

on 03/2015

THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

# COURSE

THE DECLINING BALANCE SHEET

TURF CONFERENCE NOTES

GIS 2015 COMPLETE

## Tree Management

A photograph of a golf course with large trees and red lines indicating tree management zones. The image shows a lush green golf course with several large, mature trees in the foreground. Red lines are drawn on the grass, radiating from the base of the trees, likely indicating the drip line or a management zone. The background shows a clear blue sky and more trees in the distance.



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This photo of the 8th green was shot at 10:00 a.m. on a sunny day in May. Is it any wonder why the turf suffered on the putting surface over the years?

PHOTO: Chuck Barber

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Chuck Barber

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### 2015 MIDWEST EVENTS

- 3/9 Midwest March Meeting, Midwest Golf House, Lemont
- 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

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# 2015 Season is Under Way



*Justin Van Landuit  
Briarwood Country Club*

Here we are, on the heels of another winter in the Midwest. I think we can agree that this winter hasn't been too bad, but it's time to dust off the clubs and think about "The Greatest Game Ever Played".

We've got a full lineup of events this season and we're excited about the venues we get to visit. They are situated around the city and we hope a meeting or two is within striking distance and you'll make plans to attend.

Our gracious MAGCS President, Chuck Barber will be kicking the off the season. Chuck and St. Charles Country Club will be hosting the annual Spring Scramble at the end of April. April is always a dicey time of year but I'm sure Chuck's great relationship with Mother Nature will have the snow gone and the sun shining. So, gather up 3 of your good friends and we'll look forward to seeing you at St. Charles on April 27th.

May plays host to the annual ITF/MAGCS event. Brian Thomson will be hosting the event at Biltmore Country Club in the northwest suburbs. This shared event is always a hit. The associations find top notch venues to host and Biltmore will not disappoint. Biltmore has done some work over the last few years and the reviews have been great as Brian and staff look forward to May 12th.

## WE CAN'T THANK OUR HOSTS ENOUGH FOR OPENING THEIR DOORS TO THE MIDWEST MEMBERSHIP.

June is a great time of year to bond with your Assistant. The Dom Grotti has been a long standing event and a great way to spend a day away from work with your Assistant Superintendent. This June, we'll be headed south to Flossmoor Country Club. Not only will we compete for the Dom Grotti Championship, but we'll also crown the 2015

Assistant Superintendent Champion. So reward your counterparts and bring them out for a day of golf and fun!

In recent years past, July has never had a formalized golf event. Two years ago we instituted a 9 hole event as it was highly regarded during an association survey. So far we've visited west and northwest of the city, this year we travel slightly southwest. Doug Davis and Flagg Creek Golf Course will host us for the 3rd annual 9 hole event. This event has been enjoyed by many, not taking a whole day, and offering 9 hole venues the chance to show off their great work. Doug is excited to host us and we look forward to seeing you all there.

Over the last few seasons we've made some adjustments to the Championship event. Normally hosted in early September, we've found the end of August seems to fit a bit better. This August, Tony Kalina will be opening the doors for us at Prairie Landing Golf Club. For those that don't know, Tony is wrapping up a big renovation and is ready to show it off. I know I personally look forward to playing this great links style course with the new adjustments, (#betterwithbent) and competing for the Midwest Championship.

Because September has become a very busy month with aerification, Labor Day, and other projects, the Midwest has refrained from hosting an event. If you've never been to Pine Hills for the Wee One Foundation Annual Golf Outing, make a point of travelling north on September 21. You won't be disappointed with the course, the hospitality offered by Rod Johnson and crew, and you certainly won't leave hungry. The event fills up quick so don't delay once it opens.



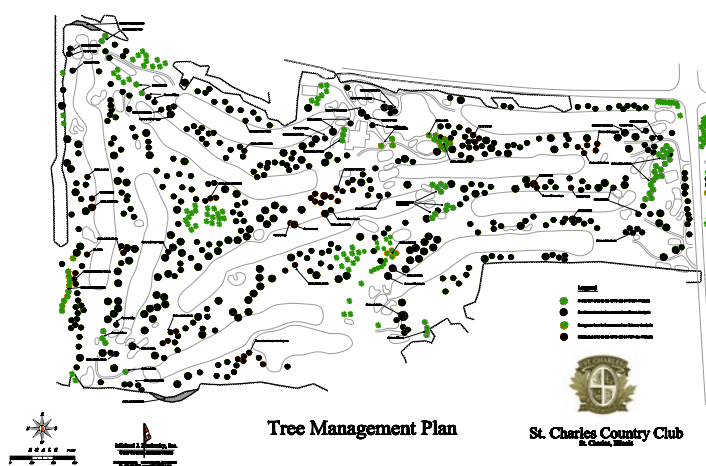
# Tree Management

at St. Charles Country Club

Chuck Barber, St. Charles Country Club

I began working at St. Charles Country Club in November of 2011. When I started there were obvious issues with our tree inventory of some 2400 trees. The most glaring of these issues was the now well-known Emerald Ash Borer injury on the golf course's roughly 200 Ash trees.

The borer damage was the launching point for the Tree Management Plan undertaken by St. Charles Country Club. Prior to my arrival at St. Charles the club had worked with Golf Course Architect Michael Benkusky on a tee complex construction as well as Master Planning. During the spring and summer months of 2012 Michael made several site visits to determine how best to manage not just the borer damage, but also to better manage our tree inventory as a whole.



