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Ed Nangle and Ron Townsend provide a research update from their work around Chicagoland from 2014 and 2015. Photo is measuring the firmness of a putting green.

FFATURE A Season of Research Dr. Ed Nangle and Ron Townsend



Architect Greg Martin (seated) pictured with Eric Ensign as they discuss the project at Oak Meadows Golf Course in late fall. Look for updates on this project and others in future issues of On Course.

03 Director's Column Matt Kregel

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> New from Allied Groups Shane Conroy

### 2015-16 MIDWEST EVENTS

12/9 Midwest Turf Clinic, Medinah Country Club

1/28/16 Midwest January Meeting & Wee One Fundraiser, Seven

Bridges Golf Club

2/10/16 Midwest Hospitality Reception, Henry's Pub SD, CA

2/23/16 Midwest Assistant Superintendent Winter Workshop,

Midwest Golf House

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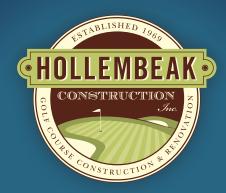
enhancement opportunities to all members who facilitate the growth and enjoyment of golf.

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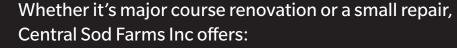


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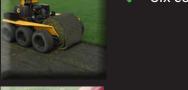


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Matt Kregel The Club at Strawberry Creek

### Is Your Assistant a Member?

I am humbled and honored to write this article as President of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. I thank all of those that have served before me. The MAGCS is what it is today because of your leadership and vision.

To the current board, I look forward to working with you this year. It's very fulfilling to have the opportunity to give back to an association with such a long history. The MAGCS celebrates its 90th year of existence in 2016, founded the same year as GCSAA.

The season is winding down. Irrigation systems have been winterized and preventative applications have been made for snow mold. We enjoyed an extended fall that provided for some great late season golf which made our customers, members and owners very happy. The 63rd Midwest Turf Clinic was pushed back into December this year to allow more time for some of the above tasks to be completed. I hope that was a successful decision and more of our members were able to attend the day of education and networking.

One of my goals this year is to get more members involved! We have a great core group that attends nearly every meeting but what about the rest? When is the last time that you attended a meeting? It's your association, get involved. There will always be 10 reasons why you can't or shouldn't attend but that cannot stop you. Our education meetings over the winter provide an excellent opportunity to hear some great speakers locally. Our golf meetings vary the location from north to south to west so it's easier to attend. There's education prior to the golf and there's always a NON-COMPETE division. Don't worry if you can't find anyone to golf with. Sign up as a single and the golf committee will find you a group.

Along those same lines of involvement, is your assistant a member of the MAGCS? Our membership numbers show us that for every 10 Class A or Supt. Members there are only 3 Class C members. Why is this? Are Class C members not interested in joining the MAGCS? Or are they not given the opportunity by their employer? Whatever the reasons may be, I would like to see more Class C members in the MAGCS. Encourage your assistant to join. If your employer currently doesn't pay dues for the assistant, try and get that changed. Send your assistant to a meeting during the year. The MAGCS has an Assistant's workshop every February that would be a great start.

Where would the MAGCS be without our commercial members and the support they provide for the association? We deeply appreciate all that they have to contribute and offer. They sponsor golf and education events to support the group and I ask you to do the same for them. I learned early on in my career from to always support those whom support you. I always have the latest On Course magazine on my desk and inside that is the contact information for our commercial members.

To outgoing MAGCS President, Chuck Barber, I would like to thank you personally for your dedication and leadership. I look forward to your support in the year to come. Welcome to incoming board member Steven Biehl, Superintendent at Naperville Country Club. We look forward to having you on the Board. To the membership of the MAGCS, best wishes for a safe and joyful holiday season. (III)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Matt

# A Season of

### Research

E.J. Nangle & R.V. Townsend

As we have been driving around and putting the finishing touches on our trials, I can clearly see that superintendents are doing the same with their courses. Winter is coming and will end what was a good season for research and golf. This year was a mixed bag of trials including fungicide trials, fertilizer evaluations, and other studies driven by superintendent comments and reguests. This report summarizes the research conducted this season.

