

on 08/2016

THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

# COURSE

FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT NOZZLES

CHANGING PLANS

MEMBER PROFILE

Matthew Kregel

## The Club at Strawberry Creek







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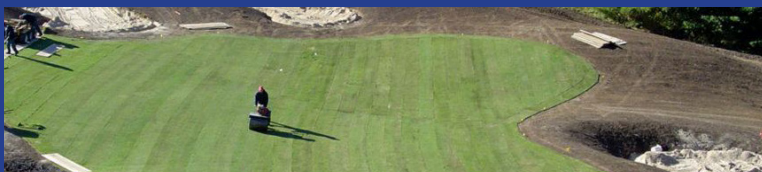
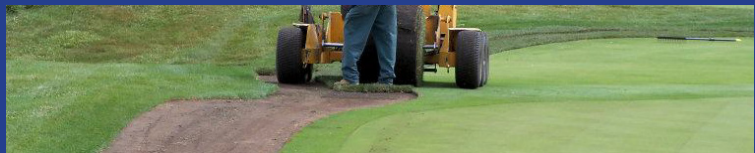


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## front cover

The 18<sup>th</sup> hole at Strawberry Creek is described as a strong finishing 460 yard par 4 that will undoubtedly bring you back wanting more. It takes two good shots in a row to reach the largest green on the property, but the fun doesn't end there - you may have to putt through several breaks to hole out.

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FEATURE

Five Things to Know about

NOZZLES

Darrick Robbins



This the 18<sup>th</sup> hole at The Club at Strawberry Creek from the balcony of the clubhouse with the creek in front.

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## DATES

### 2016 UPCOMING MIDWEST EVENTS

- 8/29 Midwest Championship, The Club at Strawberry Creek
- 10/3 Midwest October Meeting, Ruth Lake Country Club
- 12/7 Midwest Annual Meeting and Turf Clinic, Medinah CC

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Jim Pedersen  
Hughes Creek Golf Club

# Plans Change

As I write this we are at the half-way point for the golfing season in the Chicagoland area. If I believe social media.... some courses are finding their courses with flooding, heat and humidity. Others are just coasting along with work.

As superintendents we spend a lot of time planning our work and attempting to work our plans. We know that our plans do not work out the way we would like and need to be changed on a moment's notice. In the month of July I had to make changes to the way I work. Over the years I have been stung by numerous bees and wasps and have never had an allergic reaction beside some minor pain and a little swelling. This July, I found out, apparently you can develop allergies as you get older.

Under the heading of no good deed should go unpunished I was helping a family member with weeding and planting in their yard. When I reached to pull a handful of weeds out of some mulch, a vicious gang of bees attacked me in my right hand. After a few choice words I went back to work. Within 10 minutes I broke out in a severe rash and hives over my mid and lower extremities. At first I thought I might have gotten into some type of poison but then within another five minutes I could feel my blood pressure changing and decided it was time to go to the ER.

In retrospect we should have called 911: My wife got to drive the pickup that she has never driven before while another family member (in the backseat) kept questioning, "doesn't this thing go any faster?". Meanwhile, within 20 minutes of being stung, I started slipping in and out of consciousness.

The doctors tell me that now that I have had an allergic reaction, my next bee sting could be fatal.

At the hospital my vitals were taken and my blood pressure had dropped to 50/40 which I now know is one of the effects of being stung. It slows down the heart. After being given numerous medica-

tions at the ER, five hours later I was able to walk out and go home.

The reason I relay this story is because I did not know that you can BECOME allergic to bee stings later in life. As with our profession, plans always change. I now carry an EPI pen wherever I go. The doctors tell me that now that I have had an allergic reaction, my next sting could be fatal. I will now look at taking out wasp nests on the course a bit differently. I will also have to put my aspirations of becoming a beekeeper on hold.

I would encourage everyone to be careful when out on their courses because you never know what Mother Nature has in store for your plans.

I think that midseason is a perfect time to say thank you to family members and friends that have supported us in our career choice whether it's leaving parties early to go back to work or getting up at 3:30 a.m. seven days a week. I am fortunate enough to have a wife that likes to get up and have a cup of coffee with me in the morning before I leave, excluding Saturday and Sunday.

I hope everyone has a great second half of their season and I am looking forward to frost and the Medinah Turf Clinic. See you all there. @

# Five Things to Know about NOZZLES

Darrick Robbins, Reinders, Inc.

