

on

01/2014

THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

# COURSE

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

TURF CLINIC RECAP 2

OVERHAULIN' GOLF CAR STYLE

## 11 Miles of Tile at Westmoreland



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Westmoreland Country Club flooding their fairways this fall in order to test the new course drainage system before winter.

PHOTO: Luke Cella

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Luke Cella, CGCS



A very unique golf car is restored by MAGCS member Doug Davis. It was owned by another long time and now retired MAGCS member, Skip Willms

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### 2014 MIDWEST EVENTS

- 1/22/14 January Meeting & Wee One Fundraiser, Seven Bridges
- 2/5/14 Midwest Hospitality Reception, Orlando FL
- 02/14 Annual Assistant Winter Workshop, Lemont IL

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# Summer Internships



Luke Cella  
MAGCS  
Executive Director

I get asked several times a year if I know of any schools or programs that have interns that need to be placed. Sometimes, not always, I am wary of the question. Hiring an intern takes effort on the part of those doing the hiring.

You are making a commitment to continue the education of the intern. By definition, an intern is gaining practical experience through supervision and training. I become wary when I feel operations are looking for labor by someone that has an "interest in the industry" and therefore won't need much supervision or training. In actuality, this is quite the opposite of an intern. Those who truly want to impart their knowledge and experience on someone who wants to learn, keep reading – the industry needs you.

Some of you may recall the successful program launched by the First Tee utilizing members of the Midwest to educate and share the profession of green keeping with our youth last summer. It took place at Cog Hill and the Midwest Golf House for a day in late August. Young adults of the First Tee spent the day learning about golf course maintenance operations in the "Careers on Course" program. Based upon feedback from the attendees the day was fun and they found it to be interesting.

A few years ago the Illinois PGA started a program called GolfWorks Illinois. It was designed along the same lines as "Careers on Course" but developed as a program to expose young adults to the business side of the golf industry through an internship program during the summer.

GolfWorks Illinois is a vocational development program for Illinois high school and college students that promotes learning through hands-on work experience in the golf industry. Working together with local golf facilities and youth golf organizations, GolfWorks Illinois benefits participants in the following ways:

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*Continued on page 7*

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# OVERHAULIN' Golf Car Style

Doug Davis, Flagg Creek Golf Course

I love old things. Old music, old movies, old cars. Oldies but goodies right? It wasn't until I got into the golf business that I knew or cared about motorized golf carts. Back in the early '70s memories of golf carts were of the Harley Davidson three-wheelers with a swivel steering arm, loud engine, and they ran and ran.

In 1987, Dennis (Skip) Willms (Onwentsia Golf Club) hired me fresh out of college to work as his assistant at the Racine Country Club in Wisconsin. While there I saw one of the oddest, oldest, most unique looking golf carts ever, a 1963 Cushman Golfster. This was Skip's personal cart.



*When I trailered the car from storage, it didn't seem to be in that bad of shape.*

The Cushman Company was founded in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1903. The more familiar Cushman Trucksters were produced from 1952 to 2002 and were used for everything from ice cream sales, mail delivery, police departments, mall and stadium maintenance to, of course, golf course maintenance. The Model 735 Golfster Golf Cart was produced from 1961 to 1964. It was built on much the same frame as a truckster, used an 18hp OMC

engine, and had one forward and one reverse gear. President Dwight D. Eisenhower bought a Cushman Golfster in 1963 and used it for many years in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where he retired.

Fast forward to March 2011. I sent an email to Skip saying hello and asked him if he still had his old Golfster. He replied that he did still own the Golfster, but had not run it in over 20 yrs. He would be glad to sell it to me, for a very reasonable price. I drove up to Onwentsia. Tucked away in an incredibly large equipment storage facility, under two inches of dust and bird poo, sat the Golfster. We got it up onto my trailer, and I got it back home. After a thorough pressure washing, I surveyed what I was up against: missing parts, frozen parts, rotted tires, body damage, to name a few. I began the disassembly, and very soon the cart was broken down to a lot of individual this and that.



*Once I started the disassembly, I started to find out the project was going to take a little more than I had anticipated.*

Fortunately, there are still Cushman enthusiasts out there on the web who offered a wealth of resources, leads, information, parts, etc. I was lucky to get my hands on an original owner's manual and parts book. I decided that rather than re-build the old 18 hp OMC engine that came with the cart we would buy a Repower kit, a 20 hp Honda engine, which included a clutch adapter and wiring instructions for joining new with old. Also, since the Golfster uses a lot of the same internal parts as a Truckster, I was able to use a Truckster three-speed transmission. About this time the weather started getting warm. My "real job" was calling me, so the project got put on hold and sat all summer. During this time, though, I was able to search for and find other components that the cart needed. When it was all finished, I had found and purchased parts from seven different states. After everything was back together, it was time to begin body work. Sanding through layers of paint in three different colors was a chore. I didn't want to sandblast for fear of damage to the metal and fiberglass. After a lot of body work the cart received two coats of primer. I selected hot rod paint from House of Kolor called "Lapis Blue." The paint job turned out great. When the sun reflects on it, there are at least three different shades. We powder coated all the trim pieces, front/rear bumper, and seat bracket with a nice contrasting chrome color. (Actual chroming is really expensive!) Finally, I took the bench and back rest to an upholstery shop, and we worked up a design we thought would fit nicely with the "era" of the cart.