### Dollar Spot - 26 GT Xtra

Dollar spot in the upper Midwest is a major issue for turf managers throughout the growing season. New chemistries are being introduced to give turf managers an extra tool for combating turf pathogens. 26 GT Xtra is one of the new chemistries being introduced by Bayer. The goal of this trial was to evaluate season long disease control in the Chicago area for 26 GT Xtra. The trial was conducted at the Sunshine course at the Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL on the second fairway on creeping bentgrass. Plots were 6ft x 4ft

and the treatments were designed in a randomized complete block plan with four replications. Dollar spot cover (%) and infection site numbers per plot, turf quality (1-9 based on cover/ density) and color (1-9 based on scale of 1=brown 9=dark green) were collected during the trial and are presented below. Normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) was also collected through the season. See Table 1.

Once treatment intervals surpassed the 14 day range the results declined – although disease cover was still below 5% per plot on average. Disease pressure and high intensity rainfall events may have had an impact on these extended application

windows. Surface quality was consistently better in the two lower application rates (1.5oz/2oz) of 26GT Xtra on 14d intervals though not when compared to Xzemplar, Interface or Mirage on 21d intervals. The check plot averaged 20.6% disease cover for the season while all other treatments produced significantly lower disease amounts through the season (Table 1). Numbers of infection sites indicated that on average the 26 GTXtra at the 2oz rate every 14d and Xzemplar 0.26 oz/ 21d provided the consistently lowest number of infection sites per plot. Those two treatments were significantly bet-

Table 1. Average color, quality, disease cover and infection site number for treatments in a trial evaluating 26 GT Xtra at the Midwest Golf House, Lemont IL Summer 2015

Treatment	Color (1-9)	Quality (1-9)	Disease Cover (%)	Infection sites (plot)
1. Check	5.7 d†	5.0 d	20.6 a	57.8 a
2. 26 GT Xtra 1.5oz/M/14d	6.8 ab	6.9 a	0.3 с	4.1 cdef
3. 26 GT Xtra 2oz/M/14d	6.9 a	7.0 a	0.0 с	0.4 f
4. 26 GT Xtra 3oz/M/14d	6.4 c	6.3 b	1.4 c	14.7 cde
5. Chipco GT SG 3oz/M/14d	6.5 bc	6.2 b	1.9 c	17.7 c
6. 26 GT Xtra 3oz/M/21d	6.3 c	6.2 bc	1.2 c	13.3 cdef
7. 26 GT Xtra 4oz/M/21d	6.4 c	6.1 bc	2.4 c	16.5 cd
8. 26 GT Xtra 4oz/M/21d	6.5 bc	6.4 b	1.5 c	14.8 cde
9. 26 GT Xtra 6oz/M/ 28d	6.2 c	5.7 c	7.4 b	35.8 b
10. Interface 3oz/M/21d	7.0 a	7.0 a	0.0 с	1.3 ef
11. Xzemplar .26oz/M/21d	6.8 ab	6.9 a	0.0 с	0.5 f
12. Mirage SC 1.5oz/M/21d	6.9 a	6.9 a	0.2 c	3.3 def
LSD	0.4	0.5	4.4	14

†Means followed by different letters are significantly different at (P=0.05)

ter than the check, 26GT Xtra 3oz/ 14d, 4oz/21d, and the curative application (#8) at the 4oz rate. The consensus of 26GT Xtra was that it was an excellent product to fit into a rotation for summer dollar spot control at the 2oz/M/14d rate and interval. It offers an option to turfgrass managers in the Chicago are in the future.

### **Firmness**

The second and final year of this trial evaluating the effects wetting agents on putting green firmness has come to an end. Thank you to Brian Thomson and the staff at Biltmore CC for allowing this trial to run over the past two seasons. The effect of wetting agents on the firmness of putting green

Table 2. Average color, quality, disease cover and infection site number for treatments in a trial evaluating Velista and Secure at the Midwest Golf House, Lemont IL Summer 2015.

Treatment	Color (1-9)	Quality (1-9)	Infection Sites (# per plot)	Cover (% diesease)	NDVI
1 Secure 0.5 14d	6.9 a†	6.9 a	6.0 c	0.5 b	0.715 a
2 Velista 0.5 14d	6.8 a	6.8 abc	11.3 bc	1.7 b	0.705 a
3 Velista 0.3 14d	6.7 a	6.6 bc	14.5 b	1.3 b	0.704 a
4 Velista 0.5 21d	6.6 a	6.5 c	13.4 bc	1.1 b	0.706 a
5 Velista & Secure 0.3/0.5 21d	6.9 a	6.9 ab	6.1 c	0.3 b	0.711 a
6 Check	5.7 b	4.7 d	79.9 a	26.9 a	0.666 b
LSD	0.3	0.4	8.3	2.9	0.014

