

of damage to desirable species in a natural area that could allow weeds to fill in bare areas. However a area where the soil has not been disturbed a slow burn can encourage germination of the native seeds in the soil.

Other tips Mark had were to buy native seeds by bulk seed numbers not weight and what rates to use for common plantings. He also discussed weed control with phragmites or common reed grass, thistle, teasel and quack grass.

After breakfast on Wednesday Josh Lepine from the Legend at Bristlecone started the day with *“Competitively Bidding Your Maintenance Plan”*. Josh’s talk was a informative for everyone in attendance as he has honed his planning and purchasing processes to a science.

### The benefits of competitive bidding:

- Provides the best possible goods or services.
- Demonstrates to club officials you are a cost conscience manager.
- Prevents favoritism.
- Cost savings allow the club to more with less.
- Ethical approach to businesslike decision making regarding purchases.
- Your system can be a selling point when interviewing for a new position.

### The downside of competitive bidding:

- No direct vendor - customer loyalty.
- How do you reward a good salesman?
- Time commitment for paperwork and adding new vendors to database.
- Cheaper is not always better. Need to research products and the provider.
- Must have a detailed maintenance plan.

Lepine bids pond treatment services, seed, flowers, filters, uniforms, chemicals and fertilizers along with anything else that will ensure he is saving his club funds whenever possible. By using historical data he has a good idea what products he will need but his plans allow him to be flexible if new needs surface during the season. For most products he still buys as needed, but he has the price from his offseason work to eliminate having to call around and get pricing in season.

In his 12 years of experience he estimates he saves 20% on services and supplies by using competitive bidding.

Ty McClellan, USGA Agronomist for the Mid-Continent Region presented *“The ABC’s of Core Aeration”* and lead with the fact we cannot take shortcuts in organic matter management.

Ty presented information on research he was involved with as a student at Kansas State and the University of



**Above: Josh Lepine presents his purchasing strategies.  
Below: Ty McClellan discusses core aeration procedures.**



Nebraska along with current research and his work as a USGA agronomist. Infiltration on putting greens reduces over time due to thatch and matt layers along with a finer topdressing being used in comparison to the original construction mix.

Organic matter percentage has been a hot topic recently and it is a difficult number to compare. How and when samples are taken along with the lab used influence organic matter percentage results. Ty recommended there is no magic number or goal but encouraged turf professionals to monitor the results over years and watch for changes.



**TOP: PJ Liesch presents new trends in insect management.**

**Below: Dr. Bruce Branham discusses poa annua control.**

**Bottom: Session chair, speaker and panel moderator Bob Vavrek.**



The key is to take samples the same depth at the same time of year and use the same lab. If your results show increasing organic matter accumulation Ty recommended removal through thatching and core aeration or dilution through topdressing. Superintendents also need to be aware as greens age and the original soil is buried through topdressing the entire 3 or 4" sample will become all thatch and matt causing the overall percentage of OM to increase.

Recent research has shown that no products are available to statistically reduce organic matter in turfgrass. McClellan then discussed the recent "rumors" regarding core aeration not effecting organic matter content. The truth is, although core aeration alone may have little affect on total organic matter it is effective in replacing thatch and layers in the profile.

Solid tine aeration is a option but cannot be relied on exclusively because of surface tension problems.

Next up was PJ Liesch, Associate Researcher in the Entomology Department at University of Wisconsin-Madison with a talk titled "*New Trends in Insect Pest Management Tools*". PJ gave a excellent recap of the older insecticides and how they were developed and why some are still effective today along with the new products out and to come in the next couple years.

Liesch explained how "group numbers" given to pesticides with the same mode of action are an important tool to avoid resistance. To avoid resistance from pests, group numbers need to be rotated even if two different chemicals are in the same group.

The new products being developed tend to have reduced human toxicity while being pest specific rather than broad spectrum in control.

Some of the older products such as the organophosphates were found by research for military nerve gases. Dylox is one that is still on the market for a good low cost curative grub control. Pyrethroids were developed in the 1960's and originated from chrysanthemum flowers and are a common short lived household insecticide today.

The biologicals such as Bacillus thuringiensis which was discovered in Japan in 1901 and first registered in the United States in 1961 are very specific in target and short lived.

Spinosyns are derived from a soil microorganism first found by a scientist at a Caribbean abandoned rum factory. Despite the fact that scientist has crazy ideas of vacation the class is showing promise as a broad spectrum product with low human toxicity.

