

# The GREEN Breeze



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## Mark Your Calendar

Monthly Meeting Wyoming Golf Club	April 29
Assistants' Meeting Sharon Woods Golf Course	May 23
Research & Scholarship Tournament Blue Ash Golf Course	June 11
OTF/OSU Research Field Day (Columbus) OTF Research & Educational Facility	August 7
OTF Conference & Show Columbus	December 3 - 5

## Announcements

## Upcoming Event



## From the President

Well let's hope by the time you are reading this that the weather has made a significant turn for the better. Winter didn't seem all that bad, but it sure has lingered on for too long and the groundhog was more than a little misleading. Last year brought great weather and with that came a great revenue year for the majority of us. Last spring was especially kind, and it was nice to get off to a good start. I hope all of you can come close to matching that start this year. For me personally I have delayed, by three weeks bringing back my seasonal staff, just to try to meet budget expectations. I hope none of us fell into the trap of thinking last year's rounds and revenues were normal—in an excellent weather year maybe they are but how often do we have one of those years?



2013 Board President  
**Ron Freking**

How many of you follow college basketball closely or at least enjoy March madness? All of the major sports have exciting championships, but for me nothing is better than the NCAA basketball tournament. Maybe being a UK Wildcat fan has something to do with that, it is like a second religion on this side of the river. When you are born in Kentucky there seems to be a checklist for the doctor that goes something like this:

- Slap baby on butt
- Check baby's vitals
- Congratulate the father
- Dip baby in vat of KY blueblood  (you get the idea!)

With that being said, this was a train wreck of a year for us "bluebloods." Noel blowing out his knee was bad enough; but not making the tournament and then Robert Morris. What? Wow! As sweet as Anthony Davis and last year was, this year was a total 180°, UGH!! Hey how "bout that recruiting class coming in next fall, sorry couldn't resist that one!"

Okay, enough basketball ramblings, I want to encourage all of you to check out the dates listed for our upcoming meetings. Please mark your calendars and attend as many as you can. We have some great venues and speakers lined up. The Annual Research & Scholarship Tournament is June 11<sup>th</sup> at Blue Ash Golf Course, and it promises to be a great event. Much planning and hard work has already gone into this, and it will be a great day for all who attend. We got the year off to a great start with the education meeting at Wetherington Golf & Country Club. Thanks to all who attended, and to Tim Kelley and the staff for being great hosts!

## Greater Cincinnati GCSA Happenings

### Meeting Information

- Visit our web site, log on, and make your reservation on the Calendar Page no later than noon on Friday, April 26, 2013. You can prepay by credit card or at the event.
- Registration will begin at 11:00 AM. Lunch and speaker begin at 11:30.
- Speaking will be the new Director of OTF, Brian Laurent, and Gina Zirkle, OTF Trustee and Legislative Committee Member.
- Golf: 1:00, Shotgun Start.
- Golf Cost: \$35.00

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## Association News

### Dues

Membership dues were due March 1, 2013. Dues can be paid online by credit card or by contacting Bob LaChance at lachance@zoomtown.com or 513.476.5669. If you have forgotten your login for the website, you can request the website to send you another login. If you have changed your email or have other difficulties contact Bob directly and I can get you a new login password. Having a login can be a bit of an inconvenience, but it prevents spam and keeps our information secure.

### 2013 Roster

After not having a printed roster for a couple of years, the Board reinstated the printed roster in 2011. As an incentive to get members to pay their dues in a timely manner, it was decided that only those members whose dues are paid by March 15, 2013 would be included in the roster. Only members whose name appear in the roster will receive a copy of the roster. There are no extra copies. Actually the roster is quite expensive to print. Rosters will be given out at the April meeting at Wyoming Golf Club. If you are not present, we will mail you your copy.

### Scholarships

A lot of work has already gone into making this year's Research & Scholarship Tournament at Blue Ash Golf Course a success. Scholarship applications are now being accepted. Applications need to be postmarked by June 1, 2013. They are available on the website. You do not need to be a member to download the application. Go to the Research & Scholarship tab and about halfway down you will see the link to download an application. It is in PDF format. Please follow instructions carefully and include all documents asked for. Applications have been disqualified for not providing all the required information.

