

He's Backkkkkkkkk!!!!

Jerry Kershasky has joined Reinders, Inc to help serve the Chicago market. He will be a Territory Manager in the Soft Goods Business Group responsible for sales and product support.

For the past 37 years, Jerry has been the golf course superintendent at Westmoor Country Club.

He is past director of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association where he directed the efforts of the Turf Diagnostics Lab and raised funds for research.

Throughout his career he has spoken at numerous industry conferences, most recently this past January at the Great Lakes Trade Expo/Michigan Turfgrass Conference. His presentation, "Hot Gas & Regrass" focused on fumigating greens and reseeding them. Garth Brooks, Michael Jordan and Brett Favre all send their best wishes on Jerry's unretirement.

Last curtain call:

Just a little over three years ago, Dave Brandenburg asked if I would be willing to take on the responsibility of writing the Badger State Clippings. It is amazing how time flies and now that I have reached my last article; I'm just not sure how to feel. I travel throughout the state and although it hasn't happened too often, it has all been worthwhile when someone says to me "I just wanted you to know that your article is the first one I read". It probably doesn't hurt that it has been on the back page for many of those issues, but it has always been nice to hear. Of course, everyone's a critic. "Hey, your grammar stinks" or "Hey that's not how you spell Catastrophe" or "Hey you don't have to capitalize sparrow in a sentence". I just stuck with what I learned in writing class a long time ago, "Write like you talk". So what you saw is what you got. Do I really talk like that?

It always struck me funny that I could tell when an article would hit your desks. I would start getting the nasty grams from those unwilling participants that had become victims of my warped sense of humor. Bowling, boating, biking, April fools jokes, marathons, hunting, fishing, canoeing, retiring, hiring or talk about my hunting companion, 'Styx'; it was topics like these that hopefully showed each of you that there is more to our industry than just our day to day lives surrounded by golf.

I would like to thank the sales team at Reinders for your efforts in helping keep me abreast of the happenings throughout Wisconsin. Without your help, this would have been a challenging article to write.

The torch is now being passed to Matt Kinnard of DHD Turf & Tree. He is a great guy and sure to do a fantastic job with his own style. Please help to keep him informed by emailing him with any information you may have. He can be reached at m.kinnard@sbcglobal.net



Ben Pease during the 112 mile bike ride portion of the Ironman competition.

As I put the final touches on this, it is currently cloudy and very fall like outside. Winter is just around the corner and my German Shorthair Pointer, 'Styx', is sitting on her favorite chair staring at me with those big brown eyes. Somehow I think she knows that as soon as dad is done with this last paragraph, it's off to spend the rest of the morning finding pheasants together. In the end, isn't that what this life should be all about? Spending time doing what you love to do. Thanks again, everyone.

John Jensen

Editors Note: Thank you to John Jensen for his contributions to The Grass Roots and the rest of the Wisconsin sales rep force for keeping him abreast of your news. The "Clippings" used to be on the back page however John's writing ability made it impossible to fit on one page. It worked out well as the back page is prime advertising space anyway.

Good luck to Matt and the DHD Team. To the WGCSA - do not be shy. Toot your own horn on new things in your lives.

BADGER STATE TURF CLIPPINGS

Editors Note: The following is a story from Kerry Anderson from Valent USA on a service trip he took to Janesville, Virginia to help remodel a house. It

Appalachian Service Project

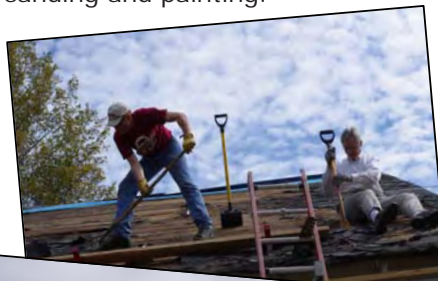
Submitted by Kerry Anderson

After returning from Jonesville, Virginia from the latest Appalachian Service Project (ASP), I started reviewing some of the pictures we took while helping a family in need make their house "warmer, safer, and drier". Our family, a grandmother of 80, along with her son and granddaughter lived in a home that in parts was more than 100 years old, and it was definitely showing its age. Prior to our arrival the house was close to being condemned. The roof was falling in and water was destroying the ceilings and floors. Floor joists were rotten from the many years of neglect and were collapsing beneath them.

We were the fourth group from ASP to be at this sight. Other groups had replaced one side of the roof that had been falling through, floor joists were repaired or replaced and rough flooring was installed. Drywall work had commenced and was ready for sanding and painting.



