

on 01/2015

THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

# COURSE

SAN ANTONIO PREVIEW

NOTES FROM THE TURF CLINIC

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Cross Country  
Skiing



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### 2014-15 MIDWEST EVENTS

- 2/5** Midwest January Meeting and Wee One Fundraiser, Seven Bridges Golf Club.
- 2/25** Midwest Hospitality Reception, San Antonio, TX
- 3/10** Midwest March Meeting, Midwest Golf House, Lemont
- 4/ 27** Midwest April Meeting, St. Charles Country Club

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*On Course* is published monthly with original member content. For advertising opportunities please call 630-243-7900.

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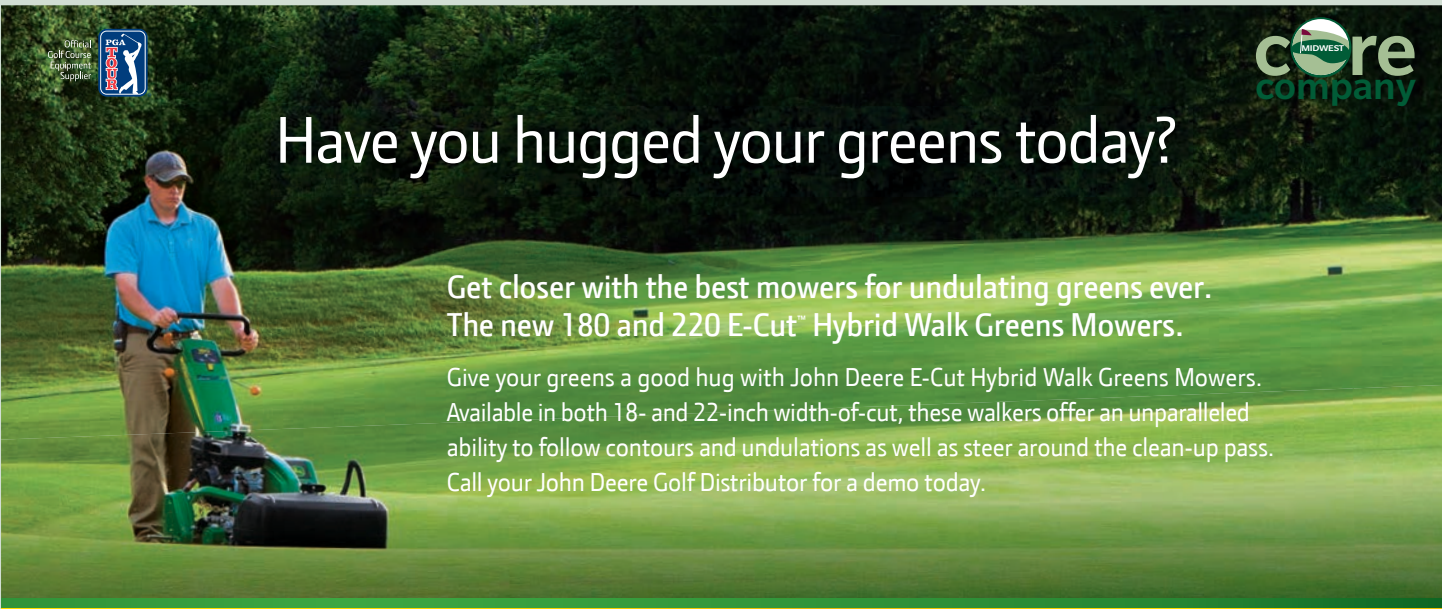
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# Core Values Don't Change



Luke Cella  
MAGCS

In early December the Midwest Board conducted an annual review and planned for the coming year(s). The divining rod was the result of the survey that over 200 members completed prior to the meeting.

The board reviewed the answers the membership provided and considered the information provided when discussing future actions. (A brief summary of the survey results appear at the end of this column).

We ran the meeting a little differently this year. We did not spend a lot of time reviewing our mission statement as in the past. We didn't spend a lot of time carefully choosing the best words that described the Midwest. We began the day focusing on the core values of the Association and the members that make it. These timeless ideals are who we are, they are handed down from generation to generation, and have not changed since the first days of the Association. Words like hardworking, driven, innovative, professional, enthusiastic, accountable, community, and improving were shared amongst the group. All were on the same page as we then moved into the core purpose of the Midwest. We agreed this to be: the promotion of our profession and the value of our members, providing education, communication, support, networking and guidance. It was good to get these out in the open. Each time we discussed a new idea, theme, or action item, we made sure it supported our core values and was inherent to our core purpose.