The Board has decided to award a maximum of \$7,000 this year if fund raising goes as planned. Up to \$2,000 can be awarded per applicant in three categories. One of our scholarships, the Howard Dammel Memorial Scholarship is for turf students who may or may not be related to a member. Other scholarships are available only to the family members of members in good standing.

### Sponsors

If you look through our newsletter, you will see the vendors who support our association. You may also notice the vendors who do not.

Dues provide only a portion of our income, 60% of our revenues come from our vendors. It is important you support those vendors who support your association. Vendors can only support the association if you, the members, patronize them. Next time you are contemplating a purchase please remember to support those who support you!

# Host Facility for April: Wyoming Golf Club

Craig Leming is our host at Wyoming Golf Club. Craig was born and raised in Dayton, Ohio. He started working at Kittyhawk Golf Course as a seasonal in 1973. In 1978 he attended Clark Technical College, now Clark State Community College. Craig studied Turfgrass Management and upon graduation in 1980 took a job as an assistant at the Wyoming Golf Club. In the fall of 1981, he became the superintendent and "the rest as they say is history."

Craig has been married for twenty-eight years to Lisa. They have two children: Abbie, age twenty-four, and Pete, age twenty-two. Craig hobbies are golfing and fishing. Normally, at the end of the day, he says "He is too tired for either."

Chuck Harper is the Assistant Superintendent. Chuck worked at Wyoming Golf Club for seventeen years before taking a job as superintendent at Hoosier Links Golf Club in Milan, Indiana for four years. It wasn't long before Wyoming was able to lure him back. Chuck is married to wife, Delena, and they have two children: Nathaniel, age fourteen, and Anna, age nine. Chuck loves to fish and golf, but now most of his time is spent with his children's activities.

Dewayne Courtney has been the equipment manager for four plus years after being at Maketewah Country Club. His expertise is a welcome addition to the staff, and Wyoming is very lucky to have him. Jon Reisenberg is also a full-time Wyoming employee. He brings thirty years golf course experience and is a valuable piece of the puzzle. Jon was originally at Maketewah Country Club too.

Wyoming Golf Club started as a six hole course up the road from its current location. In 1913 Tom Bendelow designed its current con-

figuration. *Golf World Magazine*, in its February 2010 issue included Wyoming Golf Club as number twelfth on its list of the top twenty-five Nine Hole Courses in the America.

Like most courses Wyoming is feeling the impact of the recent economic times but is surviving with a strong membership. The club has a master plan of changes designed by Brian Huntley, but at this time, with finances being what they are, they have been put on the back burner until the monies are available.

Statistics for Wyoming Golf Club	
Average number of rounds/year	18,000
Course/Slope Rating	70.5/127
Acreage under maintenance	56
Putting green goal	Consistency



Superintendent: Craig Leming

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# For All Golfer's: A 2013 New Year's Resolution List

By Larry Gilhuly, Director, Northwest Region USGA and Derf Soller, Agronomist, Northwest Region USGA

Much has changed about the game of golf in three key areas: the economy, water use, and environmental sustainability. With these three key topics as a focus, here is a recommended list of ten New Year resolutions that every golfer should follow in 2013.

*I, the golfer, resolve to understand that saving water positively impacts every part of the golf course.* All players need to understand this major principle. By reducing overall water use, the cost of maintenance can be reduced significantly without impacting the play of the golf course. It promotes more desirable drought tolerant grasses with more tolerance to stress and is the right thing to do for an industry that is perceived by some in a negative light on water use.

*I, the golfer, resolve to learn about how much water can be saved and then share this information with everyone.* Depending upon your geographic location, significant irrigation may be required for only a few weeks annually to year-round in more arid regions. Encourage your golf course superintendent to complete the following simple exercise. Have them determine the average amount of water used

daily for the entire golf course. Then encourage her or him to reduce this amount by 10%, daily. Once it is determined how much water can be saved on an annual basis, let the players know about it with information on the golf course, around the club house (restrooms are very effective) and on the course web site. Understand the amount of water that can be saved by incrementally reducing overall water use. Yes, a few brown areas will likely exist, but this will not impact playing conditions. In reality, it will likely improve them.

