

It is also important to establish what I call “anti-credibility.” Listing off all of your golf course and green industry jobs will probably make you sound like a paid lobbyist for the turf industry. Don’t worry; you have plenty of experiences to balance out the scale. Turf is the ultimate “green” green plant. Growing healthy turf in a responsible manner provides many benefits to the environment and to the human population. Many of us are active conservationists, whether we document it or not. During my previous assistant superintendent years, I monitored the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary program at two golf courses. Dust off Audubon’s information packet. It is full of conservation examples that you can pass on to the public. If your course is not a member yet, consider joining the program because it contains numerous opportunities for positive public outreach and education.

Let’s now outline some scientific studies to which we can attach emotional arguments to defend turf and the modern greenspace. Turf is branded wasteful by some because the inputs are visible but, unlike other agricultural systems, the outputs, or benefits, are not readily quantified. The end result is that the uninformed public views turf as a resource “black hole.” With these resources, we can argue that the benefits far outweigh the inputs.

**Emissions from Turf Equipment.** Volckens et al. (2008) quantified the emissions of 2-stroke engines and found that approximately 11% and 5% of total hydrocarbon (HC) and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions, respectively, in the US came from small engine use. They also found that EPA regulation implemented in 1997 has since reduced HC and CO emissions by 78 and 50%, respectively. Gabele (1997) examined 4-stroke engines of various ages and technologies and found that the newer engines had lower HC and CO emissions due to new engine technology and the use of ethanol fuels. We should take a play out of the auto industry’s book and champion our equipment manufacturer’s efforts to reduce our fuel use and emissions. Think of the reaction if you told someone your string trimmer has 78% less emissions today than it did in 1997. Small fact, big effect.

**Turf Water Use.** Water usage is the most visible turf input and usually gets the most attention. It is important to convey that misuse of water for turf is not a function of the turf but a function of human error. Rosillion (1985) quantified the daily average per person water use in the US and compared that to how much water turf needs. Our daily average was 1800 to 1900 gallons per

day, only 10% of which was direct, household use. If you take the daily average use and spread that day out across a year, it would be 1” over a 10,000 ft<sup>2</sup> lawn every day. The average northern climate lawn of 5000 ft<sup>2</sup> needs only 1” per week for only 3 to 4 months a year. Compare 1” per day versus 1” per week and we see turf doesn’t need much water to survive.

**Runoff and Nutrient Loss.** A healthy turf system has excellent resistance to lateral water movement due to 8-30 billion shoots per acre (Beard and Green, 1994). Runoff from turf only occurs at the worst storm events while runoff from bare soil or hardscapes would have occurred much earlier. When looking at runoff from urban and agricultural areas, agricultural runoff affects much higher percentages of our lakes and rivers than urban runoff (USDA, 1989). And soil erosion from turf and agriculture is 196 and 8056 lbs per acre, respectively (Gross et al., 1991). Very, very different numbers

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It is true that fertilization of any system releases N<sub>2</sub>O gas but Horgan et al. (2002) found that fertilizing creeping bentgrass or Kentucky bluegrass with acidic rather than basic fertilizers reduced the release of N<sub>2</sub>O into the atmosphere. Peer-reviewed research shows that turf contributes very little to the nutrient/runoff problem and newer research is guiding superintendents on methods to reduce our impact. An example would be golf courses spoon-feeding with water-soluble N or using slow release N. This is what the public needs to know; we are a proactive industry.



**We in the turf industry have to spread the word that the benefits of turf outweigh the inputs provided to maintain the turf.**

**Benefits of Turf to Society.** Turf and the modern greenspace provide numerous, often overlooked, benefits to society, especially in an urban environment: soil erosion control, dust prevention, heat dissipation, noise and glare reduction, air pollution control, low-cost playing surface, improved physical and mental health, increased property value, and improved quality of life. All of these benefits, and more, are described in a comprehensive literature review titled "The Role of Turfgrasses in Environmental Protection and Their Benefits to Humans," written by James Beard and Robert Green (1994). Every person involved in the green industry should be familiar with this publication and should even have a copy available at all times. It is an excellent talking-points resource when speaking with any individual or group about our profession. WGCSA or GCSAA members may be able to get a copy online through the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) and it is easily found by searching the article title in most internet search engines.