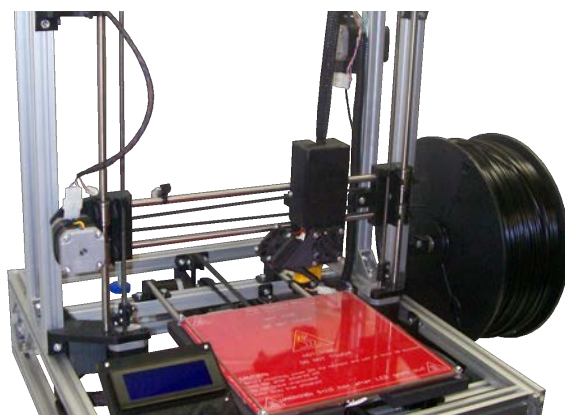
Nozzles are boring, right? Distribution, uniformity, irrigation efficiency, blah, blah, blah. In all the years I have been selling irrigation, I have only been asked about the efficiency of water application once.

Perhaps efficiency is taken for granted, but it really shouldn't be. The primary determiner of efficiency is the lowly irrigation nozzle.

In golf maintenance, nozzles get their fair attention. Nozzles matter, but the ones most often in the limelight are the ones on spray rigs. It is common for superintendents to replace these nozzles every couple of years. The value of the products being applied dictate that the nozzle delivering that

what it is. The sprinkler itself directs water, runs it through a sometimes-torturous path, and sends it to the nozzle. Hopefully the water gets to the nozzles in the proper quantity and at the proper pressure. At this point, the nozzle straightens the stream, introduces or dampens turbulence and sends the water into the sky. Here are 5 things you should know about irrigation nozzles.

**1. Nozzle technology is evolving rapidly**—With the advent of 3D printers the speed with which nozzle prototypes can be produced and tested has increased greatly. Some manufacturers update nozzle specifications annually in a constant drive to improve distribution uniformity. In the past 30 years the efficiency of sprinkler distribution has improved to the point that some sprinklers can apply water with almost perfect uniformity in a windless environment. This is an im-



*With the advent and use of 3D printers manufacturers can design, produce and test a myriad of new ideas at a fraction of the cost and time it used to take to develop new nozzles.*

product be working as designed and not worn out. Sadly the nozzles that superintendents rely upon everyday, the ones found in their irrigation heads, are rarely thought of at all. These nozzles directly impact the day-to-day quality of the turf and most only give passing consideration to their condition, maintenance and configuration.

A nozzle is really just an orifice, a hole. It may be a highly engineered hole, but in its simplest terms, that is



*Nozzles are not high on the list of contributing factors when diagnosing irrigation troubles. Only when they become clogged and are noticeable do they get immediate attention.*





*Pre-installed nozzles sold in the industry are all plastic and wear out over time. Their life span is determined by the amount of use, the quality of the water (abrasiveness), and the pressure that is pushed through them.*

provement of nearly 40% from the first gear driven sprinklers manufactured in the industry. In terms of applying water the sprinkler you buy is almost certainly the most efficient on your property. There is also a good possibility that if your sprinklers are more than 5 years old you can improve their performance by replacing nozzles (and this doesn't even take into account the next point).

**2. Nozzles wear out over time**—Pre-installed nozzles sold in the industry at this time are all plastic. Plastic does have a good duty cycle, but it is not infinite. Anyone who has been to the Grand Canyon can testify to the corrosive properties of water—and it can certainly wear away the plastic of a nozzle. Factors that determine the longevity of a nozzle are water quality and time. Suspended particles in irrigation water exacerbate the situation. Unfortunately, many of the water sources that are common to the golf course industry have high concentrations of suspended particles.

Sometimes I am asked how to evaluate a nozzle for wear. A few factors are obvious with a visual inspection—veins are missing, sand and debris have become lodged in the nozzle, or the stream of water is clearly compromised. Others are more difficult to determine, like a slow, gradual day by day increase in the diameter of the nozzle. Wear is best determined comparatively, but in order to be able to do this an initial diameter must be determined at installation. When installing a new system, purchase a brand new drill index. Determine which of the drill bits fits most snugly into the orifice of the main nozzle. Label and keep this drill bit and make an annual determination of the diameter of the nozzle by inserting it into the same nozzle or group of nozzles. For high wear sites metal nozzles can be a solution. Some counties in areas with limited water supplies mandate their use, or offer rebates for customers who install these nozzles. The assumption is that a longer wearing nozzle will retain the proper distribution characteristics for a longer period of time, saving water in the process.

