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Charlie G. Wilson Receives Distinguished Service Award

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

Late is better than never and sometimes for unknown reasons things are not done at a specified time. Awarding Charlie Wilson with the WGCSA's highest honor is one of those things.

If you read your directory you can see the list of WGCSA Distinguished Service Award winners is short on names but long on history of service to the WGCSA and the Wisconsin Golf History.

Although retired since 1979 and now 91 years old Wilson is well deserving of this late honor.

As part of the "Greatest Generation" Wilson grew up in the eastern US moving around a bit due to his fathers sales job as a buyer for the Atlantic and Pacific Food Company. The family was in Washington DC when World War II broke out and he enlisted in the Navy serving 37 months in the Pacific serving for a time under John F. Kennedy.

After the war Charlie enrolled in the University of Maryland and wanted to get a degree in agriculture despite his city upbringing.

Wilson started mowing lawns to raise some money to supplement his GI Bill income and wanted to learn more about lawn care and turfgrass.

This quest for knowledge led him to the USDA Plant Industry Station in Beltsville, MD where the USDA Green Section had it office. Reading was allowed at the office but material could not leave the building

so Charlie spent many days and hours poring over material that included USGA Green Section Journals.

Dr. Fred Grau, Green Section Director took a notice of Wilson and offered him a summer job that led to a part time school year job and after graduation in 1950 a full time position as a extension agronomist. After a year working in the Maryland USGA office Wilson was sent to California to see if there was any interest in having a visiting turf service for USGA clubs. There was a lot of interest so Wilson was chosen to open an office in Davis California and pioneered the USGA turfgrass advisory service as the first director.

After three years O.J. Noer wanted Charlie to be his understudy at the Milorganite Division of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District. The opportunity to work under the worlds foremost turfgrass agronomist brought Wilson to Wisconsin in the summer of 1955.

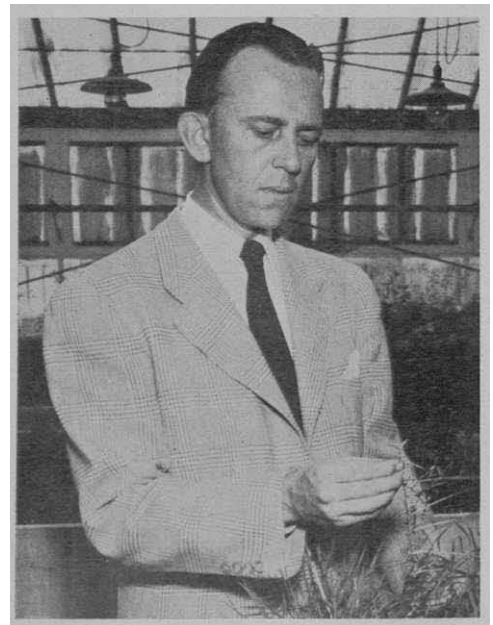
Wilson and Noer worked together for 5 years before Noer's retirement in 1960 when Wilson assumed his position as head agronomist and director of marketing for Milorganite. He spent much of his time traveling the country, visiting distributors, attending and speaking at conferences and visiting golf courses.

The job took Wilson to every state in the union and most of provinces of Canada. It was during Wilson's time at Milorganite he along with Jim Lathem and Bob Welch

approached WGCSA's Ron Verhaalen and John Stampfl to work out details on a day and half conference and in 1966 the first Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium was held. It was fitting the WGCSA was able to award Charlie the DSA at the very conference he helped found.

In a relationship that continues today Milorganite paid for speaker travel, rooms and expenses while attendees paid for the conference rooms and meals. Any profit is given to the O.J. Noer Research Foundation.

The O.J. Noer Foundation was spearheaded by Wilson although it was a plan "B" proposal. The idea was to do something nice for O.J. so Charlie and several Milorganite Distributors wanted to send them on a trip around the world. Well O.J. caught wind of the idea and said under no circumstances!



Charlie Wilson becomes the first USGA Green Section Director in Davis California. (Picture courtesy of Golfdom Magazine June 1952)



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Plan “B” was to form a turfgrass research foundation in O.J.’s name and the O.J. Noer Foundation was started. Wilson served as the research director and on the board of directors for the foundation named in honor of the man who taught him so much.

According to Wilson the first project funded by the O.J. Noer Foundation was one of the greatest research projects ever done on turf. UW Wisconsin’s Dr. James Love work on how turfgrass responds to mineral nutrient deficiencies was ground-breaking for the time as that work had never been done. At that time turf research was hard to find and only a few colleges had recognized turf programs or professors.