There is so much more involved in an overhaul than I could ever have imagined. I have to give a huge thanks to my Equipment Technician, Ed Horaceck. Without him the cart would still be in 300 pieces. Thanks also to Mark Johnson, for his guidance and the "parts" Golfster he shipped to me from South Florida, and to Blake Winters for his body work and painting prowess. Ernesto

Jimenez's talents with needle, thread, and vinyl upholstery were also essential.

Stop by my shop if you want to see this little piece of history up close and personal. I might even let you borrow the keys!



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The Illinois PGA Foundation started GolfWorks Illinois in 2010 and was inspired by the success of several educational programs, including the New York Metropolitan Golf Foundation's Golfworks program.

In an effort to grow Illinois GolfWorks, the Midwest and the Illinois PGA are planning to work together in the coming years to create a viable program for our youth. We feel this program will benefit the industry in the long run and just as important benefit the youth who participate.

The idea is simple. Encourage and assist golf courses and clubs to hire interns for the summer to expose them to the industry. During this internship, the youth will work for a few weeks in each department within the golf course operation. From a management perspective, and a turf maintenance department perspective, we realize there are hurdles to overcome. Some of the obstacles may be the early starts, limited tasks depending on the age of the intern because of child labor laws, training someone for only a couple of weeks work and onsite supervision. However, we know we can make it work. There are jobs that can be done on the course that are meaningful and can inspire the next generation of golf course superintendents. It will take some work on our part to develop an experience that may be life changing.

Most of us are in the golf business because of exposure to it during our early years. When did you realize you wanted to make a career out of it? Illinois GolfWorks wants to be the answer to that question to the next generation of golf industry professionals.

## Don't Miss the Midwest Hospitality Reception

The evening of:  
Wednesday, February 5, 2014  
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If you have any questions or would like to sponsor the event, please contact MAGCS:

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# # BullSheet



**JANUARY 2014**

## Dates to Remember

**January 7-8** – ITF Turf Conference 2014 at the Hyatt Lodge in Oak Brook, IL, Ronald McDonald host.

**January 13-15** – 2014 Michigan Turfgrass Conference at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI.

**January 14** – CAGCS 2014 Shop Tour. Details follow.

**January 22** – 5th Annual MAGCS/Wee One Meeting/Fundraiser at Seven Bridges Golf Club, Don Ferreri and Dave Gelino hosts.

**January 28-30** – Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show at the Downtown Des Moines Marriott. Go to [www.iowagcsa.org](http://www.iowagcsa.org) for the details.

**February 1-6** – 2014 Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FL.

**February 5** – MAGCS Hospitality Reception at Miller's Ale House in Orlando, FL.

**March 11** – Conserv FS' Tech Day at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL, Dan Murray, CGCS host.

Happy New Year, and a big welcome to our new MAGCS members:

**Jay Druhan**, Class A, Palos Hills Golf Club  
**Matt Lohmann**, Class E, Lohmann Golf Designs, Inc.  
**Andrew Narlow**, Class C, Idlewild Country Club  
**Clark Rowles**, Class E, Pendelton Turf Supply  
**Kyle Schwieter**, Class C, Sunset Ridge Country Club

Congratulations to **Shane Conroy**, who has accepted a position with Spectrum Technologies. Shane was formerly assistant superintendent at Park Ridge Country Club, as well as our Class C Advisor and PMTCM (Permanent Midwest Turf Clinic Moderator). Good luck to you Shane!

If you know of someone who is interested in becoming a golf course equipment technician, Kishwaukee College has just the thing. This spring semester, Kish is offering a new class on Turf Equipment Maintenance that will cover proper operation and maintenance techniques dealing with turf equipment, including reel and bedknife grinding, basic welding, basic spray painting, and how to develop a complete equipment inventory for capital budgeting in a golf course environment. Classes will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:15 to 6:15 starting on January 14th and running through April 14th. Hurry and call **Pete Leuzinger** at 815-825-2086 ext. 2970 to sign up.



The Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents is holding its Annual Shop Tour this month on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Always a great way to get the crew (what crew you may have at this time of year) out of the shop for a day to see other maintenance facilities, this year will feature stops at Biltmore Country Club (**Brian Thomson**, CGCS), Hawthorn Woods Country Club (**Scott Hillyard**), and Wynstone Golf Club (**Ben McGargill**). Call Luke Cella to let him know you're attending.

Remember that thing you received in the mail last month? You know—the thing from MAGCS that said something about dues renewal having begun? If you haven't already done so, go ahead and dig it out of the pile on your desk and return it with your dues payment. You can also renew online, which is really easy. Thanks!

Another reminder—this month, on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Wee One

Fundraiser will take place in conjunction with our January monthly meeting at Seven Bridges Golf Club (**Don Ferreri** and **Dave Gelino** hosts). If you haven't signed up, get on that—it's a day not to be missed. The morning education will feature Dr. Thom (pronounced Tom) Nikolai from Michigan State University who will discuss the history of putting green maintenance along with the most up-to-date research and techniques utilized in the field. Doc Thom's presentations never disappoint. Following that, Mr. Timothy Eavenson, Attorney at Law will talk to us about how to defend ourselves when we get a job and how to protect ourselves if we lose our job. Following lunch, it's auction time, where you can find some great deals on all sorts of goods and services, with all of the proceeds going to the Wee One Foundation. Hope to see you there.

