

What a Spring!

By David Brandenburg, Editor, The Grass Roots

Where is The Grass Roots? I am sure this question has crossed a few minds since this issue is late in comparison to most. The writers were all on time so the blame is solely mine as editor. I have been wrapped up in the busy spring during the day and staring at my computer at night. Sorry for the delay but I hope you find the issue valuable.

What a spring it has been! For most of us it was not our earliest opening in club history but it may be the best weather after opening and much better than the past two years.

Most areas came through the mild winter with little winter damage and quickly greened up. After a original growth spurt a period of cold nights has slowed the turf down to reduce mowing patterns and provide great playability.

Now the question becomes when to put down pre-emergent herbicides, systemic insecticides and growth regulators to eliminate seedheads on the poa annua.

Congratulations to Dr. Chris Williamson who recently has attained the position of Professor from Associate Professor and Dr. Doug Soldat has attained the posi-

tion of Associate Professor from Assistant Professor. This is great news for the turf industry and these two deserving professionals.

The contraction in the golf industry continued for the 6th consecutive year in 2011 with 19 course openings and 157.5 course closings. This is horrible news if your at a closed course. At the same time it is encouraging news if your facility is next to the course that closed.

Todd Wenzel who contributed the article on page 34 regarding donating bone marrow is the victim of a closing. Appleton's Riverview Country Club closed after 113 years. The 9 hole club located in downtown area was founded in 1898 and was one of the 9 clubs to form the Wisconsin State Golf Association in 1901.

Originally the property was to be developed for housing but was purchased by a non-profit group who hope to convert the private club into a community based market garden and public green space.

At \$2.6 million it is a big investment into providing food for low income individuals and to be sold at farmers markets to raise funds to sustain the operation.

Thank you to all the writers but also to Todd Wenzel for sharing his story on bone marrow donation, Pete Van De Hey for his unique investment in drainage and Bob Lohmann for contributing a great article on recording course features and changes.

I also invite others to contribute articles on projects at your facility or in your lives. The WGCSA is a community that grows with interaction and communication. Our meetings and education are valuable but *The Grass Roots* is a publication we can be proud of thanks to our writers.

The event schedule is below. I invite all of you to find a event or two that fits your schedule and go see what works at another golf course while networking with your peers. Most of our members are not good players so don't worry if you do not play much. It is all for fun.

Good luck to all and best wishes for your operations as we enter into the thrill and challenge of the summer season.

Coming Events!

Monday April 23rd Geneva National GC, Lake Geneva

Monday May 14th Trappers Turn GC, Wisconsin Dells

Wednesday May 30th Super/Pro, Nakoma GC, Madison

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)

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