

SHARPEN YOUR INSTINCTS

When situations on your golf course demand quick thinking and swift action, the Toro Lynx™ Control System helps you do just that. Look to Lynx™ for these innovative features:



- All the information you need, in one place
- Easy set up and customization of your irrigation system
- Superior course map editing and creation
- Unsurpassed integration with other system components
- Electricity usage monitoring, reporting and management
- Enhanced system troubleshooting



Count on it.

www.toro.com/Lynx

www.reinders.com

Reinders

Solutions & Supplies for the Green Industry

IRRIGATION SALES AND SERVICE

Aaron Goninen (414) 313-5244

Phil Zastrow (414) 313-5247

W227 N6225 Sussex Road, Sussex, WI (800) 782-3300


ASSISTANTS AVENUE

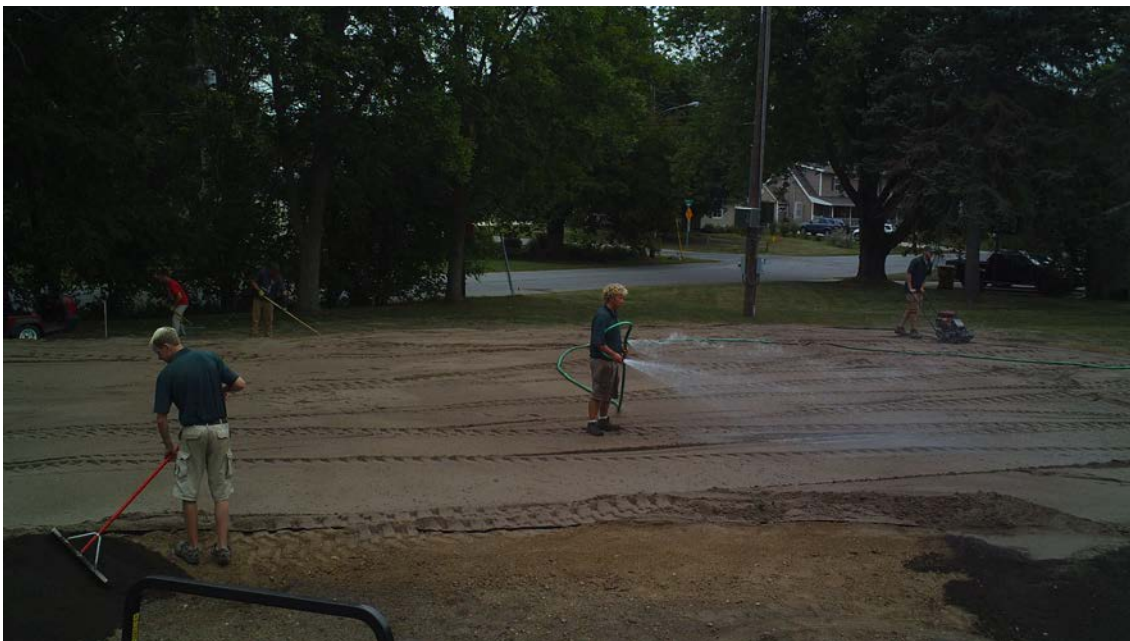
Thankfully, the weather cooperated, and we were able to complete this daunting project on schedule and almost no cost to The First Tee. Aside from Mother Nature, there were many other helping hands involved in making this a success, and they are as follows:

- Scott Pace with Rain Bird for Irrigation Supplies
- Mitch Keogh with Ferguson Waterworks for Irrigation Supplies
- Dave Landwehr with ADS Pipe for Drainage Supplies
- Glenn Kafka with Kafka Granite for Delivering the Greens Mix
- Rob Johnson with Waupaca Sand & Solutions for the Greens Mix
- Mike Oliphant with The Oliphant Companies for Equipment
- Scott Gilbertson with Reinders for Fertilizer and Fungicide
- Phil Zastrow with Reinders for Saturday's lunch
- Paul Huggett with Paul's Turf & Tree Nursery for Bluegrass Sod
- Patrick Lyons with Lycon for Pea Stone
- Scott Bordeau with ERO-TEX for Greens Liner
- Derek Kastenschmidt and Scott Neary for Equipment
- Wayne Horman with Landmark Turf & Native Seed for Bentgrass Seed
- Chad Grimm with Blackhawk CC for Equipment and Hand Tools
- Tom Schwab with the OJ Noer Turfgrass Research Center for Equipment
- Nick Strain with Quali-Pro for Sunday's lunch
- Mike Lee with Kohler Company for Equipment and Hand Tools
- Joni Dye with The First Tee of South Central Wisconsin

And, of course, Joe and I certainly couldn't have done this by ourselves and were fortunate to have the following group of hard-working volunteers:

- Shaun Brill, Ryan Brooks, Sean Guilfoyle, Charlie Belanger, Sean Kelly, and Kevin Kouba from Whistling Straits
- Ryan Berezowitz, Kristin Witkowski, Luke McGhee, Tyler Gerritts, Adam Wepfer, Aaron Hansen, Ben Luedtke, Jon Slock, and Dr. Doug Soldat from UW-Madison
- Tim Schmidt, Brent Haring, Ross Kressin, and Alex Smith from Butte des Morts CC
- Shannon Barstow who was our very accommodating host at Monona GC

Thanks to all who made this great project possible; it was certainly a worthwhile endeavor. 



