

on 04/2015

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TURF CONFERENCE NOTES II

Chuck Barber  
Jason Kahlstorff

## St. Charles Country Club





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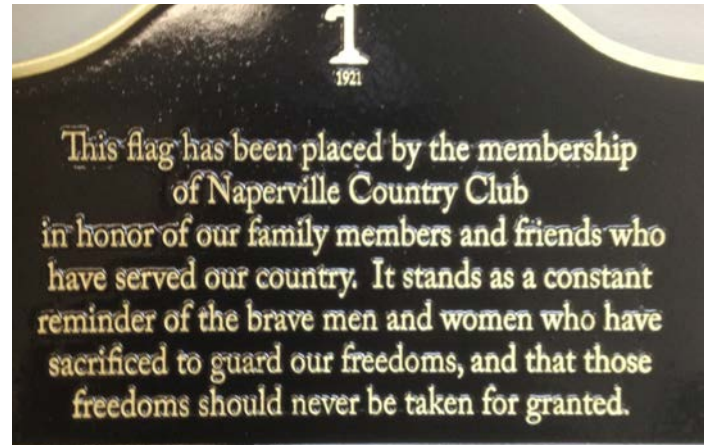
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St. Charles Country Club, site of the Midwest April Meeting as pictured this past fall.  
PHOTO: Luke Cella

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Justin Kirtland

FEATURE  
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Tim Anderson, CGCS



In the process of creating a memorial to our Veterans, Tim Anderson details the installation of a flag pole. Page 16.

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## DATES

### 2015 MIDWEST EVENTS

- 4/ 27 Midwest April Meeting, St. Charles Country Club
- 5/12 Midwest / ITF Meeting, Biltmore Country Club
- 6/22 Midwest June Meeting, Flossmoor Country Club
- 7/14 Midwest 9 Hole Event, Flagg Creek Golf Course
- 8/25 Midwest Golf Championship, Prairie Landing GC

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# Hospitality Reception Abounds



Luke Cella, MAGCS

Each year the Midwest hosts its most popular and most well attended event in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show. The 2015 Midwest Hospitality Reception in San Antonio was no different.

Over 290 members and guests descended or actually ascended (the event took place on the second floor) upon the Rio Plaza, to their Grand Vista Ballroom. The room, a former Planet Hollywood from the 90s, overlooked the famous San Antonio River Walk and was a good size for our group.

The food was abundant and tasty, centering on a southwest Tex-Mex theme that included Rio's famous chicken flautas, beef fajita quesadillas, and beef empanadas. In the mix was a member of the culinary staff dedicated to making fresh guacamole for anyone who desired it. For those that left the bar and made their way around the room, they found a sweet table featuring sopapillas, homemade fudge and "some of the best flan", one flan connoisseur told me, "that they've had." Most found the food without problems, but more found the drinks. In pure Midwest fashion, the group burned through three kegs and an additional 10 cases of beer, 104 glasses of wine and another 292 cocktails, not to mention 15 gallons of margaritas. No matter how many times I tell the venue "we drink a lot of beer", they never believe me until the end of night!

Understanding the importance of this event during our strategic planning session this year, the board decided to start the event at 7:00 p.m. rather than the traditional 6:00 p.m. The idea was to give everyone a little extra time to get there knowing most would be walking from their hotels in San Antonio. In addition, it would allow others to attend other chapter-hosted events for a little while before they made their "way over to the Midwest Room". The later start time meant we ended an hour later, no one was bothered by this or had trouble meeting their curfew. Also new this year was a DJ providing "light background music" for us. We hired him for a little ambiance and he also had the ability to switch to karaoke, but no one got the nerve up to try. It was still a value to have him there as he allowed us to use his sound system to make a few announcements including the winner's of the scholarship raffle: Paul Wagner - \$100 visa gift card, Mike Vukmir – GoPro camera, Patrick Karnick – iPad Mini and Paul Carlson – Drone.

\$2210 was raised for the MAGCS Scholarship Fund at the event. By the way, the 2015 scholarship applications are now online at magcs.org – please encourage your children and grandchildren to fill them out and return them. Thank you to Jake Vollbeer and the volunteers that helped to run the registration table. Joe Eisha (Layne Christensen) and his wife Karen did the lion's share of the check in followed by Steve Freese, Chris Kehe (VGM Club), and Troy Tietjens, (JW Turf).

As one of our long-standing sponsors told me, he would "travel to the GIS just to go to the Midwest Hospitality Reception." He explained, "it is that worthwhile."

I'm happy to hear our sponsors still find it a value to support the event, especially when I hear other receptions are diminishing in support and attendance. Each year we say the event could not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors, a truth that can't be overstated. The Golden Tee Club continues to provide support for the Hospitality Reception without question. On behalf of all those in attendance, we thank you for your generosity in making the event one of the Midwest's best. Plans are underway for San Diego 2016. Please check out pages 22-23 for pictures from the event. @



# Selecting Annuals Flowers for your Course

Justin Kirtland, Arrowhead Golf Club

In the winter months and early spring the task of picking flowers to plant seems daunting. But just like selecting the proper turf for the proper environment, we too can select the best flowers for the correct environment and be successful flower growers.