... here is a recommended list of ten New Year resolutions that every golfer should follow in 2013.

*I, the golfer, resolve to understand if the maintenance staff is not hand watering, they are likely overwatering.* Every golf course budget is different, with staff size often the major difference, but every golf course has times where hand watering is required. The less hand watering being completed often means too much water is being applied with the automatic irrigation system.

*I, the golfer, resolve to promote the reduction of maintained turf in seldom used or out-of-play areas.* Reducing maintained turf areas that are not in play reduces water use and mowing requirements. The ball can still be found and advanced from these less maintained areas.

*I, the golfer, resolve to understand that a green golf course should not be the goal at all times.* Golf is not played on color. An artificially green golf course does equal a much higher amount of "green money" needed for water and labor to mow more often.

*I, the golfer, resolve to learn that turf color can be achieved without the extensive use of nitrogen.* While nitrogen is absolutely a very important macro-nutrient for turfgrass, it often gets overused strictly to provide color. Several micro-nutrients (primarily iron and magnesium) can be used as a supplemental way to extend the desire for color with but excess growth.

*I, the golfer, resolve to appreciate that each and every golf course is different, and no two golf courses can play the same.* Comparing golf courses is certainly one reason we golf.

*continued on page 5*

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# Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Notes

By Brian Laurent, Executive Director, Ohio Turfgrass Foundation

From a financial standpoint, the past several years have been extremely difficult for the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation. Even though event attendance and memberships have increased slightly, the Foundation has continued to realize significant losses.

It became quite evident that in order to secure the future of the Foundation and to contribute the resources to the industry that OTF was established to provide, changes were required to reduce our expenses, which included a change in management of OTF. The Board solicited several bids and went through an extensive interview process with multiple prospects, and at the end of the process, I was honored to be selected as OTF's new Executive Director.

## "On the Road With the USGA"

By R.A. (Bob) Brame, Director, North Central Region

Patience is a quality that most of us, if we are totally honest, wish we had more of. Golf course superintendents often find it very difficult to be patient when golfers are ready to tee it up in early spring. It can't be overemphasized that successful golf turf

As the son of a golf course superintendent, this industry is all that I've ever known. I understand the frustrations you face on a regular basis and the sacrifices that you make to deliver a quality product. To succeed in this industry requires a lot of passion, sound technical skills, help from your colleagues and resources from groups such as the Greater Cincinnati GCSA, GCSAA and OTF.

OTF Trustees, Committee members and I have spent countless hours reviewing our events and budgets for 2013. Having made significant cuts in several line items, we are confident that we will be able to reverse the trend of losing revenue without sacrificing the quality of our events, our level of communication to our members, or our ability to

provide to the industry. We are excited about OTF's future.

With that said, it is not possible without your support. We appreciate your active participation in the Foundation through your memberships, attendance in OTF events, rounds of golf donated to the Bucks for Turf auction, and asking your colleagues to get involved as well.

I look forward to working with you and all other sections of the industry to continue OTF's legacy of being one of the leading organizations of its kind. If you have questions, comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [brian@ohioturf.org](mailto:brian@ohioturf.org) or 614.285.4683.

management demands working with and not against weather patterns. A good case in point, which has been the subject of a few recent phone calls, is fertilization.

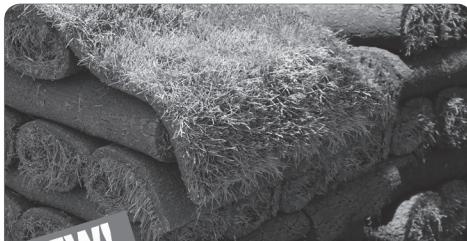
Applying excess nitrogen fertilizer when soil temperatures are low enough to inhibit plant

growth will not force the plant to grow. However, when temperatures do warm up, that same excess nitrogen can result in a surge in growth and a reduction in putting quality.

Credit: <http://www.usga.org/RegionalUpdates>. April 1, 2013.

