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TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE
Your Opinion Is Important To Us 4

CHAPTER CONVERSATION
Fall News And Updates6

WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGY REPORT
University of Wisconsin-Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab:
A New Face and Same Outstanding Service 8

STUDENT ARTICLE
Life's Mulligans10

TURFGRASS DIAGNOSTIC LAB
Is There A Normal Summer?16

WGCSA
Joint Meeting at Brown County Golf Course18

WISCONSIN PATHOLOGY REPORT
When It Comes To Anthracnose; Location Matters24

STUDENT ARTICLE
Is Poapratensis An Invasive Species In
Upper Midwestern Prairies?28

BADGER STATE TURF CLIPPINGS
News and Notes From WGCSA Members34

COVER STORY
94th State Open At The Bull At Pinhurst Farms36

EDITORS NOTEBOOK
Award Time 42

ABOUT THE COVER

The 321 Yard Par4 7th Hole At The Bull At Pinhurst Farms. The course recently hosted the Wisconsin State Open.

You are meant to play the ball as it lies, a fact that may help to touch on your own objective approach to life.

By American Sportswriter Grantland Rice, 1880-1854

This quote about golf by Rice reminds us we all have challenges in our lives to overcome. We can accept and try to overcome our challenges or complain and blame them for our shortcomings.

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THE GRASS ROOTS

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Front Row: Chad Harrington, Jim Van Herwynen, Jon Canavan, Josh Lepine. Back Row: Jeff Millies, Brett Grams, Jeff Barlow, Kevin Knudtson, Mike Bremmer, Joe Sell. (Not pictured Steve Wasser and Scott Bushman.)

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Your Opinion Is Important To Us

By Chad Harrington, General Manager, Autumn Ridge Golf Course

I remember, like I am sure most of you, the stories from our Parents and Grandparents that started “when I was a kid.....” and how I would roll my eyes or just dismiss whatever comment followed. I often thought or at least hoped I would never use those terms or at the very least, be much older than I feel I am, but this year definitely has me wondering where our summer weather went from “when I was a kid.”

As I look out the window and look at what appears to be early soggy, late April or early May conditions in early September, it reminds me why so many of us decided on this profession and why you are so highly regarded by your golf courses. I had a fellow superintendent remind me at one of meetings this summer while we were waiting for the torrential down pour to let up, “anyone can grow grass in perfect conditions. It takes a professional to make it look great in the real world.” That sounds like 2014 season to me!

Earlier this year the WGCSA Board of Directors engaged in a Strategic Plan-

ning Secession with the help of GCSAA to facilitate the meeting. One of the key points that came from that event was actually a question to our membership. What do you find valuable as a member


What do you find valuable as a member of the WGCSA and what to you expect to get as a member of the association. That questions seems very simple, but most of us in that meeting had very different opinions and responses.

of the WGCSA and what to you expect to get as a member of the association. That questions seems very simple, but most of us in that meeting had very different opinions and responses.

Over the past few months a committee from the board has put together a survey for our membership trying to answer that question. I know that we are asked to do survey quite often, but our asso-

ciation has not requested one in quite a while. I respectfully ask each of you to take the time to fill out the survey and let us know what you feel is important to our association and what you feel would add value in the future. We realize that times change and we need your help to identify value as a group.

One of the struggles many groups, clubs, and associations face is time and participation among its members. The WGCSA is no different, but will be celebrating 85 years of service and has definitely proved to be a valuable resource to Golf Course Superintendents in our state, and our goal is to retain the membership while attempting to reach others that have not utilized our benefits.

I would like to thank each of you in advance for your support of the WGCSA in supplying your opinions and information in the 2014 survey and your continued promotion of the association. I hope that all of you have had a successful golf season and thank you for all you do to help make the WGCSA leaders of the game of golf in Wisconsin. 

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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Fall News and Updates

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

As I am writing it is late September, the weather is seasonal, and the colors of fall are coming on very strong. This might be my favorite time of the year and I hope you can take advantage of the awesome weather in getting the many fall to do's completed before winter sets in.

I am also hopeful that you were able to attend some of the great golf events that our industry hosts. The last of the WGCSA Education/Golf meetings was in August at newly renovated Brown County Golf Course. Rain was a factor for that meeting and also the annual Wee One outing at Pine Hills. The always fun WTA outing at University Ridge and the Couples Event at the Wild Rock GC in the WI Dells rounded out the busy end to our golf events for the year. Please continue to support or consider supporting all of these events as they are only successful with good attendance!

September and October are the months when I begin working diligently with the WGCSA Board of Directors and leaders in planning for next year. This year's planning is again important as we have several

significant and important things that will that will impact our decisions will be addressing. Current President Chad Harrington is concluding his second year of leadership. Thankfully Chad will remain on the board as Immediate Past President


Please help your association and its leaders by providing your feedback.

but Vice President Jim VanHerwynen is already focusing on the future as the gavel is passed to him. Along with the leadership change at the board level we will also be implementing the long range master planning session that all WGCSA Board members conducted in March of this year. Revisions to the Mission and Vision Statement along with continued focus on member services is leading us to conduct an important member survey. If you have not already received the online survey you soon will. It is very important for you as a valued member to take a few minutes and

provide feedback and your input to the survey. This data will allow the board and committees to focus on issues and conduct events and meetings that the membership wants. Please help your association and its leaders by providing your feedback. I assure you that the data you provide will be used to make the WGCSA offerings and service better for the members. It is also important to note the 2015 will mark our 85th anniversary as the association representing and educating our states hard working superintendents.

