

One of the numbers least understood is the buffer pH and it is only run if the regular pH is below 6.5. The buffer pH is tied to how resistant the soil pH is to change and how much lime would be needed to bring the particular soil to pH to 6.5.

Dr. Christians then moved on sodium and the challenge Na brings to turf as a non essential element. It is naturally occurring and found in high levels in many parts of the country but it usually is introduced to the profile though irrigation with effluent water.

If sodium levels are too high gypsum can be used to negate the effect. One calcium ion will knock off 2 sodium ions but it is a slow process that can take years to fix.

Once again Dr. Christians was clear to say gypsum is not a miracle and will not fix compaction. "Gypsum fixes the problem gypsum fixes".

Water tests were next on the agenda starting with SAR or Sodium Adsorption Ratio which represents the ratio of sodium to calcium and magnesium.

It can be used to estimate the amount of sodium that will accumulate in irrigated soil. The finer the soil the quicker the damage from sodium will be and the more likely the salts will destroy the soil.

Bicarbonates can react with Ca and Mg and can result in higher SAR. Turf managers can reduce bicarbonates with an acid injection system using sulfuric acid to react with the bicarbonate.

Many unscrupulous salesman will try to sell you products or systems to reduce bicarbonates. However it is important to note that without high sodium bicarbonates are not a problem.

Acidification of a high pH soil can take a long time and is hard to make a difference and is nearly impossible with a highly buffered soil. In a 20% calcium carbonate sand mix it can take using the maximum of 10# of sulfur per 1,000 square feet 1,000 years to lower the pH.

Sulfur will work when a soil has a low pH but water has a lot of calcium or magnesium to tie up the hydrogen ions which raises pH. In this case sulfur will reduce the pH easily.

Dr. Christians offered with a pH of 8.2 or higher it is better to add iron (Fe) and fix micronutrient deficiencies than to try to lower the pH.

When soil testing Dr. Christians offered samples should be taken from several locations with the depth determined by the lab. The samples should be mixed up. Unless you are in the process of changing the soil profile or doing other work a soil test every third year is sufficient.

Most Universities use the SLAN (sufficiency level of available nutrients) method based on many years of research while many newer private labs use the BCSR (Basic Cation Saturation Ratio).

Either will give you the numbers you need as long as you know how to interpret the results. The BCSR method is newer and based on less research. Dr. Christians said when speaking on the BCSR "it is easier to manipulate the numbers to make it look like you need something someone

wants to sell you."

Moving on to some of the essential elements Nick's experience has shown most labs tend to overestimate how much phosphorus (P) is needed and underestimate how much potassium (K) is needed because turf can get P out of the soil easier than crops but tests are still based on crops.

He has rarely seen a P deficient soil but often finds N or Iron (Fe) deficiencies affecting plant health.

Potassium is a mystery element and although grasses use and need a lot of it not much is known about what it does in the plant. We do know it is needed for stress control and basic plant functions.

Dr. Christians expressed it is rare to see a true calcium (Ca) deficiency but it is



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common for sales personal to push Ca even if not needed. He also believes if you do need Ca use the least expensive product because any others are a waste of funds.

After lunch and networking discussions regarding the long winter and lack of spring so far the annual spring business meeting was held to look at what is going to happen in 2014 and recap 2013 for the association.

Reports of Officers and committees went quickly. The schedule is done for events in 2014 and can be found on page 25. Financially the association entered 2013 in good condition and exited the same. The only downfall is interest on the savings or bonds is near zero.

The board of directors will participate in a strategic planning session with John Miller and Steve Randal of GCSAA in

March. It has been quite a few years since the last one and a good time for the WGCSA leaders to refocus and reinforce association priorities.

The meeting ended with hopes for a great 2014 golf season.



Monroe Miller congratulates Brad DeBels for winning the Monroe Miller Literary Scholarship for the best student written article in *The Grass Roots*. Brad won for his article *Surviving a Icy Winter* in the March/April 2013 issue.



25 Year Recipients David Brandenburg, Rolling Meadows Golf Course and Jim Van Herwynen, South Hills Golf and Country Club



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25 Year Members!

By Kevin Knudtson, Golf Course Superintendent, Geneva National Golf Course

Jim Van Herwynen – CGCS at South Hills Golf and Country Club

Jim was inspired to get in the business at the age of 16 by working with Roger Bell at North Shore Golf Club in Menasha, WI. Jim worked at North Shore from 1983 – 1989. He then worked at Blackhawk Country Club. After a few years at Blackhawk he moved on to Kenosha Country Club from 1991-1996. In 1996, he took the job at South Hills Golf and Country Club and has been there ever since. Jim was born and raised in Combined Locks, WI and went to Kimberly High School. He has been married to his wife Kimm for 22 years. They have two children, Mitchell who is 16 and Madelyn who is 14.

