

## 2010 WTA GOLF FUNDRAISER Blackhawk Country Club • October 4, 2010 What a Treat This Will Be!

By Tom Schwab, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, University of Wisconsin-Madison

*Registration form  
on page 11!*

Have you ever played golf at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison, with its spectacular views overlooking Lake Mendota? Better yet, have you ever played Blackhawk in the autumn with the trees in full color and the turf in perfect condition? You'll have the chance on October 4th to do just that during the WTA Golf Fundraiser to benefit the WTA Wisconsin Turfgrass Research Sustainability Fund. A registration form is included with the newsletter or it can be downloaded and paid for on the website [wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org](http://wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org).

Course superintendent Chad Grimm is in his second year, and on behalf of his staff and the Blackhawk CC members, welcomes everyone to this WTA event. Proceeds from the golf outing will be used to fund turfgrass research at the UW-Madison that will focus on maintaining turfgrass in even more environmentally and economically sound ways.

Blackhawk Country Club will provide a unique scenic golf experience. The glacier that crossed the area 20,000 years ago formed the landscape of Blackhawk. Rock, soil and debris left after the glacier melted formed Lake Mendota and the rolling hills of today's golf course.

The course was opened in 1921 and designed by Charles H. Mayo, an English architect whose courses can still be played in England. His Chicago designs



The elevation from tee #1 allows you to really send your ball soaring westward



Beautiful fall colors will greet you on your Oct 4th visit



Hole #10 offers both beauty and challenge



Green #9 is nestled into the bluff and woods of Shorewood Hills

gave way to city growth many decades ago. The Club, over its history, hosted all of the WSGA, WWGA and PGA events, including the State Open. Twice in recent years, it has been the site of the Western Women's Golf Association National Junior Girls Tournament.

The registration fee for the fundraiser is \$125. For this you will be treated to a delicious lunch, practice range, and golf with a cart. After golf you'll enjoy hors d'oeuvres and hopefully go home with one of the valuable door prizes and/or

*Continued on page 3*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Changes

By Dan Biddick, WTA President



Changing times require changing companies require changing people.

Positive changes are one thing. Negative changes are a far different matter.

We are not used to less. Less sales, less inventory, less production, less work, less employees, less money. Less, less, less. I quote from a very good customer, "I guess we will have to learn to live on less."


Less is hard, but hard is not necessarily a bad road. A hard road can be a good teacher. If we chose to drive it, we learn. We learn life changing lessons.

Yes.

Yes, we can.



Yes, we can live on less. Yes, we can spend less money. Yes, we can spend more time at home. Yes, we can eat differently. Yes, we can tighten our belts. Yes, we can streamline distribution. Yes, we can get more done with less people. Yes, we can create new schemes to service our customers. Yes, we can find new ways of working with suppliers. Yes, we can fix our machines. Yes. Yes. Yes.

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*Year behind board member name, is the expiration of their current term.*

golf awards. Many door prizes are worth more than the cost of registration. You may register as a foursome or by yourself. The event is a four-person best ball format.

Your registration fee not only provides you the above benefits, but also supports the Wisconsin Turfgrass Research Sustainability Fund at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Over the WTA Golf Fundraiser's long history, proceeds have

gone directly to research projects and more recently have helped fund the Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships in Turfgrass Research. Beginning this year, your participation will allow the WTA to add to the new Research Sustainability Fund at the UW Foundation. The difficult fiscal times have only amplified the need for quality research, and your presence at Blackhawk CC will help meet that need.

The golf outing isn't all about funding research, though. It is also about spending

time with friends to enjoy a round of golf near the end of the season, and this golf course will not disappoint! I hope that you are able to attend the WTA Golf Fundraiser and play this truly outstanding course. You may contact Audra Anderson at 608-845-6536 or [ajander2@wisc.edu](mailto:ajander2@wisc.edu) if you have any questions. Whether it is your first WTA Golf Fundraiser or if you have attended them all, we hope you won't miss this one. ■

## Crowds Return for Great Education

*By Tom Schwab, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, University of Wisconsin-Madison*

The 2010 WTA Summer Field Day saw the return of crowds from field days past. Attendance increased by 40 compared to last year. There were 256 attendees and 70 sales representatives from 31 different companies at this year's show. It's hard to know why the numbers increased from previous years' shows. The great education from researchers and turf students and the popular lawn care training session may have contributed, along with perfect weather conditions. It was a perfect summer day, with temps in the mid 80's and a slight breeze. The large trade show also could have helped to increase attendance. Whatever the reason, it was great to see the excitement and interest.

