

on 11/2015

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COURSE

ONE TOUGH YEAR

BULL SHEET

MIDWEST PERSONALITY



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- 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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St. Charles Country Club

One Tough Year


This continues to be THE most challenging year in my career. By a long shot. It seems that every decision I make is incorrect. It appears that every effort to create improvements, to advance, to kick the ball forward has resulted in setbacks.

I have struggled in virtually every aspect of the operation at the club for the usual reasons: bad weather, labor shortage, bad timing, bad decisions, the list goes on. Reflecting on it as I write this I find it interesting to think that if I had left things well enough alone and not interfered as much as I did perhaps the summer would have gone smoother. It's easy to say that in the cheap seats of the future. I've said it before and I'll say it again: It is unfortunate that life must be lived forward but learned in reverse.

One of the best decisions I've made was to begin board service for MAGCS. I can look back on the opportunity that I was afforded a few years ago with fondness. Thank you Kevin DeRoo for asking. As a result of these years on the board I have been fortunate to work with intelligent, committed, hard-working people. I include everyone on our current and past boards that I have served with on that list. There are too many to name. Matt Kregel was kind enough to point out during our last meeting that I am afforded an extra month of presidency thanks to the change in the Turf Clinic's schedule. I wish I had a better use for that extra month.

MAGCS provides a tremendous resource in human capital. I am confident I could pick up the directory and call anyone in it with questions or concerns. As a contributor to On Course I rely on our membership for content. You the reader, the member, the contributors have never failed me. I have relied on your advice and expertise. I have been the beneficiary of your hard work and service to our industry. I have made friends through this Association some I fear, I might not have if I didn't participate in its governance. We all enjoy the efforts of our membership through shared insights, innovations and creativity. As a group we help one another in innumerable ways.

What happens next for MAGCS is up to each one of you. Can you serve on the board of directors and help steer the ship? Luke Cella, our Executive Director extraordinaire is always quick to point out that leading any group of MAGCS' size is like steering a barge (Ed note: I don't think I ever called it a barge, more like a ship, but will let it go). It can't stop and turn on a dime with each whim or passing fancy. There are simply too many moving parts for that to be feasible. If you can't serve on the board can you serve on a committee? Editorial ALWAYS needs content. ALWAYS! Write about something you're doing, take a few pictures, send it to Luke and he'll make you look like a Pulitzer Prize winner, I swear! We always need venues for our golf and education events. Volunteer your course or clubhouse. MAGCS is frequently in need of speakers and presenters. Volunteer your knowledge and expertise.

I am just a small part of the large, metaphorical barge. I have enjoyed my passage through 'the chairs' tremendously. I will be 'Past President' next year and that's fine. Dave Kohley this year and Dave Groelle last year served that position well. I will follow their example (maybe not Groelle's ©) and continue to support MAGCS' board. After that I will, hopefully, be allowed to eat lunch at Geneva Golf Club each March on the Past President's Council. It's sort of like a group of Yoda's talking to a group of people who don't know what Star Wars is. The lunch is usually good. 



Past Presidency is next for Barber where he'll feel right at home looking at old photos trying to remember who people are.

A New Look at Compost Tea

Jeff Hoste, Village Greens of Woodridge

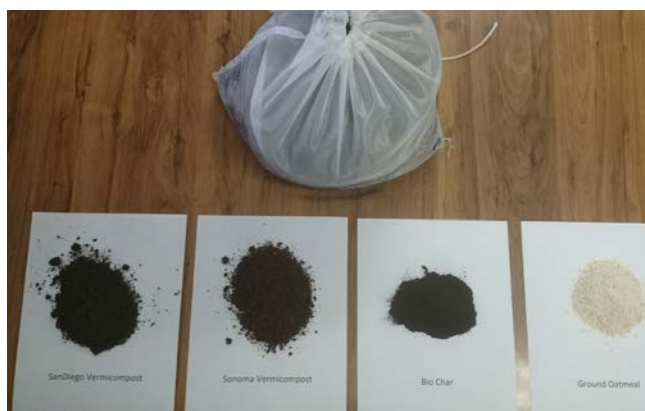
Over the winter of 2014 we began a trip down the rabbit hole of compost tea and its claims to promote healthier and pest-resistant plants. After poring through You-Tube videos and many websites, our research steered us into the direction of Actively Aerated Compost Tea.