The O.J. Foundation has provided over 1 million dollars in research grants and has been instrumental in helping build the O.J. Noer Memorial Collection at Michigan State University Library as part of the Turfgrass Information File.

When he retired in 1979 Wilson didn’t stop working and developed a product called Aquashade after seeing a Florida property that dyed a pond to make it look better after seeing it on a golf course where a movie was shot.

The colored pond looked better and did not have any weeds due to the filtered sunshine. Wilson did some research, developed the patented product and later sold the business to fully retire.

Charlie and his wife Marion retired to Wisconsin the state where they raised three children and created a Legacy with the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium and the O.J. Noer Foundation.

Wilson was awarded the USGA Green Section award for his work in 1982. In his speech with Marion at his side he is quoted as saying “We are proud to have helped the grass grow.” That is a simple synopsis of a career that spanned nearly 30 years as a turf agronomist. Charlie Wilson has seen a lot over his life.

He has seen golf course superintendents go from on the job trained farmers to educated professionals who are still trained on the job and through continuing education.

He helped turfgrass research go from near-non-existent to providing a wide scope of solutions for turf managers.

He served his nation in World War II, went to college, found a career and raised a family.

Charlie G. Wilson is very deserving of The Distinguished Service Award for his work as an agronomist, educator, researcher and his role in the golf industry. Congratulations Charlie! ✓

(Editors Note: More can be found on Charlie Wilson in the July August issue of *The Grass Roots*, archived at the Turfgrass Information File at Michigan State. Lori Ward Bocher Personality Profile penned “Hear It Again For the First Time”.)



Above: The first USGA Agronomist Charlie G Wilson with current USGA Agronomist Robert Vavrek.

Below: Charlie Wilson as caricatured by Gene Haas



5th Annual WGCSA Assistant Seminar

By **Jake Rath**, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, Bishops Bay Country Club

Whispering Springs Golf Club and Superintendent Matt Schmitz once again hosted the assistant seminar. With this summer's weather, the main focus of the seminar was, fittingly, water use. Together, the speakers provided great insight and information on what makes a successful irrigation system and program.

Tom Emmerich of T.J. Emmerich Associates Inc. was the first speaker of the day. He used his 42 years of experience in the field to provide a great overview of the irrigation industry. Tom began by covering the basics as to why you would consider renovating or replacing your current system. Not only can a new irrigation system reduce water use, it can also improve coverage and system reliability, reduce energy costs, and increase your level of control. Tom then discussed various parts of the irrigation system providing a glimpse of both the


new and old.

Following Tom, Larry Lennert, a territory manager for Aquatrols, discussed some benefits and components of improving irrigation efficiency. Larry discussed the importance of minimizing over and under watering and creating uniform infiltration throughout the soil profile. To demonstrate how to assess an irrigation system, Larry walked through a sample irrigation audit. He then discussed various alternatives to improve distribution uniformity. Adjusting head sizes and spacing, checking for damaged or worn nozzles, and adjusting times all can help create a more uniform playing surface.

Following lunch, Ken Schwark of Watertronics discussed the ins and outs of pump stations. Ken has over 36 years of experience in the industry. He covered both new and old pump system equipment and overall operation. As each

pump station is different, it was great to see examples of different stations that Ken had worked on throughout the years. Not only can a new pump station improve reliability, it can also bring electricity savings.

To finish the day, Patrick Sisk, Certified Golf Course Superintendent of Milwaukee Country Club, gave an overview of his experience in planning and installing a new irrigation system. The process leading up to the installation of a new irrigation system starts many years before it actually goes in the ground. Patrick noted the importance of evaluations, personal observations, and consideration of playability issues. Finally, he emphasized the need for consultation and communication between all those involved in the process.

Thanks to all who organized the event and especially to Matt and the speakers for a great day at Whispering Springs. 



Seminar Speakers included from left: Tom Emmerich, Pat Sisk, Larry Lennert and Ken Schwark.

A eager crowd at the 5th Annual Assistants Seminar at Whispering Springs Golf Club in Fond du Lac.



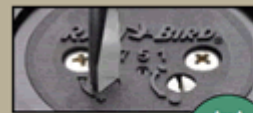
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News and Notes From WGCSA Members By Matt Kinnard and the DHD Team

From everyone at DHD I'd like to say Happy New Year! We also hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and Holiday Season. And, hey, as a bonus the Mayan Apocalypse was a bust. With a new lease on life after December 21, I was thinking of all the things I could be thankful for now and look forward to in the coming years. So here are just a few...

- 1) I will be able to continue to watch the Bears suck for many more years to come.
- 2) Dedicating 7 days of my life to Discovery Channels Shark Week.
- 3) Paying \$1 per oz of beer at Summerfest. (This is sarcasm)
- 4) Having the privilege of sharing all of your good news, such as the following.

