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Contact: Billie Mac Donald
 bmacdonald@yamahagu.com
 Office: 952-890-5541
 Cell: 651-788-2877
 Toll Free: 800-352-2779



May Meeting at Trappers Turn Golf Club

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

Tod Blankenship, CGCS was our host for the May Meeting held May 14th at the Trappers Turn Golf Course. The day was beautiful and a good number of members turned out to enjoy it.

Our first speaker for the day was Mr. Seamus McGee author of the book "Hershey Hurricane" which celebrates the life of Henry Picard.

Picard is not known as the greatest player of the 1930's and 1940's but he had 26 PGA Tour wins including the 1938 Masters and 1939 PGA Championship. He was a near unbeatable four-ball player and he often teamed up with Wisconsin's Johnny Revolta.

Picard was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2006 and played in the 1935 and 1937 Ryder Cup Teams. Like most players of the time his career was interrupted by World War II.

Seamus explained how Henry has touched the games and lives of many of the great players of his time including helping Hogan with his swing and later taking over for Picard as Golf Professional at the Hershey Country Club.

Henry was given the name The Hershey Hurricane in 1935 due to his dominate play and movie star persona.

McGee explained how sound swing principals taught by Alex Morrison the "grandfather of the teaching professional" changed the game and produced great champions from Picard, to Hogan to Nicklaus.

Morrison taught Picard who taught Grout who was Nicklaus's coach and mentor.

The book is a nice read on golf history I would recommend for anyone in the business.

Next up was Robert Vavrek, Senior Agronomist, USGA Green Section discussing the roller coaster of spring weather.

Vavrek discussed how the up and down weather was changing the phenology of insects and plants and how historical dates for the timing of grub and poa seeding treatments should not be followed religiously. Higher populations of insects and poa annua seed heads should be expected.

Growing degree models, historical data and in the field observations should all be used to determine treatment times.

Vavrek also discussed the number of foreclosed golf courses and one visit he had where new owners were hoping to "flip" the property by getting in operational and then selling it. They wanted Bob's opinion on what needed to be down to get the previously closed course up and running.

After a lunch the group headed out to test our skills on Trappers Canyon and Arbor 9's. Trappers turn was designed by Andy North and Roger Packard in 1991.

The course was in great condition and all players had a great but challenging time. The format was a Shamble Bestball where both partners tee off, select the best drive and then play their own ball from that spot.



GROSS WINNERS

- 1st - Aron Hogden/Tryge Egkern 65
- 2nd - Bruce Schweiger/Jim Kerns 70
- 3rd - Kyle Kleinshmidt/Casey O'Connel 71

NET WINNERS

- 1st - Kyle Kleinshmidt/Casey O'Connel
- 2nd - Mike Werth/Mark Grundman
- 3rd - Josh Brosz/Frank Sexton

FLAG EVENT WINNERS

- Long Drive - Canyon 2 - Jim Kerns
- Closest to Pin - Canyon 7 - Mike Schmieden
- Longest Putt - Canyon 9 - Nolan Roberts
- Long Drive - Arbor 2 - Darren Armstrong
- Closest to Pin - Arbor 7 - Jim Kerns



Mark Grundman putts on the Arbor-9 Par5 8th Hole while partner Mike Werth looks on with Todd Cramblit and Andrew Putzer

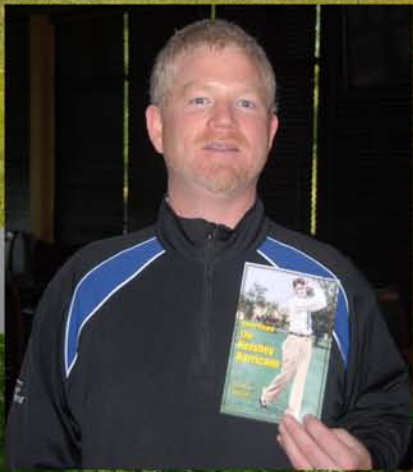
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5/14/12 MEETING AT TRAPPERS TURN

