

THE GRASS ROOTS

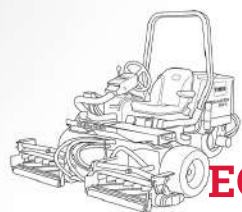


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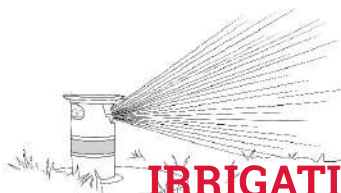
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ABOUT THE COVER

Thank you to Seth Brogren for taking the time to talk about the Lake Geneva area's newest course – Wee Nip.

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THE GRASS ROOTS is the quarterly publication of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association. No part of the THE GRASS ROOTS may be used without the expressed written permission of the editor.

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Making Summer Plans

By: Garrett Luck, Superintendent, Hidden Glen Golf Club

As we stand at the beginning of another golf season, I want to express my sincere gratitude to every one of you who makes the WGCSA strong and vibrant. Whether you are out early each morning preparing your course for play or supporting the association in countless other ways, your dedication and professionalism are the foundation of our success. Thank you for all you do.

Our monthly golf meetings continue to be a highlight of the year, offering camaraderie, friendly competition, and the chance to experience another member's golf course. A special thank you goes out to the host facilities and their superintendents for generously opening their doors and showcasing their properties. We are truly blessed to have members who manage such spectacular golf courses.

Already this year, we have enjoyed outstanding events at the Irish Course at Whistling Straits and at La Crosse Country Club for the Border Battle. These gatherings remind us of the quality and generosity within our membership. Looking ahead, we are excited to return to two more exceptional venues: Legends at Brandybrook and Blackwolf Run's Meadow Valleys. I encourage everyone to sign up and participate—these are days you won't want to miss.

We are also deeply grateful for the continued support of our Industry Partners. Their sponsorship and involvement provide the financial backbone that allows the WGCSA to deliver value to our members year after year. When making purchasing decisions, please keep our partners in mind—they invest in us, and we are stronger because of them.

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the WGCSA Board and all of our committees for their time, leadership, and commitment. A special recognition goes to Chad Grimm and the entire Round4Research committee. Through their hard work and thoughtful solicitation of donations, the WGCSA raised nearly \$40,000 for turfgrass research at UW-Madison. To every member who contributed, thank you—your generosity is making a real difference for our industry.

We are fortunate to have Jake Schneider as our Executive Director. Jake's attention to detail, his endless stream of ideas to grow and improve the association, and his personal involvement with FFA and Wisconsin's technical schools are truly second to none. We are grateful to have him leading our efforts every day.

Finally, I want to thank our entire membership. From private clubs to daily-fee courses, municipal facilities, and everything in between, we benefit from a diverse and engaged group of professionals who are committed to excellence in their craft and always willing to help one another. That spirit of collaboration is what makes the WGCSA special.

I look forward to seeing many of you out on the courses throughout the season. While we have much to be grateful for today, there is still more work to be done. We need fresh ideas and new faces on the Board and committees. If you have an interest in serving or thoughts on how we can continue to elevate the WGCSA, please reach out to me, Jake, or any Board member. Your involvement is always welcome.

Wishing you a safe, successful, and enjoyable season ahead. 🍀

WGCSA MISSION STATEMENT

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association is dedicated to serving its members, advocating on behalf of the golf course management industry, and supporting the future of golf.

WGCSA VISION STATEMENT

Through promoting environmental stewardship and best management practices on behalf of its members, the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association is recognized as the regional leader in golf course management.

Rounds Research




Thank you to the following courses whose donations helped us raise over \$30,000 for turf research at UW-Madison! We appreciate your support!

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- Butte des Morts Country Club: Tim Schmidt, Superintendent
- Edgewood Golf Course: Jeff Millies, Superintendent
- Erin Hills Golf Course: Alex Beson-Crone, Director of Agronomy
- Evergreen Golf Club: Bill Rogers & Mike Schmieden
- Fox Valley Golf Club: Scott Bushman, Superintendent
- Geneva National: Kevin Knudtson, Director of Grounds
- Grand Geneva: Seth Brogren and Kyle Nash
- Green Bay Country Club: Ben Larsen, Superintendent
- Hawks Landing Golf Club: Neil Radatz, Superintendent
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- Wild Rock: Lee Mahnke, Superintendent



Let's Talk Politics

By: Jake Schneider, Editor and Executive Director

For better or worse, it's an election year, and the November mid-terms are sure to unite America more than ever before and bring a slew of highly informative and completely accurate advertisements to our TVs and radios...if only. Well, the first part is true in that the political landscape across Wisconsin and our nation is poised for a big shakeup. Within the Badger State, we know that there will be a new Senate majority leader, Assembly speaker, and governor because all incumbents have announced that they are no longer running. As of early May, eight Republicans and three Democrats in the Assembly are not seeking reelection, and six incumbent Republicans are not running again in the Senate. Regardless of which party has a better day on November 3, there are going to be many new faces governing our state.

Within the current legislative body, we have seen a slight uptick in the amount of proposed legislation that could have impacted golf course maintenance operations. Most of them centered around pesticide usage, and unlike what has happened historically, these ideas came from both sides of the aisle and not just from the Democrats. The MAHA movement from President Trump and Secretary Kennedy, who was an environmental lawyer who previously targeted pesticide usage, has made this topic one where folks of often competing political ideologies have converged. Much to the chagrin of those who were bolstered by the formulative ideas of MAHA, I haven't seen a whole lot of actual change regarding pesticide regulations under this administration, but there generally seems to be momentum for it that has been building among the American public.

We are fortunate to have a strong group from GCSAA taking on the federal issues, and they do a phenomenal job of advocating and educating on behalf of our industry. However, aside from some monitoring activity, we don't have that same regular presence on a statewide level. Quite frankly, we haven't had the need to have a consistent presence in Madison over the years because there just weren't enough issues that truly impacted golf course operations to justify it. One exception was during the early days of Covid when the Wisconsin Golf Alliance, which consists of the WGCSA, WPGA, WSGA, Wisconsin

Badger Chapter of the Club Managers Association, and the Golf Course Owners of Wisconsin, hired a lobbyist to get golf courses open again. Thankfully, this effort was a success, and we are still bearing the fruit of the pandemic-driven golf boom.

However, with the confluence of the new lawmakers and the winds of regulation increasing along with our new economic impact study of golf in Wisconsin, the time may have come for us to start taking proactive measures at the state Capitol. Many other golf course superintendent chapters have lobbying efforts and state golf days at their respective Capitols, whether they do it by themselves, through the golf alliance model, or with other agricultural-based organizations. One of my projects this year has been to collect information and figure out a way forward that makes the most sense for not only the WGCSA but also, hopefully, for the greater golf industry in Wisconsin and golf-adjacent groups. In seeking feedback from chapters that have been doing this, it was clear that there is no singular best model, but by and large, they felt as if the money that they have been spending on lobbying was worthwhile.

So, we'll see in the coming months how this all shakes down for the our great state, but if you can be certain of one thing, it is that the WGCSA is always looking at ways that we can promote the work of the many golf course maintenance professionals throughout Wisconsin and keep the industry as one of the very best in the nation.

In the next issue, I'll be talking religion. ✓

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2026 WGCSA Events Calendar

June 9, 2026	June Golf Event at The Legend at Brandybrook, Wales, WI
<i>August 4, 2026</i>	<i>WTA Field Day, OJ Noer Turfgrass Research Facility, Verona, WI</i>
August 19, 2026	August Golf Event at Blackwolf Run-Meadow Valleys, Kohler, WI
<i>September 21, 2026</i>	<i>Wee One Fundraiser Outing at Pine Hills Country Club, Sheboygan, WI</i>
September 22, 2026	Equipment Manager/Assistant Superintendent Golf Event at Eagle Springs Golf Resort, Eagle, WI
<i>October 6, 2026</i>	<i>WTA Fall Classic Golf Outing, Wausau Country Club, Wausau, WI</i>
October 20, 2026	Sporting Clays Event at Milford Hills, Lake Mills, WI
December 1, 2026	Equipment Managers Meeting: Cutline is King by Mike Rollins, Location TBD
January 6-7, 2027	Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium, The American Club, Kohler, WI

***Bold are WGCSA organized.**

Italicized are WTA/PGA/Wee One events.



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A Very Early Spring Business Meeting

By: Jake Schneider, Executive Director and Editor



We had a great group in attendance for this year's Spring Business and Educational Meeting.

We may officially need to come up with new name for our annual event in late February/early March as calling it the SPRING Educational and Business Meeting might set us up for a lawsuit in most years, and with snow on the ground and chilly temperatures in Fond du Lac for the most recent version, 2026 was no exception. Inside the cozy confines of South Hills Golf and Country Club, the 75 attendees who made their way to the southern tip of Lake Winnebago were treated to a top-notch day of education and networking.

Chava McKeel traveled all the way from GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas to kick start the day with an overview of the legislative affairs that her team has been working on. As the Director of Government Affairs for GCSAA, Chava has been very busy in recent years dealing with the EPA's Endangered Species Act and its impact on pesticide application, Waters of the US legislation, and multiple pesticide re-registrations, among other issues. She stressed the importance of having facility-level BMPs in place as they are likely to have a significant impact on the ability for courses to spray pesticides in the future.

Following Chava's presentation, we next heard from Stuart Lindsay with Edgehill Golf Advisors. Stuart gave an abbreviated "State of the Industry" discussion from his collaboration with Pellucid Corporation. To the surprise of no one, the metrics surrounding golf are all outstanding, but are likely to flatten in the near future compared to the meteoric rise over the past 5 years. Stuart warned the rising expenses may erode profits as the ability for courses to continue raising their rates is unlikely to keep pace.

Our final formal talk for the day came from Dr. Mark Renz, professor of weed science at UW-Madison. Mark focused on the control of invasive woody species which are all too common in many parts of Wisconsin. Not only do these plants negatively impact the native vegetation of ecosystems that they have invaded, but they often result in increased runoff and erosion while also reducing the native animal population as well. Early detection and proper



Chava McKeel with GCSAA got the day started with her talk on current legislative issues.



Stuart Lindsay provided a lot of hard data about the success of golf in 2025 and offered a few predictions for the years to come as well.

control is crucial to keep ahead of the curve, and there are many control avenues that can be taken.

Following lunch and an update on WGCSA happenings, the day wrapped up with the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association's Happy Hour with the Turf Docs that featured Drs. Soldat and Koch in an interactive Q&A session that featured a few old fashioned and casual banter from the participants along with raising nearly \$2000 for turf research at UW-Madison. It was the perfect way to finish a very, very cold "spring" day at South Hills. ✓



Dr. Soldat (providing knowledge) and Dr. Koch (sipping his cocktail) offered another entertaining and informative Happy Hour with the Turf Docs in collaboration with the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association.

