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WISCONSIN PATHOLOGY REPORT

Pigments:

Adding a pigment to your spray program WILL not cool the surface. I know there are many claims about these products cooling surface temperatures, but every researcher I've seen reports higher temperatures. This makes sense because these products are designed to coat the leaf and protect them from UV-B radiation. I am by no means saying that pigments are not a vital part of a program, but use them for what they are designed to do—protect against UV radiation NOT heat! UV radiation can destroy membranes and proteins that are crucial for photosynthesis. I recently saw a presentation by Bert McCarty at Clemson University, talk about TurfScreen and other pigments. He found that canopy temperatures were 2 to 4 degrees higher when compared to non-treated controls. Furthermore, he found Zn levels in or on the tissue to be incredibly high with TurfScreen applications. The implication of this is still unknown, but a recent thesis in Auburn showed that high rates of Zn could be used to control *Poa annua*. I guess you can see that I am

skeptical of this product, but I usually am when a product hits the market with very little research behind it. I would still be very cautious when using TurfScreen especially on mixed stands of *Poa annua* and creeping bentgrass. My usual suggestion is to try it first prior to implementing it in your own program.

That being said I do think protecting against UV radiation can be important. Bayer has sponsored much of the research regarding UV protection with their StressGard formulation technology. Dr. Bingru Huang at Rutgers has demonstrated better quality, better root survival and more root mass when using StressGard technology in Signature. I know this is not for everyone, but it might be something to consider if summer stress has been problematic. I was a big skeptic of this technology, but I saw the effects first hand when I was a PhD student at NCSU— it does work! However, it is still important to select fungicides carefully because the phosphonate fungicides or phosphites have limited control spectrums. Yet mixing in other fungicides can be an excellent program for putting

greens.

Food and Water:

These are Doug's babies so I defer to him to speak about managing these, but I hate to hear about chest beating with regard to these to vital plant health items. Plants need nitrogen and increasing N rates does not slow down green speeds when the grass is regulated, rolled and mowed at the heights currently used for cool-season turf. I know golfers are fooled by color because they equate off color with fast, but that can be a recipe for disaster. The same is true for water, but again Doug is way more qualified to speak on these. However, the minimalist approach makes me think of a wrestler trying to make weight. They might wear a rubber suit, not eat or drink and what can happen? They get sick, or worse die. Why do we ask our plants to endure the same stress? Consistent applications of fertilizer and water seem like an ideal way to manage turf, yet so many like to withhold these vital components to plant health. ✓

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Shop Envy

By Jake Schneider, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club


A severe case of shop envy swept through 20 assistant golf course superintendents who were gathered in the Hartford area on October 2, 2012. This difficult-to-cure malady was caused by a shop tour of the majestic Erin Hills maintenance facility, and its effects are likely still lingering in the attendees' dreams.

Thanks to superintendent Zach Reineking and his assistants, Brian Moesch and John Jacques, those in attendance had the opportunity to tour the outstanding shop that was recently constructed at the site of the 2017 US Open. Besides giving an informative facility walkthrough, Zach also discussed some of the planning and preparation that went into making the shop a

reality. Prior to the planning stages, Zach toured a handful of newer golf course maintenance buildings, and he melded many of the best features of these facilities when designing the shop at Erin Hills. In the early years of the course's existence, the crew operated out of an old barn that didn't have running water and a salvaged trailer home. It's safe to say that they have upgraded substantially, and Zach credited the new shop with increasing employee morale, with helping to attract top-notch employees, and with increasing the crew's efficiency and productivity.

Following the shop tour, USGA agronomist Bob Vavrek was gracious enough to give a brief year-in-review presenta-

tion, and as you can probably imagine, he had many interesting pictures from the extreme summer that was. If we learned anything from Bob's talk, it was that golf pros should not be allowed to own irrigation head keys because turf loss will result. However, regardless of outside inference, it was obviously a difficult year for many courses and the pictures showed just that.

It was an informative, well-attended meeting, and the assistants committee would like to thank Zach for hosting/presenting and to Bob for the always-entertaining slideshow. Also, thanks to Nick Strain and Barenbrug Seeds for providing snacks and refreshments for the entire group. 



