THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

costs to fertilizer producers such as Lebanon Turf.

"We were sailing along in pretty stable condition this summer, and then the USDA numbers and the corn harvest sparked the markets," Mathis said. "It just goes to show how fragile and interconnected the supply chain is."

While market conditions have stabilized in the last several weeks, Mathis predicts that prices for fertilizer products high in nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium will increase by 10 percent or more for the 2011 growing season. Any disorder in the worldwide supply chain, which could be brought on by disruptions at nitrogen plants and shipping interruptions, could cause another spike in costs. "N, P and K are in the mix together," Mathis said.

Mathis says the best way for end-users to control their costs is to place their orders and take delivery before "crunch time." "The corn number is real; the nitrogen situation is real, and when the season hits, low inventories of raw materials stateside could force some significant availability and pricing issues in the spring," he said.

Hopefully we will see a reduction in gas prices by the spring opening of golf courses because we do not need a triple price whammy! Another long season is coming to an end and a few more gray hairs have shown themselves. My wife suggests I dye them but I usually respond with its better to be gray than bald. Of course I am not sure what I will say when I am bald. Perhaps it will be easier to not worry about hat hair.

Only a few weeks until the annual polar bear plunge into Lake Michigan. The second time was harder than the first, so I will need to psyche myself up for third dip. If your not busy and need a rush show up at noon January 1 to Bradford Beach in Milwaukee. Come early though because the beach is packed with people.

Enjoy the offseason as a time to recharge and work normal hours as you prepare for next year. The Christmas Season is a perfect time to enjoy family and friends.

Our prayers and thoughts are with those that are laid off or at clubs that are struggling to make payments in these unprecedented economic challenging times for the golf industry. Merry Christmas to all.

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Chapter Delegates Meeting and More!

By Jeff Millies, Golf Course Superintendent, Edgewood Golf Course

91 GCSAA chapters, represented by 87 delegates participated in the 2010 Chapter Delegates meeting, Oct. 22-23-24.

The meeting began with an orientation session for first-time delegates at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., followed by a networking reception and dinner. The meeting continued with solid discussion on a variety of subjects for two days at the Airport Hilton in Kansas City, Mo.

The meeting included an update on GCSAA including financial metrics, new association initiatives, GCSAA candidate presentations, a town hall question and answer session, and chapter case study presentations. The responsibility of a delegate at this meeting is to represent their members and to take back information to share with them.

Member Dues Increase Discussion

Certainly the most discussed item was a proposed GCSAA member dues increase which would take effect with May 2011 renewals and new member applications. Class A and SM dues would increase \$20 annually and Class C dues \$10 annually.

Proposed GCSAA member dues are established though a process that was created by the delegates that uses the Consumer Price Index as a guide. The members then vote upon the proposal at the association's annual meeting in February. The process calls for the association to consider a dues adjustment every two years as a means of ensuring a sustainable organization. The process is not automatic, and the GCSAA Board of Directors may elect not to bring forward dues adjustments according to schedule. Such was the case last year when the board opted to forgo consideration of an increase. Dues account for 27 percent of the GCSAA budget, which is below the average of 38 to 40 percent for associations of similar size.

GCSAA has seen a decrease in revenues of \$5 million over the last three years due to a struggling economy, but proactive expense management by the board and staff has resulted in a reduction of expenses by \$5.4 million during that same period. GCSAA will have projected revenues of \$15.6 million by the end of 2010.

Field Staff Gains Traction

Popular with the delegates was the presentation of an expanded field staff program first announced earlier this year. The board has made public its desire to have all nine GCSAA regions staffed by a regional field staff representative as soon as possible. It is expected GCSAA will have five field staff employees by the end

of 2010 (one at headquarters and four in the field), and seven by the end of 2011 (one at headquarters and six in the field). No timetable for staffing all of the regions has been created, but the success of the program has been duly recognized by the board.

The objective of the field staff program is to create a tie between chapters and GCSAA so that programs are utilized at a higher rate, communication is enhanced and membership is grown. The feedback from chapters who have utilized the program has been overwhelmingly positive.