**3. Nozzles work best in families**—When sprinklers are tested for uniformity they are tested as a pair. In other words the area of concern in the test is that which is covered by two sprinklers. The distribution pattern of one sprinkler is designed to cover the weakness of the other. For this reason a single sprinkler is a poor way to irrigate any area. Sometimes it is unavoidable, but it should be used only as a last resort. Each nozzle in a particular family has a different function. One nozzle may be responsible for covering an area from the

sprinkler head to perhaps 6 feet from the head. Another nozzle may be designed to cover the area from 6 feet to 30 feet, and the main nozzle may cover from 30 feet to the outer edge of the radius. If one of these nozzles is from a different family one area of the radius will be double covered, and another will be left uncovered. Under the normal course of operation these nozzles should be kept in the same families as they come from the factory. A photo of each nozzle family in your new system may be a good addition to the documentation you keep for your system. Nozzle orientation is also of great importance. Threaded nozzles that are not symmetrical are installed in an orientation that makes best use of their characteristics. Even a quarter turn of an asymmetrical nozzle can radically change the amount of water that is applied within that radius, and what portion of the radius it is applied to.

**4. No nozzle works as intended without proper pressure, spacing, level stance, and flow**—System design is intended to produce a quantity of water and pressure at the base of the head to allow the nozzle to work as intended. Modern sprinklers will regulate pressure down to a set pressure, but they are powerless if the pressure at the base of the head is insufficient. In other words if a sprinkler is set at 80 psi, but there is only 74psi at the base of the head then distribution will not be correct. However, a sprinkler that has 100psi at the base will regulate that water pressure down to the desired 80psi by the time it reaches the nozzle.

Pressure at any point in the system can be measured using a pitot tube which reads pressure from the sprinkler stream. This is the regulated pressure. An alternative method is to mount a pressure gauge to a quick coupler key and check pressure at a nearby quick coupler valve. The quick coupler valve technique allows you to check the line pressure of your system. Line pressure can vary dramatically during operation so it is a good idea to take a look at this under varying conditions of operation (i.e. in a static situation when nothing is running, and during operation.)

Spacing must be correct. If a certain nozzle set has a radius of 74 feet and the designer has determined that an allowance of 5% for wind then a spacing between sprinklers of 70' would be appropriate. Incorrect spacing does not allow the strong areas of one radius to cover the weak areas of the other, and vice versa.

In order for nozzles to perform properly the sprinkler heads must be level, regardless of the surrounding land features. If the sprinkler is not level the head will apply more water on one side of the sprinkler than the other. Part circle heads are the only exception to this. Some manufacturers allow nozzle trajectories to be adjusted to account for some variation from level which allows some adjustment for sprinklers that are slightly out of level. Even in this case only the main nozzle can be adjusted. Full circle sprinklers must be level to +/- three degrees.



Andrew Cross at Arrowhead comes up with another use for his phone, making sure sprinkler heads are level using the phone's built in accelerometer and a level app.

**5. Nozzles off the shelf are not all that is available—**  
Your sprinkler manufacturer may offer special nozzle configurations that are intended for special conditions, or radii. Nearly all manufacturers make some accommodation for short range coverage in the back of a part circle sprinkler. Generally there is a range of nozzles that cover different distances and volumes of water. There are also special short range nozzle packages that can dramatically decrease the radius and volume of water applied. If you have a custom application that could be helped by a custom nozzle configuration contact your irrigation sales representative, or an irrigation consultant to see if your manufacturer can recommend one for your application. When using these custom configurations make sure to adjust the gallons used by the sprinkler in the software to reflect the actual use.

The nozzles in your system are important and deserve a little care and concern. A little attention can go a long way in keeping your system in shape, and if problems with distribution arise keep in mind that your nozzles may be to blame.

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# #BullSheet



August 2016

## DATES TO REMEMBER

August 27-30 – “Le Tour de Ohio” bike ride for the Wee One foundation.. More follows.

August 29 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Golf Championship at the Club at Strawberry Creek in Kenosha, WI, Matt Kregel host.

