

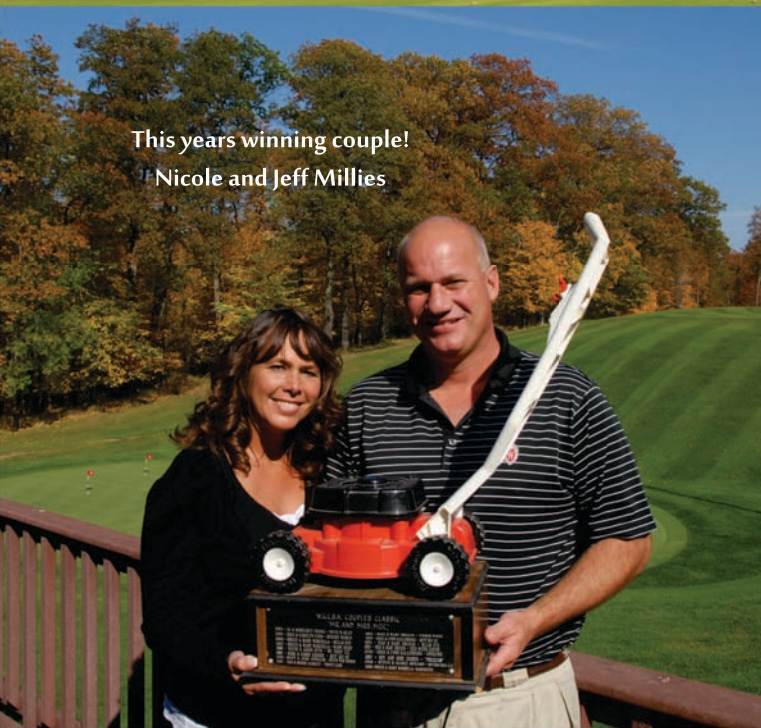
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Michelle and Bill Stein!



Got Drainage?

By Bob Vavrek, Senior Agronomist, USGA Green Section

Editors Note: This article was originally printed in the USGA Green Section Record November 16, 2011, and is reprinted here with permission.

Have you ever noticed an accumulation of water along the perimeter of a putting surface during and after a heavy mid-summer thunderstorm, especially where the green transitions into collar or approach? If so, these low, poorly drained sites can be highly susceptible to crown hydration or ice-suffocation winterkill. During summer, these perimeter puddles will disappear quickly as water percolates through the soil. However, these puddles can persist much longer when there is frost in the ground, and the combination of standing water plus cold temperatures is the classic recipe for severe winter injury.

Where is the lowest (deepest) point in the problem puddle? That can be difficult to determine unless standing water is present during the excavation process. Visit the site during or right after heavy rainfall and place an irrigation flag in the deepest water before it percolates into the soil. You can fake rain with an irrigation hose or slowly dump a few 5-gallon buckets of water above the

problem areas to produce a puddle. Paint a dot on the putting surface where you placed the flag. Refresh the paint as necessary until you strip the turf. Another option is to mark the deepest part of the puddle by pushing a nail deep into the turf. A metal detector can be used to find the spot later.

Any combination of factors, such as poor design, poor construction technique, settling or an excessive accumulation of sand topdressing in the collar can hinder the flow of excess water off the putting surface. Regardless of why it occurs, it's not too late in the season to address at least a few of your green's worst perimeter drainage problems. Options to consider include:

1. Use a sod cutter or Miltons sod stripper to create a channel from the lowest point where water pools along the perimeter of the green through the elevated collar or approach. Extend this canal or gutter into an outfall off the green that is lower than the puddle. Wrap the strip of sod in a geotextile fabric and place it in a nearby bunker. It may survive the winter and can be used to repair the trench in spring.

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(L) Visit a green during or right after heavy rainfall to document problem areas along the perimeter of the putting surface where an elevated collar or approach is impeding surface drainage. These sites will be highly susceptible to winterkill when frost is in the soil. (R) A heavy roller can be used to slowly lower the grade of slightly elevated collars and approaches that are impeding the movement of excess water off the putting surface.

