



# WISCONSIN turfgrass news

VOLUME XXVII, NO. 2

FALL 2013

WTA Golf Fundraiser  
form on page 7

## What Is It Like to Play at Wimbledon?

### AN INTERVIEW WITH MADISON RESIDENT AND MEMBER OF U.S. TENNIS HALL OF FAME

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

Many of you have heard of John Powless, Head Basketball AND Tennis Coach at the UW-Madison from 1968 to 1976. Several of you may have even hit some tennis balls against him at the WTA Summer Field Day. Coach Powless has done a tennis demonstration at several of the past WTA Field Days as well as other events at the O.J. Noer Facility. During the demos, he has always invited attendees to join him on the grass court and experience what it would feel like to play at Wimbledon, the only tennis Grand Slam event played on grass. It was quite the experience for those attendees, if only for the claim that they played tennis against the #1 ranked senior tennis player on the planet.

I've enjoyed watching Wimbledon and have often wondered how playing on grass is different than hard court or clay court tennis. Many other turf managers have probably also wondered how tennis plays on grass. So what an opportunity it is for me to be able to ask this accomplished tennis pro what it's like to play on grass at such a high level. For background, Wimbledon is played on 100% perennial ryegrass, mowed at 0.315 inches, and grown on a highly compacted clay loam rootzone.

**TS:** We don't have any grass courts in Wisconsin, aside from the demonstration court at O.J. Noer. Where have you travelled to play on grass and do you have any favorites?

**JP:** I've played in many parts of the world. One of my favorites, of course, is Wimbledon because of the history of the tournament. England is the birthplace of tennis. Some say it was France. But either way grass was the original surface. New Delhi, India is another favorite because of their great playing conditions. Australia is another. They actually compact the courts with a heavy duty street roller before the Australian Open to make the surface truer and faster. Mission Hills in Palm Springs California is pretty good too.

**TS:** I know you have played and won on hard court, clay, and grass. What is your favorite surface and why?

**JP:** They're all good surfaces, but there's something special

about playing on grass, because that is the original surface tennis was played on.

**TS:** How does a tennis ball react differently on grass compared to a typical hard court?

**JP:** A strong power shot is going to bounce low and long while retaining most of its speed. A slice shot is also going to bounce low, go long and be very quick. That is why you'll often see the server move to the net to play the return ball on the fly. That style of play is called serve and volley. Another shot to be aware of is a drop shot which is going to die much quicker on grass compared to other surfaces. Grass play favors strong servers and players that can hit hard and get to the ball quicker. Points generally don't last as long, in other words the ball doesn't go over the net as many times per point, because of the stronger hits and importance of getting to the return quickly.



Continued on page 3

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Seasons, Phones and PPF

By Paul Huggett



We always seem to use a familiar expression this time of year, "Wow! Where has the summer gone?" Those of us with school age kids are trying to get that last vacation in before the daily routines start. I had the good fortune of heading up to Door County for a few days last week to take a little break and celebrate my wife's birthday. It was hard at first for me to shut

my work brain off and turn my vacation brain on. We had limited phone service which is good and bad for me. If my phone doesn't work, I wonder what's going on and if it does work, the intrusions can quickly blacken a perfectly toasted campfire marshmallow. During the break I was eventually able to enjoy my time off and am now ready to head into the fall season. Photos from vacations fill my albums (or more likely my phone photo gallery) more so than work photos as reminders of what is truly important, rather than work photos such as this tractor that drove itself into the ditch.

Phones are absolutely amazing in what they can do these days. Besides hold your vacation photos, phones today can monitor your irrigation, record plantings, send photos to the TDL, and communicate in numerous other ways. My teen daughter was showing me Snapchat. I didn't know what that was so she showed me how it works. You take a photo, add a comment and send it. The recipient gets to look at the photo for 10 seconds and it disappears. I don't get it! On the other hand, my new map/GPS based program for farm records is a useful app. Adaptability to everyone's situation is the beauty of a wide selection at the app store. While great as data phones are, I recently switched phones and still two weeks later I have both phones because I can't figure out how to transfer everything. Back to the phone store I go for help. Any "techies" out there looking for a winter job could keep busy helping those of us with slow thumbs and lost apps.



