

Queen noted that prior chapter delegate feedback helped formulate the new conference and show schedule, implement free GCSAA webcasts and restructure the annual meeting. Discussion this year will be utilized to “tweak” certain aspects of the Rounds 4 Research program, study the GCSAA Chapter Affiliation Agreement and help the board of directors and staff prioritize programs and services.

“The thing I like about the meeting is the board listens and wants our input,” said GCSAA Class A member Brad Jolliff, a multi-year attendee from Oklahoma. “You get the opportunity to give your point of view. There is such a diversity of membership, and to make the best decisions the board needs input from many sources. The delegates meeting is a good way to get the information.”

Chapter affiliation deliberated

One of the most lively discussions regarded the GCSAA Chapter Affiliation Agreement, specifically Class A conformity between GCSAA and chapters in terms of membership classification. Ultimately, the board of directors opted to extend the current affiliation agreement to give the association and chapters an additional year to collect data and do further study on the issue.

The extension was also granted to give the association time to analyze the report of the Membership Standards Advisory Group. For the past nine months, this independent panel of members has been studying the impact of the professional development initiative (PDI) that resulted in the creation of membership standards. The MSAG presented to the delegates its findings that PDI had been successful with increased advocacy with policymakers, the creation of the IPM requirement, expanded education opportunities that were accessible and affordable, and improved playing conditions. It did note that the faltering economy and the cost and time necessary to affect change through a public relations campaign worked against the program.

Recommendations focused on membership conformity, simplifying membership classifications, and strengthening the requirements for Class A status and items to help market it.

Dues increase up for vote

The association presented a proposed dues increase that will be voted on at the annual meeting in February in San Diego. The vote will be to increase dues \$25 for Class A and SM members, and \$15 for Class C members, making annual dues \$365 and \$185, respectively. The increase is a combination of a \$15 increase (for Class A/SM) based on the Consumer Price Index and \$10 (for Class A/SM) to compensate for GCSAA’s group life insurance premium being doubled by the provider.

The bottom line

GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Rhett Evans shared the association’s invest-recover-grow strategy that has shaped the association’s budgeting philosophy for the past two years. He described how funds have been invested in new programs such as field staff, Rounds 4 Research, web technology, advocacy and other areas to better serve the members. Giving time to allow these programs to gain traction will ultimately help stabilize association operations.


Evans indicated that staff will present a balanced budget to the board in December, but will pull some funds from the association’s reserve just as it has done in the past. Among the new items in the budget will be funds to complete the filling of field staff, pay for headquarters facility improvements and add technology resources. The Mid-Atlantic and the Southeast regions are the remaining two regions without field staff. The facility improvement plan, announced earlier this fall, focuses on necessary structural repairs and enhancing the efficiency of the building. In all, expenses for the project are expected to be approximately \$1.9 million.

“We are by no

means out of the woods when it comes to our financial challenges,” Evans said. “Golf has had some struggles. But I believe we have been prudent in what we have done to weather the storm and are positioned for continued success.”

Tooting your horn

Among the more popular presentations were those that demonstrated how GCSAA resources were being used to advocate on behalf of members. Staff outlined the various government relations activities and the importance of members meeting with federal, state and local lawmakers to be heard on policy decisions. Various examples of GCSAA media placements on television, in print, on the web and on the radio were shared as well. Evans pointed out that NGF studies continue to place a premium on GCSAA members for their role in driving golfer satisfaction and facility success. He said that reaching out to key influencers such as employers, avid golfers and policy makers will continue to be a priority for the association.

The Chapter delegates will convene on February 7 at 2:30 p.m. for the association’s annual meeting in San Diego, held in conjunction with the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show. GCSAA members can view the meeting presentations online. 



T. J. Emmerich Associates, Inc
 Irrigation Consultants
 W28620 Beverly Lane • Hartland, WI 53029
262-538-2776
 Golf Course • Commercial • Master Planning
 System Evaluations • GPS Services
 Thomas J. Emmerich
 Certified Irrigation Designer

Disk Golf

By Mike Harrington, Beautiful Blooms Landscape & Design

Editors Note: Mike Harrington is the former Golf Course Superintendent at Scenic View Country Club in Slinger, WI. Since 2005 he has been Co-owner (with his wife Loriena) of Beautiful Blooms Landscape & Design in Wauwatosa, WI focusing on lawn and landscape design, installation, and maintenance. He has travelled to over 400 disc golf courses in 22 states since he started playing the game less than 4 years ago. If you have any questions about the incorporation of disc golf into your golf course feel free to email Mike@thediscgolf-experience.com.