Finally, thank you to all the sponsors who made it another affordable event:

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CELEBRATING MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

By: Brandon Nebl, Superintendent, Whispering Springs Golf Course

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association proudly recognizes a group of dedicated professionals who have each reached the milestone of 25 years of membership. Their careers reflect not only longevity, but also a deep commitment to the golf course management industry across Wisconsin and beyond. Through decades of changing technology, evolving environmental practices, and growing expectations, these individuals have helped shape the courses and communities they serve.

Paul Sobkowiak's career is a true example of dedication to one place and one profession. Since March 30, 1989, he has worked at The Coulee Golf Bowl, where he began on the grounds crew shortly after graduating from Holmen High School in 1988. Over time, he worked his way up to Superintendent, learning the trade through hands-on experience and mentorship from others in the field. A lifelong resident of the Onalaska-Holmen area, Paul has built not just a career but a legacy at the course. Outside of work, he manages a small beef farm and enjoys outdoor activities like UTV riding and snowmobiling. With retirement on the horizon in the next several years, his nearly four decades of service stand as a remarkable achievement.

Dave Marach brings 34 years of industry experience, with a career that spans several respected facilities. Currently serving as Superintendent at the University of Wisconsin–Madison O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility, he began this role in 2023 after spending 15 years at Northbrook Golf & Grill. His earlier stops include Oshkosh Country Club, UW–Green Bay Shorewood, and Clintonville Riverside. Dave's educational background in Environmental Science and Biology from UW–Green Bay has supported his work in sustainable turf management. Throughout his career, he has contributed to numerous renovation projects and major events, including hosting state association gatherings. His involvement in prestigious tournaments and professional development programs highlights his leadership in the field. Outside of work, he enjoys golf, hunting, fishing, and traveling with his family.

Paul Blumke's connection to the golf industry runs deep, as it has been a part of his life since childhood. Now serving as Director of Agronomy at Talking Stick Golf Club in Arizona, he has built a career that spans multiple states and respected clubs. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin with a degree in Soil Science, Paul has worked at courses



Dave Marach and Joe Knudtson were on hand to accept their 25-year membership plaques in person from WGCSA Board Member Brandon Nebl.

in California and Wisconsin, including Kenosha Country Club and Whispering Springs in Fond du Lac. His family's legacy includes a brother who is part of our industry and grandparents and parents who created and operated the Oakgreen Golf Course in North Fond du Lac. In 2024, Paul was honored as Superintendent of the Year by the Cactus & Pine GCSA, recognizing his excellence and leadership. When he is not working, he enjoys golf, hiking, running, and spending time with his family.

Joe Knudtson marks his 30th season in the industry, including 25 years as a superintendent. His career began at Evansville Golf Club, where he worked on the crew before becoming an assistant superintendent and eventually taking on leadership roles. After gaining experience as a head superintendent in Oregon, Joe returned to Evansville in 2014, continuing his long-standing connection to the course. A former baseball player at St. Cloud State, his athletic background transitioned into a passion for golf, where he achieved significant success, including six club championships and appearances in multiple state amateur tournaments. Joe values the relationships he has built over the years and enjoys spending time golfing with his wife and caring for their two dogs.

Brad Steinhardt's career reflects both dedication and adaptability. He began working at Sheboygan Town & Country Club in 1996 while still in high school and quickly advanced to assistant superintendent while earning his degree in landscape and horticulture from MATC. For over two decades, Brad played a key role in course operations and renovation projects, including work at Heartland Hills and Riverdale Country Club. In 2023, he achieved his goal of becoming a superintendent at Riverdale. Although he has since transitioned out of the golf industry to lead building maintenance at his church and school, his 29 years of service left a lasting impact. Brad credits his success to the mentors and employers who supported him along his journey.

As the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association celebrates these five individuals, it also celebrates the values they represent: hard work, resilience, and a passion for excellence. Their careers have shaped the quality of golf experiences for countless players and strengthened the profession as a whole. Reaching 25 years of membership is more than a milestone—it is a testament to years of dedication, and an inspiration for the next generation of superintendents. ✓

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WISCONSIN'S TREE PLEDGE IS GROWING STRONG

By: Bobbie Webster, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Forestry

Five years ago, on Earth Day in April 2021, Wisconsin made a bold commitment to plant 75 million trees, including 1 million trees in urban areas, and conserve 125,000 acres of forestland by 2030. Known as Wisconsin's Trillion Trees Pledge (the pledge), the commitment is part of a global effort to accelerate nature-based solutions to the shifting precipitation and temperature patterns we are experiencing. Wisconsin's early progress on the pledge exceeded expectations and on Earth Day 2024, Governor Evers raised the goal to 100 million trees by 2030. Spring is a great time to provide an update on the pledge progress and remind you that golf courses play a significant role in tree planting and maintenance.

Golf course managers plant and maintain trees with careful consideration to the landscape architecture of the course, as well as tree health and aesthetics. The urban forest acreage managed by golf course staff provides important services

such as significant levels of urban cooling, improved air quality, shade, and erosion control.

Trees nurtured on golf courses can also provide a variety of habitat benefits to bats, birds, pollinators, frogs and toads, and more. All of this aligns with the core goals of the pledge, as well as the supporting actions that the Wisconsin DNR has committed to. These actions build a stronger foundation for healthy forests, economies, and socio-cultural impacts of forests. Just a few examples of these actions include:

Tree Protection Through Management

The DNR Forest Health Program assists partners and the public in the identification and management of insect, disease, invasive plant and environmental issues in forests. The Forest Health program works in collaboration with researchers and educators on many projects to provide practical options, including those potentially more likely to impact golf courses, such as oak wilt and emerald ash borer.



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Forest Product Markets and Innovation

The DNR Forest Products Services Program offers technical assistance to businesses interested in implementing sustainable forestry practices. The program also explores and promotes markets for locally produced wood products that aim to sequester more carbon via wood product utilization, industry growth and sustainable forest management.

Data & Technological Tools

The state has invested in the national Urban Forest Inventory and Analysis program, an initiative that conducts sampling of permanent urban forest plots to collect data about trees and land use. These plots, many of which occur on golf courses, result in urban forestry data unique in its approach and scale that can help assess urban canopy cover and prioritize conservation activities.

By the end of 2025, more than 54 million trees have been planted statewide, including over 485,000 in urban areas, where trees are especially vital for improving air quality, reducing energy costs, managing stormwater, and supporting community connection.

The remaining 54.2 million trees have been planted in rural locations such as county, state and national forests, parks, and private forestland. Conservation efforts have been impressive as well. More than 84,000 acres of forestland have been protected, 67% of the 125,000-acre goal.

Supporting this work is a wide network of partners including state and federal agencies, tribal nations, universities, utilities, non-profit organizations, private landowners, private nurseries, and more. We value the role the Golf Course Superintendents Association can play in achieving the pledge; with more trees to be planted and more forestland to be conserved, there are many more opportunities to get involved.

The DNR seeks to continually grow the list of partners and highlight the work they do to help achieve the pledge. One way you can join is by registering any trees you plant on our statewide survey: www.dnr.wi.gov/tiny/3916.

To learn more about the Trillion Trees program, see our 2025 report, and find our contact information, please visit www.dnr.wi.gov/tiny/1721. 



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Before

ADAM WAGNER



We hope to randomly highlight a few members each edition from all geographic areas, facility types and membership classifications. It may take us 20 years to get to everyone in the directory but please be ready for that phone to ring and be prepared to share stories, photos and information about YOU!

Name: Adam Wagner

Company Position: Superintendent at Chenequa Country Club

Years as WGCSA member: 8 years

Membership Classification: Class B

Brief BIO : Adam Wagner is the Golf Course Superintendent at Chenequa Country Club. Before joining Chenequa, Adam built a strong foundation in the turf industry through key roles at Maple Bluff Country Club and Erin Hills Golf Course.

How did you get started in the turfgrass industry?

I got my start in the industry working on the grounds team at Maple Bluff Country Club, and at the time, I didn't even realize that our side of the operation could be a true career pathway. It didn't take long, though, for me to discover that working on a golf course was exactly what I wanted to do. Those early years were pivotal in shaping my passion for turf management, and Josh LePine at Maple Bluff played a key role in helping me advance in the early stages of my career.

During my time at Erin Hills, I had the opportunity to work alongside Zach Reineking and John Jacques, whose leadership and high expectations pushed me to grow in ways that truly shaped the superintendent I am today. Being part of the team during major championships including the Men's and Women's U.S. Open as well as the U.S. Mid-Amateur exposed me to tournament level standards and the importance of precision, communication, and consistency at the highest level. The mentorship and experience I gained there played a major role in advancing my career and ultimately helped pave the path to my current position at Chenequa Country Club.

What is the most rewarding part of your career? The most rewarding part of my career has been seeing the impact of our teams reflected in the course and in the people around me. There's something incredibly fulfilling about watching a property evolve through hard

work, planning, and teamwork — and knowing we played a role in elevating the golfer experience every single day. Just as meaningful is the opportunity to help others in the same way mentors helped me. Guiding staff, sharing what I've learned, and watching team members discover their own path in the turf industry is something I take a lot of pride in. It's a reminder of where I started, and it's what makes this career so rewarding.

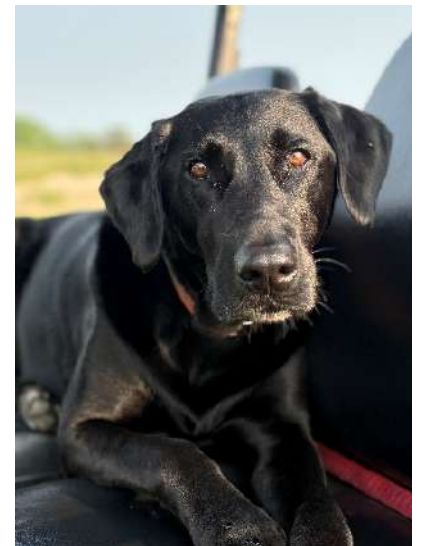
Tell us about your family. At home, life is wonderfully busy. My loving wife, Whitney, is a dedicated CPA, and our three year old daughter keeps us constantly entertained. With another little girl who arrived earlier this year, our family is growing—so is the excitement. We also share our home with our black lab, Denali, who is not only a great family dog but also an incredible companion both on the golf course and in the field.

My favorite moments are spent with them. No matter what the workday has brought, the highlight of my day is spending quality time with them at home or on an adventure.

What do you do in your spare time, favorite hobbies? Outside of work, I'm happiest when I'm outdoors. I enjoy fishing, waterfowl and upland bird hunting, snowmobiling, and getting out on the trails with our UTV. Whether it's time on the water, in the woods, or exploring new terrain, being outside is my favorite way to unwind and spend time with family. 🌿



My wife, Whitney, our three-year-old daughter and I enjoying quality time spent together



My dog, Denali taking in the sunshine



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The first hole of the Highlands course can be seen in the background of the Wee Nip course.

BEFORE THE FIRST TEE TIME: SETH BROGREN AND WEE NIP'S OPENING CHAPTER

By: Paul Seifert, WiscoGolfAddict

On the surface, Wee Nip looks like it should be simple.