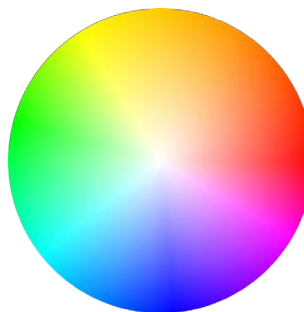
Golf course superintendents have dozens of annual species and hundreds of specific cultivars and hybrids to choose from; the right choice depends on soil conditions, sunshine levels, and the ability to water when needed. The best advice is to keep it simple and stick to the basics. Talk to your local grower about new varieties and market trends. Read publications and research to see what is performing well.



*Containers can be swapped throughout the course of the season allowing you to change colors and plants near high profile areas.*

When selecting annuals narrow down the hundreds of options according to the amount of shade and sun that the plants will receive. The majority of annuals thrive in sunny locations, but some annuals also tolerate shade. Growers provide terms like part shade, light shade or deep shade to describe a plant's light requirements. Make your life easier and follow the light requirements the best you can. The proper plant in the proper place is much easier to take care of throughout the growing season. Below are definitions of each light category along with an illustration.

- Deep or dense shade, full shade. Look for this on the north sides of buildings and walls or under trees with low branches and dense leaves. No direct sunlight reaches the ground.
- Partial shade. Find this in areas that get direct morning sun (on the east side of buildings) or afternoon sun (on the west side of buildings) but none at midday, from about 10:00 to 2:00 p.m.
- Light shade, dappled shade. Look for this under trees with high branches or sparse foliage.
- Part sun. Same as partial shade — except plants that like part sun also tolerate midday sun.
- Full sun. These places receive direct sunlight for at least 6 hours or more each day, including some or all of the midday hours.



*Check out [color.adobe.com](http://color.adobe.com) for one of the best interactive color wheels to help you select flower colors that go well together.*

Pick the plants by height. Annuals typically range anywhere from a few feet tall to groundcovers that are only a few inches high. For the lushest look, pick several annual species in varying sizes to



create a full, dense flower bed. For beds in the middle of an open space, place tall plants in the middle followed by consecutively shorter annuals as you approach the bed's borders. For beds against a wall, place the tallest plants in the back.

Select the plants according to their color. You can start with the colors that you find personally appealing, but when combining colors it is a good idea to take a look at a color wheel. For the most pleasing look, choose flowers that have complementary



*Greg Stack talks about the best performers at last year's CDGA Field Day.*

hues. Complementary colors are found on opposite sides of the color wheel. For example blue bachelor's buttons go well with yellow lantana.

Review which annual species or annual cultivars are recommended for your region's soils and climates according to the U of I's Extension Service. Certain varieties are bred to thrive in specific soils and climates or to be resistant to diseases that are prevalent in specific regions. The website <http://urbanext.illinois.edu> contains great information of the flower trials conducted at the Midwest Golf House by Greg Stack. There is data from the last four growing seasons on the site, along with pictures and some simple selections to use.



*Meet and check with local growers to see what is easy to grow and manage. They're experts and happy to help you design and plan your annual beds.*

Take a daily walk through your annual areas to spot-check the

condition of your flowers. If they're unhappy with the amount of light they're receiving, you will find out quickly by the way the plant looks.

Here are some signs that a plant is getting too much sun:

- Flower petals dry out.
- Leaf edges look burnt or dried.
- Flower color looks faded or washed out.
- The entire plant starts to weaken and droop.

Signs that a plant isn't getting enough light:

- Growth is sparse.
- Stems are lanky and spindly.
- The distance between leaves, where they're attached to the stems, is especially wide.
- You see fewer flower buds and, thus, fewer flowers.
- The entire plant leans toward the light sources.

Figuring out the proper location for a plant involves trial and error. Remember if the plant is unhappy, you can always move it to a more appropriate spot. Some superintendents who have been adept at growing annuals work with local growers during the off season, selecting, choosing, and designing specific beds on the course and around the clubhouse. Plants are ordered and custom grown in some cases, ensuring enough plant material. This is just one more thing to work on in the off season, but can be quite rewarding when golfers look forward to see what new and interesting annuals you plant each season. @

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# SUPER-N-Site

Chuck Barber & Jason Kahlstorf  
St. Charles Country Club

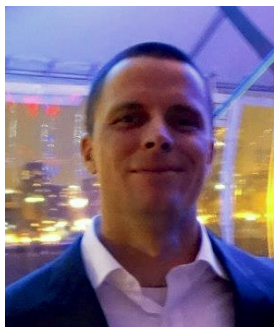
Andrew Cross, Arrowhead Golf Club

Chuck Barber has survived four seasons at St. Charles Country Club, these seasons have varied widely from hot and wet, to hot and dry, and also one of the coldest and snowiest winters on record. Chuck continues to be among our most active members in the Midwest Association and serves as the current President.