ASSISTANTS AVENUE



Photos showing the progression of the green construction contributed by Jacob Schneider



Ed Witkowski
414-640-6447
pendeltonurf@tds.net

PENDELTON TURF SUPPLY

805 Ela Avenue
Waterford, WI 53185
Phone: 262-534-3334
Fax: 262-534-2990



Todd Fregien
414-640-2265
pendeltonurf@tds.net

**FULL LINE OF TURF PRODUCTS
CHEMICALS • TEE & GREEN SUPPLIES
TIRES & TUBES • NEW PRODUCT INFORMATION**

**SATISFACTION
GUARANTEED**

QUALI-PRO

Nufarm
Turf & Specialty

**BASF
PROFESSIONAL
TURF**



EC GROW

**JACKLIN
SEED**

AQUATROLS

Jay-Mar, Inc.
Liquid Golf Course
& Turf Fertilizers

Joint Meeting at Stevens Point Country Club

By Brett Grams, WGCSA Chapter Manager

Our annual joint meeting with the Northern Great Lakes GCSA was a successful event. Stevens Point CC was a great central location for the two chapters to meet for a day of education, golf, and camaraderie.

The morning education session was a presentation by Dr. Paul Koch titled "Around the World of Snow Mold in 60 Minutes" informative. The topic is an important one in WI and the UP of Michigan where we can see dramatic changes in amounts of snow fall and winter length. Snow mold control and protection is one of Dr. Koch's specialties. The UW Snow Mold Research testing is a great way to see the various products and combinations in the field at multiple locations. In addition, Dr. Koch discussed the use of turf covers. Both the NGL and WI GCSA have helped fund these covers studies that can be helpful with turf survival. Today, superintendents have multiple snow mold control options along with covers to help aid winter survival but we all know that our unpredictable winter weather can dramatically impact the best of plans. Timing of treatments, product selection, budget restraints, turf type, micro climate, snow coverage, length of cover, loss of snow cover, rain, and ice formation are just a few of the issues that Dr. Koch mentioned in his presentation can impact turf survival and health.

After a buffet lunch the 45 golfers headed out to play a round of golf. High skies and a warm breeze made for a great day on the course. SPCC Superintendent John Femal



Stevens Point
Country Club

was our gracious host. John joined the WGCSA in 2012. Although John is relatively new to the WGCSA, many of us know him as he is a long time employee of the Stevens Point CC working his way up on the crew to become the Assistant Superintendent, all while working for Jeff Bottensek, CGCS. The Stevens Point CC is a great layout with mature pine tree lined fairways, large bunkers, and rolling greens. Stevens Point CC dates back to 1925 when the first 9 holes were commissioned to the expansion of the present 18 hole course which was built in 1965. John and his crew had the course in great shape all while battling the droughty weather of this August.

The results of the Two Person Best Ball event were close. The Gross Division was won by Troy Tietjens and Jon Canavan with a score of 72. Peter Meyer and Joe Brown tied Andy Brownlow and Seth Brogren with scores of 73. Meyer and Brown won the scorecard playoff for 2nd and Brownlow and Brogren had to settle for 3rd. The Net Division was won by Fred Anderson and our host John Femal with an impressive score of 59. Jim Van Herwynen and Scott Bartosh fired a 61 taking 2nd place and edged out Rob Johnson and Matt Balzoa who shot a very respectable 62 for 3rd. Flag events were won by Jeff Barlow who won Longest Drive on the 2nd while John Femal won the long drive on the 12th hole. Closet to pin events were won by Dale Marach (#17) and Scott Gilbertson (#8). Scott Thompson was winner of the longest putt on the 10th hole. ✓



Jim Van Herwynen watches on as Peter Meyer readies to putt.

(Photo by Brett Grams)



ABOVE: View from the landing area of the 12th hole.

RIGHT: Steven Point CC Superintendent John Femal with framed flag presented to him as our host for the day.

