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## In The Presence Of Greatness

By Dale Marach, Territory Manager, Reinders Inc.

The soldier announced that everyone must stand for the playing of Taps. They slowly lifted themselves out of their wheelchairs and let go of their walkers. Hands that were crippled with arthritis and stiffness were lifted to their foreheads to salute. As the notes were slowly played, their fingers seemed to straighten and their posture seemed to be more erect. These men were no longer in their twilight years. They had gone back to those days in the 1940's when they became part of the greatest generation. These were the 18, 19, 20 year olds that were asked to do a job for the United States and gladly went about doing what was asked of them.

Two years ago I first saw a television report about the Old Glory Honor Flights. My wife and I talked about it briefly. I told her that I thought it would be something I would like to do. That Christmas she gave me the application to become a guardian for a veteran on the Old Glory Honor Flights as a Christmas gift. As it turned out it was one of the most memorable gifts I ever received.

We left on July 27th from Wittman Field in Oshkosh. Yes and for those of you who are into flying and planes, that is at the end

of the week that the Experimental Aircraft Association uses the whole airport for their convention. There are planes, campers, people and tents all over the grounds. All of the guardians and veterans were supposed to be there by 6:15 A.M. All of the veterans had their individual pictures taken and then all the guardians were then supposed to meet them to get acquainted. The two gentlemen that I was caring for beat me there by 15 minutes. It took us a fairly long time to board the 80 veterans. Some were in wheelchairs, some had canes and a few could beat many of us in a foot race. The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh football team was on hand to assist with pushing the wheelchairs or helping in any way they could. It was hard to know who enjoyed it more, the athletes or the veterans. Many of them rode in golf carts from the terminal to the plane. The whole team soon realized that when you are 89 it takes longer to get where you want to go.

Once we were in the air we were served breakfast and were told of the activities of the day. I used that time to get to know "My boys". The hour and 1/2 it took to get to Washington DC went by very fast with talk



and general getting to know everyone.

Don, who is 89 years old, flew with a crew of men in a transport plane. On D-Day they had a plane load of paratroopers and were towing gliders. After they had their troops where they needed to go, then they would land and bring the injured back to England. At this point he got very quiet because of the memories of all the injured were still fresh in his mind even after 70 years. If he was pressed, he would tell you more but the tears were in his eyes.

Hank who is 88 was in the signal corps. He went over on D-Day and when the troops began their march to Berlin, his group was brought back to the United State for rest and then in roughly a month they were shipped to the Pacific. He saw fighting in the Philippines, Luzon, and the Leyte Gulf. The guy survived all that fighting only to get in a car accident 2 years ago and have crushed ankles.

Both gentlemen were married for well over 50 years and have lost their wives. One recently married a younger woman of "74".

We landed at Reagan International Airport to an amazing welcome. As we pulled up to the gate, two of airports crash truckers made an arch of water spray over the plane as a tribute to the veteran. When we deplaned and walked out of the Jetway, military personal lined both sides of the aisle. Red, white, and blue balloons were everywhere. There even was a gentleman dressed in red and white playing the Wisconsin fight songs. The whole time we were walking through the airport to the bus people were coming up to the veterans and shaking their hands and saying thank you.

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## MISCELLANY

The buses arrived at the World War II memorial at 12:15 local time. We quickly got all of the vets around to the side that featured the memorial for the European Theater for a group picture.

One of the most touching moments of the day came when we pulled up to the drop off area. One of the ladies that were a guardian for her father was standing alongside of me looking out of the side window. She said to herself, "Wow he is wearing his Class A uniform." I looked out the window to see a young soldier walking down the sidewalk next to the bus. She told me that was her son and her father did not know he was going to be there. On top of that he had graduated from Ranger School the day before. This young man had his felt beret, long sleeved dress coat on and spit shined jump boot on. It was only 94 degrees that day. At the end of the day after he had pushed his grandfather around all of the memorials, he brought him to his bus and kissed his grandfather goodbye. The people that knew the story didn't have a dry eye. After the WWII memorial, it

was on to the Iwo Jima memorial. We were behind schedule so we only had a 15 min stop. The guardians who wanted a picture quickly got off and ran over to get a few pictures of the memorial. There was a veteran with us who was a cousin of John Bradley, the corpsman in the army and one of the six men that raised the flag. He was not going to come 1000 miles and not get a good look at the memorial.