Above: Golf Course Superintendent Zach Reineking addresses the group inside the maintenance facility.

Left: The maintenance facility at Erin Hills.



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“My entire member board knew which greens were mowed with the Baroness and which ones were mowed with the other mowers...they told me to buy Baroness even though we were under lease with the other mowers”

**Bill Murtha, Superintendent
 Binghamton Country Club, NY**



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Turn Off The TV

By **Jake Schneider**, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

Like most Americans, I probably watch too much TV. The news, Survivor, Modern Family, Criminal Minds, and political ads (kidding on that last one) are some of my favorites, and my wife will tell you that I view more football games than should be allowed by law (to which I strongly agree to disagree). We used to eat our dinner on the coffee table in front of the TV but made the switch a year ago to the peace and comfort of our dinner table. Not only do we have better conversation, but we also don't have to deal with a pint-sized dog harassing us for table scraps. Why am I telling you this? Well, back to the better conversations that I just mentioned.... Chances are that most golf course maintenance facilities have breakrooms with cable-linked televisions, and in my opinion, that's a mistake.

Here, at Blackhawk, the only form of "entertainment" that we have during our 15-minute morning break and 30-minute lunch are the daily newspaper, magazines, and, I suppose, smartphones. Whether it was by choice or simply not an option when the shop was built, we are completely TV-free, and I believe that it has played a significant role in developing the positive atmosphere and good camaraderie that our crews seem to consistently exhibit. Instead of mindlessly staring at the small screen, our employees talk to each other and get to know their co-workers. And, frequently, there is quite a bit

(okay, a lot) of good-natured ribbing that goes on. These interpersonal connections have led to consistently high employee retention and, for the most part, happy and productive workers. While I fully realize that we are not the only grounds crew with these attributes, I thought that I would share this and the other following ideas for creating more cohesive staff.


Hit the Links

One of the truly great things about a golf-industry job is the ability to play a lot of golf for not a lot of money (you may recall that I'm infinitely cheap). I've probably played 30 rounds this year and due to generous superintendents have maybe spent \$100. On nearly every Monday throughout the season, there are four to eight of us who play golf. If there isn't an outing at Blackhawk, we tee off after a full day of work, and if there is an outing, we call around to local superintendents to see if they have any openings. It's quite a treat for all of us to play these courses for next to nothing, and I have no doubt that it keeps some of our very overqualified part-time employees around. Plus, we can get a better sense for how the conditions affect playability both at Blackhawk and at neighboring courses.

Grill Out

A few times each year, we dust off the charcoal grills and fry some burgers and

brats for the crew. It's by no means an elaborate spread, but there's just something about changing the normal lunch-time routine that seems to boost people's spirits. Additionally, if a Monday outing has grilled food prior to a shotgun start, we take the entire crew to the clubhouse for lunch after they have teed off. While this does take a bit from the budget, it makes for a great, tasty start to the week. When winter rolls around and we can finally breathe again, we usually head to a local restaurant for lunch on Friday, and while this isn't paid for by the club, it's nice to get out of the shop for an hour.

While I am not sure that any of the above suggestions are necessarily innovative, they certainly have a positive effect on our employees, and they may be a relatively cheap way to enhance your workers' level of satisfaction and productivity. As you plan for the 2013 season, don't just think about agronomics, but also implement new ways to keep your employees happy; the results will show on the course. 



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A SNEAK PEEK! Below is a sneak peek at a few of the speakers and topics from the upcoming Northern Green Expo! Complete schedule is on NorthernGreenExpo.org.



Don Shelby

Keynote: The Importance of Sustainability



Erik Christiansen

- Golf Course Irrigation
- Irrigation: Site Inspection
- Irrigation: Design and Specs



Rob Golembiewski

- Interseeding into Established Greens
- Turf Water Use and Soil Amendments



Kevin Norby

- Master Golf Course Planning
- Superintendent Panel Discussion of Master Planning

A complete schedule-at-a-glance can be found online at NorthernGreenExpo.org.

Join the conversation on Twitter [#GreenExpo13](https://twitter.com/GreenExpo13).