*This property wide map (one half of the course) of our tree inventory helps me to keep our trees healthy.*

Michael created a property wide PDF (above) from previously existing documents and made rough outlines of our tree inventory. Each tree on the map is not a 'one for one' representation as there is significant clumping that can't be accounted for accurately on a map. The Tree Management Plan is a dynamic, changing document that Michael updates after plantings and removals are completed. This document has

proven invaluable in communicating the importance of managing a healthy tree inventory. The plan was created with three separate phases in mind.

The first phase was to address the Ash tree removals. Specifically, which trees would be removed? Which trees would be treated with insecticides? Which trees would we plant in their place? Michael worked alongside Greg Oltman of GRO Horticultural Enterprises and developed a comprehensive list of removals and a transplant plan to replace the ash trees with our own inventory. We did not plan nor treat any ash trees with insecticides. The bulk of the ash trees were removed from September to December of 2012.

In all, we removed 200 or so Ash trees and transplanted 32 trees to replace them. Michael's goal was to transplant trees from one area to another where the existing specimens matched well. We tried to match oaks with oaks, locust with locust and maple with maple whenever possible. The transplanting was an overwhelming success and 30 of 32 trees survived into year two thanks to diligent after-care by our staff.

Phase two of the plan was to address our putting surfaces and was set to begin in the winter of 2013/2014. In many instances, such as our 8th green, shade dominates the putting surfaces.



*In roughly a day and a half with two 100" spades and one 90" spade the GRO team transplanted trees from one area of the property to the areas where Ash trees were removed.*

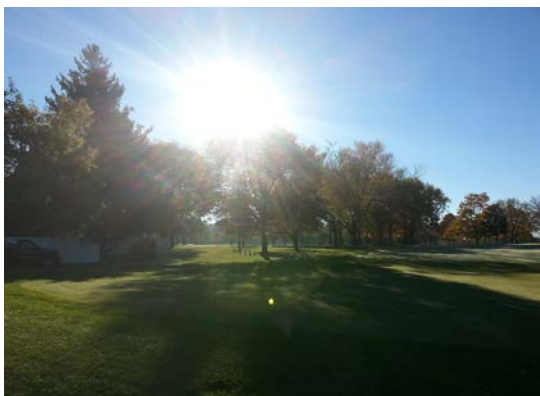




*This picture was taken July 28th at 8:18 a.m. of the 8th putting green.*

Shade and turf quality has been well documented so I won't rehash much here except to say that the probability of this green performing well given the amount of shade present is unlikely. Michael and I armed ourselves with as much information as possible to illustrate the importance of sunlight and turf health.

I purchased a Game Camera from Ben Meadows to take time-lapse photos of shade patterns at different times of the year to identify the trees offering shade. Dr. Ed Nangle, Director of Turfgrass Programs with the CDGA wrote letters in support of



*A "game" camera commonly used by hunters to document animal behavior was used to capture a series of pictures to create a time lapse history of the shade in trouble areas.*

tree removal to tip the scales in favor of growing healthy grass. During Green Committee meetings I would show Google

Earth images of golf courses on the PGA Tour, the USGA Championship courses and local courses who had undergone similar tree removal programs. This component of the plan was difficult to sell to Green Committee as well as the Board of Directors. Their hesitation is understandable. First, there was still the 'sticker shock' of removing so many large ash trees. Second, in 2012 and 2013 our greens performed well so the obvious question became: Why do we need to do this? Finally, most regular golfers of parkland style designs believe 'if you cut these trees down the hole will be too easy'. In light of these concerns Phase 2 was scaled back considerably from the plan as it was drawn, it took a great deal of time to develop and was implemented late in the (never ending) winter of 2013/2014. The plan called for approximately 100 trees around greens and greens surrounds. We removed only 35.

Our 8th green looked a little worse for the wear coming in to

the spring of 2014 (right). We kept this green under a cover until May 1st of last year and by the time the middle of May rolled around it had recovered fairly well on its own without additional fertility or any seeding. (below)



The 8th green's damage during that winter put a spotlight on



what shade can do to turf quality. Our members decided they liked trees, however, they decided they liked putting greens

more. I lobbied aggressively to remove the trees from the Tree Management Plan's second phase as soon as possible. However, there simply wasn't the time to devote to removing the trees, grinding the stumps, backfilling the holes and reestablishing grass during the golf season. After numerous walkthroughs, discussions and meetings throughout 2014 a modified version of Phase II was approved. From November 20th of 2014 until January 13th of 2015 our staff removed 50 more trees from around greens. We incorporated much of Phase III in to Phase II this winter bringing the total to 224 trees.



*In late fall of 2014, the trouble trees were removed from the 8th green complex.*

*continued on next page....*





*Phase III addresses every other tree on the course, like this one that protects the fairway from the bunker.*

Phase III of the Tree Management Plan is simple: Everything else. It includes eliminating double hazards like placing trees in front of bunkers to prohibit advancing the ball towards the hole.

Phase III also addressed many of the declining or rotting trees on the property like some of our poorer Hawthorn, Crab Apple and Maple trees.

Among some of the benefits of removing many of these trees is recapturing vistas that some trees blocked from view, such as this view from our halfway house looking across the irrigation pond.

We will continue in the years to come to work on realizing the Tree Management Plan's goals. The response from our membership has been overwhelmingly positive. They are enthusiastic about recapturing views of the golf course that were previously obscured. They have found the putting surfaces and turf around greens have improved. They have also found that the golf course does not need trees in order to be difficult. The game

of golf is hard enough as it is.

Since I have arrived here at St. Charles Country Club our staff has removed approximately 450 trees. This work has been done almost entirely in-house with our own personnel and equipment. Some of our members joke that I have "The Black Hand". Nothing could be further from the truth. Trees play an important role in the parkland style golf experience. The right tree in the right location is a wonderful thing. The important component that is often overlooked is having a plan.