In addition, he finds the time and energy to be a regular contributor to On Course most months.

Chuck has written in the past on the work/life balance we need in this industry. Chuck has a wonderful family, his wife Tina, and three children Tom, Molly, and Lucy. He enjoys spending as much time as possible with his family and has found ways to balance his career and his family. Chuck will be the first to tell you that the key to his success in both endeavors is his amazingly skilled Assistant Superintendent, Jason Kahlstorf. This is where we take a departure from the normal Super-n-Site article and focus on Jason as Chuck had his spotlight most recently in the May 2013 On Course.

Jason has his turf degree from Iowa State, although if you've seen his truck he is a die-hard Iowa Hawkeyes fan. His career path has taken him through much of the Midwest, with internship stops at Interlachen (Minneapolis, MN), Butler National (Oakbrook, IL), and Oakland Hills



Jason Kahlstorf


(Bloomfield Hills, MI). Upon graduation Jason accepted an assistant position at Butler National, under Mike Sauls, where he remained for 8 years. His next stop was as Superintendent at Old Oak Country Club in Homer Glen, where he remained for 4 years, before heading to work for Leibold Irrigation, and eventually settling in at St. Charles Country Club.



St Charles Country Club is situated on 190 Acres of land that is split by Country Club Road. The course was designed





by Tom Bendelow in 1924. The club purchased additional land west of this layout in the 1980's and hired David Gill to design seven new holes that opened in 1987. In 2002 the club hired Architect David Esler to design 6 additional holes of what would become known as the Quarry Course. This was done as the first phase of a now dormant master plan. If you have been out to St. Charles Country Club you will notice the Quarry Course is nothing like the other 18 holes of the Bendelow/Gill parkland design. The Quarry Course features a varied topography and traversing through a series of ravines. It is a fun and challenging set of holes that can be played as 3, 6, or 9 holes. We will be playing the Bendelow/Gill 18 this April of which Chuck and (mostly) Jason do a great job of maintaining. 







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# # BullSheet



**April 2015**

## Dates to Remember

**April 8** - GCSAA Government Relations Quarterly Briefing (GCSAA.org)

**April 15** – National Golf Day, Washington D.C. & Deadline for GCSAA Legacy Awards

**April 27** – MAGCS monthly meeting at St. Charles Country Club, Chuck Barber host.

**May 12** – MAGCS/ITF Combined Golf Day at Biltmore Country Club, Brian Thomson, CGCS host.

**May 16** – 2015 Par 3 Golf Marathon at Zigfield Troy Golf Course in Woodridge, IL, Dennis Troy host superintendent.

**June 22** – MAGCS monthly meeting at Flossmoor Country Club, Derek Weber host.

**July 14** - MAGCS Nine Hole Golf Outing at Flagg Creek Golf Course, Doug Davis host

**July 29** - John Buck Scholarship Fund Outing, Marengo Ridge Golf Club

**August 25, 2015** - Midwest Golf Championship at Prairie Landing Golf Club, Tony Kalina host.

Welcome to these newest members of MAGCS, and good luck to them:

- **Bryan Bergner**, Westmoor Country Club, Golf Course Superintendent
- **Miles Carlson**, Butler National Golf Club, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent
- **Tyler Donaldson**, White Eagle Golf Club, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent
- **Kevin Finley**, Mariani Plants, Associate Member
- **Jason Funderburg**, Harrells, Associate Member
- **Christopher Hans**, Butler National Golf Club, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent
- **Peter Killian**, Bryn Mawr Country Club, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent
- **Matt McCann**, Exmoor Country Club, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent
- **Josh Murray**, NILCO, Inc. Associate Member
- **Michael Semler**, Reliable Golf Services, Golf Course Superintendent
- **Craig Watson**, Rich Harvest Farms, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent
- **Derek Weber**, Flossmoor Country Club, Golf Course Superintendent
- **David Weber**, Reliable Golf Services, Associate Member
- **Wil White**, Rich Harvest Farms, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent
- **Brandon Wildt**, Chicago Golf Club, Student Member

Another month of musical chairs took place here in the Midwest, so to catch you up, here is who's where (for now): **Matt Senatra** is the new superintendent at Willow Crest Golf Club in Oak Brook, while **Dan Stahl** has taken over the reins at Orchard Valley Golf Course in Aurora. **Derek Weber** is the new man at Flossmoor Country Club, coming back from his stint at Lake Erie CC in northwest Illinois. **Greg Johnson** has made it official, announcing his retirement from Eagle Brook CC (albeit a tad vague on the actual date of said retirement). **Mike Mumper** has accepted the position of Senior Assistant Superintendent at Edgewood Valley Country Club, joining **Bob Lively's** team. And last but not least, **Jason "The J" Lemanski** held a "press conference" at one of the MANY watering holes he frequents to announce he has left his position with Billy Casper Golf to take on his next challenge—that of being the owner and proprietor of the Sherwood Forest Golf Course in Sherwood, Wisconsin just outside Appleton. Best of luck to these folks in their new gigs!