Kerry Anderson (back row, far left)



The items that we would be responsible for during the week of our service involved removing 2 layers of shingles on the back roof, patching bad spots and replacing the roof with tin. The kitchen floor needed to be finished, installing tile and baseboard. The front living area needed a laminate floor installed. The grandmother's bedroom needed the ceiling sanded and painted, closet doors installed and a shelf put up as well as trim installed. In addition, we needed to clear the back yard of 10+ foot tall Ragweed to access the roof for the tear off and installation of tin. We had a lot of work to finish in 5 days but I knew how hard our crew would work to achieve our goals and that gave me confidence.

Without fail, our groups worked quickly to accomplish our assigned tasks and were able to move on to other jobs that were only in future plans. Usually we have to leave our unfinished projects for future crew's completion. This gave us a great feeling of accomplishment this year since we had really lived up to the mission of making this home "Warmer, safer, and drier".

ASP is an extremely worthwhile organization that works in the Appalachian Mountains to help families in need. Of the 200+ families that apply to the Jonesville site alone, only around 12-15 homes can be worked on per year. ASP is currently expanding to bring more adult groups into their program. They have a strong youth program during the summer, but need more adults for the difficult tasks they are faced with. The website www.asphome.org is where you can find information about the opportunities to share of your time and talents. Any talent level can be utilized. There are plenty of tasks, from painting and cleaning to structural integrity issues, there are a multitude of opportunities for all skill sets. Can you give of your time and talents to help others that are less fortunate?

As a final Big **THANK-YOU**, the group especially praises the assistance from Valent's Matching Gift Program. This allowed our group to purchase materials to help in the restoration process and allowed a family to have a better life.



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WGCSA Fall Business Meeting

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

The annual membership meeting and election took place on November 15th before the 46th Annual Golf Turf Symposium at the American Club in Kohler. The attendance at this important event was a little lacking given the large number of members who attend the symposium however it may be a reflection on the good job the board and chapter manager are doing to operate the association and communicate with the membership.

With many of the agenda items highlighted on a power point display the meeting was organized and went fast. After approval of the minutes a communication was read from the U.W. Foundation thanking the members for the \$10,350 donation to the WTA on behalf of the Par4 Research fundraiser.

As a reminder the funds are donated through the WTA to

reduce university "taxes" on the money and to allow one organization to provide larger donations rather than many providing smaller donations.

President Jeff Millies presented a request for donations from the Michigan State Library Turfgrass Information Center to preserve the original slides from O.J. Noer's expansive collection. It is anticipated \$80,000 will be needed for the project. The WGCSA donated \$5,000 that will be matched by the O.J. Noer Foundation to double our donation.

The meeting calendar was presented and is almost complete. A host site for the joint WGCSA and NGLGCSA meeting in August is needed. The PGA is still working on a site for the Super Pro event but it will be held Wednesday

WGCSA SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH DONATIONS

	2011 BUDGET	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET
J.R. Love Scholarship	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
WGCSA Legacy Scholarship	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
M.S. Miller Literary Scholarship	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab	\$1,000	\$1,975	\$1,975
UW Madison / WTA Research	\$15,000	\$22,350	\$15,000
PAR4 Research	\$8,000	\$10,350	\$10,000
USGA / EIFG	\$500	\$500	\$500
Other items	\$500	\$6,750	\$2,375
Totals	\$29,000	\$45,925	\$33,850

S&R Research - A History Of Giving

2003 - \$23,000
 2004 - \$26,500
 2005 - \$31,000
 2006 - \$20,000
 2007 - \$24,730
 2008 - \$38,000
 2009 - \$17,000
 2010 - \$32,180
 2011 - \$45,925

CURRENT WGCSA PROJECTS SUPPORTED DIRECTLY*

Name of Project	Requested By	2011 Funding	2012 Funding	2013 Funding	Project Total
Fe applications and high pH water's effects on putting green soils	Dr. Soldat	\$9,300			\$9,300
Affordable alternatives to PCNB for snow mold control	Paul Koch, Dr. Kerns	\$5,000	\$5,000		\$10,000
Impact of winter covers on snow mold development	Paul Koch	\$5,000	\$5,000		\$10,000
Characterization and management of root infecting pythium species on Midwest putting greens	Dr. Kerns	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$9,000
Annual Totals		\$22,300	\$13,000	\$3,000	\$38,300

*University projects are also supported by the WTA and the funds donated by the WGCSA directly to that organization.