The new 11-hole short course at Grand Geneva Resort & Spa stretches only about 90 yards per hole on average, can be comfortably walked in roughly 90 minutes, and was intentionally designed by Wisconsin native Matt Dusenberry to be relaxed, social and fun.

There is no par. Players are encouraged to experiment, hit creative shots and embrace the course's playful nature. At the center of the routing sits "The 12th Hole," a gathering area designed for drinks, food, yard games and conversation after the round.

But the course's defining characteristic quickly becomes clear once you step onto its greens.

Large, bold and filled with movement, the greens complexes are the centerpiece of Dusenberry's design. They average around 10,000 square feet and feature dramatic internal contours, steep runoffs and numerous pinnable sections that can redirect shots in unexpected ways depending on angle, trajectory and speed. Some repel shots back toward players' feet while others feed balls off to the sides or into surrounding collection areas, creating a course that constantly asks players to think creatively about how they approach each hole.

The 90-yard eighth hole, "Runway," is played entirely with a putter. The finishing eleventh, "Aloha," will feature two hole locations each day, including one perched high atop a back-left shelf where anything even slightly short can quickly come rolling right back down the slope.

By early May, the course already looked remarkably mature thanks to the grow-in work led by Superintendent Seth Brogren and the Grand Geneva turf team. But with the May 19 opening approaching, Brogren knows the next stage will be about refinement as much as preparation.

"When you first look at it, you think short course, fun, casual," Brogren said while walking the property in early May as his team prepared for opening day. "But setup is going to matter a lot out here."

Brogren, who has overseen the Highlands Course at Grand Geneva since 2011 and served as grow-in superintendent for Wee Nip, is currently navigating what may be the most fascinating stretch in a golf course's life cycle - the narrow window between construction and opening day, where nearly everything is still being learned in real time.

How fast can greens with this much movement realistically become before they stop being fun or take too long to play?



Seth Brogren (far left in blue) and some of the team at Grand Geneva who made the state's newest short course come to life.

Which teeing areas and hole locations will create challenge without overwhelming players?

How will heavy resort traffic impact wear patterns, workflow and maintenance expectations once thousands of rounds begin passing over surfaces that, at the moment, still appear almost pristine?

As opening day approaches, Brogren understands that the course currently exists in a rare and fleeting stage - one where nearly every detail can still be carefully controlled before daily play inevitably begins shaping the property in new ways.

After May 19, the real education begins.

Right now, Wee Nip exists in its purest form. The architecture is fresh, the turf is young and the course itself is still establishing its identity. What happens next - how players move around it, which shots they attempt, where traffic patterns develop, how aggressive setups become and how the maintenance team adapts over time - will ultimately shape what the course becomes long-term.

"The workflow will be different once we get open and will be adjusted to demand," Brogren said. "Course setup is going to be important in regards to pin placements and teeing locations. Getting the correct combinations will have a big impact on guest experience."

That balancing act is already at the forefront of daily conversations between Brogren, his maintenance team and Grand Geneva's golf operations staff including PGA Professional Ryan Brown. With no defined tee boxes and almost all surfaces (other than the greens) maintained at fairway height, the setup possibilities are endless. The challenge is identifying which combinations create excitement and variety versus frustration.

The greens themselves only amplify that discussion.

"The greens on Wee Nip are pretty extreme, with the more subtle-looking ones having their own little quirks," Brogren

Continues on page 18

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said. "The intent is to be fun, have a good time and don't concern yourself with scoring if you don't want to. Playing different types of golf shots is, sometimes, required to get at these pins."

Wee Nip is not meant to be a scorecard-driven experience. It encourages experimentation and imagination - a place where a flighted wedge, a bump-and-run nine-iron or even a putter from well off the green can all make sense depending on the situation.

But unlike many short courses that rely primarily on novelty, Wee Nip still demands precision and restraint.

On holes like the second, fourth, seventh and especially the eleventh, setup decisions will dramatically influence how the course plays from day to day. A teeing ground moved a few yards to one side or a hole location cut on a more severe portion of a slope can significantly alter strategy, difficulty and pace of play.

That constant adjustment process is part of what appealed to Brogren about the project in the first place.

"With the short course boom, the owners wanted one," he said. "I was pretty hands off other than a couple of walk-throughs prior to construction. I was designated as the Wee Nip grow-in superintendent, as well as maintaining the Highlands. Wee Nip has been at the forefront since August of 2024."

For Brogren, the opportunity represented a meaningful change of pace within a career already deeply connected to Grand Geneva.

He first arrived at the resort as an intern in 1995 while attending Michigan State University's turfgrass management program. When the opportunity to return to Grand Geneva opened in 2011, Brogren once again found himself working under the same supervisor he had interned for more than a

decade earlier.

His path into the industry started much earlier.

Brogren grew up in Rockford, Illinois and began playing golf around age nine on local park district courses. Hoping for more access to the game, he eventually took a job at Forest Hills Country Club largely because employees were allowed to play on Mondays.

"I love being on a golf course," Brogren said. "It doesn't matter which one. Small mom and pop operations to the best in the world. They all have a story and at their roots are all very cool places."

While attending school and playing collegiate golf in Stevens Point, Brogren worked summers at Wisconsin River Golf Club, where a superintendent first suggested turf management as a career path. The idea immediately clicked.

"I immediately transferred to Michigan State for the turf program and graduated in 1996," he said.

After returning to Wisconsin River as an assistant superintendent and eventually taking over as superintendent, Brogren later spent time in Freedom and Portage before the opportunity at Grand Geneva opened in 2011.

Since then, he has helped oversee one of the busiest and most operationally complex golf properties in Wisconsin.

"There's a lot of history with the property," Brogren said. "We are an outing factory and do those very well. We also now have three distinctly different styles of course with Wee Nip coming online soon. They all present different challenges - different construction methods, different ages, different expectations."

Wee Nip only adds another layer to that complexity.

Unlike the Brute and Highlands courses, which rely more heavily on traditional bentgrass playing surfaces and

established maintenance routines developed over decades, Wee Nip introduces a different style of golf and a different style of daily preparation. With nearly every bluegrass surface maintained at fairway height outside of the greens, setup and presentation become far more fluid than on a traditional golf course.

It also creates a dramatically different player experience within the same property. In a single day, guests can move from the championship-scale demands of the Brute to the more traditional Highlands routing before finishing with a social, creativity-driven short course environment at Wee Nip.

Being part of a year-round resort environment adds another layer of complexity.

"Being a 24/7 resort, there is a lot of activity that we get involved with or that 'touches' our department and operation," Brogren said. "Weddings, anniversaries, birthday parties, seasonal events - all of that impacts golf maintenance operations."

That operational balancing act extends well beyond agronomy.

"It's the coordination with the other superintendents on a daily basis for equipment needs, staff needs based on outings and start times," Brogren said. "We also cater to avid golfers who are willing to pay more than average fees, so expectations naturally go up. We're always finding the balance between production and perfection."

That pursuit of perfection - while simultaneously understanding perfection is never fully attainable - feels like a trait shared by many of the industry's most respected superintendents. Competitive by nature and deeply detail-oriented, they often approach maintenance with the mindset of athletes chasing incremental improvement, knowing the standard is constantly moving.

Brogren seems to fit naturally within that mindset.

"I like the idea that we are never going to be perfect but we can try, and in doing so we're going to be really good," Brogren said.

That word - balance - surfaced repeatedly throughout conversations with Brogren and may ultimately define Wee Nip's long-term success as much as any individual design feature.

Balance between fun and fairness.

Balance between creativity and conditioning.

Balance between maintenance standards and operational realities.

For Brogren and his team, finding that balance will become part of the course's daily rhythm once players finally begin making their way around the property.

Brogren also places a strong emphasis on building a culture where employees genuinely enjoy coming to work.

"Having fun," he said simply when asked what matters most within his operation. "Building teams that enjoy what they are doing and want to return year after year is the key to us being able to provide the conditions that we do."

That philosophy extends into the way responsibilities are delegated throughout the property.

"Everyone has a different skill set," Brogren said. "Learning how to use those efficiently is the trick."

For now, though, the focus remains on opening day and preparing the course for its first real interactions with the public.

The evening shadows that stretch across Wee Nip's rolling terrain have already become one of Brogren's favorite sights on the property. Soon, those shadows will fall across footprints, ball marks, divots and thousands of shots struck by players still trying to learn the course's personality and nuances.

And in many ways, the maintenance team will be learning alongside them.

That process - the constant observation, adjustment and refinement that follows opening day - is where the project truly begins transitioning from new construction into a living golf course.

From a player's perspective, Wee Nip promises to become one of the most creative and social golf experiences in Wisconsin.



The first green on the Wee Nip course shows some of the extreme undulations that you can find on many of the putting surfaces.

Golf courses are often discussed in terms of openings, renovations and rankings, but for superintendents, the work is far more cyclical and ongoing than that. Once construction crews leave and opening day passes, the responsibility shifts toward stewardship - maintaining the architect's intent while adapting to weather, traffic, budgets, staffing and the realities of daily play.

In many ways, opening day will simply mark the beginning of the course's next chapter.

From Brogren's perspective, it represents something equally rewarding: the opportunity to help shape what the course becomes not just this season, but for decades to come. ✓

IMPROVING THE PRECISION MANAGEMENT OF DOLLAR SPOT

By: Paul Koch, PhD, University of Wisconsin – Madison

Dollar spot severity is increasing in temperate climates around the world in response to climate change, fungicide resistance, and increasing governmental regulations on fungicide usage. Climate change has resulted in higher relative humidity and warmer spring/fall temperatures across the northern US, northern Europe, the UK, and Scandinavia. These changes have both increased the pressure of dollar spot during the summer in areas where dollar spot used to be a minor concern (or didn't exist) and has also extended the duration of when dollar spot can occur earlier into the spring and later into the fall. Chemical fungicides have traditionally been the preferred tool among superintendents for dollar spot management; however, their widespread use has resulted in development of fungicide resistance to several chemical classes and rendered multiple classes increasingly ineffective against dollar spot. Further compounding the issue has been the reduced availability of fungicides for dollar spot control due to governmental regulation. Fungicide usage on turfgrass has been limited for many years in many European and Scandinavian countries, but even in the US, there have been numerous recent restrictions that will limit the use of fungicides for dollar spot management in the coming years. Identifying improved alternative strategies for dollar spot suppression and integrating them into an effective and holistic program will be essential for the sustainable management of golf courses in temperate climates in the future.

Technological advancements have made precision management of golf courses an increasing reality. Probably the best example of this is the moisture meter, which is widely utilized to put the minimum amount of water exactly where it needs to go to create fast and firm conditions. Compared to water usage, the precision deployment of fungicides has lagged behind since most superintendents spray

most or all the course when the sprayer leaves the shop. It's not that superintendents don't want to employ a precision disease management approach, it's just that they haven't had the tools to be confident in making those decisions. Fortunately, those tools are now being created.