Beard and Green (1994) outline the importance of the playing and spectating of turfed sports. For the participants, turf helps improve physical well-being; for the spectators, improved mental well-being through stress relief and diversion from the fast paced life. The economic impact of turf

recreation in Wisconsin is where you can really attach an emotional element to your argument: Use Lambeau Field and Miller Park as examples. Every seat is full for nearly every game, win or lose, plus the hundreds of other functions at those facilities. Millions of dollars are spent every year either playing or watching sports. And let's not forget Whistling Straits. Would the economy of Kohler and Sheboygan, WI, be the same without golf? The answer is a definite "no." Take away turfed sports and Wisconsin's economy would lose millions in spending money and tax revenue. Golf courses throughout Wisconsin pay \$32 million in taxes annually (WI Ag. Statistics Service, 2001).

You are surrounded by people who utilize turf in their daily lives, yet they fail to recognize its benefits. Even in winter turf is acting as a living snowmelt filter. It is our calling to present the benefits of turf to society. I hope I have given you some ideas and resources to help convey the message when the time comes. And it will come.

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## News and Notes From WGCSA Members

By John Jensen and The Reinders Team

Maybe my memory is going, but I just don't remember a spring like this. I feel bad even calling it spring but it surely has been interesting. As I sit down to write this article, we are into mid May and just outside my window and across the road is a farm field that is just now being seeded for the season. It is a task that should have been done weeks ago but with the strange weather patterns, this farmer is not alone.

Some of you have come out of winter looking good and just waiting for the steady temperatures to turn that course to lush green. Others throughout the state have been hit with a bad case of ice damage and winter kill. With the cooler than normal spring repairing this damage is making the task seem like an eternity.

A few years ago, I pulled into a course that had lost at least four greens to a late season ice storm. I jumped on a cart and headed out to see the damage. As we approached the worst of the four greens, I looked over at him and noticed he looked as calm as the stillest day. I was really surprised and said to him, "You are handling this much better than I would." And I will never forget his response, "You know, it's good to have this happen every now and then. Now the members get to see why they hired me to take care of this place." He was right; sometimes people need a good reminder.

### Industry News

With the busy season upon all of us, everyone at Reinders has done his best to keep me informed about the newest changes in the market place. Now onto the latest news as I hear it.

After many years as head superintendent at Old Hickory Country Club, Mike Lyons has been hired by the Oliphant Companies to become the superintendent at the Golf Courses of Lawsonia. Both the Links and the Woodlands courses make up the 36 holes of golf located in Green Lake.

Lee Manke has returned to Wisconsin as the new superintendent of Old Hickory Country Club. Lee was the head superintendent a few years ago at Mayville Country Club before taking a job in Minnesota at Greystone Golf Course. Lee is an avid Brewers fan and I bet he is glad to not have to drive so far to catch a game.

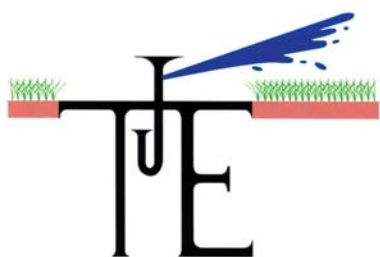
Martin Kennedy is the new golf course superintendent at Door Creek Golf Course in Cottage Grove. Previous to joining Door Creek, he has worked for the past seven years at University Ridge Golf Course.

Grayson Harms is the new superintendent at Bishops Bay in Madison. Prior to joining Bishops Bay, Grayson was the superintendent at Tuscumbia Golf Course.

Jeff Norman is the new superintendent at Meadowbrook Country Club. Jeff came to Racine from Lac Crosse where he owned and operated a course just over the border in Minnesota. He began his career at Meadowbrook as the golf course assistant to Scott Bartosh and was promoted when Scott decided to pursue other ventures.

