

# 1998 Autumn Field Day at Cantigny Golf Club

Carl Hopphan  
ITF Director of Development

**D**r. Randy Kane, Chicago District Golf Association "Turf Doctor," and Scott Witte, Cantigny golf superintendent, co-hosted a great Field Day on site of the Cantigny Golf Experimental Green. The Thursday, September 24, 1998, event had a 3 p.m. starting time under cloudy sky conditions. About forty golf course and turf industry people enjoyed learning about some interesting research findings.

The 1998 growing season was the fourth for the experimental bentgrass putting green. Fertility on the green for this season has totaled 3.2 pounds of N per 1000 to date. The west half of the green (all Penncross) was maintained at tee height this year and

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*Dr. Randy Kane explaining the test green to a group of about 35 superintendents and commercial members.*



*Our host for the day, Scott Witte, superintendent at Cantigny, along with his first assistant, daughter Kori. Please notice the attire of today's superintendent: a radio to keep in constant touch with the crew and Kori's constant pal, a "Bunny Guy" doll, stuffed in his pants pocket.*



*L to R. Michael Bavier, Jr., assistant at Ivanhoe Club; Steve Davis, AgrEvo; Henry Michna, Winnetka G.C.; and Dr. Bruce Branham, University of Illinois, looking at the Prograss test plots on the 7th fairway at Cantigny.*

Photo credit: Fred Opperman

## On Course With the President

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This year as well, Joel Purpur came in from grazing in the pasture to head up the Past Presidents' Council. They held a meeting and came up with some very valuable information for the board. Many of their deals are being incorporated into the long-range plan.

I would like to also thank John Meyer for all the time and effort put forth as Commercial Members' Advisory Council chairman. John is stepping down after the Annual Meeting. Hopefully, Bob Maibusch has recruited a brave vendor to take over for John.

I'd be remiss if I didn't thank the association's two paid employees. Executive Secretary George Minnis and *On Course* Editor Fred Opperman. These two guys make the board look good. I think we sometimes take them for granted. George has been with us long enough now that he doesn't need to be told what to do. In fact, he keeps the board in line reminding them of deadlines and such. And what does everyone look for each month, *On Course*, of course. Fred is doing a fantastic job making sure it's in our mailbox each month.

I just want to say one final thank you to everyone involved with the running of this organization. From those who served on committees to the vendors that helped support us financially, THANK YOU!



Kevin Czerkies, CGCS  
President, MAGCS

## 1998 Autumn Field Day . . .

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contained the dollar spot Bioject studies. The cutting height on the east half of the green was at .150 during green up and was dropped to .130 during the summer. The green has been top-dressed with sand four times. Dollar spot has been allowed to develop once again so that the Bioject evaluation could proceed. Pink snow mold was observed on the plot in mid-April, and brown patch became quite noticeable on August 10-11.

Dr. Tom Voigt, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, spoke on his trial work at Cantigny on "Evaluation of Native Midwestern Plants for Use in the Golf Course Landscape." The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, GCSAA, and the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation have funded a three-year study to evaluate the suitability of 58 native plants in unmowed portions of three Chicago area golf courses (Cantigny, Skokie C.C. and Olympia Fields C.C.) Tom is always filled with enthusiasm about the really great work he is doing. Everyone comes away from a Voigt presentation with

## Instruction in Greenkeeping . . .

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keepers to attend these courses and make provisions for the payment by their clubs of the expenses involved.

The length of time over which seeds may retain their viability while buried in soil is an important problem in weed control and in storage of seed of desirable crops for future use. Much experimental work of this kind is now being undertaken by the United States Department of Agriculture and its cooperators. At the Michigan Agricultural College a test has

tons of information. Ask him about, following two seasons of evaluation, the 13 great natives of the 58 in the study to try at your course.

Dr. Bruce Branham, U. of I., added to the information parade on his up-to-date results from the use of Prograss on *Poa* control. Fairway plots are showing some interesting results in the control of our old friend *Poa*. Bruce is the one that you should get next to on this control matter; he surely has answers that will help.

Dr. Andy Hamblin, U. of I. turfgrass breeder, was on the grounds looking over bentgrass varieties. He has some great future plans for creating improved plants in bluegrasses as well as bentgrass species. Keep an eye on future results from this guy.

To top it all off, Kevin DeRoo, Bartlett Hills G.C. main grass man and MAGCS director, charcoal-grilled a gourmet meal for everyone. If you missed all of this, you were the loser. It was a fine showing about the people that are putting real effort into bettering the Illinois Turfgrass Industry. 

been under way for 40 years, and it was found that after the expiration of this period of time one-half of the seeds used in the experiment retained their ability to germinate. In another test, conducted at Arlington, Va., at the end of 20 years 51 of the 107 kinds of seed buried in soil were viable. As a rule, grass seeds are relatively short lived; fescue especially loses its germination rapidly. 