We looked at the things that we do well: Offer support to our members, engage our members, high quality education, opportunity to network, *On Course*, communications, meetings, solid management and a good physical business office and location, we post jobs, act as a local resource, we have fun and provide opportunity.

We focused on *On Course* and determined the structure of the magazine will stay the same. We will continue to focus on member generated and driven content. We will tell the Midwest story by highlighting our members and the achievements they make. We will share information using *On Course* as the vehicle to collectively make our playing surfaces better for all.

**THESE TIMELESS IDEALS  
ARE WHO WE ARE...AND  
HAVE NOT CHANGED SINCE  
THE FIRST DAYS OF THE  
ASSOCIATION.**

We talked about our meetings and looking at opportunities to make the best use of the time when we bring our membership together. We spoke about meeting cost, venues, and what defines an education event as commercial in nature. We decided to look into this last point with greater detail in the future, with guidance from our Regular members and input from our commercial members. I have been tasked with developing a model program that we can evaluate and ascertain its worth.

We spoke about educational opportunities for all and creating education classes that our members could attend weekly during the off-season – where customized content could be taught in much greater detail. We want to make sure we continue to engage our members and provide truly useful information for them – so they can continue to grow and become better.

*Continued on page 14*

# Cross Country Skiing

Justin Kirtland, Arrowhead Golf Club

This past year I have had numerous phone calls, emails, and conversations about our cross country skiing at Arrowhead Golf Club. Because of these inquiries, I thought this would be a good place to share my experiences with this off-season undertaking.

Arrowhead Golf Club is under the umbrella of the Wheaton Park District. The golf course is comprised of 27 holes that cover 221 acres of rolling hills and includes large wooded and native grass areas. The course is entirely surrounded by the Dupage Forest Preserve giving the property an even larger open feel. Each winter I am charged with designing, setting, and maintaining our cross country ski trails throughout the golf course. We offer this as service to our community and surrounding areas. Skiers owning their own equipment can ski for free and we do offer rentals for adults and children for \$15 and \$10 respectively.

## Roping and Preparation

Winter preparation for cross country skiing goes hand and hand with regular winter prep for turfgrass. We rope off all greens, some practice areas, and other high profile spots around the clubhouse to keep skiers and other winter enthusiasts off these more sensitive areas. In addition, all water hazards (whether they are close to the cross country trail or not) are marked with multiple large signs indicating their edges. This process takes

a couple of people two days and a lot of rope and even more stakes.

## The Sport

There are two types of cross country skiing we prepare for at Arrowhead. One is the traditional or classic ski where skiers follow a parallel track with each ski in their own track. They propel themselves using their legs and poles, striding forward. The second type of cross country skiing is skate ski or skating. This type is most likely what you saw watching the Olympics on TV. Rather than skiing straight forward, skate skiing is accomplished by skiing in a V by pushing one ski to the side and gliding and then repeating with the other side. It takes place on a groomed track about 40 inches wide where skiers skate side to side to build speed.



Skating or skate skiing.

—Peter Novak, Wikipedia



The Indy Polaris 500 is a workhorse, designed to pull loads and give pups a chance to warm their feet.

## Setting Trails

We do not set the cross country trails until a minimum of 6 inches of snowfall have accumulated over the golf course. Once the proper base is in place I begin to set the trail using a Polaris Indy 500 snowmobile. This snowmobile has a wider and longer track than a normal trail sled. The sled is designed to pull implements rather than blaze trails at 65mph in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. We also convert an 825i Gator that we use in the summer with wheels by removing them and adding tracks for the winter months. The Gator is also used to pull the implements to set trails. First, I will drive the course with the snowmobile to put down a rough draft of where the course will be set. I keep a minimum distance from water features, tees, greens, and fairways and other obstacles or sensitive areas I want

to keep the skiers away from; I don't want a skier going over a bunker face.