September 13 – Assistant Shop Talk at Wynstone Golf Club in North Barrington, IL, Lucas Palczewski host.

September 19 – 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Wee One Foundation Golf Outing at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI, Rod Johnson, CGCS host.

September 30 – Deadline for applications for the GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards.

October 3 – MAGCS monthly meeting in conjunction with the Chicagoland Club Chefs Association at Ruth Lake Country Club, Dan Marco, CGCS host.

October 5-7 – Water Smart Innovations Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

October 20-21 – Green Industry & Equipment Expo (GIE+EXPO) at the Kentucky Exposition center in Louisville, KY. Go to [www.gie-expo](http://www.gie-expo) for info.

Last month we kicked off Bull Sheet with a congrats to **Matt McCann**, the new assistant at Winnetka Golf Club...scratch that, he's now the Superintendent there and a bigger Congratulations to **Henry Michna, CGCS**.....who retired on July 14 after 27 years with the Winnetka Park District on his own terms with “measured sadness-but no regret”.



*Henry Michna hangs it up at Winnetka Golf Club.*

Later this month, Larry Aylward, the



*Larry Aylward will pedal his bike across Ohio for the Wee One Foundation.*

Editor in Chief of Superintendent magazine will undertake what he calls the “Le Tour de Ohio,” a 300-mile bicycle ride from the shores of Lake Erie in Cleveland to the banks of the Ohio River in Cincinnati to benefit the Wee One Foundation. Larry is asking for all of us to sponsor him, either by the mile or any lump sum you can manage in order to give to this most important cause. You can sponsor Larry by going to [www.weeone.org](http://www.weeone.org) and registering. Good luck Larry!

**Rick Jacobson** (Jacobson Golf Course Design, Inc.) will be busy in the area next year, when Sunset Valley Golf Course (Ryan Ochs superintendent) undergoes his major renovation that will include new USGA greens, new tees, fairways, bunkers, and cart paths, along with drainage improvements PLUS work on the 1956 clubhouse. Best of luck to all involved in this major endeavor.



*Rick Jacobson will be pointing out some changes at Sunset Valley soon.*

Condolences to the family and numerous friends of Rudolph “Hubby” Habjan, the PGA Professional at Onwentsia Club in Lake Forest from 1955 until 1997 who passed away last month at the age of 84 in Florida. Hubby was known by every-

*Bull Sheet continued on page 11...*

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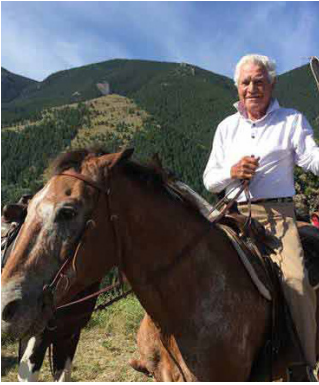
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one in the golf world as a great teacher of the game, a noted clubmaker, and a fine player as well. Of his many accomplishments, one of his most remarkable came in 1968, when during the Open championship at Canroustie Golf Links, he was the only player to birdie the same par 3 hole all four days of the tournament. Rest in peace, Mr. Habjan.



Mr. Rudolph "Hubby" Habjan

Tough joint that Lakewood Country Club. Over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, the Salemburg, North Carolina golf facility hosted a private party that got just a tad out of hand. Turns out a brawl broke out around 2:30 a.m. (I always say nothing good happens after midnight), the aftermath of which left two people shot, one

stabbed and one beaten, with one of them dying later that morning. The club's Director of Golf Operations called the incident the "unlucky" result of renting out the facility for a private party. Wonder who the guests were—Hells Angels? Crips and Bloods?? Me and my ex-wives???

land Ocean Course in South Carolina at #4 and 5. The determinations were made by taking course rating and slope, as well as bogey rating into account. FYI, Rich Harvest, from the tips, has a rating of 155, a slope of 79.1, and a bogey rating of 108.4 (not sure what that means, but I do know that it's really hard).



Jeff VerCautren smiling way too much to be playing Rich Harvest Farms, but he is always smiling.

One of the many places under Vladimir Putin's watchful eye is a vast, remote and barren place called Siberia. Coincidentally, **Josh Therrien** oversees a similarly vast, remote and barren (with the exception of the greens, tees and fairways of course) place called Black Sheep. Are they the same guy?