Disc Golf is very similar to golf only instead of hitting a golf ball with a club, you throw a disc with your arm. There are tees, fairways, rough, water hazards, OB areas, trees, greens (32' around the basket), and holes (Basket AKA Pole Hole). The goal is the same to get from one point to another in the fewest throws.

Not only are the physical parts of the course the same, but the thrill of hitting that perfect golf shot translates to disc golf too. Watching the disc float through the air effortlessly around the trees or over the pond right under the basket keeps so many people coming back over

and over again. It's the same as getting onto a par 5 in two shots by hitting a perfect 3-wood from 250 yards away clearing the bunker and rolling it up on the green to a 2 foot tap-in putt for Eagle. This is one of the reasons disc golf is one of the fastest growing sports in the country, the adrenaline and the thrill are the same as when you hit a perfect golf shot.

Golf courses have so many of the same elements as disc golf courses that the same property can be good for both sports. A golf disc is thrown only about 20-40% of the distance of a typical golf drive so much less land is needed.

Daconil Action™ Fungicide, A New Era in Turfgrass Management

The power of the active ingredient contained in Daconil® fungicide combined with a revolutionary Turf Protein Booster results in longer, more efficient, and broader spectrum turfgrass disease control.

- Boosts turfgrass natural defense proteins (PR proteins)
- Enhances overall plant health
- Increases tolerance to environmental stresses, like drought
- Suppresses activity of fungi, bacteria, viruses, and abiotic diseases

To learn more about Daconil Action, visit DaconilAction.com or contact:

Phil Spitz
Cell: 414-429-2015
phillip.spitz@syngenta.com



Daconil Action™
Fungicide

syngenta.

©2011 Syngenta. Important: Always read and follow label instructions before buying or using these products. The instructions contain important conditions of sale, including limitations of warranty and remedy. Daconil Action is not currently registered for sale or use in all states. Please check with your state or local extension service before buying or using this product. Daconil®, Daconil Action™, the Purpose icon and the Syngenta logo are trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company. Syngenta Customer Center: 1-800-SYNGENT(A) (796-4368).