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Our newest project is called 'Integrating alternative strategies to improve the sustainable management of dollar spot' and aims to assess a series of new technologies to improve precision management of dollar spot. This project is jointly funded by the GCSAA and WGCSA with additional funding support provided by the International Turfgrass Research Initiative. In fact, our study was one of only two studies chosen for funding by the GCSAA. The project is made up of 3 related objectives, each with its own study and research partners. Each objective is summarized below:

1. Assess autonomous mowers for their ability to suppress dollar spot.

a. Summary: This study is also being supported by the International Turfgrass Research Initiative. Autonomous mowers are becoming more common at golf courses in many parts of the world and have demonstrated numerous benefits. However, their ability to aid in suppressing dollar spot remains unclear. In the ROBO-GOLF-project conducted in Sweden between 2020 and 2022, autonomous-mown fairways had significantly higher turfgrass quality compared to traditional mowing, most likely due to the lower coverage of disease in the autonomous-mown fairway. They hypothesized that frequent dew removal done by the autonomous mower could become part of an integrated pest management program to reduce dollar spot or other diseases. A Kress autonomous mower will be used to remove dew on fairway research plots at the OJ Noer Turfgrass Research Facility, while Husqvarna mowers will be used at golf courses in

Continues on page 22

FIGURE 1:



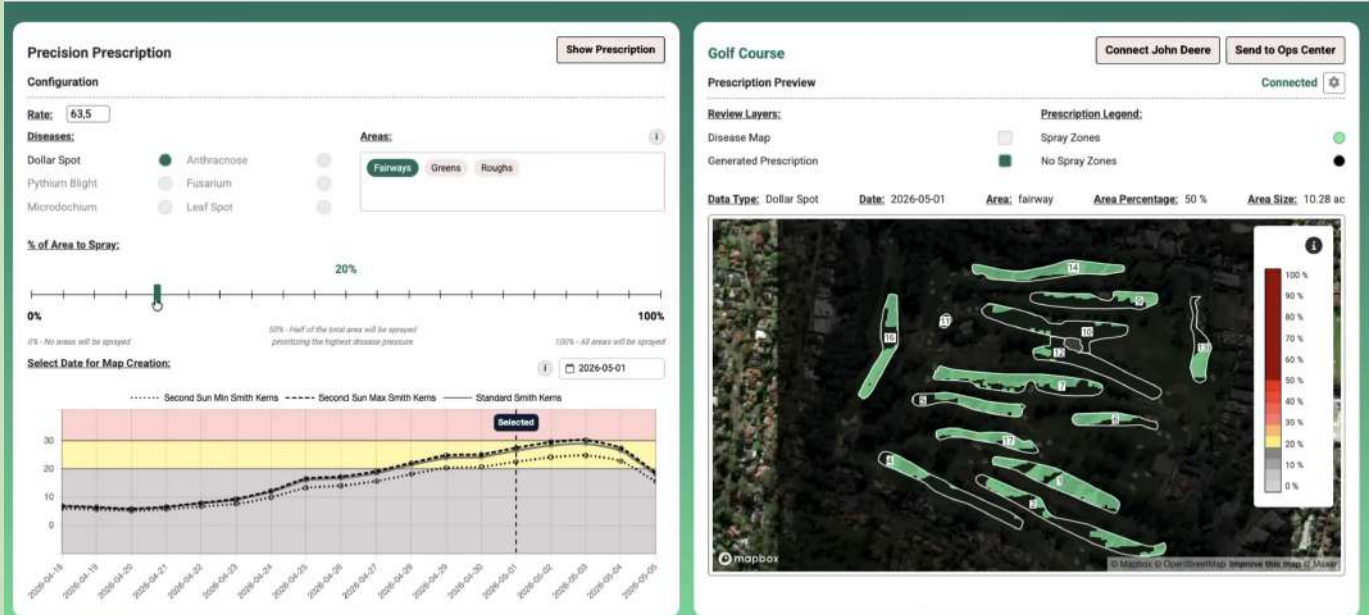
An autonomous Kress mower will be used to remove dew at different times during the night. Photo taken by Kurt Hockemeyer.

FIGURE 2:



Increasing leaf pH through products such as potassium bicarbonate can decrease dollar spot, but more work is needed to suppress the phytotoxic effects.

FIGURE 3:



Second Sun's software can pinpoint where on the golf course dollar spot pressure is highest, and we are utilizing their technology to determine the possible fungicide savings from spraying fungicides in a precision manner. This figure is a screenshot of a video available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L60VqIYOqTI>

Sweden and Germany. The mower will be programmed to activate at different times of the night/morning to disrupt fungal development at key moments. The following mower timings will be compared: (i) mowing at 10 AM (ii) mowing at midnight; (iii) mowing at 3 AM; (iv) mowing at 6 AM. The results from this study will allow us to recommend the most effective time to program your autonomous mowers for dollar spot suppression.

2. Integrate alternative dollar spot management strategies into a comprehensive management program (Figure 2 - see page 21).

a. Summary: There has been renewed interest in developing alternative products (biological, non-fungicidal, etc.) that suppress dollar spot. Previous research supported by the GCSAA and WGCSA has indicated that high pH products like potassium bicarbonate significantly suppress dollar spot but also cause unacceptable levels of phytotoxicity. We will build upon the previous research by combining potassium bicarbonate with pigments to mask the phytotoxicity while also testing lower rates of potassium bicarbonate with other alternative products with the goal of developing

reducing the overall amount of fungicide needed to provide acceptable dollar spot suppression. The following treatments will be tested in 2026 with each product being reapplied every 14 days during the growing season.

- a. Nontreated control
- b. Potassium bicarbonate at 1.7 lbs/M
- c. Potassium bicarbonate at 0.85 lbs/M
- d. Civitas Pre-Mixed at 8.0 fl oz/M
- e. Potassium bicarbonate at 1.7 lbs/M + Par at 0.37 fl oz/M
- f. Potassium bicarbonate at 0.85 lbs/M + Par at 0.37 fl oz/M
- g. Potassium bicarbonate at 1.7 lbs/M + Civitas Pre-Mixed at 8.0 fl oz/M
- h. Potassium bicarbonate at 0.85 lbs/M + Civitas Pre-Mixed at 8.0 fl oz/M

3. Incorporate new technology to utilize the Smith-Kerns model to precisely predict where on a golf course dollar spot outbreaks will occur (Figure 3 - see page 21).

a. Summary: The Smith-Kerns Dollar Spot Model has been an effective tool at predicting WHEN dollar spot outbreaks will

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occur. However, the model would be much more effective as a precision disease management tool by predicting WHERE dollar spot outbreaks will occur on a golf course. We conducted a pilot study with the USGA in 2020 that found it plausible to use small, portable weather stations to measure site specific dollar spot pressure on a golf course. However, the limitation at that time was the technology to predict dollar spot outbreaks over an entire golf course. In 2025 we conducted a small pilot experiment with the Danish company Second Sun, who developed a dashboard that could assess the Smith-Kerns dollar spot model on any golf course in the world using simulated weather modeling based on topographical mapping. The pilot conducted on University Ridge GC in Madison, WI indicated that there were several areas of the golf course that the software indicated should have had higher dollar spot pressure, which was corroborated by the local golf course superintendent based on his extensive experience.

In 2026 and 2027, we will expand this work with Second Sun to assess how their dashboard can be used to apply fungicides in a site-specific manner. The Second Sun dashboard will be used to select high, medium, and low dollar spot pressure areas at University Ridge GC, Blackhawk CC, and Hawks Landing GC in Madison, WI. Within each of these areas, applications of Secure Action at 0.5 fl oz per M will be made every time the dollar spot model reaches 20%. A non-treated control will also be included within each area to determine the overall accuracy of the site-specific prediction using Second Sun's dashboard. We will assess dollar spot control in each treatment and also the number of fungicide applications within each site to determine possible fungicide savings by spraying the highest-pressure areas the most and the lowest pressure areas the least.

We hope that these results will lead to more widespread implementation of precision disease management. We're deeply grateful to the funding provided by the GCSAA, WGCSA, and the International Turfgrass Research Initiative that is supporting this research. In addition, we're thankful to Kress, Husqvarna, and Second Sun for being such excellent research partners on this work. Stay tuned and visit Field Day on August 4th to keep up to date on this research! 🌱

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THE HOCKEMEYER SNOW MOLD PREDICTION MODEL V7.0: *The Follow Up*

By: Kurt Hockemeyer, Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab Manager

It's time to officially end snow mold season by tabulating the scores of the Koch Lab May Mania Snow Mold Showdown. Paul and I put out 5 trials across 4 locations. We looked at various weather data during the winter and used that to try to predict how much snow mold damage each site would have. Some of the data we use are snow depth, snow totals, air temps, soil temps, etc. Below is the scale I use for scoring.

Prediction Scale	Percent Snow Mold in Nontreated	Description
Snow Mold Utopia	75-100	Just about absolute perfect conditions for snow mold infection for a long time. Early snow cover, deep snow, all winter long.
That's a lot of snow mold	50-75	Might have been a short period where snow mold conditions were not ideal resulting in slightly less snow mold infection.
I've had better snow mold	25-50	Decent amount of infection, but Dr. Koch would not tweet a GIF of an excited puppy if he saw a picture of it on X.
"Baby Bear" snow mold	10-25	Just the perfect amount of snow mold. Enough that you feel like your snow mold app was worth it, but not a single sclerotia more.
What's snow mo'uld?	0-10	So little snow mold infection you can't even spell it right.

Marquette, MI

Kurt's Prediction: Snow Mold Utopia (75-100% disease in the nontreated plots)

Actual Disease: 45%- WRONG

Last year was a record low snow mold pressure in Marquette in my 10 years studying snow mold with Dr. Koch. I believe the official snow mold severity was at 56% last year. And this year has come in even lower at 45% (Figure 1). What's even more baffling is that Marquette had an insane amount of snow this winter: 280 inches!!! That's taller than 3.6 Kurts. Paul and I always talk about how sufficient snowfall is the most important factor for snow mold development. But this year has proven that it is not the only factor that matters. Paul and I don't have any definitive answers, but we did discuss some theories. One theory that Paul came up with was the snowmelt in Marquette came at a very rapid pace. Since snowmelt season was short lived, the pathogens did not have as much time for late season infection as they normally do. This brought about some discussions about how we can observe when snow mold infects turf during the winter, because that is something that we simply don't know. Maybe that will be a new project in the coming years. Also, the ground was so warm after snowmelt that the grass immediately started recovering and growing. From the picture that superintendent Craig Moore sent us on 4/13 saying the plot was clear to the day we rated the plots on 4/22, you can see significant recovery. This probably resulted in a 5-10% difference in disease severity in just 9 days.

Paul's Prediction: Snow Mold Utopia (75-100% disease in the nontreated plots) WRONG



Figure 1. Snow mold in Marquette was much less than expected. Marquett even had 288 inches of snow this winter!