Additional Discussion Items

- The search for a new GCSAA CEO was outlined. The position description has been posted on the GCSAA website and interviews are targeted for January 2011.
- Six chapters made presentation on programs they have instituted with the assistance of GCSAA resources in the areas of government relations, corporate partnerships, consolidation/sharing resources and communications.
- New program initiatives in the area of web services, environmental programs, marketing communications, surveys and data and media public relations were shared.
- Considerable advancements were noted in the area of professional development resources with the new job board, self assessment tool and webcasting software.
- Outlined were new features for Conference and Show including education programs, networking opportunities and cost-saving options available to attendees.
- Candidate presentations for the offices of president, vice president and secretary/treasurer and a minimum of two and potentially three directors.

The meeting's presentations are available online at http://www.gcsaa.org/chapters/delegatemeeting.aspx.

Shortly after the delegates meeting GCSAA instituted a realignment and downsizing of staff due to economic concerns. According to GCSAA President James Fitzrov the association has reduced expenditures by 5.4 million dollars over the past three years while reducing full time staff from 122 to 85.

Current reductions include Bonnie Stephenson, director of conference and meeting planning who was the associations longest tenured employee at 36 years. Teri Harris, Senior Director of Development for the Environmental Institute of Golf a 20 year GCSAA employee.

Ed Hiscock, Editor in Chief of Golf Course Management magazine is leaving after 14 years serving as a voice for GCSAA and the golf course superintendent. Director of Research Dr. Clark Throssell was also let go after 14 years in his position.

The association has plans in place to replace the valuable work these leaders were doing but it will be impossible to replace their expertise. Fitzroy went on to say "GCSAA is experiencing many of the same challenges that you and your facilities are facing. Having to part with talented and dedicated staff is not easy or pleasant. We owe much of our organizational, facility and individual successes to our GCSAA staff. But the actions are necessary. We cannot stick our head in the sand and hope for better times. We have to be in the right position so that when those better times do come back, we are invested to reap the return."

The GCSAA Nominating Committee has ratified the slate of candidates for the 2011 Board of Directors. The following members have been nominated and will appear on the ballot at the Annual Meeting and Election:

For president:

Robert M. Randquist, CGCS at Boca Rio GC For vice president:

Sandy G. Queen, CGCS at City of Overland Park For secretary/treasurer:

- Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS at The Olympic Club
- Keith A. Ihms, CGCS at CC of Little Rock For director:

Four members are on the slate to fill three open director positions.

- Rafael Barajas, CGCS at Hacienda GC
- Peter J. Grass, CGCS at Hilands GC
- John J. O'Keefe, CGCS at Preakness Hills CC
- Mike B. Wooten, CGCS at Cedar Ridge CC

Bill H. Maynard, CGCS at Milburn G&CC, will remain on the board with one year remaining in his two-year term. James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, will serve on the board as immediate past president, and Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS, will retire from the board. The candidates' complete bios and statements will be published in the January issue of GCM.















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Summer's Revenge... A 2010 TDL Year in Review

By Paul Koch, Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab Manager, University of Wisconsin - Madison

ooking back I suppose we were due. The summers of 2006-2009

due. The summers of 2006-2009 all had their hot and dry spells, flooding rains and humid days. But it had been a while since a seasonlong onslaught of heat, humidity, and moisture made managing turf in Wisconsin this miserable. The collective thoughts on most minds come July 1st was, "Its only July 1st?" Echoing this difficult summer was the record traffic experienced at the Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab in 2010. In my 5 years at the helm of the TDL the most samples diagnosed in a single year had been 196 in 2006, but only 73 of those were professional samples. In 2010 we received 247 samples, with 123 of them professional samples (Table 1). Needless to say, it was a trying summer for all in the turfgrass business. Now that we've had a chance to exhale as we welcome the first snows of winter, let's take a quick moment to review the year that was through the somewhat distorted lens of the TDL.