Once I'm happy with the rough draft trail I'll hook up my roller implement to the Gator and drive the trail again. All I am trying to do is pack down the snow to create a firm hard ski surface. I'll traverse the trail a third time using the groove function of the roller to create a corduroy furrowed look. This groomed track is for the skate skier and I try to make it as wide as possible, dictated by the course. Our skate track varies in width throughout

Winter	Number of Skiers
2008-09	1,985
2009-10	1,990
2010-11	1,962
2011-12	345
2012-13	284
2013-14	1,921

*Table 1. Skiing is highly dependent on weather and snow conditions. No snow = no skiing. Snow = skiers, no matter how cold the weather as last year exemplifies.*

the course but averages at least 30 inches wide.

The second track I put in place is for the traditional or classic skier. I place this parallel ski track on one of the sides of the groomed trail. This track needs to have a packed surface underneath it as well so these skiers can plant their poles in the snow and push off them.

The initial process of grooming and setting the traditional ski track takes about 6 hours for the typical trail we set. Depending on how many skiers use it each day or if new snow accumulates I might have to groom and set the parallel track everyday. This past winter (2013-14) I logged about 130 hours of setting and grooming the trails.

### The Operation

Like golf, cross country skiing is dependent on weather. Even with the cold last year we had many skiers because of the ample snow. The numbers in Table 1 only reflect how many skiers came out and rented equipment. We do not charge skiers that have their own equipment and only track those that rent equipment from us.

There are costs associated with cross country skiing, like golf, the costs are in labor and equipment. The equipment start up costs at Arrowhead were approximately \$65,000. See Table 2 for the breakdown.



*The JD Gator outfitted with tracks is the other key piece of equipment we use to set tracks.*

Item	Cost
Snowmobile	\$10,000
Gator & Tracks	\$20,000
Grooming Attachments	\$5,000
Ski Rental Equipment	\$30,000
Total	\$65,000

*Table 2. The start-up costs for cross-country skiing at Arrowhead. Past the initial capital investment, like golf, labor is a continual cost.*

One person can run the Arrowhead Ski Shop during the week. We open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 4:30 p.m. and three people are needed during the weekend, operating the same hours. From a turf stand point, if there is enough base, the plants are protected underneath the snow. The continual packing of snow by grooming and skiing does not seem to have much impact on the turf. There is quite a bit of ice in the spring as the trails thaw, but by keeping the trails off sensitive areas, I have not seen any



*I follow the rough trail I've set with the snowmobile pulling the roller/compactor setting the trail in place.*

turf loss.

Cross country skiing at Arrowhead provides a winter recreational activity for the Wheaton community and surrounding neighbors. It gives people the chance to experience the outdoors during a time of year when most stay inside. It is a great form of exercise and can be enjoyed by the whole family or groups of friends. It makes my day when I encounter skiers enjoying hot chocolate talking about the fun they just had. There is no reason not to enjoy the winter and the different activities it can create. @



*A lightweight track setter is used to groom the trail used by classic or traditional skiers.*

Ariana Haug 2011-02-28 By Oskar Kalin - Via Instagram - Wikimedia

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# # BullSheet



**January 2015**

## Dates to Remember

**January 13-14** – ITF's TURF Conference at Bolingbrook Golf Club, Jeff Gerdes host.

**February 5** – The 6th Annual MAGCS Meeting/ Wee One Fundraiser at Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge, IL, Don Ferreri and Dave Gelino hosts.

**February 25** – MAGCS Hospitality Reception at the Rio Plaza Grand Vista Ballroom from 7 to 11 PM in San Antonio, TX.

**March 4** – John Deere Landscapes University Contractor Training Event and Trade Show at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL.

**March 10** – Dear ol' Grandma Lucerne's birthday AND the MAGCS monthly meeting at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.

**March 11-12** – Reinders 22nd Green Industry Conference at the Waukesha Expo Center in suburban Milwaukee, WI.

Happy New Year and a warm winter welcome to all our members.

Slightly belated congratulations to Amey and Kris Kvelland on the birth of their son Connor James (right) on October 9th. Connor came into the world at 6 lbs., 15 ozs., and 21" long, and already has an established CDGA handicap.



Congratulations to Rick Jacobson and Jacobson Golf Design, Inc. on receiving a "Top 20 Award of Sustainable Golf Course Architects" from Green Planet Architects.

Our best wishes go out to **Don Gerber**, who is having brain surgery this month to remove a tumor that has been causing him severe pain in his left leg. Don is the oldest living MAGCS Past President, having served in the year I was born—1962. He was the long-time superintendent at Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton up until his retirement. Good luck Don, and may you enjoy a speedy recovery!

