

on 04/2014

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Silver Lake Country Club, the site of our first 2014 outdoor monthly meeting. Pictured is the second hole on the North Course, Dave Kohley Golf Course Superintendent.

PHOTO: Silver Lake Country Club

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 Luke Cella



The greens staff at Oakland Hills Country Club spend a sunny day this spring clearing ice and water from a putting surface. Photo credit: Steve Cook, CGCS MG

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2014 MIDWEST EVENTS

- 04/29 Midwest April Meeting, Silver Lake Country Club
- 05/05 Midwest / ITF Combined Meeting, CC of Peoria
- 06/16 Midwest June Meeting, Aurora Country Club
- 8/26 Midwest Golf Championship, Harborside International

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Past Presidents Meet Again

The Past Presidents Council (PPC) of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents met on February 26 at the Geneva Golf Club.

The meeting was attended by the following Past Presidents: Pete Leuzinger, CGCS Retired, Bob Kohlstedt, Gary Hearn, Scott Witte CGCS, Don Ferreri, Kevin DeRoo, Luke Strojny, CGCS, Joel Purpur, CGCS, Tony Kalina and Al Fierst. Members present from the current Board included: Chuck Barber, Justin VanLanduit, Jim Pedersen, current President Dave Kohely and Luke Cella.

This year, as in the past, the PPC was given the opportunity to suggest any ideas or changes that would help MAGCS improve and grow. From the outcome of the meeting, it was apparent the PPC felt the current board and staff are doing a great job of keeping the Midwest at the forefront of the profession.

Different facets of the Association are discussed including the financials, membership, membership classifications, charitable contributions, monthly meetings, education, On Course and the GCSAA. The association has been able to control costs and expenses the last few years through careful management. The board of directors hinted a dues increase in 2015 may occur if projections prove one is needed to continue membership benefits on par with rising costs.

Since its inception, several companies have embraced the Core sponsorship program. It continues to be a viable program for many. It has allowed companies flexibility in payment for association services, advertising and support throughout the year. After another successful Hospitality Reception in Orlando, plans are being made to find a site in San Antonio. Early research shows, the Midwest should not have trouble finding a venue for our size group.

PLANS ARE BEING MADE TO
FIND A SITE IN SAN ANTONIO.

Whenever there are many different superintendent job openings in the area, the Midwest scrutinizes their employment referral program to help advertise members of the Midwest as viable candidates. The Midwest only offers clubs and companies a way to advertise open positions (through an online post) and will continue to offer this service in the future. A short letter has been developed by the Employment Committee to offer this service to clubs and courses in the area and will only be sent when it is confirmed that a facility is in the process of searching for a superintendent.

The Midwest is going to take a year off from hosting the Family Night Picnic at the Kane County Cougar Baseball game this summer. The Association was one of the Cougars longest running returning groups, however the board has decided to try something new. They are developing a family event at the Midwest Golf House for families, the date is to be determined. Plans for the event include different games for our children in a relaxed atmosphere on the Sunshine Course. This sounds like fun and something that could turn into a new tradition. Last year, the Midwest hosted a new event, the 12 hole event at St. Charles Country Club. The board hopes to continue this event in the coming year and they've been talking to a few 9 hole course superintendents to find a spot.

Column continued on page 22

Now is the Winter of our Discontent

Chuck Barber, St. Charles Country Club

William Shakespeare wrote this line in Richard III. I believe the bard's intention was to set the tone of the play about King Richard III of England as a self-loathing, cruel despot. What it means for us is spring is here and winter has gone. The forecast is for a high of 30 tomorrow (3/22/2014) and snow but I'm confident that what feels like an eternal winter will release its grip soon.

Some of the ways we measure a winter's characteristics are snowfall, temperatures, days of snow cover, and ice cover. I won't rehash any of that here because I'm fairly certain that we all have vivid memories of winter 2013/2014. The expression goes that misery loves company so I figured I would try and get the word out that many superintendents in the area might be struggling with damaged turf, for a variety of reasons, as we (slowly) emerge from this winter.



Low spots that have accumulated prolonged periods of ice cover may be troublesome once the growing season begins.

(between cells) causing a decrease in water potential outside the cell. The cell begins to move out of the cell toward the ice crystals in the intercellular spaces and subsequently freezes. Thus, dehydration occurs within the cell. The colder the temperatures the more water travels down the gradient toward the frozen water. At 14 °F (-10°C), 90% of the osmotically active cellular water will move out of the cell into intercellular spaces (Thomashow, 1998).

