



Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



What's Trending Now

The MAGCS August meeting was held at the very scenic Crystal Lake Country Club. Steve Van Acker, CGCS, and his Staff were our gracious hosts for the day. Todd Quitno, Senior Golf Course Architect with Lohmann Golf Designs was our Educational Speaker.

His topic was golf course architecture and was titled, "What's Trending Now." Todd presented a random, targeted look at the latest approaches, innovations, and goings on in the world of golf course design and construction.

By definition a TREND is an inclination in a particular direction, to run, to stretch, to tend, to follow a general course and bend and adapt.

TREND: Many golf course renovation projects have been following a particular pattern over the last ten years. Master plans have not been paying for themselves. Many Clubs and Courses have been doing more with less. Owners and players are looking for minimal disruption to play. Many renovation projects have been completed with in-house Staff.

The New Master Plan Model:

1. Focuses on management of existing assets.
2. Understands the golf course's market position.
3. Works from the bottom up, preserves what you have.
4. Maximizes the lifespan of features.
5. Develops smaller manageable projects utilizing in-house labor.

Examples of these types of projects are: green and fairway drainage, green recaptures, and bunker renovations.

TREND: Was the herbicide product failure of Imprellis good for golf? As you may recall, the product had a phytotoxic effect on certain conifer trees. Many courses lost hundreds of trees and sued for compensation. Clubs that received substantial payments had the opportunity to re-think their tree planting plans. Many Clubs are now conducting tree surveys and continuing with tree removal plans.

TREND: Many courses have had "enough" of poa annua winter kill on their greens.

1. Improvement in control of water delivery systems. Courses are re-thinking head configurations.
2. "Slit is it." XGD drainage and other minimal surface disruption slit drainage technology is being employed on golf greens.
3. "As long as we are closed." Courses are analyzing slopes on greens and green mix depths. They are re-grading as needed. Might as well re-grade the surrounds while we're at it.
4. Building "push up greens" again. They are inexpensive to build. Courses are using 6:3:1 mixes or modified USGA specifications.

Thanks to Todd Quitno and Lohmann Golf Designs for sharing these insights. @

Don't Miss the **Midwest Turf Clinic** on November 14 at Medinah Country Club. Slated speakers for the day include:

- Dr. Ed Nangle, CDGA
- Dr. Zach Reicher, University of Nebraska
- Ms. Chava McKeel, Gov't Relations Assoc. Dir. - GCSAA
- Mr. Pat Foley, Chicago Blackhawks Broadcaster
- Superintendent Panel discussing local labor issues

The Midwest is also going to be collecting *Toys for Tots* at this year's Turf Clinic. Bring an unwrapped toy or a few dollars to help make some kids happy this Christmas.