The education was more in depth than past years and the research talks were expanded into the afternoon which was requested by attendees. Everyone left the show with new and innovative ideas that they could put to work when they got back home. For example, graduate student Bill Kreuser presented findings from four years of plant growth regulator (PGR) research. This research is not only valuable for golf course managers, who have been using PGRs for 2 decades, but new formulations have been released to make it easier for lawn care companies and even homeowners to use the products. Bill's research developed a growing degree day model and he explained how to use it to help schedule when to reapply PGRs for maximum benefit.

Dr. Jim Kerns talked about several of his research projects. One project assesses the use of low input alternative



Guest speaker Dr. Lee Miller from the University of Missouri, presented cooperative research on turf diseases.

species of grasses as a pest management strategy. These species include tufted hairgrass, prairie junegrass, hard fescue, and several others. These grasses were planted last fall and Jim will be analyzing them over several years to see if they are attractive and functional species that are truly low input and potentially more environmentally friendly.

Dr. Doug Soldat from the UW and Bob Vavrek from the United States Golf Association talked about new soil moisture sensing tools. These tools read soil moisture to determine when the turf needs to be irrigated. These tools may someday be required to be used if Wisconsin's regulations on water use become stricter, which, as Doug and Bob explained, could happen. So many other presentations and presenters gave the crowds great information. Some of the other talks included:

- Controlling ants on greens and fairways
- Controlling white grubs in homelawns
- Efficacy of Acelepryn and Merit for control of Japanese beetles
- Fairy ring management strategies
- Hydroseeding with a herbicide
- Mycorrhizal fungi and phosphorus effects on bentgrass establishment
- New developments in nozzle and sprayer technologies
- Pre-emergent crabgrass control
- Residual activity of insecticide treatments for control of black cutworms
- Use of modern creeping bentgrass cultivars to reduce fungicide inputs

In addition to the research presentations, there was a limited-space afternoon lawn care workshop for

*Continued on page 4*

attendees that were lucky enough to register early. Attendees could learn from UW faculty and staff how to identify grasses, weeds, diseases, and insects, and calibrate sprayers and spreaders. The workshop was geared for employees who may not have had formal turf training and wanted to brush up on some of their turf care skills. The session has sold out since it was started 3 years ago and attendees gave praise to the session once again this year.

The trade show was totally revamped

for 2010 to the delight of attendees and exhibitors. The location of the show was moved to the Noer Facility's front lawn rather than being stuck out in the back 40 of the facility. Vendors were pleased because there was much more interest and traffic with the new layout and location, and attendees liked it because there was more to see and learn in the closer, friendlier setting. Please help support the Summer Field Day vendors that help bring this great event to you every year. The 2010 vendors are listed below.

One other huge highlight of this year's field day was the attendance of Professor

emeritus Dr. Jim Love. Many years ago, in talking with OJ Noer himself, Dr. Love determined the need for a turf program at the UW-Madison and thus started the scholastic program in Wisconsin. So many of his former students and others were thrilled and honored that he was with us this year.

All in all, Field Day was a super success. From the crowds to the education to the invaluable interaction between colleagues, this year's show was one to be enjoyed. I hope you were able to attend. ■

See more photos from SFD on pages 5 & 6

## 2010 WTA Summer Field Day Exhibitor

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- BASF
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- Burris Equipment
- Contree Sprayer & Equipment
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- Spring Valley
- Standard Golf
- Syngenta
- The Andersons
- Valent
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- WDATCP
- Wisconsin Turf Equipment
- Wolosek Landscaping & Golf Course Materials







# A Banner Year for Chinch Bugs

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

There are three species of chinch bugs that attack turfgrass in the United States. Of these, only two species occur in Wisconsin. They include the common chinch bug (*Blissus leucopterus leucopterus*) and the hairy chinch bug (*Blissus leucopterus hirtus*). The common chinch bug has a longstanding history in Wisconsin, and it is a large reason that Wisconsin is widely considered a dairy state. How so, you ask? Prior to the turn of the century, Wisconsin used to be one of the top wheat production states in the United States. However, the common chinch bug (along with a disease pathogen) destroyed hundreds of thousands of acres of wheat (i.e., grass) forcing farmers to consider alternative agricultural crops. As a result, forage crops and dairy farming came to fruition.

Although the common and hairy chinch bugs are similar in many ways, the common chinch bug is a much more migratory insect compared to the hairy chinch bug. It typically does not stay in one area with any consistency. Chinch bugs have piercing-sucking mouthparts and they feed on the sap (plant fluids) of grass plants. They spend most of their time in the thatch area and mainly feed on the lower leaf sheath and crown area of the plant. Both the common and hairy chinch bug feed on numerous turfgrass species. Adult chinch bugs are about 1/8 to 1/5 inch in length and black with white markings on the wings. The wings rest flat over the back of the insect and there is a black spot between the wings. Adults may be long-winged or short-winged. There are five nymphal instars of chinch bug ranging in size from 1/32 to 1/5 inch. The first two nymphal instars are red, with a white band across their abdomen, while the third and fourth instars are orange with wing pads just beginning to appear. The fifth instar is black with wing pads easily visible.