Continuous Ice Cover Injury

The reasons commonly proposed for ice injury are the buildup of toxic gases and/or the development of anoxic conditions, and the loss of cold hardiness. It appears that carbon dioxide (CO₂) accumulation under ice cover is a major contributor to the death of herbaceous plants (Freyman and Brink, 1967). Intermittent



The snow slowly recedes off the 12th Green at St. Charles Country Club to reveal what is underneath.

Why does injury occur on cool-season grasses? CDGA Director of Turfgrass Programs, Dr. Ed Nangle, Ph.D. tells us here:

Freeze Injury

Although turfgrasses undergo cold acclimation, freeze injury is a potential problem on cool season turfgrasses like annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) and perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) Freeze injury and conversely tolerance is due in large part to how the turfgrass plant reacts to cell dehydration. As temperatures drop below freezing water within the plant freezes intercellularly

thawing helped eliminate the CO2 buildup and injury to the plants in this study did not occur (Freyman and Brink, 1967). The loss of cold hardiness under ice cover occurs and varies among turfgrass species. Under continuous ice cover annual bluegrass loses its cold hardiness, while creeping bentgrass is not affected (Thompkins et al., 2004). The loss of cold hardiness in annual bluegrass is likely due to the anoxia (lack of oxygen) conditions that develop under an ice cover (Thompkins et al., 2004).

Ice Formation in Association with Freeze Injury

In areas where continuous ice cover for over 45 days is unlikely due to winter weather patterns being broken due to intermittent periods of thawing, ice formation can play a role in freeze injury. Under this scenario a rapid drop in temperature resulting in freezing water around the growing point during late winter or early spring can cause freeze injury primarily to *Poa annua*.

The critical precursor to freeze injury is the loss of cold hardiness through dehardening and subsequent re-hydration of the annual bluegrass crown region. Continuous ice covers as previously mentioned contribute to the decline in cold hardiness. However, the most important factor regulating de-hardening is temperature (Tompkins et al., 2002). In annual bluegrass the de-hardening process can occur quickly when soil temperatures exceed 46 F (8°C) for 48 hours (Tompkins et al., 1996).



A green suffering from damage from ice formation around the crown of the plant - that pulls water out of the plant cells.

Proactive Attempts

What can we do to mitigate winter injury potential? I will refer to the good Dr. Nangle again.

1. Produce a healthy plant going into the winter. A weak *Poa annua* plant with low carbohydrate storage is not going to tolerate ice cover or be resistant to freeze injury as a healthy plant. Shaded areas are more prone to freeze injury than sunny areas, probably due to the carbohydrate status of *Poa annua* (Rossi, 2003).
2. Eliminate poorly drained areas. *Poa annua* growing in areas where water accumulates is at high risk to rapid freezing during freeze/thaw cycles.
3. Provide drainage for removal of water from excessively wet

areas. During freeze/thaw cycles the presence of excessive moisture can enhance freeze injury.

4. Reduce thatch. A significant thatch layer results in the plant's growing point to lose contact with the soil as it elevates into the thatch layer. This will expose the plant more readily to freezing temperatures.
5. Potassium fertilization. In turfgrasses potassium is often applied for increasing the chances of winter survival. Potassium is an ion that helps lower the osmotic potential of the cell decreasing water the potential for water flow from the cell.
6. Reduce the likelihood of excessive growth going into the winter. Overstimulation of growth promotes succulent high water content cells that are more likely to encounter freeze injury.
7. Reduce shading. Although not fully researched, a degree of correlation has occurred with freeze injury and degree of shading. Shading may contribute to increased freeze injury due to plant cells tend to be:
 - more succulent in shade and have larger intercellular spaces,
 - lower carbohydrate levels, which may influence water potential, as well as the energy requirements of the turf
 - shaded areas tend to be wetter, which may contribute to the severity of freeze/thaw cycles in late winter.



We all know how problematic shade can be in the summer but we forget how much it can contribute to winter damage as well by slowing soil warming and snow / ice melt.

Communication and Resources

How are you communicating injury or potential injury to your customers, owners, members or managers? The USGA has a video on sampling frozen turf to determine if injury has occurred. It can be found on YouTube, search terms USGA turf sample ice.

Further, they have a video on the importance of winter weather concerns here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROHZofjndkA>

Make sure everyone who needs to know about injury or potential injury stays informed as spring progresses. Provide



The damage from the winter that would never end won't be really apparent for several more weeks as soil and air temperatures begin to climb and stay.

information on where injury has occurred, any potential reasons for why it occurred, what can be done to recover from that injury and the corrective steps that will be implemented to provide healthy turf moving forward

For those of you who make it out of winter unscathed, congratulations. For those of you who didn't, you are not alone and there are resources available to help you communicate and recover. I for one am cautiously optimistic that we will have a great 2014 golf season here in the area. THINK SPRING! @



Samples from a predominantly Poa annua putting surface are troublesome as they are checked for life.