During Jim's free time he enjoys model railroads and railfanning. Jim stays busy working on home improvement projects. When Jim finds time he loves to camp and take impromptu road trips

Mike Lyons – GCS at Golf Courses of Lawsonia

The love of the game of golf is what inspired Mike to become a golf course superintendent. Twenty five years ago Mike started at West Bend Country Club under Bruce Worzella and graduated from the UW of Madison. He then moved on to Pine Hills Country Club to work for Rod Johnson from 1989-1995. From there he move on to Old Hickory Country Club from 1996 – 2010. Since then he has been the golf course superintendent for Oliphant Golf Management at the Golf Courses of Lawsonia.

Mike was born in Chicago but grew up in West Bend. He has 3 children at ages 14, 16, and 18.

During Mike's free time he enjoys to watch his kids play sports and play golf.

David Brandenburg – CGCS at Rolling Meadows Golf Course

David has been in the golf course industry since 1984 which started at Sunset Hills Golf Course in Beaver Dam. While David was at Sunset Hills he did such a good job doing dishes they moved him outside to

work on the grounds during the day and wash dishes at night. The first two days he push mowed and string trimmed around trees. He was then hooked. David's summer job called to him a lot more than his plans to be an accountant and here he is. David worked there from 1984-1988. He then became the superintendent at Camelot Country Club from 1988-1992. He then worked 2 seasons as superintendent at Lake Windsor Country Club. David went back to Camelot from 1994 – 1996. After Camelot, he has been at Rolling Meadows Golf Course as superintendent/general manager.

David was born in Marion, WI but moved to Beaver Dam in the second grade on a farm with horses, chickens and occasionally sheep. David and his wife Noelle have been married for 25 years. He has two children. Kayla is a graduate from UW Green Bay, looking for a job in Psychology and Andrew is a sophomore at UW Oshkosh.

David's hobbies include writing and editing a magazine called *The Grass Roots*. He is village board member in Theresa and enjoys casting a fishing pole.

Jeff Ruesch – CGCS at Grand View Golf Club

In 1971, Jeff started as an employee at The Ridges Golf Club in Wisconsin Rapids. David Murgatroyd, who was the superintendent at The Ridges, encouraged Jeff to pursue the profession. Jeff then did a summer internship at Nakoma Golf Club in Madison under Randy Smith. From 1978-1983, Jeff was the superintendent at New London Country Club. Jeff then moved on to Butte Des Morts Golf Club in Appleton as an assistant for Steve Schmidt.

During the last 25 years Jeff has been the superintendent at Grand View Golf Club in Hortonville.

Jeff was born and raised in Wisconsin Rapids. Jeff and his wife Jill of 28 years reside in New London. They have two children, Malary a secondary English teacher and Mitchell a mechanical engineer.

During Jeff's free time he likes to play guitar, hunt, fly fish, spend time at his hunting

camp, and go on his annual trip to Montana.

Roy Janzen – GCS at Forest Hills Golf Course

Roy's first experience on a golf course was going to the Sparta Golf Course with a friend to pick up lost golf balls. He didn't think about balls being in play until a lady started hollering at him. After high school he started working on the Sparta Golf Course. His brother, an agronomist, suggested he followed his footsteps and that is what he did. Roy earned a degree at UW of Madison in Turf and Grounds Management under Dr. Love. After graduation he worked as an assistant golf course superintendent at Oshkosh Country Club for a little over a year, before accepting the superintendent position at High Cliff Golf Course in Sherwood. In 2009, he became superintendent at Forest Hills Golf Course in Lacrosse for Kemper Sports.

Roy was born and raised in Sparta, WI. Roy and his wife Liz have two children, Maggie who works for Shreiber foods in Logan, UT and David who is an IT specialist.

In Roy's free time he enjoys Badger and Packer football. Roy is on an adult ski race league and a 33 year member of the National Ski Patrol. He enjoys teaching his grandson how to ski and drive golf cart. Also the constant upkeep of his 100+ year old home keeps him busy.

Mark Gorzlanzyk – GCS at Wander Springs Golf Course

Mark played and worked at Fox Hills Golf Club growing up which is what inspired Mark to pursue his career. The last 25 years Mark has been at Wander Springs Golf Course.