After a few pictures the buses left there and quickly drove over to the Tomb of the Unknown and the Arlington cemetery. The bus driver was full of interesting facts about the Old Guard that is entrusted with guarding the tomb. The men that are given this honor are of a certain height and weight and background. They are given a badge for doing this honored service and if they do anything to dishonor this unit, (DUI, swearing, etc) the badge is taken from them. This is for life. They do this 24/7 365 days a year, in any weather, heat, rain, snow or even a hurricane. A few years ago a hurricane was coming through Washington D.C. and

they were told to stand down. Their response was a resounding "Hell No" Literally, this is how high an honor that they consider this duty of guarding the Tomb Of the Unknown. This is where the veterans heard the bugle playing Taps, and when for a few minutes were transported back in time.

We left there and headed back to the Reagan International Airport. Through the day many of the other sights that we saw were the Pentagon, including the side where the terrorist flew the jet into the building. The Air Force Memorial, Korean Memorial, the Martin Luther King Memorial and the Lincoln, Jefferson and Washington Memorial were all seen in passing.

We boarded the plane after we were escorted through the security check points. There were no pat downs or x-rays for these men. After the plane reached 10,000 ft. the veterans had mail call. They received letters and cards from any family members or friends who wanted to send them a kind word or words of thanks for what they had done.

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**Dale Marach served as a Old Glory Honor Flight Guardian for Don and Hank. The Honor Flights Allow World War II Veterans to Fly to Washington DC to See their War Memorial.**

The sight of these men who had seen some pretty horrible things, reach for their tissues and handkerchief made everyone get lumps in their own throats. After a light lunch was served, many of them reread the letters again.

The reception we received when we landed at Wittman Field was something that will live in their memories forever. We were the last act of the day for the day's activities at the fly-in for the Experimental Aircraft Association and what a finish it was. After they had reenactments of aerial battles, we came flying in. The taxiway was lined with people in period uniforms of the mili-


tary. There was everything from sailors, pilots, infantry, signalman, tankers and even a USO troop singing songs.

As we walked off the plane the UW Oshkosh football team was there to help out again. The way to the reception area was lined with current military personal. After that family and friends lined the walk with signs that read Thank you or We Love You Grandpa. I honestly have never seen so many smiling faces on people who have just landed at an airport. It is a day that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

After an experience like this you cannot help but learn something from these

men. To this day even after 70 years some of them still cannot talk about a lot of what they saw. If they do, it is with tears in their eyes. We are losing 1000 of these men a day. They are people who went about doing what they were asked to do and asked nothing in return.

If you have a father, grandfather, uncle, friend or even mother or grandmother that had served in World War II, I would encourage you to enroll them and take them on an Old Glory Honor Flight.

As the motto of the Old Glory Honor Flight says "It is never too late to say Thank You" 



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**The Veterans From The July 27th Old Glory Honor Flight At The World War II Memorial**  
 (Photo by Valley Camera)



# National Golf Graphics



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## Cart Directional Signs

### Hazard and Rope Stakes

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## Flags

Embroidered, Screened  
and Digitally Printed



## Tee Signs

Bronze, Aluminum  
Redwood, Plastic  
and Granite



## News and Notes From WGCSA Members

By Matt Kinnard and the DHD Team

This summer has been hot. Need I say more? So...

### ... In Other News

Earlier this year Bernhard Grinders held a competition to find the oldest working Dual Express Grinders in the world. The verdict is in and one of the oldest was found right here in Wisconsin. Winners of the competition were announced at this year's GIS in Las Vegas and Tom Merkel of West Bend Lakes Golf Course, in West Bend, was awarded the 2nd place prize, a new Anglemaster 1000 by Bernhard. In related news, the first place winner, from Scotland, was using a grinder from the year 1602. Congratulations Tom!

Jeff Millies, superintendent at Edgewood Golf Course in Big Bend, threw himself into local politics this spring and ran for the position of Supervisor in the Town of Vernon. He pulled out a victory in a relative squeaker capturing 52.53515% of the vote. Congratulations Jeff!