Bentgrass samples taken from the same golf course appear to be in much better health and will spark many conversations this spring about bentgrass conversions.

For Turfnet subscribers, the #WORSTWINTEREVER webinar can be found in their archives, and some are available to non-subscribers as well.

The USGA is another source for information through their regional updates and don't forget about the CDGA Turf Program.

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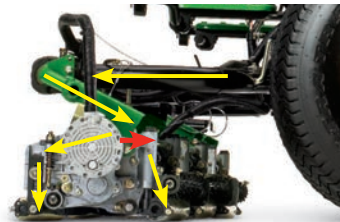
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BullSheet



APRIL 2014

Dates to Remember

April 9 – CAGCS meeting at Lake Shore Country Club, Jeff Frentz, CGCS host.

April 27 – 2014 National Club Conference at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco, CA.

April 29 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Spring Scramble at Silver Lake Country Club, President Dave Kohley host.

May 5 – ITF/MAGCS Combined event at the Country Club of Peoria in Peoria Heights, IL, Andy Morris host.

May 15-17 – NCAA Division I Men's Regional hosted by Northern Illinois University at Rich Harvest Farms (the "Home of the Huskies") in Sugar Grove, IL, Jeff Vercautren host.

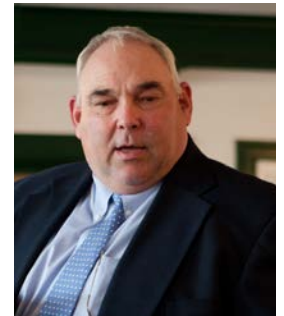
June 16 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Aurora Country Club, John Gurke & Aaron Reinhart host.

August 26 – Midwest Golf Championship at Harborside International, Ryan Tully host.

Welcome and the best of luck to our newest MAGCS members:

Janet Dietz, Fiore Nursery – Class E
Drew Kleinmeyer, River Bend Golf Club – Class A
Dustin Peterson, Rain Bird International – Class E
Tom Rasmussen, The Toro Company – Class E
David M. Ross, SePRO Corporation – Class E
Jeff Szymonik, Pinecrest Golf Course – Class DT
Adam Wiles, Conway Farms Golf Club – Class C
Rusty Willard, The Glen Club – Class SM

Congratulations to **Rick Bowden** on his retirement from Bob O'Link Golf Club after a long and illustrious career there. You've worked hard for a long time, Rick—now get out and enjoy your freedom!



Rick Bowden

While on the retirement thing, two gentlemen from the Joliet Park District celebrated their retirements together last month. **Mike Conroy** had served for 31 years at Woodruff Golf Course and **Jim Hall** had 25 years of service at Inwood Golf Course. Congrats to both!



Congratulations to Mike Conroy and Jim Hall.

Best wishes to **Scott Pavalko**, formerly at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club, on being named Bob O'Link's next superintendent, filling Rick's big shoes. (Pictured right)



Also congratulations to **Bob Rigney**, who is the new golf course superintendent at Nettle Creek Country Club in Morris, IL.



Bob Rigney, new Superintendent at Nettle Creek in Morris.

Matt Ceplo, CGCS of Rockland Country Club in Sparkhill, NY has been elected to Audubon International's board of directors. Why do you care? He replaces **Dan Dinelli**, CGCS of North Shore Country Club, who spent the last four years on that same board. Congrats Dan on your "retirement."

Also from Audubon International, Doug Bechtel is the new President of that organization after working with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for golf courses most recently.

No, he didn't get a new wife, but **Dan Murray**, CGCS DOES have a new boss. Pheasant Run Resort, where Dan is superintendent, has recently sold to a group of hotel investors and operators called Saint Charles Resort, LLC. The resort, which sits on 250 acres features a 473-room hotel, an 18-hole golf course, a 38,000 square foot expo center, two restaurants, two pool bars, and a 320-seat theater was opened in 1963, and will undergo a \$5 million rejuvenation in the coming months.

The governing body at Augusta National has once again extended complimentary daily admission to the Masters (this month from the 7th through the 13th) to all GCSAA Class A, A-Retired and AA Life Members who have a valid gold membership card. So as tempted as you may be to buy tickets from that guy in front of Hooters, don't. Use your card.

graduation, Ron took a position at Exmoor Country Club, where he has been serving as **Kurt Galisdorfer's** assistant until now. Good luck Ron—it just may be a busy start to your new job!