Actively Aerated Compost Tea (AACT) is simply compost that is placed in a 400 micron mesh bag and then brewed with air bubbles sufficient to achieve 7-20 ppm of dissolved oxygen. After determining the right brew time, we discovered through the use of a microscope, that we could produce a live tea that contains aerobic bacteria, fungus, flagellates, ciliates and protozoa that could fight off their anaerobic brethren who ultimately cause pest problems in turf. Placing a camera on the microscope further allowed us to capture video and snap shots of each brew which then allowed us to modify our approach as the season continued.

We then took 3 entire golf holes; greens, tees, fairways and rough out of our normal plant protectant program and began the year relying on only AACT for nutrient and pesticide needs on these areas. We sought to assess the many claims of loyal compost tea users including; reduced fertilizer inputs, growth regulation, disease suppression, insect suppression and decreased irrigation needs.

Before our experiment could begin, a reliable and consistent source of compost had to be found. Compost itself can vary significantly and we wanted it to be a known component in order to accurately assess the tea and its benefits. We were looking for bacterial dominant compost as turf is a bacterial dominant landscape. Vermicompost quickly rose to the top of our list as a bacterial dominant and user-friendly source. Vermicompost, or worm castings, provide a host of beneficial

bacteria while having good texture, a long shelf life and low cost. The bacteria included, however, is dependent on the food source the worms were given to produce the compost. Our overlooked little friend the earthworm, as it turns out, will eat almost anything it can fit in its mouth. Because many bacteria haven't been identified by even the top scientists, we wanted a diverse population to achieve the desired results. Over the course of the year, after looking at and striving for diversity in our tea, we chose two sources of vermicompost to brew.



The tea bag and the components from left to right: San Diego Vermicompost, Sonoma Vermicompost, Bio Char and Ground Oatmeal.

The first vermicompost source we chose came out of the San Diego area. We purchased the tea brewer from them as well. This supplier claims that chitin and cellulose are the building blocks of all of the disease and insects we fight, both in the cell wall structure of fungus as well as the exoskeletons of insects. By feeding his worms chitin (i.e. shellfish carcasses) and cellulose (cardboard and newspaper) he is able to produce a vermicompost that is rich in bacteria that can break down both. He then mixes his worm castings with landscape

compost to create the finished product.

We also incorporated a vermicompost from the Sonoma, California area that approaches the process differently. They take dairy cow bedding (rice hulls and cow manure) and feed it to their worms to create their compost. The cows are pasture fed and begin the microbial process in their stomachs. Again, earthworms will eat anything and once they have

digested the cow manure and some of the rice hulls, what's left is fluffy compost teeming with nutrients that doesn't smell and has a shelf life of two years.

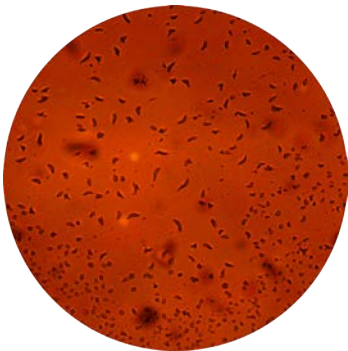
With our source of microbial activity secured, we set about brewing them and exploding their populations exponentially. Once the tea bag is assembled, it needs to be inoculated for 72 hours prior to brewing. This is a fancy way

The brewed tea is pumped into the sprayer and applied separate of any other products to ensure microbe survival. We are currently adding 100 gallons of tea to a 300 gallon mix. This is a higher rate than suggested, but since we can't overdose the plant we have been trying to get microbial populations introduced/maintained at a high rate.