The other important news that some of you may not yet know is that our current Immediate Past President Jeff Millies has decided to run for the GCSAA Board of Directors. The WGCSA has had a number of members participate with various national committees but it has been decades since we have had a member run for the GCSAA Board. Jeff has spent considerable time and service with his leadership to our chapter and several national committees. He is also involved with his local area government as his township supervisor. Please join me in supporting Jeff's ambition in taking his leadership to the GCSAA Board. I had the pleasure of working with Jeff on the board since I became Chapter Manager and I can assure all members that if Jeff is afforded this opportunity he will make us all proud and represent our diverse membership at the national level.

Do you have ideas for meeting sites? Are you willing to take a turn to host a meeting in 2015? Do you have a request for a certain speaker or topic for one of our meetings? Please feel to contact me or any board members if you have ideas, suggestions, or want to provide any and all feedback.

Please enjoy the fall and the conclusion of the 2014 golf season and I look forward to seeing many of you at our 49th Annual Golf Symposium at the American Club on Dec. 3rd and 4th in Kohler. 



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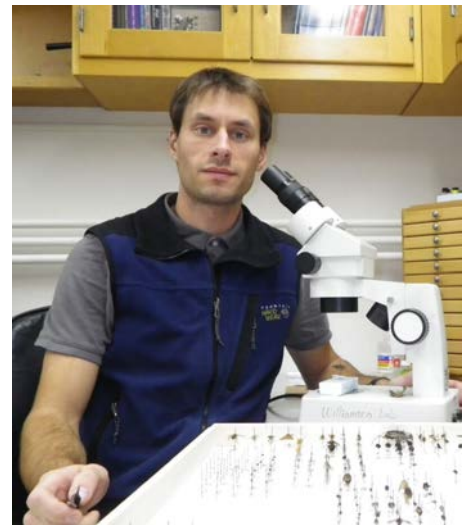
University of Wisconsin-Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab: A New Face and Same Outstanding Service

By Dr. R. Chris Williamson, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin – Madison

After 36 years of outstanding service and leadership as manager of the Insect Diagnostic Lab in the Department of Entomology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Phil Pellitteri retired at the end of February. Phil was the first and only manager of the Insect Diagnostic Lab, which was established in 1978. The mission of the lab has been, and continues to be, to identify insects and insect damaged plant material from around the state, and the region. Primary service is to the county extension offices and commercial concerns. Home-owners are welcome to submit samples to the diagnostic lab but are encouraged to check with their local extension office first because many samples can be handled in a more efficient manner locally.

Mail-in samples, e-mails (with pictures whenever possible) and walk-in samples are accepted. The Insect Diagnostic Lab handles between 1,500-2,300 samples annually and does not charge any fees for services.

On March 1, 2014 Patrick John (PJ) Liesch became the interim director of the Insect Diagnostic Lab. After a search committee was assembled, several outstanding candidates were interviewed. The search committee provided a recommendation to the faculty in the Department of Entomology where a final decision was rendered. The position was offered to PJ Liesch, PJ accepted the position and officially began his role as the manager of the Insect Diagnostic Lab on August 1, 2014.



New Manager Of The Insect Diagnostic Lab Patrick John (P.J.) Liesch

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WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGY REPORT

In addition to managing the Insect Diagnostic Lab, PJ is an instructor for the Wisconsin Pesticide Applicator Training program, the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program, the UW Farm and Industry Short Course program and the First Detector Network.

One of his first tasks as interim manager was to launch an updated website for the diagnostic lab, which features a blog titled "What's Crawling in the Lab?" This blog features short stories, pictures, and highlights from the UW-Madison insect diagnostic lab. Topics range from the insects most commonly diagnosed in the lab to emerging insect pests and even some unique and bizarre creatures that are submitted to the lab. The blog can be accessed via the Insect Diagnostic Lab's website at <http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/insectlab/>

PJ is life-long Wisconsin resident, he grew up in the Racine area. After high school, he attended UW-Parkside where he earned a degree in biological sciences (B.S., 2007). It was during his undergraduate studies that he became fascinated with insects. Two summers of entomology fieldwork helped solidify PJ's interests in entomology. After completing his B.S. degree, he accepted an offer to come to UW-Madison where he earned a M.S. degree in entomology in 2010. PJ began work as an assistant researcher for over three years in the UW-Madison Entomology and Plant Pathology Departments where he was heavily involved with turfgrass and ornamental research. He currently lives in rural Dane county with his wife and two dogs. In his spare time, PJ enjoys mountain biking, rock climbing, hiking, and fishing. Please welcome PJ the next time you have an opportunity! Don't hesitate to send him an insect sample should you need assistance in identification.