No, this is not the storage area behind **Justin VanLanduit's** shop. This is the state-of-the-art equipment that was used to prepare for the U.S. Open at the Champions Golf Club in Houston, TX in 1969 (for those who don't recall, Orville Moody won) (and those yellow things in back were called tractors).

We've come a long way in 45 years.



Dave Ward had more equipment on one fairway during the 2013 Open than was used on the entire course in '69



Ron Townsend, Dr. Nangle's newest translator.

Congrats to **Ron Townsend**, the new Research Manager at CDGA. Ron grew up in Columbus, OH where he caught the golf bug while playing some of central Ohio's finest golf courses while on his high school golf team. From there he attended Ohio State University, serving internships at Pinnacle Golf Club, Oakhurst CC and Kirtland CC. During his college years Ron also worked with the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation's turfgrass pathology team, performing numerous trials and making site visits and diagnostic appointments. Upon

Q: If **Greg Coyne** is the last presenter of the day at this year's Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah, what would he be called?

A: The Kankakeenote Speaker.

FMC Corp announced last month its plans to separate its agriculture and health care units from its other units that include lithium and alkali chemicals. The Philadelphia-based company said the transaction, which will take the form of a tax-free distribution of shares to shareholders, will result in two companies called New FMC and FMC Minerals. New FMC will comprise the agricultural units, including the products we in our industry use.

Here's some not so encouraging news: Horticulture and agriculture have officially made the list. Unfortunately, the list which has the two at #2 and #3 respectively is the Daily Beast's list of the 20 Most Useless College Degrees. According to their

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Bull Sheet continued from page 10

research, from 2008 and predicted through 2018, horticulture in the United States is set to lose 15,200 jobs while agriculture will lose 9,100 jobs in the same time frame. I guess my dad was right all along when he implored me to stick with the Philosophy degree.

Ever notice you never see **Troy Tietjens** on days the Cubs play? Is it possible his alter-ego is actually play-by-play man Lenny Kasper? Hard to believe he can smile like that having to watch the Cubs 162 times a year.

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Troy Tietjens v. Len Kasper

Don't forget to go to www.rounds4research.com and donate rounds of golf at your facility—it's a great way for golf courses to benefit from turfgrass research funded through the

auctioning of rounds of golf. It's really easy, and you can set the rules (times of play, dress codes, etc.). The first auction is April 15th, so hurry; or you can get in on the second auction which takes place on June 16th.

With robotic golf course maintenance equipment now being pretty much the norm (we all have at least two of those robot greens mowers right?), it comes as no surprise that someone



in Japan is developing a robotic chainsaw that can shinny up a tree (as long as its diameter is between 2.3" and 9.8") and lop off any branches (as long as their diameter is 5 centimeters or less) while the operator stands a safe distance away with the remote control. Okay, maybe the geniuses who came up with this don't have a degree that made the Top 20 Most Useless College Degrees list, but they sure did develop a useless as hell tool.

Steve Cook, CGCS MG spent part of his winter vacation

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Brian A. Bossert CGCS
Bryn Mawr Country Club
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For more information contact:

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climbing some ice in Ouray, CO at HorseTail Falls - not the greatest name of the place to go rock climbing.



GCSAA would like you to know that there is an online Self-Assessment Tool available for you to identify your strengths as well as your potential areas of improvement, so you can take control of your career and plan your professional development program. Upon completion of the self-assessment, you'll receive 0.5 education points. If you don't have many areas of improvement, it should take just a few minutes. Took me two days...

The Sunshine Course at Midwest Golf House is searching for a couple of mowers this year. They are in need of a tee mower and a surround mower. If you are in the process of trading one in, please consider a donation to the CDGA Sunshine Course. All donations are tax deductible - usually an amount greater than what you would receive on a trade-in. Please contact GCS

Chris Painter directly at cpainter@cdga.org or 630.685.2311

Speaking of used equipment, Westmoreland Country Club has a few items for sale:

2002 Chem Turf 220 gallon with 20' boom and 8 HP Kohler engine. Everything works perfect, included are three sets of nozzles: \$5,000.



2003 Chem Turf 220 gallon with 20' boom and 8HP Honda engine. Everything works perfect, included are three sets of nozzles: \$5,000

1995 Toro MultiPro 1500. Runs great: \$500

1993 SDI 300 gallon PTO driven sprayer. Included is electric hose reel: \$1,000



2002 Salsco Roller. New hydro, drums and chains. Comes with another set of 4 inch rollers and brushes: \$1,500.

For more information please contact Todd Fyffe or Chuck Totten. 847.853.4718 @

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Reinders



Calling all Green Committee Chairs

Luke Cella, MAGCS

PHOTOS: LUKE CELLA

On the first of March the CDGA hosted their Annual Officers and Director's Workshop at Medinah Country Club. The event is designed for a two-fold purpose. First, to help new volunteers within club governance learn about their responsibilities as they take on leadership roles and second, to share best practices among club operations.