Condolences to the family and friends of **John Kiraly**, who passed away on December 17th. John was the father of **Pete Kiraly**, and had served as golf course superintendent for the Des Plaines Park District for 42 years. Rest in peace, sir.

What can you make with a pickle bucket, an old rotary blade, a piece of steel rod, a Mountain Dew can and some peanut butter? If you're **Vince "MacGyver" Dodge**, the answer is simple—you make a mouse trap. Just as effective as a shop cat, but no litter box to clean.



If you are heading to Orlando next month for the Show, be sure to take the opportunity to do something that could save your skin some day—GCSAA and the Sun Safe Tee Program are teaming up to offer free skin cancer screenings to everyone in attendance. Stop by booth #2279 and get screened—early detection is critical when dealing with this most prolific, most preventable, and most curable form of cancer.

In this month's GOLF Magazine, one of our member courses was honored. Mistwood Golf Club in Romeoville (**Ben Kelnhofer** supt.) was awarded its "Best U.S. Renovation You Can Play" for 2013. The renovation by architect Ray Hearn took two years to complete, and was well worth the wait according to the review: "The result? Mission accomplished. Mistwood may have been young for a face-lift, but this beauty is ready for its close-up." Congratulations to Ben and Mistwood GC for this honor.

Q: What mysterious creature is rumored to be slithering around in **Rich Kensinger's** irrigation pond?

A: The Ken-Loch Ness Monster.

Michael Heustis is a smart guy. BUT...is he Mega Mind smart?? Or is it possible that they are one and the same?

## MIDWEST Doppelgänger



How smart is Michael Heustis?

Congratulations to **Brian Bossert, CGCS**, Luke Cella, CGCS, and **Tim Scott, CGCS** on their successful recertification through GCSAA.

Good luck to **Mike Embree**, formerly of Acme Materials in Muscatine, Iowa who after 40 years on the job has retired to sunny Arizona. Many of us have gotten to know Mike over the years, and we wish him well.

After 34 years on the road, **Steve Stewart** (right) is moving inside. As of the first of the year, Steve has taken over as Reinders, Inc.'s Manager of Operations and Transportation. Congratulations, Steve!



Congratulations to **Matt Kregel** and **Erwin McKone**, who were selected as two of 22 golf course superintendents to participate in the Syngenta Business Institute in December. The program focuses on financial and human resources management, delegation and negotiation skills, effective communications techniques and managing generational differences.

Last month was a festive one for the MAGCS members who hopped on the Holiday Party Train. The South Side party was held at Chef Klaus Bier Stube in Frankfort on the 2nd, followed by the West Side gathering at Seven Bridges (Don Ferreri and Dave Gelino hosts) on the 5th. Closing things out was the North Side party on the 17th at Twin Peaks. All three events were well-attended and were a wonderful way for friends from both near and far to gather and toast the end of another season. Thank you to all who helped make these parties so successful. Pictures on page 13.

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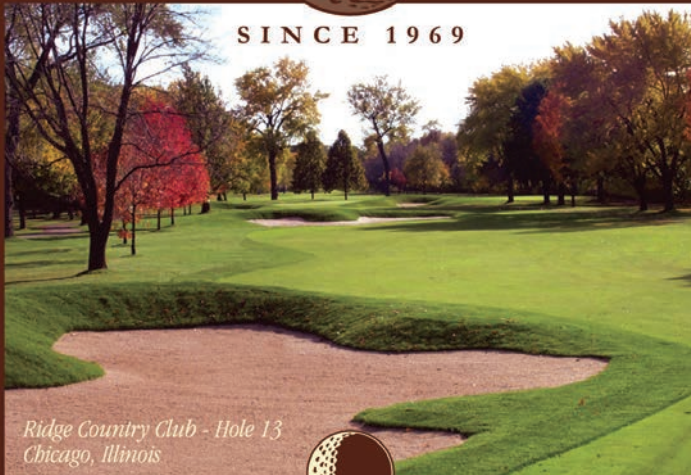