A properly created Tree Management Plan generated by a golf course architect in conjunction with the Green Committee can address some of the issues trees present on the golf course. This same plan can also prevent over-planting or needless planting. Finally, it provides a working document that shows just how many trees remain despite what seems to be a significant amount of removals. 



*Trees that pose a safety hazard are removed without question.*

*The view from the halfway house has opened up with a few clumps of trees removed (left before).*






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# BullSheet



**March 2015**

## Dates to Remember

**March 9** – MAGCS monthly meeting AND Assistant Winter Workshop at Midwest Golf House.

**March 10** – Harrell's Morton Arboretum Seminar at the Arbor Room in the Thornhill Education Center, Lisle, IL.

**March 10** – BTSI's 2015 Turf Symposium at Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling, IL, Allen Parkes host.

**March 11-12** Reinder's Green Industry Turf Conference, Waukesha Expo Center

**March 19** – Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents' 31st Annual Forum at Naperville Country Club, Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG and Steven Biehl hosts.

**March 27** – Deadline for nominations for Golf Course Management magazine's (GCM) 2015 Most Valuable Technician Award.

**March 31** – Deadline to submit proposals to teach for GCSAA at the 2016 Golf Industry Show in San Diego, CA from February 6-11.

**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.

Please visit [magcs.org](http://magcs.org) and make sure your contact information is correct and your dues are up to date. We're getting ready to print the 2015 directory and use the information provided.

If your equipment technician is your most valuable employee—the guy you RELY on most for your continued success—there is a way to recognize that (and without giving him a raise!). Nominate your mechanic for GCM's Most Valuable Technician Award (MVT) presented in partnership with Foley United. The deadline is the 27th, so get busy! Go to [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org) and click on the proper tab (figure it out). Nominations will be narrowed down to three finalists, upon which time GCM readers will be able to review their resumes and qualifications and vote on their favorite. Results will be published in the August issue of GCM.

It's been a bustling off-season for MAGCS members and clubs, with many positions changing hands. Oak Park Country Club welcomes Phil Cuffare from Oak Hill CC in New York as its new superintendent. Virgil Range is heading back home, leaving River Bend GC for the

superintendent's job at Nashville Municipal Golf Course in suburban St. Louis. Indian Lakes Resort in Bloomingdale has a new

superintendent in Harry Lovero. Pat Maksymiu is the new superintendent at Crystal Tree Country Club, while Nick



*Ed Esgar*



*Nick Marfise*

Marfise has taken the job at Wilmette Golf Club, where he will take over for Mike Matchen upon his retirement at the end of this year. Bob Lively has accepted the superintendent's position at Edgewood Valley Country Club, and John Otis is the new guy at Ravinia Green Country Club. Eddie Esgar has accepted the position at Ruffled Feathers. Congrats and the best of luck to these gentlemen!

Our condolences to Bob Kohlstedt and his family on the passing of Bob's father Robert James Kohlstedt on February 5th.

Congratulations to Dan Murray (Pheasant Run Resort) and Al Pondel (Crystal Woods GC) on the recent renewal of their Certified Golf Course





# Chicken poop.

Now that we've gotten that out of the way, let's talk about what it can do for your turf.

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Speaking of Certification, I mentioned last month that GCSAA's Senior Manager of Certification, Penny Mitchell was resigning after 28 years. What I DIDN'T mention is that she has a successor. Jenny Pagel-Guile ([jpapel-guile@gcsaa.org](mailto:jpapel-guile@gcsaa.org)) is on board as the new Senior Manager of Certification as of February 5th.

On that very same day—February 5th—**Don Ferreri** and **Dave Gelino** were hosting the 6th Annual Midwest Monthly Meeting and Wee One Fundraiser at Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge, IL. The morning session was the monthly meeting part, with education by Dave Doherty of ISTRC Labs on “The Benefits of Oxygen and How to Maintain Oxygen Levels in the Rootzone” and Scott May of Turf Screen on Pigment Technology. Following that and lunch came the Wee One Fundraiser part (the FUN part, no disrespect to Mr. Doherty or Mr. May implied or intended). By the numbers, it was a great day for the Wee One—the auction earned \$25,785 (68% of the face value of the merchandise listed), and the raffle brought in an additional \$340. Add to those ProGro's donations of \$1,854.71 and the sports memorabilia at \$170, the grand total going to Wee One Foundation was \$27,979.71! A new twist to the event was held during the afternoon as well—the first ever MAGCS Chili Cookoff.

Participants vying for the grand prize of Best Chili included **Chuck Barber, Ben McGargill, Nick Baker, Craig Shepherd, Jeff VerCautren, Ed Nangle, and Josh Cull**. Word has it that ALL entries were delicious, but one stood slightly above the rest—congratulations to inaugural Chili Cookoff winner Craig Shepherd! Thanks to Don, Dave and the people at Seven Bridges, to everyone who donated the merchandise and to those who bid on it—it was a truly great day!



*The inaugural Chili Champs, Chuck Barber, Josh Cull and Craig Shepherd.*



Conway Farms Golf Club is looking for volunteers for the BMW Championship that they are hosting September 14-20. If interested (either for a whole day or the entire week), please contact Connor Healy at 847-295-0285 or [healyconnor@gmail.com](mailto:healyconnor@gmail.com) with your availability, contact info and shirt size. Preference will be given to those who can work the whole week, but there is some flexibility as there will be AM and PM shifts on all days except the 20th, which will be AM only.