Past, Present and Future (PPF)...Congratulations to all of those involved in a successful WTA Summer Field Day. What a wealth of knowledge we gathered that day. What a wonderful opportunity to talk with Dr. J.R. Love, my major professor in college, and many of my peers, customers, and new acquaintances. It was an excellent example of what the WTA is about towards sharing ideas and providing a common infrastructure to help solve our turfgrass related questions.

Hope your autumn goes well and we end up with a "normal" weather pattern. ■



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500 Kensington Dr  
Madison WI 53704  
608-244-4407

Year behind board member name, is the expiration of their current term. January is the month the term is up.



**TS:** Who are some major players who prefer to play on grass and why?

**JP:** Pete Sampras, Roger Federer, Serena Williams, and many others who have had a strong serve and are quick to volley.

**TS:** For playing on grass courts, do you use different equipment (e.g., shoes, balls, racquets)?

**JP:** Yes, the balls are made of different materials specific to grass. Shoes have a different sole. In old days, metal spikes were sometimes used in wet conditions which would destroy a court. Today's shoes used for grass play have soles with lots of small dimples rather than the smooth sole that you'd see on hard courts. The racquets are the same for any surface.

**TS:** Is physical conditioning different for grass play?

**JP:** You have to practice on grass before you play on grass. Compared to hard court play, which is tough on your joints like knees, hips, and ankles, grass play is tougher on the major muscle groups like the quadriceps, calf, and hamstring muscles. Working out at the gym is OK but you have to get on actual grass before a tournament. During a tournament, I'll walk by the hot tub area after playing to see who is nursing sore muscles, and then I'll attempt to make them run more the next day.

**TS:** How do you modify or change your style of play for grass surfaces? Do you have any grass play secrets that you'd be willing to divulge?

**JP:** You try to do more net play. If you have a chance to drop one in short, do it. Get out and practice on the grass court as much as you can before a tournament.

**TS:** Do you have any favorite stories about playing on grass courts?

**JP:** Several years ago we were playing against identical twin in an international doubles tournament. They were so identical that they even dressed alike, down to the white warm up pants they wore since it was cool out. Half way through the match one of the twins slipped and grass stained his pants. Several points later, my partner and I noticed that the person serving never had stained pants. They got away with the stronger brother doing all the serving until we caught them.



Another story, and this is kind of bragging, so sorry. We were playing a British pair in doubles. It was in New Delhi, India for the World Championship. We were down for match point. One more point and the Brits would have won the championship. They served to my partner who mis-hit and returned a high ball back to them. This was ripe for them to slam a ball back at us which they did. The Brit came charging in and slammed a huge overhead straight at me. It landed between my feet and the

only shot I had was to hit the ball from between my legs. I got it and the ball went over the net unreturned to tie the game. My partner and I then went on to get the next two points to tie the match. We then won the next eight points in a row to win the match and championship. Winning that many points in a row is unheard of in grass tennis but the "betweenner" must have taken any remaining wind out of their sails and the Brits couldn't get a single point after that lucky shot. ■

# Summer Activity at The Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab

By Bruce Schweiger, Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab Manager, University of Wisconsin-Madison

I am over half way through my first summer as turfgrass diagnostic lab (TDL) manager and it has been a great learning experience. This year has been full of new experiences besides the obvious of looking through the microscope on a daily basis.

So what is happening at the TDL? A steady stream of samples have arrived at the lab, probably due, in part to, very diverse weather patterns this season. Here in Madison it was cool in the spring, very wet in June, hot early July, and in late July autumn weather seemed to arrive the week before Field Day with timely rains and cooler weather. In talking to others around the state, rains have been variable. Parts of the O.J. Noer Facility were under water in June while other turf professionals were watering regularly. As Madison was receiving timely rains, other parts of the state went 14 days or so without any precipitation.

Dr. Koch and I discussed the possibility of root diseases being an issue as the season developed with the prolonged cool spring. As if on cue, the majority of the samples we received have been from four diseases: summer patch, take-all-patch, necrotic ring spot and anthracnose.