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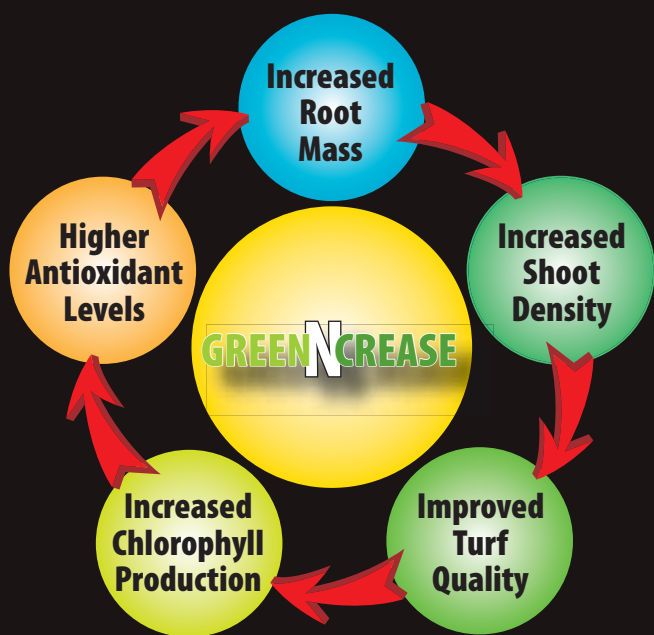
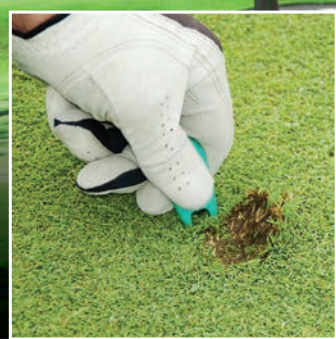




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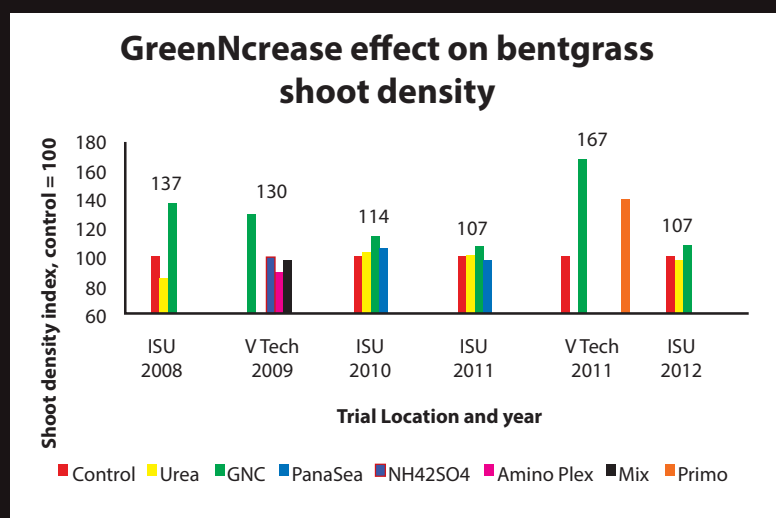


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# II Miles of Tile at Westmoreland

Luke Cella, MAGCS

PHOTOS: LUKE CELLA AND TODD FYFFE

Todd Fyffe woke up in the middle of the night to a flashing red sliver of light coming through his bedroom window. When he went to bed the previous evening it had started to rain. The Westmoreland Superintendent's home sits on the south border of the golf course property. When he woke to the strobe, it was still raining.

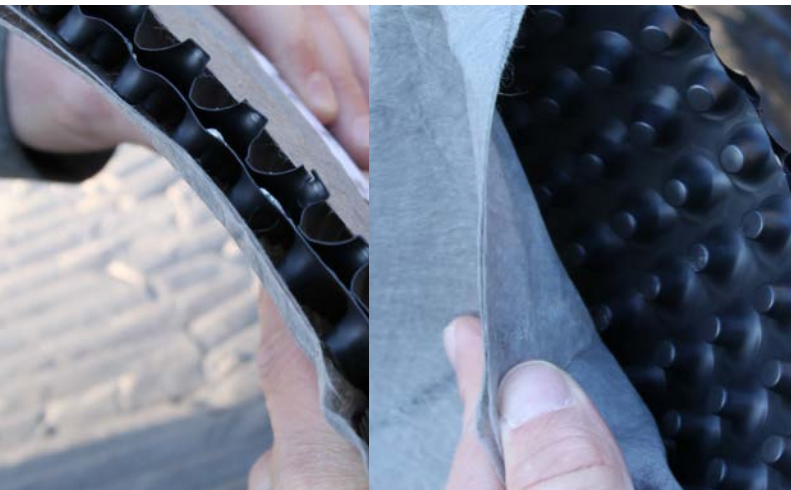
Six inches of rain had fallen on the partially installed system. It was tested beyond measure with this storm. The flashing light was coming from a power substation relay that controls the main pump on the drainage system. As Todd looked past the strobe, he could see its reflection on a body of water covering the 8th, 9th, and 18th fairways. The new system had failed.....until a relay was reset and the water was pumped off the property as designed.

Westmoreland Country Club is bordered by three different communities: Wilmette to the north, Skokie to the west and Evanston to the east. The country club was founded in 1911 when "a group of men from Evanston Golf Club, locat-

ed on the canal banks of Evanston, became dissatisfied with the space limitations of their course as the City of Evanston expanded." Hence the name – a group that moved west for more land. The original design of the course was done by William Watson in 1912. This design underwent a significant change in 1920/21 when William Langford and A.W. Tillinghast completed a redesign of the course. Arthur Hills influenced a renovation in the early 1990s but the club still holds true to Watson's original routing.