(Photos by Brett Grams)



Waupaca Sand & Solutions
715-258-8566 - www.WaupacaSand.com

WAUPACA

In-House Projects Dont Bite Off More Than You Can Chew To Save A Buck Or Two.

By **Todd Lowe**, Senior Agronomist USGA Green Section

Editors Note: "This article is reprinted from the Vol. 51 (21) October 18, 2013 of the USGA Green Section Record. Copyright United States Golf Association. All rights reserved."

Golf courses change with time and, to improve turf health and playing conditions or simply to modernize or change the look of certain features, renovation is necessary.

Infrastructure items such as buildings, irrigation systems, cart paths, and bridges do not last forever, either, and must also be upgraded or replaced eventually. Much like a house requires new carpet, a fresh coat of paint, or a new roof, so too does a golf course require periodic renovations.

Do-it-yourself home improvement projects can certainly save money. The same is true for golf facilities, as it is oftentimes less expensive to have the grounds crew perform improvement projects as compared to hiring outside contractors.

Golf facilities operate with limited funds, and superintendents will often try to assist their facilities by performing projects in-house. This would include minor remodeling projects, some irrigation upgrades, and drainage improvements. Not only does this save the golf facility money, it also provides the crew with a temporary break from routine maintenance operations. However, there can be downsides to inhouse projects, and it is important to be aware of potential pitfalls.

First, it is important to consider the size of the work and the number of projects. Remember, the primary responsibility of the maintenance staff is to maintain the golf course at a particular standard. Turf-grasses, weeds, trees, and landscape vegetation grow continually, especially during the summer when most improvement projects take place in winter golf destination areas in southern regions of the U.S.

Every maintenance task requires a certain amount of time to complete. Depending on the frequency of each particular task, which could be daily, the time needed for routine maintenance and course setup



Projects like building new tees should only be undertaken by the staff if they have the resources to do a quality job and if it won't compromise the care and conditioning of the rest of the golf course.

really adds up each week and month. Maintenance tasks like mowing, weeding, edging, trimming, landscaping, and bunker maintenance (just to name a few) require a considerable amount of labor, and most golf facilities have just enough staff to provide the desired level of course conditioning. When labor is stretched too

thin, something has to give. That "something" oftentimes is the amount of detail work or level of course conditioning when certain maintenance tasks must be temporarily eliminated or performed less frequently. Even a relatively simple renovation or construction project can require significant time from the staff.



HERFORD □ NORBY

Golf Course Architects

Phone: 952.361.0644 Fax: 952.361.0645

e-mail: golfnorby@earthlink.net web: www.herfortnorby.com



Coursewide Confidence.



For over 50 years golf course superintendents worldwide have put their trust in Aquatrols soil surfactants to optimize soil moisture, improve irrigation efficiency, and save water and energy. Our patented chemistries, Revolution and Dispatch, provide unique performance and playability advantages versus all other wetting agents.

Larry Lennert
Territory Manager
Greenfield, WI
llennert@aquatrols.com
(773) 620-2382



USGA GREEN SECTION

When golf facilities take on too many extracurricular activities in the form of special projects, it is easy to fall behind on maintenance programs and subsequently struggle to provide desired course conditions for daily play. An easy fix to this problem, as many would assume, is to simply adjust golfer expectations downward until all special project work is complete, but this is not realistic for most memberships or golfers. Instead, make certain you are adequately staffed before taking on additional projects. If needed, hire additional temporary labor to perform menial tasks or consider outsourcing some maintenance practices until project work is complete.

Routine practices like mowing, weeding, or bunker maintenance may fall behind slightly, but make certain that important cultural practices like thatch management (core aeration, sand topdressing, deep verticutting) or soil remediation (the incorporation of sand or amendments into the soil) are not sacrificed for the sake of in-



If undertaking a special project in-house means that routine practices like mowing will fall behind any more than slightly, it is a good idea to consider an outside contractor.



house projects. Such practices are essential, and deferring them can take a toll on turf performance and playability for years to come.

Second, make sure you have the particular skillset and tools for the project. While building new features or remodeling existing ones may seem like fun and simple tasks, they will become burdens and sources of frustration if the staff lacks the skillset or tools necessary to do the job efficiently or effectively. If a quality finished product is not the end result, then it means disappointment for everyone involved. One of the most common examples of in-house projects gone wrong is remodeling or building new teeing grounds. Although this project seems fairly straightforward, building good tees is harder than most realize. When not done well, tees may end up being misaligned, having slopes too steep for riding mowers, and having poor irrigation coverage or uneven surfaces. This is an example of when it is difficult to match the expertise of an experienced contractor with proper tools for earthwork, drainage, surface leveling, etc.