Our Findings vs. the Claims

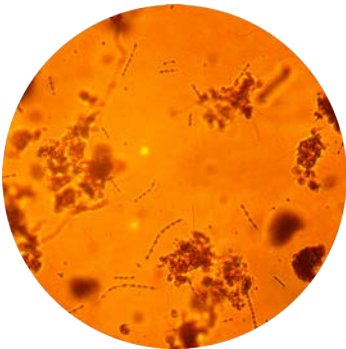
Table 1. Tissue Analysis.		Nutrients	N	P	K	Ca	Mg	B	Fe	Mn	Cu	Zn	Al	S	Na
Village Greens of Woodridge		Desired HI	5	0.7	3	1	0.5	15	200	300	20	70	1500	0.7	400
2015		Desired LO	4	0.4	2	0.7	0.3	10	50	20	5	0.5	0	0.3	150
Standard Program															
	*Before	4 Green	4.86	0.62	1.86	0.66	0.3	9.9	345	88.4	17.3	63.2	133	0.49	491
	**After	4 Green	4.85	0.51	2.34	0.31	0.19	6.6	202	61.1	15.6	53.5	84.9	0.5	496
	Before	6 Green	5.05	0.67	2.07	0.61	0.27	8.4	373	60.3	17.1	67	125	0.46	250
	After	6 Green	4.57	0.61	2.29	0.38	0.2	6.6	265	47.8	17.9	63.3	121	0.44	435
	Before	11 Green	4.87	0.59	1.9	0.5	0.24	7.7	255	50.5	16	51.8	86.2	0.41	409
	After	11 Green	4.69	0.67	2.51	0.4	0.2	5.7	192	49.5	16.7	60.3	77.8	0.42	424
AACT Program															
	Before	15 Green	4.79	0.61	1.95	0.51	0.25	7.4	220	54.8	16.1	53.8	76.5	0.41	411
	After	15 Green	4.64	0.61	2.21	0.39	0.19	4.5	152	49	15	55.2	61.4	0.41	411
	Before	18 Green	5.04	0.64	2.11	0.52	0.26	7.8	262	57.9	16.9	56.3	137	0.43	387
	After	18 Green	4.84	0.66	2.34	0.41	0.2	4.5	146	48.1	15	55.3	55.9	0.42	415
*Before: Tested tissue was gathered 3 days before a foliar application. **After: Tested tissue was gathered 2 days after foliar application															

of saying we get the tea bag wet and let the microbes wake up and start to reproduce. We have done this with straight water, water and molasses, water and honey and ended up with using a commercially available compost extract that contains a large percentage of carbon. Carbon is a food source for microbes and it helps them thrive and multiply. We are cautioned not to use too much carbon or sugar however, as the microbes can reproduce so quickly and vastly that they can take the oxygen out of the water, even as it bubbles, and produce an anaerobic population. Evaluation of brew samples under the microscope suggest the optimum brew time for the most diverse tea is between 36 and 40 hours. Anything over that, and the microbes cannibalize themselves to a very low count. Our current purchased brewer is a re-purposed IBC tote with a hot tub air blower which bubbles air through the bag, knocking microbes into the tea in the process. The brewer produces up to 275 gallons per brew and is effective although hard to clean because of its flat bottom. Cleaning the tank thoroughly is highly stressed as any residual life that is left from the last batch can go anaerobic and ruin subsequent brews. We are taking what we have learned this year and building our own out of cone-bottom tanks over the winter as our experiment is taken to the next level.



Reduction in Fertilizer Inputs

This has been proven true. On the three holes where we tried to rely on AACT alone, we applied melted urea 4 times at a rate of .12 lb. N/M for a total of .48 lbs. of N for the entire year. Beginning in mid-June we began to see less density on greens and a slight color loss on other treated plots. We were also still battling dollar spot sporadically and saw the need for a little extra nitrogen. No other nutrients, aside from Potassium Phosphite were applied. The organic farmers will tell you there is enough of every nutrient in the soil for thousands of years of plant health. We have been told that these sources are “unavailable”. Microbes break down everything from rocks to trees to organic



Using a microscope to observe our brews gave us the opportunity to physically determine best brewing length, component amount and population diversity of the bacteria as we experimented. The left image shows an early brew compared to one developed later on with greater diversity.

matter and convert this material into usable nutrients for the plant. As the war between the good aerobic microbes and bad anaerobic microbes rages on in the soil, their death or waste is also pure nutrients that the plant can use on demand. We have been told that microbes can convert organic matter into 2 lbs. of N/year. As our thatch layer becomes consumed naturally, our mechanical inputs reduce as do our fertilizer applications. Soil tests become

somewhat irrelevant, so we conducted tissue tests this year on conventionally maintained areas as well as the AACT experiment. There was little to no difference between foliar fed turf vs. AACT fed turf. See Table 1. Tissue Analysis.

Growth Regulation

The verdict is: not at all. Growth regulator was used following this conclusion for the rest of the season.