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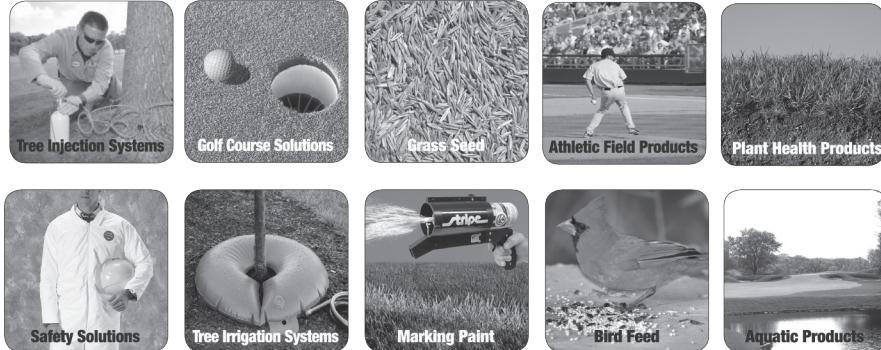


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# Great Lakes Regional Roundup

By John Miller, CGCS. GCSAA Great Lakes Field Staff Representative

What a contrast to last year, we have struggled to have one nice day in a row this spring when last year we had many days in the 80's by now! Cash registers were ringing and most club management officials were happy, this year there has been little play and not much revenue. Once again, let GCSAA be your resource for information. We have seen this trend over a large area of the country, you are not alone. We have the information and help you need. Call GCSAA at 800-472-7878 or email me a jmiller@gcsaa.org and let us know how we can help you get information to your owners, managers, and club members. One of the benefits of being a GCSAA member is access to the TIFF (Turfgrass Information File) at Michigan State University. This file contains all of the articles and books ever written on turfgrass and it can be accessed through the GCSAA website.

April 16<sup>th</sup> was National Golf Day in Washington D.C. and GCSAA had representatives there on your behalf along with the other allied golf associations talking with legislators about the golf industry and how decisions they make affect the golf business and the

golf course superintendent. This is a great event where superintendents get a seat at the table and have a say in what happens in Washington. There is a similar event every other year in Ohio at the State House where superintendents and those in the green industry get to sit down with their legislators and tell them about the local golf industry. The latest event was held this past February 28<sup>th</sup> and was well attended. Please plan on attending in the future as the legislators want to hear from you, I guarantee they are hearing from the other side!

GCSAA is working very hard on Rounds for Research and getting ready for the first auction of the year to be held in conjunction with the U.S. Open in June. If you unfamiliar with the program, Rounds for Research is a program where superintendents donate rounds of golf from their facilities through their chapters and those rounds of golf are then auctioned off on the biddingforgood.com website.

The proceeds of the auction are then returned to the chapter to be used for research, scholarships, and chapter programs.

80% of the funds raised goes back to the chapter and 20% stays with GCSAA to help pay for the program. The great news is that once the 20% covers the cost of the program and excess funds will go directly to the Environmental Institute for Golf. All of our universities are looking for research funds and this is a great way to get the end user, the golfer, to help fund that research. If you are interested in donating rounds of golf please let your chapter leaders know or feel free to contact me, and I will help you make the donations.



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# Ecological Annual Bluegrass Management

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

Annual bluegrass management is a perennial battle. Over the years, scores of management techniques and strategies have been employed in an attempt tip the scales in favor of creeping bentgrass over annual bluegrass. The popularity of the management techniques and chemical control strategies ebbs and flows like trends in fashion. As is in fashion, some of the bad ideas don't stick around very long, while the better strategies become part of the plan every season. Entire books have been written on these techniques, so I won't attempt to cover them here. I will, however, spend some time discussing the latest fashion, which is a comprehensive plan involving the use of low disturbance, low nitrogen, growth regulators, soil acidification, and iron. For lack of a better phrase, I am calling this approach "ecological annual bluegrass management". In this article, we'll take a look at each of the components of an ecological approach to annual bluegrass management based on some recent work done at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility and elsewhere.

## Disturbance

Disturbance (i.e.) core cultivation, likely plays an important role in annual bluegrass invasion. Annual bluegrass spreads by prolific seed production, and those seeds need an opening in the canopy (bare soil) to germinate. We often create these opportunities for annual bluegrass by cultivating in spring and fall. Research tells us that annual bluegrass seed will germinate anytime temperature and moisture conditions are adequate (Vargas and Turgeon, 2004).