Oddly enough, one of the original reasons the founder's of Westmoreland Country Club chose the 128-acre site was "because it was under laid by a 25-foot bed of gravel, which provides ideal drainage for turf." Somehow, somewhere, something went wrong. The course does not drain at all. Its' soils are a high-organic based muck that hold water and impede root penetration and growth. An inch of rainfall can limit cart traffic for days as the course tries to cast off gravitational water. The physical evaluation from ISTRC show the soil is comprised of 70% sand but the high organic content holds water. Overall there is a 13:1 ratio of water to air with a 70% water holding capacity. All this equals a dreadfully slow infiltration rate of .01 inches per hour.

Drainage has to be the toughest sell to any membership; it is something that no one ever sees. At least with an irrigation system, members will occasionally see a head on, or at the very least, the pump house. If you think about it even further, a drainage system is air, albeit underground. Todd explained to me, the members of the club have been



*Over 11 miles of the waffle drain pipe was installed throughout Westmoreland Country Club. The two pieces of plastic are wrapped by a geotextile fabric.*



very supportive of this project, they really understand the importance of being able to take water away. After so many years of repairing and replacing turf due to flooding, the members and Todd are ready for it.

When most of us think of turf injured or killed by floods, we attribute it to some body of water, a creek, river or stream over flowing its bounds and not receding for a long period of time. Westmoreland has no water feature that flows through the property, only an 18" buried storm drain line that was installed in the 1960s. Throughout the years, every drain line on the property has been hooked into this concrete pipe. The pipe runs from the east to the west and before it enters into the Village of Skokie's storm / sanitary sewer it is further reduced by a 12" restrictor fitting. When large storms came through, it was not uncommon for portions of the course to be covered in water for two or three days. That 18" mainline could only take so much water and as Todd explained, "the soils here have become muck and clogged, creating temporary ponds in many spots throughout the property when it rains heavily."



*Todd Fyffe, Golf Course Superintendent at Westmoreland Country Club told me about a drainage project that the club embarked upon.*

One of the regulations through the permitting process by the Municipal Water Reclamation District (MWRD) of Greater Chicago, states that they are only able to accept surface water in their system, not ground water. So any seepage water that flows from the surface through the soil profile (most drainage systems on any golf course) cannot be sent downstream through piping, only on the surface. In addition, because of the golf course's tremendous water holding capacity, the design had to release water slowly into the Village of Skokie's storm / sanitary sewer. Working within these confines, Westmoreland hired Dennis Hurley at Turf Drainage Company of America to design the system, Gewalt-Hamilton (a local engineering firm) to represent the club and manage the project, and Leibold Irrigation to install the system. On paper, the solution was to increase the golf course ponds water holding capacity, pump seepage water to the ponds (make it surface water) and then release it slowly when needed into the MWRD system.

The new design called for an increase in the water holding capacity of the ponds on the course. Prior to the revamp, the ponds on the course had a potential holding capacity from the normal water level to high water level of 1,124,500 gallons of water. Upon completion the pond capacity was increased to 7,600,000 gallons at normal water level by raising two pond banks on property. If heavy rains are expected, by lowering the ponds by 4 feet, the ponds on the course have the capacity to hold over 12,300,000 gallons of water; this is the equivalent of a 4 inch rainfall across the 120 acre property with zero soil absorption or seepage.

Some of the basins are cylindrical while others are rectangular depending upon the need of the specific site. The other key component that is terminated into these basins, and larger sump pits, is the actual subsurface drainage. The piping system that was installed utilized a waffle drain, a system that has a core of two pieces of plastic wrapped by a geotextile fabric. This type of piping provides a greater collection area for water to enter the flow area than conventional round perforated pipe.



*When drains vent to the surface grates are held in place by metal cages wrapped in fabric allow air and water exchange from the surrounding soil too.*

Water runs through the main drain line from east to west. The main ponds on the golf course are on the eastern and middle section of the property. Water had to be captured and pumped against the natural pitch and flow of the property. The system works by capturing surface water across the course through a series of drains

As with most drainage systems, this drainage system begins using the topography of the course to move water by gravity. In several fairway locations Todd showed me small catch basins where the drains actually come to the surface. Using a geotextile fabric wrapped around a wire structure, these small basins are able to capture water not only from the playing surface, but also from the soil profile as water can seep in through the fabric. Over 150 of these smaller basins



*One of the Irrigation Drive Pumps (IDPs) in the early stages of installation in a sump. They sound more complicated than they really are.*

Continued on page 22

Larger structures installed include sump pits (both concrete and plastic) where large amounts of water are collected and pumped back to the irrigation ponds on the course. One pit has a 7.5 HP motor-driven pump that is actuated by the



*How do you cover a four foot wide sump pit in a playable area? Put a four foot wide lid on it 8" under the soil and grow turf on it. Vent it with a 12" grate.*

weight of the water within the pit. If electricity fails, there is a back up generator connected to this pump. In a couple of areas where it was too expensive to run electricity for pumps, Irrigation-Driven Pumps (IDP) were installed to push water to holding ponds. These pumps utilize the energy of the irriga-



*All the soil was removed from each trench cut on the property and backfilled with sand.*

tion system to pump water. The IDP is placed inside of a sump that has a float in the bottom. When the water level in the sump rises, the float opens a standard 1.5" irrigation valve that has been placed in line between the irriga-

*A sliding gate drain (widely used in agricultural fields) regulates the pond depth using a dam principle. (l) View from top (r) gate location relative to pond.*



tion system and the IDP. By opening the valve, the water of the irrigation system flows through the pump and creates a vacuum or venturi that sucks the water out of the sump pit. Some homes use this same type of system for sump pumps in their basements as a back up for power loss. They run on the water supply piping in the same fashion. Westmoreland has installed 4 of these pumps on the golf course in areas it was not feasible to install conventional electric pumps.