May 30th and the WTA fundraiser will be held in October.

Colin Seaberg discussed changes that will effect pesticide applications to and near natural bodies of water. In addition to the rules under NR107, EPA rules under the Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) will apply. More information can be found at this DNR page, <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/ww/aquat-pesticides.htm>.

The regulations are still a work in progress as states adapt to the new federal rules and some in the federal government try to put a hold on the new regulations. It will be important for members with ponds and rivers to keep an eye on updates.

Brett Grams gave an update on membership numbers and asked that renewals be processed in a timely manner. It takes 3 weeks to print the directory after the last renewal comes in. We currently have 432 Members (1 more than last year) with 173 A, 56 SM, 65 C Assistant, 54 E Affiliate, 22 D Associate, 17 AA Life Retired, 22 Honorary, 6 Inactive, 2 Retired and 13 student.

Winners of The Legacy Scholarship Program were announced:

- Eden Schaller daughter of Joan and Scott Schaller from North Shore Golf Course attending Edgewood College in Madison and studying Political Science.

- Kayla Brandenburg daughter of Noelle and David Brandenburg from Rolling Meadow Golf Course attending UW Green Bay studying Psychology.
- Danielle Schuld daughter of Mary and Daniel Schuld from Portage Country Club attending UW Madison and studying Biology.

The Legacy Scholarships are made available to the children and grandchildren of WGCSA Members.

Last on the agenda was the election of officers and directors. A unanimous ballot was cast for nominations from past presidents Mike Lyons, Dustin Riley and Brian Zimmerman:

President: Jeff Millies, CGCS Edgewood GC,

Vice President: Chad Harrington, Autumn Ridge GC

Treasurer: Jim Van Herwynen, South Hills Golf & CC

Secretary: Colin Seaberg, Ozaukee CC

Director: Scott Sann, CGCS, Greenwood Hills CC

Director: Aron Hogden, University Ridge GC

Brian Zimmerman will remain as Immediate Past President.

Directors Jon Canavan and Scott Bushman have one year remaining on their terms. John Jensen, Vendor Liaison and Kevin Knoblauch, Class C Representative round out your board of directors.

President Millies thanked Mark Storby for his time on the board as his term expired.

Coming Events!

Tuesday January 24th WTA Winter EXPO, Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells

Wednesday February 8th NGLGCSA Educational Symposium, Wausau

Wednesday February 15th WGCSA Assistant Superintendents Educational Session, Fond du Lac

Wednesday February 29th WI Room, El Segundo Sol on the Strip, Las Vegas, NV

Monday March 12th Spring Business/Education Meeting, Fond du Lac

Monday April 23rd Geneva National GC, Lake Geneva

Monday May 14th Trappers Turn GC, Wisconsin Dells

Wednesday May 30th Super/Pro (location TBD by WI-PGA)

Monday June 25th WGCSA Tournament, Oshkosh CC, Oshkosh

Tuesday July 31st Summer Field Day at OJ Noer Center, Verona

August To Be Determined Possible Joint Mbr.Gst. w/NGLGCSA

Monday September 17th Wee One Fundraiser, Pine Hills CC, Sheboygan

Fri Oct 5th and Sat Oct 6th Couples Weekend, Edgewood GC, Big Bend

October WTA Fundraiser (to be confirmed by WTA)

November/December Symposium in Kohler (dates and location TBD)

Communication is The Key

By Jeremiah Hoffmann, PGA Golf Professional, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

“Communication is the key.” No matter what industry you work in, you have probably heard or spoken that phrase. Communication is very important in everyday life; it's how we get things accomplished. We all know it's important in our industry as well. Communication is needed between the Superintendent and Golf Professional and to their respective staffs.

It's my guess that at most facilities those lines of communication are well established. If they aren't, you most likely will struggle to accomplish your goals and fulfill your mission statement. Communication between us (the golf course) and the customer is also extremely im-

portant. When the summer months are in full swing and all of our schedules are full to the max, it's easy to only communicate with our customers when they play golf. If we are going to continue to be successful or make strides toward being more successful, we need to meet the needs and expectations of our customers. Very often it is easy to know what those needs and expectations are, while other times we have no idea what they want.

We have made a very conscious effort to improve how we communicate with our customers. Letters and e-mails were sent, surveys were distributed and we even have an Advisory board. Despite those efforts, it still felt like we weren't getting our message to our customers in the way we wanted too. So, we tried something new. Well not really new, but new to us. We had a meeting. We invited all of our permit holders to attend. We bribed them too by offering cookies and brownies if they were to attend. We were worried no one would show or that we would only get one or two people. Much to our surprise 45 people showed up.