### Career Moves

If you have been curious as to where former sales representative Dennis Hamilton went, he has made the jump back into the turf growing business. Earlier this year, Dennis accepted a position with the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District as the Superintendent at Macktown Golf Course in Rocktown, IL. Dennis graduated from Illinois State in 1993 and went on to be the Assistant Superintendent at

North Shore Country Club in Mequon. He then accepted his first Superintendents position at Chippewa Valley Golf Course in Menomonie, WI in 1998. In 2002 he and his family moved to southern Wisconsin to become the superintendent at Decatur Lakes Golf Course in Brodhead. 2005 brought Dennis a new opportunity when he decided to give sales a shot and went on to work for Arthur Clesan for the next six years. Dennis said he enjoyed working with and meeting the golf course superintendents throughout Wisconsin and will miss his travels. After a six year hiatus though, he said going back to being a superintendent was like riding a bike... didn't miss a beat. Congratulations Dennis!

Whispering Springs Golf Course in Fond du Lac added an additional assistant superintendent this year, Jordan Mock. Jordan not only graduated from Southwest Technical College in 2010 but also as the night waterman at Rock River Country Club in Waupun when he accepted the position as the Assistant Supt. at Quit Qui Oc Golf Course in Elkhart Lake. Congratulations Jordan on your new position at Whispering Springs!

After graduating from UW - Madison this spring, Kate Lifke is the new Assistant Superintendent at Oshkosh CC. Kate had never even stepped on a golf course by the time she was taking her first classes in college as a Landscape Architecture student. However, after sitting in on one of Dr. Sti-

er's lectures she was immediately interested in turf, especially the idea of sustainable golf course management. Shortly after Kate changed her major to Horticulture and interned at Erin Hills and The Legend at Brandybrook. Congratulations Kate!


### New Additions!

Craig Filley and his wife Andrea brought their first child, a boy, into the world in 106° temperatures on July 2nd. Sebastian weighed 7lbs 11 oz and was 21" long. Craig is the golf course superintendent at Nakoma Country Club in Madison. Congratulations to you and your family, Craig!

Aaron Goninen, Irrigation Sales Rep at Reinders, and his wife Kari recently welcomed a baby boy into the world. On May 25th Beckett William was born weighing in at 7lbs 4 oz and 19.5 in long. Congratulations to the Goninen family!

### Retirement

Charlie Shaw of the Waukesha County Park System retired in February of this year. Charlie ended his long career with the park system overseeing the three golf courses within Waukesha. Congratulations Charlie on a successful career!

Please pass along any significant news or happenings around the state to Danny, Mike or me. We want to spread the good news. You can also email me at [m.kinnard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.kinnard@sbcglobal.net) or call at 920-210-9059. 

## Coming Events!

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

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

October 1, WTA Fundraiser, Ozaukee Country Club, Mequon

Tuesday & Wednesday December 4th and 5th, Golf Turf Symposium, American Club, Kohler



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## It Had To Be The Education

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

WTA Summer Field Day on July 31st had the largest attendance since the field day that was held in conjunction with Turf Producers International six years ago. There were 287 attendees this year which was an increase of 123 over last year's show. That doesn't include 65 vendor representatives working 28 booths in the trade show. It's hard to know exactly why so many showed up this year but I'm guessing attendees heard about the great education being offered and realized they couldn't afford to miss this year's event. They were not disappointed.

Education came in the form of six general research presentations in the morning followed by a trade show around lunch time. Golf turf research and a sports turf construction tour were featured in the afternoon.

In the morning general turf presentations, Dr. Doug Soldat presented his work on reduced risk herbicides and other alternative weed control tactics. The results showed reduced risk products are not as effective as standard herbicides. But with the increased interest in the environment, many customers ask about reduced risk. Dr. Soldat's work showed those products could be used to achieve moderate weed control usually with repeat applications.

Doctoral student Brad DeBels presented work on water conservation strategies using radiometric sensing methods to measure ET use between different species and cultivars. This work will lead to better breeding selection for low input turfgrass landscapes.

Dr. Paul Koch spoke about identifying and controlling Summer Patch on Kentucky and annual bluegrass. He told of the difficulty in distinguishing Summer Patch from necrotic ring spot, brown patch, anthracnose, and abiotic stresses. He gave some tips to identify




### Graduate student Glen Obear presents his research on iron layering in golf putting greens

Summer Patch and told how identification is so important because methods for managing it are significantly different than for the other diseases mentioned.

Dr. Chris Williamson's talk provided everything you need to know about two invasive insect pests; Japanese beetles and emerald ash borer. He gave many management options including products to use, best times to treat, best ways to treat, and when to fly the white flag.