The home lawn samples we are receiving are mostly summer patch and Necrotic Ring Spot, with anthracnose as a secondary issue. We are seeing these diseases in lawns of all ages. Many have an organic layer and an irrigation system. As I interview the submitter, I discover they set the irrigation system to water 5-7 days a week and walk away. Turfgrass diseases require moist conditions to develop so they are setting up perfect conditions for these and other diseases. Treatment of these diseases in general turf is very difficult due to the height of the turf and common organic matter layer. This situation causes problems in delivering a fungicidal treatment down to the roots and crowns. Both of these diseases have infections in the roots and crown while most of our systemic fungicides are acropetal (only move up in the plant). These diseases are hard to manage once the symptoms appear because the actual damage occurred weeks or months before symptoms appear. At this point all you can attempt to do is lessen the severity of the damage for the rest of the year. The recommendation once symptoms appear is to manage these areas to relieve any stresses. As we approach the fall we recommend re-seeding these areas with resistance varieties (refer to [tdl.wisc.edu](http://tdl.wisc.edu) and look under Disease keys). In

areas that have been prone to or have one of these diseases it is recommended to aerify and begin a program of deep and infrequent watering to encourage a deeper healthier root system for long term health.

Rust has exploded in many areas and the calls to the lab have been numerous. The recommendation is still to relieve stress, water as needed, and apply nitrogen to get the plants growing again. Once the plant resumes good health, they will grow out of the rust on their own. The most important thing you should be doing for rust this summer is to harvest blades from the infested area, wrap them in aluminum foil, place them in an envelope and mail them to:

**Dr. Paul Koch**  
**O.J. Noer Research Facility**  
**2502 Hwy M**  
**Verona, WI 53593**

Why, you ask? Dr. Koch is working on a rust project in cooperation with Rutgers University and he needs samples of rust from all across the Midwest. If each of you could harvest 2-3 rust samples and send them to Dr. Koch at the lab, it would be greatly appreciated. The rust project focuses on identifying which of several different rust species infect turfgrass throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest. Getting a more complete idea of the make-up of the rust species present will allow us to prepare more effective control recommendations for this increasingly troublesome disease.

In other news, the reviews of the WTA Summer Field Day at O.J. Noer have been excellent. I have been attended this event for a very long time, but now I am on the other side as one of the hosts and a presenter. I never realized how much work goes into preparing for this one-day event. It was amazing to see all the faculty and staff at Noer working hard for the same goal. The weather this year was perfect and the day was a huge success. Our guest speakers, Dr. Patton, Bill Krueser, and Dr. Nangle all contributed to a great day. I want to thank everyone that attended for making this one of the best field days in the Midwest. For those of you that didn't attend, you missed a great opportunity to catch up with other turfgrass professionals, discuss your issues with renowned professors, and spend time with the most knowledgeable vendors in the business. It is never too soon to put next year's event on your calendar, July 29, 2014. Hope to see everyone there next year.

The WTA has one more event on the horizon, which is the Fall Golf Outing Fundraiser at Maple Bluff Country Club in Madison. Not many people get a chance to play this magnificent golf course and you can have this opportunity and support the WTA at the same time. If you have never played in this event I encourage you to attend. Superintendent Josh LePine will have the course in excellent shape and we always have perfect weather (Audra is in charge of weather). This is one of the most enjoyable events of the year! Come play a Wisconsin gem and support turfgrass research at the UW-Madison. ■





# WTA Golf Fundraiser at Maple Bluff Country Club

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

The WTA would be extremely pleased to have you attend this year's golf fundraiser scheduled for Monday, Sept 23rd at Maple Bluff Country Club. This classic Wisconsin golf course will surely please your golfing palette. Course superintendent Josh LePine, his staff, and the members of Maple Bluff welcome everyone to this year's event. Tell your friends, relatives, and coworkers to come and enjoy a spectacular round of golf as this 2013 season nears the end.

Maple Bluff has a rich history that dates back to 1899. It was common in those days to see members arrive in horse and buggy or by steamboat which would leave the University area several times a day and land near the property. In 1901, Maple Bluff was one of nine golf clubs to form the Wisconsin State Golf Association. The club grew and prospered and in 1916 was enlarged to a full 18 hole course. The many course improvements over the years will thrill your game.

The members of Maple Bluff have generously allowed us to play for a very low fixed cost. Therefore, your entry fee will largely go to help promote golf turf research at your Land Grant University. Proceeds from the golf outing will be used by UW-Madison scientists to develop new techniques for managing turfgrass for the most environmental, aesthetic, and economic results.