Career Moves

Dustin Peterson is the new superintendent at Rolling Greens Golf Course in Durand, WI. Dustin recently graduated from Chippewa Valley Technical College in 2012. He has previous golf course experience at Eau Claire Country Club. Congratulations Dustin on your first Superintendents position!

Steve Blake at Ridgeway Country Club in Neenah promoted his second assistant Chris Goeben to the position of Assistant Superintendent. Chris graduated from the Rutgers Turf Program in 2010. Chris started working in golf as a seasonal at Crystal Springs in Seymour. During college he had the opportunity to intern in Kohler at Whistling Straits on the Irish Course in 2009 and then in 2010, the year of the PGA Championship, on the Straits Course. Congratulations Chris!

Harrison Beal has returned to the golf course where he had his first summer job, Kenosha Country

Club. Harrison has accepted the position of Assistant Superintendent under Scott Verdun. He graduated from the Rutgers Turf Program in 2010 after interning at Glen Arbor Golf Club in Bedford Hills, NY. When he returned to Wisconsin, he began work at Oconomowoc Golf Club as the Second Assistant, and was promoted to Assistant Superintendent in 2011. Congratulations Harrison!

Newly Married

Garrett Luck, the Superintendent at North Shore Country Club in Mequon, and Ann Engel were married on December 15, 2012. The newlyweds are looking forward to a warm February honeymoon in Jamaica. Congratulations Garrett and Ann!

Family Additions

Fox Lake Golf Club Superintendent, Brian Igl, and his wife Kayla received a late Christmas present on December 27, 2012 when they welcomed a baby girl into the world. Kynslee Mae, 11lbs 5 oz (not a typo), came home in time to ring in the New Year with her brother Teagan and Junior the dog. Congratulations Brian and Kayla!

Scenic View Country Club (Slinger) Superintendent, Kasey VandeBerg and his wife Brooke had a baby girl September 10, 2012. Harper Marie weighed 6lbs 10oz and was 20 inches. Congratulations Kasey and Brooke on the new addition to you family!

Retirement

Peter Fay, superintendent at Haw-

thorne Hills Golf Course in Saukville, has retired after dedicating 40 years to the Ozaukee County Parks Department. Pete began his career at the Parks Dept. when he accepted the position of Greenkeeper I on June 1, 1972. Pete witnessed a tremendous amount of change occur in our industry over the length of his career but what never changed was the commitment he had for his job, his indelible work ethic and genuine personality. The result was an outstanding golf facility that is known for its excellent playing conditions year in and year out. On January 2nd, 2013, Pete's 'meritorious and dedicated service,' was recognized by Ozaukee County. Hopefully with more free time now, Pete and his wife Sharon, will be able to enjoy as much time as they want touring the country in their RV. Congratulations Pete on the conclusion of your remarkable career and from all of us in the turf industry, we hope you enjoy your retirement.

Winning

Lee Mahnke, superintendent at Old Hickory Country Club in Beaver Dam, was the winner of a \$200.00 GCSAA Gift Certificate after his name was drawn for participating in the GCSAA Research Panel. Other winners received various gift cards, ipods and even a chainsaw. Any superintendent can participate in the Research Panel and doesn't have to be a member of the GCSAA. For more information visit www.gcsaa.org/news/ResearchPanel.aspx.

Congratulations Lee!

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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Fall Business Meeting

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

Attendance numbers at the fall business meeting of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association is a mixed blessing. The low turnout is a sign the members trust and appreciate the job executive director Grams and the board of directors are doing. A high turnout could be the result of an angry mob so although I shouldn't complain I do wish more members would participate in this important part of your as-

sociation.

Outgoing President Jeff Millies opened the meeting and discussed his ten years on the board of directors. He will serve two more as Past President and will still be involved in committee work with the Symposium and Nominations Committee.

Executive Director Grams presented the membership numbers. In 2012 only 38% of members renewed on time and we saw a net

reduction in members. Overall we are better than the national association where overall numbers are down 27%.

Par4Research donations were down 20% from 2012 as less clubs participated in this valuable program. The Par4Research allows WGCSA to provide funds for research to the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association to they can support turfgrass research at UW Madison and the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility.

WGCSA Legacy Scholarships were announced with \$500 scholarships given to:


- Katherine Barlow, daughter of Jeff and Jennifer Barlow. Katherine is a Freshman at UW Madison studying Biomedical Engineering.
- Mikka Schaller daughter of Scott and Joan Schaller. Mikka a Senior at UW Madison is studying Communication Arts with a emphasis in Film.
- Abbey Shaw daughter of Pat and Debbie Shaw. Abbey is a freshman at UW Madison studying Chemistry.