The spring of 2010 started off well enough, with no inkling of the difficulties to come. Significant snow mold pressure was apparent in only a few isolated areas, and minor ice damage was observed in the southeastern corner of the state. The discussion though quickly turned to early opening dates and making sure the irrigation systems were ready to run before it seemed the frost was out of the ground. An incredibly warm April brought golfers out to the courses in numbers rarely seen so early in Wisconsin, and hopes of increased revenue streams to make up for past years shortfalls had people in the industry genuinely excited. Then

Table 1. *Numbers in parentheses are diagnoses in 2009

2010 TDL Diagnoses				
<u>Diagnosis</u>	Professional*		Homeowner*	
Take-All Patch	6	(11)	0	(0)
Abiotic	53	(11)	34	(22)
Microdochium Patch	1	(6)	1	(0)
Leaf Spots	10	(24)	15	(7)
nsects	0	(0)	7	(0)
Anthracnose (Foliar and Basal Rot)	9	(8)	0	(0)
Fairy Rings	7	(3)	1	(0)
Necrotic Ring Spot	1	(0)	3	(8)
Summer Patch	13	(1)	15	(0)
Brown Patch	2	(6)	13	(1)
Brown Ring Patch	3	(3)	0	(0)
Rough Bluegrass (Poa trivialis)	0	(0)	5	(3)
Typhula Blight	4	(4)	2	(3)
Snow Scald	0	(2)	0	0
Weed ID	0	(2)	19	(24)
Dollar Spot	3	(3)	1	(0)
Pythium foliar blight or root rot	7	(5)	1	(1)
Fungicide Resistance Assays	3	(1)	0	(0)
Other	1	(1)	7	(0)
TOTAL	123	(80)	124	(85)

came May. Brutal cold and heavy snows for northern Wisconsin pushed people back inside as quickly as the warm April sun brought them out and thoughts of churning cash registers had to be put on hold.

As the calendar turned from May to June it seems comical now to think just how dry the state and region were as a whole. But the first warnings of what was to come began in June as heavy rains pounded most of the state and region. Along with it came near oppressive humidity that persisted relentlessly until September. Warm, wet, and humid is

often a perfect recipe for fungal infection of turfgrass plants and the soft goods sales representatives were not disappointed. Leaf spots of many different types were the first to show, but were quickly followed by brown patch and even some minor Pythium blight outbreaks. As the heat and humidity persisted, brown patch and Pythium blight spread to courses that haven't seen these diseases in years. Banol®, known for its excellent curative activity against Pythium blight, became a hot commodity in Wisconsin for the first time in years.

In what has become a predictable



Figure 1: Even on fairway height turf, it's tough to keep annual bluegrass alive with roots less than a half inch in depth



Figure 2: Heat, humidity, and heavy rains led to thinning turf and thinning patience for many superintendents in 2010.

event, the rush of samples to the TDL usually lags 1-2 weeks behind especially hot and humid weather. The rush this year hit in mid-July with furious force, and didn't let up until the end of August. On July 14th the 93rd sample was received at the lab, and on September 1st the 214th sample was received. Summer patch was the main culprit in a majority of these samples.

What became apparent by late July, though, was that many of these samples weren't affected by disease at all, but rather poor root development of the annual bluegrass plants (Figure 1). This had been observed in previous years on a smaller scale when periods of heavy rainfall were followed by hot and humid conditions. But 2010 left few superintendents unscathed, as annual bluegrass vacated area putting greens and fairways faster than attendees vacate the educational portion for

the lunch line at monthly meetings. What became a frustrating summer for many turned to near desperation as mowing heights were raised and "hot spots" syringed in a last ditch effort to save as much grass as possible (Figure 2). Unfortunately, many operations turned from search and rescue to reseeding, resodding, or massive "cupping out" procedures.

As the calendar pushed forward out of a miserable August, the turfgrass carnage brought about by heat and humidity for much of the summer disappeared as quickly as it came. September brought markedly lower humidity, more moderate temperatures, and few but timely rains. Most of the samples submitted in September were from homeowners who could now brave going outside with the cooler conditions to do something about their lawn that died in July. This shift in the weather pattern brought about an excellent time to reseed the many affected areas on the golf course, encourage recovery through aerification and fertilization, and hopefully take a breath after what was certainly a long and unpleasant summer on the course for most.