To maximize the success of an accurate diagnosis, please consider the following directions and guidelines when submitting a sample to the University of Wisconsin-Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab:

How to Submit Samples: The diagnostic process often involves piecing together many different clues. Providing background information with a submitted image or specimen can greatly assist in the diagnostic process. In many cases, insects can be identified through digital images. However, in other cases, physical specimens must be inspected under a microscope for an accurate determina-

tion. Crushed or damaged specimens are very difficult to identify and many specimens are damaged during shipping if not cared for. In general, specimens should be placed into small vial or other container and padded to protect them.

true bugs can be placed in a small clean vial or box. Put cotton or tissue paper inside the mailing tube with the specimen to increase its chances of arriving intact.

Soft-bodied insects such as aphids, caterpillars and other worms are best preserved in alcohol. Freezing or placing the insects into very hot water will kill specimens. Specimens should then be preserved in alcohol for shipment. Seventy percent ethanol is best, but rubbing alcohol, or clear cocktail alcohol like gin or vodka will work in a pinch.

Adult moths and mosquitoes have scales on the wings that are needed for identification and need to be kept dry and intact. Carefully place these specimens into a vial or tub. Cushion during transit using cotton or tissue.

Specimens can then be shipped to: Insect Diagnostic Lab 240 Russell Labs 1630 Linden Drive Madison, WI 53706



THE UNIVERSITY
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Turfgrass and Ornamental Entomology

Do not put specimens on tape, as this can make identification difficult. Instructions for shipping specimens vary slightly with the type of specimen:

Hard-bodied insects such as beetles and



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Life's Mulligan

By Luke McGhee, Undergraduate Student, UW-Madison

EDITORS NOTE: This submitted student article is eligible for the Monroe Miller Literary Scholarship, awarded each year to the author of a selected article.

“Dad, you got to come out here and check out the stripes I put down in the lawn.” I guess you could say growing up I wanted to be a part of the turf industry, but didn’t quite know it yet. In high school and even my first couple years of college, I had a strong appreciation for landscape design, and I still do, but I became fond of an entire new industry that I didn’t even know existed.

When junior year of high school came around, I had one university that I wanted to attend and that was UW-Madison. Growing up and being able to visit my brother all 4 years of high school was some of the best memories with him and because of that I knew there was no other place like the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Unfortunately, I was put on the waiting list for a few months and never got accepted, so I ended up attending UW-Oshkosh for my first year of college. In the back of my mind, I knew I wanted to attend Madison, so I started filling out the transfer information immediately. I loved Oshkosh, and it was an excellent school to attend, but there were two problems: it wasn’t Madison, and it didn’t have landscape architecture.

When I arrived at Madison, I knew it was the right choice to transfer, but deep down I missed Oshkosh and my friends there. I started off double majoring in landscape architecture and Spanish. The three years of schooling for these two majors was great and I learned plenty. My next step to take was to study abroad for a semester and I planned on going to Costa Rica in the fall of 2013, but my path for landscape architecture started to unwind.

“What are you going to do with your degree?” That simple question not only changed my major here at University of Wisconsin-Madison, but it also changed my life and career choice.

Being a sophomore now but technically a freshman at Madison, I knew I needed to get a job. My first thoughts on jobs were something in athletics. As mentioned earlier, I had the opportunity of visiting my brother on several occasions. Two of his roommates were managers for the UW basketball team and when I would come to visit they would have gear and tickets to the games for my brother and I and because of this, I applied to be a manager and successfully got the position.

“What are you going to do with your degree?” That simple question not only changed my major here at University of Wisconsin-Madison, but it also changed my life and career choice. I was working at a men’s basketball game when a co-worker asked me



Turf Club Members Adam Wepfer (Assistant Superintendent at University Ridge), Tyler Gerritts (Vice President of the Club), and Luke McGhee (President) promoting the club for the CAI's Day For Kids.

that question. At that time, I was still majoring in landscape architecture and Spanish and my only intentions were to have my own business where I could do all of the planting designs and run an installation crew at the same time; similar to the internship I had in the summer. I never really even thought about another option. My co-worker mentioned to me turf management because his family-friend is the Superintendent at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Once he said this and explained to me what the job entailed, it was a true awakening for me and completely changed me for the better.

After the basketball game that night I was supposed to study for an important Spanish midterm, but that didn’t turn out to be the case at all. I Instead spent my night in the library until 4 a.m. researching turf management, e-mailing advisors to see what I had to do to make this drastic switch in my career, as well as calling my mom in tears because I have never been so sure of something in my life. My mom’s exact words were, “I have never heard you this happy or excited about something since you have been in college.”

After about a week of talking with different advisors day-to-day and breaking the news to fellow classmates and professors that I would be dropping out of the landscape architecture program, the next thing to do on my list was to find an internship. Since it was almost April, I didn’t think there was any possibility of being able to find anything.