Minocqua, WI

Kurt's Prediction: Snow Mold Utopia (75-100% disease in the nontreated plots)

Actual Disease: 99%- CORRECT

Minocqua got absolutely blasted by snow mold (Figure 2). Minocqua had a decent amount of snow cover, and it was significantly deep and consistent for most of the winter. This is what we expected to happen in Marquette. The study placed here also perfectly showed how delaying your fungicide application by just a week or two can drastically improve effectiveness. In Figure 1, you can see some treatments that are almost perfectly clean, but a few treatments that were applied 1-2 weeks earlier had significant breakthrough. Check out the 'Snow Mold Timing Model' report on the TDL website if you'd like more details.

Paul's Prediction: Snow Mold Utopia (75-100% disease in the nontreated plots) CORRECT



Figure 2. No mold infection in Minocqua was very high. Study results were excellent showing how timing and fungicide application impacts efficiency.

Wausau, WI

Kurt's Prediction: I've had better snow mold (25-50% disease in the nontreated plot)

Actual Disease: 32.5%- CORRECT

Wausau also had a decent amount of snowfall this winter that I felt was only marginally less than Minocqua. I thought there might be a chance that Wausau blows us away this year, but we have consistently been disappointed with how much snow mold they get there. So, I kept my prediction a little bit on the low side and it paid off. Perhaps there was snow cover, but maybe not enough to keep the ground perfectly insulated, resulting in reduced infection by the snow mold pathogens (Figure 3).

Paul's Prediction: That's a lot of snow mold (50-75% disease in the nontreated plots) WRONG



Figure 3. A decent amount of snow mold infection in Wausau. Most of the treatments were completely clean.

Continues on page 26

Madison, WI

Kurt's Prediction: That's a lot of snow mold (50-75% disease in the nontreated COVERED plots)

Actual Disease: 93.3%-WRONG

Madison had close to average snowfall totals: 50" vs 52" on average. But most of that came in the first half of winter. From Thanksgiving to Jan 15, Madison had 36" of snow. But from Jan 15 to Mar 14, there was only 5" of snow. And the last bit of snow came after March 15. Snow depths were minimal or nonexistent in early January and late February. These midwinter periods with lack of snow depth likely resulted in soil temperatures dropping well below freezing. Figure 4 shows snow mold pressure when we used pink insulation boards. We use these boards to simulate the insulating properties of snow which create the ideal conditions for snow mold infection. Figure 5 shows snow mold pressure on plots not covered with tarps or insulation boards.

Paul's Prediction: Snow Mold Utopia (75-100% disease in the nontreated COVERED plots)-CORRECT

Kurt's Prediction: "Baby bear" snow mold (10-25% disease in the nontreated NONCOVERED plots)

Actual Disease: 16.3% - CORRECT

Paul's Prediction: What's snow mo'u'ld? (0-10% disease in the nontreated NONCOVERED plots) WRONG

That brings us to the end of our snow mold locations. Let's tally up the score and see who wins between Paul and I.

Kurt: 3 points out of a possible 5

Paul: 2 points out of a possible 5

Congratulations to everyone who picked me to win their May Mania bracket. We've finally returned to decent levels of snow mold infection across the board, at least for one year. Next year may be a different story. In addition to being snow mold nerds and just geeking out every time we see snow mold, Paul and I hope for snow mold every year so that we can get viable data. Getting viable data allows us to pass those results on to the turf managers who actually need to know intricate details of controlling snow mold. When we don't get snow mold, that is still technically a result, but it's a different kind of result. The question then shifts from "What do I need to do to control snow mold?" to "Will I even get snow mold this winter?" And this brings us back to why I write this article every year. Figuring out who will even get snow mold is going to become a more important issue.



Figure 4. Covering plots with pink insulation boards resulted in very high levels of snow mold infection. These boards 'supercharge' natural levels of infection. This year they increased natural infection from 16% to 93%!



Figure 5. Noncovered plots had modicum of snow mold, about 16% disease on average. Early winter exposure resulted in low levels of disease.

As I write this article, I see fertilizers being applied and irrigation being flung. We are well on our way to summer. The long range forecast is for a "super El Nino" this summer. Who knows what that means, but it doesn't sound fun. Good luck to everyone this summer. 🌱

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PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, NICKEL FOR YOUR GREENS?

By: Doug Soldat, Dept of Soil and Environmental Sciences, UW-Madison

Nickel is one of the seventeen elements required for plant growth. You could be forgiven if that comes as news to you, as nickel is required in such low quantities that it wasn't discovered to be an essential element until the 1980s. Like most micronutrients, soils often have enough nickel to meet plant needs, and therefore fertilization is not required. The reason plants need nickel is related to nitrogen cycling. When plants (and animals) make amino acids, urea accumulates as a byproduct. Left alone, the urea would eventually build up to toxic levels. Animals prevent urea toxicity by peeing. Plants prevent it by recycling the urea into the more useful form of ammonium. This process is executed by the enzyme urease, and nickel plays a critical role in the function of urease.

Until recently, there were zero studies looking at nickel fertilization of turfgrass. Today, there are only a few. Researchers at Clemson University documented increased growth when nickel was supplemented with urea compared to urea alone. They also have documented increased urease activity in the turf treated with nickel. Clemson researchers

have also established toxicity levels in warm and cool season grasses, with annual bluegrass appearing to be more sensitive to nickel than creeping bentgrass. The authors caution against using nickel to suppress annual bluegrass until more is known. Even if you wanted to be the first to experiment with this Poa control method, you'd first have to find a fertilizer containing nickel. As of press time, none exist that I am aware of.

In 2024, my colleague Phil Barak and his former student Dustin Sawyer published a scientific paper that demonstrated that soils in WI appear to be uniquely low in nickel, and many have the potential to be deficient based on an analysis of nearly 38,000 soil samples. This was all I needed to start studying turf response to nickel at the OJ Noer Facility. This article will explore our recently concluded two year study of nickel applications to a sand-based creeping bentgrass putting green. We are also running a trial on a silt loam bentgrass fairway, and I plan to report those results of that trial in a future edition of The Grass Roots.

Continues on page 30



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What we did

Our experiment ran from 2024 through 2025 on a USGA-spec bentgrass green at the OJ Noer, mowed daily Monday through Friday at 0.125 inches. We compared eight treatments in a randomized complete block design with four replications. Treatments included an unfertilized control, N alone (0.2 lbs N/M as UAN), N combined with either a low (0.016 oz Ni/M) or high rate of nickel (0.064 oz Ni/M), urea combined with a nickel-free micronutrient package at the label rate, and then each of those last three repeated without any urea. The urea, nickel, and micronutrients were applied every other week, with ten applications over each growing

season. We regularly measured turf color and density using a reflectance meter (NDRE), assessed visual quality on the standard 1 to 9 scale (6 being minimally acceptable to a discerning superintendent), collected clipping yield, and quantified tissue nickel and nitrogen content.

What we found

The headline result is straightforward: nickel alone did not improve turf quality, color, or growth (Table 1). Plots receiving only nickel (regardless of rate) were statistically and visually indistinguishable from the unfertilized control across both years. Unsurprisingly, all four urea-containing treatments consistently outperformed the control (Figure

Treatment	NDRE Color Index	Visual Quality	Clipping Mass	Tissue Ni	Tissue N
	(greater is greener)	1-9 (9 is best)	g m ⁻²	ppm	%
Control	0.296 b	5.5 b	3.6 b	1.3 e	3.5 b
N only (0.2 lbs N/M)	0.352 a	7.2 a	6.0 a	2.5 e	4.2 a
N and Low Ni	0.356 a	7.3 a	6.0 a	8.1 c	4.3 a
N and High Ni	0.353 a	7.2 a	6.1 a	27.6 a	4.3 a
N and Micronutrients	0.356 a	7.4 a	5.4 a	0.7 e	4.3 a
Low Ni only	0.303 b	5.7 b	3.4 b	4.8 d	3.5 b
High Ni only	0.297 b	5.5 b	4.1 b	17.7 b	3.5 b
Micronutrients only	0.299 b	5.7 b	4.0 b	2.5 e	3.5 b

Table 1. Average NDRE, visual quality, and clipping mass across all dates of the study. Results followed by different letters within each column are statistically different according to Fisher’s Least Significant Difference (alpha=0.05).

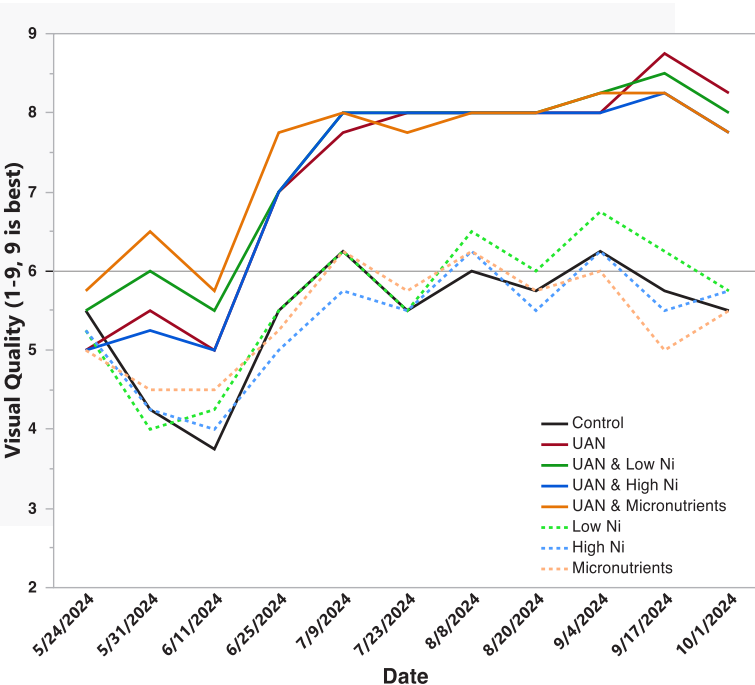


Figure 1. Bentgrass visual quality as affected by the treatments in the study in the 2024 season. UAN was the N source and was applied at 0.2 lbs N/M every two weeks.

1). Urea-treated plots averaged a visual quality score of 7.2–7.4 compared to 5.5 for the control, and NDRE color values were also greater for urea treated plots. The micronutrient-only treatment similarly failed to separate from the control.

