



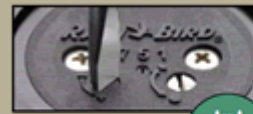
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GCSAA & WGCSA Boards Hold Joint Meeting

By Brett Grams, Chapter Manager, Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association

The WGCSA has always supported and enhanced the efforts of the GCSAA. From our earliest days in the 1930's when we were one of the earliest supporting chapters until present day where we are one of the larger affiliated chapters, our ideas, needs, and opinions have always been shared with those at the national level. As our industry has grown so has the impact of golf in Wisconsin. In the past 25 years golf has thrived in our state. Some of our facilities are now in the national

spotlight and on the rotation to host some of the largest championships in golf. Education remains true to our core as well since the days of the first green keeper training programs in Madison to the current OJ Noer Research Center WI clearly has done its fair share to advance our great game and profession in our 82 years of existence

The current President of the GCSAA, Sandy Queen, CGCS was aware of our impacts to the golf industry and that is one of the reasons he reached out

to then WGCSA President Brian Zimmerman several years ago in hopes that the 2012 GCSAA Fall Board meetings could be held in WI. It was decided that the meetings would occur in conjunction with the annual Wee One Foundation Golf Outing as this effort has grown from a regional fundraising effort to a national one in just a few short years.

The WGCSA helped organize two separate meetings with the GCSAA Board of Directors. The first meeting was held in down town Milwaukee on Friday Sept 14th. The leaders of the WGCSA were invited to attend along with the allied associations in our state. Invited leaders that attend were Joe Stadler from the WI Section of the PGA, Jeff Schwister from the Golf Course Owners of WI, Chad Ritterbusch of the American Society of Golf Course Architects were all able to join the GCSAA board and CEO Rhett Evans in a question and answer type meeting. The WGCSA was represented by Jeff Millies, Jon Canavan, Colin Seaberg, John Jensen and myself. The main goal was to learn about what is going well with golf in general and what are the ongoing challenges. The GCSAA board of directors are well aware that if our profession is to be strong and is to grow that the game of golf and the overall industry must grow and be strong as well. The agenda of this meeting was centered on what part the GCSAA and our profession can do to ensure golf has a strong future. We discussed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats are on the horizon from the other association's perspective.

Two overall themes became evident in these discussions. The first is that the groundwork for cooperation has already been laid. The WI Golf Economic Impact Study is a good example of the type of work that we can accomplish when we combine our efforts. The second is that by all accounts all areas of the golf industry are struggling.



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CHAPTER CONVERSATION


Whether you are a course owner, supply company, golf course architect, or a professional association in the industry we are all being challenged in new ways. The economy, increased golf facilities, and evolving industry standards are proving difficult for real growth at most levels. The meeting concluded without any real breakthroughs but everyone came away with multiple ideas that we can take back to our own members. We all agree we are stronger as a group because we are willing to work together.

The second meeting of the GCSAA Board visit came Monday September 17th. The WGCSA and GCSAA Board of Directors held a joint meeting. This meeting was not long in length but was valuable as both groups of leaders learned a lot more about each other. The GCSAA made it clear that they face challenges at the national level that it difficult to fund all the things that they want to. In the recent years the GCSAA has seen their annual budget go from 21 million dollars to the 15 million dollars this year. Staffing at headquarters has gone from a high of 122 employees down to 86. Decreased revenues, reductions in member numbers, and changes to revenue sources have

made funding all programs much more difficult. Like all of us the national efforts have had to focus on members first and outlying efforts second. The GCSAA leaders made it clear that they are considering several new programs and efforts to ensure our future is bright. They are in a constant state of review and improvement. The results of these changes can be seen if you look at this year's GIS and Conference schedule. They have listened to surveys and feedback trying to make the event as valuable as to the members while condensing the time frames to make time away considerably shorter than just a few years ago.

Our leaders also had a lot of time to discuss policies and impacts as it pertains to our membership. When national dues were discussed our leaders were clear that stated many people are paying both local and national dues out of pocket and increases in dues is a real burden and is at least partly attributable to decreased membership levels. The discussion of the EIFG efforts at the national level taking over the Carolina GCSA Rounds 4 Research efforts was also a talking point. The participation of other chapters continues to be strong and it appears the program is off

to an excellent start. Our WGCSA leaders have decided to continue the PAR4 Research efforts that were started here in WI three years ago for next season. This decision was based on the fact that we can conduct the auction on our own time frame that is best for us, that we can control all the revenues gained directly, and that in general it was felt that we did not want to abandon what is working well. The WGCSA will reevaluate our position after next spring's auction. The GCSAA leaders did request that we allow any WGCSA members that want to donate rounds to the EIFG R4R national auction to do so. In closing the GCSAA will be announcing some new efforts to promote research in ways that will allow the actual end users to help. The idea of the actual golfers that enjoy our game can help with revenue for research is being considered and will key on the Green movement that is a hot topic for almost all other industries today.