Speaking of retired superintendents, we have a few in our midst who will be joining that list soon (or not so soon). **Chad Ball**, CGCS (right) at Conway Farms Golf Club announced his impending retirement effective this past August 1. Chad will remain at CFGC as its Director of Golf Course Operations until October 1 of this year. **Connor Healy** has taken the reins from Chad and is



*Mike Matchen is all smiles after announcing his retirement this fall.*

the golf course superintendent, while Adam Wiles has been elevated to the position of First Assistant. Meanwhile, just down the road a bit, **Mike Matchen** has announced his retirement from Wilmette Golf Club effective December 31 of this year, allowing him to show the new guy the ropes. And last, but certainly not least, **Al Fierst** will be retiring from his long-time golf course superintendent's position at Oak Park Country Club on or around August, 2016, at the ripe young age of 65. Congratulations to these gentlemen on their noteworthy careers, and best wishes to them in

their next phases of life!



Al with his border collie Nap (Al is on the right).

Condolences to the friends and family of Mark Olson, who lost his battle with lung cancer on November 29th. Mark was a long-time employee with Prime Turf.

Add another item to the list of replies to the "What do you do in the winter?" question. In **Eddie Braunsky** and **Tim "TJ" Johnson's** case, it's checking out the all-women's topless field hockey tryouts (while removing the screen for a better



view). OR it's installing wind screens on the paddle tennis courts—you decide (I prefer the former story myself).

After getting their jollies on the fence, they needed to come down to

earth and take a load off. Conveniently, **Peter Leuzinger** was looking for a few old friends to celebrate HIS big milestone, and these two along with **John Turner** and **Dan Diehl** were happy to oblige. Oh, and the milestone in question? Peter worked his last day as tenured Instructor of Horticulture and Turfgrass at Kishwaukee College on December 18th, and has joined the aforementioned retired MAGCS members in their



own little Del Boca Vista. Congratulations OLD friend!

**Justin Kirtland** is this year's Editorial Chairman. Randy Quaid's most famous role was that of Cousin Eddie. Editorial. Eddie. A connection?

## MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Justin Kirtland and Randy Quaid.

'Tis the season to consider brightening the lives of those who participate in all the wonderful Sunshine Through Golf Foundation programs through a tax-deductible donation or the commemorative brick program. You can do this by going to [www.sunshinethroughgolf.org](http://www.sunshinethroughgolf.org) and clicking on the "Donate Now" button or the "Brick Program" button. It's a really great cause that is directly related to our professions.

Following up on that theme, last month Syngenta presented the Wee One Foundation with a BIG check (both literally and figuratively) from the 407 participating golf facilities during their 2014 Root-to-Leaf-Tip program. Shown here is Stephanie Schwenke, Syngenta's golf market manager with Wee One Treasurer **Dave Radaj, CGCS** of Green Acres Country Club. Many thanks to the people at Syngenta and the program participants for their contributions to this most worthy endeavor.



Q: When **Ben McGargill** loses something on his golf course, what does he do?

A: He leaves no Wynstone unturned.

Our sympathies to the family of **William "Bill" Leith**, who passed away December 1st. Bill was a longtime MAGCS member, and superintendent of Elgin Country Club for 40 years before retiring in 1999.

Bull Sheet continued on page 11

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Congratulations to Dave Radaj, CGCS for being elected the next President of Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents. **Jeff Frentz, CGCS** (below) completed his term and was happy to accept his gavel plaque at their annual meeting.



MAGCS Members in the Media:  
**Erwin McKone and Scott Witte, CGCS** were featured in the November, 2014

cover story in Superintendent magazine called "The Turf and the Bees." Both are avid beekeepers at their golf courses, and they are helping spread the word about the importance of honeybees and their role as pollinators. **Todd Fyffe**, superintendent at Westmoreland Country Club was the "19th Hole" subject in November's Golfdom, where we learned that Todd has been trying to become a Bears fan since moving to Chicago—hopefully this past season dropped that thought dead in its tracks. Finally, the November Chicago District Golfer magazine did a nice write-up on Indian Hill Club's (**Dave Schlagger**) 100th anniversary. Nice job gentlemen!