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Jason Lemanski



Greg Johnson



Dan Stahl



Mike Mumper

Congratulations to **Justin VanLanduit** (Briarwood CC) on being named the winner of J.W. Turf's March Mower Mania "Cut a Path to Savings" event. Justin won a pair of tickets to the 2015 Men's NCAA Basketball Championship taking place at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN on April 6th. The announcement was made on March 17th, after which Justin was quoted as saying, "I can't wait to get to Indianapolis. The only thing that would make it better is if the Iowa State Cyclones are still playing that weekend!" It was just two days later when that became a non-possibility, when #3 seed Iowa State was ousted in the opening round by UAB. Hopefully Justin can still find a way to enjoy his Final Four experience.

Check out the Golf Channel this month—a new ad campaign from GCSAA taglined "Thank a Golf Course Superintendent" is debuting which features Jack Nicklaus, Rory McIlroy, Michelle Wie, Nick Faldo, Rickie Fowler, Graeme McDowell, Matt Kuchar, Johnny Miller, Davis Love, Nick Price, Colin Montgomerie, Jason Day, and Karrie Webb. Some pretty heavy hitters have entered our corner.

Our deepest sympathies go out to **Keith Krause** and his family on the loss of their father Tim Krause last month. Mr. Krause was 72 years young. Condolences also to Mike Mumper and family on the passing of his dad on March 11th. Finally, our thoughts and prayers go out to the Fuchs family on the death of Mrs. Wilhelmina Fuchs, mother of Wally and Keith. May they rest in peace.

Spring is in the air, which begs the question: What's **Sheppy** wearing now (right)? In going with the Easter motif, this month we find Sheppy in his psychedelic Easter egg shirt paired with the



classic black....um....are those yoga pants??

The week of Earth Day—the 19th through the 25th—will mark Audubon International and USGA's Bioblitz program, which will collect data on wildlife, plant life and ecosystems at golf course properties. It's a species-counting competition designed to create awareness among golfers and the community about the environmental value of the habitats supported by golf courses. The program, sponsored by the USGA, is open to any golf course worldwide, including those unaffiliated with Audubon International. It's free, and it could even be fun (if your name is Dinelli). To register and get you free toolkit, email Tara Pepperman at tara@auduboninternational.org or call 518-767-9051. Hurry—the deadline to register is the 17th.

Q: Why are all the cleanup passes only mowed counter-clockwise at **Bryan Widmer's** course?

A: Because Hilldale Jr. mows them.

**Shane Conroy** was a pretty good hockey player until he kinda disappeared from the rink. Was it due to his increased workload after leaving Purpur to join Spectrum Technologies? Or did he take his hockey talents elsewhere, secretly moonlighting as the youngest Blackhawk up-and-comer?

**MIDWEST Doppelgänger**

Shane Conroy or Teuvo Teravainen?

KemperSports has announced that ten of its properties were honored in the annual National Golf Foundation (NGF) Awards. Congratulations to The Wilderness at Fortune Bay and **Vince Dodge**, and Cantigny Golf and **Scott Witte** on being named Runners-up in the "More than \$70" category for having the highest customer satisfaction index scores based on golfer surveys.

It appears that FootGolf is here to stay. The National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) has endorsed the American FootGolf League (AFGL) as the "governing body for the sport of FootGolf in the U.S.," and its "Official FootGolf Organization." Since its introduction in the U.S. in 2011, FootGolf has spread quickly and become popular with millennials, women, children and young families. Get those 21-inch holes ready!

Does anyone around here remember Sean Hoolehan? Back in aught-6 he was the



president of GCSAA, but before then—LONG before then—he was a MAGCS member while working for Oscar Miles at Butler National. Anyhow, Sean made a little news recently when his Labrador retriever Rory was named the winner of the 2015 Dog Days of Golf Calendar Contest. Lebanon Turf, who sponsors the calendar in cooperation with GCSAA, donates \$3,000 to the winner’s local chapter, as well as \$500 to the winner-dog owner, AND along with GCSAA, donates an additional \$500 to the winner’s charity of choice. Sean split the winnings between the two chapters to which he belongs, both of which ALSO made donations to the charity—the Train a Dog Save a Warrior (TADSAW) program. With the total amount donated by Sean, the Idaho and Oregon chapters, Lebanon and GCSAA, a veteran in Oregon will receive a trained service dog, which are used to aid those in the service for any number of reasons including Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. Cool story from a cool guy.

If you’re considering a road trip for a little golf in Kansas City, KS, you might want to reconsider. A golfer on the 12<sup>th</sup> hole of Painted Hills Golf Course was shot in the leg on February 10th in an apparent drive-by shooting. Ouch.