Reduced Fungicide Use

Yes, but still not a silver bullet. AACT treated plots were disease free until mid-June when dollar spot hit them hard. This applied to bent/poa and blue/poa equally. Chlorothalonil/Acibenzolar applications were made monthly in June, July, August and September as a result. Potassium Phosphite and Urea were also utilized to ease the pressure. All other diseases such as Fairy Ring and Anthracnose, which we would have expected to see, were held at bay.

Reduced Insecticide Use

Definitely. Because we are producing chitin-eating microbes and applying them directly to the target area, the vermicompost supplier's claim is plausible. The grubs and parent beetles, as well as cutworms and ants are being eradicated. On the three holes under the AACT program, greens, tees, fairways and rough were not given the early season insecticide the rest of the course received. A couple of the areas within the AACT plots were "indicator" spots as well. Not only were the AACT plots free of digging this fall, but there was a definite line between AACT treated vs. non-treated areas. Amazing.

Reduced Irrigation Needs

The jury still out. The beginning of the season was so wet that we didn't run our first irrigation cycle until July 31st. When we did start to irrigate, we were plagued with leaks to the point that they consumed all of our attention. This will need to be evaluated as we move forward with the project.

Overall Conclusions

We feel after our research this year that we can eliminate both granular fertilizer applications as well as insecticide. Fungicide applications are planned for mid-June, July, August and September of 2016 and we will continue with Chlorothalonil/Acibenzolar. Potassium Phosphite and Urea will be added to these four applications to help the cause. Lignosulfonic Acid will be incorporated into the program to address bicarbonate issues in the soil and irrigation water. We have considered collecting rain water to brew with as well. Plant growth regulators will continue to be implemented during the season and for Poa seedhead control. Herbicide applications remain the same as well with pre-emergent and spot spraying used as necessary.

From a financial perspective, this program knocks it out of the proverbial park. We can brew our own AACT for \$.05/gallon and treat greens and fairways for \$3 per application and \$27 per application, respectively. When we include the products we still feel we need, we can treat the golf course at the same level and reduce our chemical/fertilizer budget to \$20,000 or by 2/3.

Moving Forward:

We plan to take this program course-wide for 2016 and evaluate AACT further. To do that, we intend to build 3 brewers over the winter taking what we have learned into consideration. Our research and tinkering is by no means done, so stay tuned! @



GCSAA 2016 Pest Management Survey

GCSAA's 2015 Pest Management Practices Survey is now underway. This survey focuses on best management practices that will help GCSAA advocate for the golf course industry and our profession.

The survey does not require pesticide records and takes just 15 minutes to complete.

Golf course management practices, including the use of water, nutrients, and pest management products are more publicly scrutinized and regulated than ever before. GCSAA advocates fervently for the golf course superintendent and the golf industry upon a foundation of sound science and fact. Without these efforts and our continued input, regulators may only have information provided to them by those wanting to ban the tools we need to do our jobs and contribute to the success of our facilities.

Visit www.gcsaa.org today to learn more about the Golf Course Environmental Profile and to take the GCEP Pest Management Practices Survey.



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THE BullSheet



Dates to Remember

November 2015

November 6-9 – Wives of Turf's TurfFit 5K Virtual Race benefiting the Wee One Foundation.

November 27 – Deadline for nominations for the 2015 TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta.

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.

January 28, 2016 – Midwest January Meeting and Wee One Fundraiser, Seven Bridges Golf Club, Don Ferreri Host.

February 10, 2016 – Midwest Hospitality Reception, Henry's Pub, San Diego, CA.

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

We welcome with open arms the following new members of the MAGCS family:

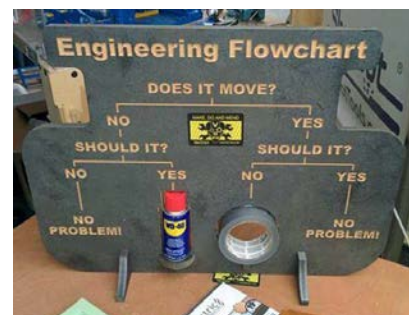
- **Brad Fry**, Harbor Shores Golf Club, Class A
- **Matthew Woolam**, Emeis Golf Course, Class SM
- **Anthony Mieske**, Conway Farms Golf Club, Class C
- **Amela Smajlovic**, Patten Cat, Class E

If you want to join the likes of **Paul Voykin** and **Sam MacKenzie** as a TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award winner, you have until the 27th of this month to get yourself nominated. Presented by Syngenta since 2000, the award recognizes superintendents for their ability to excel in the following criteria: labor management, maximizing budget limitations, educating and advancing the careers of colleagues and assistants, negotiating with government agencies, preparing for tournaments under unusual circumstances, service to golf clientele, upgrading or renovating the course and dealing with extreme or emergency conditions. Nominations can be made at www.turfnet.com by clicking on the Features tab and then the Superintendent of the Year Nomination Form tab.