The registration fee 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 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. A registration form is included with this newsletter and is also posted at [www.wisconsin-turfgrass-association.org](http://www.wisconsin-turfgrass-association.org). You may pay online from the website or mail in your registration.

Your fee not only provides for a fun day of golf, 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. Your participation will allow the WTA to add to the new Turfgrass Research Sustainability Fund at the UW Foundation. The need for quality turfgrass research is as important today as it has ever been. Your participation at Maple Bluff 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 you have attended them all, we hope you won't miss this one. ■



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**Wisconsin Turfgrass Association**  
**Golf Fundraiser**

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**Wisconsin Turfgrass Research  
Sustainability Fund**



**Maple Bluff Country Club – September 23**

**Where: Maple Bluff Country Club**  
500 Kensington Drive  
Madison, WI 53704  
(608) 249-2144

**When: Monday, September 23, 2013**  
9:30-11:00 Registration  
9:30-11:30 Range  
10:30-11:30 Lunch  
11:45 4-Person Best Ball Shotgun Start  
After Golf Hors d' Oeuvres, Reception, Prizes, Cash Bar

**Cost: \$125 per person**

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

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

**Directions from Interstate:** West on Hwy 30 / Hwy 30 becomes Aberg Ave. / Left on Sherman Ave. / Right on Oxford Place / Right on Kensington Dr. (one block) into lot.

**Maple Bluff Country Club**

Maple Bluff Country Club, which today stands as one of the oldest and finest golf clubs in the Wisconsin, has a rich history that dates back to 1899. It was common in those days to see members arrive in horse and buggy or by steamboat which would leave the university area several times a day and land near the property. In 1901, MBCC was one of nine state golf clubs to form the Wisconsin State Golf Association. The club grew and prospered and in 1916 was enlarged to a full 18 hole course. The many course improvements over the years will thrill your game.

You are invited to play this classic Wisconsin treasure on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Course superintendent Josh LePine, his staff, and the members of Maple Bluff Country Club, welcome everyone to this WTA event. Proceeds from the golf outing will be used by the UW-Madison turf faculty to develop new techniques for managing turfgrass with 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 17, 2013
- You may register by yourself or as a foursome

# A Thousand Words

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

You've all heard the saying, "A picture tells a thousand words". Those pictures are how I'm going to describe this year's Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Summer Field Day. The event was so educational and fun with great camaraderie and perfect weather, and I wish you all could have been there to experience it. The crowds were down with only 186 attendees, but the trade show was well staffed with 27 companies and an additional 65 knowledgeable sales staff there to answer commercial questions.

Many highlights took place during the day. One was the presentation by the Wisconsin Green Industry Federation (WGIF) of their 2013 Hall of Fame Award to the late Dr. Charles Koval. Dr. Koval's wife Patricia and son Mike were present to accept the award. Then there was a surprise visit by Dr. Jim Love, who founded the Turf and Grounds Management Program at the UW-Madison in 1961 at the suggestion of world renowned golf turf agronomist and UW-Madison alumni O.J. Noer. His many former students were so happy to visit with him. Another highlight was to witness a grass court tennis demonstration by U.S. Tennis Hall of Famer, and U.S. senior Player of the Millennium John Powless. A number of attendees took the opportunity to hit some balls with John on the grass court. The whole day could not have been any more perfect with temperatures in the low 70s, slight breeze and overcast skies. Pictures of the days events are shown on the following pages. ■

**Please support the Summer Field Day vendors that help bring this great event to you every year. The 2013 vendors include:**

AAT - Direct Solutions  
Aquatrols  
Arthur Clesen  
Barnes Power Equipment  
BASF  
Bayer  
Burris Equipment  
Contree Sprayer & Equipment  
Deer Creek Seed  
DHD Turf & Tree Products  
Dow AgroSciences  
Frontier-Servco FS  
Green Jacket  
Harris Golf and Utility Cars  
Heritage Seed Company  
Horst Distributing  
J W Turf  
John Deere Landscapes  
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Guest speaker Dr. Aaron Patton from Purdue University presented new herbicide strategies for broadleaf weed control.



PhD student Brad DeBels talks about drought tolerance and management of different turf species and cultivars.



U.S. Senior Tennis Player of the Millenium John Powless with Spencer Grams.



