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The challenge for manufactures is small engines fit in small places so it is harder to meet the new rules for a small engine than a big tractor engine where there may be more room under the hood. The other challenge is how to meet the regulations without increasing cost any more than necessary. The industry expects engines made with the new technology will cost 4-9% more. When the same \$50,000 dollar rough mower costs \$54,500 in 2013 it will challenge the bottom line. \$4,500 is a lot of rounds of golf or membership fees in an already tight budget.

The other downfall is there will be less engine choices available as manufactures drop certain lines rather than modifying the design. The goal for the EPA is to reduce engine emission of particulate matter and nitrogen oxides

by 90% of the current standard.

There are two main theories in reducing emissions that have worked in the larger engines. The first is uses cooled exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) to reduce nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and a diesel particulate filter (DPF) to replace the muffler and capture particles to be burned off either through a regeneration process or a passive self generating system. The second major method uses selective catalytic reduction (SCR) to achieve the reductions by treating exhaust gasses after they leave the engine with a fluid blend of urea and water called diesel exhaust fluid (DEF). This process converts the NO_x into nitrogen gas (N_2) and water (H_2O).

The positive of small engines being last in regulation is most of the manufactures have proven methods to reduce emissions from the larger engines. From my research it is clear most manufactures have picked one method or the other and have very convincing arguments why theirs is better, long lasting and easier for the consumer. This change will reduce emissions but at a increased cost and possibly less power per horsepower. Golf courses can save a few dollars by planning purchases before the regulations take place in 2013.

Water use fees and permits -

New and old regulations are changing how we get water, where we store water and how we dispose of water from our properties.

Wells have been regulated and recorded for a long time in Wisconsin but 2011 marks the first time we have had to pay a water use fee of \$125 for surface and groundwater withdrawals while 2010 marked the first time water users in the Great Lakes Basin had to report water use. By Dec 8, 2011 all users in the Great Lakes Basin are required to have a permit. If you have not received a invoice for your 2011 water use you should contact the DNR.

For both the water use fee and the use permit the ability or capacity to withdraw 100,000 gallons a day or 70 gallons per minute is the determining factor. There is only one fee per property as long as multiple wells or wells and surface pumps are on the same contiguous property. The fee goes up for properties that draw over 50,000 million gallons per year in the Great Lakes Basin.

A \$125 fee for water use is not a great hardship for users and the revenue will be used to build a statewide water resource inventory and water conservation programs. These are good things but the fear is now that the system is in place to charge a fee it will be easy to increase that fee and implement future water use restrictions based on annual reporting.

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BUSINESS OF GOLF

MS4 storm water rules -

MS4 requirements are federally driven to reduce the amount of pollutants in municipal storm water. Some municipalities cover the costs associated with storm water management through the property taxes while others charge a fee to property owners based on the square footage of non-permeable areas. (rooftops, driveways and sidewalks) For a golf course this fee can become costly when all rooftops, parking areas and cart paths are taken into consideration. In theory golf courses should be rewarded for the amount of green space and natural creeks and ponds we have that catch pollutants. However the fees are only based on impermeable surfaces, there is no reward for cleaning the water before it leaves your property.

The other costs associated with new construction or remodeling is the requirement to have detention or retention ponds to allow pollutants to settle out before reaching the waterways or storm sewers. These small ponds you see next to every new office or commercial building can quickly become a maintenance problem with algae, weeds and geese becoming a nuisance. The NR151 and the nutrient management programs all of us should be following are the result of trying to reduce pollution in storm water runoff and part of MS4 requirements.

Underground fuel tanks -

As part of our annual inspection I was told someone on our property needed to be trained and pass the Wisconsin Underground Storage Tank Operator Examination by January 1, 2012. The training for Class A for owners and Class B for day to day operators are the same while Class C training is for on site employees. Class A and B operators can train Class C employees themselves without investment in class time or tests.

The class and test covered record keeping, the training requirement, leak detection, leak response and cleanup, equipment maintenance and employee training. I took a classroom session put on by Barker Lemar but there are online sessions available. More information can be found at http://dsps.wi.gov/er/ER-BST-FedRegUST_Operator-Training.html.

Ponds and creeks -

Most golf courses have ponds and lakes that are either man made or man enlarged to enhance the golf course and to supply irrigation water. The topic of bank maintenance, tree removal near waterways and even getting balls out of the ponds came up as a topic on Noernet last fall. I immediately thought it would be a good article for The Grass Roots.



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After a lengthy discussion with Jennifer Jerich from the Wisconsin DNR I felt a bit overwhelmed with information. Water use and rights offer no easy answers. History of the waterway, navigability of the water and where it goes all play into what you can and cannot do with your ponds.