Congratulations to **Brad Anderson**, CGCS (Bittersweet GC) on the birth of his grandson Edwin Wendell Mangin on February 24th. Little Edwin arrived at 2:30 AM weighing 8 lbs., 6 ozs.



Q: What's all that wet stuff called on the grass each morning at **Alex Garcia's** course?  
A: White Mountain Dew.

"What's Sheppy Wearing?" This month we are featuring "Professorial Sheppy," where he is shown sporting the classic blue blazer adorned with a leopard print hankie and University of Idaho lapel pin over a taupe sweater vest, subtly striped Oxford shirt and plaid bow tie. All that's missing are the elbow patches and a briar pipe.



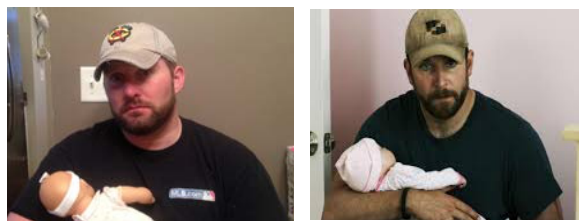
Harrell's has joined some elite company in renewing its support of the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG) recently. With the \$100,000 donation they made, Harrell's is recognized at the Champions Club level in EIFG's cumulative giving program for donors who have contributed \$250,000 to \$499,999 since 1987, joining just eight other companies to earn this distinction.

This pleasantness just in: Large parts of the U.S. are in for a drought of epic proportions in the second half of this century, according to scientists from NASA, Columbia University, and Cornell University (none of whom hire slouches for scientists). At least this quote from the study's co-author Jason E. Smerdon of Columbia gives us some glint of hope: "Even when selecting for the worst megadrought-dominated period, the 21st century projections make the megadroughts of the past seem like quaint walks through the Garden of Eden." Woo hoo!

What do you do when the pace of play at your course is SO annoyingly slow that you just can't stand it anymore? If you're Michael Jordan, you just build your own course, of course. According to several sources, that is exactly what MJ is thinking about doing to assuage his dissatisfaction with the pace of play at the Bear's Club in Jupiter, Florida where he is a member and owns a home. A nice option to have in one's back pocket, huh?

Bradley Cooper could pick off a target from over a mile away in "American Sniper." Aaron Reinhart can nail a muskrat between the eyes from over ten yards (but under 11). Could they perhaps be the same person??

## MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Aaron Reinhart or Bradley Cooper?

The 19th of this month marks the 31st time the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS) will hold its Annual Forum. Naperville Country Club and Tim Anderson and Steven Biehl are once again the hosts, and the topic for the day's education is "What Does the Future Hold?" Among the presenters will be Dana Lonn of the Center for Advanced Turf Technology, Mike Tinkey of the National Golf Course Owners Association, Tyler Riggan of the USGA and Steve Mona from the World Golf Foundation. Contact Luke Cella to book your spot.

If you want to be one of those people standing in front of a room full of knowledge-starved GCSAA members hanging on your every word, your opportunity is knocking. The 2016 Teach for GCSAA Proposal form is available at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org), but time is running out. Deadline to submit your proposal to teach at the 2016 Golf Industry Show in San Diego from Feb. 6-11 is March 31st, so get a move on!

The fine folks at Nadler Golf—Dave and Eric Nadler, Matt Baumgartner and Chad Rotert—had plenty to celebrate recently when they threw a bash for two of their longtime employees who we've all come to know. Service Manager Pete Schag reached his 40th year with the company (and plans on staying around for a few more), while truck driver and rental fleet deliveryman extraordinaire Ray Knapp has retired after his 39-1/2 years with the Nadlers. Even the OLD guys showed up (probably because there was a taco truck on the premises for the party).



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Keith and Dave Nadler mugging it out.



Pete and Ray hugging it out.

This year's rendition of the GIS is now in the rear-view mirror, and here are a few highlights from last month's festivities... In the golf events, MAGCS members did pretty well. **Al Pondel** tied for 15th place in the National Championship. **Brian Winkel** must have kicked butt in the Affiliate event, earning a big WD (which I assume means Well Done). In the Classic I, **Brad Legnaioli** took 8th Gross and T12 Net with Dave Arden (who was T15 Gross). **Luke Cella** took 19th in the Classic III Gross and Net, and **Scott Witte** was 15th Net in the Classic IV. In the Classic Senior I event, **Don Ferreri** was a T10 Gross and T5 Net, while **Tommy Witt** took 4th Gross and 3rd Net and **Steve VanAcker** was 14th Gross and 5th Net in the Classic Senior II. The Four Ball III division found **Dan Marco** and **Dave Radaj** at the top of the Gross leader board (how fitting is THAT?) and T13 Net, with **Al Fierst** and **Tommy Witt** at T11 Gross and 6th Net. Congrats to all of these guys on braving some pretty harsh weather to compete.



The 2015 GCSAA Four Ball Champs: Dan Marco and Dave Radaj. After talking to the winning team, only one score of Marco's was used, but it made all the difference.

The MAGCS Hospitality Reception took place at the Rio Plaza Grand Vista Ballroom on the 25th, and was the usual hit of the

week, we'll have complete coverage in next month's OC. Our members have been making news in the various industry publications last month. **Tony Kalina** and Prairie Landing Golf Club were featured in Golf Course Industry in an article titled "Bunkers for Bent," which describes their long-time project aimed at reducing the number of bunkers from the original 109 to 68 while also improving the remaining bunkers with Better Billy Bunker liners. Superintendent magazine highlighted **Steve Cook's** plan to climb a 22,500-foot mountain next fall for Make-A-Wish, while Club & Resort Business ran a piece about Mike Nass and Cantigny Golf's Youth Links. TurfNet's Blog Aggregator has discovered **Jim Canning** of White Eagle Golf Club, publishing two of his blogs—one about their staff locker room renovation and the other about reel grinding and the "Rites of Winter." And most recently, **Bruce Williams** penned an article for Golf Course Industry magazine in which he interviewed **Tommy Witt** and **Tom Lively** about what to do and where to go while in San Antonio for the Show. Nicely done gents!