Chinch bug damage is typically first detected when irregular patches of turf begin to turn yellow and eventually brown or straw colored. Once this occurs the turf is often dead. Consequently, these patches do not respond to watering and they often become larger in size. Feeding by chinch bugs essentially cuts-off or blocks the water and food conducting vessels of the plant causing the leaves to desiccate resulting in plant death. Damage typically occurs during hot, dry weather from June to September.

Chinch bugs are relatively easy to manage if they are detected early! However, once they have fed, the damage is done and it is essentially too late to circumvent turf damage. Consequently, it is critical to develop a chinch bug sampling regime. The simplest method is to visually inspect the turf for the presence of chinch bugs. Chinch bug nymphs and adults tend to hide deep in the thatch, thus thorough and careful inspection is necessary. Another and more reliable way to sample for chinch bugs is to use the flotation method. This method of sampling is fairly simple, but requires the use of a coffee can that is cut-out at both ends. Simply insert the coffee can into the turf canopy to a depth of about 1/4 inch, fill the coffee can with water and begin looking for chinch bug nymphs and adult to float to the surface (typically in about 10 minutes or less). Refill the coffee can with water if necessary as the water will often infiltrated into the turf canopy/soil.



Chinch bug damaged turf.

If chinch bugs are detected, consider an insecticide application. Remember, chinch bugs are surface feeders, but they spend much of their time in the thatch. Thus, when using a liquid insecticide formulation, be sure not to apply too much post-treatment irrigation since it may wash the product past the target. Conversely, when using a granular insecticide formulation, post-treatment irrigation is likely necessary to disperse the insecticide to the target. With the development of systemic insecticides including the neo-nicotinoids such as clothianidin (Arena), imidacloprid (Merit), and thiamethoxam (Meridian), turfgrass managers have an alternative chinch bug management option. Systemic insecticides provide a preventative (before chinch bugs are present) management option that enables turfgrass managers to apply an insecticide to an area of turf that has had a historic problem with chinch bugs. This approach still requires chinch bug sampling to determine a history, but provides more flexibility or latitude for turf. ■

# MEET THE UW-MADISON TURF PROGRAM GRADUATE STUDENT

## Ecological Implications of *Poa pratensis*

By Sabrina Ruis, Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Many students in the turf program here at UW-Madison seem to have a long-standing interest in turf, but for me that interest has stemmed from my long-standing interest in Horticulture and Biological Sciences in general. My family moved to Aitkin, Minnesota in 1992 where they began our strawberry farm in 1995. In addition to strawberries, we grew squash and pumpkins for sale to the local grocery store. It is from this farm that I learned two things: a strong work ethic and a love for working with plants. When I was in 7th grade I had a wonderful science teacher who encouraged me to do a project for the Minnesota Academy of Sciences Science Fair. I took home a blue ribbon from that first project, did the Science Fair again my freshman, junior, and senior years of high school, and was able to continue to the state competition all three of those years. My first research experience came from working on a grant from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on foliar feeding of strawberries. I worked on that grant with Dr. Thaddeus McCamant for two years, and presented the results at the Minnesota Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference.

I began my undergraduate studies in Biology and Horticulture at Central Lakes Community College (CLCC) in Brainerd, Minnesota. I was technically enrolled in the CC to fulfill Associate of Arts Degree requirements, but I was attracted to the Horticulture classes in the Tech aspect of the college so I took a few of those anyway. After two years at CLCC I transferred to UW-River Falls where I graduated Magna Cum Laude with my BS in Horticulture and Biology. UW-River Falls had several options for a Horticulture student, and I chose to do the Hort Professional Option, which gave me a well-rounded view of all aspects of Horticulture. My advisor, Dr. Terry Ferriss, encouraged my idea of pursuing graduate school. Having an interest in nearly all facets of Horticulture made applying to graduate school somewhat easier since I was willing to go nearly any route - turf, fruits, vegetables, floriculture, and so on.

