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John Turner of Bayer and Randy Smith from The Legend at Bergamont rarely miss attending EXPO!

SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS AT EXPO

CHARLES O NEWLIN MEMORIAL - Brian Huiras
EGON HERRMANN MEMORIAL TURF INDUSTRY - Glen Obear
J.R. LOVE - Matt Fish
SPRING VALLEY - Jens Arneson
CHALET NURSERY - Shane Griffith
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- *Dustin Bernau*
- *Pat Reuteman*
- *Drew Paxton*
- *Ben Pease*

NOTES FROM THE NOER FACILITY

The wet and warm summer brought on more fairy ring and pythium than usual and then in the fall when the rains virtually stopped, the turf also stopped, which promoted rust disease to run rampant throughout the state. The disease that didn't show up much in 2010 was anthracnose. Dr. Kerns additionally talked about what fungicides or combinations worked best to control the diseases that killed turf this past season.

Dr. Williamson presented the latest in white grub control and gave those in attendance disappointing news on how the pests survived weather extremes. White grubs tolerate temperatures from 100 to -35 so it is unlikely they will die from cold in the badger state. With the flooding of 2010 Chris learned that the pests can survive under 14 days of flood waters without issue. The only positive news was many of his control products also survived the floods and continued provide effective results.

The golf breakout session started with

Dr. Derek Settle from the Chicago District Golf Association who not only provides research and help to Chicagoland golf course but also takes care of the associations three hole course. Derek discussed how extreme the weather is just south of the Wisconsin border with long stretches of over 90 degree heat. Adding to the challenge for superintendents was ice damage from the winter had no time to recover before the heat started.

USGA Agronomist Bob Vavrek presented a mini "year in review" with a stress on the importance of aerification and topdressing in proper amounts. A few of the tips Bob offered are to put winter time turf samples under a grow light so your not waiting for days to see the results. Also to take pictures of drainage issues right after a rain to use in presenting turf and drainage improvements to the membership. More than likely anywhere the water stands the grass dies at some time from the stress of excess moisture.

Scott Anthes, Golf Course Superintendent at Brown County Golf Course was next with a presentation on the turf stress from summer flooding and high temperatures and the steps he took to recover on a golf course that never closes to players regardless of the weather. Anthes reduced mowing and rolling frequency while raising the height of cut slightly. As the turf recovered he pushed growth with light frequent fertilization.

Jim Nicole, Golf Course Superintendent at Hazeltine National Golf Club in MN presented information on renovating the fairways at their historic club. To improve the fairways heat, cold and drought tolerance as well to improve consistency on the turf the club used two applications of Roundup to kill off the existing turf before seeding in new varieties of bent and fescue. A few quick lessons that Jim learned are to do all cultivation before killing off the existing turf to reduce damage and to learn to have patience as it takes time for seed to grow.



Former graduate student Jake Schneider and current grad student Shane Griffith adding to their core of knowledge during EXPO

Jim Hasz from Lake Breeze GC makes a big transaction with DHD's Matt Kinnard during the EXPO trade show





Dr. Jim Kerns address the crowd during the ‘High Temperature Stress, Basics and Management’ opening session.

Michael Lee explains the expansive regrassing job that he and his staff undertook in 2009 to the Blackwolf Run River Course to a full Golf break-out room.



Mike Lee, Manager of Golf Maintenance at Blackwolf Run / Whistling Straits finished up the session with the regrassing of the 36 hole Blackwolf Run facility over two years. Work included fumigation and reseeding of 18 greens and tees each year, new drainage and sand in the bunkers, green banks were replaced as needed due to weed seed encroachment and tees were stripped and leveled. Mike assembled a in-house project crew of 35 members to complete everything except the fumigation process and even then the assisted the fumigation company. The project included a large investment in the proper equipment to do the job.

The Blackwolf complex is preparing for a return of the USGA Women’s Open Championship. Take home ideas from Mike included putting a tracker wire around each fairway and tee as well as with all drainage tile to find later as well as using team members in their areas of strength to ensure a smooth project.