Many other talks filled the day with great education. They included 'Ecological Poa Management' and 'Iron Layering in Putting Greens' presented by Glen Obear, 'Potassium Soil Test Calibration' presented by Brad DeBels, 'Environmental Regulations Update' from Jeff Saatkamp, and many more. The research presentations were not the only education at Field Day. The helpful and informed exhibitors at the trade show helped attendees with all their commercial questions. Exhibitors had information on seed, chemicals, any turf maintenance equipment you could imagine, turf nutrition, putting green materials, irrigation supplies, and more. Please see and support the 2012 Field Day Exhibitors, listed here. They help bring Summer Field Day and all its education to you every year.

It had to be all the great education that brought the crowds back to Field Day for 2012. Or maybe it was the drought and record heat of 2012 that sent everyone to Field Day for a break from this summer of stress. Whatever the reason, attendees left Field Day with many new ideas to use back on their own landscapes. The team of professors, students, guest speakers, and staff did all they could to make this year's Field Day one of the best and most educational ever. 



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# NOTES FROM THE NOER



## Pictures from Top to Bottom:

- Dr. Doug Soldat presenting on potassium soil test calibration.
- Dr. Jim Kerns greets attendees during the opening session.
- Dr. Chris Williamson provides updates on two Wisconsin invasive insect pests; emerald ash borer and Japanese beetles.
- Aerial of O.J. Noer Facility prior to arrival of record crowds for the 2012 WTA Summer Field Day



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- Pendelton Turf Supply
- Purple Cow
- Reinders
- Spring Valley
- Syngenta
- The Andersons
- Waupaca Sand & Solutions
- WDATCP
- Wisconsin Turf Equipment
- XGD Systems

## WTA Golf Fundraiser At Ozaukee Country Club

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

The WTA would be extremely pleased to have you attend this year's golf fundraiser scheduled for Monday, October 1st at Ozaukee Country Club. This is a classic Milwaukee area country club with lots of history and tradition. The course has hosted many major golf tournaments including the 1929 Western Open. Course superintendent Colin Seaberg, his staff, and the members of Ozaukee Country Club, welcome everyone to this year's event. Tell your friends, relatives, and co-workers to come and enjoy a spectacular round of golf as this 2012 season comes to a close.


You will be joining other golf and turfgrass industry enthusiast when you play this beautiful links style golf course designed by Langford and Moreau in 1922. Your entry fee will largely go to help promote golf turf research at your Land Grant University because of the generosity of Ozaukee CC allowing us to play there for a very low fixed cost. Proceeds from the

golf outing will be used by UW-Madison scientists to develop new techniques for managing turfgrass for the most environmental, aesthetic, and economic results.

The registration fee is \$125. For this you will be treated to a delicious lunch, practice range, and golf with a cart. After golf you'll enjoy hors d'oeuvres and hopefully go home with one of the valuable door prizes and/or golf awards. Many door prizes are worth more than the cost of registration. You may register as a foursome or by yourself. The event is a four-person best ball format. A registration form, which is included with this newsletter, is also on [www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org](http://www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org). You may pay online from the website or mail in your registration.

Your fee not only provides for a fun day of golf, but also supports the Wisconsin Turfgrass Research Sustainability Fund at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Over the WTA Golf Fundraiser's long history, proceeds have gone directly to

research projects and more recently have helped fund the Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships in Turfgrass Research. Your participation will allow the WTA to add to the new Research Sustainability Fund at the UW Foundation. The difficult fiscal times have only amplified the need for quality research, and your participation at Ozaukee CC will help meet that need.

The golf outing isn't all about funding research, though. It is also about spending time with friends to enjoy a round of golf near the end of the season, and this golf course will not disappoint! I hope that you are able to attend the WTA Golf Fundraiser and play this truly outstanding course. You may contact Audra Anderson at 608-845-6536 or [ajander2@wisc.edu](mailto:ajander2@wisc.edu) if you have any questions. Whether it is your first WTA Golf Fundraiser or if you have attended them all, we hope you won't miss this one. 



### **Ozaukee Country Club**

**Top Left - Hole 1, Par 4, 438 yards**

**Bottom Left - Hole 2, Par 5, 505 yards**

**Top Right - Hole 13, Par 4, 449 yards**