GCSAA and the USGA want you to know that the second phase of their Golf Course Environmental Profile is now open for you to fill out. A link to the Nutrient Use and Management Survey can be found on the home page of [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org), and will reward all superintendents taking it with .25 service points as well as entry into a prize drawing for the chance to win a \$100 gift card. The survey sequence is as follows: Fall 2014—Water Use and Conservation; Spring 2015—Nutrient Use and Management; Fall 2015—Pest Management Practices; Spring 2016—Energy Use and Environmental Stewardship Practices; and Fall 2016—Property Profile and Environmental Stewardship. Looks like they’re doubling down on that stewardship thing.

Another story has crossed my desk about retired guys who just can’t seem to retire. Or they just don’t know what retirement means. Either way, the recently-retired **Peter Leuzinger**, who along with his wife DeeAnn moved out to Arizona full-time, is heading to China for the month of June to teach a turfgrass class. Knowing Pete’s passion for turf and for teaching young minds, the students who have the opportunity to learn from him are very fortunate.



Peter and DeAnn Leuzinger

anniversary celebration at its 22nd Green Industry Conference at the Waukesha Expo Center outside Milwaukee, WI. The traditional hot, homemade donuts were obviously a hit, as over 5,000 of them were served out over the two days. Over 35 seminars covered pretty much something for everyone in the green industry, and the show was a grand success—if you haven’t attended this event, try to reserve the time next March to see what you’ve been missing.

Congratulations to John Deere Landscapes on their recent purchase of Shemin Nurseries—should be a very mutually beneficial relationship for the two companies AND their customers.

In case you’re not a TurfNet subscriber, you missed a really good article by John Reitman called “Getting a Second Chance” that featured **Dave Schlagetter** (Indian Hill Club) and how his life changed one Sunday last summer when he suffered a heart attack. In it, Dave talks about the symptoms he was having when he made the 911 call through having a stent implanted to correct a 100% blocked artery and the subsequent changes he has made to ensure it doesn’t happen again. Very eye-opening read.



The Musser Foundation, named after Professor H. Burton Musser who led the turf program at Penn State University for three decades, was established by several of his friends including Dr. Joe Duich and Warren Bidwell in 1969 in order to fund awards to graduate doctoral students who are the future of turfgrass research. This year, at the Golf Industry Show, the board of directors of the Musser Foundation held its annual meeting and election, and selected the Award of Excellence winners for 2015. Due to a virtual tie, two individuals each won a cash award of \$28,500—Dr. Joseph Roberts from the University of Maryland and Dr. Matthew T. Elmore of Texas A & M.



Front Row, L. to R: Nick Christians, Pat Jones, Frank Dobie, Terry Plagmann, Dave Webner, Michelle DaCosta, John Kaminiski and Jeffrey Markow. Back Row, L. to R: Bob Farren, Mike Hurdzan, Darren Davis, Lane Tredway, Mike Bavier and Marsh Benson

On March 11th and 12th, Reinders kicked off its 150th





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Other happenings in San Antonio included the usual fun and games that are the hospitality events. In what has become a growing tradition, the University of Illinois Turfgrass Alums held their reception before the MAGCS event, with a very strong crowd of over 40 in attendance—thanks to sponsors **John Anderson** and **Scot Spier** of Clesens, **Bob Bethel** of Lebanon Turf, **Darin Habenicht** of H&E Sod, **Chip Houmes** and **Don Spier** of Precision Labs, **Jeff Leuzinger** from Healthy Grow,

**Eric Reed** of BTSI and **Brian Winkel** of Syngenta for making it possible and to **Matt Kregel** for setting it up. Then came the main event—the MAGCS Hospitality Reception at the Rio Plaza Grand Ballroom, where a thirsty throng of Midwesterners had a thoroughly great time! Many thanks to the volunteers who helped run the event, and @ to the sponsors who so generously donated to make it the premier, can't-miss event that it was. Please see page 22-23 for pictures.

Equipment for Sale:

2011 Turfco Tri-Wave walk-behind seeder with 159.3 hours. Excellent condition—asking \$12,000. Contact Joel Purpur or Bill Meyer at Park Ridge CC for info.



Above: Pictures from the University of Illinois Alumni Reception at the GIS.



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# Flag Pole Install

Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG Naperville Country Club

Part of the fun that comes from working on a golf course is the ability to gain a broad knowledge of how things work. Being exposed to different course projects provides the opportunity for a number of unique learning experiences.

The installation of the flag pole at Naperville Country Club was no different. This project was contracted out to a professional installation crew. This is recommended since you do have to account for certain engineering requirements. The installation of a flag pole should always be done with caution as there is the potential for conflicts with underground utilities as well as over head power lines. As is the case with most things in life "you don't know what you don't know". The installation of a flag pole may seem pretty straight forward, but it still offered the opportunity for a few "lessons learned" on how things work. See Figure 1. for a typical installation diagram for a flag pole.