It was another great party season around the Midwest last month. It kicked off on the South Side on the first at Chef Klaus Bier Stube in Frankfort. Thanks to **Eddie Esgar** and **Matt Harstad** for arranging another great one. Next, on the 11th it was the West Side party at Seven Bridges. **Don Ferreri** and **Dave Gelino** were the hosts, and a fun afternoon was had by all (with the exception of the big losers at the annual Texas Hold 'Em tournament). Rounding off the holiday party circuit was the North Side party at Twin Peaks set up by **Justin VanLanduit** and **Matthew Kregel**. Always a great way to unwind with friends before the holidays kick in. Pictures right and in no particular order..... @



# San Antonio Awaits

Luke Cella, MAGCS

When most people think of San Antonio the Alamo immediately comes to mind. The famous mission was founded in 1718, and is definitely worth a visit. As a focal point of San Antonio one can learn much about the history of the area in no time at all.

The Alamo opens at 9:00 a.m. and closes at 5:30 p.m. A suggestion is to get there close to opening or after 3:00 p.m. to avoid the ever-present field trips. There is not much space in the exhibit areas, although the whole grounds take up more than 4 acres. If you walk in during a peak hour, you might be more apt to keep walking and not enjoy what it has to offer. The Alamo is one of five Spanish missions that laid the foundation for the city. The other four missions are still standing, active and are also part of the National Park system. They are each about three miles apart, along the San Antonio River and are connected by a bike-walking trail.



*When you go inside the Alamo, all men are asked to remove their hats as a sign of respect to the sacredness of the shrine. The Alamo church has been designated a shrine by the State of Texas.*

The River Walk is the center of most of the action in San Antonio. Most of the shops and restaurants are located along it, the San Antonio River. Like most water sources, there is a long history that surrounds the waterway. The whole area is actually a park and is maintained by the city. If you are up early you'll see the maintenance on the plants taking place from boats by horticulturalists and crew. There are 15 miles of walkways and

paths on both sides of the River granting access to most hotels and restaurants, and the Henry Gonzalez Convention Center. It'll take a day or two of traveling via this path to get your bearings, especially if you try and compare the River Walk to surface streets. The surface streets, found in most cities are in a grid pattern, the River Walk is shaped like a horseshoe.



*The River Walk is where most will congregate at night along the San Antonio River.*

San Antonio is an old city by American standards. It was founded in 1718 and boasts a population of 1.4M, the seventh most populous in the US. The oldest public golf course in Texas is in San Antonio, Brackenridge Park Golf Course, designed by A.W. Tillinghast. It opened in 1916 was host to the Texas Open just about every year from 1922 to 1959 and has undergone a recent \$7.5M facelift. It is not far from downtown.

Knowing time is limited for non-golf related endeavors, you'll still be able to experience authentic Mexican cuisine, Tex-Mex, and of course just about any cut of beef you can imagine from the steak

loving state. Know the Texas style of barbeque is cooked with a dry mustard and chili powder based rub. If you want it wet (dunked into sauce) prior to plating, you might have to ask. The sauce is not sweet and you'll find not as important to the locals as is the cut and quality of meat.

The weather of San Antonio is considered humid subtropical climate, hot in the summer and will only dip below freezing a dozen times each winter. The average high in February is 67 and the average low is 42, most likely adding a few more degrees to each for a late February trip. They share the Central Time Zone, which is nice.

At one end of the River Walk is the RiverCenter Mall. It is a full sized mall with a sea of shops that should suffice for any gifts you may want to haul back home or for your spouse to spend an afternoon while you are on the trade show floor.

There are several museums in the vicinity of downtown, notably The San Antonio Museum of Art. Their collections feature works



*Diego Rivera's "Dos Mujeres" will be on display at the San Antonio Museum of Art as part of a special exhibition during our stay.*

from around the world and two scheduled exhibits during our stay include works from Picasso and Diego Rivera.



*Texans love their guns. The state has more gun dealers than any other and their laws are some of the most lax in the nation. There is no waiting period, no state registration, and no limits on type or number.*

The San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo will be in taking place while we are there at the AT&T Center. In addition to the Rodeo, there is a live concert or performer scheduled each evening. The Wildlife Recreation and Management Contest at the rodeo takes place at the National Shooting Complex, it is Texas after all. With the Rodeo in town the Spurs will be on the road during our stay. You'll notice the locals are Spur crazy. It is the only professional team the city has to claim and if you happen to be in town during a successful playoff run, you'll know it.

It can be difficult to get away from the Golf Industry Show and get out and see some of the other items the city has to offer.