2. Cultivate the area of the collar or approach that is impeding surface drainage with 5/8-inch hollow tines. Remove the cores and water as much as necessary to soften the soil. Use a heavy (up to 1-ton) roller across the cultivated site to slowly lower the grade of the elevated turf to the point where surface drainage is restored. The open holes will provide space for the soil to shift under the weight of the roller. Several coring/rolling operations may be required to attain the desired result.

3. Obviously, the most permanent one-step remedy is to strip the elevated collar or approach, lower the grade to facilitate surface drainage and then replace the sod. Altering the grade of a collar or putting surface sounds simple, but it can be one of the more tedious and frustrating undertakings you will ever attempt on the golf course.

4. A considerable amount of sod will need to be removed and replaced if a smooth transition from the disturbed to undisturbed turf is desired. Making subtle and seamless changes in elevation across a highly visible and heavily used area of the course is as much an art as a science. However, the experience you gain during the first excavation will pay dividends during any subsequent attempts to re-grade a collar or approach.

Improving drainage is always hard work, but it's still much easier a task to address drainage problems around greens during late fall when golfers are away, versus the highly stressful process of seeding or sodding winterkill on greens during spring when golfers are breathing down your neck.

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Delegates Meeting

By Jim Vanherwynen, Certified Golf Course Superintendent, South Hills Country Club

On October 28th through the 30th I was privileged to represent the WGCSA as your Chapter Delegate. Upon arrival Friday the 28th we took a tour of the headquarters in Lawrence and had the opportunity to meet Chapter Delegates from Chapters around the country. 93 Chapters were represented with more than one third of those being new Delegates such as myself. It was enlightening to me to get on the property and one of the first things you see is the Old Tom Morris statue which is truly a work of art. The statue, which stands seven feet tall, was sculpted by Superintendent Brad Pearson of Holdrege, Nebraska. One instantly feels a sense of history for the game and its connection to St Andrews. The headquarters facility is top notch and a fantastic venue to host meetings in a very comfortable setting.

The weekend is filled with many discussions of the state of the GCSAA and the value they give their members, the industry itself, and an exceptional opportunity to put a face to a name for which we have seen or read about in trade magazines or at the GIS. It is an opportunity to get intimate with the Board of Directors of the GCSAA, the candidates for new directors, and other Superintendents from around the country who share the same passion for our profession as we all do. New ideas arise continuously throughout the weekend as the communications are very open and candid. If you recall, Jeff Millies brought back the idea of PAR4Research from a delegates meeting and with the help of an outstanding committee have made this an extremely popular and successful endeavor for the golf community in the State of Wisconsin along with the members of the WGCSA.

During the weekend I learned about the numerous opportunities the GCSAA has for its members such as the re-designing of the website and the online job board, the self assessment tool, online forums, IPM planning guide, social media presence and the Field Staff Support. I also learned that coming soon there will be free webcasts, an expanded Field Staff in the NE and NW regions, guide for sustainable practices, expanded on-demand courses, nutrient management templates, and golf course energy use & conservation reports. One thing I was truly impressed with was how much “behind the scenes” programs that many of us take for granted or simply don’t know is how much advocacy and government relations and programs takes place on the local, state and national levels. The media & public relations involvement with golf 20/20, WE ARE GOLF campaign, NPDES and H2B programs and the National Parks

& Recreation Association to name a few.

The bottom line is the GCSAA is in the forefront of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability and securing our future through supporting industry efforts to grow the game, strengthen industry’s position with lawmakers, create greater affiliation between members and the Environmental Institute for Golf so as to put positive perception in the public eye which is increasingly more important. Ultimately The GCSAA continues to build engagement on the chapter level, enhancing their ability to provide and serve their members which equals – you. Once again I came back from the meeting enlightened and was grateful for the opportunity. Here is a brief summary of the Delegates meeting from the GCSAA.