The morning begins with a general session where larger issues are addressed and discussed with all the attendees – I admit, I've missed this part every time I've attended. My interest has always lied in the breakout groups; when all the green committee chairs, members and golf course superintendents come together to share information.

Shelly Solow, co-chair of the CDGA's Green Section has moderated the event for as long as I've attended and he is not shy about telling new and old green Chairmen alike their roles and responsibilities. Mr. Solow has been the Chairman of the Green Committee at Briarwood Country Club as long as I can remember. He takes it seriously and brings up many points throughout his introduction.

He begins by telling the group that "more golf courses have been ruined by green chairs that come in with an agenda," explaining to them, "don't try and remodel the golf course." Rows of silver maples line enough of our golf courses from groups that wanted to make things more difficult and tighten things up!

Shelly lets them know in clear and simple terms that they are not an agronomist and they shouldn't even pretend to be one, furthermore – there is no need because that is what the golf course superintendent is – clubs already have an expert. He lays out their job description in a couple of key concepts:

Hire a qualified superintendent (if there isn't one) – if there is one, get to know what they do – spend a morning

or two with them – not when you get up – when they get up – see first hand what it takes to manage a golf course – you'll have an instant appreciation for their knowledge and dedication.

Second is to create standards for the grounds and golf course.

Third make certain the budget matches the desired standards. Golf courses on TV are unrealistic expectations to place on any staff day in and day out – especially when the budget is not present to meet those expectations. This discrepancy only creates problems for you and for the superintendent.

Communicate to the membership information from your committee and from the superintendent.

Shelly goes on to explain how to interact with the rest of the membership as the Green Chair.

Let the club know the largest asset is the golf course and treat it this way.

Allow the members to see the equipment they own – have a hosted shop tour – or park equipment for all to see on a chosen day – educate them on cost and value of it. Makes it easier to replace and maintain.

Last job, most difficult and most important is to shield the superintendent from the members – especially those ones that could do the job better than your superintendent. "You know who they are, they're the ones that keep asking your superintendent the same question two, three

times on the same topic. It is your duty as Green Chair to pull these people aside and discuss the matter with them." Your superintendent can't win a fight against them – an employee against a member, it will never be in the employee favor. "You need to keep your ears open and address these issues within the club so your superintendent has the club environment to do their job. "

Shelly suggests to try and minimize the turnover on the green committee. He's been chair for many years and Briarwood and it has really helped with the continuity each year. If you choose to have a large committee, make sure you control the majority of that committee and that it is truly a cross section of the membership.

The key to a successful experience is to stay in communication with your superintendent. Talk to them a couple of times a week. You'll find that it is the most rewarding committee at the club.

Shelly shares an important message to prospective green committee chairs and members, often one we take for granted. He has a tremendous amount of respect and admiration for the profession and continues to support and share.

The rest of the morning consisted of short talks by area superintendents and professionals. This year John Miller of GCSAA spoke about the benefits of the GCSAA, Scott Witte, CGCS presented an overview of water issues, Dr. Nangle, CDGA spoke for a few minutes on the CDGA program, Dave Ward talked about prairie grasses and naturalized areas, Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS MG talked on tree management and Bob Vavrek of USGA wrapped up the session with highlights from 2013 and what the spring may bring. These talks were all designed for members of green committees – all very good with sound base information. For me, the real interest lies in the questions and interactions from the audience.

Questions after John Miller's talk:

John talked about Methyl Bromide and what to do if you are planning a regrass in the near future.

Will the cold temperatures experienced this winter reduce the populations of Emerald Ash Borer so it no longer a prob-

lem?

John did speak about the current bill (SB 3565) in Illinois that we have been watching; if ratified, it would give some municipalities within Cook County the right to govern pesticides within their individual boundaries.

Cantigny Golf Club uses effluent water from the city of Wheaton and Scott explained they just entered into a 99-year agreement with the city to use the water for irrigation. A question that arose centered on the contract and if there were water quality standards that had to be met before the city released the water to Cantigny?

There was interest in how much the new pump that was installed at Cantigny cost. Another question centered on if there are outside companies that can complete an irrigation audit and create a master plan. Are there any courses that use reverse osmosis (RO) in the area to treat their irrigation water?



Dave Ward addresses the audience at the Directors and Officers Workshop on the native plantings he manages at Coyote Run Golf Course.