Want a fun way to kick off the winter education season? Why not hop on up to Kohler, Wisconsin for the 2015 Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium? It's the 50th year for the event, and it happens on the 2nd and 3rd of December, the week before our own 63rd Midwest Turf Clinic. You might even recognize a few of the faces up there, as **Pat Jones**, **Bruce Branham**, **Ed Nangle** and **Bob Vavrek** are scheduled to present. Deadline to pre-register is November 23rd—go to www.wgsc.com for details.

Every shop and every equipment tech should have one of these—it's simplicity at its simplest!

A neat story was passed along to me by **Mike Bavier**, CGCS Retired recently—more than 20 volunteer arborists from our area, some in bucket trucks and others in climbing gear, traveled to Springfield, IL for a day of tree trimming at the historic Oak Ridge Cemetery. Some of the trees they trimmed were "witness trees" that were present 150 years ago at President Lincoln's funeral. The arborists, most of whom were from Bartlett Tree Experts, donated their services to help the cemetery prepare for the thousands of people who visited the site for the sesquicentennial re-enactment of the President's funeral. Oak Ridge opened in 1855, and was dedicated in 1860 with Old Abe



himself present, and has grown to be the largest municipal cemetery in Illinois. It encompasses 365 acres of rolling prairie land, thousands of hardwoods and conifers, and over 75,000 interments.

Well even though the Cubs lost the NLCS to the dog-ass Mets, it wasn't from a lack of effort on the part of Curtis Tyrrell and Medinah Country Club. What, you may ask, is the connection? It turns out that their star outfielder Yoenis Cespedes, who left game four with a shoulder injury, had played Medinah that very morning. Although he insists the injury did not happen while golfing, one can only wonder whether his Cub-fan caddie may have "forgotten" to warn him of the buried tree root directly under his ball, or of the large rock just beneath the surface of the bunker he played from. Hmmm.



In case you didn't catch it, the first hug shown on TV after the Cubs beat the Cardinals were Mumper and Marco at Wrigley. No words can describe the joy or the look on Mike's face.

In a follow-up to our story about MAGCS superintendents who have moved on to golf course ownership (featuring **Jason Lemanski** and **Bob Maibusch, CGCS**), Bob sent us this photo of the cart his son and two crew members customized for him while he was away. The adopted company slogan on the roof explains golf course ownership in a nutshell (and also in German, which, loosely translated means "What fresh hell does today bring?")



At least Bob is smiling in his customized land roving machine.

Congrats to **Brad Anderson, CGCS** (Bittersweet Golf Club) on his new venture—Brad has partnered with Envy Brand Fertilizer of Bedford Park to develop a line of water soluble fertilizers called Envy 18. Product labels may be viewed at www.envyfert.com, and \$50 will go to the Wee One Foundation for every 80 bags sold.

On Saturday, October 3rd, over 100 FootGolfers came to Chicago from across the country as well as Mexico and Argentina to compete in the inaugural American FootGolf League U.S. National FootGolf Championship (they really need to streamline that tournament name). The event took place at the Sydney Marovitz Golf Course along the lakefront, and included the world's best footgolfer, Christian Otero of Argentina. It also marked the unveiling of the new model AFGL FootGolf cup, a 21" diameter cup with built-in ferrule designed exclusively for the sport. Yep.

Thanks to **Vince Dodge** of the Wilderness at Fortune Bay in Tower, MN for this stunning pic of a double rainbow (and since it was taken after the 4th of July when he closes for winter, there were no golfers or carts to spoil the scene).



National Seed's October news had some information to cause concern if you use grass seed at your operation. The drought and heat in the Pacific Northwest—evidenced by all who watched the U.S. Open at Chambers Bay—have stressed Oregon's grass seed crops, and farmers are preliminarily reporting yield reductions of 20-50%. Where an acre typically generates roughly 2,500 pounds of seed (who'd have thunk?), this year's range is about 1,700-2,000 pounds. I'm guessing that translates to price increases.