TM

MISCELLANY

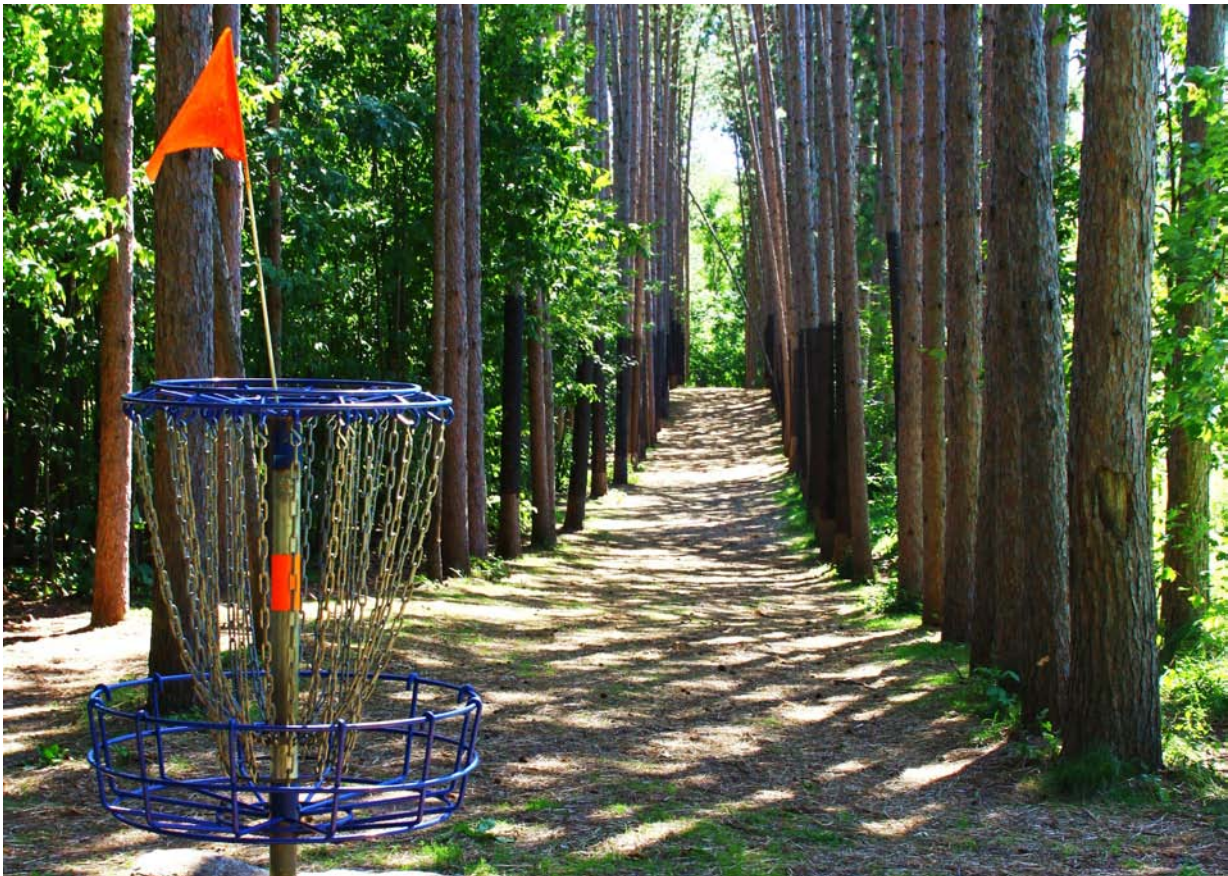


Top Left: Unique green at Idlewild Course in Burlington, KY

Top Right: Tee off pad.

Right: Western Carolina University Disc Golf Basket in Valve Box

Below: Hole 4 at Blue Ribbon Pines in East Bethel, MN (photo courtesy of Jenny Cook)



A decent 18 hole disc golf course could easily fit into 9 holes of a typical golf course. If there are unused woodlands or prairie areas available, you could either add more disc golf holes, or use less of the golf course for disc golf. Because the distance of the holes is quite a bit shorter, we also desire much narrower fairways, which is why woods are a great feature on some disc golf holes. Good design incorporates more obstacles and risk/reward shots like over water or through the woods. An occasional open hole using the golf fairway would be acceptable, but a great course will have a good variety of open length, lightly wooded holes, water or OB danger, and even densely wooded areas.

Disc Golf Course Accessories and the necessary installation and maintenance

The most basic tee would be a nice level area of grass but the only drawback is that you will want to move the tee markers regularly to avoid compaction and turf damage. The next step up would be to use

a rubber mat or an Astroturf tee area for more consistent footing. Even better than these surfaces would be to use existing paved cart paths. Another step up would be to pour new concrete slabs where the tees would be placed. This is obviously the premium option and I would not recommend this unless you are sure disc golf will be a part of your course for quite a while.

Once you decide on the desired tee type, you might have a little prep work for the tees, depending on the tee surface. You will also need a little bit of time to install the concrete for the permanent locking metal sleeves (used for permanent basket installations only). The best part about adding disc golf to an existing golf course is that it will not require a lot more effort on day to day maintenance. You already mow the grass, take care of your trees, rake your bunkers, paint your water hazards, and irrigate the turf. Depending on your specific golf course you might not even need to move the baskets in and out if you have a lot of peripheral wooded or prairie property since those areas are also enjoyable for disc golf.

Rest assured that a well designed course will keep all discs and people far away from the fine turf areas. We do not want discs landing on the green, nor do we want overuse and compaction to begin on the nicely groomed tees. Fairways and rough could withstand an occasional disc and subsequent throw. For a frame of reference, the typical disc golf course turf is comparable to golf course rough. Wooded holes don't get enough sun to sustain turf, but mulch can be applied to bare areas if the leaf cover is not enough to keep the mud from being on the surface.

The potential economic impact of disc golf

An upward trend in the sport of disc golf is the desire for pay to play courses as opposed to the free municipal parks. The municipal courses are becoming overcrowded and beat up due to the decreasing parks budgets, and a lot of the maintenance is left to the local disc golf club volunteers. Many of the more discerning disc golfers are looking for places where it will be less crowded, more secluded, quieter, more scenic, and better maintained, and they are willing to pay for that experience. According to a survey done by the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) in 2011, of the people willing to pay for a nicely maintained disc golf course, the optimum fee would be \$4-6, with some people saying they would pay over \$15. Add in a golf cart rental, some beverages, and possibly some food sales and there is a significant amount of money from a completely different target market. That income looks even more substantial when you realize the additional inputs are pretty minimal and disc golf could take advantage of your slow periods. I imagine that your golf course owners, who have been dealing with less tee times and fewer golfers over the past decade, would love to have that additional income.

Is disc golf suitable for all golf courses?

Disc golf could be designed to fit into just about any golf course, but there are so many variables that the extent of use might vary dramatically from course to course. The amount of money people are willing to pay will also vary depending on the property and the level of challenge that can be provided. From a design standpoint the factors involved would be the trees along the fairways, the water that is in play, the use of bunkers to create more obstacles, and the overall size of your property. If there are peripheral prairie areas or densely wooded areas that can be used, then the design could be altered dramatically to capitalize on the unused portion of the property.