The economic downturn in recent years has resulted in a dramatic reduction in new course construction. In response, golf course builders have reduced their costs considerably and are much more likely to take on smaller renovation projects than ever before. In some cases, it may make more sense to hire an experienced builder for an entire project or use one in combination with your grounds crew.

We all must consider cutting costs where appropriate, but when it comes to course enhancement or renovation projects, do not get in over your head. Plan accordingly for the size and scope of the work. If it cannot be done in-house, or if there are concerns that the work may not be done well or will be at the expense of the rest of the golf course, then consider handing the project over to an experienced contractor. For more information on this topic, please refer to Perils and Pluses of "In-House" Renovations in the May/June 2010 *Green Section Record*. ✓

Research suggests that the microorganisms responsible for mineralizing the organic nitrogen in Milorganite remain active up to the time soils freeze. This means a dormant application of Milorganite in late fall, or just prior to freeze up, will work to your advantage all winter and spring.

Partnering with:



1-800-785-3301



1-800-279-2341

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



THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE.

Only Jacobsen® Genuine Parts can assure you greater productivity, lower maintenance and Jacobsen's legendary quality of cut.

There's a reason Jacobsen is known for quality of cut. Our standards and expectations for the parts and accessories we use to build our machines far exceed the norm. And when it comes to replacement parts, only Jacobsen Genuine Parts provide the best performance and superior results. With a 6-month factory warranty and same-day shipping, Jacobsen Genuine Parts keep your team productive and your course in pristine condition.

More information and downloadable manuals are available 24-hours a day at www.jacobsen.com.



www.Jacobsen.com

CONTACT US AT:

**Burr's Equipment
Waukegan**
2216 N. Greenbay Rd.
Waukegan, IL 60087
(847) 336-1205 Phone
(847) 336-2697 Fax

**Burr's Equipment
Ingleside**
27939 W. Concrete Dr
Ingleside, IL 60041
(815) 363-4100
(815) 363-4109

**Burr's Equipment
Frankfort**
10351 West Laraway Rd.
Frankfort, IL 60423
(815) 464-6650
(815) 464-6951



Exploring The Green Industry

By Andy Kurth, President, Lawn Association of Wisconsin Network (LAWN)

Editors Note: Andy Kurth offers information on other career paths that golf course superintendents could excel at.

Reading Jake Schneider's column in a recent *The Grass Roots* had me really thinking where the Green Industry currently is and where it may be going. Jake and I spent some time a few weeks ago having lunch and discussing where golf course superintendents are successful, where they are undervalued, the state of the golf course industry and what some other options are for those in golf that feel that the "grass is greener on the other side."

As the current president of LAWN I've been thinking it was time to go through a few reasons and options for exploring lawn care as a viable career for current golf course superintendents. It has me thinking of ways to get more experienced people into the lawn care industry that are not only well qualified but may feel stymied or threatened with job insecurity in their current vocation.

There are two great opportunities to move into the lawn care arena: a management position in a thriving company or lawn care ownership through a franchising opportunity (taking proven systems of

growth) and maximizing your talent and earnings potential in the green industry. Some may decide to invest in lawn care while continuing their current position as a superintendent and partnering with a day to day lawn care manager they bring on board. Then join full time once it is more established.

There is an extraordinary amount of opportunity to take your existing skill set and move into management in lawn care as well. According to a study by Landscape Magazine, 89% of lawn care companies were optimistic for growth in 2013. 71% of companies surveyed said they expected positive growth this year. Our company has grown over 20% for four straight years in spite of the "down" economy. The need for additional quality minds in this industry is there and many opportunities with no ceiling preventing your personal and professional growth exist. At Weed Man, we employ 3 ex-golf course superintendents and 5 employees with various degrees related to turf management (one recently has also bought into the company). Two of these are franchisees in the Midwest with turf related degrees from UW and one is an ex-golf course superintendent.

A study by the National Golf Foundation found that only 12.5 golf courses opened in 2012...while 154.5 closed with 499.5 closing in totality since 2006. These are sobering statistics. I love to golf and truly understand the commitment, work ethic and earned respect of all of the golf course superintendents in the golf industry. If you are comfortable and happy with your career path, I applaud you and this is not an attempt to steal people from golf course management. However, it is an attempt to notify people that there are other great options out there with a path to a promising career of personal, professional, and financial growth in a flourishing industry. As Jake and I agreed, people need to know about the opportunities they have in the green industry outside of the golf course world.



The EIFG needs your support to:

-  Fuel innovation through research
-  Expand knowledge of golf course management professionals through education
-  Tell golf's story through advocacy and outreach
-  Help bright minds pursue their dreams through scholarships

Donate today at www.eifg.org



The Environmental Institute for Golf is the philanthropic organization of GCSAA.