Scott Bartosh has joined Arthur Cleasons, Inc. as their newest sales representative. Arthur Cleasons is based out of Wheeling and Mokena, Illinois. Scott was a superintendent for many years at Kenosha Country Club and joined Meadowbrook Country Club a few years ago before taking over his new sales territory.

Dave Kloss and Paul Bastron have joined JW Turf as sales representatives for the Wisconsin territory. Dave was formerly a superintendent with Medinah Country Club and Paul was with Glen Flora Country Club which is also located in Illinois. Paul was with Glen Flora since 1987 and held both the general manager and superintendent positions.



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## BADGER STATE TURF CLIPPINGS

Tony Cerrito who has worked with the grounds department at Muskego Lakes for the past few seasons, has been promoted to superintendent.

Steve Houlihan is the new assistant superintendent at Bluemound Country Club. Steve has worked with Jim Shaw at Chenequa Country Club and with Randy Van Fleet at Merrill Hills Country Club.

Mike Bindel is the new assistant superintendent at Merrill Hills Country Club and prior to that worked with Josh LePine at Bristlecone Pines Golf Course.

Lori Stanek is the new superintendent at Petrifying Springs which is one of the two Kenosha County Golf Courses. Lori has been a long time Kenosha County employee and was formerly at Brightondale Golf Course.

Aaron Goninen has joined Reinders as a Golf Irrigation Sales/Service Representative. Aaron will be managing customer accounts in Wisconsin and the U.P. of Michigan. During his college days he worked at Bishop's Bay as well as

Blackhawk Country Club. After graduation, he became an assistant at Conway Farms in Lake Forest, Illinois and Blue Mound Country Club located in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

Jeffrey Muller has joined Oconomowoc Country Club as Dustin's second assistant superintendent. During the last year he has been a part of the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club's field management crew.

Prior golf course experience included Old Baldy Club in Saratoga, Wyoming and Eagle Ridge Resort and Spa located Galena, Illinois.

### **The Perfect Game:**

Mike Schmieden, superintendent of Evergreen Country Club, bowled his first career 300 game on February 12th during his local couple's league event. Mike has been bowling for 20+ years and even goes to the National tournament on a regular basis. Congratulations, Mike, and hey, I know a guy in Kenosha that could use your help!