Just a subtle reminder...



Incorporate Milorganite into your next season's agronomic program and budget. Milorganite is cost effective, environmentally friendly, and delivers the results that superintendents demand.

Partnering with:



1-800-785-3301



1-800-279-2341

www.milorganite.com 1-800-287-9645

MISCELLANY

The biggest factor to consider when deciding if disc golf would be appropriate for your property is to study the slow periods of golf. Are there specific evenings where a section of the golf course could be closed to golfers and opened for disc golf league play? Are the early spring and late fall months particularly slow because the golfers are waiting for ideal weather conditions? Could you have a course that would support simultaneous play by golfers and disc golfers? Currently there are

two courses installed on golf courses in the Minneapolis area where the disc golfers get a tee-time just like the golfers do and you could find a few dozen golfers and a few dozen disc golfers on the same course at the same time. Disc golfers also tend to be a hearty bunch of people and will play in just about any weather including snow, so it is important to think about the opportunity for a course in the wintertime, when there obviously is no revenue from golf. All of these circumstances will affect

the type of course that could be put in and the amount of money people are willing to pay to play your course.

Perhaps your course could support a permanent disc golf course being installed. It might only be able to justify a temporary setup a couple nights a week, or for that matter even just a couple of tournaments a year. I am confident with the right promotion, and the proper planning and design, this is something that will be a profitable addition to many golf courses. ✓



Left: A very popular hole called “Top of the World” on Hole #27 at Delaveaga in Santa Cruz, CA (Photo Courtesy of Jenny Cook)

Below: #17 at The Lodge Island Course in Pawhuska, OK . . . plays similarly to #17 at TPS Sawgrass Stadium Course



Thanksgiving

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

The season of 2012 came to a end for many Badger State courses on Thanksgiving when temperatures went from 60 to 30 overnight and deer hunters around the state put on a another coat and smiled as real deer hunting weather returned and Saturday night brought a little snow in the northern half of the state.

My son and I decided to skip the deer hunt this year and to be honest neither one of us missed it. He is not a morning person and after two years of not seeing any shootable deer I didn't mind not traveling or sitting quietly in the woods.

It worked out for the best as our staff was finishing up some projects on the golf course and the extra days at work helped us button them up before the weather turned cold.

Each fall I swear we are not going to do another late fall in-house project that stretches our staff and resources but each fall it all seems to work out. Often the projects are the result of a outside vendor looking for a place to put some fill and we are glad to take it to facilitate mounding and other improvements to the course.

This year it was a new tee complex on our tenth hole and a new chipping green and surrounds. Our current chipping green was left over from an expansion in 1996 and was in the middle of the course requiring a cart to find.

The new one is next to the putting green by the clubhouse and should be well used when it opens next summer.

Just as I vow to swear off late fall projects next years is already picked as we plan to change our 27th green to increase cupping area. We can only use half of the current green as the slopes are too severe to put a cup on the rest of the green without complaints. Hopefully Mother Nature will allow us to start early and finish fast.

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving works out well for golf course superintendents as it comes near the end of our season and allows us to re-

flect on the year that was before gearing up for the year to come.

No matter what is going on in your life we all have many things to be thankful for. For me it is:

Family and Friends - Our interactions with others at home, play and work are really what life is about. I am thankful for a healthy family and good group of friends to spend time with away from work.

Coworkers - A golf course cannot run itself and I am very thankful to have a great staff to make it all come together to provide a good product for the players. We have also reached the point we have a great group of people in all departments allowing for a positive and enjoyable work environment.

My employer - I am thankful for having a job in a field I love and the benefits it brings.

Our customers - Without our customers we would not exist and although a couple of them can test my patience from time to time overall they are great and mean well.

Our advertisers - *The Grass Roots* is brought to you because of the advertisers in each issue. They pay the bills and allow all of us to be educated by our great writers. A list of our sponsors can be found on page 7 of this issue so be sure to thank them by using them when possible for your purchasing needs.

Our writers - Without the professors and other regular columnists *The Grass Roots* either would not exist or would be a simple review of the associations events.

I receive a number of publications from across the county and your publication is one of the best in thanks to the legacy that Monroe Miller built, our writers and our advertisers. Many chapters have gone

“digital” only and no longer provide a print publication for their members. But then most of them did not have the support of the professors and vendors as we do.

Congratulations

Word is Charles ‘Chuck’ Frazier will be retiring at the end of the year from Nakoma Country Club, where he has been assistant Superintendent for almost 39 years. Congratulations Chuck.