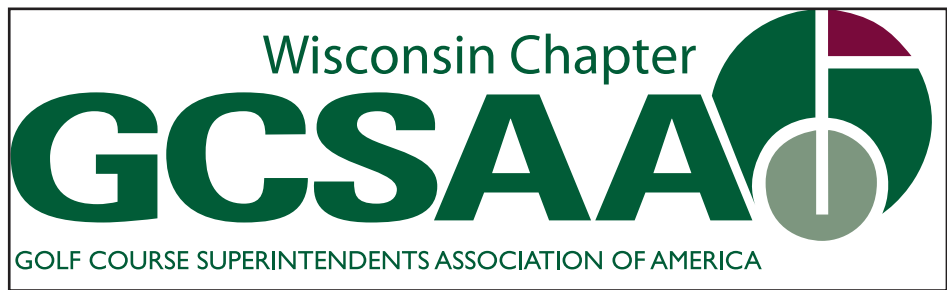
Mark grew up in Mishicot, WI. Mark loves to hang out with his dog Echo. If Mark isn't at home or working he is probably out on his motorcycle cruising the countryside of Wisconsin or surrounding states

Larry Lennert – Aquatrols

Larry attended UW-Madison with the idea of being a Landscape Architect. When he discovered there was a two year waiting period to get into the LA program, he majored in Horticulture and waited. When he was a sophomore, Larry took Dr. Bob Newman's turfgrass management course and did pretty well. Dr. Newman noticed, and asked him if he knew there was a turfgrass management program in the Department of Soil Science under the direction of Dr. J.R. Love. Larry didn't, but he went to meet with Dr. Love and he ended up double majoring in Horticulture and Soil Science, and got into the turfgrass management program.

After Larry graduated, he was Roger Bell's assistant at North Shore Country Club in Menasha for a little over a year during 1985 – 1986. In 1986, Dr. Kussow offered him the opportunity to go back to school and pursue a Masters Degree in Soil Science and research foliar iron applications on turfgrass, which he was honored to accept. When Larry finished his graduate coursework and research, he went to work for Rod Johnson at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan as his assistant for several years.

He then became the golf course superintendent at Hillcrest Country Club in St. Paul, MN. After a relatively short stay in the land of Gophers and Vikings, Larry moved back to Wisconsin and took a sales and research job with Milorganite, and held various positions there for six years. Next up was four years at Profile Products during the peak of the golf course



construction boom, where he helped them with sales and research for their soil amendment product Profile.

For the last 14 years, Larry has been a Territory Manager for Aquatrols which covers 12.5 states

Larry was born in Chicago, IL, but his family moved to Kaukauna, WI when he was four years old. Larry and his wife Gail have been married almost 27 years. They have two children, Jack and Elli. They have lived in Greenfield, WI since 1991.

Larry loves taking care of his lawn (you still can't take the golf course superintendent out of him) and doing a little landscaping around the house. He is a big sports fan, and he attends most home Badger football games.

Larry feels very blessed and lucky to have met so many good people in the golf and turf industry, many who have helped him tremendously during the course of my career. He sends thanks to everyone who has helped him along the way. Larry hopes He can "pay it forward" somewhat before his career is over.

Dave Van Auken – GCS at Antigo Bass Lake Country Club

Dave was back in Colorado Springs,

working as an accountant when he realized that wasn't the job for him. He took advantage of his wife's relationship (they played soccer together), with the wife of the Superintendent at the Broadmoor Hotel and its 3 championship courses. It was when Dave spent his first day on the golf course with a push mower and string trimmer that he truly found something special.

Dave began as a crew member at the Broadmoor West Course in 1981. During that summer the Superintendent of the East Course called him into his office and was offered the irrigation tech position and worked his way up to construction superintendent.

He then began the journey of parenthood while in Colorado, but Kohler was building and the brats were calling. He joined Black Wolf Run as an assistant in September of 1989, leaving his wife and three kids behind to manage through a winter at 8,900 feet above sea level. This is by far the hardest thing he has ever done. Dave spent six years at Blackwolf, responsible for the finish construction of the "4th nine", and then managed the River Course once it opened in 1990.

He went to Iron Mountain, MI in 1995 as Superintendent and Owners Rep for the construction of TimberStone Golf Course. From there he went to help out with Royal St. Patrick's. He then spent some idle time on Lake Winnebago which he truly enjoyed.

After some time off he ran into the Wasers, (Steve and Rob) and the Lesco truck came calling. Jumped on board with both feet and found destiny again. In 2005 Dave became the superintendent at Bass Lake.

Dave was born in Colorado Springs CO, the third of seven children, but found their way to Sheboygan, WI. Dave is married to his wife Deb of 34 years have 3 children and 4 grandchildren. Dave loves to fish during his free time. Most of all he loves spoiling and spending time with his grandchildren.