Rules of Golf Quiz: In stroke play, after resuming play that was suspended due to a rainstorm, a player's ball comes to rest

near a large bush. In making a practice swing, he causes some water on a branch of the bush to be removed, thus eliminating the distraction from the water during his stroke.

What is the ruling? Answer at the end.



Mark Kosbab, CGCS

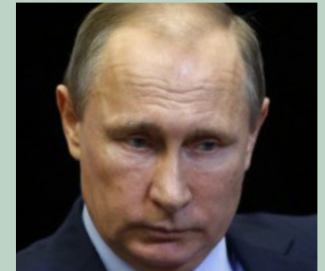
Q: When his day on his golf course is done, what is **David Ohren's** favorite libation?

A: Willow Glen Morangie.

Congratulations to **Mark Kosbab** of Sportsmans Country Club, who recently became Mark Kosbab, CGCS by attaining certification through GCSAA.

Forbes magazine has compiled a dubious list recently—that of the five most difficult U.S. golf courses—and one of them is in our midst. Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove, where **Jeff VerCautren** plies his trade, was ranked the third most difficult course to play in the United States, sandwiched between The International in Bolton, Massachusetts, Pike-wood National in Morgantown, West Virginia at #1 and 2, and Oak Tree National in Edmond, Oklahoma and Kiawah Is-

## MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Josh Therrien or the current President of the Russian Federation, Putin?



We have a new Senior Director of Member Programs at GCSAA—Shelia Finney, a former superintendent

from Nashville, TN and executive director of the Tennessee GCSA begins her new gig on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

September 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for applications for the GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards presented in partnership with Syngenta and Rain Bird. To find an ELGA application, go to [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org).

OK, why not?

Did you hear about the guy who got a second job at a bakery? He kneaded the dough.

Superintendent **John Nelson** hosted the International Crown July 21st through the 24th at the Merit Club. The United States went 3-1-0 in singles play on Sunday to win by a single point over Korea. Teams are divided into two pools for the first three days and play match play against teams in their pool. The top two teams in each pool automatically advance to Sunday while the third place teams vie for the 5th position through a playoff on Saturday night. On Sunday all five teams compete based upon their seeding from the three previous days and the team with the greatest number of cumulative points wins the crown.



*Superintendent John Nelson (l) and Assistant Katie Bernardy (r) with her husband and intern Josh (middle) hosted the International Crown at Merit Club.*



*Eight countries were represented: Republic of Korea, Japan, Australia, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, England, China and the US with four players on each team.*



*Nelson hosted members of the Midwest for light food refreshments and a tour of the grounds on the Tuesday afternoon of tournament week.*

Last month found MAGCS members enjoying bookend golf events, with the 16th Annual John Buck Golf Outing taking place on the 6th, and the MAGCS Nine-Holer on the 25th. The “Buck” was held at Crystal Woods Golf Club in Woodstock, with Al Pondel, CGCS serving as our host. The format, as usual was a four-person scramble, and—as usual—the team of **Blomquist, Gurke, Hoste, and Weadge** took the trophy (inexplicably, as there WAS another team with the same score). Al and his crew had the course in great shape, and all participants, be they from MAGCS, Nwigcsa or the Kane County Farm Bureau, had a great day capped by a GREAT steak dinner. The best news was that at the end of the day, \$2,550.00 was raised for the John Buck Scholarship Fund, benefitting the three organizations. Thank you to Crystal Woods for hosting, and to all the volunteers who provided the fun and games on the course.




*Pondel was there to greet the John Buck Outing.*

Then, on the 25<sup>th</sup>, **Ed Braunsky** and Geneva Golf Club welcomed MAGCS members to the Nine-Holer, a great format for all the working stiffs to be able to put in a full-day’s work and still get to a Midwest Meeting. The course, which at 116 years of age has had but THREE superintendents, was spot-on perfect—Ed and his staff really had it dialed in. The format was a 4-person HI-LO, using the total of the lowest and highest scores on each hole to represent the team total for that hole. Congrats to the winning team of Nick Baker, Kevin and Kyle DeRoo and Connor Healy who shot an 84. A terrific food spread greeted the group after the round, and then Eddie did more of what he does best—TALK. That aside, it was still a great day—many thanks to Geneva Golf Club and the day’s generous sponsors, without whom these events would not be possible—**Burris Equipment Company, Chicagoland Turf, Harrells, Healthy Grow, J.W. Turf, Inc., Leibold Irrigation, Nels Johnson Tree Experts, Payne Sod Farm, Inc., ProGro Solutions, Reinders, Inc., and Syngenta**. Pictures on opposite page.