## Coming Events!

**Tuesday June 7th - WGCSA/PGA Super/Pro at North Shore CC in Mequon**

**Tuesday July 19th - WGCSA Tournament at Brown Deer Park GC, in Milwaukee, WI**

**Tuesday July 26th - WTA Summer Field Day at OJ Noer Research Facility, Verona**

**Saturday August 6th - Gene Van Liere / Eagle Creek Golf Club Memorial Scramble**

**Monday August 15th - WGCSA Golf Meeting at Greenwood Hills GC in Wausau (w/NGLGCSA)**

**Monday September 19th - Wee One Fundraiser @ Pine Hills C.C. Sheboygan**

**Fri Oct 7th and Sat Oct 8th - WGCSA Couples Weekend @ Minocqua CC, Minocqua, WI (w/NGLGCSA)**

**Monday October 3rd - WTA Fundraiser @ Oconomowoc GC, Oconomowoc, WI**

**Tues Nov 15th & Wed Nov 16th - WGCSA Golf Turf Symposium @ American Club, Kohler**

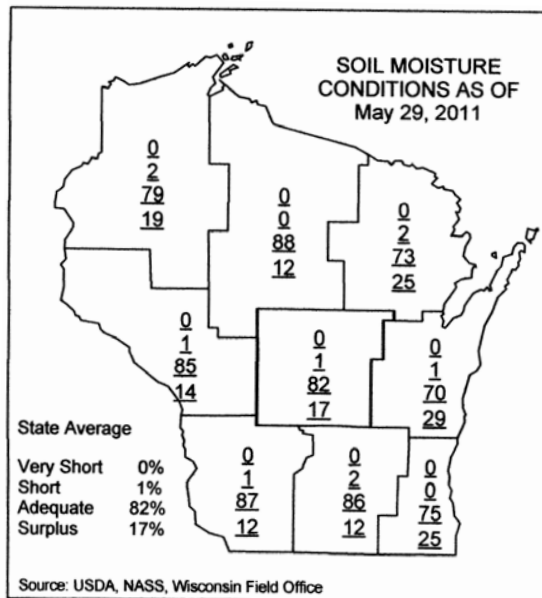
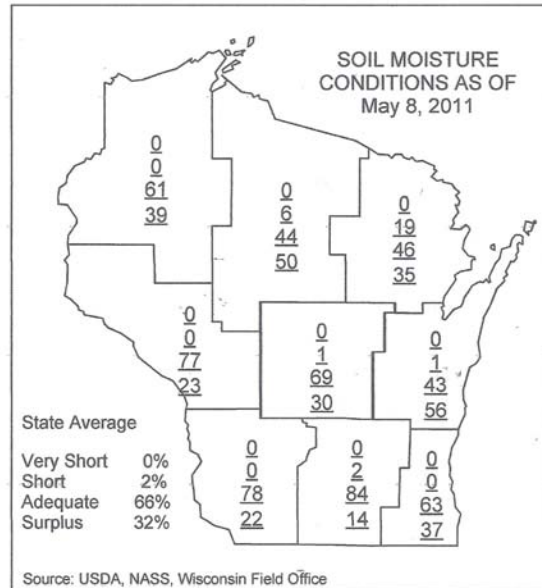
## The Spring That Never Was!

By David Brandenburg, Editor

The loss of a colleague is never easy, especially when it is sudden. The WGCSA and golfers at Eagle Creek Golf Club in Hortonville lost a friend when Gene Van Liere passed away unexpectedly on Sunday April 24th, 2011 while visiting with family in Salem.

Gene was 49 and is survived by his wife Karen and sons Matthew and Jonathan both at home. Gene had a smile for all and was a welcome addition to any foursome, table or group discussion. I had the pleasure of getting to know Gene while we worked local golf shows and while on a trip to Farm Links.

Eagle Creek is hosting a memorial golf scramble to raise funds for the boy's tuition. The August 6th event features a 9:00 shotgun start and should provide a great time while helping out the family in Gene's memory. Registration can be by phone 920-757-1000 or find a registration form at [www.eaglecreekgolfclub.net](http://www.eaglecreekgolfclub.net)



What can you say about this spring? It may go down as one of the worst for cold and moisture but don't forget the wind. We track golf playable days based on days with less than .25" of rain and over 45 degrees. I am not sure winds at 35 to 40 miles a hour is considered playable. There was also a number of days where it hit 46 or 47 degrees from 3:00 to 3:20 pm before falling again?

It is difficult enough to grow grass in this weather but the real challenge is the detrimental hit to revenue and play.

Operators that were hoping for a early profitable spring to catch up on some bills have found weekend after weekend of rain or cold. The record number of courses up for bank sale this spring tells the tale of the past couple years. Hopefully as we approach summer the weather will provide for conditions to encourage play.

# EDITORS NOTEBOOK

The Soil Moisture Conditions from May 8 show only 2% of the state short on moisture while 32% had a surplus of moisture. Fortunately late May and early June brought some warmer dryer days. The picture did not change much by May 29 when only 1% was short while 17% had a surplus.

The USDA and National Agricultural Statistics Bureau have released some charts on the costs of products for the ag industry that we also use in turf. The prices are from March and April for the Lake States Region.

Outside of Muriate of Potash which has increased 114% from \$277 per ton to \$594 per ton the turf products have done pretty well over the past 4 years. Glyphosate and Chlorothalonil are down in price from 2007.

The trouble for golf courses is the rise in gas and diesel fuel. The high prices not only add to already tight budget concerns but reduce the customers discretionary spending dollars as more income is put in the gas tank.