California is a dangerous place to play golf. Two stories in recent weeks prove this out. First, at Laguna Woods GC, two women in their 70's were attacked by a swarm of bees on the 12th hole after a grounds guy mowed over the nest. A 72-year-old lady was stung 15 times, while her 74-year-old companion was stung 100 times! They both spent some time in a local hospital. Second, when two guys were playing at Hansen Dam GC in Pacoima, they parked their cart adjacent to the 9th green and walked to the green to putt out. When they finished, they turned to find the cart gone. It was very near the edge of the property in a "sketchy" neighborhood, and the thieves made off with not only two sets of clubs (minus putters), but also keys, wallets, watches, range finder, and glasses. The perpetrators subsequently paid a visit to the golfers' homes to take more stuff before they were able to change locks. That's an expensive round of golf!

continued on page 12

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TM

Remember Rich Hall? The guy who invented “sniglets,” or words that should be in the dictionary but aren’t? Kinda grumpy but in a funny way? Anyhow, if you do, and were wondering whatever happened to him, we’ve found out—he’s been lying low in St. Charles, kicking “fenderbergs” off the wheel wells of members’ cars in winter and removing “mowmuffins” from under the decks of rotary mowers in summer, under the alias of Jason Kahlstorf.

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Jason Kahlstorf or Rich Hall? You be the judge.

Q: What Jim Carrey movie was filmed at **Denise Gillett-Parchert’s** course?

A: PottawatoMie, Myself and Irene.

Bonus Q & A: What do you call an ‘Autumn Purple’ tree with no money?

A: Poor white ash.

Autumn is always the best season to play golf, and there were plenty of opportunities to do so in our neck of the woods. On September 30th, Tyler Enterprises held its 3rd Annual Ryder Cup at Morris Country Club with host **Andy Weadge** and his crew providing a beautiful golf course for the 4-man team event. On October 8th, Wilmette Golf Club with superintendents **Mike Matchen** and **Nick Marfise** hosted the MAGCS monthly meeting for our version of the two-man Ryder Cup format. The course was in magnificent condition, with its new greens just about perfect. The day included a tribute to longtime superintendent of 43 years Mike Matchen, who will hang up his cup cutter at year’s end. The standing ovation Mike received from everyone was truly memorable, and I think I saw him get a little misty-eyed in the moment. Many thanks to the day’s sponsors who were **Arthur Clesen, Inc., Burris Equipment Company, Chicagoland Turf, Great Lakes Turf, LLC, Harrell’s, Healthy Grow, HGT Bluegrass, J.W. Turf, Inc., Nels Johnson Tree Experts, Rain Bird, Reinders, Inc., and Syngenta.**

On October 1st the Midwest Class C group got together for their yearly informal golf outing at Arrowhead Golf Club. On Tuesday, October 13th, Local Billy Casper Superintendents and Assistants hosted their purveyors and others who support them throughout the year for nine holes and a bar-b-que lunch at the Bridges of Poplar Creek. (insert pic of Dustin). On the 15th, Mike Paciga and Kemper Lakes Golf Club hosted the University of Illinois Turf Alumni Golf Outing for its annual event, which included some



The winners of the two man event John Lebedves and Dave Kohley.



Joel Lane and Julie Adamski of HGT Bluegrass were first time sponsors of a MAGCS event.



Henry Michna and Luke Strojny came out to enjoy the day at Wilmette, paying their respects to a fellow MuniSupt - Matchen.



Chuck Anfield and Tim Scott were rocking the pink pinstripes.



Chris Cameron hesitantly awaits to see where his partner, Jeremy Duncan will make him play from in the alternate shot portion.



Nikki Bowen from Westmoreland Country Club listens intently.



Thanks to the Assisants of Chicago Golf Club for helping out with registraiton: Brian Chasensky and Blaine Doherty.



Kurt Sams and his ex-assistant Dion Pearce were able to reunite at the meeting. Dion is the Division Sales Specialist for Pathway Biologic.

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Not sure if Connor Healy is talking about a putt, a fish or who knows what, but it has Ed Fischer in mesmerized.

shady participants to say the least. Finishing off the month in style was Jeff VerCautren's now-famous Chili Hole event at Rich



Brian Winkel, Tom Voigt, Chuck Barber and Darin Habenicht enjoy the day at Kemper Lakes for the Annual U of I outing.