WTA ambassador Monroe Miller, WTA president Paul Huggett, and WGIF past president Tom Halter.



UW-Madison Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab manager Bruce Schweiger talks about managing fine fescues in various landscapes.



Large crowd observing the afternoon golf turf research tour.





Graduate student Glen Obear talks about the effect of iron sulfate on turf color, quality, and soil properties.



Attendees during the morning welcome session.



Dr. Paul Koch talks about the UW's latest initiatives in turfgrass rust research.



Patricia Koval, after receiving the Hall of Fame award for her late husband, chats with Director of UW-Madison Ag Research Stations Dwight Mueller, Former Dean of the UW-Madison CALS Dr. Leo Walsh, and UW Soils Professor Emeritus Dr. Jim Love.



Patricia Koval and son Mike pose with the WGIF Hall of Fame Award presented to them for the great work that her late husband Dr. Charles Koval gave to the green industry.



WGIF executive director Brian Swingle and his son Jack talk to Dan Biddick of Deer Creek Seed.





The Trade Show at Field Day is always a big success with great information.



Six past or present WTA presidents visited Field Day including Wayne Horman, Dan Biddick, Paul Huggett, Dan Barrett, Chris Wendorf, and Curt Larson.



Master artist Paul Zwaska from Beacon Ballfields helping beautify the grounds for Field Day by painting Bucky Badger.



1951 Toro tractor being driven by O.J. Noer staff members Nate and Ryan Kruser.



Dr. Chris Williamson talks about management of mound building ants in turf.



Former UW-Madison graduate student and soon-to-be assistant professor at the University of Nebraska Bill Kreuser talks about his latest research findings on applying colorants for turf management.



Three generations of advising Turf and Grounds Management students in the Department of Soil Science were at Field Day including Drs. Doug Soldat, Wayne Kussow, and Jim Love.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 2013

Sept 16	Wee One Golf Outing .....	Pine Hills CC, Sheboygan
<b>Sept 23</b>	<b>WTA Golf Fundraiser</b> .....	<b>Maple Bluff CC, Madison</b>
Oct 1	NGLGCSA Crew Outing .....	The Woods GC, Green Bay
Oct 5	WGCSA Couples Outing/Party .....	Wild Rock GC, WI Dells
Oct 23-25	PLANET Green Industry Conference .....	Louisville, KY
Dec 3,4	WI Golf Turf Symposium .....	American Club, Kohler

## 2014

Jan 8-10	Northern Green Expo .....	Minneapolis, MN
<b>Jan 14</b>	<b>WTA Turfgrass Research Day</b> .....	<b>Pyle Center, Madison / and Webinar</b>
Jan 21-23	School of Turfgrass Management.....	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Jan 21-24	STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition .....	San Antonio, TX
Jan 27	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0) .....	American Family Center, Madison
Feb 2-7	GCSAA Educational Conference and Golf Industry Show .....	Orlando, FL
Feb 5	WGCSA Hospitality Room at GIS .....	Orlando, FL
Feb 18	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0).....	Carroll University, Waukesha
Feb 24-28	TPI Midwinter Conference .....	Orlando, FL
Feb 27	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0) .....	Clarion Hotel, Green Bay
Mar 3	WGCSA Spring Business Meeting .....	Ramada, Fond du Lac
Mar 4	NGLGCSA Educational Conference .....	Wausau
Mar 10	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0) .....	American Family Center, Madison
Mar 13	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0) .....	Ramada, Eau Claire
Mar 25	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0).....	Carroll University, Waukesha
Apr 3	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0).....	Carroll University, Waukesha

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

## Contact Telephone Numbers

GCSAA/GIS	Golf Industry Show .....	800-472-7878
NGLGCSA	Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Assoc. ....	<a href="http://www.nglturf.org">www.nglturf.org</a>
Northern	Northern Green Expo.....	888-886-6652
PAT	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0) .....	608-262-7588
PLANET	Professional Landcare Network Green Industry Conference .....	<a href="http://www.landcarenetwork.org">www.landcarenetwork.org</a>
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 .....	414-529-4705
WSPA	Wisconsin Sod Producers Association .....	262-895-6820
<b>WTA</b>	<b>Wisconsin Turfgrass Association</b> .....	<b>608-845-6536</b>