As we move into the heat of summer I hope we have nice days with timely nighttime rains to benefit us and the farmers. Long term forecasts are for cooler and wetter than normal, but time will tell.

Remember there are some opportunities to see some great golf on the states best golf courses with the State Amateur at Maple Bluff July 18-21, The State Open at Blackwolf Run August 15-17 and the USGA US Amateur Championship at Erin Hills and Blue Mound Country Club August 22-28. These events are all free and a great opportunity to introduce juniors to the game.

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Item	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Unleaded Gas, Bulk	2.62	3.27	1.94	2.79	3.54
Diesel, Bulk	2.47	3.27	1.99	2.84	3.56
Urea / ton	450	547	504	520	519
Muriate of Potash / ton	277	562	848	501	594
2,4-D / gal	15.90	17.20	19.30	18.00	18.00
Dicamba	82.40	77.60	82.60	72.40	N/A
Glyphosate	28.90	40.50	42.80	22.80	16.80
Chlorothalonil	47.00	48.20	59.80	50.00	40.80
Pendimethalin	28.20	29.70	37.40	36.30	38.70
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## WTA Summer Field Day Has Something For Everyone

By **Tom Schwab**, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The WTA Summer Field Day will be here before you know it. The date is set for Tuesday, July 26, 2011. This is a wonderful day for you to visit the OJ Noer Facility and see all the new turfgrass research being conducted at the University. There are over 80 studies ongoing this summer and several of the most pertinent ones will be showcased during the research tours. The education will describe new turf maintenance findings to help all turf managers with their sports fields, golf courses, sod farms, lawn care properties, parks, and other commercial turf areas.

Presentations and interaction with the researchers promise to go more in depth than in past years. Comments from attendees asked for longer discussions during the educational tour. Thus quality rather than quantity will be the theme for 2011. There will be education both in the morning and afternoon.

The morning education will have a theme of 'Pesticides and Pest Control'. Are you confused by all the new herbicides that are now available? You can now selectively take bentgrass and tall fescue out of Kentucky bluegrass, or *Poa annua* out of bentgrass. You can apply broadleaf herbicides that have little to no odor, volatility, or mowing restrictions, and use herbicides that more effectively control unusual weeds such as nutsedge. Learn about all the new herbicides from university researchers at summer field day.

All turf managers strive to avoid making pesticide application errors. Learn from the experts how to avoid making costly and embarrassing application mistakes during the morning education tour.

There are also organic options to lawn pest control. Dr. Doug Soldat will explain the new UW-Madison organic turf management publication.

Explore the new pesticide management building at OJ Noer. Learn best practices for designing agricultural buildings from UW Madison agricultural engineer Dr. David Kammel. Discover costs, requirements, and tips for constructing similar buildings yourself.

That all takes place in the morning. Education continues in the afternoon with three different learning tracks. There will be a golf turf research track on the Noer research plots, a sportsfield bus tour that will visit several area athletic fields, and a lawn care workshop. The following describes the three afternoon learning tracks.

### **Golf turf learning track:**

- Fungicide and water use on five different fairway turf spe-

cies

- The 'Greenway' study including DMI fungicide and Growing Degree Day information
- Fungicide degradation and 'Actigard' effects on dollar spot
- Secondary effects of fungicides on white grubs
- Brown ring patch and fairy ring biology

### **Sports field bus tour:**

- Camp Randall stadium
- Goodman softball diamond
- West Madison little league complex

### **Lawn care workshop:**

- Small equipment preventive and in-the-field maintenance
- Ride-on spreader sprayer equipment calibration
- Spray gun calibration
- Drop and rotary spreader calibration

All the education will be complemented by the ever popular summer field day trade show. Helpful vendors who will answer questions about their latest products will feature all the latest supplies, services, and equipment available to the turf industry. Several equipment vendors allow test drives of their products so you can compare between manufacturers.

New to field day this year will be an exploratory soil pit where you will learn how glaciers and other factors developed the different soil layers of south central Wisconsin. This will be both fun and educational for anyone who dares enter the depths of the Noer Facility.