The one event you won't want to miss is the Midwest Hospitality Reception on Wednesday February 25 at the Rio Plaza on the second floor in the Grande Vista Room. The event will begin at 7:00 p.m. and feature a great selection of authentic cuisine, margaritas and a local brew or two. Enter from the street level at Commerce and Navarro. [@](#)

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.....Director's Column continued from page 3.

We're taking a proactive stance and reinstating our Environmental Committee with the purpose of government relations. We're going to create better content to send to courses and clubs when a position opens to promote our membership for jobs.

It is apparent the Midwest will focus on making sure our core values are our guiding principles that will enable our members to excel.

### 2014 Survey Highlights

206 members took the survey, 122 Superintendent, 44, Class E, 27 Class C and 13 Other.

The number one value of the membership is still the ability to network (when compared to the last two membership surveys), second is the information that is shared among the members, and a close third is the education and seminars offered.

For those who have not recently attended a Midwest meeting, the number one reason they do not attend is lack of time.

Turf science is still the number one education topic desired but a change occurred in the number two slot: computers and technology, followed by professional development. Popular specific topics include: Environmental stresses on turf, smartphones and tablets, plant growth regulators, soil testing and result interpretation, wetting agents, foliar fertility and disease management.

The most important reason people attend a Midwest meeting is the education, and the day of the week is important, Tuesday and Monday are most popular.

Cost of the meeting is an issue when its approaches the \$100 mark for most but it is still impactful at \$80 for others.

*On Course* is still very popular among the members and most browse the digital version when it comes out. Still, by far the majority of readers take their time to read the paper version with only a couple solely reading the digital edition. Most look to see who is advertising and supporting the Association when a purchasing decision is to be made.

The vast majority of respondents are ok with the Midwest looking into ways where manufacturers can help provide non-commercial, useful education at our events.

The Midwest can improve on education, government relations, helping smaller course superintendents, breaking down some of the small group barriers at events, and getting assistant superintendents involved in the association. Other specific suggestions were offered and each are valued and appreciated. @

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*Greg Martin, ASGCA and President of Martin Design Partnership addresses the group after the lunch break.*

Chuck Anfield, CGCS Heritage Bluffs Golf Course

The 62nd Midwest Turf Clinic was held at the always impressive Medinah Country Club. Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS MG was the host. Chuck Barber of St. Charles Country Club led the day of education off with his presentation, “Fairway Rolling for Dollar Spot Suppression or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Banner Bomb.”

Chuck started out by stating, “I’m not a scientist, and only been at St. Charles for three years so these are just my observations of the fairway rolling we have performed. I can say I have seen improved turfgrass performance on the greens and approaches we rolled in previous years, so why not roll fairways?”

Some of his initial goals in a fairway rolling program were to reduce localized dry spots, reduce puffy turf and reduce frequency of Dollar Spot fungicide applications. He cited research at Michigan State regarding the effect rolling has on increasing soil moisture in the top one inch of soil.

So if one was inclined to roll fairways, how would you do it and what are the options? Salsco has a fairway rolling machine nicknamed the “Tranz-Former” because the tires hydraulically fold up and down. It comes with the hefty price tag of \$34,000 per unit. True Turf has roller units that can be adapted to replace fairways cutting units. These each cost \$14,000 per machine.

Chuck started his rolling process with a tow behind unit, filled with water. It did produce a nice firmness to the turf. It eliminated the puffiness in the thatch. It alleviated but did not eliminate the LDS. Chuck believed it also helped suppress Dollar Spot. The problem was it was just too heavy and too hard to get around the course. It was also too slow and had a tendency to break hitches on the tow vehicles. It also tied up a vehicle or tractor that was needed for other tasks. Another lighter tow behind roller was tried, something a little faster. It just didn’t work as well and still tied up a vehicle.

Now what?

Chuck credits Andy Dauksas at Glen Oak Country Club for

showing him how to convert fairway mower reels into rollers. The fabrication costs were \$1,100. A fairway mower has the ability to stay out in front of play covering an acre in 12 minutes. Like most courses, the golf schedule dictates maintenance operation opportunity. Speed is essential. St. Charles converted two older fairway units into dedicated rollers. The plan was to roll on days that they didn’t mow. One problem Chuck didn’t foresee was the clumping of clippings falling off the rollers on those off mow days. Dragging a plastic lattice was effective but required lifting and dumping, and they broke apart frequently. Another issue were hydraulic leaks. For any machine that uses hydraulic power to lift cutting units, this can be a big problem. Even with these negatives, Chuck felt there was more good than bad from the fairway rolling process.