Core cultivation will remain an important practice on fine textured playing surfaces to alleviate compaction. However, there is debate about the necessity of core cultivating sand root zones.

Indeed, we can see the effect of disturbance on annual bluegrass invasion by comparing the putting greens at University Ridge Golf Course to the research putting greens at the O.J. Noer Facility. The annual bluegrass invasion at the University Ridge was so strong that they recently re-grassed their putting

surfaces, but right next door, we lament at the lack of annual bluegrass on our plots which seems to be easily out-competed by the bentgrass. We normally core cultivate at least once per year, but our greens lack the ball marks and traffic of the golf course which means there are fewer opportunities for annual bluegrass to establish and thrive.

There have been far too few studies on how cultivation affects annual bluegrass. Core cultivation will remain an important practice on fine textured playing surfaces to alleviate compaction. However, there is debate about the necessity of core cultivating sand root zones. Sand root zones are not nearly as susceptible to compaction, but are very susceptible to problems associated with organic matter accumulation. Core cultivation of sand root zones has been a strategy to manage this organic matter accumulation.

However, Dr. Roch Gaussoin and colleagues research at the University of Nebraska has shown that topdressing (not core cultivation) is the key practice for managing organic matter. In a massive survey, they found golf courses applying more than 18 cubic feet of

*continued on page 8*

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## **Ecological Annual Bluegrass Management, continued from page 7**

sand per thousand square feet have lower organic matter levels than those applying less than that amount. While there still is a time and place for pulling cores on sand surfaces (layering issues comes to mind), there is a growing consensus that the most important management strategies on sand greens is frequent sand topdressing to dilute organic matter and bury the crown, and poking holes to temporarily increase the oxygen content of the root zone. This minimal approach to disturbance will likely reduce the opportunity for annual blue grass invasion.

### **Nitrogen**

The conventional wisdom says that high nitrogen fertilization favors annual bluegrass invasion. There have been many studies documenting this phenomenon. A study we conducted at Oconomowoc Golf Club over the past two years has also confirmed this notion. In that trial, we found that applying about 5 lbs of N/M to a majority bentgrass fairway led to a doubling of the annual bluegrass population in that two year period. The control plots received about 2 lbs of N/M and held steady at 12% annual bluegrass. One of the major challenges is finding that balance between nitrogen low enough

to discourage annual bluegrass, but still enough for healthy bentgrass. It's impossible to say what the "right" amount is for because different soils will have different N needs, and different traffic levels dictate the amount required for recuperation. The best I can do is to tell you that in theory and practice more nitrogen will favor annual bluegrass invasion than less.

One of the major challenges is finding that balance between nitrogen low enough to discourage annual bluegrass, but still enough for healthy bentgrass.

### **Growth Regulation**

We've done quite a bit of work on growth regulation here at UW-Madison in the past six years. We've found that applying Primo every 200 growing degree days (base temperature 0°C) is the best for regulating the growth of bentgrass. What little data we have on annual bluegrass suggests that Primo causes slightly more growth regulation than on bentgrass, but the regulation lasts about the same 200 GDD. This suggests that Primo use may actually discourage annual bluegrass growth.

In a companion study, we found that two

years of Primo applications at 200 GDD led to a 25% decrease in annual bluegrass populations at the O.J. Noer compared to non-regulated turf. However, Primo seems to make the annual bluegrass stand out more in a mixed stand, so superintendents notice it more easily. We found that superintendents attending field day underestimated the annual bluegrass in non-treated plots, but were pretty good at visually estimating the annual bluegrass in Primo treated plots. Even though the Primo plots had less annual bluegrass, it stood out more which led superintendents to believe it had more than the non-treated plots. A counterpoint would be that Primo increases the summer stress tolerance of turf, so it can increase the survival of annual bluegrass during the summer. Suffice it to say that Primo probably doesn't have much of an effect one way or another on your annual bluegrass populations.