My goal when researching this topic was to provide readers a simple guide to use in making decisions regarding ponds. I did learn the topic is too complicated to explain in a couple pages and worse varies from county to county so I suggest in the offseason you contact your local water use regulator and ask any questions you have. Don't wait until your going to start a dredging or stream bank project and expect overnight answers. You can find a list of county contacts at http://dnr.wi.gov/waterways/about_us/2011Contacts.pdf.

Some questions I asked and take home messages I have to help you prepare for calling your agent follow below.

- What year was the pond built, how was it built and what was there before?
- Can we use a winch and wheel to retrieve balls? That is a case by case basis. There is a fine line between dredging and dragging a wheel across the bottom of the pond. Is your pond private or navigable and was your pond permitted originally? If so you can usually dredge and maintain your pond to the original specifications but only if your permit allows maintenance.
- Is your pond navigable or connected to a natural body of water? That determines if you have a public or private waterway and in many cases takes a determination by the state contact. Just because you built the pond and it is surrounded by your property does not make it private.
- Can I cut down trees in the waterway? That is usually determined by shore-land zoning rules that are based on state rule, but can be made more restrictive by individual

counties.

- Can I fix eroding banks with rock rip rap? Streams maybe, ponds probably not but it depends on the size of your pond, the wave action and the original permit. Vegetative rip rap is the allowed method to repair banks on navigable or public waterways.



Typical pond erosion where the bank is being eroded away. Your options for repair may be limited depending on your pond permit.

- A previous property owner built a pond without getting a permit can I get one now? Two main factors come into play. First was a permit needed then and two would you have gotten a permit then. The adage it is better to ask for forgiveness later than permission now is not always true when it comes to ponds. I would proceed with caution in this case and do research before inviting a DNR agent to your property.

Again call your agent and get your answers well in advance of your next water project. It will save you and your ownership future headaches.

Next to come will be the new FCC regulations on two way radios and wireless communication frequency in January of 2013. Watch for that and other exciting things next month.

Regulations will always be changing either through new rules or new interpretations. Watch for things that affect your club and be sure to inform your national and state governmental regulations chairs for guidance and input. Locally Colin Seaburg and Mark Storby are the WGCSA co-chairs for governmental regulations.



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The Open Returns To Blackwolf

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

Ron Bierwirth a 15 year WGCSA member is charged with preparing the Blackwolf Run Golf Course for the 91st Wisconsin State Open held August 15, 16, and 17. It seems as though I just wrote this because it was only two years ago Ron the 89th Open. At that time the Meadows Valley course was undergoing a grassing change that worked out great for the club and has been well received by the customers.

With most of the work done in house under the supervision of River Course Superintendent Jeff Wilson the staff was able to shine. The putting greens were fumigated and reseeded to A4 Bentgrass while the fairways were fumigated and seeded to Memorial Bentgrass. Tees were stripped of sod and also seeded to Memorial. While the new grasses were grown in the bunkers received new drainage and sand. The staff installed wire around the perimeter of greens and fairways so the edges can be maintained over time with a wire locator.

Ron was quick to point out the work is not a revision of Pete Dyes original design but a opportunity to incorporate new grass technology while maintaining Dyes original design. The course looked terrific and from the players comments during the open played just as well. To keep poa

annua at bay the staff is using a mix of methods including keeping the turf dry. However when you are at the mercy of Mother Nature chemicals are needed to keep the pesky weed grass from taking over again. Different areas are receiving Velocity, Cutless and Legacy while poa spots on greens are dabbed with a non-selective herbicide and plugged out.

Ron started in golf as a caddie at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan which is still today one of his favorite courses. He received his degree in Math Education and entered the restaurant business working his way up from dishwasher to general manager in a number of states. Bierwirth found the restaurant business to be fun, but often to much fun and felt burned out with the lifestyle that comes with operating a nighttime business.

Looking for a change Ron moved home to visit his parents and answered an ad for help at Blackwolf Run as a laborer and equipment operator in 1990. Ron put his people skills to use and moved up to an assistant superintendent and then superintendent of the Meadows Valley 18.

Ron lives in the Kohler area and he and his wife Jody a Guidance Counselor at a local school have one son who is 12 years old. Golf has taken a back seat to other activities such as fishing with his son.



Hole 15 Plays 217 Yards From The Back Tee and is all carry.



Looking Back Over The 423 Yard Par 4 14th Hole you can see how the new grasses shine.