The challenges are real for all of us in our industry but with strong leadership and a willingness to join efforts to overcome challenges will make being a Golf Course Superintendent even better than it is now. 



Attending the Allied Association Meeting were Joe Stadler from the WI Section of the PGA, Jeff Schwister from the Golf Course Owners of WI, Chad Ritterbusch of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, WGCSA Representatives Jeff Millies, Brett Grams, Jon Canavan, Colin Seaberg and John Jensen along with GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans and GCSAA Boardmembers. The group held a question and answer type meeting.

9th Annual Wee One Foundation Golf Outing

By Luke Cella, Wee One Foundation

The Wee One Foundation hosted its 9th Annual Golf Outing at Pine Hills Country Club, Rod Johnson, host superintendent on September 17, 2012.

For many of us it is hard to believe it has been nine years since this fine tradition started. However, it hasn't been too difficult for those who have benefitted from the Wee One Foundation's efforts to believe in the Foundation and the work it does. To date, the Wee One Foundation has gifted over **\$500,000** to those in need and continues to do so with the help of all those that support the Foundation.

This year the Foundation was honored to have the GCSAA Board of Director's in attendance (after they met with the WGCSA Board). In addition two of the Wives of Turf, namely Jennifer Zugel and Tina Barber showed up to help with the raffles and registration. (More information on the Wives of Turf can be found at wivesofturf.org)

Brandon Ingle, a recipient of Wee One gifts, wanted to give back to the Foundation and took a few minutes and told the story of how his son Aiden continues to bravely fight debilitating seizures that plague their lives. Bran-



**The Wee One, Wayne Otto
1939-2004**

don showed just what the Foundation does by sharing his story with those in attendance.

Somehow the rain held off and 185 golfers enjoyed the day at Pine Hills. The brat and taco stand were still the most popular places on the golf course, although I saw a few looks of Pine Hills, that I've never seen before (thanks to the wayward shots of my playing partner).

Fantastic prizes were raffled away, a Bose Sound Dock, a PlayStation 3, a Kindle Fire, an Ipad, a Weber Grill (donated by JW Turf), \$500 gift card (easier to carry than a TV), a GoPro Camera, and a Disney Trip (donated by the Toro Company).

Winners in the two person select drive / alternate shot format were:

1st Place: Dave Blomquist & Dave Schlaetter

2nd Place: Jeff Mazur, Brad Anderson

5th Place: Joe Deschler, Greg Kallenberg

9th Place: Tom Hoffmann, Dan Kolelander

13th Place: John Hober-ton, Dave Van Auken

17th Place: Tim Stein, Andrew Stein Kris Pinkerton, Oshkosh Country Club won a set of Ping irons in a draw-down after winning one of the closest to the pin events. Joe Jehnsen of Island Hills Golf Club won the 50/50 drawing with a large smile.

Not one but two?

The first big winner of the day was Brian Racette of Sand Creek Country Club, who knocked in an ace on the 9th hole and won a cool \$10,000. Amazingly Don Cross of Skokie Country Club matched Brian with a ace of his own a few groups later. The insurance company honored both winners, which is unusual but both men went home happy.

The real winners of the day are all those in need who will be able to be helped because of the generosity of our sponsors, our volunteers, and all those who participated in a great day of support for our industry raising nearly **\$40,000**.



Wives of Turf, Jennifer Zugel and Tina Barber help with registration and ticket sales.



Our Host: Rod Johnson



Above: WGCSA Members share notes with GC-SAA Board member Darren Davis and GCSAA Past President Bob Randquist.

Above Right: Joe Sell, Chris Zugel and Brett Johnson re-hash the round.

Right: The line at the taco stand

Below: Holes 10 and 8 at Pine Hills Country Club



COVER STORY

ONE PERCENT FOR THE WEE ONE FOUNDATION!

The Wee One Foundation took the opportunity to kick off its new fundraising campaign, One for the Wee One. The Foundation plans to raise \$10 million in 10 years to fund a perpetual endowment to make sure there is always funding available to help.

One Cause: Help golf course management professionals and their dependents that are having trouble paying medical bills due to the lack of comprehensive insurance or adequate financial resources.

One Goal: Raise \$10 million in 10 years to help support families in need forever. The One Percent Endowment Fund will provide a permanent source of supplemental funding for Wee One mission and new endeavors to benefit individuals and families in the golf course industry. 100% of funds generated through this campaign will be placed in a permanent endowment fund.

One Percent: Pledge one percent of your current annual revenue, maintenance budget, or salary and donate this amount over the next ten years.

Example Contribution
My current salary is \$65,000.
1% of that is \$650.

I donate that amount to the Wee One over the next ten years.

$\$650 \div 10 = \65 per year.

One Percent for the Wee One Foundation: There will always be someone in need. Help us to make sure there is funding to make someone's life a little easier, a little more peaceful. Become One for the Wee One today, visit weeone.org.



