

What's Growing At Midwest Golf House: Present and Future

In the Midwest Golf House, the Chicago District Golf Association (CDGA) has created a building that will someday be home to just about every association affiliated with the game of golf. It was built to unite not just the golf world, but all Illinois green industry factions. It is located directly across Archer Avenue from Cog Hill Golf & Country Club in Lemont, Illinois. Beyond bringing golf into the lives of beginners, juniors, the disabled and the economically disadvantaged through various programs, the Midwest Golf House Complex will serve as a demonstration/research facility for the entire green industry. CDGA member clubs have the world's best turfgrass, but they also have trees, shrubs, flowers and native grasses that make up their quality structures.



The Arboretum at Midwest Golf House features colorful wildflowers.

Photos by Peter Wagner/Courtesy CDGA



The landscaping calls attention to, but does not overwhelm, the plaques bearing logos of the organizations affiliated with Midwest Golf House (note the MAGCS logo).

The “front yard” of Midwest Golf House has recently been landscaped with high-quality plant material provided by some of the best local nurseries. The Illinois Landscape Contractors Association (ILCA) provided the expert manpower to plant the material and one of Illinois’ most talented landscape architects designed the project. The end result is the proper plant material to reflect the character of the building, yet not the sort of planting often seen in a commercial application. This theme will continue into the landscape design of the “back yard,” which is a three-hole par-3 short course. Creating an arboretum effect will provide golf course superintendents a perfect place to bring their greens committees/boards of directors to show them exactly how unique plants look in realistic conditions. We will introduce a testing ground for turfgrasses, different sand for bunkers, ornamental grass plantings and now, test demonstration areas for Chicagoland Grows program plants.

Research and demonstration plots for the entire complex will be determined by the Wadsworth Endowed Turf Research Agreement. The Wadsworth Turf Research Committee will represent the three principals that constitute and

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control this agreement. Those parties are the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation (ITF), Chicago District Golf Association and the University of Illinois College of ACES. Their sole responsibility will be to allow only site-specific, meaningful projects to be conducted. The ITF contingent comprises 11 golf course superintendents representing their CDGA member clubs. Two open discussion meetings took place to determine the initial soil structures and seeding programs for the entire three-hole golf facility. Each area—greens, tees, fairways, rough and bunkers—was examined thoroughly, with the discussion incorporating a wealth of experience and knowledge. Illinois

golf courses, along with the entire green industry, will benefit, so consider this Midwest Golf House endeavor to be your personal test facility where you have your own family doctor make you the very best. The Midwest Golf House Complex is yours to enjoy, so please stop by and pay it a visit.

The original design of the golf course comes from Joe T. Jemsek, son of Frank Jemsek, while the builder was Brent Wadsworth. The masterful qualities of Wadsworth are reflected in how he shaped a great layout out of a flat field. It has been somewhat difficult to set up our water supply/well for golf course irrigation, but we soon

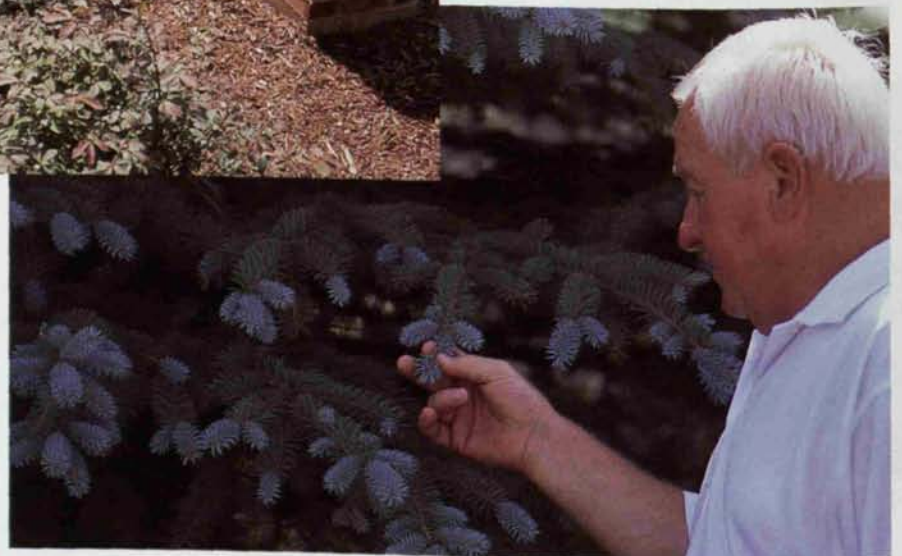
will be in business. Dr. Randy Kane has designed a seeding program that is totally unique in creating this full-scale demonstration/research complex. He will include many turfgrass varieties throughout the three-hole layout to provide a perfect living laboratory. As of early September, plans were to start seeding greens and tees by Labor Day and have fairways and rough areas done shortly after mid-September.



Creating an arboretum effect will provide golf course superintendents a perfect place to bring their greens committees/boards of directors to show them exactly how unique plants look in realistic conditions.
—Carl Hopphan



Diverse prairie grasses are also in use at the Arboretum.



Carl Hopphan examines a Colorado blue spruce situated in the "front yard" of Golf House.