Harvest Farms. Needless to say, the team that was hand-picked by the host and included two golf professionals won out over the other guys. Many thanks to everyone for a great fall season of golf!



Nick Marfise hands off the framed photo to Mike Matchen.




The Class C Outing at Arrowhead Golf Club, Anderew Cross hosted.



Mike said a brief thanks to those in attendance and was given a lasting standing ovation as he concluded.

MAGCS Members in Print

It was another banner month for our members getting famous on the pages of industry publications. **John Nelson** and Merit Club (with **Oscar Miles** playing an integral part) were featured in an article in Golf Course Industry magazine titled "Experimenting on Familiar Turf, outlining John's willingness to try new products and procedures before they become mainstream in the business. Club & Resort Business had a two-page Club Car ad with not one but TWO photos of **Dave Schlagetter**—grumpy Dave on the left and happy Dave on the right—along with his testimonial; and the same issue featured an article about **Andy Morris** and Country Club of Peoria, detailing Andy's unique career path that landed him where he is. **Jeff Leuzinger** (Pearl Valley Organix) got his mug in the latest issue of Golfdom in the Golfdom Gallery feature. **Ted Soenksen**, the equipment tech at Wilmette GC and his shepherd mix Whoa-Wee were the stars of GCSAATV's video on Super Dogs, showing Ted and Whoa cruising the property. There were also two nice articles about a couple of our area's more revered tracks—Links magazine showcased Olympia Fields (Sam MacKenzie) in an article about classic courses, and Golf Course Architecture did a nice article on Old Elm Club and its recent renovation back to its original design by Donald Ross and Harry Colt (the only course on earth touched by the hands of both legendary architects). 



What's that Hank Williams Jr. song? "All My Rowdy Friends have Settled Down."? It seems it happens to the all of us, as Joel Purpur, Dave Blomquist and Kevin DeRoos attack the sweet table without a beer around.

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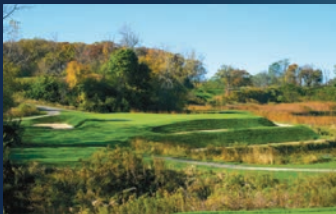
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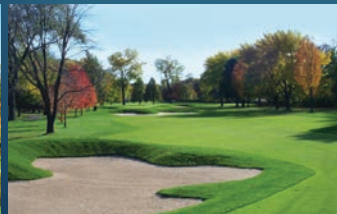


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Nick Marfise
Golf Course Superintendent
Wilmette Golf Club



Nick Marfise last month at Wilmette Golf Club stopped moving for a second to be photographed.

Place of birth?

Olympia Fields Hospital, not the club.

First golf course where you worked?

Silver Lake Country Club. Still my favorite place to play - always good to go back where you started.

Family?

Married to Kelly Marfise, we have one son, Macclain.

Favorite childhood memory?

My Dad took me to my first Blackhawks game; it was the last game held in the old Chicago stadium. I remember everyone pounding on the old metal walls. Hawks lost 3-1 to Calgary on Easter Sunday.

My personal hero?

My Dad.

My professional mentor(s)?

Joel Purpur, Scott Pavalko

My most memorable round of golf ever?

I hit a duck once, while it was in flight.

Favorite hobby?

Playing hockey.

Favorite Pro Athlete?

I like athletes who do everything: score, block, assist, pass, fight...usually the ugliest guy on the team.

Favorite Pro Golfer?

Tiger Woods.

My Handicap Index?

Upwards.

Favorite pig out food?

Bloomin Onion, Fried macaroni and cheese, and those loaded fries you get at Outback Steak House

What is your favorite TV show, Movie, Musician?

Always Sunny in Philadelphia, just saw Inception

and liked it, anything Country Music is good by me.

The book that I've recommended lately?

How to Win Friends and Influence People.

What is your favorite restaurant?

Texas De Brazil

What is your favorite sports team?

Blackhawks.

What I like the best about my job?

No day is ever the same as the last.


What I like least about my job?

Negative situations with staff.

What is your best vacation or favorite destination?

Dominican Republic.

Three words that best describe me?

Energetic, funny, passionate 



Nick, taking care of some newly planted bluegrass surrounds at Wilmette Golf Club.



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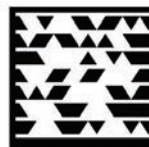


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