After lunch the golf breakout session continued with Sherry Ray with a talk titled “Managing Personal Stress. Sherry presented some valuable information on how to deal with everyday stressors to improve home and work life.

Wrapping up the day for the golf group was Dr. Jim Kerns with “Hot Issues From 2010”. He started out with the bad news confirmation that PCNB would not return to the market and golf courses will need to adapt to other control measures for snow mold. Not only are we losing the most economical wide spectrum snow mold control but many turf manager will need to consider re-applying snow mold products in spring to fight Microdochium Patch. They new prod-

ucts also should be applied in mid fall while the plant is still growing increasing the risk of a warm late fall reducing winter effectiveness.

Dr. Kerns also presented research on fairy ring which was very widespread in 2010. Effective control is found with preventative treatments that are watered in when the soil temp is between 60 and 70 degrees.

Concurrent to the golf discussions was another session for lawn care, sod producers, and sports field managers. This session likewise used the panel format where attendees heard from experts like Dr. Soldat from the UW-Madison, Michael Boettcher from the Milwaukee Brewers, Raechal Volkening from Volkening Consulting, and Wayne Horman from the Scotts Company. The experts discussed their four keys to good turf.

Other presentations included Jim Lohmann’s talk about sports field renovation, Dr. Chris Williamson’s talk about Chinch Bugs.

The trade show was another very valuable part of EXPO. One attendee wrote an e-mail the day after EXPO saying, “Awesome job on EXPO, great education and networking, but vendor time was a little short, even 15 minutes or so longer would be great.” This says how valuable the vendors are to the success of EXPO. They are important for the knowledge they bring to attendees and are likewise important for keeping EXPO affordable. The 2011 EXPO exhibitors and sponsors are listed here and I hope you give them a call for all your supply and services needs this coming season. Let’s hope this next season continues as great as it started.

One Result, Many Causes

By **Bob Vavrek**, Senior Agronomist, North Central Region, USGA Green Section

Editors Note: This article was originally printed at the USGA Green Section Regional Updates Website and is reprinted here with permission.

Winterkill begets winterkill at many older golf courses across the upper Midwest that have playing surfaces dominated by *Poa annua*. Courses with greens affected by severe winter injury, typically seed creeping bentgrass into the thin and bare areas. However, the end result is usually an even higher percentage of *Poa* due to minimal bentgrass seedling survival on a green that is kept open to play and aggressively maintained at low heights of cut during recovery. Many of the new *Poa* plants that germinate from seed already in the greens will likely have less ability to tolerate winter stress versus the older *Poa* plants they replaced. Consequently, a vicious cycle of winter injury can occur.

Why isn't there more research about winter injury? This question was raised more than once by superintendents at turf conferences I have recently attended. In fact, there is ongoing research about winterkill available if you know where to look. For example, within the past five years there have been extensive studies undertaken in Canada about impermeable covers and methods for removing ice cover from putting greens. A website that shows a summary of various winter injury experiments conducted at the Prairie Turfgrass Research Centre at Olds College in Alberta, Canada is http://ptrc.oldscollege.ca/summaries_plantstress.html.

Could there be more winter injury research? Of course, but winter stress is a regional problem and research funds for problems that only affect a relatively small percentage of golf courses are limited. Furthermore, the environmental conditions that cause winter injury are not completely understood and are difficult to reproduce under field conditions. Many well-designed field experiments regarding ice damage research failed to bear fruit because of an unusually

warm winter.

To complicate matters further, there are several forms of winter injury that all produce the same result – dead turf. A single green could experience both wind desiccation across elevated, exposed areas and crown hydration across low, poorly drained pockets of turf during the same winter. Low areas could be affected by ice suffocation or thaw/freeze injury or a one-two punch of both conditions.

Slowly, but surely, research is unraveling the mysteries of winterkill, though we are often still perplexed why one green sustains extensive damage and another nearby putting surface under similar conditions survives the winter unscathed. No doubt, it's a challenge to determine what killed the turf when it's just about impossible to determine exactly when it died during the winter.