A key feature of the system is the ability to move water between the ponds to make it available for irrigation or to move water from the ponds into the village's sanitary/storm sewer when needed. Westmoreland employs the use of a sliding drain gate to regulate the pond levels and the amount of water flowing into the village's system during non-heavy rain events either before a storm or the next day after a rain storm. This type of valve controls the discharge rate by creating a dam to regulate the water flow out of the holding structure.



*The Leibold construction crew compacting sand in one of the trenches.*

Todd explained, "it takes about a day to lower the pond four feet through this structure."

All of the pumps on the golf course discharge into HDPE (high density polyethylene) pipe. The advantages of using HDPE are several: It is butt fused to eliminate potential leak problems at joints. It is highly resistant to corrosion and should last for 100 years. It is also lightweight and flexible.



*One of the main 10' concrete sumps being installed housing the main 7.5 HP pump that moves most of the water off the property. The switch that actuates the pump is triggered by the weight of the water within the sump.*

Beside the ponds, there are only few structures above ground that can be seen on the course. Sump pits, where access is not needed are covered by these large aluminum reducers. The one feature that Todd knows the members will see is an increase in turf quality in the coming years. Todd pointed a couple of areas in a fairway that he reseeded or sodded each year because of inadequate drainage. Todd has already noticed improvement in the turf in these areas due to their ability to dry out.

Last week my son asked me to quiz him for a science test the following day. He had to know the four components of a healthy soil, 5% organic matter, 45% minerals, 25% water and 25% air – remember that? With the new system installed at Westmoreland that air component can now be part of the equation.


When I pulled into the property, Todd was running his



*Chris Nelson(L) of Leiblod Irrigation and Todd Fyffe check on of the smaller irrigation driven pumps to make sure it is working as they check the new drainage system late last year.*

irrigation system on full. While most superintendents were blowing out their systems, Todd was purposefully flooding a fairway to see how the water moved – from the surface through the soil profile or subsurface drains to the sump pits and into the pond. Each phase of the project was tested to ensure its performance. This enabled Todd, armed with engineering documentation, to show the membership that their investment works. Furthermore Todd has recorded baseline drainage data through soil testing and will continue to document the systems effectiveness into the future. As the

\$2 million project is wrapped up, Todd can enjoy his winter and look forward to a growing turf on soils that drain. The membership of Westmoreland can now look forward to better turf conditions and a significant reduction in the number of "no carts" days following rainfall events.

Thanks to Todd for sharing this project with the membership. As when anyone tells me about a project, my automated response has been to tell them, it sounds like a good article for the membership to me. Todd invited me out to see the project and provided the information for the article. If you have a project or something to share with the membership but don't have the time to get it on paper, let *On Course* know. We can help. 



*Once the sod is carefully placed back into the same location, even in the same direction, it is hard to tell all that went on below it...until the next rain event.*

# Rounds 4 Research and MAGCS

Matt Kregel, The Club at Strawberry Creek

I am pleased to announce that MAGCS will be participating in the Rounds 4 Research program. In 2012 the Environmental Institute for Golf (GCSAA's philanthropic organization) launched the national Rounds 4 Research fund raising campaign having taken it over from the Carolinas GCSA who administered it on a smaller scale for three years.

In 2013, more than 50 GCSAA chapters and organizations participated in the auctions, which raised nearly \$150,000.

Rounds 4 Research is based on the practice of securing donated rounds of golf and putting them up for public auction. The EIFG is working an online auction platform to sell the rounds and administer the various notification and revenue collection activities. At least 80 percent of the proceeds will be distributed to participating chapters or turfgrass organizations for use on research-based programs such as education, scholarships, advocacy and agronomic research.



program a success. You will be asked to solicit rounds of golf from your facilities (and perhaps others) to be placed for auction. The more rounds we secure the greater the revenue we can generate in support of our members and chapters.

In the near future, we will be providing more information about the program and support documentation that you can share with others at your facility in soliciting rounds and attracting golfers to the auction site. From that perspective, it is important to remember that this program is for the benefit of all aspects of golf. This is not a program that will only benefit golf course superintendents.

Again, I am excited about the opportunity presented to us and the potential to invest in activities that will strengthen the profession and the game. In advance, I appreciate your support and will be communicating more about the program in the near future. Please contact me should you have questions.