However, class B growth regulators like flurprimidol and paclobutrazol, have shown the potential to reduce annual bluegrass populations. On that same fairway at Oconomowoc Golf Club described above, we found applying Trimmit at 16 oz/A every 300 growing degree days (base temperature

*continued on page 9*

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## Ecological Annual Bluegrass Management, continued from page 8

o°C, about every three weeks in summer) led to a fairly large reduction in annual bluegrass populations (from 12% to 5%). This high rate of Trimmit had a negative effect on the visual turfgrass quality, however, and this must be factored into the decision process. In the photo below, you can see that reapplying Trimmit every 300 GDD led to a more rapid decline in annual bluegrass than in the other two plots in each row which were treated with Trimmit at the labeled rate, or nothing at all.

### Irrigation

We won't spend much time on irrigation. You've surely heard that high moisture levels favor annual bluegrass, and I will not dispel this notion. Annual bluegrass is shallow rooted, so only has access to the moisture in the top few inches of the root zone. Creeping bentgrass roots are often twice as deep (or more), so it has a lower irrigation requirement. In our trial at Oconomowoc, however, we found no difference in annual bluegrass populations after two years from plots that received normal irrigation compared to those receiving the same amount plus a thorough hand-watering once per week. The best advice is to use soil moisture meters to

fine tune the irrigation distribution in the soil. Turn off heads in wet areas and increase the runtimes for heads in dry areas. Improve subsurface drainage at every opportunity. By improving drainage and maintaining soil moisture in the ideal range, you'll ensure that excess moisture isn't playing a role in favoring annual bluegrass.

While iron has long been used to enhance color, the rates I've been seeing of late are out of this world.

Up to 40 oz/M or iron per month  
— that's 2.5 lbs/M!

### Iron and Root Zone Acidification

Iron and root zone acidification is probably the newest fashion in annual bluegrass management. The previous strategies have been around for awhile, and are likely here to stay. While iron has long been used to enhance color, the rates I've been seeing of late are out of this world. Up to 40 oz/M or iron per month — that's 2.5 lbs/M! This high rate of iron is being used to mask very low nitrogen application rates and to reduce root zone pH which may favor creeping bentgrass. Defining optimum pH is not an easy task; some authors claim annual bluegrass can

tolerate lower pH than creeping bentgrass, while others have stated the opposite. Dr. Max Schlossberg at Penn State has been fine tuning the optimum pH range for bentgrass and finds improved growth and quality when soil pH is less than 7.0. For maximum nitrogen availability, I prefer to keep the soil pH above 5.5 units. Because soil pH influences everything from grass growth to diseases to nutrient availability, I think we could benefit from having more science on this topic.

Back to iron, when I first heard of these high rates I became worried about unintended side effects - particularly the possibility of forming impervious iron layers in the soil which is something Glen Obear and I have been documenting for the past few years. We are still investigating the formation of these iron layers, and have not ruled out high rates of iron application as contributing to them.

We have been applying high rates (40 oz/M/month) of iron to a putting green at the O.J. Noer Facility for two years. The color response is incredible and lasts for about two weeks, which is our reapplication interval. In fact, the color response from the iron is strong enough to mask the visual difference

*continued on page 10*



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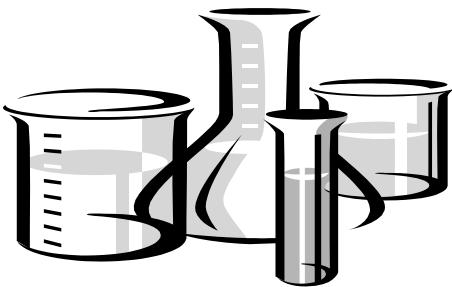
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## **Ecological Annual Bluegrass Management, continued from page 10**

between a plot receiving 0.1 lbs N/M/month with iron and 0.4 lbs N/M/month without iron. Similarly, the iron hides the bentgrass "injury" from Trimmit. I put injury in quotes because I am not sure how else to describe it, but if you are a Trimmit user, you know what I mean. In addition to the masking effect, we found a 50% reduction in dollar spot on the plots treated with iron. However, at Oconomowoc Golf Club iron applications had no effect on annual bluegrass populations over the two year study period. Granted, the iron rates were lower (12 oz/M/month), and the soil type was less resistant to pH change than a sand might be.