David Yocca

The Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES™) – Project Profiles/Lessons Learned



John Ball

- Trees: Threats on the Horizon
- 2012 Tree Care - The Year in Review



Brian Horgan & Eric Watkins

- Turfgrass Research Update
- Is It Time to Rethink Tall Fescues for Sports Turf? Do They Deserve More Respect?



REGISTER NOW!
www.NorthernGreenExpo.org

Resounding Success at Ozaukee

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

Colin Seaberg, his crew and all the staff of Ozaukee Country Club conducted one of the finest WTA Golf Fundraisers this past October. The course could not have been more enjoyable or in more fabulous shape. The greens were lightning fast, the fairways thick and tight, bunkers consistent, and everything else proved a perfect example of great course management.

The trees were in peak autumn color and the weather was perfect with temps near 80° with no wind and sunny skies. Everything came together to give everyone a most enjoyable round of golf near the end of the season.

The fundraiser was enjoyed by an even 100 golfers at this year's event. The other beneficiary of the day was the Wisconsin Turfgrass Research Sustainability Fund at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Over the WTA Golf Fund-raiser's long history, proceeds have gone directly to support turf research and more recently to

fund the Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships in Turfgrass Research. Beginning two years ago, proceeds have gone to the Turfgrass Research Sustainability Fund that was created to support ever more turfgrass research initiatives.

The golf fundraiser generated nearly \$10,000 this year thanks to the Ozaukee CC members donating the use of their club for an unbelievably low fixed cost. The participants and hole sponsors likewise contributed to making the day a financial success.

Ozaukee County Club was incorporated in 1922 with play starting later that summer. The course designed by Ted Moreau and William Langford hosted the 1929 Western Open Championship which was won by Tommy Armour.

Host Superintendent Colin Seaberg entered the golf industry like many of us by looking for a summer job. Needing to pay his parents back for some borrowed funds

from his Freshman year at Michigan State University the only job Seaberg could find was at Grand Traverse Resort working for a Jim Bluck. Jim took Colin under his wings and took the time to show him the ins and outs of course maintenance. According to Colin, Bluck was a terrific individual and continued to teach him new tasks, "all while looking past my personal limitations." "I screwed a lot of things up that year!"

Because of that Colin's experience working for Bluck he fell in love with the industry and the people working within it. His love of the field was not immediate as it took a five year stint working in a pie factory before Seaberg came back to the golf industry.

Colin finds one of his biggest challenges is trying to communicate to the membership how much time, effort and material it takes to maintain the golf course to expected conditioning.

Member 9 With Colin Seaberg

1. **First Vehicle?** *1965 Chevrolet Impala SS*
2. **Favorite Piece of Golf Course Equipment?** *Toro Procore 648/864*
3. **18 Hole Handicap?** *23.4 (indexing up!)*
4. **Current Vehicle?** *2004 Dodge Ram 1500*
5. **Favorite TV Show?** *Dextra, Shameless, Detroit Sports Teams*
6. **Favorite Pro Sports Team?** *Detroit Lions*
7. **Favorite Main Course Meal?** *Lasagna*
8. **Pets?** *3 Dogs, 2 Cats, 2 Guinea Pigs (I call it the Seaberg Zoo!, but havent been able to sell any tickets yet.)*
9. **Favorite Thing About Working In Golf Industry?** *Personal relationships and camaraderie.*



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- Maple Bluff Country Club
- National Golf Graphics
- SAS Management
- SentryWorld
- Soldat Family
- Syngenta
- Tom & Sandy Schwab
- Turfgrass Disease Lab
- Wausau Country Club
- Wayne Horman
- Westmoor Country Club



A Ticket Booth From The 1929 Western Open Sits Near The 3rd Tee.



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COVER STORY



Top Left: Monroe Miller, WTA Executive Director accepts a check from Dustin Riley on behalf of the WGCSA Par4 Research Fundraiser.

Top Right: Host Superintendent Colin Seaberg.

Left: Josh Lepine lets one go off the tee.

Bottom: Dan Quast, Craig Haltom, Paul Huebner, and Craig Filley