†Means followed by different letters are significantly different at (P=0.05)

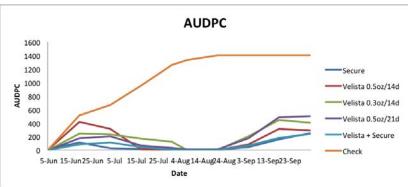
### Dollar Spot - Secure & Velista

The second project evaluated dollar spot control options using Secure and Velista fungicides. The use of Secure and Velista at different rates and intervals offers different control options. This trial was also conducted on the Sunshine Course at Midwest Golf House. Plots were 6ft x 4ft and the treatments were

designed in a randomized complete block plan with four replications. Dollar spot cover (%) and infection site numbers per plot, turf quality (1-9 based on cover/density) and color (1-9 based on scale of 1=brown 9=dark green) were collected during the trial and are presented below. Normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) was also collected through the season. No other disease issues arose during the trial and so no other data was collected. See Table 2.

Temperatures were ideal all summer for dollar spot activity and pressure at times were extreme. Applications of the fungicides produced significantly higher turf quality across all treatments when compared to the check (Table 2). There was no difference in rate or product in this parameter. The combination of the two products produced turf quality comparable to the Secure application on a 21d rotation (Table 2). The AUDPC (Area Under the Disease Progress Curve) results show how the intense precipitation caused some issues for nearly all treatments in mid-June (Table 3). In conclusion, the use of Secure provided more than adequate control of dollar spot through what was a very high-pressure dollar spot season in 2015. Applications of Velista on a shorter schedule at a higher rate may provide similar results while a combination of the products could allow for turf managers to stretch application windows out to 21d and produce excellent results. See Graph 1.

surfaces has not been studied. The objective of this trial was to investigate the effect of wetting agents on surface firmness, turfgrass quality and soil moisture. Wetting agents were applied on a monthly basis using recommended rates from the manufacturers during the past two growing seasons. The green was a USGA constructed rootzone and creeping bentgrass 'L-93' was maintained at .115". Data taken for



Graph 1. Area under the disease progress curve for a study evaluating dollar spot control at Midwest Golf House, Lemont IL Summer 2015.

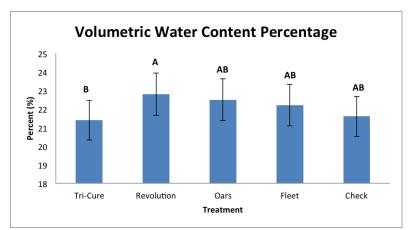
each treatment included volumetric soil moisture content; surface firmness (depth of penetration) turf color and quality (rated on a visual scale 0-9). Turf quality was also analyzed using normalized digital vegetation index (NDVI). Soil samples were collected at the end of each growing season and then analyzed for percent organic matter content. See Table 3.

Table 3. Average surface firmness, turf color, quality, soil volumetric water content perent, and percent organic matter content for each treatment of the past two years.

Treatment	Firmness (inches)	Color (0-9)	Quality (0-9)	Moisture (%)	Organic M (%)
Tri-Cure	.667 at	7.54 a	7.7 a	21.4 b	1.32 a
Revolution	.666 a	7.54 a	7.7 a	22.8 a	1.38 a
Oars	.649 a	7.54 a	7.8 a	22.5 ab	1.35 a
Fleet	.637 a	7.54 a	7.7 a	22.2 ab	1.48 a
Check	.660 a	7.54 a	7.7 a	21.6 ab	1.33 a
LSD	0.043	0.2	0.2	1.3	0.28

†Means followed by different letters are significantly different at (P=0.05)

Based on visual ratings of the turf and NDVI measurements, no difference in turf quality or color was observed during the trial. Data collected from the moisture meter indicated that Revolution had significantly higher (P=0.05) percent water



Graph 2. Average volumetric content percentage for all treatments over the past two growing seasons. Histograms with different letters are significantly different at (P=0.05)

content at 1.5" depth compared to the Tri-Cure treatments. None of the wetting agents affected surface firmness. Use of wetting agents is crucial and knowing the clay and organic matter content of the soil may be more important to optimize the benefits of wetting agent use. See Graph 2.