#### MAGCS Members in the News

In what may well be his last post at his current post before he takes his new post, **Erwin McKone’s** blog about localized dry spot and “water-fearing soil” was published last month in TurfNet’s Blog Aggregator; while **Brian Moore** and Forest Dunes Golf Club’s new Loop course were features in a Golfdom magazine article titled “Reverse the Course.” The Loop is Tom Doak’s inspiration, and allows golfers to play one 18-hole course in two directions, creating two courses in one (and enticing players to stay the night in order to do so). Finally, Club & Resort Business magazine had a nice piece on the “All-Male Black Sheep GC Thrives in Chicago,” where **Dave Biery** and **Josh Therrien/Vladimir Putin** hang their shingle.

USGA Quiz Answer: There is a two-stroke penalty, per Decision 13-2/23. 





*No carts in this picture. The majority of players enjoyed walking Geneva Golf Club's nine holes.*



*John Lebedevs, Holly Gilmour, John Gurke, and Jim McNair close in on the hole.*

*Luke Strojny, John Lebedevs and Renny Jacobson look forward to the afternoon.*



*Kyle DeRoo (r) checks in with his old boss, Joel Purpur to see how things are going. Both seem to be getting along fine without each other.*



*Jim McNair catches our host Ed Braunsky on the first tee right during a very brief (and rare) moment of silence.*



*Connor Healy, Josh Therrien, Dan Stahl and Troy Tietjens hang out on the veranda after golf.*

*MAGCS Board of Director Steven Biehl found the water on the sixth hole.*



*Next time Ed hosts, we'll have to make sure we schedule his talks into the program. Maybe we can get GCSAA Education Points for them.*



*Jim Canning, a resident of Geneva, stopped in to play with the group on his way home.*



*Tony Kalina and Eric Ensign share a laugh before play begins.*





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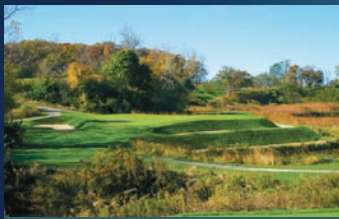
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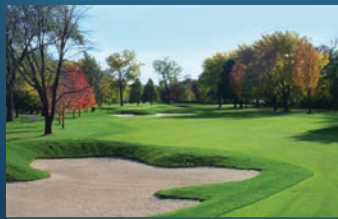




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# SUPER-N-site

Matthew Kregel

The Club at Strawberry Creek

Nathan Bolhous, THE Ivanhoe Club.

PHOTO CREDITS: LUKE CELLA

This coming August on Monday the 29th, Midwest members will have the opportunity to play an absolutely fantastic and perfectly conditioned golf course at The Club at Strawberry Creek (TCSC).

Superintendent Matt Kregel and his Assistant Jeremy Dahl play host to August's Meeting and the Annual Midwest Championship. TCSC is a links style course just north of the IL/WI border in Kenosha; it features rolling hills, ample fescue roughs, large elevation changes, and excruciating amounts of wind.

Matt is a southside native from the small town of Beecher, Illinois. He got his start working at Shady Lawn Golf Course (now Cardinal Creek), starting as a caddy and helping around the clubhouse. When he turned 16 he jumped over to the

grounds side and learned the fundamentals and basics which unbeknownst to him would be the start of his career. Matt started as a business major in college at Illinois State. He spent his weekends working at the ISU golf course, which led him to the realization he did not want to work in an office building. The passion for working outdoors and golf led him to transfer to the University of Illinois and enroll in Ornamental Horticulture specializing in Turfgrass Management.

This new career shift led him to some great internship experiences, the first at Prestwick Country Club followed by a stint at Olympia Fields Country Club. After finishing school Matt accepted an assistant position at THE Ivanhoe Club, where he would be for the next seven years. While there he experienced a master renovation of all 27 holes and compiled the experience needed to complete the grow-in when he began as the Superintendent at Strawberry Creek. Matt was hired halfway through construction in 2005. Half of the course had been seeded and Matt was able to help finish the grading and seeding of the rest of the course. The course is designed by another MAGCS member, Rick Jacobson. Rick did a fantastic job making a fun-playable course that offers the membership delightful repeat experiences. First time players find the accessible greens a challenge with ample fairways and beautiful vistas. The facility doesn't just offer an amazing golf course, but is geared toward a family destination spot offering fine club amenities such as dining, a resort style pool, a fitness club, and even a spa.



