

SUPER -N- SITE

Shane Conroy, *Park Ridge Country Club*



Kyle Jacobsen -N- Twin Orchard Country Club

Twin Orchard Country Club (TOCC) and its Manager of Grounds & Greens, Kyle Jacobsen, are hosting this year's ITF/MAGCS Spring Golf Day. Twin Orchard features two 18-hole courses, the Red Course and the White Course. The two courses are spread over 242 acres, featuring 11.5 acres of ponds and 11 acres of native areas. After a recent trip to TOCC, it's easy to see why Kyle is proud to show it off.

This is not your grandfather's TOCC. If we go back just four years, you would think you were on an entirely different golf course. In 2008, Kyle's first season at Twin, the country club underwent a massive green and fairway regrassing project, drainage renovation, berm enhancement, tee addition, and pond enlargement. They also established native areas and redesigned several holes. I think it is safe to say that Kyle and his assistants, Carl McPherson, Ryan Morrison and Todd Carroll, have been busy over the past few years.

What started as a standard 'grass and grass' project on fairways and greens of the Red Course snowballed. The members realized they needed to address other issues at the same time. Since the course was going to be closed during the regrassing, the members decided to address flooding and drainage on the course as well.

There was a drainage issue across the entire property, after even a light rain. To correct it they installed 6.1 miles of drain tile (4-24"). Since the completion of the original project, TOCC has added over another mile in house. Also for flood relief new ponds were added, and the size of existing ponds was increased. The water level of the ponds can be quickly raised, or in the case of a period of heavy rain, quickly lowered. Another great feature of the ponds is the 'spill over' areas. These are located in the rough, adjacent to the ponds. If the ponds ever flood, the water will first move into the rough and not the fairways. The ponds are all interlinked by



The Jacobsen clan, Kyle and wife Stephanie, Adam (4) and Erin (21 months).

the seven miles of drain tile that were installed. All ponds drain to the two lowest points on the property, where it just so happens that the two pump stations for irrigation are located.

Also assisting in flood prevention are the new retention basins. These areas were dug out during the renovation and equipped with a 12-inch overflow pipe, which connects them with the course's existing drainage tile system, which runs to the main pond. The 12-inch pipe is equipped with a six-inch restrictor plate on the inlet. In high flow times, this restricts flow, holding the water back at higher elevations before it reaches the floodplain in the low-lying areas. The retention basins are aesthetically

appealing and built in areas that will not impede play when they do hold water.

All the soil removed in pond renovation and retention basin construction also plays a part in reducing flood problems. All 73,000 cubic yards of soil dug during the renovation stayed on site. It was used to construct a berm along the property line that runs along IL-83. It raises the overall elevation of fairways that were located in the floodplain and helps to distinguish between holes. The berm along IL-83 is where the majority of the soil went. The second hole, which runs adjacent to the berm, was completely redesigned, along with others, by MAGCS member Dave Esler. The new hole is a night and day difference from what was there before. In my opinion it's one of the nicest areas of the course.

(continued on page 11)



Once the majority of the dirt work was completed, the regrassing was addressed. The fairways on the Red Course were seeded using a three-way mix consisting of L-93, Seaside II, and Alpha. The greens are A-1/A-4 and all have XGD drainage in place, except for the three USGA regulation greens on the Red Course. An aggressive PGR program is in place on fairways to fight against *Poa annua*. A more moderate program is in place on greens to retain as much bentgrass as possible. It's working quite well, because I didn't find any *poa* on the greens while I was there.

Not only did the membership support the aggressive renovation, but they have also implemented an equipment plan that will replace an aging fleet with one able to maintain modern course conditions. One example is the two fairway sprayers retrofitted last year with Capstan's Sharpshooter GPS technology. Using the GPS system has decreased the spray volume by 6.7 acres per fairway application (from 55 acres to 48.3 acres). They are also able to spray at a lightning quick pace of nine mph. Previously spraying was done with three rigs at five mph, now two operators complete the task in the same amount of time. The reduction in applied area saved enough in materials to pay for the system in less than two years. A large portion of the fleet has been modernized



The clock starts ticking. The crew takes advantage of the dry spring to strip a low area in a fairway. The ground will be re-contoured to increase surface drainage and the sod replaced within a few days before the sod expires.

over the last two years. Like the efficiencies gained by the sprayers, new machines increase productivity by improving both the speed and quality of each completed task.

The new equipment is being put to good use. The courses look phenomenal. Kyle first credits his assistants as the main reason for the great results. He is quick to point out there were a lot of big picture plans that went into the renovation. Ryan has been at Twin since 2006, and Carl arrived in 2008. Both were critical in making those plans come together as they have. Todd joined the team in 2010, and the newest member of the team, Robin Jasper, started this spring. These four put in a tremendous amount of work. They are accountable for the day-to-day operations, the presentation of the courses, and for coordination of equipment and labor between the two courses. Kyle assured me that without their help the renovation and improvements would not be as successful as they are today.

It really was a pleasure touring the course with Kyle. It's a fantastic layout, and he did a great job explaining the renovation (unlike this article). If you are planning to attend the ITF/MAGCS Spring Golf Day, I encourage you to do so. You will not be disappointed in the venue. **-OC**

Spectrum Technologies, Inc.
"To Measure Is To Know"

Greg Zumdahl
Sales Consultant

12360 S. Industrial Drive East
Plainfield, IL 60585

toll free: 800.248.8873
phone: 815.436.4440
fax: 815.436.4460

gzumdahl@specmeters.com
www.specmeters.com

Weather Stations
Data Loggers
Frost Alert Systems
Pest Management Tools
Irrigation Management Tools
Soil Moisture and Compaction Meters
pH, EC, and Nitrogen Meters
Light and Chlorophyll Meters

RIVERWALLS LTD.
P.O. Box 562, Barrington, Illinois 60011

GOLF COURSE ENHANCEMENT
Shoreline Stabilization, Creek Crossings
Stream and Spillway Re-Construction
Arched Stone Bridges

1-888-254-4155
OFFICE: 847-382-9696
MOBILE: 847-366-5400
E-mail: riverwalls@hotmail.com

DARRYL SCOTT BURKETT
C.E.O.

Since 1968 Division of STL Corp. BUY EXPERIENCE

WW
Water Well Solutions

Elburn, IL 60119

Lake Villa, IL 60046

www.wsssg.com

Please contact us 24/7 for all of your water well pump service, well rehabilitation and irrigation pump repair needs.

M.A.G.C.S Core Sponsor

Todd Kerry
Office: (888)769-9009
Cell: (630)201-0749
E-mail: todd@wsssg.com

Tim Kelly
Office: (888)769-9009
Cell: (262) 269-6289
E-mail: tkelly@wsssg.com

HALLORAN & YAUCH, INC.
IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

28322 Ballard Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Telephone: 847-281-9400
Fax: 847-281-9780