With PJ's insight into the new products to come insect management may become a little easier over the next few years.

Dr. Bruce Branham was the last speaker of the day discussing every turf managers nemesis with his presentation "*Poa Annua Control...New Options Explored and Options Revisited*". Bruce began with the two main problems of poa control; there is a large seedbank in the soil and poa annua goes from a annual grass to a perennial grass over time making it harder to get rid of.

The other challenge is the conversion process with old and new products can get superintendents fired. Branham covered the old and new use of Prograss, Velocity, Primo, Tenacity, TGR and Cutless along with the benefits and challenges of each. Research on a new product Xonerate that should be labeled in 2012 show it controls poa with marginal safety on Kentucky-Bluegrass and has synergistic properties with Tenacity. As with the old products users need to use care with the new products and even then damage can occur to the desired species.

After lunch the panel continued the discussion on poa annua control. Mike Lee Manager of Golf Maintenance for the Kohler Company started with their process to fumigate 36 holes of greens and fairways over two years to reduce winter kill of poa annua and provide better playing conditions.

Chris Tritabaugh Golf Course Superintendent at Northland Country Club in Duluth MN continued with his 5 year project to reduce fairway thatch by turning off the water and reducing nitrogen applications. The course right on Lake Superior had 4-5" of thatch built up on the fairways.

Jeff Johnson, Golf Course Superintendent at The Minikahda Club in Minneapolis MN where in recent years they have redone the bunkers, removed 400 trees and brought greens out to original sizes while returning the design back to its original intention.

Both Chris and Jeff have used the Greenway Golf program or variations of it to try to reduce poa numbers with success on some holes but not on all holes.

The staff at Blackwolf run is using Velocity and Cutless in different areas to keep poa out or to reduce numbers in the few areas that were not fumigated.

All three panelist stressed education and communication with the members or management is needed in any project or changes that will change the way the course plays. For Chris he was able to use his "honeymoon" period to implement his firm and fast philosophy. By having time to prove his methods will lead to better playing conditions overall the golfers have accepted the changes as worthwhile.

In following with tradition USGA Green Section Agronomist Bob Vavrek finished out this years event with the "Roundup". Bob highlighted the take home messages from each speaker much as I have hoped to do in this review.

The Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium is a key educational tool for golf course superintendents. If you have never attended or have not attended recently it is really worth the time and cost. The topics are looked at in-depth and without advertisement for one product or the other.

Thank you to the symposium committee, the WGCSA and all the speakers for taking time to travel and educate us.

Thanks most of all to our sponsor Milorganite who picks up all the speaker costs so we can provide this education at a acceptable price. Their 46 years of support is appreciated and allows the profits from the Symposium to go to the O.J. Noer Foundation in the name of the WGCSA.



The Symposium Panel - Chris Tritabaugh, Mike Lee and Jeff Johnson

## WISCONSIN GOLF TURF SYMPOSIUM

First*	1966	Winter Injury (Bulletin No. 5)
Second	1967	The Physical Nature of Soils
Third	1968	POA ANNUA
Fourth	1969	Satisfying the Golfer
Fifth	1970	The Chemical Nature of Soil
Sixth	1971	Where are We Going in Golf Course Management?
Seventh	1972	Recycling Golf Course Wastes
Eighth*	1973	Thatch
Ninth	1974	Water Movement in Soils
Tenth	1975	A New Deal for an Old Course
Eleventh	1976	Living with POA ANNUA Species
Twelfth	1977	Keeping Your Head on Straight
Thirteenth	1978	Fast Grass
Fourteenth	1979	Research
Fifteenth*	1980	Sand - On and In Golf Greens
Sixteenth*	1981	Management Requirements for Sand Greens and Sand Top-Dressed Greens
Seventeenth	1982	Getting to the Roots of the Matter
Eighteenth*	1983	The Facts and Fallacies of POA ANNUA Management
Nineteenth	1984	Directions in Golf Course Management
Twentieth	1985	Grooming - The State of The Art - New Problems for New Times
Twenty-first	1986	The Micronutrients - Who Needs Them?
Twenty-second	1987	Impressions - A Memorable Golf Course (First to Lasting)
Twenty-third	1988	Water Management - A Cultural Practice for all Conditions
Twenty-fourth	1989	Optimizing Pest Management - Strategies to Maximize Results
Twenty-fifth	1990	Bentgrasses - New Old Right or Wrong
Twenty-sixth	1991	Traffic - How much can you bare?
Twenty-seventh	1992	The Green and Tee Complex - Renovating the Surrounds
Twenty-eighth	1993	Winterkill - The Causes And Solutions?
Twenty-ninth	1994	Golf In The Year 2010 The Game, The Job, The Challenge
Thirtieth	1995	Earth, Soil, H2O
Thirty-first	1996	You Can't See The Trees For The Turf
Thirty-second	1997	"If You Build It They Will Come" Putting Green Construction
Thirty-third	1998	"What You Seed Is What You Get" Putting Green Establishment
Thirty-fourth	1999	Showtime! Developing the Playing Surface
Thirty-fifth	2000	The Ins and Outs of Bunkers
Thirty-sixth	2001	Emerging Problems and Pests
Thirty-seventh	2002	Doing More With Less - Resource, Time and Money Management
Thirty-eighth	2003	POA - Twenty Years Later
Thirty-ninth	2004	Soils - Managing the Pressures
Fortieth	2005	Grasses - So Many Choices, It's a Pain in the Grass
Forty-first	2006	Getting Down to the Roots
Forty-second	2007	Why Close At All?
Forty-third	2008	All Water is NOT Created Equal
Forty-fourth	2009	Fewer Dollars Requires More Sense
Forty-fifth	2010	Golf In The Year 2010 - Did We Predict The Future?
		*Proceedings