## Ground Sleeve

The most common flagpole installation is the direct burial of a ground sleeve (pictured right). Standard "ground set" flagpoles are available in 5' increments ranging from 15' to over 100'. The general rule is that 10% of the exposed height is buried in the ground. In other words, a 30' flagpole is really 33' overall putting 3' of the pole in the ground. The ground sleeve is made of a 16 gauge corrugated galvanized steel tube. On the inside, at the bottom, 4 steel wedges are welded to center the pole upon installation. A 1/2" steel



base plate is welded to the bottom with an 18" length x 3/4" diameter steel spike attached to act as lightning protection.

## Foundation Dimensions

Dimensions (see Table 1. ) are the minimum recommended for foundations "under normal soil conditions." This suggests; good, firm, dry soil. Ground condition should always be tested for acceptability. Always remember to check with your local regulatory agency to verify height ordinances and the location of underground utilities.

1. Dig the foundation according to the diagram. Set the sleeve into the hole so that top of the tube is 2" above grade. Plumb the sleeve vertically, and brace it so that the sleeve will not move while pouring the cement. While pouring the concrete make sure to keep the inside of sleeve dry and clean of debris.
2. Lay the flag pole across a set of sawhorses and remove the protective wrapping. If the flagpole has multiple pieces, assemble all the sections according to their instructions.
3. Assemble the top of the flag pole, and the associated rigging. Thread the rope halyard through the pulley system before bringing the flag pole to its vertical position.
4. Slip the collar over the bottom of the shaft, and temporarily tape it in place. Pick up the flag pole with a nylon sling. Rotate the pole so that the cleats (external halyard), or access hatch (internal halyard), are facing the desired direction, and set the pole into the center of foundation sleeve. Plumb the flagpole pole vertically. Place wood wedges between the pole and the inside of the ground sleeve to prevent the pole from shifting during final installation.
5. Tamp / compact dry sand between the flag pole and the ground sleeve to permanently set the pole. It is important that the sand be well compacted, otherwise the pole may shift over time. Leave a 1" to 2" void at the top of the sleeve



for sealer. Remove the wood wedges, fill the remaining void with waterproof cement or sealant, and slip collar down the base of the flag pole. Use caulk to seal the collar to the cement.

**Lessons Learned**

- Only 10% of the exposed height of a flag pole is buried in the ground (I always figured it was more).
- The halyard rope can run on the inside or the outside of the pole. We chose an internal halyard to reduce noise since the flag pole is located in close proximity to a tee box. This also minimizes the opportunity for vandalism.
- Over time, if the flag pole starts to lean due to wind load, the pole can be straightened with relative ease. The collar is raised. The sealant "ring" is removed. A shop vac is used to remove the dry sand that was packed around the pole. The pole is plumbed. The sand is re-installed and compacted. The sealant ring and collar are reinstalled.
- A flagpole which is installed utilizing a ground sleeve has an internal grounding spike that provides lightning protection.
- Installation of a 30 ft. flag pole was a one man job, completed over the course of 2 days. The foundation was excavated and poured on day one. Once the cement cured the technician returned and installed the pole.
- The foundation was dug by hand with a shovel and a manual post hole digger, so the area of disturbance was actually quite small. I thought we may have to facilitate site access for a truck mounted auger.
- PVC irrigation pipe cut to length is a quick easy way to get a visual idea of the placement, proportion, and sight lines associated with a new flag pole.
- The cost of the project (approximately \$3,000) proved to be an inexpensive way to add a key focal point to the golf course and involve the membership. ©



*The flag pole sits in a sleeve that allows it to be straightened if it begins to lean over time..*

Figure 1. is a typical installation for a flag pole.

**Foundation Detail**

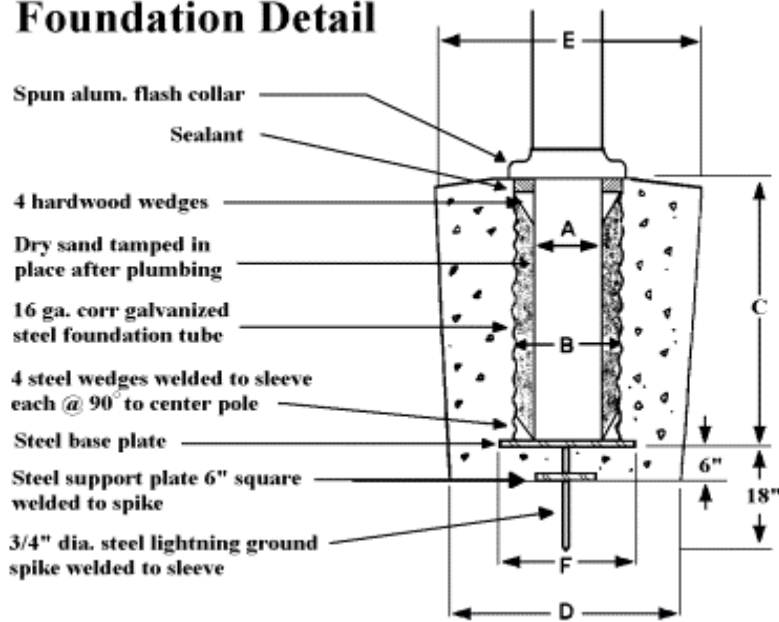


Table 1. corresponds to the foundation detail above.