Some observations from fairway rolling:

- A noticeable reduction in localized dry spots
- Reduction in Dollar Spot severity and an extended coverage of fungicide applications
- A different effective height of cut – tighter lie
- Conceptually firmer fairways- members approved of the program
- Good visual quality

Chuck offered a few alternatives if you’re not inclined to roll:

- Hose dragging for dew removal
- Fairway topdressing
- Growth regulation
- More wetting agent applications for LDS
- More frequent Dollar S
- pot applications

Is fairway rolling for you? Talk to Chuck.

## Dr. Paul Koch

Dr. Koch works in the Department of Plant Pathology, Department of Horticulture, and the Molecular and Environmental Toxicology Center at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Dr. Koch's recent research has focused primarily on the impact of environmental conditions on fungicide breakdown in the environment and snow mold diseases on golf courses. He also oversees the University of Wisconsin Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab and the University of Wisconsin Turfgrass Fungicide Testing Program.



*Dr. Paul Koch, Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin made his presentation "Snow Molds: What Works and Why the Heck Didn't it Work at my Place?"*

Dr. Koch started by presenting slides and an overview of the different varieties of snow mold that we typically encounter.

- Gray snow mold
- Speckled snow mold
- Pink Snow mold

He went into detail with more colored slides reviewing his 2013-2014 Snow mold trials that were conducted at different locations throughout the state. The trials consisted of 108 different treatments using different products with different combinations and different rates.

Complete results of the trials can be found at: [www.tdl.wisc.edu/results](http://www.tdl.wisc.edu/results). Some of Dr. Koch recommendations include:

- Use some form of DMI in the mixture.
- Tank mixtures suppress a wider range of fungi.
- Different rates of products can offset different rates of degradation

A question was asked, "With so much snow and ice cover that lasted for so long last year, why didn't we see more snow mold?"

Answer: The snows we received were later in the fall/winter, the ground had a chance to freeze prior to the snowfall and because of this the soil temperatures were lower taking us out of the snow mold disease pressure.

Dr. Koch's latest study was on the effect of snow cover on depletion of turfgrass fungicides. He measured persistence of fungicides and the concentration required for suppression.

Conclusions from study:

- Snow cover impacted fungicide persistence
- Photo-degradation of fungicides was a non an issue due to snow cover
- Winter rains can rapidly deplete fungicide persistence
- Temperature had no effect on depletion of fungicides

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- Chlorothalonil is more persistent than iprodione
- Combination of two fungicide suppress disease better than one

### Mr. Greg Martin

Greg Martin, ASGCA President of Martin Design Partnership made the next presentation, "Course Architecture Update and State of Business." Greg has worked in golf course architecture for over 25 years in a wide range of projects including renovation, remodeling and new construction for public, daily fee, private and residential golf communities. His experience spans more than 100 projects in 8 states and internationally.

So where is golf going?

- Pace of play: Always an issue for people with busy lifestyles. How fast are people playing? How do we minimize stoppages? How do we make golf easier and more fun? Great questions, tough answers. Is it 15" cups? Is it Footgolf?
- Products and Construction: New grasses are being used, new bunker liner techniques, reduction of irrigation to promote a firmer, faster, wider playing surface is trending.
- State of the Industry: New golf construction is few and far between. Renovation work is trending and very popular at this time. Although the game is not growing rapidly it is healthy. This is more important overall than growth. A National Golf Foundation Study indicates there is a struggle for discretionary dollars. Courses are reinvesting to maintain customer base.
- Sustainability in Golf: Recycling efforts and maintenance operations are being modified to promote the "Business of Green." Golf is continuing to be a leader in finding solutions for these issues. Greg went into detail on a few projects that he is working on that address these challenges.
- Oak Meadows Golf Preserve has an operational need for redesign. It is prone to flooding and subsequent damage. His project includes storm water management, stream bank restoration, wetland banking, habitat preservation, course renovation and removal of invasive species.
- Wilmette Golf Club was also prone to flooding, had drainage problems and worn out playing features. The solution was to raise fairways, install bio-swales, improve drainage, simplify bunkers and features, and rebuild greens to USGA specifications. The resulting renovation helped to improve water quality and make course features more unified and easier to maintain.