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Coming Events!

Tuesday April 22nd, April Golf Meeting, Strawberry Creek, Kenosha

Monday May 12th, May Golf Meeting, West Bend CC, West Bend

Wednesday May 28th, Super/Pro, Fox Valley GC, Kaukauna

Monday June 23rd, WGCSA Tournament Meeting, Brown Deer GC, Milwaukee

Tuesday July 29th, UW – Summer Field Day, OJ Noer Facility, Verona

Tuesday August 11th, Joint meeting w/Northern Great Lakes Chapter, Brown County GC, Green Bay

Monday September 15th, Wee One Fundraiser, Pine Hills CC, Sheboygan

Tuesday October 7th, WTA Fundraiser, University Ridge GC, Verona

Saturday October 4th, Couples Outing/Party, Wild Rock GC, WI Dells

Wed and Thur Dec 3rd-4th , Turfgrass Symposium, American Club, Kohler (CHANGED DATE)

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2014 WGCSA Committee Assignments

Committee	Chairman	Additional Members
Affiliate Member Liaison	Steve Wasser	Brett Grams
Audit	Jon Canavan	(Brett to assist)
Benevolence	Jon Canavan	Brett Grams
Bylaws	Chad Harrington	Jim VanHerwynen
Certification Liaison	Jim VanHerwynen	
Directory	Kevin Knudtson	Brett Grams
Education	Jeff Barlow	Kevin Knudtson, Mike Bremmer
Environmental	Mike Bremmer	Kevin Knudtson
First Tee Liaison	Chad Harrington	
Grass Roots Business Mngr	Brett Grams	
Grass Roots Editor	David Brandenburg	
GCSAA Delegate	Jon Canavan	
GCSAA Liaison	Chad Harrington	
Golf – Arrangements	Scott Bushman	Mike Bremmer, Jeff Barlow
Golf Foundation of WI Liaison	Chad Harrington	
Governmental Regulations	Mike Bremmer	Kevin Knudtson
Historian	Monroe Miller	
Limited Budget Outreach	Jeff Millies	
Membership – Roster	Kevin Knudtson	
Nominations	Jeff Millies	Brian Zimmerman, Dustin Riley
Parliamentarian	Jeff Millies	
Publicity	Jim VanHerwynen	Chad Harrington, Brett Grams
Scholarship – Research	Jim VanHerwynen	Jon Canavan
Social	Jeff Millies	Brett Grams, Steve Wasser
Symposium Committee	Chad Harrington	Jim VanHerwynen, Jon Canavan, Brett Grams, Dustin Riley, Bob Vavrek, David Brandenburg, Dr. Doug Soldat,
Par4Research	Dustin Riley	Josh Lepine, Joe Sell, Jon Canavan, Brett Grams
Wisconsin Turfgrass Assn.	Dustin Riley	
Class C Committee	Jim VanHerwynen	Joe Sell
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New Challenges

By Jake Schneider, LMD Production Manager, The Bruce Company

Hello again, golf world. It's been a while since I picked up my keyboard to put something on paper for Mr. Brandenburg, and although it doesn't take days to type my little one-page article, life has been busier this winter than many of those previously. While prior winters weren't filled with coffee and card playing as some envision occurring in golf course maintenance facilities in the offseason, this one has been busier than most. Between educational conferences and taking vacation time that couldn't be used from the months of April and November, it wasn't unusual for me to only work 25 days between January and February, combined, while working at Blackhawk. This year, both Christmas morning and New Year's Eve involved snowplowing, which was something that we luckily didn't have to do at the golf course.

However, I can't complain too loudly because there are many dedicated people in the company who spent far more sleepless nights than did I thanks to the one-inch snowfalls that seemed to fall every two days.

One major thing that golf has going for it is (brace yourself): golf.

Quite frankly, I'm not sure how some can (year in and year out) deal with both the long, odd hours and the knuckleheads that are hired for snow removal. Going into this position, I knew that having longer, more stressful winters was part of the trade-off to not have to worry about irrigation pumps failing in 90 degree heat and ice damage in the colder months.

Aside from the new challenge of snowplowing, there are others that I didn't necessarily think would be as significant as they have been, and workforce issues have come to the forefront.

I'm not saying that it's necessarily easy to find quality golf course employees, especially depending on where you're located, but after essentially recruiting for several months for a handful of full-time positions, I'm starting to think that it's darn near impossible in landscaping, even in a highly-populated area. One major thing that golf has going for it is (brace yourself): golf. For those who really enjoy the game, getting free or discounted golf is a big deal and a great incentive, and even though I knew I that this bonus existed when hiring for golf, I didn't fully realize its value until the last six months.