Still, there are a few "knowns" among the "unknowns." We know that bentgrass tolerates stress from ice and cold temperatures much better than *Poa annua*. Classic ice injury research at Michigan State University was conducted by Dr. James B. Beard during 1964-1965. A number of other studies since then support the observations regarding the superior winter hardiness of bentgrass versus *Poa*.

If you have been affected by winter injury on greens more often than not during the past decade, maybe it's time to change your grass instead of your fall/winter management practices. Susceptibility of *Poa annua* to winterkill has been one of the major factors why a number of courses across the upper Midwest have decided to rebuild or re-grass putting greens during the past ten years.

A USGA Turf Advisory Service (TAS) visit can definitely help you determine what options are available for old putting greens if you are losing the battle with *Poa annua*. The modest cost of a half or full-day consultation pales in comparison to the lost revenues from dues or green fees associated with lengthy spring recoveries from dead or damaged putting greens that occur year after year.



Winterkill one season may lead to increased risk of winterkill for the next winter.

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United States Golf Association U.S. Amateur Championship Comes To Erin Hills

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

The United States Golf Association's oldest national championship The Amateur is coming to the Badger State for the first time August 22 to 28, 2011. The first Amateur was played in 1895, a year after the USGA was formed and was won by Charles Blair McDonald. McDonald is a history lesson all by himself and is considered the father of American golf course architecture as he designed the countries first 18 hole layout, The Chicago Golf Club.

The Amateur will feature 312 players competing for two days of stroke play at Erin Hills and Blue Mound Golf and Country Club. From there the top 64 players compete for the Havemeyer Cup in 18 hole match play format at Erin Hills.

The United States Amateur Championship is highly regarded because it embodies the foundation of the USGA and the purest form of competitive golf. Just a love of the game with no prize money or endorsements. Throughout its history, the U.S. Amateur has been the most coveted of all amateur titles and many of the modern day great names of professional golf, such as Gene Littler, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Lanny Wadkins, Craig Stadler, Jerry Pate, Mark O'Meara, Hal Sutton, Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods, grace the Havemeyer Cup.

The game of golf started to attract media attention and in turn spectator attendance with the success of longtime amateur Robert T. Jones Jr.. Jones won the championship a record five times (1924, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1930). The 1930 victory is considered by many to be the greatest feat in golf history when, at the Merion Cricket Club, Jones rounded out the Grand Slam, winning the US and British Opens and Amateurs Championships in one year.

In comparison to the history of the game Erin Hills is a newcomer, however many of the features the golfers will play are as they were left by the ice age over 10,000 years ago. Construction on the links layout started in 2004 and the course first opened in 2006 to great acclaim. The layout was awarded the 2008 U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links Championship before it even opened followed by the Amateur in 2011 and the U.S.



Open Championship in 2017.

This respect from the USGA Championship Committee speaks volumes for the work architects Mike Hurdzan, Dana Fry and Ron Whitten did in creating a championship caliber golf course using the natural landscape.

Although natural and beautiful the course had room for tweaking and Erin Hills has gone under two stages of remodeling and improvements in preparation for golf's biggest stage. The work completed in 2010 included drainage improvements, tree re-

moval, reshaping of fairways all to improve course playability and golfer enjoyment. The 10th hole was shortened to allow for a better an approach shot into the new green. The work also improved the visual look of the course with less blind or restricted view approach shots and a better visibility of the overall terrain, including the golden fescue roughs.

Current owner Andrew Ziegler, co-founder of the investment firm Artisan Partners purchased the course in 2009 from Bob Lang the original owner. An avid golfer himself, Mr. Ziegler has been very involved in the changes to the property and working with Hurdzan and Fry in preparation for the 2011 U.S. Amateur Championship and the 2017 U.S. Open.

Erin Hills Golf Course Superintendent Zachary Reineking has been with the club since its construction in 2005. Originally hired as Assistant Superintendent, he was promoted to Superintendent in the spring of 2008.