BASF - DHD TURF AND TREE - IW TURF - REINDERS - SYNGENTA

ARTHUR CLESEN - BAYER - BURRIS EQUIPMENT - MIDWEST TURF
SPRING VALLEY - PENDELTON TURF - JOHN DEERE LANDSCAPES
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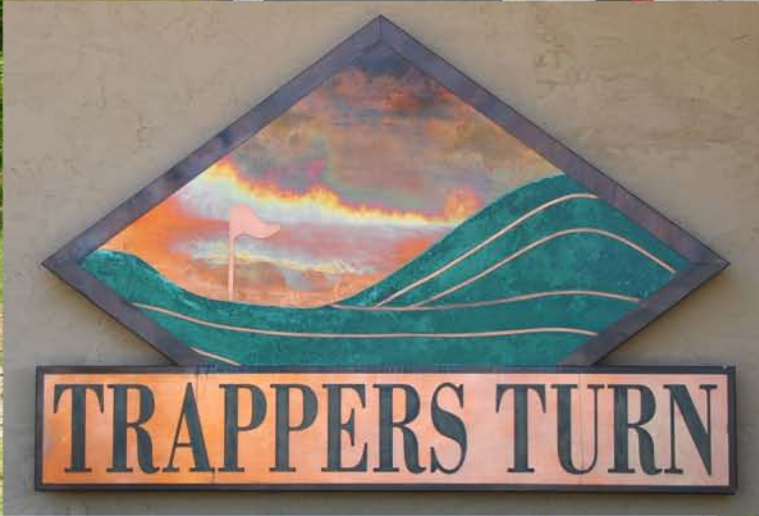
SPEAKERS
<SEAMUS MCGEE
AUTHOR OF
THE HERSHEY
HURRICANE

AND

OUR OWN
BOB VAVEREK>



ABOVE: CASEY O'CONNEL (L)
AND KYLE KLEINSCHMIDT (R)
WINNERS OF THE GROSS DIV.



LOWER RIGHT:
MEETING CHAIRMAN
SCOTT BUSHMAN
HITTING A STRAIGHT DRIVE

BELOW:
OUR HOST SUPERINTENDENT
TOD BLANKENSHIP, CGCS



News and Notes From WGCSA Members

By Matt Kinnard and the DHD Team

Spring has past, graduation season is complete and many college students are returning home for the summer for some rest and relaxation, to start a summer job or embark upon a new professional career. I was recently spending some time with one of those very people, my cousin.

He has one more semester left at the University of Minnesota before he completes his degree in engineering. In a conversation with some of his graduating friends, they were discussing whether, if they had the chance, they would again choose to go to college for such a difficult degree of study. Completing a degree in engineering requires many long hours of studying, difficult exams and missed opportunities for having fun and some of the other 'extracurricular activities' that take place on campus.

Does this sound familiar? Now that summer is here, you too are working long hours, are face to face with demanding golfers and members as well as unpredictable weather, and more importantly, missed opportunities that take place at home with family and friends.

If you had the chance to do it all over again would you decide to enter this profession again? Knowing many of you, you would. You enjoy what you do and are very dedicated individuals. However, that doesn't change your workload or the stress of the job.

Having the fortune to travel around Wisconsin, I have had the opportunity to see how everyone approaches these challenges differently. So, here is some advice I have picked up from your fellow colleagues:

(1) Make friends that are in the same position as you. Sometimes superintendents get trapped in the bubble that is

their golf course and don't take the effort to meet other superintendents and talk about their related problems.

(2) Are you a slave to your standards? This is a hard one for all superintendents, but where would a grade of B+ be adequate. Your grade of a B+ is probably the golfing publics or your member's version of an A+.

(3) Learn to say no. Try not to take on tasks outside of your specific job description.

(4) Get sleep and try to exercise. When you're sleep deprived all your tasks take longer.

Take the advice of your colleagues and have a successful summer growing grass.

Career Moves

David Hoehne is the new superintendent at Lake Wisconsin Country Club in Prairie du Sac. For the last four years David has had the role of Assistant Superintendent at Bishops Bay Country Club and before that spent a couple years at The Meadows of Sixmile Creek. In 2006, David graduated from UW-Platteville with a BS in Horticulture. He will not only be busy at his new job, but he and his new fiancé are also planning a wedding. Congratulations David!

Kyle Anderson has moved up the ranks at Willow Run Golf Club in Pewaukee, to the position of golf course superintendent. Kyle started working at Willow Run in 2006 and has held the title of assistant superintendent for the last four years. Congratulations Kyle!

Milwaukee Country Club has hired a new Assistant Superintendent, Joel Lar-

son. Joel has been working on golf courses for seventeen years and is a graduate of the Michigan State University Turf program. Prior to Milwaukee Country Club, Joel was the Assistant Superintendent at Point O' Wood Country Club in southwest Michigan. Congratulations Joel!

Ryan Fritsch is the new Assistant Superintendent at Northbrook Country Club in Luxemburg. Ryan started his own lawn mowing business while in high school, caught the turf bug, and decided to get a job on a golf course at Wild Rock in Wisconsin Dells. Later, he attended college and graduated from the Southwest Tech College Turf Program. He has worked at several other golf courses in Wisconsin including: Deer Valley GC, The Legend at Bergamont, and University Ridge. Congratulations Ryan!

