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## Passings

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

The passing of colleagues and friends awakens all of us to remember our relationships and encounters with the deceased. The past few weeks are no exception as the turf industry has lost some important icons.

**Dan Barrett**, Golf Course Superintendent at The Legends at Bergamont in Oregon passed away on October 17th. Only 52 years old Dan was well known as past president of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association and the northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Association. He is also a longtime member of WGCSA.

Dan has been at the Oregon course since construction in 2003. He had also been the superintendent at Trout Lake Golf and Country Club in Arbor Vitae and an assistant golf course superintendent at Nokoma Golf Club in Madison.

A 1980 Monroe High School Graduate Dan graduated from the University of Wisconsin Madison with a degree in Turf and Soil Science in 1986. Barrett is survived by his wife Sherri and lived in Monticello.



Dan and Sherry Barrett as hosts of the 2001 Couples Weekend.

**Charlie Wilson** passed away on Sept. 23 at the age of 93. Wilson's long career was highlighted in the January February 2013 issue of The Grass Roots after he was awarded the WGCSA Distinguished Service Award.

Wilson was a pioneer in golf turfgrass and was the founding agronomist of the USGA Green Section's Turf Advisory Service and the creator of the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium in 1966.

The 1982 USGA Green Section Award recipient, would serve as the USGA's Western Director of the Turfgrass Advisory Service until 1955, when he began a 25-year career at the Milwaukee (Wis.) Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), where he would serve as the organization's head agronomist, sales manager and director during his tenure.

Charlie was part of a group that created the O.J. Noer Foundation, an organization dedicated to providing financial support for turfgrass research serving as Foundations research director.

After his retirement, Wilson invented Aquashade, a non-toxic treatment that controls the growth of weeds in water hazards and farm ponds. It is still used extensively today.

Charlie is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Marion, and his children, Ken (Annie), Gail (Mark), Jennifer (James) Spooner.



Charlie Wilson at the 2012 Symposium

**Dr. James Watson**, died on Oct. 1 at the age of 92 spent 46 years working for Toro Company where he served as Director of Agronomy and Vice President.

Watson was the first person to receive a Ph.D. in turfgrass management, was the 1976 recipient of the Green Section Award, The 1983 Distinguished Service Award Winner from the GCSAA and the 1995 Old Tom Morris Award from the GCSAA.

Dr. Watson served in the United States Air Force during World War II and was honored with the Air Medal with Clusters, Purple Heart and Silver Star.

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# EDITORS NOTEBOOK

Watson is survived by his wife of 70 years Audrey and by his two children, Rick (Mary Ellen) Watson and Betsy (Jerry) Galles and 5 grandchildren.

**Dr. Joe Duich**, died October 11 at the age of 85. Duich pursued his education and spent his career at The Pennsylvania State University where he was Professor of Turfgrass Science.

He taught turf courses enrolling over 5,700 students and guided 9 Ph.D. and 11 M.S. degree students. He elevated the Two-Year Technical Program in Golf Turf management to international acclaim with over 1,000 graduates.



**Dr. Joe Duich addresses the 1990 Symposium.**

Among Dr. Duich's major contributions are his variety turfgrass releases. Pennfine ryegrass, with over 70 million pounds of commercial production to date, was the first early maturing variety developed. Penncross, which developed with Dr. Burt Musser; Penneagle, Pennlinks, Penn A, Penn G and Seaside 2 bentgrasses dominate the market and are used on golf courses worldwide.

Royalties from these turfgrass varieties have generated over 3 million dollars and have been returned in their entirety to the Agronomy Department to support numerous department programs. An endowment exceeding 1 million dollars has been established from these monies to perpetuate future turf research.

Dr. Duich was honored with the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award in 1976, USGA Green Section Award in 1981, and The Old Tom Morris Award from the GCSAA in 2006.

Joe is survived by his wife of 60 years Patricia two children, Katherine Brennan

and her husband, Jim, of Pleasanton, CA and Michael Duich and his wife, Leslie, of Carlsbad, CA and five granddaughters

\*\*\*\*\*

I have the weather maps showing the weather and moisture trends but to save space and to sum up September and October it was a little dry and a little wet and it was very warm and then it was very cold as warm October afternoons suddenly turned cold and windy.

By the time you read this hopefully it will be seasonal again so courses receive a few late season income from carts and green fees.

\*\*\*\*\*

December 1, 2013 is the deadline for employers to train workers on changes to the Hazard Communication Standard. I know your eyes want to gloss over this section but it is important and it is real despite most vendors and managers knowing little about it.

Our friends at OSHA have revised the Hazard Communication Standards to align with the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals. The sheets formerly known as Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) have been renamed as Safety Data Sheets (SDS).

The second change will be to product labels as they will have universal "elements". There will be more to come as OSHA phases in requirements over 2013-2016.

By December 1 employers must train workers on the new label elements and SDS formats. There are bilingual training aids available at OSHA.gov.

Training must be in a manner and lan-

guage that employees can understand.

\*\*\*\*\*

GCSAA offers quarterly Government Relations Briefings either live or "on demand" on their website to help us keep informed on these and other changes from Washington. The most recent version covered updates on methyl bromides coming possible label changes and how the government shutdown impacted golf.

The webcast feature on GCSAA.org provide valuable educational sessions on a variety of subjects members can view at their leisure if they missed the live showing.

Dr. Doug Soldat recently taught a session titled Managing Soil to Maximize Plant Health.

\*\*\*\*\*

Registration for the Golf Industry Show and the GCSAA Educational Conference opens Nov. 5. The show will be held Feb. 1-6 in Orlando.

The schedule is tightened up with the golf championships held Feb. 1-3 and education held Feb. 3-6. The shorter schedule will allow attendees to travel home anytime on Friday without missing valuable education.

\*\*\*\*\*

Good luck to you and your golf courses as we enter late fall. The shorter days allow more time away from the course but we still have the important tasks of shutting down our properties and putting the turf to bed.

Hopefully the season treated you well after the late spring slowed growth and golf rounds.

I look forward to seeing you soon at the Wisconsin Turf Symposium Dec. 10 and 11 at the American Club. It will offer can't miss education!



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After the picture to the left appeared in the July / August issue of *The Grass Roots*, Gene Haas submitted this caricature of our top players. Thank you Gene for sharing your talents.

## WGCSA MISSION STATEMENT

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association is committed to serve each member by promoting the profession and enhancing the growth of the game of golf through education, communication and research.

## WGCSA VISION STATEMENT

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association is dedicated to increase the value provided to its members and to the profession by:

- Enhancing the professionalism of its members by strengthening our role as a leading golf organization in the state.
- Growing and recognizing the benefits of a diverse membership throughout Wisconsin.
- Educating and promoting our members as leaders in environmental stewardship.
- Offering affordable, high value educational programs at the forefront of technology and service.
- Being key to enjoyment and the economic success of the game of golf.

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