Taking a closer look at the sample submissions in Table 1 makes it very clear where the record number of submissions came from. Abiotic diagnoses went from 11 for professional submissions and 22 for homeowners in 2009 to 53 and 34, respectively, in 2010. The other big shift came with the number of summer patch diagnoses, as diagnoses rose from 1 professional and 0 homeowner in 2009 to 13 and 15, respectively, in 2010. Just these two categories increased over their 2009 levels by an incredible 81 samples!

Thanks to our 2010 contract members

As most of you know, the TDL doesn't receive a single penny of support from the University or State of Wisconsin. Industry support is therefore critical to the success of the lab in maintaining the level of service that the industry deserves. Much of this industry support comes in the form of contract memberships with the lab, and the vast majority of contract memberships come from the golf course industry. In an era of shrinking budgets when even \$100 can aid in balancing out other areas of the budget I am deeply grateful to the 72 contract members from

2010 shown in Table 2. If you are not currently a contract member with the TDL I urge you to consider joining this year. When compared to thousands of dollars wasted in misapplied fungicide applications, a few hundred dollars for a TDL

membership can be the best money you will spend in 2010. For more information on contract memberships with the TDL, or to sign up for a new membership or renew a continuing one, visit the TDL's website at www.tdl.wisc.edu.

Thank you to the 2010 TDL contract members!!! Names in bold are \$1000 contract members

Abbey Springs CC Blackhawk CC **Blackwolf Run** Chenequa CC Edgewood GC Green Bay Packers **Horst Distributing** La Crosse CC Lawsonia GC Maple Bluff CC Minocqua CC North Hills CC Oconomowoc CC Oshkosh CC Portage CC Reinders SAS Management South Hills CC Stano Landscaping The Bruce Company Tuckaway CC University Ridge GC Weed Man Lawn Care Whispering Pines GC The Wisconsin Club

Agrium Advanced Blue Mounds CC Brown County GC Eagle River GC Fox Valley GC Greenwood Hills CC House on the Rock Resort Lake Arrowhead GC Long Sod Farms Milwaukee Brewers New Berlin Hills North Shore CC Olds Seed Solutions Paul's Turf and Tree Nursery Pine Hills CC Racine CC Rhinelander CC Sentryworld GC Spring Valley Turf Summit Seed The Legend at Bristlecone Twin River Turf Volkening Consulting West Bend CC Whistling Straits GC Wistl Sod Farm

Antigo Bass Lake Bristlecone Pines GC Bulls Eve CC Eau Claire CC Frontier FS Coop Hayward Golf & Tennis Koshkonong Mounds GC Lake Geneva CC Lurvey Farms Milwaukee CC New Richmond GC North Shore GC Oneida Golf & CC Reedsburg CC Rolling Meadows GC Silver Bay CC St. Germain GC Syngenta Tripoli CC Two Oaks North GC Watertown CC Westmoor CC Windy Acres GC Zimmerman Kettle Hills



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Coming Events

January 5-7 - Northern Green Expo, Minneapolis Convention Center, MN

January 18 - Wisconsin Turfgrass & Greenscape Expo, Wisconsin Dells

Jan 19-21 - Mid-America Horticulture Trade Show, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL

January 27 - Assistant Superintendent Seminar, Whispering Springs Golf Club, Fond du Lac

Feb 7-11 - Golf Industry Show, Orlando FL

Feb 9 - WGCSA Hospitality Room, Best of British Pub, Orlando FL

Feb 28th - WGCSA Spring Business Meeting Ramada Hotel, Fond du Lac, WI

March 1 & 2 - NGLGCSA Education Symposium

March 9 & 10 - Reinders 20th Turf and Irrigation Conference, Waukesha Expo Center, Waukesha



What Impact Does the "Late or Extended Fall" Have on White Grubs?