### Soil and Water Study

Water quality has been an interesting topic in the golf course industry, and one focus has been looking into salt content. Irrigation water quality is important for growing healthy turfgrass because it can directly affect soil chemistry and cation exchange capacity (CEC). The CEC is responsible for nutrient availability in soils. Variations in the CEC can result in differences in nutrients available to the plants such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Changes in the CEC are caused by soil pH, sodium content and bicarbonates and can accumulate in soils because of irrigation water. Irrigation water on golf courses comes from a variety of sources including, wells, rivers/streams and from local municipalities. Golf courses sometimes will drain their irrigation pond in anticipation for the snowfall over the winter to fill up the ponds with free clean water. We wanted to test to see how clean the irrigation water sources are and track various changes in the irrigation water.

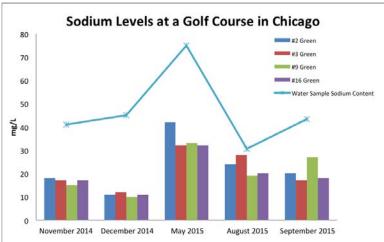
The trial is looking at three different golf courses in the Chicago area with a range of rootzones and water sources. The

> trial was initiated fall 2014 and samples were taken from each course. Water samples were collected from each course and then analyzed for pH and salt content. Soil samples were also taken from four putting greens and were also analyzed for salt content, pH and other soil characteristics.

> In Graph 3. The bars represent the sodium content of the soil samples collected from the four greens at Indian hill. The water sample was also graphed, represented by the line graph.

It is interesting to see the change in sodium from the winter to the first samples taken in spring. The sodium levels have jumped in both the soils samples and in the water sample. The questions we want to know why this is happening and is this directly impacting the turf. Samples will continue to be taken and we will be looking to answer these questions in the future.

Changes in pH also followed a seasonal pattern that warrants further investigation.



Graph 3. The bars represent the sodium content of the soil samples collected from the four greens at Indian hill. The water sample was also graphed, represented by the line graph.

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# alisheet



### December 2015

### Dates to Remember

December 2-3 – The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium at the American Club in Kohler, WI.

**December 7** – The South Side Superintendents Holiday Party at Chef Klaus Bier Stube in Frankfort, IL.

December 7-10 – Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Conference and Show at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, OH.

December 9 – 63rd Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club, Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS, MG host.

December 17 – The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual West Side Superintendents Holiday Party at Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge, IL, Don Ferreri and Dave Gelino hosts.

January 3 – 53<sup>rd</sup> Eskimo Open golf event at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club in Lemont, IL, Chris Flick host. Sign up at www.coghillgolf. com

January 5-7, 2016—Michigan Turfgrass Conference at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center in East Lansing, MI.

January 28, 2016 – MAGCS January meeting and Wee One Fundraiser at Seven Bridges Golf Club, Don and Dave hosting this one too.

February 6-11 – Golf Industry Show in Dan Diego, CA.

February 6-8 – GCSAA Golf Championships in San Diego, CA.

February 10, 2016 - MAGCS Hospitality Reception at Henry's Pub in San Diego, CA.

February 23, 2016 – Annual Midwest Assistant Winter Workshop at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.

February 26-28 – 33rd Chicago Golf Show at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, IL. Go to www.chicagogolfshow. com for details.

Welcome and season's greetings to our newest MAGCS members, who are:

- Mike Papineau, Class A, Curtis Creek Country Club
- Benjamin Ludwig, Class C, Boone Creek Country Club
- Taylor Eischen, Class C, Riverside Golf Club
- Blaine Doherty, Class C, Chicago Golf Club
- James Boccarossa, Class E, SpotOn Turf Products

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to our extended MAGCS family!

Correction: Brad Anderson's new company's web site is www.envybrand.com (not envyfert.com as previously reported).

BIG congrats to Steve Cook, CGCS, MG on his climb of Ama

Dablam in the Himalayas last month. Although a rock fall prevented Steve from reaching the 22,349-foot summit, he was able to climb to 20,000 feet on a highly technical mountain. Steve spent 24 days in October and November in Nepal preparing for and making the ascent, and he raised nearly \$30,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation in Michigan. Just an amazing feat from a really nice gentleman (who I STILL think of as



the "Trees are just weeds that got hard" guy).