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Speaking of employees, it sure is a lot more difficult to keep tabs on 60 employees spread over 200 plus square miles than it was for 20 workers on 100 acres. At this point, you're probably muttering something to the tune of, "Well, that seems obvious, ya genius."

It does, but it isn't something that I thought about too much prior to accepting the new gig. Although everyone aims to hire conscientious, self-driven employees, it's absolutely imperative with so much unsupervised time.


Finally, a personal challenge that is utterly and completely unrelated to my other points—I miss you guys.

All together now: awwww, what a softie. Maybe it will develop over time, but for-profit landscaping doesn't have



nearly the level of camaraderie that superintendents share. My early impressions are that it's much more cutthroat and competitive than I could've imagined.

While I'm hoping to make it to more events in the coming year and desperately need an excuse to make it to San Antonio, it was tough missing out the on the Wee One outing, Symposium, and the GIS. The group that I normally attend GIS with were probably getting sick of my constant text messages while they were in Orlando, but I was trying to live vicariously through their attendance and occasional shenanigans.

Alright, enough of my griping; I have a summer vacation to plan for the first time in 10 years. 

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A Road Trip To Leadership Training At GCSAA Headquarters

By Brett Grams, Chapter Manager, WGCSA

In my time as Chapter Manager I have been able to take three WGCSA Vice Presidents to the GCSAA Chapter Leadership Symposium at GCSAA Headquarters in Lawrence, KS. My first trip was in 2010 with then incoming President Jeff Millies. The following year I was able to take our current President Chad Harrington. After a two year absence we again applied for the opportunity for me to take current Vice President Jim Van Herwynen.

I was glad to learn that we were accepted and quickly called Jim about the good news in December of last year. Jim then suggested a “road trip” as the 10 hour drive would be great as he had a few spots he wanted to show me along the way. I was curious but when he volunteered to drive I agreed.

As our trip itinerary was finalized over the past few months I learned that Jim was a serious “rail fan”. What is that you say? A rail fan is somebody who enjoys trains. Some people like to ride on them, others like to watch them from prime viewing areas often times photographing them. Jim is passionate fan of the latter. He suggested that we include a few stops along our way so he could show me a little about his hobby. I have always been curious about many things and what guy does not like 1000’s of horsepower and tons of

steel painted in all different colors. It was agreed Jim would create our travel route and plans; I would take care of the details of the symposium.

Our trip began early Monday March 10th; it was the first day that most of us in WI hit 50 degrees since November, excellent travel weather. I met Jim at his home in Fond du Lac and the brief tour of his basement had me convinced Jim really likes trains. Not only a “rail fan” Jim is also a part of the subset called “modlers” (people who enjoy model trains of all sizes). I was able to tour his latest winter project of the almost completed basement. Jim is building a large dedicated room just for his model trains. The walls are up and the track layout being crafted but I suspect the actual construction will have to wait until the end of this year’s growing season. Water and snacks packed and we were off.

Our first stop was in Rochelle, IL. Rochelle is truly a hub for trains and those who enjoy watching them. Double tracks from the Union Pacific and double tracks from the BNSF (both main lines all the way to west coast) cross here. This double track cross at the same grade is called a double diamond and is quite rare and allows for rail fans to view up to 100 trains daily. One of the world’s largest Intermodal Terminals is also just outside of Rochelle. Global III Terminal is Union

Pacific’s new and state of the art terminal is where over 3000 freight containers can be handled at this huge truck/train interchange each day. During our brief stop in Rochelle we witnessed several large freight trains and toured the quaint little park that is full of rail road history. Jim was a great tour guide and explained that this is one of his favorite spots and likes to go to the park several times each year if possible.

The warm sunny weather continued to improve as we entered into Iowa on I-88 then onto Des Moines via I-80 and then heading south into Kansas City on I-35. The traffic was light and the sight of grass even if it was brown was a nice thing to see. We made it to Lawrence without issue and temperatures at dusk were still warm enough that many of the Kansas University College Students were walking about in shorts and t-shirts.

The GCSAA provided us with a great room at the historic Eldridge Hotel. The historic hotel was a great place for us to meet up with other attendees of the symposium.

The 2014 Leadership Symposium began bright and early at GCSAA Headquarters. Each year 25 chapters and two leaders are able to attend the event. We all introduced ourselves and then were able to hear GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans briefly speak to the group.



WGCSA Vice President Jim Van Herwynen and the Kansas City Southern engine at KC Union Station



A Union Pacific Train passing through Rochelle, IL