In late April 2009, Dr. John Stier called with two projects in mind based on the



interests I listed in my application. One project was evaluating the abundance of Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) in remnant tallgrass prairies for which I completed the fieldwork this summer. The bluegrass study seeks to correlate Kentucky bluegrass presence or absence with soil type, prairie size, and history of management, as well as determining its general abundance in prairies. The work is important as Wisconsin DNR and agencies in other states consider listing Kentucky bluegrass as an invasive species. The second project is targeted at determining the carbon sequestration potential of Kentucky bluegrass during establishment. While focused on sod production, the information will have applicability to any situation (lawn, golf, roadside) in which turfgrass is being established and the property owner seeks credit in the world's developing carbon markets. The project began last autumn and is developing in several phases. The first phase examines the effect of biosolid additions to sod fields and answering the questions of: what is the change in soil organic carbon due to additions of biosolids, and what is the rate of gas exchange from the system? A follow-up project is to use the CENTURY model to estimate C-sequestration in sod production fields. The final part of the C-sequestration study seeks to evaluate the gaseous C flux during establishment, estimate a C-balance for sod establishment, and determine the leaching potential of nitrogen during establishment.



Fellow graduate student Mark Garrison and myself taking data at the Avoca Prairie and Savanna



Young plants in the greenhouse for carbon sequestration study

I have enjoyed this past year of research and look forward to the next year and a half of research experiences to complete my Master of Science degree. I hope the research I am doing will help provide answers towards achieving more sustainability in sod production and the determining the invasiveness of Kentucky bluegrass, and accomplish what all good research should - to generate further questions while having a beneficial impact on society. Any questions regarding this research may be sent to: [ruis@wisc.edu](mailto:ruis@wisc.edu). ■

# Wisconsin Loses a Great Secretary of Agriculture

Rod Nilsestuen, who has led the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection as its secretary since 2003, drowned on July 21, 2010 while swimming in Lake Superior off Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Nilsestuen was on vacation when the tragedy occurred, working for Habitat for Humanity in northern Michigan as he does every summer.

In a statement released by Governor Jim Doyle, he called Nilsestuen "a warm, humorous and wonderful husband, father and friend." "Under his incredible leadership Wisconsin has seen the greatest and most beneficial transformation of agriculture in generations," Doyle additionally wrote.

Marquette police said they were called to the area of the city's Picnic Rocks about 5:47 p.m. after it was reported that a man who was swimming was having difficulty in the water. After a search of about 50 minutes, two searchers in a boat found the man floating in the water about 300 yards south of Picnic Rocks. Efforts to revive Nilsestuen began and he was taken to Marquette General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead, according to police.

Nilsestuen, 62, was president and CEO of the Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives from 1978 until September 2002.



He grew up on a dairy farm near Arcadia and earned bachelor's degrees in political science and sociology from UW-River Falls in 1970 and a law degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1974.

In addition to 24 years with the Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives, he helped establish the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, the Wisconsin Corn Promotion Board and the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board and was a founding chairman of the National Rural Cooperative Development Task Force.

"Among many other accomplishments," Doyle said in the statement, "Rod's legacy includes dramatic increases in milk and cheese production, dynamic growth in organic farming and grazing operations, protecting our state's farmland through the working lands initiative, promoting the development of biofuels and bioenergy to generate homegrown renewable energy in Wisconsin, connecting consumers to local farmers through the Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin program and strong support for investments in America's Dairyland."

Nilsestuen leaves behind a wife and three sons. Nilsestuen visited the Noer Facility in the summer of 2004 and was a friend of the turf and landscape industries along with traditional agriculture. He will be greatly missed by all. ■

# Fine Fescues Among Those That Did Not Enjoy The Summer of 2010

*By Paul Koch, Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab, University of Wisconsin-Madison*

You hear a lot of talk out of the United States Golf Association these days about "brown being the new green." But if they saw the amount of brown fine fescue in Wisconsin lawns as well as golf course rough and fairway turf, they wouldn't be singing that color's praises to such a degree. Upwards of 70% of the home lawn samples submitted to the Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab in 2010 were fine fescue, and that number jumps to over 90% for the period from July 1st to September 1st. Wisconsin wasn't the only one to suffer either, as calls came into the lab with irate homeowners from throughout the Midwest and even some seed producers with clients from both coasts. So what happened to the fine fescues in 2010? Why were the problems so widespread? Most importantly, what can be done now to initiate recovery?

Fine fescues can be a wonderful turfgrass, especially for those who prefer a slightly lower maintenance regime. Fine fescues generally require less water, less fertilizer, perform well in the shade, and are less susceptible to many of the pest problems that affect bluegrasses and ryegrasses. They also grow at a slower rate than most other turfgrasses, allowing a relaxed mowing schedule compared to Kentucky bluegrass. With all those benefits it would seem to be almost the perfect grass, and indeed it has been very popular as lower input systems become more popular with the

public. But the one condition fine fescues absolutely cannot tolerate is a wet rootzone, and if the summer of 2010 can be summed up in one word across the region it would be wet.