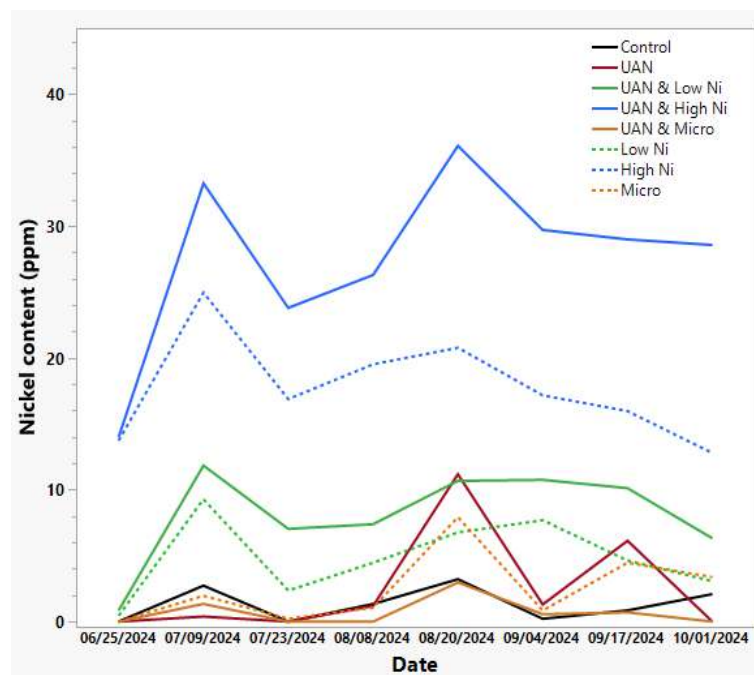
Even though the visual and growth responses to nickel were nonexistent, it was clear that the nickel was getting into the turf. The treatment receiving the high nickel plus nitrogen treatment accumulated up to 36 ppm nickel in clippings during peak season, compared to about 1 ppm in the control and urea-only plots (Figure 2). The low nickel plus urea treatment landed in between, around 7–11 ppm nickel in the tissue. This shows that the turf was actively taking up the nickel we applied, even if that uptake wasn't translating into visible benefits. It also confirms that the uptake is enhanced when nitrogen is applied. The nickel-

only treatment had lower tissue nickel than their nitrogen-paired counterparts, suggesting nitrogen fertilization facilitates nickel uptake. This is even evident in the control vs N-only treatment. Dr. Wayne Kussow called this effect nutrient demand. He taught his students that if you want to get more potassium or phosphorus into your turf, apply it with nitrogen! It is nice to see it hold true for nickel as well.

What does this mean for you?

Our two-year results on a sand-based bentgrass green suggest that nickel fertilization, applied alone or alongside urea at the rates we tested, does not provide a measurable agronomic benefit. The turf took the nickel up readily enough, but color, quality, and growth all came down to whether nitrogen was applied, not whether nickel accompanied it. This doesn't close the book on nickel for turfgrass managers. Recall that Phil Barak's soil survey work identified many Wisconsin soils as potentially nickel-deficient. Our putting green sits on a sand-based USGA root zone, not native soil, which limits how well it represents field conditions across the state. The fairway trial on a Batavia silt loam at the OJ Noer Facility is ongoing, and I'll report those results in a future issue. Stay tuned for more, and swing by the Wisconsin Turfgrass Field Day on August 4th to have a look at the plots for yourself! 🌱

Figure 2. Nickel content of turfgrass tissue as affected by treatment from the 2024 season.



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NEWS FROM THE NOER

By: Dave Marach, Superintendent, OJ Noer Turfgrass Research Facility

Late winter and early spring in Wisconsin are, and always will be, the whole spectrum of weather in a very short time span, even in a matter of hours. We had a spring blizzard with some of us getting around 30" of snow, massive snow melt, higher than average temperatures, and rains that caused flooding in several parts of the state. Here we are in early May, as I write this update, with freeze warnings and snow flurries in some areas. Let's hope the roller coaster continues going up for the next few months (but not too high).

It is hard to believe that the WGCSA golf events have already begun with the Super Pro in Kohler, the Border Battle in La Crosse, and the upcoming June golf outing at The Legend at Brandybook. The association once again has a great lineup of courses on the calendar, and I encourage you check them out this summer.

Also don't forget to mark your calendars for the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association's (WTA) Field Day as well on August 4th to see the research from Doug, Paul and their research staff. It will be a good opportunity to learn and see the latest about their research, equipment and more. New this year are plans to have equipment demos that we think will be a hit with the vendors and attendees.

Earlier this year, the WTA Happy Hour with the Turf Docs was hosted by South Hills in Fond du Lac after the WGCSA's spring business meeting. Questions for the Docs ranged

from what type of research was planned for the year, how much less fungicides are needed new varieties of bentgrass and all the way to their drink orders. Thank you to the South Hills staff for once again hosting this event and the vendors that sponsored the Happy Hour with the Turf Docs.

During the Happy Hour, Dr. Doug Soldat also recognized Dr. Paul Koch for being selected to lead an International Turfgrass Research Initiative funded project on Dollar Spot. Paul was selected from turfgrass scientists from across the globe to lead three other researchers from Norway, United Kingdom and Germany to study alternative treatments and improve sustainability of management of Dollar Spot. Congratulations to Dr. Koch and his three other colleagues.

2025 was another great year of research, and the research staff could not have done it without our gracious vendors. We would like to thank all the companies and people that continue to donate time and materials to support the OJ Noer and its goals. With your help, the research you support will continue to lead the turf industry now and into the future. All of us at the Noer thank you! 🍀

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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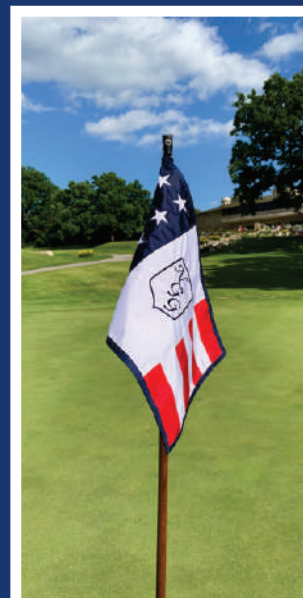
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Eric's new shop may have created a bit of envy among the attendees, and he was gracious enough to offer his insights on the autonomous mowers that Pleasant View implemented in the 2025 season.

AUTONOMOUS MOWERS FOR EMS

By: Jake Schneider, Executive Director and Editor

Over 30 equipment managers (EMs) and dealers gathered at Pleasant View Golf Course in mid-February for a day-long seminar on autonomous mowers. Throughout the morning, they were treated to presentations regarding equipment from Kress, John Deere, and Toro. It goes without saying that the technology is rapidly advancing and making sure that EMs stay up to speed with the capabilities and mechanical needs that these new mowers have is imperative. A special thanks to Pleasant View EM, Eric Meinholz, and superintendent, Matt Statz, for welcoming the group to their terrific facility that opened last fall and still had that new shop smell to it. 🍃



After morning donuts and coffee, Chris Goeben from Clesens started the day with his presentation on the technology behind the fully autonomous line of Kress mowers that they have in their product catalogue.

To the sponsors who provided donuts, coffee, and lunch for the group and allowed for another totally FREE seminar for member EMs!

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Daniel Lapinski, integrated solutions with Revels Turf and Tractor, was next up, and he discussed the precision technology products from John Deere along with the JD Link Connectivity and Operations Center.



Joe Etten and Grant Rundblade from Reinders tagged teamed an overview of the latest and greatest autonomous options from Toro which included a first-hand look at their new triplex.

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HUGE TURNOUT FOR BREWERS EVENT

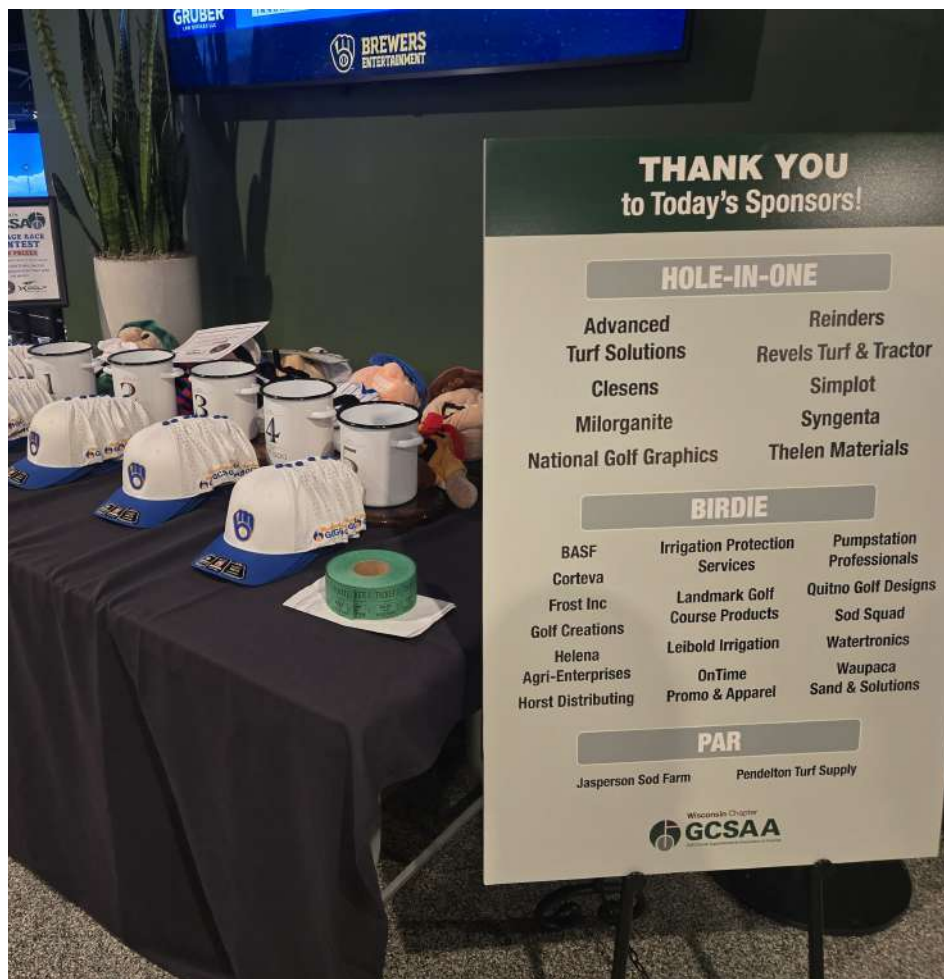
By: Jake Schneider, Editor and Chapter Executive

Although they weren't in attendance this year, the WGCSA is forever grateful to Tim Wegner and Jon Canavan for leading us to the promised land that is X-Golf at American Family Field. As a cold wind whipped across the parking lots before the game, my mind harkened back to the years when we were holding our tailgate in one of the many outdoor pavilions and how everyone would have been freezing their behinds off had we been there on April 1 instead of inside the cozy confines of the stadium. But, alas, nearly 120 WGCSA members and guests had no such worries as we gathered to watch the Brew Crew take on the Rays in my favorite event of the year.

It's been said before, and I'll say it again—this is the best deal in baseball thanks to our awesome industry partners (see them listed below). For a measly \$35, everyone got a game ticket, an all-you-can-eat buffet, two drinks, and sim golf on one of the many screens that overlook the left field corner. Oh, and everyone who registered early also received a complimentary WGCSA branded Brewers hat. If you haven't been to one of these before, be sure to join us next year.

Aside from the great camaraderie, food, beverages, and golf, the home team also put on a show. Thanks to a strong start from Jacob "Miz" Misorowski and a six-run 8th inning, the Crew took the win by a score of 8-2. A couple other winners that day were Josh Schaefer from The Wisconsin Country Club and Ben Peterson from West Bend County Club who correctly guessed the Sausage Race champion had their names drawn from the bucket for some nice prizes that X-Golf handed out.