Last month when we highlighted a few of our long standing members, we forgot one. **Tom DiGuido** is a 56 year member of the GCSAA and holds the same tenure with the Midwest. Tom was the Golf Course Superintendent at Green and Oak Meadows Golf Courses during the 70s, 80s, 90s retiring in 2001! We're sorry for the omission. @

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# The Declining Balance Sheet

Brad Anderson, CGCS, Bittersweet Golf Club

Of all the methods that I have used for tracking my budget over the years, none has proven to be more effective than the Declining Balance Sheet.

Everything that you will need for customizing your own version of this method is provided in the link below. <https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/16492815/History/Declining%20Balance%20Sheet%20Template%20MAGCS.xlsx>

Table 1.

|   | A          | B      | C      | D       | E     | F       | G | H |
|---|------------|--------|--------|---------|-------|---------|---|---|
| 1 | FERTILIZER | Budget | Actual | Balance | Accum | Journal |   |   |
| 2 | Jan        | -      | -      | -       | -     |         |   |   |
| 3 | Feb        | -      | -      | -       | -     |         |   |   |
| 4 | Mar        | -      | -      | -       | -     |         |   |   |
| 5 | Apr        | -      | -      | -       | -     |         |   |   |
| 6 | May        | -      | -      | -       | -     |         |   |   |
| 7 | Jun        | -      | -      | -       | -     |         |   |   |
| 8 | Jul        | -      | -      | -       | -     |         |   |   |
| 9 | Aug        | -      | -      | -       | -     |         |   |   |

To better understand how it works we will explain the columns of a declining balance sheet below (Table 1). In Column A we will enter the name of a line item above the months of our budget year. Each line item of our budget will have its own declining balance sheet. In the example, we're building a balance sheet for FERTILIZER.

The budgeted monthly dollar amounts of our Fertilizer budget are now entered in Column B. (Table 2.)

Table 2.

|    | A          | B        | C      | D       |
|----|------------|----------|--------|---------|
| 1  | FERTILIZER | Budget   | Actual | Balance |
| 2  | Jan        | -        | -      | -       |
| 3  | Feb        | -        | -      | -       |
| 4  | Mar        | -        | -      | -       |
| 5  | Apr        | 3,500.00 | -      | -       |
| 6  | May        | 1,000.00 | -      | -       |
| 7  | Jun        | 1,000.00 | -      | -       |
| 8  | Jul        | 1,000.00 | -      | -       |
| 9  | Aug        | 1,000.00 | -      | -       |
| 10 | Sep        | 3,000.00 | -      | -       |
| 11 | Oct        | 1,000.00 | -      | -       |
| 12 | Nov        | 4,000.00 | -      | -       |

In Column C we will program a summary of the Actual expenses which have been entered from our invoices beginning in Column F and extending horizontally for as far out as each line item requires. For the purpose of this illustration our diagram extends only to column L. (Table 3.)

Table 3.

|    | A          | B        | C        | D       | E      | F       | G             | H |
|----|------------|----------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------------|---|
| 1  | FERTILIZER | Budget   | Actual   | Balance | Accum  | Journal |               |   |
| 2  | Jan        | -        | -        | -       | -      |         |               |   |
| 3  | Feb        | -        | -        | -       | -      |         |               |   |
| 4  | Mar        | -        | -        | -       | -      |         |               |   |
| 5  | Apr        | 3,500.00 | 2,739.31 | 760.69  | -      | 2,560   | 80 50# bags u |   |
| 6  | May        | 1,000.00 | -        | -       | 760.69 |         |               |   |
| 7  | Jun        | 1,000.00 | -        | -       | 760.69 |         |               |   |
| 8  | Jul        | 1,000.00 | -        | -       | 760.69 |         |               |   |
| 9  | Aug        | 1,000.00 | -        | -       | 760.69 |         |               |   |
| 10 | Sep        | 3,000.00 | -        | -       | 760.69 |         |               |   |
| 11 | Oct        | 1,000.00 | -        | -       | 760.69 |         |               |   |

Here we must pause for the most important point of understanding how Column C functions: if you include text inside of the same cell as numbers, the summary cells of your spreadsheet will not tally that cell. Summary cells will only tally numbers from cells that contain numbers only. This allows you to drop all manner of useful text information into your declining balance sheet.

Notice above that in April we recorded the purchase of 80 50 pound bags of Urea, at \$32.02 each. (Table 4.) These numbers were entered along with text inside cell G of row 5. Our summary cell in column C only recorded the value of the expense in column F and the tax value in column K; it did not record the numbers that we used to journal the quantity, weight and price of the urea bags. After I grasped this possibility I was able to combine the

information from two separate documents onto one document and the time required for my budget journaling was cut by more than half. I also eliminated the mistakes that I would occasionally make in cross referencing the two documents.

In Column E we have an accumulating summary of our line item balance. As we progress through the months of the year we will find the information in this column to be especially helpful in forecasting expenses.