Record or near record rainfalls rocked the Midwest for seemingly the entire summer. This was certainly welcome to those suffering the years-long drought in the northern portion of the state, but for most in the region it was as unwelcome as the apocalyptic hordes of mosquitoes that followed. Fine fescues with a consistently wet rootzone are more susceptible to a wide variety of fungal diseases, nearly all of which were observed in 2010. The two most troublesome diseases observed in 2010 were *Bipolaris* leaf spot (*Bipolaris sorokiniana*) and summer patch (*Magnaporthe poae*). *Bipolaris* leaf spot (Figure 1) is a foliar disease that can affect both the leaves and the crowns, and in a severe infection can kill the entire plant. Summer patch (Figure 2) is a root-infecting disease that slowly infects throughout the summer, and once symptoms of the disease are finally observed on the leaves there is little that can be done. Other minor fungal diseases that were observed on fine fescues this year were anthracnose (*Colletotrichum cereale*), *Curvularia* leaf spot (*Curvularia* spp), and *Fusarium* blight (*Fusarium* spp). All of these diseases are the result of extended periods of

*Continued on page 10*

- continued

warm to hot temperatures, consistently wet soils, and high humidities. Further exacerbating the problem in several instances was the homeowner's instinct to increase their irrigation whenever grass turns brown, no doubt greatly increasing the level of disease.

In home lawn diagnostics, the easy part is often what caused the damage and the difficult part is how to fix it. As of September 1st, most of the diseases so active throughout the summer have ceased infection and the damage has been done. This means fungicide applications at this point will have no effect on the health of the plant. But what about fungicide applications made prior to symptom development? Would they have prevented these symptoms from developing? The answer is yes, but the degree of effectiveness depends on which disease was actually present in the lawn. Those lawns with leaf spot would have certainly benefitted from a preventative fungicide application (iprodisone, azoxystrobin are effective active ingredients). Those lawns with summer patch would likely not have benefitted much as any fungicide applied needs to be located close to the roots, a difficult task in any home lawn. But lost in the rush to apply fungicides is this; doesn't it defeat the purpose of planting fine fescue turfgrass if fungicides are being preventatively applied on a regular basis?

The recommendation from the TDL for homeowners dealing with diseased fine fescue has been to reevaluate the lawn on September 15th. If significant recovery of the lawn is apparent and green tissue is starting to fill in, then an increased fertilizer regime will probably be sufficient to facilitate the lawn's recovery. If large



Figure 1: The thick-walled spores of *Bipolaris sorokiniana* can infect both the leaves and crowns, and were very prevalent on many fine fescue lawns in 2010.

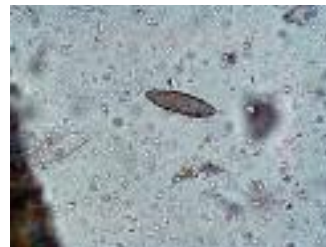


Figure 2: The summer patch fungus, shown here infecting this root, was also observed on many fine fescue samples submitted to the lab.

patches of dead turf still exist, it's likely time to reseed those areas. But should they be reseeded with fine fescue, or should another turf be seeded? The answer to that lies in the environmental conditions of the area. If the area has heavy, clay soils and is often wet throughout the year than a different turf probably should be seeded. If the area remains relatively dry with relatively sandy soils then fine fescues are an excellent candidate to succeed in that area.

Don't let the struggles of 2010 fool you into thinking that fine fescue turf is unfit as a home lawn species in the Midwest. Its many attributes make it an excellent choice when placed in an environment where it can succeed. On the other hand, the summer of 2010 should also illustrate that no matter how great a grass looks one year, when the conditions turn extreme the next year even the lowest input grasses can give homeowners and lawn care providers major headaches. ■

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**Wisconsin Turfgrass Association**  
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**Blackhawk Country Club – October 4**



**Where: Blackhawk Country Club**  
3606 Blackhawk Drive  
Madison, WI 53705  
(608) 231-2454

**When: Monday, October 4, 2010**

9:30-10:30 Registration  
9:30-11:15 Range  
10:15-11:15 Lunch (cookout on the patio)  
11:30 4-Person Best Ball Shotgun Start  
After Golf Hors-d' Oeuvres, Reception, Prizes, Cash Bar

**Directions:** On Back

**What:** Golf, Cart, Practice Range,  
Lunch, Door Prizes, Golf  
Awards, Hors d' Oeuvres

**Cost:** \$125 per person

**Questions:** (608) 845-6536

**Blackhawk Country Club**

The landscape of Blackhawk Country Club was formed by the glacier that crossed the area 20,000 years ago. Rock, soil and debris, left after the glacier melted, formed Lake Mendota and the rolling hills of today's golf course.

The course was designed by Charles H. Mayo, an English architect whose courses can still be played in England. His Chicago designs gave way to city growth many decades ago. The Club has, over its history, hosted all of the WSGA and WWGA events, and the Wisconsin State Open.