Next up was the presentation of the budget and the approval of the scholarship and research funds for 2013. Scholarship and research funds include

- J.R. Love Scholarship - \$1,500,
- Legacy Scholarship - 3 at \$500 ea.
- M.S. Miller Literary Scholarship - \$1,000
- Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab - \$2,000
- WTA - \$10,000
- WTA though the Par 4 Research Program - \$10,000
- Environmental Institute For Golf - \$500
- O.J. Noer Foundation from Symposium Profit - \$2,375

The total for scholarship and research is \$28,875 for 2013.

For 2012 the association had a prosperous year with income projected at \$18,114 well above the budgeted \$7,535

The last order of business was the election of officers was held and after no nominations came from the floor a unanimous ballot was cast for the candidates. 



Soon to be Past President Jeff Millies leads the Fall Business Meeting.



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2013 Board of Directors

Back: Brett Grams, Jeff Millies, Jeff Barlow, Josh LePine, Jake Schneider, Scott Bushman, Kevin Knudtson. Front : Chad Harrington, Colin Seaberg, Jim VanHerwynen, Jon Canavan (missing Steven Wasser)



Newly elected President Chad Harrington opens the Symposium.

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47th Annual Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium

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

The new December date for the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium seemed to be a hit as attendance was up and attendees were able to concentrate without worry about golfers, blowing out irrigation systems or applying snow mold products.

For now the date will be two weeks after Thanksgiving. This year that was Dec 4 and 5th because Thanksgiving was as early as it ever could be. However next year Thanksgiving is as late the symposium will be Dec. 10 and 11.

The program got off to an exciting start with Monroe Miller presenting Charlie Wilson with the WGCSA Distinguished Service Award on behalf of the association. Please see the article on Mr. Wilson on page 22.



Dan Dinelli, Certified Golf Course Superintendent, North Shore CC, Glenview, IL

The Title for the 47th Annual Golf Turf Symposium was “What’s In Your Tank?” and there is no better Keynote Speaker than Dan Dinelli certified golf course superintendent at North Shore CC in Glenview IL. Dinelli is well known for doing

research on his golf course with a variety of products. His talk titled “What’s in Your Tank, Before Going Mainstream” gave attendees some insight into his programs, experiments and property.

After a wet 2011 and a dry 2012 Dan was able to get some defining results along with Dr. Derek Settle. At North Shore the goal is to have healthy but thin turf.

They have found Primo to provide a short but fat plant so they have experimented with Embark to provide a short and skinny plant. Mainly used for seedhead suppression Dan’s work is to see if it can be used all year.

There are two different formulations with the Turf and Ornamental (T&O) and the 2S which is the stronger of the two. To combat turf yellowing Dinelli suggests using an iron product two weeks before use and to read the label carefully because in a tank mix Embark can be neutralized by a non-chelated iron.

In Dan’s trials he has found that .125 ounce of primo and .5 ounce of Embark two weeks apart can give turf a droughty look that leads golfers to think the turf is firm and fast. He has noticed a quick rebound from high rates of Embark where the turf will go from “bad to green” in less than a week. He has seen no loss of root mass and the benefits have been reduced mowing, drought tolerance and reduced dollar spot.

Embark is absorbed foliarly so no water for 8 hours is important as well is nozzle selection. Flat fan with a fine spray have provided the best results. One negative is slow recovery from damage or traffic and it best to treat healthy turf after spring green up.

Poa Cure is a new weapon for your old poa problem. So far it is only a experimental in the United States but has shown safe control on many biotypes of bentgrass and many biotypes of poa just seem to melt away.

Xonerate is a newer product but is not tolerated by all bentgrasses so do your testing on small trials. Also do not apply over

80 degrees and the 4 ounce rate will smoke turf if sprayerpasses overlapped at all.

Dan then switched gears to new dollar spot technology with Emerald, Secure and some new products with broad spectrum control. As a alternative product Dew Cure can provide up to two weeks dew control to reduce leaf wetness and in turn dollar spot. Civitas provides plant health boosters that are not yet understood and mixed results overall.

Dinelli has tried microbiological products but storage issues and mixed results have left him searching for better results.

In conclusion Dan recommends turf managers experiment on their own courses and be sure to leave a control to help document results with photographs and even video.



Dr. Brandon Horvath, University of Tennessee

Next up Dr. Brandon Horvath presented “Dealing With The Stress Of Summer With Dollars And Sense In Mind: Creating A Fungicide Program”

Brandon has a connection to the Golf Turf Symposium and the O.J. Noer Foundation