affectionately known by his listeners as “Uncle Paul.” Likely one of Paul’s greatest gifts was the support and uncanny intuition he was always ready to share. Above all, Paul was generous

with all his resources and nearly always placed others first. Paul is and will be greatly missed by all, especially his number one fan, his wife June.

Haruo Tashiro, most affectionately known as “Tash” by many of his friends and colleagues, was a world leader in the biology and management of insects and mites on turfgrass and woody ornamentals. Throughout Tash’s scientific career, he produced numerous publications on the biology, ecology and management of insects affecting horticultural crops and turfgrass. Tash is probably best known for his 1987 publication, *Turfgrass Insects of the United States and Canada*. This widely used text book was the first comprehensive reference to bring together a discussion of practically all insects and other arthropods destructive to turfgrass. Tash was not only an excellent scientist but an accomplished artist. His detailed drawings of anatomical features of insects, his skill in cartography and his photographs are numerous in his text book. Tash will always be remembered as a gentleman, excellent scientist and an inspiration to his family and friends.

Despite their passing, Drs. Heller and Tashiro will continue to remain iconic pillars in the turfgrass community, especially to those who personally knew, were directly influenced, or may have utilized one or more of their turfgrass insect management recommendations. May the both rest in peace. 🌱

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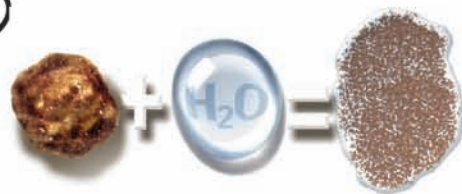
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