

SUPER -N- SITE

Nick Marfise, *Glenview Park Golf Club*

Nick Devries -N- The Midwest Golf House

Research is a valuable, but often overlooked, necessity for the turfgrass industry. Fortunately, for all of us trying to grow grass in less-than-ideal conditions, the Chicago District Golf Association (CDGA) has placed a committed team of researchers on our side. Nick Devries is one of the CDGA's newest. He began his work at the Golf House in Lemont in May 2009, after his graduation from Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida. At Florida Southern, Nick earned a bachelors degree in in Turfgrass Science with a minor in Business. At the Golf House, Nick has partnered up with Dr. Derek Settle (Director of Turfgrass Programs) and Keith Rinker (Manager of Turfgrass Research).

Nick grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan. While in school, he completed a student internship at Cape Cod National Golf Course in Brewster, Massachusetts. There, he loved being outdoors and near the ocean. Although Lemont does not come with any ocean side views, becoming part of the Turf Research Team appealed to Nick for a number of reasons. First, he gets to travel to courses around the Chicago Area assisting Derek Settle with disease diagnostic calls. He enjoys seeing all the differences in maintenance operations and cultural practices. Nick was also busy this past summer with construction of a USGA spec putting green at the Golf House. The new green has twenty-five cultivar plots for use in dollar spot research. During construction he got his hands dirty and showcased his techniques for moving gravel and sand. Tagging fungicides and applying them for disease research was another of Nick's summer projects.

Over the winter, Nick is making major upgrades to the CDGA Turf Program Website. Using HTML and Dreamweaver, he's creating a new design and functions. The upgraded website will provide some additional features. When the upgrade comes online around April 1, you will see Derek Settle's Scouting Reports with warnings of specific diseases updated every week. Be sure to visit the site frequently at www.cdगतurf.org. Nick recommends Course Vision, a service that assists Superintendents in creating an inventory for golf course mapping. You can view Course Vision at www.groundlinkx.com. It takes just the right touch to be successful in the projects that Nick is responsible for with the CDGA. The CDGA is glad that he's off to a great start.

Nick is currently living in Downers Grove. Although he misses the warm weather of his school days, he enjoys working in the Chicago Area. Thanks to him and many others at the Golf House, our knowledge and professionalism continue to grow. Keep up the great work, it is certainly appreciated. **-OC**



Nick checking out some snow mold at Sunshine Course.