Matt Kregel  
MAGCS Secretary/Treasurer  
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Bull Sheet Continued from page 14

On November 26 of last year, TurfNet Blog Aggregator posted one of our member's blogs, and it was noteworthy. First, try to remember what happened earlier that month on the 17th, when our state was hit by an outbreak of deadly tornadoes. Country Club of Peoria superintendent Andy Morris, whose own facility was spared, made the short trip to nearby Washington, IL to visit the Hillcrest Golf Course and offer his help. The photos Andy posted were unbelievable—the destruction to both course and buildings was utterly complete. There were four people in the pro shop when the storm hit, all of whom survived—a miracle considering that the shop was leveled with a car flipped upside down on top of it. Hillcrest is a two-man operation, with owner Brian Brubaker's and superintendent Chuck Bishoff's and their families sole livelihoods hanging in the balance. Andy was asked to serve as their consultant throughout the rebuilding process, a daunting task to say the least. Stories like these remind us of how lucky we are, whether because we were not in harm's way when it happened, or because we have people around us like Andy and the countless others who selflessly pitched in to help others in distress. Let's hope for the best for all the people whose lives were affected on that fateful day.



If you are still on the fence about whether to get down to Orlando for the Conference and Show, there is a pretty snazzy tool you can use called Getting You There—2014 Attendee Justification Resource that can help you out. It can be found at [gcsaa.org](http://gcsaa.org) by clicking on the Golf Industry Show tab. Hurry. 

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\*Not actual beverage cart for sale - stock photo.



Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*

## Turf Clinic - Wrap Up (Part 2) - Turf Topics



*Dr. Nangle started the turf discussion highlighting the growing conditions of the 2013 season.*

The MAGCS Members met at the venerated Medinah Country Club for the 61<sup>st</sup> Midwest Turf Clinic and Annual Meeting. Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS MG and Staff were the hosts for the day. Turf topics ruled the day.

Dr. Ed Nangle, Director of Turfgrass Programs for the CDGA made his presentation, "2013 A Year in Review." His mission is threefold: to help the CDGA golf course superintendents through diagnostics, research and education. Diagnostic visits to member clubs are helpful to help golf course superintendents identify and control turfgrass disease issues. He conducts field research and product tests with help of the turfgrass program staff to determine current best practices for healthy turf management. Reaching out and helping turf professionals has been a focus of Dr. Nangle since he started this spring with the CDGA. He publishes and distributes approximately 40 weekly scouting reports to more than 400 superintendents, university colleagues and turf industry professionals within the region. His education includes: Post Doctorate Plant Physiology, University of Florida, 2012-2103, Ph.D. Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University 2012, M.S. Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University, 2008, B.S. Turfgrass Science and Golf Course Management, Myerscough College, Preston, United Kingdom.

Nangle didn't spend too much time jumping into the year, or spending too much time on covering the spring: The year started out with a cold and wet spring, which was not good for bentgrass. There were small outbreaks of Microdochium and Waitea patch.

Summer's number one challenge was the management of dollar spot and Nangle chalked up this summer as being the worst in the last 15 years as far as this malady. Rust also became an issue once it warmed and the turf dried out. Rust is not a typical disease that we treat but it did become problematic on newly seeded areas, something the sod industry fights quite a bit. Because most of the summer was dry and we were able to

control how much water we put down it wasn't a "big year" for pythium, brown or summer patch. Nor was summer statistically hot or humid at the previous two summers.

Nangle explained, "The climate was comfortable and the rainfall was scattered and mostly bookended,." He credited the phoshite programs as a deterrent to Pythium outbreaks.

Nangle went on to list a few do's and don'ts to turf under stress:

1. Do maintain fertility with nitrogen being the most valuable
2. Do maintain moisture, stressed turf more susceptible to disease and injury
3. Do increase mowing heights when plants are under stress
4. Do poke holes for root growth and air exchange
5. Don't do the opposite of any of the above

Nangle then went through a few other items that he encountered throughout the summer and through interaction with superintendents.

Weeds: Crabgrass became an issue as early season rains held up applications or were washed away. Knotweed is a growing issue in low-cutting height areas and low fertility turf. Fall herbicide control programs are very important for next season weed control strategies.

Insects: Though dry, insects did not seem to migrate into irrigated areas this summer. Cutworms were a minor problem. Cicada killers were somewhat problematic. They tend to be territorial and can do damage. Control methods have been spotty. Nangle reminded everyone to rotate insect control chemistries to prevent resistance.

Abiotic Factors: There was a lack of intense heat this summer, therefore turfgrass stress was not high. Many courses have had good success with the use of moisture meters. Dr. Nangle

reminded everyone to use 1.5" probes for predominantly *Poa annua* turf and 3" probes for bentgrass turf. He feels best practices are an irrigation program that replace 60-80% of ET and use hoses to supplement weak coverage areas. Nangle cautioned the attendees to be wary of heavy irrigation settings on high temperature and high humidity situations.

Shade continues to be a problem on some courses. His recommendations include:

- Decrease nitrogen applications
- Remove dew in the morning
- Use of fans have proven to be very effective
- Growth regulator applications will help with tightening up the canopy.

Nangle briefly covered his plans for the CDGA Turfgrass Program. Plans include:

1. continue with the Scouting Report Newsletter,
2. continue diagnostic visits,
3. collaborate with regional universities and exchange data and information,
4. collaborate with international universities, especially phosphite studies,
5. create a CDGA *Poa*/bent management on-line education program for Hispanic staff and prospective incoming Green committee members,
6. continue to publish in an array of peer review journals,
7. bring back the Turf Field Day at the Sunshine Course.