While the benefits of very high iron may sound tempting, I am believer in "everything in moderation" and the recent trend towards extreme iron rates has me a bit worried. We will continue to closely monitor our high iron plots to see what happens over the long term. For now, I suggest using only moderate rates of iron and perhaps trying other soil acidification strategies like elemental sulfur or ammonium thiosulfate if soil pH reduction is your goal.

### **New Chemical Control?**

The excitement over PoaCure is palatable. This product has been promoted to take annual bluegrass out very slowly, and has a wide margin of safety on creeping bentgrass. We have been testing it since spring 2012, and we have certainly seen the "very slowly" aspect. In fact, we observed no injury or reductions in annual bluegrass on a putting green at Oconomowoc Golf Club through fall. However, OGC's superintendent, Mr. Dustin Riley, sent me a picture from an application he made in fall where the yellowing of the annual bluegrass is evident. I look forward to tracking the progress of the trials and hope to report some good news at the end of next season. In summary, there are



many management techniques available to you for annual bluegrass management. Obviously, none of these techniques are sufficient for total eradication. If there was a tried and true method, we wouldn't be talking about this and researching year after year. Each golf course setting is unique and we hope you can use the information we've generated to improve (or at least not hinder) your annual bluegrass control efforts.

Credit: *The Grass Roots*. Publication of the Wisconsin GCSA. January/February 2013.

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## For All Golfer's: A 2013 New Year's Resolution List, continued from page 4

ers enjoy playing different facilities. But it should not be expected that your course play the same as any other. Also, golf courses play differently from day to day, due to weather, seasonal stresses and amounts of play, so expect and embrace a different condition each day you tee it up!

*I, the golfer, resolve to understand that the golf playing surface (turf) is a living and breathing entity. By always being aware of this it will help when frost, saturation, excess heat or other natural stresses require a short respite in normal maintenance activity. A healthier turf always requires less input to keep costs down.*

*I, the golfer, resolve to eliminate emotion from discussions when trees need to be removed from the golf course. Trees are a very important component on many golf courses (but not all!) for a variety of reasons. However, there is no question that they increase the cost of course maintenance. They severely impact water distribution and use water intended for turf. They increase disease potential that often increases chemical usage. When trees are located near greens (especially east and south sides) and they are not a major part of the playing strategy of the hole, their removal*

is often very beneficial to turf health, water use and course playability.

*I, the golfer, resolve to promote a maintenance program philosophy of firm and fast while understanding it can be taken too far. The cost for maintenance is higher, water use is significantly higher and the use of fertilizers or pesticides is increased on a golf course that does not have firm and fast as a goal. At the*

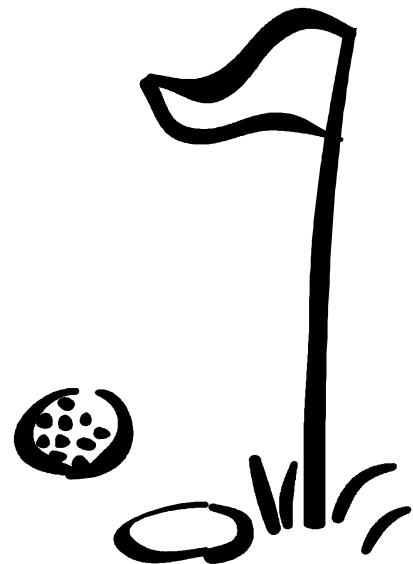
*... golf courses play differently from day to day, due to weather, seasonal stresses and amounts of play, so expect and embrace a different condition each day you tee it up!*

same time, it is important to remember that not every portion of the country is the same in regard to weather and grass types and firm and fast will mean different things at each course. In addition, not every irrigation system is the same nor do they have the ability to efficiently apply water where and when it is needed. However, most golf courses can reduce inputs to improve playing conditions.

*By accepting and embracing all of the above resolutions for 2013, you, the golfer, can help your golf course and golf course superintendent*

*make your course more playable. Reduced costs (financial sustainability), less water use and environmental consciousness are the major issues facing the game that every player needs to understand. Now if we could just come up with a resolution on how to always make those short putts!*

Credit: *The Perfect Lie*. Publication of the Peaks & Prairies GCSA. March 2013



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