Wedding Bells!

The first day of spring brought happiness to Jim Hall, Superintendent of Westhaven Golf Course in Oshkosh, this year. He and Karen Ainsworth were married March 20th. Jim initially met Karen nearly thirty years ago and were reacquainted recently at a church function in Appleton. The happy couple honeymooned in the Florida Keys. Congratulations!

New Additions!

James VanSickle, Superintendent at Koshkonong Mounds Golf Course, and his wife, Jillian, welcomed a baby girl into the world March 16th. At 7 lbs 12 oz, Amelia Mae was welcomed home by her three year old big brother Evan and 14 year old Basset Hound Clancy.

Congratulations James and family!

BADGER STATE TURF CLIPPINGS

Retirement

Long time turf guru, Al Nees, retired earlier this year. Al has been a fixture in the Wisconsin turf industry for decades, most recently as Vice President of Agrotain International. Al oversaw one of the most successful product launches in the turf industry when UMAXX and UFLEXX were brought to market in the early 2000's. Like most of us he started his career working at a golf course during his high school years and later went on to receive a degree in turfgrass science from Purdue University in 1974. He then went on to manage lawn care companies before accepting a position at Reinders as a Sales Representative in 1984. After five years at Reinders, Al accepted a position at Milorganite as an agronomist, and would later become

the Director of Marketing. He has been deeply involved in volunteering his time to industry organizations including The OJ Noer Foundation as Vice President, the WGCSA as the Vendor Rep and as a member on the Turf Symposium organizing committee. In addition to 'taking a breath,' playing golf, and making and drinking more wine in his retirement, Al has dusted his guitar after 40 years and is rockin' it out with his church's

praise band. Congratulations, Al, 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 or call at 920-210-9059.



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State Amateur Visits The Club at Strawberry Creek

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

The 111th Wisconsin State Golf Association State Amateur Championship will visit Kenosha's The Club at Strawberry Creek July 16 to 19. Matt Kregel will be the host superintendent for the state's best players.

The Club At Strawberry Creek opened in 2006 with a Rick Jacobsen design. The links layout features fescue native grasses and wide fairways. The Par 72 layout offers yardages from 5,100 to 7,118 and the back tees have a slope of 135 and rating of 74.8.

Kregel took over as superintendent in spring of 2005 to oversee construction and grow-in. The open layout lends itself to high winds making it difficult to maintain soil moisture levels and to find a good time to apply pesticides and fertilizers.

Matt is hoping the wind is blowing for the Amateur to produce firm and fast conditions.

The 50 acres of fairways were seeded to Seaside II, greens A1, tees Pencross and while the primary rough is Bluegrass the Secondary rough is Fescue and other natives.

Matt gives credit to Assistant Superintendent Jeremy Dahl and Equipment Technician Gumer Cruz as key members of his staff to keep the operation running smooth.

To enter the 72 hole stroke play event players need have an index of 9.4 or less, be one of the approximately 41 exempt players or qualify at one of the 9 qualifying tournaments. Players must qualify in the district of their home course unless pro-



The 460 yard par 4 18th hole with the clubhouse in the background.

viding a good reason why they cannot do so. 180 players make the field with a cut after 36 holes to allow the top 70 players and ties to play for the championship.

Four days of championship play will provide for the true state champion and winner of the Sinnissippi Cup. The cup received its name from the first championship in 1901 when the amateur was played at Sinnissippi Country Club which is now the Janesville Country Club. While players compete for individual honors WSGA member clubs with three qualifiers compete for the Yule Cup awarded to the low club after the first 36 holes of play.

Past winners of the State Amateur include US Open Winner Andy North, and

PGA Tour Players Steve Stricker, JP Hayes and Mark Wilson.

In 2011 at Maple Bluff Country Club Mike McDonald shot a final round 72 to finish with a 1 over total of 285. McDonald finished one stroke ahead of Whitefish Bay's Jack Schultz and Green Bay's Ricky Hearnden. The 24 year old McDonald only took his driver out of the bag twice in the final round to stay in the narrow Maple Bluff fairways. The Germantown native played golf for Marquette College.

Kregel grew up in Beecher, IL a small community just south of Chicago. Matt started working at Shady Lawn Golf Course (Now called Cardinal Creek) as a cart boy after 8th grade. He got to know the Superintendent and by the time he was 16 he joined the grounds crew and never left the golf industry.