## 2011 - Appreciate What We Have

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

It is hard to conceive that 2011 is coming to a end. There is so many things I want to get done yet plus all the planning I want to do for 2012. I guess there is no stopping it and I may as well accept the inevitable, I will enter 2012 the way I entered 2011, a bit behind.

How will you remember 2011? A good year or a bad year? I have two philosophical comments on that. Every year we are alive and able to live with our families is a good year and every year will bring challenges.

Those challenges can be big or small but they are there for everyone. It can be hard for us to realize when things are not as we would like in our lives that we have it good. For most of us our challenges are minor compared to others with serious illnesses, abandoned by family or without work.

A few short years ago when the golf industry was peaking we seemed immune from unemployment problems. Now the list of golf course superintendents and assistant superintendents looking for work is growing. Just this month a 18 hole course near me fired the hardworking superintendent because the board needed to save money and they thought they could get by with a part time person running a part time staff.

You and I may think that is crazy but the club is grasping at straws to survive and that survival is more important than turf conditions. I am pretty sure in the long run the club will find it costs more to operate without a professional staff but they could get lucky and find a unique person.

I am not saying it would have helped but this case is a good lesson for golf course superintendents to be involved in all facets of the golf operation. Have a knowledge of industry trends in marketing, human resources, communication and general management. When possible be involved and an expert on the golf industry for your clubs committees and boards.

For some golf course superintendents it is take on more responsibility or someone else will take over your position and do it for you.

It is expected there will continue to be a retraction in the size of the golf industry for a few more years. Unfortunately there is too many courses for the number of rounds being played and something has to give. Golf is still a popular sport but golfers are harder to attract early in the morning or during less than ideal weather, leading to less overall revenue.

The industries challenges will continue through the winter and into the 2012 golf season but take time again this winter to evaluate your operation and continue to provide your golfers the best product you can.



**Monroe Miller receives the USGA's Ike Grainger Award from Bob Vavrek.**

Congratulations to Monroe Miller, Executive Director of the WTA, and retired long time superintendent at Blackhawk Country Club for receiving the Ike Grainger Award from the USGA. The award was presented to Monroe by USGA Agronomist Bob Vavrek at the Symposium.

The USGA started the award in 1995 in appreciation of those who volunteer for 25 years of service with the association. Monroe has been a member for the USGA Green Section Committee since 1986 and also won the Green Section Award in 2004.

Ike Grainger was a past USGA president and considered an expert in the rules of golf. He spent over 50 years as a volunteer for the USGA and took up the game of golf in 1907. He passed away in 1999 at 104 years of age.

Former WGCSA President, WTA Treasurer and Board Member Roger Bell had and is recovering from open heart surgery where 5 by-passes were performed. Roger was the long time superintendent at North Shore Country Club in Menasha and later Peninsula State Park Golf Course before retiring on Surprise Lake in Townsend, WI.

## EDITORS NOTEBOOK

Congratulations to Lori Stanek, Assistant Superintendent at Petrifying Springs Golf Course for winning a Toro Tri-Flex Hybrid Greensmower in a random drawing. The mower will be added to the fleet at the Kenosha County owned course as employees cannot personally accept gifts or winnings they receive on the job.