Above: Dale Marach and Derek Kastenschmidt head out on the course.

Left: Matt Kinnard, Jim Hasz, Lee Mahnke and Jon Baus talk shop.

COVER STORY

wee one
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Lake Arrowhead Golf Club Hosts Joint Meeting

By Brett Grams, Chapter Manager, Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association

August 20th was the date for this 40th Annual Member Guest and joint meeting with our co-hosts from the Northern Great Lakes GCSA. High skies with a cool breeze welcomed the 60 + attendees for a picture perfect day of education, golf, and camaraderie.

Our very own Doug Soldat was our speaker for our educational hour. Dr. Soldat discussed the various research activities currently taking place at the OJ Noer Research Center. Both the NGL and WGCSA have contributed significantly to the UW and it is always good to hear about how the funding is being used.

After a question and answer session a burger buffet lunch was served prior to heading out to golf.

Lake Arrowhead Golf Club is a residential golf community located south of WI Rapids. The facility has played host of multiple WGCSA meetings over the years we were able to play the Pines Golf Course

which is the flagship of the 36 hole complex. The geography of this part of central Wisconsin is flat terrain, shallow topsoil, and a very well drained sandy subsoil. The golf courses at Lake Arrowhead were carved out of the oak and pine forests. The Pines course was built in 1984 and designed by Ken Killian and Dick Nugent. Mr. Killian returned to design the Lakes Course which opened in 1998.

Our Host Superintendent Eric Jasin originally was responsible for the Lakes Course as it opened and remained as the Superintendent until last season when he took over the duties as Superintendent of the Pines Course. Like the rest of the Superintendents in the state Eric struggled with the hot dry weather and extended droughty conditions. The stress from the summer season was not very evident the day of our meeting! As I toured the course I was impressed by how healthy the course was given the challenging weather




throughout the state and a majority of the country.

The format of the days golf event was a two-man best ball. The fair weather and excellent conditions allowed many golfers to play some great golf. In the net division Mike Werth and Dennis Dary came in first place with very impressive score of 60. Just one stroke off the pace was Mark Thurow and Mike Judkins who carded a 61. The gross division winners were Mike Lyons and Craig Haltom who fired a 70 which was two better than 2nd place finishers Jon Hegge and Joe Knudtson who shot 72.

Flag event prizes went to Scott Bushman – Long Drive, Tom Speltz – Long Putt, Jesse Hoff, Closest to Pin, and Todd Fregein – Long Drive.

Many thanks to our generous sponsors of our monthly meetings! We simply could not provide attendees the great prizes and hole events without the companies who offset these costs. Our events are very reasonable thanks to the industry partners who support each of our monthly meetings.

Special thanks to Premier Golf Car for sponsoring the Hole In One Challenge and to our very own Randy Witt, CGCS for sponsoring a round of drinks after golf. As many of you know Randy is currently the Superintendent of Hong Kong Golf Club but his heart still resides with us here in WI. I am confident that when Randy can make it to one of our meetings we will gladly return the gesture! 

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NGL/WGCSA MEETING AT LAKE ARROWHEAD



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MIKE JUDKINS



JON HEGGE

JOE KNUDTSON



MIKE WERTH

DENNIS DARY

HOST SUPERINTENDENT
ERIC JASIN
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Scholarships and Updates

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

LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year GCSAA awards 20 Scholarships to children or grandchildren of a GCSAA member. The program is funded by GCSAA's philanthropic organization, the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG) and supported by Syngenta. Each grant is for \$1,500.

The awards are based on academic achievement, community involvement, extracurricular activities and leadership skills. Applicants must be enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher learning, or for high school seniors, accepted at such an institution for the next academic year.

Winners with Wisconsin ties are Katherine Barlow, University of Wisconsin Daughter of Jennifer and Jeff Barlow, CGCS, Waupaca Country

Club, Waupaca, and Kira Clunis, St. Olaf College (Northfield, Minn.) Daughter of Kevin Clunis, CGCS, Luck Golf Course.

GCSAA SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Each year GCSAA awards 17 Scholarships through the GCSAA Scholars Program, funded by the Environmental Institute for Golf's Robert Trent Jones Endowment to recognize outstanding students planning careers in golf course management.

Winners were selected to receive scholarship awards based on the final ranking in a competition judged by GCSAA's Scholarship Committee. Factors considered were academic achievement, potential to become a leading professional, employment his-

tory, extracurricular activities, and recommendations from a superintendent with whom the student has worked and a current academic advisor.

Applicants must be enrolled in a recognized undergraduate program in a major field related to golf/turf management and be a GCSAA member. Undergraduate applicants must have successfully completed at least 24 credit hours or the equivalent of one year of full-time study in an appropriate major.

Samuel Weber from Sturgeon Bay, WI who is attending Michigan State University was awarded a \$500 scholarship. Sam has worked at Cherry Hills Golf Course and Horseshoe Bay Golf Club and recently completed a internship at Garden City Golf Club.

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