### Dr. Kevin Frank

Dr. Kevin Frank, Associate Professor and Extension Turfgrass Specialist for the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences from Michigan State University took the podium to present on "Winterkill Recap and Prepping for Survival." Dr. Frank's research interests include winterkill prevention and reestablishment, turfgrass nutrition and fertilizer programming, Nitrogen and Phosphorous fate and irrigation programming. He serves as the MSU Turfgrass Committee Chair and as the MSU Liaison to the Golf Association of Michigan.

Dr. Frank began his presentation with a review of the timeline

for the 2013-14 Winter Kill on golf courses. He listed summary points of the winter weather:

- December 21 and 22, temperature warmed up to 40 degrees for 5-7 days as rain turned to ice causing tree damage, power outages.
- December 30, the Polar Vortex (formerly called an Alberta Clipper) descended on the U.S. and everything re-froze.
- "Snowpocalypse" occurred on January 6-7. 12" plus of snow fell and MSU closed for two days.
- January 10-13 temperatures rose to 38-40 degrees. Everything melted.
- January 14, everything froze for the next month
- Mini melt on February 19, then extended cold through March
- March/April melt- was crown hydration/re-freeze the cause of more death?

The problems came from different types of ice. If the ice is porous, gases can freely exchange and there is no problem. Unfortunately snow and ice that melts and re-freezes causes solid ice and this is a big problem as no gases can be exchanged. Some of the ice was 3-4" thick. Dr. Frank thinks that the lack of oxygen was the main culprit. Days to kill for bentgrass is 90-120 days with no oxygen. For *Poa annua* (which is what most of the winter kill was) is only 45-90 days. He estimates southwest Michigan experienced 70 days of ice coverage.



*Dr. Kevin Frank (no microphone needed) finally had his wishes for a winter come through in 2014 - only from a scientific stand point, though.*

Dr. Frank conducted a Winterkill Survey covering states in IL, WI, IN, NE, ND, WA, MI and Canada. He had a total of 80 respondents. 66 were from Michigan. 70% had some form of damage. 38% had damage to nine or more greens. Most damage areas consisted of sizes ranging from 20 square feet to 90 square ft.

Some observations from the survey:

- The ice cover affected *Poa annua* more than bentgrass
- *Poa annua* has a higher respiration rate so it requires more oxygen than bentgrass
- The clubs that conducted snow removal had large crews and big equipment- access to the greens was difficult
- Not sure if ice and snow removal caused further damage from turf exposure to wind and cold
- Comments from survey were wide ranging
- Tree shade seemed to exacerbate injury
- 90% of respondents did not cover greens Covers would not have prevented damage from ice formations.

- Late season fertility was an inconclusive issue. 50% did not apply late season fertilizer and 68% did not use any late season K.
- Data on raising mowing heights prior to winter was inconclusive.
- 50% used heavy topdressing to cover crown and protect turf

Dr. Frank then reviewed some research he conducted on ice melting products. It included everything from rock salt to black sand to fertilizers. Check [msuturf.blogspot.com](http://msuturf.blogspot.com) for those details if interested. So how do we prevent this damage/injury from happening again?

#### Winterkill Preparation 101

1. Shaded greens were a major contributor to winterkill injury. The shade keeps snow on the green longer resulting in less melting. The shaded greens are typically less healthy overall and more susceptible to winterkill. Turf in shade is also slower to establish after seeding in spring. Recommendation: Remove trees and limbs that shade greens.
2. Greens that had "bird bath" areas or poor drainage were more prone to holding snow/ice/water. Recommendation: Improve drainage by installing drain tile, cut ice channels to help melt water drain, remove sod in approaches that create dams.
3. Maintaining turfgrass health prior to winter is important. Recommendation: Convert to bentgrass

4. Covering greens for protection was inconclusive. Recommendation: If you do choose to cover greens use permeable covers.

Dr. Frank can be reached at [frankkk@msu.edu](mailto:frankkk@msu.edu)

Another great day of education and networking was presented by the MAGCS Educational Committee. They did a nice job putting together topics and speakers that are timely, informative and very appropriate for our business in golf. Keep up the good work. @



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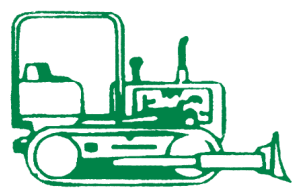
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