Summer Field Day is a great way to learn about the latest research coming from the UW-Madison, compare the newest commercial offerings from the trade show, visit with colleagues over a great lunch, and possibly participate in one of the afternoon learning tracks. We are also hoping to have some special guests for you to visit with, and the refurbished WTA truck will be on display. You will surely leave Field Day with many ideas to put into practice back home. Call Audra Anderson, WTA administrative assistant, at 608-845-6536 if you have any questions.

Your Field Day brochure will be emailed rather than mailed to you as in previous years. The brochure will also appear in all your individual association newsletters or it can be downloaded from the WTA website, [www.wisconsin-turfgrassassociation.org](http://www.wisconsin-turfgrassassociation.org). Also new this year, you may pay online if so desired. Field Day 2011 is going to be the best ever, and I hope you can fit it in – July 26th.



# WTA GOLF FUNDRAISER



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October 3, 2011



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Hole #13 challenges you with a tight landing zone, raised green and misleading false front

Save the Date / Registration forms will be available at [wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org](http://wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org) by midsummer. Contact Audra for more information at 608-845-6536 or [ajander2@wisc.edu](mailto:ajander2@wisc.edu)

## Maple Bluff Hosts WSGA Amateur Championship

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

The Wisconsin State Golf Association's Wisconsin State Amateur Championship returns to a course that has a history as old as the association itself. Maple Bluff Country Club was founded in 1899 with 5 holes on a rented parcel of ground. The prospect of a golf club quickly gained support and in 1900 the money was obtained to purchase 58 acres for 9 holes and a clubhouse.

The course was designed by Herbert J Tweedie and built by the John Dunn Construction Crew. Times were different in the early days of golf as shown by the club's history which references "To keep the fairways smooth, 300 sheep and a mower were on hand." In the days before cars it was common for members to arrive by horse and buggy or by steamboat that would leave the University of Wisconsin - Madison area and cross Lake Mendota to reach the club. To facilitate travel across the lake a 40 foot steamboat called the "Putter" was purchased by the club.

In 1901 Maple Bluff joined nine other Wisconsin Clubs to form the Wisconsin State Golf Association. (WSGA Charter clubs - Janesville Sinnissippi GC, Milwaukee CC, Maple Bluff CC, Kenosha CC, Riverview CC in Appleton, Oshkosh CC, Schaghticoke CC in La Crosse, Racine CC, and Tuscumbia CC.)

The course was expanded to 18 holes in 1916 and today the par 71 course measures 6,400 yards from the back tees with a rating of 72 and a slope of 132. The historic layout will challenge the state's best amateur players during the championship. Maple Bluff first hosted the Amateur Championship in 1907 when original Maple Bluff member Frank Jacobs won. Maple Bluff also hosted the Amateur in 1920, 28, 37, 50, 72, and 1987. The other winner who was a member of the club at the time was Craig Brischke in 1982.



Hole 6 at Maple Bluff will play 205 yards for the Amateur.. Photo Courtesy of David Ostby

### 2011 WSGA Amateur Championship Qualifying Sites

**DISTRICT 1A: Drugan's Castle Mound GC, Holmen, Monday, June 27th, 2011**

**DISTRICT 1B: Turtleback GC, Rice Lake, Tuesday, June 28th, 2011**

**DISTRICT 2: Wausau CC, Wausau, Friday, July 1st, 2011**

**DISTRICT 3: Brighton Dale Links (Blue Spruce), Kansasville, Wednesday, June 29th, 2011**

**DISTRICT 4: Stoughton CC, Stoughton, Tuesday, July 5th, 2011**

**DISTRICT 5: Thornberry Creek at Oneida, Oneida, Tuesday, July 5th, 2011**

**DISTRICT 6A: Hartford GC, Hartford, Monday, June 27th, 2011**

**DISTRICT 6B: Western Lakes GC, Pewaukee, Thursday, June 30th, 2011**

**DISTRICT 6C: Whitnall Park GC, Hales Corners, Tuesday, July 5th, 2011**

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