Dave Ward's talk spurred the question about how much do native areas actually cost to

maintain versus turf cover? Superintendents were curious how Dave plants native plants into his fescue areas (he collects seed from his native areas and then just spreads the seed

Continued on page 23



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Dave Kohley & Silver Lake Country Club



Nate Bolhous, Briarwood Country Club

PHOTOS: SILVER LAKE COUNTRY CLUB

As spring finally approaches we look to get rolling with course clean up, first cuts, and course improvements. Some places have these goals in addition to getting the course open early for golfers that rely on daily fees. Superintendent Dave Kohley and Silver Lake Country Club (SLCC) fall into this category and will be the host site of the MAGCS April meeting and first golf outing of the 2014 season.

Dave started to feel the turf itch in high school where he spent his summers working at Curtis Creek CC in Rensselaer, Indiana. He then attended Eastern Kentucky University to play golf and where he made the decision to pursue a degree in turf/horticulture rather than the professional side of the business. He obtained



The Kohley's: Pam and Dave and children Megan and Brandon.

his degree and took a position at SLCC working for the late Dudley Smith for 11 years until his retirement and has been managing the large property with his longtime assistant John Sullivan since.

Silver Lake Country Club is a 45 hole public club located



in Orland Park, IL that has evolved over the years to make it the 300 acre facility it is today. In 1927 Euclid Hills opened as a private country club and in 1929 Silver lake opened up as a daily fee course adjacent to Euclid Hills on old farmland. Then in 1938 Bert Coghill, a partner in Cog Hill Golf Club, came to Silver Lake and purchased both it and Euclid Hills in 1939. Both courses were consolidated to become Silver Lake Country Club in 1940; Euclid Hills became the North Course and Silver Lake the South Course. The final piece of the property was constructed in 1962 as Rolling Hills, an executive 9-hole course; all three courses offer a different perspective of the game to meet everyone's needs and abilities. The north course is long off the tee but features less hazards; the south course is shorter but with more trouble and requires



more shot making. Rolling Hills has 7 par 3's and two par 4's with top playing conditions making for a great experience. Recently, a portion of the property has been passed down to another Coghill relative entering the 4th generation of management at Silver Lake Country Club.

Dave and John keep busy throughout the season caring for the 300 acres of SLCC. During the last couple of years Dave has been busy renovating the bunkers to new condition. The work is done in house and includes: new sub grades, new tile, shape, face slope, erosion control, and sand. In 2012 SCLL opened a driving range that was designed by MAGCS member, Bob Lohmann. One big challenge for Dave and staff are the number of outings SLCC hosts each year.

Dave explains, "it's an outing course, finding time and gaps to squeeze projects and work into can be a handful at times but there's always a way."

When away from the course Dave spends time with his family and dog Bosco whom you may recognize from the Lebanon Dog Days of summer calendar. Dave and his wife Pam, who are about to celebrate their 20 year anniversary, have two children Brandon 15, and Megan 12. The family