Thanks again to everyone who came out and especially to our sponsors for a fun, cheap day at the ballpark:



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SAFETY FIRST ON THE COURSE

By: Shane Conroy, Great Lakes Regional Representative, GCSAA

Golf course safety is not just a compliance requirement, it is a culture that starts with leadership and is reinforced daily through training, communication, and example. For superintendents, balancing course conditions with crew wellbeing requires a proactive and structured approach both on and off the course.

On the course, situational awareness is critical. Crews operate heavy machinery, navigate uneven terrain, work near water hazards, and face a variety of weather conditions. Establishing clear protocols such as proper equipment operation procedures and lightning evacuation plans can significantly reduce risk. Morning briefings are a simple but powerful tool to set expectations, identify potential hazards, and reinforce best practices. Personal protective equipment, including hearing and eye protection, should always be treated as mandatory rather than optional.

Off the course, safety extends to agronomy centers and storage areas. Fuel storage and equipment upkeep all require strict adherence to safety standards. Proper labeling, accessible Safety Data Sheets, and routine audits create a safer working environment and help prevent incidents before they occur.

Training new crew members is where long-term safety habits are formed. A phased onboarding process can be more effective than overwhelming new hires on their first day. Begin with core safety principles, then gradually introduce equipment and responsibilities under close supervision.

Superintendents can also lean on industry leading resources from GCSAA. The new Video Training Series provide practical, easy-to-follow instructions on equipment use and safe practices, making them an excellent complement to in-house training. In addition, the Greenkeeper Certificate Program offers structured education that helps employees who want to take their skill set to the next level build foundational knowledge while demonstrating a commitment to professionalism and safety.

Consistency remains the foundation of any successful safety program. Regular refreshers, seasonal updates, and brief team discussions keep safety top of mind. When superintendents lead by example and prioritize their team's wellbeing, they create an environment where both people and course conditions can thrive. ✓





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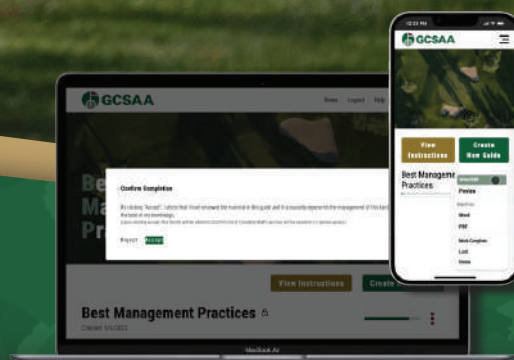


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PUTTING GREEN CONSTRUCTION SERIES

PART 2: SANDS, AMENDMENTS, AND SOIL PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE PARAMETERS

This is part 2 of a 4-part series that covers how to build a USGA variable depth green and select a rootzone and gravel with optimal performance characteristics.

By: Adam Moeller is President of Moeller Consulting and Director of Agronomy, North America with Turfgrass®, a global agronomy consultancy and golf course project management company.

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In part 1 of the putting green construction series, we covered the benefits of building variable depth greens, how it's done in the field, and some FAQs about the method. In part 2 of the series, we'll dive into rootzone mix selection, with a specific emphasis on sands, amendments, and soil physical performance parameters.

Coarse Sands

Most modern greens are built using sands that fall within the USGA specifications. These specifications are purposefully wide so USGA greens can be utilized around the world with different climates, water quality, and locally available materials. If we think of the USGA sand particle size specifications as a spectrum ranging from coarse to fine, many favor rapidly draining coarser sands given the agronomic and playability issues that occur when greens stay too wet. However, there are associated challenges that must be considered with coarse sands. For instance, rapidly draining coarse sands tend to have less capillary porosity, which means they can be droughty and costly to maintain. Finding a suitable topdressing sand that is compatible with the underlying rootzone can also be challenging. In situations where frequent rains are common or water quality is poor, sand selection is often driven by the desire to have rapid drainage and moisture retention is secondary. Flushing salts can still be accomplished with finer sands on the low end of the drainage spectrum – i.e., 6 inches per hour, so the desire to utilize coarse sands to maximize drainage isn't always warranted.

Fine Sands

Sands that fall on the finer end of the USGA spectrum tend to have higher water holding properties and slower infiltration compared to coarse sands. However, fine sands or even sands slightly finer than the USGA specifications can still make for an excellent rootzone. Murphy et al. (2001) reported that turfgrass establishment and turf quality was improved when rootzones

constructed with medium-fine sands compared to medium-coarse sand. More recent research from Rutgers (Wang et al., 2020) demonstrated that putting greens topdressed with a medium-fine sand, which was slightly outside of USGA specifications, produced better overall turf quality than plots topdressed with a medium-coarse sand because

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of the slightly increased moisture holding capacity. This isn't suggesting the particle sizes required for USGA greens won't yield acceptable results, but rather that increasing the amount of fine sand particles into the rootzone while maintaining a reasonable percentage of medium and coarse sands may result in a better performing green.

In addition to holding slightly more moisture, rootzones with a closer balance between fine, medium, and coarse sands will raise the coefficient of uniformity (CU). The CU indicates the uniformity of the sand particle sizes of a rootzone. Mixes with a low CU have most particles within a narrow size range and could yield unstable, soft playing surfaces while rootzones with a high CU will pack, potentially providing firmer surfaces. Most courses with a strong desire to produce firm conditions favor rootzones with a CU between 2.5 and 3.5. Rootzones with a CU between 1.8 and 2.5 can provide firm conditions but may require significantly limiting soil moisture compared to rootzones with higher CU values. Rootzones with wide distribution of particle sizes, particularly those with more fine sand and very fine sand along with a reasonable percentage of medium and coarse sands are garnering interest for rootzone mixtures because they have a higher CU.

The USGA specifications call for no more than 20% of fine sand particles (0.15 – 0.25 mm) and no more than 5% of the very fine sand particles (0.05 – 0.15 mm). Considering the

research conducted by Jim Murphy and field observations, it's clear that in the right climate we can use sands that have more very fine and fine sands in a rootzone mix so long as there is a reasonable balance between medium and coarse sands. If you are considering using a sand that is finer, you'll want to ensure adequate surface drainage exists.

Dirty Sands

Some university soil scientists and superintendents feel we can even increase the amount of allowable silt and clay in putting green rootzones. Dirty mixtures generally describe sands that have more silt, clay, and very fine sand compared to sands that meet USGA specifications. For instance, a 6-2-2 or 7-2-1 sand-soil-peat mixture are often described as dirty sands. These mixes have performed well when used to backfill sand channel drainage trenches and green expansion projects in native soil putting greens, so there is increased interest of their use as a rootzone mix. The caveat with these types of materials is they can vary significantly in their particle size analysis, infiltration rate, silt/clay content, and moisture retention (Hummel, 2014). The benefits in moisture retention, a high CU, and reasonable drainage are intriguing. For dirty mixtures to be successful, it is paramount that internal drainage is installed into the subgrade on 6-foot centers – e.g., sand channel drainage. In these instances, the higher capillary porosity and slower infiltration of a dirty mix

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probably offset the value of a gravel layer.

More research is needed in this area to better understand where the true limits of fine sand particles and silt/clay exist, but there are clear benefits to using sands on the fine side of the spectrum that might have been previously eliminated from consideration. Obviously, there is a point where too many fines will contribute to excess moisture holding which is why it is important to work closely with a skilled agronomist and accredited lab to evaluate sand options.

Amendments

Peat

Sphagnum and reed sedge peats have been the industry standard amendment for decades given their affordability and predictability in increasing water and nutrient retention. However, there are growing concerns over the carbon footprint associated with harvesting peat, supply, and to a lesser extent the potential for degradation over time. Ultimately, the volume of peats blended into a base sand varies, but most have utilized an 85:15 or 90:10 ratio for projects in the last decade.

Inorganic Amendments

Inorganic amendments can provide similar nutrient and water retention benefits as peats without some of the concerns associated with peat. In some instances, inorganic amendments have been preferred because they can raise water retention without decreasing infiltration. Another frequently cited benefit of inorganic amendments is quality control and having availability worldwide. Inorganic amendments seem to be most utilized at 5-10% by volume.

Alternatives

Compost and biochar are other amendments that have been used for amending putting green rootzones, though biochar has been used less often. Quality control and consistency with these products can be a limiting factor depending upon the source and amount of material to be used. That said, when amended in small quantities, usually less than 10 percent by volume, they can be valuable additions to a rootzone mixture to increase water and nutrient retention and microbial activity. Long-term, wood-based biochar products seem like a promising amendment, but continued research is needed before widespread use can be expected. Some biochar experts speculate that it would just be a matter of experimentation and time to develop specifications for the right processing of the material.

Soil

Amending sands is common to increase water and nutrient retention of sands. Certain amendments may also help

increase the CU, especially a small amount of soil. USGA greens allow for a soil to be added to sand so long as the final mixture meets the performance criteria in the specifications. The important thing to consider when using soil in a rootzone mixture is that it is a screened sandy loam soil. Quality control issues have been cited often by superintendents that wanted to use soil to amend sands but couldn't ultimately find a source that would work for their project. While soil isn't as common of an amendment, some superintendents have had success blending 5-10% soil by volume into a base sand alongside 5-10% organic or inorganic amendments – e.g., 85:10:5 or 80:10:10.

Rootzone Performance Indicators

Working with an accredited lab is critical to understand the performance indicators of potential rootzone mixtures and how the putting green will perform over time. Arguably the most valuable performance indicators are porosity, infiltration, water release curves, and CU. The CU was discussed earlier, so the remaining sections will cover porosity, infiltration, and water release curves.

Table 1. Recommended performance indicators for USGA greens.

Performance Indicators	Recommended Range
Coefficient of Uniformity (D60/D10)	
Rootzones with peat	1.8 - 3.5
Rootzones with inorganic amendments	2.0 - 3.5
Pure sand rootzones	2.0 - 3.5
Total Porosity	35% - 55%
Air-Filled Porosity	15% - 30%
Capillary Porosity	15% - 25%
Infiltration Rate	≥ 6 inches/hour

Porosity

Total porosity, air-filled porosity, and capillary porosity influence water retention characteristics, gas exchange, and infiltration rate. Like particle sizes, the USGA specifications provide a broad range for total porosity, air-filled porosity, and capillary porosity. When examining rootzones with different porosity characteristics, consider local climate and rainfall patterns. When rainfall occurs occasionally, rootzones with a lower total porosity, higher air-filled, and medium capillary porosity are likely to provide the best balance of moisture retention and irrigation requirements. For arid climates, higher capillary porosity and lower air-filled pores makes sense while the opposite would be ideal in climates with frequent, heavy rains.

Infiltration

Superintendents have long recognized the importance of having adequate infiltration. However, there has been an overemphasis on this performance indicator. A minimum

Continues on page 44

infiltration rate of 6-inches per hour is recommended for USGA greens. We know the infiltration rate will slow down by as much as 74% after grow-in and as a green ages (Gaussoin et al., 2007), so selecting rootzone mixes with infiltration rates exceeding 25 inches per hour can be appealing. Unfortunately, this can result in the need for daily irrigation and droughty conditions. An important part of the research cited above is that while infiltration slowed down over time, it remained acceptable because of sound agronomic practices. Rootzones with infiltration rates between 15 and 20 inches per hour are adequate for most putting greens. However, the infiltration rate doesn't tell the full story of how a mix is going to perform. For instance, two potential rootzones might have a similar infiltration rate, but they could have drastically different water-holding properties. This is where water release curve data and capillary porosity values become more valuable than infiltration rate data alone.