“Ask and you shall receive” was the theme for the 19th GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting, conducted Oct. 28-29-30 at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., and the Airport Hilton in Kansas City, Mo.

Association executive staff and elected leaders solicited feedback and frank discussion on a multitude of topics and charged attendees to communicate with their respective chapters upon their return home. GCSAA Vice President Sandy Queen, CGCS set the tone in his welcome to the delegates saying “we want to hear from you. It is vital that you share this information with your chapters.”

Value of Membership

GCSAA President Bob Randquist, CGCS repeated a message that he has emphasized throughout his term in office: GCSAA must enhance the value of membership and demonstrate it to the members. He outlined several new programs implemented in the past year including expansion of the field staff program, creation of a new job board, growth of social media, a new website, new resources to enhance sustainability of the golf facility and the online Self Assessment Tool to measure member competency and identify resources to facilitate improvement.

This discussion and an open town hall meeting format generated many suggestions as to how GCSAA might increase and demonstrate value, with many ideas focused on delivering value at the chapter level through field staff and enhanced use of technology.

Second-year delegate Jeff Berg, Class A member representing the Virginia GCSA said the many ideas offered were a by-product of the board’s willingness to listen and engage the

delegates. "Sometimes it's good to shake things up a little," Berg said. "Stirring the pot is not necessarily a bad thing if it's done positively. We came out of the weekend with items on which both GCSAA and the chapters can take action."

Field Staff Expansion

Randquist elaborated on the field staff program, noting that four regions (Florida, Great Lakes, South Central, Southwest) were staffed and two more would be assigned by the end of 2011 (Northeast, Northwest). All nine GCSAA regions are slated to have resident field staff by the end of 2013. He said the directive for the program remains unchanged: to create a greater link between the association and its chapters – something he believes is happening "to an even greater degree" than he had expected this early in the program.

GCSAA staff also provided several examples of the activities where field staff have helped to facilitate chapter effectiveness through association programs including strategic planning, advocacy, membership growth and allied association relations. A roundtable discussion was conducted among smaller groupings of delegates to examine areas for opportunity and measures of success for field staff. The feedback was loud and clear that the program had great potential to create an even greater impact in the future.

"I was one of the early naysayers," Minnesota GCSA delegate Kevin Clunis, CGCS said. "But once we began hearing about the successes and how it was helping chapters, my president asked me 'how fast can we get ours?' I'm sold on it."

Member Standards: 10 Years Later

For Randquist, the meeting featured a bit of a "Back to the Future" moment with the introduction of the Member Standards Advisory Group which has been formed to take a strategic look at the impacts the membership standards have had on the association and its members. It has been 10 years since members approved the implementation of member standards by a 3 to 1 margin. Randquist, who served on the group that coordinated the development of those standards, said the current board felt the review was prudent, but not based on any preconceived notions.

"Ultimately there may be no changes to the standards," Randquist said. "But the board felt enough time had passed since the implementation that we could get some feedback on the impact. We selected the advisory group, but that is as far as we went. What they find will not be directed by the board."

The group, which will work independent of the board, will review the impact of the standards to determine if the goals are being met, if there have been any unintended consequences, and make recommendations to the board on a future course of action in regards to standards. The 11-member

group will be chaired by GCSAA Past President Sean Hoolehan, CGCS and with GCSAA Past President Tim O'Neill, CGCS serving as vice-chair. It will feature a diverse cross section of the membership including certified members, Class A,

SM and C representatives. There is no firm deadline for the group's report, but an update on the group's progress will be delivered

at the 2012 Chapter Delegates Meeting.

Additional Discussion Items/Activities

- It was announced that beginning Nov. 1, GCSAA webcasts would be free of charge for all members.