By Dr. R. Chris Williamson, Turfgrass and Ornamental Specialist, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin - Madison

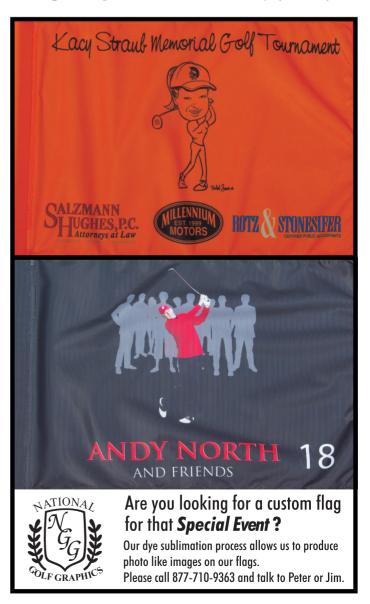
With prolonged warmer ambient and soil temperatures comes extended feeding activity of white grubs. Insects are cold-blooded animals that are dependent on temperature for their activity and development. When air and soil temperatures are above 50°F, insect biological activity occurs. Conversely, most insects, including white grubs, are for all practical purposes inactive below 50°F. Because we have experienced a relatively late fall compared to previous years, white grubs have continue to develop, feed and cause damage.

So what does this mean to you? Because white grubs have been afforded the opportunity to continue to feed for an extended period of time, they are able to further increase their fat-body (i.e., energy) reserves to better survive the winter. As a result, they will more likely be difficult to control now as well as in the spring if necessary due to additional feeding damage before they begin to pupate (transform) into adults in late-May or early-June. Moreover, they have additional time to feed on the roots and cause damage to the turf yet this fall.

What should you do now? By the time you likely read this article, it will be too late to take action this year. Thus, you will have to focus your attention on next spring. First, begin sampling and monitoring for white grubs in the spring once soil temperature reach just above 50°F. Then simply pull-back the turf and look for grubs where you suspect they may be. If present, you will need to make an executive decision whether you want or need to make an insecticide application to control the white grubs.

Keep in mind, white grubs are most difficult to control when they are larger. And, unfortunately, they are largest in the late-fall and spring. Should you chose to make an insecticide application in the spring, your product selection choices are limited to the following: 1) clothianidin (Arena); 2) carbaryl (Sevin); or trichlorfon (Dylox). Even under the "best" conditions, these aforementioned insecticides will likely provide no greater than about 75-80% control. For this reason, it is important to consider a preventative insecticide application from late-May to late-July for the next generation of white grubs, especially if you have a history of white grub problems. Preventative insecticides typically provide measurably higher control (> 90%) compared to curative or rescue insecticide treatments previously mentioned.

Several preventative insecticides are available, they include: 1) chlorantraniliprole (Aceylepryn); 2) clothianidin (Arena); 3) imidacloprid (Merit and various other generics); and thiamethoxam (Meridian). Regardless of the product, timing or approach (curative or preventative), ALL white grub control products (insecticides) MUST be watered or irrigated-in with an appropriate amount (about 0.15 - 0.25 inches) of post-treatment irrigation in order for the insecticide to reach the target and provide maximum efficacy (control).



Badger State Turf Clippings

By John Jensen and the Reinders Team

Iwas recently attending a leadership program when an interesting question was posed. The question was "what is your passion?" I think for many of us, the first answer would be our careers but is that a passion? It's great to enjoy your career, I know that I do, but is it the thing I would choose to do with my free time? "What is your passion?" This question was very interesting to me and I thought about this for a long time without a clear answer. So, when I arrived home, I asked my wife what she would say my passion is and she didn't pause for a moment "Ducks and Pheasants" she said with a laugh. Ducks and pheasants? Of course! She is so right!

For me, the chance to hunt ducks and pheasants are what I live for each and every year and when those seasons arrive, many other things take a back seat. Nothing compares to hunting ducks and pheasants during a Wisconsin fall day.