*The Kregels are so busy, it is tough to get them together for a single photo. Left: Matt and Rosa Elena Below: Isabel, Tyler and Hannah*







agents are a key factor in his management strategy. Like most, he doesn't have the labor available to be always be dragging hoses so properly timed wetting agent applications and soaking cycles have been successful in his battle against the wind. One of the drawbacks from not being a part of the construction from day one is inheriting an irrigation system that has some drawbacks. Matt says he would have pushed to a more narrow spacing between heads in some areas (to combat the wind), and there is only single row irrigation on his tees. In a perfect world, Matt would like to have more pinpoint head control in his fairways. Heads are controlled in pairs, often one high and one low in the fairway, doing little to irrigate uneven soil dryness. The fescue and native areas should be at the peak contrasting color when the Midwest members visit in late August, although each offers their own set of challenges for Matt and his staff. The fescues have a great look from the tee, but when they grow thick around the bunker banks, they are not playable and can face their doom with a line trimmer. The native areas, as most know, offer weed control challenges and necessitate scheduling prescribed burns each year.

*A few of the members were out early playing speed golf which involves playing a round in the lowest possible sum of strokes and time. They didn't have time to explain how they got started playing golf that way.*

There are no trees or shrubs to speak of; offering plenty of sunshine for the bentgrass, but the wind can be relentless. The wind is Matt's main obstacle he faces, and says wetting

Matt is very involved with the Midwest and is our current sitting President. He is proud of its rich heritage and feels fortunate to help strengthen and lead the organization this year.





Matt has placed an emphasis on the quality of education, the venues hosting our events and encouraging participation, especially by the assistants in the Midwest. Matt wants them to realize the importance of the Association and prepare it for the future by exposing it to up and coming members.

The day-to-day challenges of his job are what push Matt to succeed. He enjoys using his creative side to get things done whether it is battling the weather or a hectic golf schedule. The conditions he produces are also a goal; members love the conditions he produces no matter if they are playing for recreation, hosting a business group, or enjoying a few moments of quiet practice. Matt strives to give them a great golf course year-round. One of Matt's aspirations is to travel to Ireland and Scotland to see the old courses to give him a perspective of where the roots of links style golf began.

Matt is a very involved family man, being married for 16 years and helping his wife Rosa raise their three children. He jokes he is actively involved in he and Rosa's shuttle service taking their kids to all their activities throughout the year. His oldest Isabel plays volleyball, the middle Hannah focuses on soccer, and his son Tyler plays baseball where Matt helps as a coach. Matt is a big sports fan and still bleeds blue and orange; he holds season tickets to the Fighting Illini's basketball and football games. His Chicago roots are strong as his dream foursome include: Michael Jordan, Walter Payton, and Ryne Sandberg indicative of the era when he grew up.

The members of the Midwest are looking forward to our August meeting and the opportunity to play Strawberry Creek. Even if you are not the competing type, I encourage you to sign up and play this fun golf course. It'll be in great shape and I know you won't be disappointed in the hospitality and conditions offered by Matt, Jeremy and the rest of the staff at Strawberry Creek. @

*Above: Pictured is the green complex of the first hole at Strawberry Creek, a 446 yard par 4 opening hole. Below is the next hole, a reachable in two 518 par 5 that will help to build your confidence back after the first.*





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**Josh Malady**  
*Asst. Golf Course Superintendent  
 Naperville Country Club*



*Josh Malady, Assisant Superintendent at Naperville Country Club is a man of few words.*



**Where did you grow up?**

Waukesha, WI

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

Erin Hills Golf Course

**Do you have a prized possession?**

I still have an old stuffed bunny that I hope to pass to my kid one day.

**What do you like to drink?**

Beer.

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

Hand watering.

**Dream car?**

Don't have one.

**Favorite pig out food?**

Tacos, pizza and pasta.

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

Five guys.

**What is your favorite movie, book, or actor?**

Inside Man, Enders Shadow, Tom Hardy.

**What is your favorite sports team?**

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