Matt began at Illinois State university as a business major and found a job working part time at the ISU golf course under Steve Leason. It only took two years of business classes for Kregel to realize he did not want to work indoors and his love of the golf course led him to change paths. ISU did not offer a turf program so Matt transferred to the University of Illinois and



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COVER STORY



The Kregels, Matt, Rosa, Isabel Hannah and Tyler on Wriggly Field.

2012 WSGA Amateur Championship Qualifying Sites

DISTRICT #1A: LA CROSSE CC, Onalaska (La Crosse), Monday, JULY 2ND

DISTRICT #1B: LUCK GOLF COURSE, Luck, Tuesday, JUNE 26TH

DISTRICT #2: LAKE ARROWHEAD GC (PINES), Nekoosa, Tuesday, JULY 3RD

DISTRICT #3: JANESVILLE RIVERSIDE GC, Janesville, Monday, JUNE 25TH

DISTRICT #4: The OAKS GOLF COURSE, Cottage Grove, Thursday JUNE 28TH

DISTRICT #5: BRANCH RIVER GOLF & TENNIS, Cato (Manitowoc), Monday JULY 2ND

DISTRICT #6A: HAWTHORNE HILLS GOLF COURSE, Saukville, Monday JUNE 25TH

DISTRICT #6B: BROADLANDS GOLF CLUB, North Prairie (Waukesha), Thurs., JUNE 28TH

DISTRICT #6C: OAKWOOD PARK GOLF COURSE, Franklin, Monday, JULY 2ND

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changed his major to Ornamental Horticulture with a concentration in turfgrass management. Through his education and work Matt was awarded the Future Turf Managers Scholarship in 1997 by Jacobsen/Textron and the Jacki Butler Outstanding Student Scholarship in 1997 from the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation.

During college Matt interned at Prestwick County Club for Dick Trevarthan and Dave Ward at Olympia Hills in 1997 while they hosted the Senior Open.

After graduation Matt joined the staff at the Ivanhoe Club serving 3 years as second assistant and four as the senior assistant. Working for Peter Leuzinger and Tom Prichard at the prestigious club gave Kregal insight into a high level conditioning. The club was also implementing a 27 hole master renovation plan that provided construction and renovation experience he would use to grow in Strawberry Creek.

Matt and his wife Rosa live in Round Lake, IL with their 3 children Isabel, Hannah and Tyler. Being from Illinois Matt is a Fighting Illini Fan along with the Chicago Bears and Cubs. He enjoys attending games at Wriggley Field and Wriggley North or what we badgers call Miller Park.

Matt is involved in the turf industry and is a member of Golf Course Superintendents Association of America,



The 189 yard Par 3 8th Hole puts a permium on accuracy


Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association, Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, Wisconsin Turfgrass Association and the Wee One Foundation.

When he is not working or volunteering Matt enjoys traveling in the off season and heads to Mexico each year for a few weeks. He is coach for coach for his sons T-ball team.

As most of us he enjoys playing golf but

more to visit the host superintendent and enjoy a beverage or two while discussing turfgrass management.

Despite working in the Badger State Kregal's allegiance has stayed with the Fighting Illini football program where he holds season tickets.

The Amateur Championship is free to attendees and provides a great opportunity to take staffers or family to one of Wisconsin premier golf clubs. 