David and I each presented information to them about our respective departments. People asked questions, we got answers to ours and we received valuable feedback on some of our processes. We have a few potential projects on the table and we were able to get customers thoughts and ideas on which was most important to them. Over all it was very successful evening. It was an excellent chance for us to let our customers know what we were doing and why.

I know that many of you have meetings already and some places it just won't work. The most important thing is to sit down with your golf professional and general manager to evaluate if you are being as effective as you'd like in communicating with your customers.

After our meeting, I had a few customers approach me and thank me for offering a forum for them to express their opinions. The relationship we have with those customers is most certainly strengthened and we have created ambassadors for our course. The more people feel involved, the more loyalty they will have in the future.



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New Tools for Old Challenges - 2011 Symposium

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

After 46 years you would wonder if the Golf Turf Symposium would run out of ideas. The two day fall educational event is unique in how it uses the full time period to dissect a single topic. This years topic "New Tools For Old Challenges" looked at long time problems and the new tools for dealing with them.

Before I get into the education it is important to thank our somewhat nameless sponsor. Milorganites sponsorship of the event goes back to 1966 when Charlie Wilson, Jim Latham and Bob Welch of Milorganite approached Charles Shiley, Les and Ron Verhaalen and John Stampfl of the WGCSA to solicit their ideas on the conference format.

The day and half format was devised to help attract participants from not only Wisconsin but all over the Midwest. Still today as back then all of the speakers expenses are paid by Milorganite while the attendees pay for the facility and meals cost while allowing the WGCSA to donate any profits to the O.J. Noer Research Foundation.

Milorganites sponsorship of the event by paying all speakers costs has allowed the committee to bring in experts from not only all over the United States but also Canada and England.

The speakers at the first symposium included turf experts Dr. James Beard, Dr. Bill Daniel, Dr. Jim Love, Dr. Marv Ferguson, James Holmes, architect Pete Dye, Milwaukee County horticulturist John Voight, equipment distributor Bob Hornung, Milorganite spokespeople Charlie Wilson and James Latham along with superintendents Frank Musbach, Frank Ranney, John Stampfl, Charles Shiley and Bill Sell.

If you get a chance be sure to thank current Milorganite staff Shelly Mazurek and Jamie Staufenbeil who serve on the committee with Dr. Doug Soldat, Bob Vavrek, Chad Harrington, Dustin Riley, Brett Grams and Dave Brandenburg.

This year the committee was looking for feedback on moving back to the Milwaukee area and the time frame the symposium is held each year. If you were not able to attend this year be sure to let one of the committee members know your thoughts on when and where the symposium is held along with and topic ideas you may have.

The day started out with Keynote Speaker Brian Horgan from the University of Minnesota speaking on "*Resisting Stress with Technology: Water Conservation for Golf Courses*". Dr. Horgan started with the explanation even though water tends to be plentiful for most of us in the Midwest it is a dominate topic in the golf industry as more and more areas are facing shortages or scrutiny.



Dr. Brian Horgan from the University of Minnesota gave the keynote address.

Regardless of what we think of our water use or the importance of golf, many outsiders see turfgrass as unnatural plant community that is not sustainable on its own.

United States golf facilities cover 2.2 million acres and of that 1.5 million acres is maintained turf and 1.2 million acres is irrigated regularly. However those golf facility acres account for only one-half of one percent of the 408 billion gallons withdrawn annually and just one and one half percent of the 137 billion gallons applied as irrigation nationwide.

Even though our water use is low in terms of other industries our use can be seen as discretionary and not necessary so we are in no position to waste the water we do use and we have many reasons to improve our efficiency.

So we know we should improve our irrigation efficiency but how do we do that without a new system? Brian had some new ideas and tools for improving our water use.

While keeping turf drier it is important to keep an eye on stress before it becomes a problem and polarized glasses allow you to see changes in the turf before the naked eye can. There are special purple polarized glasses you can buy for that purpose but they are not to be worn long term or your eyes hurt but the polarized lenses used for fishing work the same way. It allows you to see stressed turf before it goes totally off color. The other tools are soil probes and moisture probes for tracking soil moisture. The moisture probes allow for a actual number to be assigned rather than the judgment feel of an experienced hand.



Dr. Doug Soldat discusses predictor models and the new turf website with Jacob Schneider.