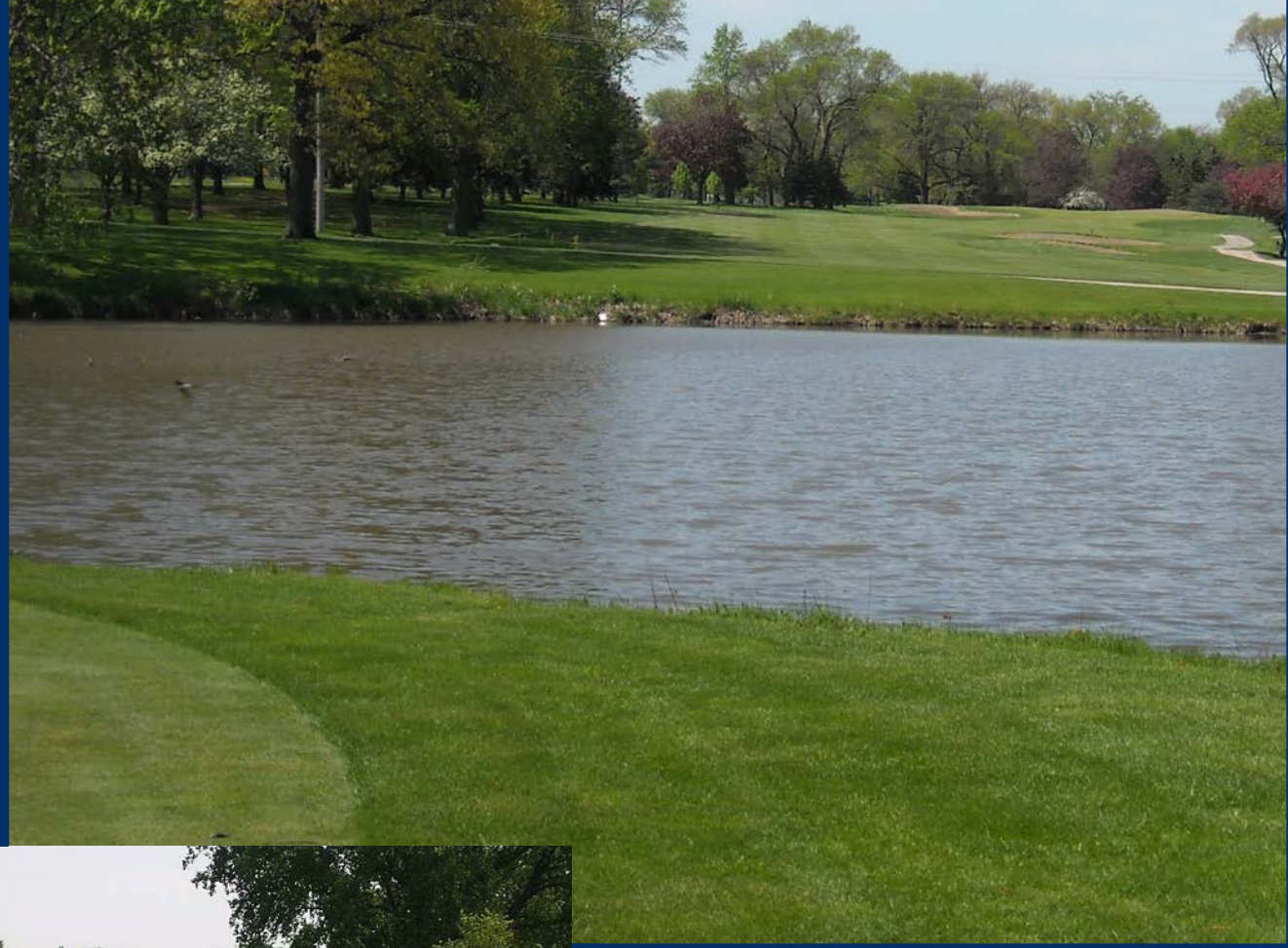
likes to take vacations to places with warm beaches as well as places like Vail and Breckenridge to hit the slopes with their skis. Dave also likes to do some hunting with his father and son Brandon, and like all of us, tries to keep his golf game in tip top shape when able.

Dave, John, and the SLCC staff are getting the course ready for the first golf event of the 2014 season and hope everyone has a great time! Let's hope the weather will cooperate better this spring for us and we can all prepare for what 2014 brings us. @





The top photo is #18 on the South Course, a 163 yard par 3. The middle photo is hole 10 on South Course, a 326 yard par 4 and the bottom is the 8th.



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New Fungicides for Use

Dr. Rick Latin



The March Meeting at Midwest Golf House covered many topics.

The March MAGCS meeting was held at the Midwest Golf House in Lemont. Dr. Rick Latin from Purdue University made his presentation, “New Fungicides for Turf Disease Control: 2014 Performance and Limitations.”

Dr. Latin started out reviewing the history of fungicides for the control of turf diseases. He discussed the loss of mercury and cadmium products and the introduction of chlorothalonil to the market. Contact and systemic fungicides were reviewed as to their phytomobility, or how they actually move on and in the plant. Diagrams explained the movement of the fungicides through the stoma on the leaf surface to the interior vascular system and then with certain fungicides down to the roots.

Secure (fluzinam) is a new contact fungicide that has been recently introduced. It is expected to take some of the pressure off the chlorothalonil restrictions. Like all contact fungicides it works on the outside of the leaf and is subject to weathering and microbial degradation.

Fungicides are categorized by how they work within or out of the plant. One form that works inside the plant is called an acropetal penetrant. This type of fungicide follows the xylem up and out through the plant. These usually have longer disease control because it suppresses the pathogen inside the plant. The pathogen usually takes a longer to recover and begin reproducing again. Another form of fungicide that works inside the plant is called a local penetrant. Local penetrants stay within the plant and do not follow the xylem up and out. A systemic penetrant actually does move up and down within the plant. This would be considered a “true systemic.” Fotsyl- aluminum is an example of this type of fungicide.

Fungicides are characterized further by their general mode of action. This will be either as a multi-site or site specific product. Most fungicides fall under the category of site specific.

Fungicide resistance is still a major concern in the industry. This can occur with certain combinations of pathogens and compounds. Dr. Latin discussed this in more detail. His recommendations include:

- Use cultural tactics to grow healthy grass
- Use preventative applications at lower rates to keep pathogen populations low
- Minimize site specific products
- Rotate chemistry

Lately, there has been a big increase by the manufacturers in the release of combination products. They have been taking their cue from Superintendents who have been tank mixing fungicides for years.

