

EDUCATION RECAP

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Public Golf Club*



Good speakers have a way of educating and entertaining at the same time. Dr. Fred Whitford, of Purdue University Extension Service provided the MAGCS members with just that.

On a cold, overcast and sleeting morning the members gathered for the April Meeting at White Eagle Golf Club hosted by Gilberto Velazquez. The education session featured an animated Dr. Whitford. He “energized” the room with his presentation on a practical approach to safe pesticide handling. Most people understand why we spray plant protectants. The people we work for desire quality turf conditions, free from weeds insects and other pests. In a world surrounded by concrete and asphalt, open space suitable for recreational use becomes all the more important.

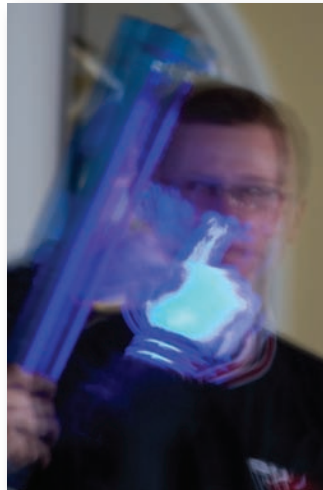
Generally speaking, Dr. Whitford believes that most of the products we apply are safe when used at the proper label rates and handled with care using the proper personal protective equipment (PPE). The EPA goes to great lengths and expense to make the sure the manufactures products are tested thoroughly for stringent safety standards. That being said, there is no substitute for wearing PPE. Wearing the required PPE as per the label reduces exposure to safe levels.

Dr. Whitford featured several “enlightening” and humorous demonstrations about the importance of wearing PPE. His interactive presentations featured many members of the audience that not only kept things lively but made numerous memorable points. We had some good sports that “volunteered”. Thanks guys. My favorite quote of the day from Dr. Whitford was when he was telling a story about a demonstration that he had previously done using the herbicide 24-D on a set of pig’s eye balls. He acquired the eye balls from a slaughter house to

show the impact of the pesticide to a set of unprotected eyes. He said, “you wouldn’t believe the amount of paper work to get two eyes off a hog that don’t need them any more”.

To summarize his key points:

- Purchase the safest products to get the desired job done. A priority of the product purchase should be as to what PPE is required for application.
- Read the label to check for required PPE.
- Require your spray technician’s to use the PPE as per the label.
- Always wear safety glasses when handling pesticides.
- Always wear gloves when handling concentrated product.
- Respirator users require a fit test and a medical evaluation; most of the products we use do not require the use of respirators.
- Manufacturers are responsible for what’s in the jug; the user is responsible for the product after it is opened.
- Always wash hands, face and clothing after handling pesticide products.
- Don’t rush and cut corners when it comes to PPE.



Aaron Goy gets the blacklight after wearing latex gloves during Fred Whitford's presentation. Everywhere Aaron touched with the gloves glowed.

I think everyone in the room agreed that this was one of the better education presentations we have seen in a while. It was informative, fun, entertaining and very useful for our day to day operations. It was well worth attending.

Congratulations to Todd Schmitt and the Education Committee for doing a great job.

You have the set the bar high...

May we please have some more? **-OC**



Fred Whitford uses the audience to get his point across. Pesticides can be used safely if the directions are followed and common sense prevails. Left- A. Goy get more blacklight, Middle- Doug Davis tries to breathe and see with a full face respirator, Right- Tony Kalina gets cleaved down the middle.