Brian explained using the feel method is the “Art of Greenskeeping” but not scientific. Scientific methods require numbers and regulators in Washington also require numbers. He suggested basing watering not on a calendar but the previously mentioned tools and watering at 80% of Evapotranspiration Rate (E.T.). He also encouraged superintendents to find their distribution uniformity and set sprinklers by the amount of water we want to apply not the number of minutes the water should run.

Unfortunately irrigation systems are the limiting factor in water conservation. ET rate alone does not guarantee success but it is a starting point to be used with studying your



Dr. Jim Kerns speaks on control strategies for emerging diseases.

property. In looking to the future tools that measure the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) will see stress 12 to 24 hours before the naked eye. These units can be pulled behind a cart over the course and will change the way we maintain quality turf.

Dr. Jim Kerns was next with his talk titled “*Emerging Diseases and New Control Strategies*”. He explained that summer patch, anthracnose and dollar spot continue to be the main turf problems through the Midwest but some new diseases are coming onto the scene.

Brown Ring Patch caused by *Rhizotonia circinata* causes arching rings with orange or bronze colors.





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To diagnose it take a plug and put it in a container with moist paper towel and you will see mycelium in 24 to 48 hours. Control is nearly the same as brown patch. Preventative control can be obtained with a single application and turf managers should concentrate in areas where the disease has been in previous years. Curative control may take multiple applications.

Mad Tiller disease is a mainly aesthetic problem that may be caused by a pathogen but none has been found to date. It affects creeping bentgrass, annual blue and perennial rye during overcast or wet periods. So far research has not shown it to be related to bacterial wilt, fungus or growth regulators.

Bacterial wilt was almost to epidemic proportions on Toronto Bentgrass in the 1970's and was caused by *Xanthomonas translucens* *pv. graminis*. It has been a occasional problem on poa annua through the years. The turf turns blue green in color and the infected plants show shriveled leaf tips and



sensation on the new website <http://turf.wisc.edu/> with all the tools a turf manager could want to hone their skills.

Growing degree day trackers allow us to scout for insect or weed problems and apply the correct products at the perfect time. The Wisconsin irrigation scheduler page shows the previous days E.T. rate to help decide when and at what rate to apply water. An important part of watering based on E.T. is to find out how much water you actually apply by doing distribution uniformity tests.

Of course uniformity does not take into account soils or slopes. More information on tracking your irrigation distribution uniformity can be found in Dr. Soldat's article "What's Your Irrigation Distribution Uniformity?" in the Sept/October issue of *The Grass Roots*.

Dr. Soldat expressed the three main tools in turf irrigation are a soil probe, wetting agents and using E.T. based irrigation.

Doug passed the slide projector over to Jim who presented his research on disease predictor models and how to use a combination of air temperature and relative humidity or just relative humidity to predict when diseases will occur to a threshold level to require treatment. He also discussed the turf disease management decision aid that offers treatments by class, product, efficiency and resistance that will soon be on the Wisconsin website.

The disease models can allow golf courses to reduce applications by one to three per year when compared to following a calendar schedule of applications.

Mark Grundman from Jacklin Seed Company finished up Tuesday sessions with the talk "Native and Natural Areas and Their Care". With attempts to reduce mowing costs many courses have added natural areas or planted native plant areas over the past ten years. The goal is to provide a aesthetically pleasing area that the customers can still find golf balls in.

A turf manager has to know what type of turf they have or want to have and plan maintenance from that point.

The fine fescues have been good options but they are not a no maintenance grass but rather a delayed maintenance grass. After establishment water has to be reduced and fertilizer applications should be based on nutrient tests. The thick turf can be a great spot for insect problems so scout regularly and be prepared to use insecticides as needed.

Natural areas do develop a matt layer from the amount of organic matter that lays on top of the soil. If it is not removed this layer will choke out the grasses allowing for weeds to take over. The matt needs to be removed on a regular basis by mowing and raking or burning. To remove the matt a fast burn is recommended to reduce the amount



Mark Grundman discusses the challenges of native and natural areas.

plants rapidly wilt and dieback.

On the treatment side of diseases new control strategies include products that enhance plant immune responses through systemic acquired resistance (SAR) or induced systemic resistance (ISR). Dr. Kerns also went over a number of new fungicides that have or will enter the market soon providing better results.

After Dr. Kerns solo effort he teamed with Dr. Doug Soldat to discuss their work on predictor models and other technology for turf problems. Dr. Soldat started with a pre-