Brian Zimmerman (left) visits with Charles Frazier (right) at Nakoma Country Club. Zimmerman formerly worked at Nakoma and Frazier will retire this year after 39 years at the course.

(Photo courtesy of 2003 The Grass Roots files.)

Congratulations to Christopher Zugel of Whistling Straits for passing the certification program for the GCSAA.

Congratulations as well to those WGC-SA members renewing their Certified Golf Course Superintendent Status recently.

Bruce Livingston - Mascoutin GC
Josh Lepine - Maple Bluff CC
Paul Bastron - Midwest Turf Products

Mike Bremmer, superintendent at the Wisconsin Club in Milwaukee, received an honorable mention in the Daconil Action Fungicide Tough Turf Video Contest sponsored by Syngenta.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Bremmer took home the consolation prize along with William Brown from Hartefeld National in Avondale, Pa. The winner of the contest was Chris Vincent, CGCS, The Reserve at Lake Keowee in South Carolina.

Bremmer and his staff produced a creative 5 minute video on the benefits of Daconil Action. The video is on You Tube and can easily found by simply searching for Mike's name at You Tube.

Miscellany

I was a little skeptical when I received two articles on alternatives to the traditional game of golf. My first thought was our readers have no interest in that crazy stuff. I told myself we manage golf courses not funlands or miniature golf courses.

But when I thought about it I considered many country clubs offer tennis and pool along with par 3 layouts or putting only courses so is frisbee golf or foot golf that far fetched?

For some operators foot golf or frisbee golf may be a alternative revenue source or a alternative activity they can offer members or especially the children of members. It would be difficult to fit on the golf course itself but if extra space were avail-

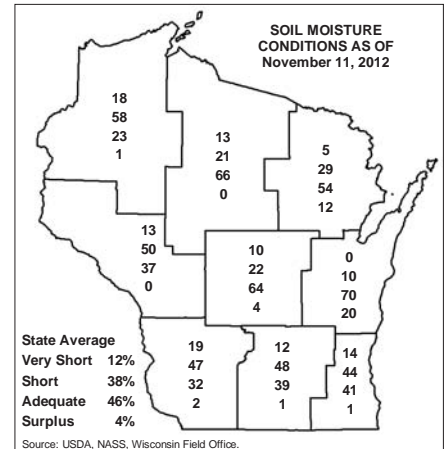
able it may be something you can implement at little cost for your members and customers.

If you have a TB200 Grooming Brush from SGM Industries or On Course check your serial numbers. The manufacture has lost contact with the local sales representative and would like to find out who has serial numbers 640, 647, 659, and 663, 664 in our area. There is not a recall the company just wants to know who has the units for future updates. If you have one of these units you can contact Jeff Scott of SGM at 630-688-5192.

From the United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service their latest labor report shows farm workers in the "lakes" region of Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota averaged \$12.01 per hour. It is hard for some golf courses to compete with that wage for regular laborers and equipment operators.

The service also reports that as of November 11th half the state has adequate soil moisture but the rest is either dry or very dry even after some of the fall rains.

Hopefully we will see some more soaking rains before the ground freezes and then a nice snow cover for the winter.



I hope many of you take advantage of the new format for the WTA Winter Expo and attend in person or through the webcast. Dr. Soldat covers that in a article on page 18.

The offseason or at least a slower season is upon us. A time to step away from the daily grind and plan for next year while looking back at the positives and negatives of 2012. Be sure to take time to give thanks to those important people in your life.

I offer thanks to all of you for reading this magazine and wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. 🌿

Coming Events!

Tue January 15th, Wisconsin Turfgrass Winter Expo at Pyle Center, Madison and Online.

Wed January 16th, Assistant Seminar at Whispering Springs GC, Fond du Lac

Wed February 6th, Wisconsin Hospitality Room at GIS 6-9 PM, Bootlegger, 804 Market St, San Diego, CA

Mon February 25th, Spring Business Meeting, Ramada Inn, Fond du Lac

Tue April 23rd, April Golf Meeting, Strawberry Creek, Kenosha

Mon May 6th, May Golf Meeting, North Hills CC, Mequon

Wed May 29th, Super/Pro, Fox Valley Golf Club, Kaukauna

Mon June 17th, WGCSA Tournament Meeting, South Hills CC, Fond du Lac

Tue July 30th, UW - Summer Field Day, OJ Noer Facility, Verona

Tue August 20th, Joint meeting w/NGL, Stevens Point CC, St. Point

Mon September 16th, Wee One, Pine Hills CC, Sheboygan

Sat October 5th, Couples Outing/Party, Wild Rock GC, WI Dells

Tues and Wed Dec 3rd-4th, Turfgrass Symposium, Location TBD