Table 4.

|    | A          | B         | C        | D         | E         | F       | G  | H                    | I   | J   | K | L |
|----|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|---------|----|----------------------|-----|-----|---|---|
| 1  | FERTILIZER | Budget    | Actual   | Balance   | Accum     | Journal |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 2  | Jan        | -         | -        | -         | -         |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 3  | Feb        | -         | -        | -         | -         |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 4  | Mar        | -         | -        | -         | -         |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 5  | Apr        | 3,500.00  | 2,739.31 | 760.69    | -         | 2,560   | 80 | 50# bags urea @32.02 | 179 | tax |   |   |
| 6  | May        | 1,000.00  | -        | 1,000.00  | 1,760.69  |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 7  | Jun        | 1,000.00  | -        | 1,000.00  | 2,760.69  |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 8  | Jul        | 1,000.00  | -        | 1,000.00  | 3,760.69  |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 9  | Aug        | 1,000.00  | -        | 1,000.00  | 4,760.69  |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 10 | Sep        | 3,000.00  | -        | 3,000.00  | 7,760.69  |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 11 | Oct        | 1,000.00  | -        | 1,000.00  | 8,760.69  |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 12 | Nov        | 4,000.00  | -        | 4,000.00  | 12,760.69 |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 13 | Dec        | -         | -        | -         | -         |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 14 |            | 15,500.00 | 2,739.31 | 12,760.69 |           |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |

Let us say that today is the 1st of July and we are considering a purchase of liquid Chelated Iron. (Table 5.) We had budgeted \$1,000 for the month of July but we are only carrying an accumulative balance of \$336.69 due to going over-budget in June. If we keep our purchase of liquid Chelated Iron below what is remaining in our accumulative balance, we will be back on track with our Fertilizer budget in August.

Table 5.

|    | A          | B         | C        | D          | E        | F       | G  | H                    | I   | J   | K | L |
|----|------------|-----------|----------|------------|----------|---------|----|----------------------|-----|-----|---|---|
| 1  | FERTILIZER | Budget    | Actual   | Balance    | Accum    | Journal |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 2  | Jan        | -         | -        | -          | -        |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 3  | Feb        | -         | -        | -          | -        |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 4  | Mar        | -         | -        | -          | -        |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 5  | Apr        | 3,500.00  | 2,739.31 | 760.69     | -        | 2,560   | 80 | 50# bags urea @32.02 | 179 | tax |   |   |
| 6  | May        | 1,000.00  | -        | 1,000.00   | 1,760.69 |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 7  | Jun        | 1,000.00  | 3,424.00 | (2,424.00) | (663.31) | 3200    | 80 | 50# bags sop @40.00  | 224 | tax |   |   |
| 8  | Jul        | 1,000.00  | -        | 1,000.00   | 336.69   |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 9  | Aug        | 1,000.00  | -        | 1,000.00   | 1,336.69 |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 10 | Sep        | 3,000.00  | -        | 3,000.00   | 4,336.69 |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 11 | Oct        | 1,000.00  | -        | 1,000.00   | 5,336.69 |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 12 | Nov        | 4,000.00  | -        | 4,000.00   | 9,336.69 |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 13 | Dec        | -         | -        | -          | -        |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |
| 14 |            | 15,500.00 | 6,163.31 | 9,336.69   |          |         |    |                      |     |     |   |   |

The formulas for the declining balance sheet are written once accordingly (Table 6.)

After we have our first line item programmed we may copy and paste the template multiple times, vertically along the left edge of the document, until every line item of our budget has its own independent declining balance sheet.


For a total of all the line items we will now insert the same formulas at the top of the spread sheet and then reprogram the BUDGET and ACTUAL columns by vertically adding the months

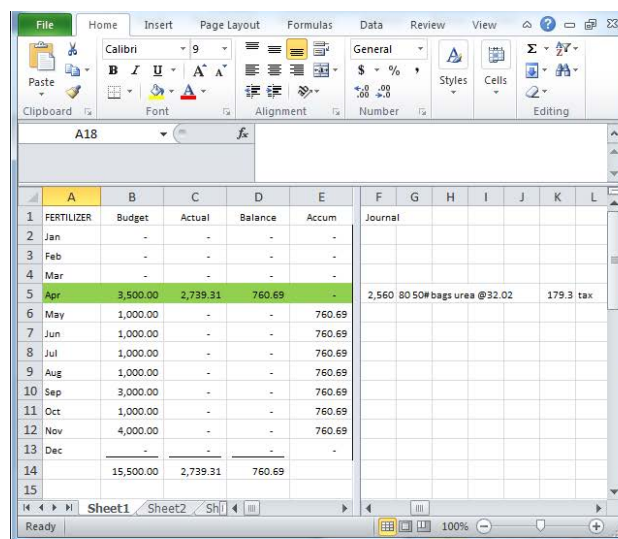
Table 6.

|    | A   | B      | C              | D        | E        | F       |
|----|-----|--------|----------------|----------|----------|---------|
| 1  |     | Budget | Actual         | Balance  | Accum    | Journal |
| 2  | Jan | 0      | =SUM(G3:AAA3)  | =C3-D3   |          |         |
| 3  | Feb | 0      | =SUM(G4:AAA4)  | =C4-D4   | =E4+E3   |         |
| 4  | Mar | 0      | =SUM(G5:AAA5)  | =C5-D5   | =F4+E5   |         |
| 5  | Apr | 0      | =SUM(G6:AAA6)  | =C6-D6   | =F5+E6   |         |
| 6  | May | 0      | =SUM(G7:AAA7)  | =C7-D7   | =F6+E7   |         |
| 7  | Jun | 0      | =SUM(G8:AAA8)  | =C8-D8   | =F7+E8   |         |
| 8  | Jul | 0      | =SUM(G9:AAA9)  | =C9-D9   | =F8+E9   |         |
| 9  | Aug | 0      | =SUM(G10:AAA1) | =C10-D10 | =F9+E10  |         |
| 10 | Sep | 0      | =SUM(G11:AAA1) | =C11-D11 | =F10+E11 |         |
| 11 | Oct | 0      | =SUM(G12:AAA1) | =C12-D12 | =F11+E12 |         |

from each line item accordingly. To save on the time and effort of attempting this on your own you may download a template from this link: <https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/16492815/History/Declining%20Balance%20Sheet%20Template%20MAGCS.xlsx>

If you have any trouble with copying and using the template please don't hesitate to call. Hopefully you will find this tool to be a very useful time saver.