This sounds right up my alley—there is an entity called the Mediocre Golf Association (MGA), an amateur league for "kinda alright" players, and it's gaining steam. Started on a whim in 2006 in San Francisco with the tag-line "Face it, you suck," the league has grown in popularity internationally, with over 70 chapters in four countries. Their first-ever World Championship event was held last month at Boulder Creek Golf Club in Nevada, where over 190 players teed it up to determine who was the best "kinda alright" player in the world. To learn more, Golf Magazine has an article online at www.golf.com/golf-plus/hackers-unite-mediocre-golf-associationembracing-high-score-and-having-fun-doing-it We need a chapter in our area!



Congratulations to Stacey and Jeff Hoste on the birth of child #2—Grace Elizabeth Hoste was born on November 4th, joining brother Connor (left) in filling out the happy Hoste homestead.

Last month, the Golf Channel featured "Water Week" on its Morning Drive segments,

focusing on golf course water conservation and best practices for courses to combat the obstacles they are facing with respect to water consumption. Among the experts interviewed were National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) CEO Jay Karen, GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans, and American Society of Golf Course Architects Vice President Steve Smyers, to name a few. I think this water thing is here to stay.

If you're looking for the oldest living tree on the planet, you'll need to hop a plane to Sweden and climb 2,985 feet up a mountain to see it. And don't expect too much—it's a scrubby, Charlie-Brown-Christmas-tree-looking Norway spruce that is all of 13 feet tall. But it IS old—9,550 years old

according to researchers who used radiocarbon dating to determine that the roots of the tree have been around since the end of the last Ice Age. I think Paul Voykin planted it. Or one of these three amigos. While on the subject of old things, did you know that MAGCS has two living superintendent members of the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame? We do—and the two gentlemen in question? None other than Paul Voykin and Oscar Miles. In total, only five golf course superintendents have achieved the honor, with





Greg Johnson, Jim McNair and the ageless Ken Shepherd.

the other three being Ray Gerber, Bob Williams and Carl Hopphan. Just a little FYI.

Exciting times for **Brian Moore**, Director of Agronomy at Forest Dunes resort in Roscommon, MI—the much-anticipated Tom Doak reversible 18-hole course is completed and growing in. Mr. Doak was inspired to do the project—a course that can be played in two directions—by spending a year at





Paul Voykin and Oscar Miles, our two living members of the Illinois Golf
Hall of Fame.

the Old Course at St. Andrews as a young man. The Loop is expected to open fully by August, when routing will alternate daily, allowing golfers to play each direction on back-to-back days. Can't wait to try that out!

The USGA and the University of Minnesota have announced a five-year joint effort to not just identify and study some of the most significant challenges facing the golf industry, they plan to find solutions to them as well. The program, under the leadership of Brian Horgan, Ph.D., will utilize turf research facilities at the university as well as its Les Bolstad Golf Course, along with the extensive research and computing facilities throughout the campus, and will involve participation from the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, the Carlson School of Management, College of Science and Engineering, and the Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Q: Why doesn't **Dave Biery** buy all the latest and greatest equipment, instead opting for used stuff for his course? A: He's a Black Sheepskate.

Bonus Q & A: What tree's branches grow when it tells a lie? A: Pin Oakio

Congratulations to **Rick Jacobson** (right) on being a recipient of the 2015 American Society of Golf Course Architects

Design Excellence Recognition Program. The fourth annual ASGCA program recognized nine projects that involved unique design challenges, including Rick's work at the Glenview Park District Golf Course (Rick Wilson superintendent). The course reopened



last July after an extensive renovation that addressed significant flooding issues on the property.

Don't forget to sign up for Turf Conference 2016—the signature education event of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation—to be held at Bolingbrook Golf Club on January 12th and 13th. The slate of educators and presentations is really impressive,

with some very topical information to be shared. Go to www. iturf.org to check out the program and sign up.

We've finally figured out how **Pete Kiraly** can afford all his fancy shmancy toys—he has a side job that pays really well...

### MIDWEST Doppelgänger





Pete Kiraly or pizza guru Papa John?

When **Erik Johnson** (Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts) and Curtis James (Old Elm Club) went north last month to check out their buddy Jeff Heaton's work at Lake Geneva Country Club, they had an unexpected brush with fame. They got to rub elbows (literally) with none other than the Golden Jet himself—good old number 9 Bobby Hull. A memorable moment for the three of them—probably not so much for Bobby...