Reineking attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison on the Evans Scholarship from the Western Golf Association.

U.S. AMATEUR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday & Sunday - Practice Rounds: Erin Hills & Blue Mound

Monday & Tuesday - Stroke Play Rounds: Erin Hills & Blue Mound

Wednesday - Low 64 Match Play at Erin Hills

Thursday AM - Match Play 32 Players at Erin Hills

Thursday PM - Match Play 16 Players at Erin Hills

Friday - 9 AM - Match Play 8 Players at Erin Hills

Saturday - 9 AM - Match Play 4 Players at Erin Hills

Sunday - 8 AM - 36 Hole Championship Match at Erin Hills.

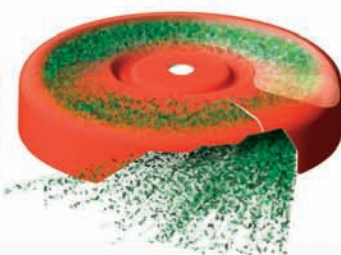
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Construction on the new turfgrass facility at Erin Hills was well underway in October.



The simple entry sign to the Erin Hills Clubhouse area will welcome players and spectators this August.

US AMATEUR RECORDS

Championships - Bobby Jones (5)

Final Matches - Bobby Jones (7)

Championships in a Row - Tiger Woods (3)

Matches Won in a Row - Tiger Woods (18)

Oldest Champion - Jack Westland (47 yrs, 3 mo, 9 days)

Youngest Champion - Byeong-Hun An (17yrs, 11mo, 13 day)

Match Play Victories - Charles Evans Jr. (57)

Times Qualified for Match Play - Charles Evans Jr (50)

Years Between Victories - Francis Ouimet (17, 1914-1931)

Smallest Entry Field - 1895 (32)

Largest Entry Field - 1999 (7,920)

He received a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Science and Turf Management. While attending UW, he performed internships at BlackWolf Run and Whistling Straits golf courses near Kohler. In 2004, he returned to Whistling Straits and served as part of the 2004 PGA Championship preparation and maintenance staff.

Zachary is from Sheboygan Falls, Wis., and lives in Ixonia, with his wife Bridget and their daughter Nola.

Blue Mound Golf and Country Club is the accompanying host course for the stroke play portion of the championship. Designed by Seth Raynor, Blue Mound is considered one of Milwaukee's best clubs. The club was established in

1903 and was the first in Wisconsin to host a PGA major: the 1933 PGA Championship, won by Gene Sarazen.

Tim Venes is the Golf Course Superintendent at Blue Mound where he has been on staff for 22 years. Like many of us Tim was interested in golf because he liked playing it as he enjoyed high school and college golf. He graduated from UW Lacrosse with a degree in Physical Education and Health Education. Although that is not his current field he does use his education at the golf course especially in training staff members.

After college while Tim was looking for a teaching position he found a job working for Dewey Laak working at Kettle Moraine Golf Course and Willow Run Golf Course. The rest is history as many years later Tim is still in the golf business and worked his way up at Blue Mound from 2nd Assistant Superintendent to Assistant Superintendent to Superintendent. Venes and his wife Debra have two children.

Wisconsin may have lost the Greater Milwaukee Open but the Badger State is quickly becoming a golf destination for Major Golf Championships.



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Long Days, Short Weeks

By David Brandenburg, Editor, The Grass Roots

Midwinter comes every year but it seems as I get older the period goes by faster. The days seem to go by at the same speed but the weeks and months fly by. One day we are celebrating New Years and before you know it you're wondering why the tee markers do not have a fresh coat of paint on them yet because the course might open next week.

For areas north of Milwaukee there has been no shortage of snow days and as I put the finishing touches on this issue the "Blizzard of the Decade" is bearing down on us. Outside of a near complete snow-melt in late December this winter has been consistently cold

in the Fond du Lac area.