Finally, as your journal entries for each month may extend horizontally beyond the width of your screen, you will find the need to drag and set a window separation bar between column E and Column F. (Below) 







# Turf Conference Delivers

Chuck Anfield, Heritage Bluffs Golf Course

The 2015 version Turf Conference presented by the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation was held at the Bolingbrook Golf Club. The educational opportunities offered up a potpourri of selections. There seemed to be something there for everyone in the Turf/ Golf/Sports Industries. So I toured around to some of the different venues, listened to a wide range of speakers and here are some of my notes.

**Dr. Roch Gaussoin**, Department Head, Professor and Extension Turfgrass Specialist at the University of Nebraska- Lincoln started the education day off with his presentation: “[Managing Organic Matter in Putting Greens](#).” Dr. Gaussoin has long been a popular speaker in the U.S. and internationally. He has been known as the “Guru of Topdressing.” This was one of his last speaking engagements as he is moving into an administration position. The ITF was very grateful to have him to come to Illinois.

The mat in a putting green is the layer that is between the surface of the turf and the soil. It is the mixture of mineral and organic matter. Dr. Gaussoin has been working on a 15 year USGA funded study on managing organic matter management in USGA greens.

Some trends that have been observed:

1. Declining infiltration rates
2. No significant change in total porosity
3. Change in micro-porosity
4. Increase in fines migrating to surface (related to topdressing material)
5. Increase in cation-exchange capacity
6. Decreasing pH

Why is organic matter considered bad? It does have benefits  
What is perfect amount of organic matter in a putting green?  
There has been some questionable research using varying lab techniques. THERE IS NO MAGIC NUMBER

The best test to use to determine if you have excessive organic



*Dr. Roch Gaussoin announced he will not be making as many presentations as he has in the past. We hope he'll still come to Illinois and engage his audience like he does so well.*

matter (OM) is the “squeeze test.”

- 24 hours after irrigation cut out a chunk of turf, include the mat. Squeeze it, if water falls out you have too much thatch.

So now what? How do you get rid of excessive thatch?

- There are decomposition products for sale. Not much research is available on results.
- There is core aeration, currently the number one choice
- Then there is Dr. Gaussoin's choice, which is dilution.

He conducted a variety of cultivation techniques and timing to manage OM on USGA greens. His research indicates that dilution is the most consistent and repeatable factor in OM management. “The solution to the pollution is dilution.” His research indicates that the more sand that is applied to putting green surfaces, the less organic matter is present. Pore size must be continuous and he suggest to avoid layer issues by diluting frequently. For any questions or comments, Dr. Gaussoin can be reached at [rgaussoin1@unl.edu](mailto:rgaussoin1@unl.edu)

**Bob Vavrek**, Senior Agronomist North Central Region for the USGA made his presentation, “[Putting Green Cultural Management](#).”

Bob's presentation covered an overview/historical perspective/retrospective view on a mixture of topics covering a 25 year period of putting green management.

- Soft Spikes- were introduced in 1993. Shortly after, almost all courses banned metal spikes. What a difference we have seen in putting green quality!
- Primo- was labeled for turf in 1994. Prior to that there was no TGR's being using to help manage green speed.
- Bacterial Wilt- There is still no consensus on why it occurs. Back in the 90's C-15 decline was a “rich man's disease.” Is related to stress? Wear? HOC? Some things never change.
- Height of Cut- (HOC) In 1990, HOC was between .125” and .156” Now it is between .110” and .090” In the quest for speed, how low can you go?
- Green Speed- In 1990 the speed was 8'-10'. Now it is

*continued on page 20*

We finally end up the golf season in October and celebrate the career of a long standing member, Mike Matchen. Mike will be retiring at the end of this season and looks forward to hosting us at Wilmette Golf Club. Mike steered Wilmette Golf Club as it underwent a large-scale renovation in the 2013 season. It opened to rave reviews from golfers and the community it serves. Plan to wrap up the 2015 golf season by coming to enjoy the day with Mike and wish him well with his retirement.

We've got a full calendar for 2015 and we can't thank the hosts enough for opening their doors to the Midwest membership. Challenges are always faced when searching for host sites so it is much appreciated when we can get them lined up early. We are starting to look at the 2016 season and beyond, if you are interested in hosting please don't hesitate to contact us. We are very willing to work with you and your club/course to make the event a win-win for all. @



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closer to 10'-12'. New cultivars have made a big difference in the increase.