Flagpole		A	B	C	D	E	F
Exposed Height	Overall Length	Pole Butt	Sleeve Diameter	Sleeve Length	Found. Base	Found. Top	Base Plate
20'	22'	5"	8"	24"	24"	30"	12"
25'	28'	5/6"	8/10"	36"	24/30"	34"	12"
30'	33'	5/6"	8/10"	36"	30"	36"	12"
35'	38.5'	6/7"	10"	42"	30"	36"	14"
40'	44'	7/8"	10/12"	48"	36"	42"	14/16"
45'	49'	8/10"	12/15"	48"	36"	42"	16/18"
50'	55'	8/10"	12/15"	60"	42"	48"	16/18"
60'	66'	10/12"	15"	72"	42"	48"	18"
70'	77'	12"	15"	84"	48"	60"	20"
80'	88'	12"	15"	96"	54"	72"	20"
90'	99'	14"	18"	108"	60"	72"	24"







# Turf Conference Delivers II

Chuck Anfield, Heritage Bluffs Golf Course



*The Illinois Turf Conference was a good fit at Bolingbrook Golf Club. Attendees were provided with solid education and many opportunities to network with fellow superintendents and presenters.*

Dr. Jason Henderson, Associate Professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Science at the University of Connecticut made his way to the podium to discuss "Benefits of Fairway Topdressing: Proven or Perception?" Dr. Henderson currently teaches soil science and athletic field management. He conducts research: to improve turfgrass establishment techniques for athletic fields, to investigate soil modification techniques and materials for traffic tolerance, to develop new laboratory testing methods for root zone mixes for high quality turf to minimize cost and optimize performance, sustainability and safety.

He outlined some of the advantages of topdressing fairways:

- Increased infiltration rates
- Decreased thatch amounts via dilution
- Decreased disease
- Decreased worm castings
- Decreased traffic restrictions

- Increased playability with better smoothness and overall ball roll
- He recommended when starting a program to work with an independent lab to get proper size analysis, proper particle size, correct hydraulic conductivity and proper pH. He did discuss some of the disadvantages as well:

- Disruption to play
- Wear on equipment
- Cost of material
- Cost of equipment to implement program
- Time away from other maintenance tasks

In some of the trials conducted by Dr. Henderson at UConn indicate an earlier spring green up, an increased firmness and reduced earth worm castings. In general, the more sand applied created better overall results. Contact Dr. Henderson at Jason.henderson@uconn.edu

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My next stop on my education tour was to listen to Dr. Kevin Frank, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist at Michigan State University make his presentation on "Go Green Lawn Care: Cultural Practices for Reducing Pesticide Use." He covered some of the basics of turf maintenance: select the proper species for your particular area and if you are working on established turf learn to manage it. Some of new varieties that are gaining traction for cool season turf are in the Tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass families. These new varieties are more drought and disease tolerant and have a more preferred narrow leaf blade.

Dr. Frank recommends you mow as high as possible and return all clippings. It's free nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium that can be recycled back into the system. Keep your blades sharp to avoid torn and twisted leaf blades. Alter the mowing pattern to reduce tire and mower wear on turf. Proper soil management is crucial for turf growth success; alleviate compaction with cultivation.

Fertilization should be dictated by the growth cycle of the plant. Apply products when turf is actively growing. Try to keep particles off the pavement and on the targeted turf area. There can be very serious implications from algae blooms in fresh water supplies. The current perception is that fertilizer is coming from run-off on home lawns and other maintained turf areas. This is a BIG concern in local lake front/river front communities. The potential for run-off is greater in the winter and spring. What is the right amount?

- It depends on your turf variety
- It depends on your site. Is it high profile, high use or low use?
- The goal should be to keep good color and a healthy stand with moderate growth
- Cool season turf typically requires 1-4 lb. N/year
- There is a higher potential for runoff on newly established sites
- MSU lysimeter research indicates runoff and leaching are minimal in established turf sites due to turf canopy and extensive root systems
- Use buffer strips adjacent to water features
- Use soil tests to determine levels when appropriate
- Fertilize when actively growing

#### Organic vs. Synthetic?

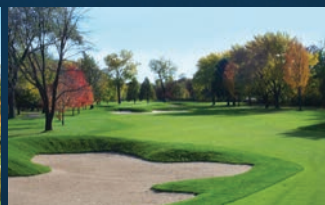
Organic sources typically are slow release products manufactured from living organisms and/or recycled organic material. Some examples are: Sustane, Milorganite and Healthy Grow. The advantages of organic include: longer response from gradual feed, less applications required, can help modify poor soils, some potential disease suppression, may benefit soil micro-organisms, better for sustainability. Some of the disadvantages of an organic product include: Typically costs more for less N, loss of control due to environmental factors, requires microbial action, heat dependent, high quality turf many not see benefits

*continued on page 20*

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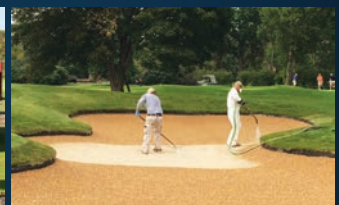
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Synthetic fertilizers examples would be: urea, ibdu and ureaformaldahydes. These can be coated with sulfur or polymer coating to create slower release characteristics, the longer the polymer the slower the release. The advantages of synthetics include: less expensive, more predictable nutrient release, and faster release. The disadvantages are: faster release requires more applications, more potential for leaching and run-off.