Nangle has been a great addition to the CDGA Turfgrass Program. He has brought new energy and a new direction to the program. He may be a little hard to understand at times with his native dialect but I think we are in good hands. Give him a call and invite him to lunch. I've heard the best way to a turfgrass pathologist's heart is through his stomach...or something like that.



*Because Poa is so adaptable Dr. Zac Reicher believes it will be around for a long time no matter what we throw at it.*

Dr. Zac Reicher, Professor of Turfgrass Science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln made the next presentation, "Practical *Poa* Management." Dr. Reicher primarily works with professionals in on-going education and troubleshooting. He teaches sophomore and senior level turfgrass classes at the U of N. He conducts research in turfgrass management, establishment and weed control. His education: B.S. from Iowa State University in 1986. M.S. form

Iowa State University in 1988 and a Ph.D. from Purdue University in 1993.

His main theme through his talk is "We can't get rid of *Poa annua* so we just manage it."

*Poa* has lots of negatives that make it tough to manage and actually the weakest plant we grow.

1. The apple green color is not desirable
2. It is a bunch type grass.
3. It grows very prolific seed heads which can affect ball roll
4. Very susceptible to disease.
5. Has limited environmental tolerances that don't do well in our growing zone

However *Poa* also has some factors that are positive, if you are a plant.

1. Very adaptable plant. It exists from the equator to the Arctic Circle.
2. There are perhaps millions of biotypes.
3. Each location exerts selection pressure to determine current populations
4. Weather extremes are not relative to adapted biotype.
5. Heat, cold, water, TGR's and environment can influence populations of biotypes.

Reicher went on to discuss many of the reasons *Poa annua* controls are effective or don't work at all. Questions he raised include:

- Is it application timing and rates?
- Are the rates high enough?
- Is it the weather?
- Is the plant too stressed to respond to treatments?
- Is the product not effective?
- Are the genetics of the plant not receptive to the product?

Reicher says, "*Poa annua* is a moving target because of its adaptability. There are no silver bullets to treat it." He feels that even with the one new product (PoaCure) that shows tremendous promise, this plant will eventually adapt to it and be able to resist its formulation. Reicher shared some tactics you can employ to reduce the *Poa* population:

- Limit phosphorous applications
- Limit nitrogen applications in the fall
- Reduce water use
- Remove clippings
- Avoid fall core aeration when *Poa* is germinating
- Overseed bentgrass in mid to late August

There have been challenges with products applied to control *Poa annua*. Some of the product label rates are too low to be effective. Some of the products might actually damage *Poa* plants and compromise putting green quality. Products can vary in effectiveness from location to location. Reicher went on to describe some of the products that we currently have:

- Velocity has proven to be effective on fairways. He recommends two June applications and two September applications at 4oz/A.
- Prograss is effective for *Poa annua* control in stands of perennial ryegrass.
- Tenacity and Xonerate have been effective in Kentucky Bluegrass turf.

Studies of *Poa annua* control on greens have shown to be inconsistent. Data from these studies vary and results have not been conclusive. The use of multiple approaches and tactics over

many years has been the only formula for success in managing *Poa annua* populations

The final education for the day was a panel discussion on Poa Management, Pigments and Turf Screen, New Technology, Labor Force Finding, Training and Retaining. This panel was moderated by Chuck Barber of St. Charles Country Club. The panel included:

- Scott Bordner, Chicago Golf Club
- Dave Radaj, CGCS Green Acres Country Club
- Justin VanLanduit, Briarwood Country Club
- Dr. Zach Reicher, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Dr. Ed Nangle, Chicago District Golf Association

These panel discussions are always loaded with “tons” of information. This discussion format has been the foundation of the Chicagoland Golf Course Superintendents. Put two or three or more Superintendents in a room and the topics will “fly”. This is what we do best. The information exchange between the panel and the attendees was free flowing with questions and answers. Any question asked was answered by the panel in a very frank manner. This is no nonsense education that cuts right to the point. Every topic that was brought up was addressed. There is way too much information exchanged in a short amount of time to even try to take accurate notes. This is a format that you really need to be there to get the full effect.

Some of the topics the panel discussed were:

- Pigments and their history, what do they do? effectiveness, turf benefits, rates, frequency of applications
- Re-grassing greens- varieties, timing, process
- *Poa annua* population discussion
- Current Poa Cure programs in the Chicago area
- *Poa annua* management programs at specific clubs and courses
- New technology use- TDR’s, smart phone apps, mower technology
- Water reduction techniques using TDR’s
- Irrigation techniques- timing, rates, ET use, flushing
- Disease models
- Rolling- timing and techniques
- Sprayer GPS systems- feedback, cost savings, efficiency, reduced product use

This was another great day of education put on the MAGCS Education Committee and is the cornerstone of the Midwest meeting calendar. If you only go to one MAGCS meeting a year, this one should be it. Make a new year’s resolution to put it on your calendar for next year. You won’t be disappointed. @

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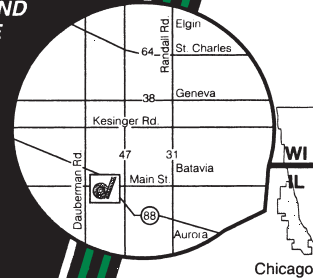
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