The brightest part of the second half of winter is the lengthening of daylight as we move through February. After Dec 21st it takes a while to notice it but then one day in January everything seems brighter on the ride to work and in the evening as we prepare supper.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the committee that put together the EXPO for the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association. The education was great and the format kept things flowing through the day. Moving the EXPO to the Kalahari Resort in the Dells sure didn't hurt attendance as the main hall and golf break-out rooms were full. It has to snow or it isn't the EXPO but fortunately Tom Schwab had it snow the day before the show so it did not effect travel as much as other years. (See the article on the EXPO in this issue.)

Happy Retirement and Congratulations to Tom Schmidt, Executive Director of the Wisconsin State Golf Association (WSGA) who retired December 31. Tom served the WSGA for 27 years and 12 in his current post. Tom who was a dentist in his first career did a great job in leading the WSGA through a period of growth and the move to "Golf House" with the Wisconsin PGA and Golf Course Owners Association.

Welcome and Congratulations to Robert Jansen who will succeed Schmidt in running the states leader in golf. Jansen comes to the WSGA from the American Junior Golf Association (AJGA), where he was the vice president of player services. In that role, Jansen was responsible for all functions of the Player Services Department. He was also the main AJGA contact with golf federations around the world. Jansen was responsible for the creation of the Polo Junior Golf Rankings, and he designed the AJGA's Performance Based Entry system. Jansen was born and raised in West Bend, WI and received his B.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

GCSAA NEWS

Congratulations continue as we welcome Rhett Evans as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Evans who was most recently the associations chief operating officer and served as interim CEO with the sudden departure of Mark Woodward.

Before he joined the GCSAA Rhett served as the director of parks, recreation and commercial facilities for Mesa, Arizona. For Mesa he oversaw two golf courses, the Chicago Cubs spring training facility, 2,600 acres of park space and a budget of \$32.5 million.

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EDITORS NOTEBOOK

Evans has a bachelor's degree in sociology with a emphasis in business and a masters degree in recreation management and leadership with a emphasis in public administration from Brigham Young University.

GCSAA has joined our state chapter in offering free job notice posting service for clubs and for members to view the notices. With a increase in opportunities posted it takes a little longer to view the notices at GCSAA.org but the positive of more jobs posted is worth it so check it out.

TECHNOLOGY

Be sure to be make regular visits as a member to WGCSA.com to keep up with association news and updates. Brett Grams is adding new features to the website on a regular basis. Waiting for a check from the club is a thing of the past as meeting registration can take place online 24/7. The job board has been busy lately and to offer clubs free postings the website is the only place to view some notices.

If you are not receiving e-mails from WGCSA make sure your e-mail address is up to date so you can stay informed.

Wisconsin Golfer the publication of the Wisconsin State Golf Association is going electronic at least part time. The magazine will feature three paper copies and three electronic copies. As a advertiser and subscriber in what is a great publication I am not in favor of this move.

I receive a large number of golf publications in print and electronically I can say I do not care for the electronic magazines. I may read an article or two based on the index but I do not go through page by page as I would with a hard copy and I sure do not read the ads.

Although I do not read magazines online I do enjoy the USGA Green Section weekly e-mail updates that have replaced the *Green Section Record*. I was pessimistic at first but rather than put the same magazine online, it has been replaced by weekly e-mails. Each e-mail has the first few paragraphs of 4 or 5 articles that you can then click on to go to the website to read or print off the entire thing. Some online magazines can take forever to load with slower internet or handheld devices where the e-mails updates allow you to pick and choose which files to load. This summer with the heat stress ravaging golf courses across the country provided a great example where the e-mail updates allowed the agronomists to provide valuable insight and information within a 7 day window rather than reading about it next winter.

Even though archives of *The Grass Roots* are available online through the Turfgrass Information File at Michigan State we do not plan on going electronic in the near future. As long as it stays cost-feasible and we have the support of our advertisers we plan to continue to offer hard copies of *The Grass Roots*. I think the WGCSA has the right combination with the website providing news updates and timely information while *The Grass Roots* offers the best of both worlds for our members. Quick updates and association news on the website and valuable research information in *The Grass Roots*.

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