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- It was announced that members wishing to apply for certification can now do so immediately upon attainment of Class A status. The additional requirements of one year as a Class A and 5.0 education points have been removed.
- GCSAA continues to grow its collaboration with allied golf associations to strengthen the game of golf. It is imperative that representatives of those organizations on the facility level work in the same fashion to affect positive change as well.
- Newly appointed chief operating officer Richard Konzem was introduced.
- Candidates running for board and officer positions made presentations and hosted breakout discussions
- An in-depth presentation on GCSAA government relations efforts revealed collaboration among staff, chapters and allied associations is having a positive impact.
- Four chapters made presentations on programs they have instituted with the assistance of GCSAA resources in the areas of BMP development, media/public relations, strategic planning and government relations.
- The GCSAA promotional package on the Golf Channel was well-received and supported as an important investment of funds.
- Outlined were new features for Conference and Show, and the National Championship and Golf Classic including edu-

cation programs, networking opportunities and cost-saving options available to attendees. This includes a chapter incentive program for golfers who have not participated in the tournament in the past two years.

Candidates for The GCSAA 2012 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT - Sandy G. Queen, CGCS

VICE PRESIDENT - Patrick R. Finlen, CG

SECRETARY/TREASURER - Keith A. Ihms, CGCS & John J. O'Keefe, CGCS

DIRECTORS (4 members are on the slate to fill 2 open director positions.) -

Rafael Barajas, CGCS, Darren J. Davis, Mark F. Jordan, CGCS, Bill H. Maynard, CGCS

Peter J. Grass, CGCS, remains on the board with one year remaining in his two-year director term. Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, will serve on the board for one year as immediate past president. Both secretary/treasurer candidates have one year remaining in their director terms, so the board will fill the secretary/treasurer's vacated director seat by appointment following the election.

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Remaining 2011 Live Sessions

- Dec. 6: GDDs for Timing PGR Applications
- Dec. 15: Dollars & Sense of Foliar Fertilization
- Dec. 20: Ten Amendments to Better Soil
- Dec. 21: Critical Eye for the Turfgrass Guy

On Demand Webcasts

Sessions are available in agronomy, business, communication, environmental and leadership.

Simply log in as a member at GCSAA.org, find the webcast link under the education tab and search the topics for the session you want. GCSAA will e-mail you a link to watch the session.

The nice thing is you can stop and start a On Demand Webcast if you are interrupted or to take notes.

GCSAA Scholars Program

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has awarded scholarships to 13 college students as part of the GCSAA Scholars Program administered by GCSAA's philanthropic organization, The Environmental Institute for Golf.

Applicants must be enrolled in a recognized undergraduate program in a major field related to golf/turf management and be a GCSAA member. Undergraduate applicants must have successfully completed at least 24 credit hours or the equivalent of one year of full-time study in an appropriate major.

- Michael McNamara, Mendenhall Award Winner, Penn State university, \$6,000.
- Royal Healy, Allan MacCurrach Award, University of Massachusetts, \$5,000
- Wayne Shane Lee, Abassador Award, Penn State University \$2,000
- Clinton Steketee, Michigan State University, \$2,250
- Peter White III, University of Massachusetts, \$2,250
- Tyler Manly, Michigan State University, \$2,000
- Tyler Patton, Penn State University, \$2,000
- **Dustin Bernau, University of Wisconsin, \$750**
- Anthony Minniti, University of Connecticut, \$750
- Matt Carstens, Washington State University, \$500
- Colton Fees, Oklahoma State University, \$500
- Jake Halak, Ohio State University, \$500
- Jason Von Engen, Iowa State University, \$500



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Introducing the New UW Turf Web Site

By Dr. Doug Soldat, Department of Soil Science, University of Wisconsin - Madison

The new University of Wisconsin-Madison has a new web site for turfgrass science. Visit www.turf.wisc.edu to check it out. We hope you'll find it so useful that you'll make it your homepage and use it every day next season. Here's a look at what's new:

First, we've added many of the same growing degree day models used by the Michigan State GDD Tracker. The new web site generate color coded maps of growing degree days for Wisconsin and Minnesota so you can improve Poa annua seed head suppression and perfectly time your applications of herbicides and insecticides. We also added a spreadsheet that you can download to better manage your trinexapac-ethyl and paclobutrazol applications.