Either way Lori will get to use the machine to make her course better and who needs a greensmower at home anyway.

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If you have a turf student on your staff be sure to remind them to consider writing articles for *The Grass Roots*. Articles on research, projects at the course or internships are eligible for the "Monroe Miller Literary Scholarship" worth \$1,000 and awarded by the association each year.

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This years GCSAA Educational Conference and Golf Industry Show will be a great opportunity to attend 'the show' at a lower cost than normal. Las Vegas tends to be a less expensive venue for conference attendees providing you stay out of the casinos. GCSAA Travel offers good savings on hotels and normal prices on flights but there are many packages you can find with a little shopping to find low cost packages to the city. The show runs February 27 to March 2 to allow attendees to miss work but be home on the weekends for family activities.

The conference offers a unique opportunity to participate in free education as well as many for fee seminars put on by industry leaders and educators from around the country.

Celebrity speakers this year will be Peter Jacobsen who will receive the Old Tom Morris award and David Feherty who will speak at the General Session.

I have never been disappointed by the Golf Industry Show and find it to be a worthwhile investment in my education even the years I pay my own way.

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Be sure to check out the November /December online issue of *Wisconsin Golfer* to read the story titled "I'd Rather be Playing My Hickories" by Dennis McCann. Recently the Society of Hickory Golfers held the annual Kummel Cup at the Langford and Moreau designed Lawsonia Golf Course.

Mike Lyons is the golf course superintendent at the course which is listed as #55 on Golf Weeks list of classic courses and was considered a natural venue for the event.

The society has about 300 members who don their plus fours and use hickory shafted clubs to test their golf skills with the tools from yesteryear.



**Lori Stanek Assistant Superintendent at Petrifying Springs tries out the mower she won.  
L to R: Mark Robel - Reinders, Pete Whitacre - Toro, Lori Stanek, Helmut Ullrich -Toro and John Jensen - Reinders**

The story can be found at [www.wisconsingolfer.com](http://www.wisconsingolfer.com) and more information on the society can be found at [www.hickorygolfers.com](http://www.hickorygolfers.com).

Kummel is a sweet, colorless liqueur flavored with caraway seed, cumin and fennel and a traditional drink at many European golf clubs.

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I hope you enjoyed this years issues of *The Grass Roots*. It was my third year as editor and first doing the actual layout which does make the editing job easier. I only forgot three ads this year and with some groveling obtained forgiveness from our very valuable advertisers.

Through the associations Industry Partners Plan the advertisers bring you each issue without any cost from your membership dollars. So be sure to patronize and thank the advertisers in your magazine. In these days of tightening budgets the appreciate your business and feedback.

Thanks also goes to Chapter Manager Brett Grams who handles the business managers job of finding the advertisers and collecting the money. That is a job I do not miss and it allows me to concentrate on the content of each issue.

Most importantly a thank you goes to the writers who make *The Grass Roots* one of the best chapter publications available. Their in-depth articles provide for second to none education and information.

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*Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!*

## Start Planning For Success In 2012

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

The 2012 WTA Winter Turfgrass EXPO will again be held at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells. This central location was a success last year providing a great venue for reaching all turf managers looking to advance their education. The date is Tuesday, January 24th. In addition to EXPO there is a Wisconsinizing social gathering the evening before for those staying overnight.

A registration form is included in the newsletter or you may register and pay online at [wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org](http://wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org).



A standing room crowd listens to Dr. Kerns at the 2011 Expo.

What a great way to start out the new year - to gather with your peers and learn from local and national turf researcher and practitioners. Speakers will review challenges of the previous season and give tips on how to plan for success in 2012. Contact WTA administrative assistant Audra Anderson at 608-845-6536 or [ajander2@wisc.edu](mailto:ajander2@wisc.edu) if you have any questions about the program.

The conference speakers will discuss challenges that we faced during the 2011 season. The weather was challenging, especially during the hot humid summer. But for many turf managers, even worse than the weather was the thus-far poorly explained "Imprelis" herbicide catastrophe. This herbicide, even when applied correctly, had a secondary effect of damaging adjacent evergreen trees. A roundtable discussion including several lawn care and golf course managers will explain what they had to deal with after the damage was done. Additionally,

Dr. Bert Cregg from the horticulture department at Michigan State University will offer his advice on post 'Imprelis' tree care.