- Putting Green Cultivars- In 1990, Penn links, A and G series, L-93 was popular choices. Now, Alpha, 007, Declaration, Barracuda, Tyee and on and on....many more options today.
- Thatch- Prolific root growth and high density turf cultivars = thatch. Thatch has always been a concern and with new cultivars, courses are paying more attention to monitoring OM.
- Organic Matter Management- What is the best method to test? What is the ideal %? We need consistent protocols.
- Putting Green Aeration- There are many new methods and tools since 1990.
- Topdressing- This used is accomplished with a fertilizer spreader. Now we have dedicated spinner units.
- Poa annua- Poa is still around....until it dies. A lot of time and money has been spent to try to eradicate it. A lot of time and money has been spent to breed it....
- Brushing Greens-The concept has been around a while. It has been making a comeback recently and seems to be "in vogue" as a tool to manage turf and increase green speeds.
- Moisture Meter-No one was using these 25 years ago. Now it is standard for most golf maintenance operations. It's a tool to help fine tune irrigation inputs. It's also an excellent tool to use to train how to hand water.
- Hand Watering Skills-This has become more science and less "art."
- Drainage-The techniques to drain push up greens using XGD and other drainage systems have changed how we view drainage projects. They are much less invasive and offer a faster installation process.
- Shade-25 years later there is still no shortage of shade related problems. The golfer love affair with trees continues.
- Winter Kill-Poa annua still dies and bentgrass still has a greater chance of survival.
- Rollers- In 1990 rollers were rare. In 2015, they are SOP.
- Fans-Today there are more efficient and more effective designs. They were once only common in the south, today they are everywhere.
- Spiking/Venting- This process has gained so much popularity with its effectiveness and non-invasiveness, it has become a weekly practice.

- Tissue Testing- This was supposed to be the next big thing. What happened to it?
- Soil Amendments-Oil dry was used, then turf, isolate



Bob Vavrek talks about the depth of spiking and venting in an overall green maintenance program.

and, profile. Now it is trending that people are using composts and topdressing with this material. Know your limitations.

- Testimonials-In 1990 there were many new products and lots of claims of success with little research to back it up. Today....same old, same old.
- Water Issues-There is major concerns regarding water quality and availability. It is recommended to get a salinity meter to measure your water quality frequently.
- Innovation-Necessity is the mother of invention. Some things never change.

Paul Vermeulen, Sr. Director of Competitions Agronomy for the PGA Tour was the next up to make his presentation on "Observations from the Tour of Putting Green Preparation." Paul has on the on the PGA Tour since 2006. His current responsibilities include assisting with the daily management of the agronomy department, reviewing tournament preparations



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Paul stated that working on the PGA Tour is his "passion." His main focus is to work with on-site staff to help refine the greens for professional competition. He also works with the Rules Committee and Tour Administration to help with the "expected playing conditions." His goal is always to finish the event on a "high note" regarding putting green firmness.

Paul keeps meticulous records on green speed, firmness and soil moisture. It's very important to control the information.

Another big part of Paul's job is to communicate with his "members." These are the players on the PGA Tour. Think you got it rough? How are the greens? What is the firmness? What is the target speed? Paul routinely conducts surveys to find out what the players like or don't like.

The average PGA Tour green speed is 11'7". That being said, it can range from 10.5' to 13'. The greens are typically slightly slower in the early part of the tournament week and then slowly increase toward the weekend. This is accomplished with increasing the rolling and mowing frequencies. As the day progresses Paul has measured a loss of 8-9 inches. He stresses that green speed is a "moving target." Every week and every course is different.

About five years ago green firmness was a major talking point. Tour surveys with the players indicated a strong appreciation for firmness. It has a huge influence on course strategy and scoring. Most players prefer the greens firm. They are athletes and like the competition and the challenge. Firmness is measured with a Trufirm meter that calculates depression and depth. To achieve firmness is not as simple as turning the water off. It's not measured like green speed. It's a combination of time and water management. Firmness is achieved for what is appropriate for each event. Firmness is built daily. It can vary with the age of the green and the turf type. All courses have their own unique range of firmness depending on construction method, annual maintenance and the time of year. @



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**Alan T. Fierst**  
*Golf Course Superintendent*  
*The Oak Park Country Club*

**Where did you grow up?**

Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana..... although I'm not just so sure I'm all that "grown up" .... jus sayin'.....

**First golf course you where you worked?**

Caddy – Portsmouth Elks Country Club, Portsmouth, Ohio & Grounds crew - Greenville Country Club, Greenville Ohio

**Do you have a prized possession?**

My Ball State University class ring.... A graduation gift to me from my parents.

Worn frequently; am questioned about it all the time. It's big and people think it's a championship ring of some kind --- the thing is.... It is! Graduating from college during those days ( for me ) was like winning a world championship!!! It is worn proudly..... and treasured.

**What do you like to drink?**

Varies according to variables.... And since I'm usually wheeling a fast car that goes very fast whilst I'm driving – whatever beverage consumed is usually something very safe.

**Favorite job task at the golf course?**

Cutting down any golf course tree that ought have been cut down decades ago.....

**Dream car?**

It has been an immense pleasure to own my dream car – in several versions.... and drive it like it was stolen. Every Porsche just gets better and better... and better.

**Favorite pig out food?**

Gene and Georgetti, Chicago, Illinois.

**What is your favorite restaurant to go to?**

Sullivan's Steakhouse

**What is your favorite movie and actor?**

Movie – Once Upon a Time in America (long version) Book – "Pillars of the Earth", Ken Follett, Actor – "the actor who is me...."



**What are your favorite sports?**

NCAA Football, Automobile Racing, Extreme sports, Tour de France, The Masters.

**What is your best vacation or favorite destination?**

Each week, at the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio in Oak Park, IL. it is an immense yet humble privilege to give architectural tours to guests from all over this planet. Whilst sharing the innovative world of Frank Lloyd Wright with them; it allows me to journey with them into an architectural world far different from that of common day life.... the journey never fails to enlighten to amaze to inform to grow and to learn and know – for me as well as the tour participants. We all come away enriched....

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