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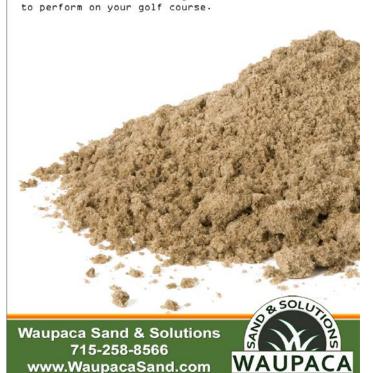
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#### Sand.

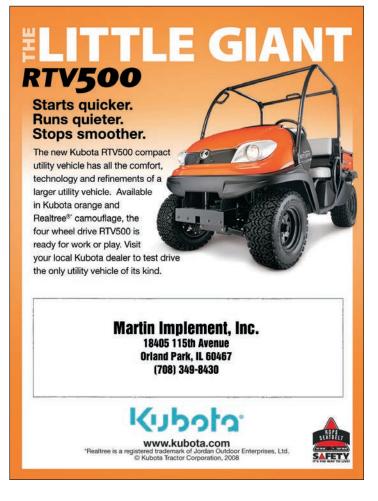
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Shane Conroy, GCSAA Field Staff

# Advocating for the Industry



'If we're not at the table, then we're going to be on the menu.' This line spoken by Kenneth Gorzycki, CGCS on the GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador Program hits the nail on the head when describing the program. The goal of the Grassroots Ambassador Program is to pair a GCSAA member to each member of congress in an effort in increase advocacy in our industry.

Regulatory pressure and attention from special interest groups have long been an issue for the golf course management industry. Whether it's applying and paying for costly permits, dealing with pesticide and fertilizer bans or navigating labor restrictions, there are number of concerns our industry faces off the golf course. Advocating to the decision makers who deal directly with these rules and laws is a huge step in making sure the turfgrass industry is well-represented.

Currently there are over 200 GCSAA Grassroots Ambassadors throughout the country, including MAGCS members Jim Pedersen, John Eckstrom, Chase Bonnell and Glenn Bereiter, CGCS. The goal of these Ambassadors is to connect with their assigned state senator or representative and make sure the elected officials are aware of the issues facing the golf course management industry. Grassroots Ambassadors build strong relationships with their state representative and act as the go-to person for issues facing the industry. GCSAA, with the support of the local ambassadors are acting as a leaders in advocacy for the entire golf industry. Grassroots Ambassadors deliver strong messages to elected officials and their staff, as well as promote our industry as highly regarded professionals and environmental stewards.

Getting involved is easy and is open to all GCSAA Class A, SM and C members. GCSAA provides the tools and training materials on issues currently affecting the industry and offers the proper channels for communication with the senator or representative. We understand maintaining a golf course is a more than a full-time job in itself, that's why becoming a Grassroots Ambassador is a nominal time commitment, call-

ing for only a couple hours each month. Bob Helland, GC-SAA's Director of Congressional Affairs is based in Washington D.C. and is readily available to help Ambassadors get in contact with their elected official and staff. Additionally, Chava McKeel, Director of Government Affairs and Kaelyn Seymour, Government Relations Specialist help get you started with the program and offer support throughout. Each year while completing the Grassroots Ambassador Program, GCSAA service and education points are awarded to the participant.

Ambassadors make big impacts by sharing their stories with members of congress and advocating on not only themselves, but the industry as well. It is a great way to unite the industry in a common voice and reach the influential officials in Washington. Advocacy is one of the best ways to impact public policy and successful association advocacy depends on member participation. The program is gaining steam and there have already been some great success stories stemming from the program. Many Senators and Representatives play golf and enjoy the opportunity to meet superintendents, as well as get involved in local projects that shine a positive light on the turfgrass industry.

We all know the professionalism superintendents and assistants exhibit on a daily basis, and how those who work within the golf course management industry have the local environment's best interest at heart. Relaying this information to elected officials is a huge step in advocating to those who aren't aware of the details behind managing a golf course. With new laws and regulations constantly effecting the industry, it's important we advocate on our behalf, no one else will. If you have any questions on the program or would like to get involved please reach out to me at sconroy@gcsaa.org (1)





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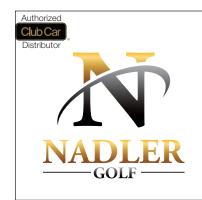


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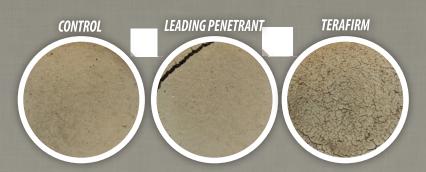
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