Dr. Latin’s final thoughts were about the importance of keeping pathogen populations low. An increase in disease pressure will require higher rates and more frequent applications. He recommended checking out the Purdue’s Turfgrass Website for their dollar spot disease model.

Dr. Latin had a good day. Not only was his presentation well done, but later in the morning he became a Grandfather. Congratulations!

After the morning break, the next educational session featured a panel discussion. The panel, moderated by MAGCS Board Member Kris Kvelland of Ridge Country Club consisted of Andy Dauksas from Glen Oak Country Club, Dr. Ed Nangle from the CDGA, Jeff Hoste from The Village Greens of Woodridge and



Brian Bossert, CGCS from Bryn Mawr Country Club.

The panel opened up with a discussion of their use and experience with some of the new fungicides discussed earlier in the day. Some used the new products out of curiosity, some got demos to try, and others liked the pre-mix aspects.

The winter ice and snow cover of this year were discussed. Tactics to cope with any problems included increasing communications with Club, pulling plugs to check for life, what to do or not to do about low pockets of ice coverage and melting or removing snow or ice. There were different opinions on what should/needs to be done. Courses that had more *Poa annua* had higher concerns.

The panel discussed how the winter was going to affect opening dates. Everyone agreed it looked like it was going to be later than normal. Panel discussions are always interesting as it creates a back and forth discussion. The panel took questions from the grandstands. There was only minor heckling.

The last speaker of the day was Dan Moore of Moore Golf. Dan's background is in research, consulting and documentation. He serves on the USGA Museum Archival Committee. Dan presented "Golf History and Photography of Golf in Chicago." Dan presented a historical perspective of Scotland's "gift" of the game of golf to Chicago. He showed some early drawings and photographs of some of the first courses built in Chicago. He reviewed the different architect's influences on the game and how that affected the original course architecture in Chicago. H.J. Tweedie, Allison Colt, Tom Bendelow, C.B. Macdonald and Donald Ross were some of the featured "pioneers" of golf in Chicago. It was very interesting and informative. @

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In 2013, the GCSAA extended the Affiliation Agreement for another year. This agreement covers the relationship between the chapters and GCSAA and defines roles and responsibilities among other things. It has not been reviewed for quite a while and Luke Cella has stepped up to help represent the local chapters on a small task force that is supposed to oversee the reworking of the document. The document oversees items as conformity of bylaws (need to be consistent with each other), Membership classifications and definitions of such, (remember changing from Class B to SM? This is why.), Annual Chapter Delegate Meeting, Annual reporting of association activities, GCSAA voting, and more. The document needs to be revised to more accurately represent the local chapters and national association.

Pete Leuzinger was in attendance prior to teaching at Kishwaukee College that afternoon. He led a discussion that centered on the future of Horticulture, a field of study that has contracted not only at Kishwaukee but across the country at an eye brow raising pace. Programs struggle with attracting students and the group has felt this in the employment market for interns, second and first assistants. Working outside and with nature is not as desirable and attractive as it used to be – at least until marijuana sales are legal in all 50 – that may produce an uptick in the study of plants.

The only old business, as I previously insinuated were the people in the room. The information that was provided to the PPC was outstanding and the group expressed its gratitude to the current board present. The PPC values the opportunity to openly discuss the past, the present and future as those who still take the time each spring to express their points of view on an Association they hold dearly in their hearts. @



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out each spring).

Curtis Tyrrell's talk was a pared down version he gave at our Turf Clinic a few years ago about tree removal at Medinah CC. His talk opened a discussion on fans and the importance of air movement.

Ed Nangle gave a very abbreviated talk, explaining that "Poa is like an Irishman, it likes it wet and cloudy." He did get asked about the bacterial wilt issue but a topic that was quickly put on the back burner when talk turned to our winter.

Bob Vavrek followed up with what we may see this spring. It certainly raised many eyebrows from the audience, especially the golf course superintendents in the group. Bob stated, "the benefits of removing snow or ice from greens or even covering them each year – it is tough to tell if these things will help to prevent injury this year." Bob explained that we are experiencing a record setting winter, as we all know, and it stands to reason that there will be some turf damage out there. It is not unlike experiencing extreme heat when we have record setting summers, it is just on the opposite end. One key Bob explained to get up and running is the irrigation system. If damage does occur and courses plot their road to recovery using seed, it is imperative the seed does not dry out – as we all know. Getting your irrigation system charged up and ready to go will keep recovery going throughout spring even if we get a dry afternoon or two. @



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