Member 9 With Matt Kregal

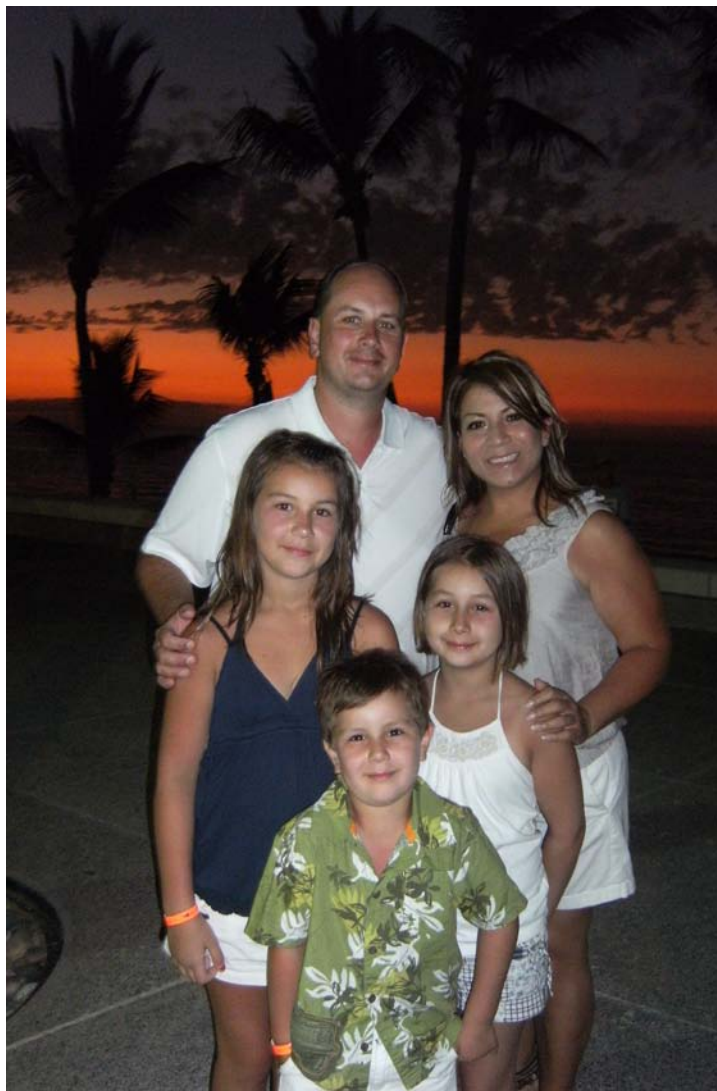
- 1. First Vehicle?** 1983 Cutlass Supreme.
- 2. Favorite Piece of Golf Course Equipment?** Tie – Toro ProCore 648 & all Verticut units
- 3. 18 Hole Handicap?** High enough that my owners know I am a dedicated superintendent
- 4. Current Vehicle?** 2004 Toyota Tundra
- 5. Favorite TV Show?** How I Met Your Mother, Big Bang Theory, Two and a Half Men (with Sheen), Seinfeld
- 6. Favorite Pro Sports Team?** Cubs, Bears & Fighting Illini
- 7. Favorite Main Course Meal?** Steak and Potatoes; Chicago Deep Dish Pizza
- 8. Pets?** No Pets
- 9. Favorite Thing About Working In Golf Industry?** 180 acre office – what's not to like about that desk

Future WSGA Amateur Championship Sites

2013 - The Bog, Saukville,
Host Superintendent - Anthony Gonzalez

2014 - Ozaukee Country Club, Mequon - Host
Superintendent - Colin Seaberg

2015 - Erin Hills, Erin, Host Superintendent -
Zachary Reineking



Matt, Rosa, Isabel, Hannah and Tyler Kregel enjoying a beach sunset

WGCSA MISSION STATEMENT

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association is committed to serve each member by promoting the profession and enhancing the growth of the game of golf through education, communication and research.

WGCSA VISION STATEMENT

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association is dedicated to increase the value provided to its members and to the profession by:

- Enhancing the professionalism of its members by strengthening our role as a leading golf organization in the state.
- Growing and recognizing the benefits of a diverse membership throughout Wisconsin.
- Educating and promoting our members as leaders in environmental stewardship.
- Offering affordable, high value educational programs at the forefront of technology and service.
- Being key to enjoyment and the economic success of the game of golf.

The Gift of Spring

By David Brandenburg, Editor, The Grass Roots

It is easy to enjoy spring and appreciate the gift of beautiful days when we are offered truly nice weather. This spring started terrific and allowed operators to open earlier than normal with record revenue and play at some clubs. Things cooled off a bit in April but most badgerland courses were able to offer good conditions while getting projects done on the golf course well ahead of schedule.

A few of our readers reported “backwards” pages in the March/April issue of *The Grass Roots*. This problem occurred at the bindery where the cover and pages did not match up. The issue was readable but annoyingly so. I have a couple spare issues left if anyone needs a replacement. So far it was limited to 10 issues statewide.

Congratulations to Hornungs Golf Products of Fond du Lac for celebrating their 75th year in business. Hornungs is the “Walmart” of golf course and golf shop suppliers offering everything from pencils to shirts to tee and green equipment.

Clarence and Sue Hornung started the business out of their home in 1936. The business has since grown to a 50,000 square foot facility serving over 12,000 golf retailers around the world.

According to an article in April 2012 issue of *Golf Business* magazine some courses have found themselves in hot water with the United States Department of Labor for trading golf for golf course

marshal services.

The quid pro pro agreement breaches the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Operators of The Golf Club at Fleming island in Jacksonville, FL found out the hard way when they were forced to pay over \$73,000 in back pay to 19 workers last year. It is suggested the labor department is not targeting golf courses but in the Florida case a employee/volunteer complained when he was not allowed the tee time he wanted.

So although inspection is unlikely any course is only one complaint away from fines and back pay.

Congratulations to Renee Rioux a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin -Madison for being awarded a



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