Course superintendent Chad Grimm is in his second year, and on behalf of his staff and the Blackhawk members, welcomes everyone to this WTA event. Proceeds from the golf outing will be used by UW-Madison scientists to develop new techniques for managing turfgrass in the most environmental approach.

**ENTRY FORM – WTA Golf Outing Fundraiser**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (        ) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# of People Attending \_\_\_\_ x \$125 per person = \_\_\_\_\_

**You May Also Sponsor A Golf Hole or Make An Additional Tax Deductible Contribution**

Optional Tee Sign Golf Hole Sponsorship x \$100 = \_\_\_\_\_

Name To Be Printed on Tee Sign --- \_\_\_\_\_

or Additional Tax Deductible Contribution = \_\_\_\_\_

- Please make check payable to WTA and return to 2502 Highway M, Verona, WI 53593
- Refer questions about the outing to Audra Anderson at @ 608-845-6536 or [ajander2@wisc.edu](mailto:ajander2@wisc.edu)
- Registration deadline is Tuesday, September 28, 2010
- You may register by yourself or as a foursome





*Excellence in Golf and  
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**Country Club**

**Blackhawk Country Club**  
3606 Blackhawk Drive  
Madison, Wisconsin  
1 (608) 231-2454

1. From Beltline (USH 12 & 14), take Exit #258 to Midvale Blvd.
2. From Middleton and points west go left (north) on Midvale Blvd. or from the Interstate and points east go right (north) on Midvale Blvd.
3. Follow Midvale Blvd. to University Ave.
4. Go right (east) on University Ave.
5. Go left (north) on Shorewood Blvd.
6. Go left on Topping Rd.
7. Follow Blackhawk Dr. to the left. Blackhawk Country Club is on the left.



# Current Status of PCNB

By Dr. Jim Kerns and Paul Koch, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

A stop sale order was issued on August 12th 2010 by the United States Environmental Protection Agency on 95% technical grade PCNB. The order was issued because there are impurities in the product that have toxicological significance. The company that manufactures the technical grade product (American Vanguard) challenged the order in a court of law and the motion was denied on September 3, 2010. Consequently, PCNB cannot be sold by the manufacturer and is going to be very difficult to find this year. This order is different from a registration cancellation, so if the manufacturer cleans up the impurities PCNB sales could resume in the future. That being said, we do think it is very wise to start looking for alternatives.

It is rather unfortunate that this predicament developed after the summer we experienced. Due to the extremely warm, humid summer experienced throughout Wisconsin, we know many fungicide budgets were exceeded. Taking PCNB out of the equation for this year's snow mold applications just pours more salt over the wounds of summer. There are many alternatives to PCNB, but few of those alternatives are as affordable.

If PCNB was a stalwart in your snow mold program, it is important to pick a mixture of fungicides that combat the diseases experienced at your course. It is also important to pick a mixture that is affordable for your budget. Nothing is similar in cost to PCNB, nor is there a single product that performs as well as PCNB when considering cost. We have tried to take this into account when we developed the following program suggestions, but we are uncertain of pricing points for this year. Our suggestion is to use these as a guide when you sit down with your local soft goods sales representative to find an effective mixture within the constraints of your budget.

Remember that PCNB is a contact fungicide and worked well as a late or extremely late application. Most the alternatives presented in this article incorporate a systemic fungicide, which should be applied when the plant is still metabolically active. Do not wait until two days before snowfall to apply these mixtures! ■

**Table 1.** Active ingredients, FRAC groupings and strengths against snow mold fungi of fungicides that have traditionally performed well in UW-Madison snow mold trials.

Active Ingredient	FRAC Group	Strengths Against Snow Mold Diseases
1. Thiophanate methyl	Benzimidazole	<i>Microdochium</i> , <i>T. incarnata</i>
2. Chlorothalonil	Morpoline	<i>Microdochium</i> , <i>T. incarnata</i>
3. Iprodione	Dicarboximide	<i>Microdochium</i>
4. Propiconazole	DMI	<i>T. ishikariensis</i> , <i>T. incarnata</i>
5. Myclobutanil	DMI	<i>T. ishikariensis</i> , <i>T. incarnata</i>
6. Triticonazole	DMI	<i>T. ishikariensis</i> , <i>T. incarnata</i>
7. Metconazole	DMI	<i>T. ishikariensis</i> , <i>T. incarnata</i>
8. Fludioxonil	Phenylpyrrole	<i>T. ishikariensis</i> , <i>T. incarnata</i> ,
9. Trifloxystrobin	Strobilurin	<i>Microdochium</i> , <i>T. incarnata</i>

**Table 2.** PCNB-less snow mold program suggestions for 2010. Suggestions are divided into categories of good, better, best and supreme. Good and better target primarily *Microdochium nivale* (Pink snow mold or *Microdochium* Patch and *Typhula incarnata*). Best and Supreme suggestions target *Microdochium nivale* (Pink snow mold or *Microdochium* patch), *Typhula incarnata* and *Typhula ishikariensis*.