The UW-Madison Turf Team of professors, including Drs. Williamson, Kerns, and Soldat, are going to further explain secondary effects of pesticides including insecticides, fungicides and herbicides. Pesticides are a great tool for turf managers to maintain healthy turf but there are often secondary effects from their use that the professors will delve into.

You may have heard about the new EPA WaterSense program. This is a national initiative to conserve water. This includes landscape irrigation which is estimated to waste up to 1.5 billion gallons of water every day across the country. WaterSense irrigation can help you reduce your water consumption, save money, and maintain healthy and beautiful landscapes. To explain this, we have brought in Dr. David Kopec from the University of Arizona. Dr. Kopec will share some eye opening stories, considering the brutal drought experienced in the Southwest in 2011. He'll explain efficient WaterSense irrigation technologies and techniques used throughout the country.

Two additional talks by Drs. Jim Kerns and Chris Williamson will complete your EXPO education. Dr. Kerns will present an overview of prominent diseases that damaged turf last year and offer research based solutions for keeping grass healthier next year. Dr. Williamson will talk about a new insecticide, 'Acelepryn', that has shown great results in managing both grub and surface feeding insect pests.

There is even more to EXPO than learning from all these good speakers. You will also learn from the very knowledgeable exhibitors during the trade show. There will be time to meet with them in the morning and again after lunch. And you won't want to miss Wisconsinizing the evening before EXPO. This social gathering of attendees and exhibitors will take place on Monday, January 23rd from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Kalahari.

A special room rate of \$102 has been reserved if you call 877-253-5466 before December 24th and mention the Turfgrass block of rooms. The \$102 price may remain the same after Dec 24th, depending on availability. Maybe you'll want to bring the family and enjoy the Kalahari water park. Bring them along to Wisconsinizing.

The show is going to be a great way to start the New Year. The venue and great education will be just what you need to start planning for a successful 2012.

# WTA EXPO January 23 & 24 2012

Kalahari Resort - Wisconsin Dells



This year the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Winter EXPO will again be at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells. This central location provides a wonderful venue to reach all turf professionals in Wisconsin. For more information contact Audra at 608-845-6536 or email [ajander2@wisc.edu](mailto:ajander2@wisc.edu).

The Kalahari Resort & Convention Center ([www.kalahariresort.com](http://www.kalahariresort.com)) is located at 1305 Kalahari Drive in Wisconsin Dells. A block of rooms has been reserved for Monday, January 23rd, 2012 at a rate of \$102 per night. To make your reservations, please call 1-877-253-5466 before December 24th, 2011. Refer to the "turfgrass block" to receive this discounted rate.

The Wisconsinizing social hour will be held Monday evening, January 23rd. This will give you additional time to spend with colleagues and vendors. Although there is no cost, you must RSVP on the registration form to receive a complimentary drink ticket.

## Monday, January 23rd, 2012

### Pesticide Applicator Training – Turf & Landscape (3.0)

You must pre-register by January 9th, 2012 to attend this class. This class is not part of EXPO but offered as a courtesy for individuals needing to renew or obtain their pesticide applicator license. The registration for this class is separate and will not be collected by the WTA. To register, go online to <http://ipcm.wisc.edu/PAT>. If you have questions regarding the Pesticide Applicator Training, you may call 608-262-7588.

**WISCONSINIZING SOCIAL HOUR**  
Monday, January 23rd • 6 pm - 8 pm



## Tuesday, January 24th, 2012

7:30am **Attendee registration**

8:00am **Trade Show Opens**

8:30 – 9:30 **Secondary Effects of Pesticides**  
UW Turf Research Team  
*Doug Soldat, Jim Kerns, Chris Williamson*

9:30 – 10:45 **Imprelis Roundtable Discussion  
Stories from the Field**  
This roundtable will consist of professionals from the green industry who are dealing with the damage in the field caused by Imprelis herbicide.

10:45 – 11:00 **Break**

11:00 – 12:00 **Post-Imprelis Tree Care**  
*Dr. Bert Cregg: Michigan State University*

12:00 – 1:30 **Lunch, Awards and Trade show**

1:45 – 2:30 **EPA WaterSense Program & What It Means**  
*Dr. David Kopec: University of Arizona*

2:30 – 3:15 **Acelepryn: A New Tool for Insect Management**  
*Dr. Chris Williamson: UW – Madison*

3:15 – 4:00 **Weapons of Grass Destruction:  
An Overview of Diseases in 2011**  
*Dr. Jim Kerns: UW - Madison*