Dr. Frank believes there is no difference in nitrogen sources, just different carriers. Please use responsibly.

I popped in on Dr. Tom Voigt from the University of Illinois. Tom's presentation was on "Turf and Grassy Weed Identification." It was a good review of terminology, taxonomy and identification. Most of our major weeds were covered in detail. Dr. Voigt recommends when you go out with people to I.D. weed species, bring a magnifying glass. It makes it easier to see the plant identifying characteristics and it makes it look like you know what you are doing. Dr. Voigt is planning to conduct a hands on class this Spring at Midwest Golf House. Keep an eye out for more information.

Ever been curious about Vermicomposting? Zachary Grant, Research Specialist and Manger of the University of Illinois Student Farm presented a great overview of the process of using worms to make compost. They collect food waste from University cafeterias as their food source. First, you need a few things to get started.

1. A climate controlled environment is a must. The worms need a specific range of temperatures to survive and do their work.
2. You will have to build a composting rack or purchase a kit
3. A heated green house or other indoor site will work
4. Red Wiggler's (*Eisenia fetida*) are the choice of the Pros and they are non- burrowing and feed on leaf litter and decay
5. Cold blooded: prefer a temperature range from 40-85 degrees, require 60-90% moisture
6. Need cover from bright light and bedding that provides moisture, aeration and a carbon source. It can be leaf shreds, paper, chopped straw, peat moss
7. Environmental temperature is important and must be monitored.

8. The food source can be a variety of organic matter: manure, kitchen scraps spoiled grain, coffee grounds
9. Things to avoid include: meats, dairy products beans and seeds.

The bedding and feedstock is layered in with the worms. Vermicomposting is "neater" than hot composting. Typically it has a minimal odor and no flies if managed properly. The finished product is screened and typically runs from 1/8" to 1/2" in size. It can be stored in closed bins or bags. It is very high in nutrients. The nitrogen percentage is 16% whereas hot compost is less than 1%. Vermicomposting creates a very high quality compost. It is generally used for root media transplanting, top-dressed as a fertilizer or made into compost tea.

One of my next steps was to listen to Travis Cleveland, Research Specialist from the University of Illinois make his presentation, "How Are You Measuring Up? – The Overlooked Steps to Getting the Correct Pesticide Rate." Ok, you're thinking BORING...snoozeville. Yet, this is a surprising area where operators get in trouble for not following due diligence. Misapplication of products happens and can have serious consequences. These accidents are preventable. Do your due diligence.

Travis started with the basics.

1. You must correctly identify the targeted pest.
2. Select the appropriate product. **MAKE SURE YOU READ THE LABEL**
3. Calibrate equipment properly
4. Review treatment site before and during application
5. Monitor results
6. **MEASURE PESTICIDE CORRECTLY** into tank
  - Always use specific measuring devices for specific products.
  - Make sure the measuring device is proper for the product being measured: Think dry ounce vs. wet ounce.
  - Throw away measuring devices after product runs out

Travis added a few other useful pieces of information: Tank agitation is very important.

- Pre- mix products if water is cold
- Verify tank measurements - surprisingly 50% of markings



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on spray tanks are incorrect. This can make a big difference in product rates and disease control

- Purchase a flow meter for your mixing pad so you can measure your inputs accurately.

Travis teaches many of the Pesticide Applicator Training for the University of Illinois Extension. He can be reached at [tclevela@illinois.edu](mailto:tclevela@illinois.edu)

The Education at the Turf Conference was really well planned, thought out and delivered. The venue at Bolingbrook Golf Club was very good with great food, comfortable rooms and an overall pleasant atmosphere. If you didn't make it, put it on your radar for next year. I always seem to pick up one idea or two in every presentation. That's the progression that moves everything forward not to mention the opportunity to network with local vendors, educators, specialists and fellow superintendents. Support the ITF. @



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Secure® fungicide is the first multi-site contact fungicide in the market in over 45 years. The only registered fungicide for turf in FRAC group 29, Secure has no known resistance and low risk of future resistance. With 12 applications of Secure, when used in rotation with Daconil Action™ fungicide, you can create a solid foundation by protecting your course with a multi-site contact, all season long. For a sure shot against 10+ diseases including resistant dollar spot, algal scum and leaf spot, make Secure your foundation fungicide. See Secure perform in a time-lapse video at [GreenCastOnline.com/Secure](http://GreenCastOnline.com/Secure)



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