Next, we've added WIS-TURF (The Wisconsin Irrigation Scheduler for Turf). This scheduler was developed by scientists at UW for agricultural irrigation and I had the opportunity to modify and fine tune it specifically for turf. I'll be working on an instructional video which will describe how to use the new scheduler at your course, so keep an eye out

for that in early spring. We have also added evapotranspiration maps to the web site to help you keep track of ET on a daily basis (no weather station required!).

We also added the UW's Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science's NEXRAD Radar to the site. I've found this to be the fastest and most reliable of the online radar programs. There is also a calendar function so you can see what's going on in the world of turfgrass science and education.

In addition to the new features, we've maintained the collection of University of Wisconsin Research Reports (since 1993) and have a short description of the Turf and Ground Management program at the UW.

Features still in the development phase include a fungicide selection tool and a collection of handy turf calculators (aerification, topdressing, fertilizer spreader calculators, etc.). We want this site to be as useful as possible to you so please share your comments and suggestions about the new site with me at djsoldat@wisc.edu.



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News and Notes From WGCSA Members

By John Jensen and The Reinders Team

Official State Superintendent:

Jon Hegge, Golf Course Superintendent of Evansville Country Club was selected this past year to officiate the Girls State Division 3 WIAA Basketball Championship Finals. This was held at the Kohl Center in Madison and was a game between the Altoona and Kewaskum High Schools. Ultimately the Altoona girls won and took home the honors for 2011. This is the second time that Jon has officiated state finals. The first time was back in 2009 when he was asked to officiate the boy's tournament. He has also officiated for the state Cross Country twice and the Division 4 All State Women's Track. Jon says being an official is like being a superintendent, "You can never keep everyone happy."

New Superintendent:

Bryan Bergner has officially accepted the position of Golf Course Superintendent for Westmoor Country Club located in Brookfield, WI. After high school, Bryan decided to enroll at UW-Milwaukee and pursue a career in Criminal Justice. Not long after graduation, his life took a different direction when he began maintaining the grounds at Moorland Golf. He soon found that he had a desire to pursue a career in golf course maintenance. From 2003 to 2005 he worked as an assistant superintendent at New Berlin Hills Golf Course. He then joined Jerry Kershasky at Westmoor Country Club as the assistant golf course superintendent. When he wasn't working, Bryan concentrated all his efforts in working towards receiving his Turfgrass certificate from Penn State University. Bryan and his wife Danielle have been married for 10 years and have a 2 ½ year old boy named 'Miles'. This is certainly exciting times for both of them. Congratulations on your new position.

UW-Graduate turned Ironman:

On September 11, 2011, Ben Pease who is currently a graduate student at UW-Madison competed in the Ironman Wisconsin triathlon in Madison. It began with a 2.4 mile swim in Lake Monona, followed by a 112 mile bike ride that took him through southwest Madison into western Dane county. This was followed immediately by a marathon of 26.2 miles through downtown Madison and the UW-Madison campus. The total race added to more than 140.6 miles.



Ben Pease at the Finish Line at the Ironman Wisconsin.

Ben's swim time was 1 hour 15 minutes, his bike time was 6 hours and 15 minutes and his marathon time was 4 hours and 40 minutes. Total finish time, with transitions, was 12 hours 26 minutes and 5 seconds. He finished 64th in his age division and 686th overall out of about 2500 entrants. Ben is looking to do it all over again in 2013. Congratulations, Ben, on this outstanding accomplishment.

Here is some advice from one Ironman to another. (That's what the Reinders guys call me when we go off to the Golf Show. I'm the guy chosen to do the ironing of the shirts.) Anyways, here's my advice. Invest in a boat, motorcycle and powered roller blades. You will easily cut your time in half and never work up a sweat. Don't rule out the fact that chicks dig boats, bikes and blades. Just kidding, way to go!