Good	Better	Best	Supreme
2 to 4 oz thiophanate methyl + 5.5 oz chlorothalonil	4 oz iprodione + 5.5 oz chlorothalonil	4 oz iprodione + 5.5 oz chlorothalonil+ 0.72 oz propiconazole <sup>x</sup>	7 to 9 oz Instrata
	0.37 oz Tourney + 4 fl oz iprodione	4 oz iprodione + 5.5 oz chlorothalonil+ 2 oz propiconazole <sup>y</sup>	Two 5.5 oz Instrata applications
	1 fl oz Trinity + 4 fl oz iprodione	3 fl oz propiconazole <sup>y</sup> + 0.3 to 0.5 oz Medallion	4 to 6 oz Interface + 2 fl oz propiconazole <sup>y</sup> 4 oz Interface + 0.85 fl oz Triton FLO

<sup>x</sup>concentrated EC formulation (i.e. AmTide 41.3 EC)

<sup>y</sup>microemulsion formulation (i.e. Banner MAXX)

# Bugs, Dirt, and Grass at Grandparents University

By Dr. Doug Soldat, Department of Soil Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Over a Thursday afternoon and a Friday morning in July roughly 65 grandparents and their grandchildren once again descended upon the O.J. Noer Facility for the Wisconsin Alumni Association's Grandparent University. During Grandparents University, alumni get the chance to re-visit their alma mater, keep up with the newest happenings at the University, and bond with their grandchildren (who may themselves become alumni one day). The program has been so successful (the 850 openings filled up just hours after registration opened) it has been copied at universities all over the US. The grandparents and grandchildren get to select one of about twenty different majors, where they are immersed in a two-day session of learning activities. Turfgrass Science is one major among others including Digital Storytelling, Limnology, Engineering, Physics, Stem Cells, Nursing, and Dairy Science. We were very proud to be included in the program for the second consecutive year, and we use it as an opportunity to explain the exciting science behind everyday things like bugs, dirt, and grass to the next generation.

The students arrived Thursday afternoon and were split into five groups. Each group rotated among five stations

which included an introduction to insects with Chris Williamson, a primer on trees and forest fungi with Forest Pathologist Glen Stanosz (Jim Kerns and Paul Koch were out of town for the event), an introduction to two great lifetime sports, tennis (on a real grass court, nonetheless) with former UW head basketball coach and current tennis champ John Powless, and golf with PGA Professionals Bryan Arthur and Kyle Nielsen from University Ridge Golf Course. The students were also treated to a demonstration of the unique equipment used to maintain turfgrass at the O.J. Noer Facility from Horticulture graduate student Ben Pease, and also gained a hands-on experience in texturing soils with myself, Dr. Fred Madison from the UW, and Dave Hart of the Wisconsin Geologic and Natural History Survey.

During Thursday afternoon, a tornado warning was issued under beautiful blue skies. While the storm system was relegated to the northern portion of Dane County, university policy required that we all venture inside the building. Luckily, this occurred near the end of the day and resulted in only a minor shift in the schedule. Mother Nature was not finished, however, and dumped 3.5 inches of rain on the facility overnight.

Some of the grandparent/grandchild pairs had to head home early to deal with flooded basements. The hardy souls who hung around experienced another great day of events which included learning about the differences among Kentucky bluegrass, fine fescue, tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, and creeping bentgrass from Horticulture and Soil Science graduate students, looking at microbes under the microscopes with Glen Stanosz, learning the specifics about pesky insect pests like the emerald ash borer and Japanese beetles, and finally playing in an actual soil pit with myself and Fred Madison. As you might have guessed, a soil pit plus 3.5 inches of rain equals a mud pit. You could literally see the kids eyes light up as soon as we told them they were welcome to take their shoes and socks off and squish around in the several inches of mud at the bottom of the pit. The grandparents expressions of trepidation evaporated quickly after seeing how much fun their grandchildren were having; we even convinced one grandparent to join us in the pit. Hoses normally used to wash equipment were employed to wash the legs and feet of our new, young soil scientists.