Member 9 With Ron Bierwirth

1. **First Vehicle?** 1969 Ford Fairlane
2. **Favorite Piece of Golf Course Equipment?** John Deere 220 Greens Mower
3. **18 Hole Handicap?** I was about a 10 but have not played in years.
4. **Current Vehicle?** 2001 Toyota 4-Runner
5. **Favorite TV Show?** Anything on the DIY Network.
6. **Favorite Pro Sports Team?** Green Bay Packers
7. **Favorite Main Course Meal?** Chicken Marsala
8. **Pets?** Golden Retriever - Layla
9. **Favorite Thing About Working In Golf Industry?** The ability to work outdoors and everyday brings something new.

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In response to shade and stagnate air the tees on the par 3 third hole were converted to Low Mow Bluegrass. The tee complex is watered manually to ensure the area does not receive too much water from a stuck head.



As we toured the course Ron pointed out more than once how teamwork is the key to Blackwolf Runs success. He credited the assistant superintendents Bill Schwantes and Chris Deckard whom he works with as well as Rivers Course Superintendent Jeff Wilson for his success. Everything is a team effort. For the State Open and again the US Women's Open both staffs will work together to make the tournament come off without a hitch.

One of the challenges of the property is the difficulty in getting from one hole to another without interrupting the players. With mounding, rivers, woods and ravines driving from one area to another is difficult. The staffs have perfected their routes and most jobs are completed long before a golfer reaches that hole. Out of site and out of mind maintenance! A mix of full time and "mow and go" employees help the facility stay topnotch without having massive overhead.

In preparation for the Open, Bierwirth does not expect to make many changes to the maintenance routine but he will increase the frequency of the routines.

Blackwolf Run was started in 1985 when Pete Dye began his work on the great piece of property. The natural terrain mixes with Dye's trademark pot bunkers and undulating greens. The course was named after Black Wolf, a chief of the Winnebago Indians (now known as the Ho-Chunk Nation). According to Gustave Buchen's local history, "Historic Sheboygan County," the Chippewa and Menominee Indians joined forces to drive out the Winnebagoes. Their intent was to occupy this splendid, beautiful hunting ground. Several battles were fought, and although the Winnebagoes were outnumbered, Black Wolf led his band up the mouth of the river, waded up the shallow water of

the lakeshore and overtook his enemies. Black Wolf was a prominent chief in the history of the Winnebagoes in Wisconsin during the early 1800s.

Opened in June of 1988, the layout featured an 18-hole course, with an additional nine added to the Meadow Valleys course in July 1989 and the fourth nine completed in August of 1990. Both courses have consistently won awards and have been ranked as among the top public courses in the world.

The course hosted the United States Golf Association in 1998 for the Women's Open Championship. The event was won by 20 year old Se Ri Pak in a playoff over Jenny Chuasiriporn. The Women's Open returns next year in 2012.

In 1995, the River Course was selected as site of the Andersen Consulting World Championship of Golf, the precursor to the current WGC events. The U.S. portion of the event was won by Mark McCumber. The following year, the event returned to the River Course, and Greg Norman captured the International section of the Championship. When the Championship returned in 1997, Ernie Els defeated Steve Elkington in the title match of the International bracket.

The Wisconsin Section of the PGA previously held the Open at Blackwolf Run in 1991, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2009

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COVER STORY

The State Open is played over 72 holes with 18 holes Monday, 18 holes Tuesday and the low 60 plus ties qualify for the final 36 holes on Wednesday. The event is open to any legal resident of the State of Wisconsin, golf professionals working as such within the state, PGA professionals working as such within the Wisconsin Section, PGA and all exempt players.

Qualifying for the 2011 Open was held at Geneva National GC, Wild Ridge GC, Wausau CC, Hawks Landing GC, Fire Ridge GC and Branch River G&T.

The 2010 Open was won with a 277 by Eddie Terasa at The Legend at Bristlecone. It was the second win for Terasa who carded a 275 at Maple Bluff Country Club

in 1995. The 2011 event was won by newcomer Jordan Niebrugge an Amateur from Mequon who shot 67 in the fourth round to finish 282 to win by one over Patrick Duffy of Appleton. Niebrugge is 18 years old and a recruit for Oklahoma State. Starting the round three shots behind the 54 hole leader Duffy Niebrugge eagled 11, birdied 12 and 16.

At 18 years and two weeks Jordan is the youngest golfer to win the Wisconsin State Open. Niebrugge will have the opportunity to defend his title next year at The Racine Country Club.



The 550 Yard Par 5 16th Hole. The new turf is kept dry to keep poa annua from establishing in the new bentgrass. Aerification and hand watering is used on the the high spots to reduce dry spots.