Water Release Curves

Capillary porosity values indicate the water-holding potential of a rootzone mix, but it doesn't tell you how much of the water is available to the plants (Hummel, 2014). A water release curve predicts the plant-available water in a rootzone. A water release curve is helpful when trying to determine if

native sands can be used to build greens. This test also can identify the best depth to install each rootzone material, which is particularly important when building USGA greens with variable depths or using dirty mixes over sand channel drainage. This topic will be covered in Part 3 of this series.

Conclusion

Ultimately, selecting a rootzone mix needs to be site specific. Climate, water quality, surface conditioning expectations, labor, and overall maintenance and construction budget need to be considered. The USGA specifications for rootzone mixes are a proven and well researched, but it's important to recognize they are intentionally broad. Using rootzone mix on the fine end of the USGA spectrum, or even slightly outside of those specifications might yield better performing greens. Lastly, to best understand the performance characteristics of different rootzone mixes, build a test green. The soil physical test results of the rootzone mixtures can be directly compared to the field performance, providing the most actionable data on selecting the best possible rootzone mix for your site.

Part 3 of this series will cover the often-debated topic – the gravel layer. ✓

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LAST IN, FIRST PLACE AT THE SUPER PRO

By: Jake Schneider, Editor and Executive Director



The crew from Washington County, including Mike Anderson (far left) and Dave Jahnke (second from right) were all smiles.

After being on life support a few years ago, the Super Pro event held by the Wisconsin PGA in conjunction with the WGCSA is officially thriving once again. For the second year in a row, the attendance capacity was reached well before the registration deadline, and we even had five teams on the waiting list. This year's world-class venue



Ben Rudolph (far right) from Premier Golf and Utility Vehicles presenting the Division 1 winning hardware to Chad Grimm (far left) and Emmet Herb from Blackhawk Country Club.

at the Irish Course at Whistling Straits certainly helped the cause, and we're very thankful to the folks at Kohler for hosting us on what turned out to be a pretty decent day in late April.

The morning hours in the Sheboygan area didn't have anyone dying to get on the golf course as an unexpectedly cold rain lingered over the area during the morning hours, but as the groups made their way to the first tee after a hearty lunch, the rain stopped to everyone's delight. With little wind, the afternoon ended up being about as good as you can hope for along the shores of Lake Michigan at that time of the year, and Grant Davey's team had the course in excellent shape with green speeds that seemed unaffected by the moisture.

Accordingly, we had some low scores in the traditional Chapman Alternate shot format, and the winning squad of Chad Grimm and Emmet Herb from Blackhawk Country Club for Division 1, which was composed of Supers and Pros from the same facility, was the last team off the aforementioned waiting list. Chad and Emmet shot a net 66.8 which just edged out last year's champs from South Hills Golf and Country Club, Jim VanHerwynen and Luke Scharf.

Over in Division two, which was composed of all other teams that didn't fit the Division 1 classification, the day's title sponsors from Premier Golf and Utility Vehicles (and WGCSA members) Chad Sandee and Darrin DiChristopher took the title with an impressive net score of 66. Coming in second in Division 2 were two more WGCSA members in Mike Bremmer from Simplot and Gunnar Stapp from Hidden Glenn.

Thanks to everyone who made the day possible and especially to Joe Stadler and Chris Hoel with the Wisconsin PGA who handle the day's planning and logistics. Premier Golf and Utility Vehicles has been a constant supporter of the event, too, and we are grateful for their continued support. Let's do it again next year—and don't forget to sign up early! 🍀



WGCSA President Garrett Luck (left) presents a framed flag to Chris Zugel, Directory of Agronomy for the Kohler Courses, as a token of appreciation for his team's work for the event.



Randy DuPont looks on as Todd Marten laces a drive.



Brandon Nebl stuck one close on his tee shot into the par 3 6th hole.



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With the Mississippi River Valley in the distance, views abound amongst the coulees and bluff that define the La Crosse area.

MIXED RESULTS AT THE BORDER BATTLE

By: Jake Schneider, Editor and Executive Director

The 4th annual friendly competition against our frenemies from Minnesota was not a particularly close match as the squad from the Gopher State rolled over the Badgers to the tune of 14-3 in the fourball format, but it would be easy to argue that none of the nearly 80 golfers who teed it up that day at La Crosse Country Club lost anything (besides a few golf balls). My theory is that it was too nice of a day for team Wisconsin as the nearly cloudless skies, calm winds, comfortable temperatures, and beautiful surroundings had us focused on enjoying each other's company more than worrying about grinding away in a golfing competition. In order to reclaim the prestigious cup cutter trophy, we just need the cold wet weather from 2025 that had us dialed in, but I, for one, would rather take one loss after another if the conditions for future Border Battles match those of 2026.

Aside from the gorgeous conditions and wonderful golf course that superintendent Greg Willman and his staff, that includes Dustin Klonecki, Dan Scow, and Gabe Carter, prepared for us, we had delicious food and drinks both during the round and



Everyone had a great time quenching their thirst and hunger in the relaxed confines of the La Crosse CC shop after the round.

after thanks to our industry partners that included Helena, Jasperson Sod Farm, Spartan Turf Products, and Waupaca Sand and Solutions. Andy Morris from BASF also generously manned the grill while everyone was playing and cooked up some top-notch post-round grub that folks enjoyed in Greg's shop while we handed out a few hole awards as follows:

- Closest to the pin on Hole 5: Justin Bicek
- Closest to the pin on Hole 7: Steve Van Natta
- Longest drive on Hole 8: Ben Johnson
- Longest putt on Hole 9: Justin Bicek
- Longest drive on Hole 11: Tim Rainey
- Closest to the pin on Hole 13: Dillon Berg
- Closest to the pin on Hole 15: Steve Van Natta
- Longest Putt on Hole 18: Andy Sire

Thank you to everyone who made this a truly great event along the state's western border. In true roll-with-the-punches form that superintendents and their staff have to navigate on a daily basis, Greg and his crew were dealing with a major pumpstation problem on the day of the battle, but aside from that unfortunate ordeal, I think that most would be happy with a repeat of this year's match every year even if the Minnesotans retain the championship. After all, they don't know the feeling of celebrating the Lombardi Trophy so this seems like a small sacrifice on our part! 🍀



Thank you to (from L to R), Gabe Carter, Dustin Klonecki, Dan Scow, and Greg Willman for their wonderful hospitality and even better golf course!

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BADGER STATE TURF CLIPPINGS

The **Tristans** from Sand Valley achieved their Assistant Superintendent Certification Series (ASCS) through GCSAA at end of 2025, and congrats to **Misters Jehnsen** and **Wood** on earning this designation!

And, in 2026, we've also had **Dustin Klonecki** from La Crosse Country Club and **Brad Young** from West Bend Country Club attain their ASCS certificates. Great job, gentlemen.

When he's not maintaining an awesome golf course in southern Wisconsin, you might find **Jon Hegge** officiating a track meet as he's done for nearly 50 years. Earlier in 2026, Jon's excellence and dedication to the sport was acknowledged when he was inducted into the Wisconsin Track Coaches Association Hall of Fame. In 2002 and 2003, Jon was the starter for the State Meet and has been the Meet Referee there since 2014. Congratulations, Jon!

On March 16, 2026, **SiteOne®Landscape Supply** purchased the Reinders Landscape Contractors business, consisting of res / com irrigation, agronomics, holiday lighting, landscape lighting, and landscape supplies, with twelve (12) locations across Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, and Minnesota. These operations will continue under the Reinders name as part of SiteOne ownership.

Because of this acquisition, the Commercial Equipment and Golf Irrigation business and related allied lines of Ventrac, Foley, Salsco, Harper, Wessex, Lely and other ancillary equipment, will now be sold through **Spartan Turf Products LLC**, formerly a subsidiary of Reinders Inc. and now owned

by Craig Reinders. This combines Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin equipment and golf irrigation territories under one brand name.

Congrats to **Jim VanHerwynen** on achieving 25 years of CGCS certification through GCSAA! Aside from hosting our annual Spring Business Meeting and certifying other superintendents, Jim is frequent attendee of WGCSA events and true ambassador for the profession.

After spending several years as an assistant at Blue Mound Golf and Country Club, **Matt McVay** is now the superintendent at of Uncle Henry's Backyard which is the new and very fun-looking short course at the Club at Lac La Belle. Congrats, Matt!

Jeff Borowski, equipment manager extraordinaire at Erin Hills, has completed his Equipment Management Certificate Program Levels 1 & 2 and is most certainly on his way to becoming one of the state's next Certified Turfgrass Equipment Managers through GCSAA. Keep up the awesome work, Jeff!

With **Lee Suwalski's** promotion to Director of Grounds at Abbey Springs, his previous job as superintendent opened, and he didn't have to look far to find his man in **Matt Sinclair** who has been in the Lake Geneva area for several years.

Jake Suelflow migrated his workplace south in the great Milwaukee area and is now the assistant superintendent at Racine Country Club. Good luck with the new gig, Jake! ✓

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

- **Corey Christensen**, University Ridge Golf Course, Equipment Manager
- **Tyler Clapsaddle**, Racine Country Club, Student
- **Tyler Dusso**, SentryWorld, Assistant Superintendent
- **Brady Grambsch**, Kestrel Ridge Golf Course, Student
- **Matthew Phillips**, Milwaukee County Courses, Student
- **Seth Plier**, Blackwolf Run, Student
- **Kyle Rosenberg**, Waupaca Sand and Solutions, VP of Sales
- **Evan Sedlacek**, Hawks Landing Golf Club, Assistant Superintendent
- **Jeff Solberg**, Cole Acres GC and Darlington GC, Superintendent

If you have news to share regarding your personal life (big achievement, trophy buck, marriage, baby) or your professional life, please send it my way! It's always fun to hear what WGCSA members are up to.

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1. Please update your online profile with your current information.
We use this database to properly address the magazine and send emails.
2. Membership classifications can only be updated by Jake.
If yours needs to be corrected, please email him at jschneider@wgcsa.com
3. If you would like to renew multiple people at your facility in one easy invoice, contact Jake with the information and he will be happy to help.
4. Any new*, dues-paying member for 2026 will have the option to attend one of our golf events free of charge!
5. Each vendor need only have one Affiliate membership;
all others in the same company can be Associate members.

Thank you for your membership!

Individual must not have been a member in the last 5 years



Questions? Contact Jake Schneider, WGCSA Executive Director, at jschneider@wgcsa.com
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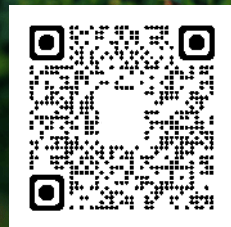
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