*Continued on page 15*



Graduating class from Grandparent's University 2010 (Superintendent Jerry Kershasky's wife Sue and their grandson included)

Graduation was held Friday afternoon at the Microbial Sciences Building in one of the largest lecture halls on campus - it was standing room only. The students lined up and walked across the stage to receive their diplomas from the "Dean" of their major while Wisconsin Alumni Association coordinator, Kate Siemieniewski, dramatically announced their names. I had the honor of serving as the dean this year, and it was quite a treat to hear the loudest cheers of the ceremony reserved for the Turfgrass Science major. After the ceremony, I had several grandparents who attended other majors come up to me and ask questions about our major. One grandparent was literally begging me to let him play on our grass court. I told him he'd have to be sure to sign up for Turfgrass Science next year! Grandparents University is not limited to alumni; if you have a grandchild and would like to participate, visit <http://www.uwalumni.com/grandparents> for the latest on next year's event. ■



Graduate student Bill Kreuser shows how to identify different species of grass



Grandkids entering the soil pit to identify different layers of soil and learn how they were developed by glaciations, sedimentation, and other factors



Graduate student Ben Pease shows the equipment used to maintain fine turf areas



Professor Glen Stanosz teaches the kids all about forest and tree fungi



Four time winner of the US Open Senior Tennis Championship, John Powless, poses with three students after giving them their personal tennis lessons

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 2010

Sept 20	Wee One Foundation Golf Fundraiser .....	Pine Hills CC, Sheboygan
Sept 22	Illinois Turfgrass Foundation Tradeshow/Research .....	Midwest golf House, Lemont, IL
<b>Oct 4</b>	<b>WTA Golf Fundraiser .....</b>	<b>Blackhawk CC, Madison</b>
Oct 5	NGLGCSA Supt/Crew Outing .....	Sweetgrass GC, Wilson, MI
Oct 8,9	WGCSA Couples Outing .....	Saddle Ridge, Portage
Oct 27-30	PLANAT Green Industry Conference .....	Louisville, KY
Nov 16,17	Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium .....	American Club, Kohler
Dec 7	NGLGCSA Annual Meeting & Elections.....	Pine Grove Country Club, Iron Mountain, MI

## 2011

Jan 5-7	Northern Green Expo .....	Minneapolis Convention Center, MN
Jan 11-15	STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition .....	Austin, TX
Jan 19-21	Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show.....	Navy Pier, Chicago, IL
Jan 31-Feb 4	TPI Midwinter Conference .....	Orlando, FL
Feb 7-11	Golf Industry Show .....	Orlando, FL
Feb 21-24	School of Turfgrass Management .....	Brown County Extension Office, Green Bay
Feb 24	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf & Landscape) .....	Waukesha: Carroll University
Mar 9	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf & Landscape) .....	Eau Claire: America's Best Value Inn
Mar 9,10	Reinders 20th Turf and Irrigation Conference.....	Waukesha Expo Center, Waukesha
Mar 10	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf & Landscape) .....	Green Bay: Holiday Inn-City Centre
Mar 23	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf & Landscape).....	Arlington: UW Research Station
Mar 30	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf & Landscape) .....	Waukesha: Carroll University
Apr 7	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf & Landscape) .....	Waukesha: Carroll University
<b>July 26</b>	<b>WTA Summer Field Day .....</b>	<b>OJ Noer Turfgrass Research Facility, Verona</b>

WTA Members — If you have an important date you'd like to share with other members, call 608-845-6895, fax 608-845-8162, or email [tgschwab@wisc.edu](mailto:tgschwab@wisc.edu) to include it in the next calendar.

## Contact Telephone Numbers

GIS	Golf Industry Show .....	800-472-7878
ITF	Illinois Turfgrass Foundation Tradeshow/Research Event.....	630-243-9483
Mid-Am	Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show .....	<a href="http://www.midam.org">www.midam.org</a>
NGLGCSA	Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Assoc. ....	<a href="http://www.nglturf.org">www.nglturf.org</a>
PAT	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf & Landscape 3.0).....	608-262-7588
PLANET	Professional Landcare Network Green Industry Conference .....	<a href="http://www.landcarenetwork.org">www.landcarenetwork.org</a>
Reinders	Reinders 20th Turf and Irrigation Conference.....	800-782-3300
School	School of Turfgrass Management.....	608-263-3631
STMA	Sports Turf Managers Association Conference.....	800-323-3875
Symposium	Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium .....	800-287-9645
TPI	Turf Producers International .....	800-405-8873
Wee One	Wee One Foundation Golf Outing .....	630-457-7276
WGCSA	Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association .....	920-643-4888
WGIF	Wisconsin Green Industry Federation Annual Convention .....	414-529-4705
WNA	Wisconsin Nursery Association Winter Workshop .....	414-529-4705
Northern	Northern Green Expo .....	<a href="http://northerngreenexpo.com">northerngreenexpo.com</a>
WSTMA	Wisconsin Sports Turf Manager Association .....	608-845-6895
<b>WTA</b>	<b>Wisconsin Turfgrass Association .....</b>	<b>608-845-6536</b>