

Geneva Golf Club to Update the "3 Ts"

Geneva Golf Club will be celebrating its 105th anniversary this year. To commemorate this momentous occasion, the membership will shortly vote on a massive course/clubhouse renovation project. Ed Braunsky, CGCS, superintendent of the club, informs "Midwest Breezes" that the proposed project began as a "smallish" upgrading of the "3 Ts": trees, turf and traps, and grew into a full-blown master plan, including a new clubhouse to replace the aged existing facility. Dave Esler of Esler Golf Designs prepared a plan that will be voted on by the membership in January.

Esler's striking work at the St. Charles Country Club was on display recently at the Illinois Professional Turf Conference (IPTC), where Dave and several fellow golf course architectural firms, including Lohmann Golf Designs and Martin Design Partnership, gave a presentation on golf course renovations.

Three words for Mr. Braunsky—Flymos with ropes.

—Fred Behnke, CGCS

Mount Prospect G.C.

A Ditch's Transformation to Meandering Creek at Twin Orchard Country Club

Dave Blomquist, CGCS, started his new position at Twin Orchard C.C. on October 18, 2004. On October 19, he submitted a proposal to renovate an existing ditch that runs through the west side of the golf course, quickly putting his permanent stamp on the property.

The goal of the project was to eliminate the unsightly drainage ditch and create an aesthetically pleasing waterway with a positive clear-water flow. The ditch is a major focal point of the course as it runs a good distance across both layouts. Two large stone walls will be built to give the existing bridge a more impressive appearance. The cart path over the bridge will be done with orange crushed granite. Renovation of the ditch will create a

meandering creek that will give the illusion of being present before golf was ever played on the site. The creek will vary from ten feet wide to one to two feet wide, and will be lined intermittently with outcroppings of stone at the architect's discretion. The project also involves construction of two other bridges, one full-scale and one walking bridge. Installation of an irrigation tap that can be controlled both manually and electronically will enable a consistent water flow. The project began in late October and Dave and his staff expect to have it completed before play begins in the spring. The estimated cost is \$30,000.

—Brian Baker

Chicagoland Turf



An unsightly drainage ditch undergoes transformation to a meandering creek at Twin Orchard C.C.

Tweaking the Greens' Fertility Program at Hilldale Golf Club

First things first—Bryan and Julie Widmer are adjusting to life with a beautiful new daughter. Congratulations on the birth of Heleyna Elizabeth, born on November 27. She will take precedence over any new plans and changes Bryan wants to make in his work life. On that front, however, Bryan plans to make some changes to his greens' fertility program. The greens have been great during his first two years at Hilldale and his course puts a high value on the condition of the greens in marketing Hilldale. Although Bryan is reluctant to tinker with success, he nonetheless feels like he will recognize some savings by switching foliar fertilizer products, while still complementing his biostimulant use. This may include small amounts (0.05-0.1 lb. N/m) of ammonium

nitrate. He also plans to try the new wetting agent technology (Revolution from Aquatrols), which seems to be getting a lot of attention.

Second—and the sense is palpable that Bryan has really learned a lot about his property during his short tenure—Bryan wants to rely a bit less on his past experience when making decisions. To elaborate, he wants to make sure he continues to investigate all options and seek opinions, within his staff when appropriate, before making a judgment. In short, he wants to slow down, think things through, avoid anxious decisions and jumping into the next problem. That's certainly good advice for any of us!

—Brian Bossert, CGCS

Bryn Mawr C.C.