Duck hunting gives me the chance to enjoy watching the sun rise on the back waters of the Mississippi River, or on a small silent moving river just a few miles from my home or even on a calm lake in Northern Wisconsin.

Pheasant hunting allows me another chance to take long walks with my Dad as we discuss life, the good old days and embellish on the success we have had in years past. Each time out in the field includes our other favorite hunting partner "Styx". She has been a part of our lives for the past 10 years and although she moves a little slower than she used to she still has that same look of excitement in her eyes each time we grab our guns and head to our favorite field. With each outing, that same feeling of excitement grows when I see Styx lock on a small grass clump, then with a few more steps forward, out fly's a beautiful rooster. These two pastimes are certainly my passion and nothing else in my life can compare. So, be sure to take time this year to nurture your passions.

Happy Retirement:

After a whopping 46 years with Horst Distributing, Rosie Meier decided to call it a career and retired this past October.

Rosie worked in the parts department at Horst for all of those 46 fabulous years. Everyone at Horst Distributing exclaimed in a message to me that Rosie will definitely be missed and that they wish her the best in her retirement years! That is certain to ring true with the many customers she worked with during her time at Horst Distributing. Congratulations Rosie on your retirement and for your ability to handle Dennis for all those years as well. You deserve an award!

Bob Knutter. Superintendent at Petrify Springs Golf Club in Kenosha will officially be retiring December 17th. Bob started at Pet's on Jan 2, 1979 and prior to working at Petrify Springs held positions in the Chicago area at courses such as Knollwood CC, Bob-O-Link GC and Fort

Sheridan GC. He won't be totally retired as the plan calls for him to be back at Pet's next year as a part-timer to help in the transition of the yet to be determined replacement. In retirement he plans on doing a lot of hunting, fishing, gardening and spending time with his wife Cheryl. One item he mentioned about his time at Pet's is he will have worked with 4 different irrigation systems, as he calls it "Moody" (which describes the system well), a Rainbird MC-3S mechanical, a Rainbird Stratus2 and currently they are installing a Toro Lynx system.

I have personally known Bob for almost 20+ years now and he has always been great guy to sit down and talk with. His long beard is his trade mark and it fits his personality great and I couldn't imagine him without it. Regardless if you are talking work, hunting or fishing a smile is always on his face. Have a great retirement Bob, you deserve it.

Births:

Norah Lorraine was born to Hank and Shannon Koss and big sister Rachel (5) on September 29, 8lbs 11ozs. Hank is Superintendent of Royal St. Patrick's. Hank said his plan to not interrupt pheasant season worked out just perfectly. Congratulations!

Kevin Knudtson, Director of Maintenance at Geneva National, and wife Brooke welcomed daughter Eversyn Hope to the world on August 31st. Eversyn weighed 7lbs. 3 oz and was 19.5" long. Older sister Ava (2 1/2) is sure to show Eversyn the ropes around the Knudtson household.

Chad Grimm, Superintendent of Blackhawk Country Club, and his wife Sarah welcomed the birth of their daughter Sophia. Congratulations to you both!

Mike Upthegrove, Superintendent of Watertown Country Club, and his wife Jen welcomed their new addition to the family, daughter Ruby born on August 29th. Big sister Grace is sure to be happy having a little sister around to play with. Mike has had a few exciting months lately as he has also been promoted to General Manager of Watertown Country Club.

Jeremy Dahl, Assistant Superintendent of The Club at Strawberry Creek and his wife Jessica welcomed Ryan Charles Dahl to the family on September 9th. Ryan weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz. and was 20.5 inches. He joins big sister Allison, age 4 to the Dahl family. There is never going to be a Dahl moment in Jeremy's household.

Industry News:

Tim Adas has been promoted from Assistant of Lake Ripley Country Club to Superintendent. Lake Ripley Country is located in Cambridge, Wisconsin and was established in 1915. Congratulations to Tim for this great promotion.

Lee Radal Superintendent of House on the Rock Resort celebrated his 42nd year with the 27 hole resort golf course. Lee began working on the grounds crew