

on 02/2016

THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

COURSE

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A TIME FOR REFLECTION

TURF CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Don Ferreri

Seven Bridges Golf Club



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front cover

Our Super-n-site highlights Don Ferreri, the 7 time host of the MAGCS January Meeting and Wee One Fundraiser. Image: The fifth hole at Seven Bridges Golf Club is still very indicative of the Dick Nugent design running the sand bunker right into the water's edge in front of the green.

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FEATURE

Prescription for Golf

Greg Martin



The Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents conducted their annual shop tour this January. One item each facility had was a spray booth. Do you have one? Look for an article on selecting/creating one.

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DATES

2016 UPCOMING MIDWEST EVENTS

- 2/10 Midwest Hospitality Reception, Henry's Pub SD, CA
- 2/23 Midwest Assistant Superintendent Winter Workshop,
Midwest Golf House
- TBD MAGCS March Meeting
- 4/26 Midwet April Meeting, Ruffled Feathers Golf Club
- 5/16 Midwest/ITF Play Day, Makray Memorial Golf Club

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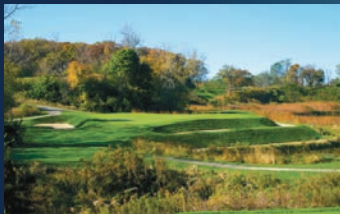
Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS) exists to promote professionalism and integrity, to provide networking, education and career enhancement opportunities to all members who facilitate the growth and enjoyment of golf.

On Course is published monthly with original member content. For advertising opportunities please call 630-685-2420.

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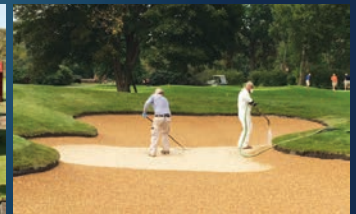
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Michael Miracle
Exmoor Country Club

Reflection helps get Results

Staring out the window of a Southwest Airlines Boeing 737, overlooking the mountains while I head out west, there is no better time for reflection.

In this career, when things slow down through the winter months it can be very easy to catch yourself daydreaming and not reflecting on the past. Reflection can be one of the most effective tools for career development.

Reflection is a great form of learning that allows us to preserve experiences. Why we did something, what was its impact, should we do it again? Versus just remembering the experience occurred. Reflecting on personal occurrences will make you a better man or woman in your daily life, which will carry over in your career. Professionally, these events could be projects, chemical or fertilizer applications, daily tasks or interactions with golfers, employees, or management. Good experiences or bad; it's important to evaluate both in order to refine your skills.

Assessing every job, project, conversation or event sounds good, but who has time to stop and smell the roses and additionally reflect? There are three men standing at your door waiting for their next job, your greens chairmen is calling your cell phone and you have a staff meeting in 20 minutes. Achieving all the tasks in a given day is hard-pressed in ten hours subsequently downtime is imaginary. Adopting the techniques of reflective practices can take some time, however it will ultimately save you time and energy in the long run.

To begin a routine of self or professional reflection, pick a day during the week you have 5 to 10 minutes and write in a journal. Evernote is a great application to achieve this electronically. The key is to try and reflect on a usual basis so that it may become a part of your daily routine. Your journal entries should consist of daily activities and events that occurred and what transpired. Secondly, notation of what you learned from those experiences and what you may have done differently when presented with the situation again should be reflected upon. This might appear to be mundane process, but reflection can significantly increase self-awareness.

As golf course superintendents, planning is the majority of what we do and to be a leader in this industry we must do it well. Planning for this afternoon, tomorrow, this weekend and the next topdressing. Planning for the future never ends. However, success only comes when reflection becomes part of a normal routine. To maximize results, we must constantly challenge ourselves to evaluate our performance and look for areas of improvement. When reflection becomes a habit and is applied to the everyday routine, we will enter a state of constant improvement, giving us a clearer understanding of our goals and direction for the future.

While there is still time before the hustle and bustle of the spring, here are a few questions to get you started:

- What makes me successful as superintendent? How could I improve my effectiveness?
- How is my time management and where could I regain lost time?
- How well do I assign work?
- How well do I communicate with people around me?
- Do I enhance performance of others around me?
- How well am I obtaining the goals set by others and myself?

Whether you're back in the office from San Diego or still holding the accelerator down from November, take some time to see how you're doing as a person and employee. You, your family and the colleagues you work with will all benefit from self-reflection. And remember, the next time you're daydreaming out the window of your office and your boss walks in, tell him you're reflecting. @

Prescription for Golf

Greg Martin, ASGCA, Martin Design Partnership

PHOTO CREDITS: LUKE CELLA

While the industry has stabilized – to some degree - there are a number of recognized issues that continue to plague golf, most notably cost, pace of play and challenge. Each of these continues to erode the ongoing stability of the game and more specifically, any particular golf course. Those ills are the result of a multitude of poor decisions about design, development and operations. How do we fix it? It starts with an understanding of health: industry health. How? I offer the following prescription – at a minimum.

Authenticity

Golf courses that most represent a ‘true’ landscape while presenting an environmentally beneficial and engaging golf experience will win. Unique, original and interesting golf will survive and will be tied directly to a site’s uniqueness and customer loyalty. The next generation of golfer wants genuine experiences in real places. The “uber” generation does not tolerate anything less than legitimate experiences, ease of access and value. Also, they are not ‘joiners’ making exclusivity a tough sell.

All golf is local, and authenticity is joined to the fabric and dynamic of the community. It is more representative of the

landscape and its golfers and ultimately, authenticity is less expensive to construct, maintain, operate and enjoy.

Width

Provide more width through the green. This is not new and I am not the first or only architect to suggest this. Width is linked directly to playability, strategy and site engagement. Wider golf course architecture produces more fun and thoughtful golf experiences. It is the antithesis of linear, penal golf. It creates dimension to the game and allows multiple strategies to be employed. The result generates more engaged participants of all ages and abilities.

The argument against width is that width makes the game easy. In truth, width provides playability and introduction to the nuance and strategies of the game while providing long-lost angles and expands uniqueness and authenticity. Simply, employing width is more fun to design and play.

Environment

To those who exist in this industry, know that golf is an environmental benefit. Golfers know it and the industry knows it. Generally, however, those who do not play golf and the public do not know it, or don’t believe it. A perception exists that golf is an undesirable or unproductive use of open space. That must change, and will only change if we are proactive and seek to provide solutions to greater environmental problems for communities and regions.

Golf has a unique opportunity because it can shape and shift to provide solutions that other development opportunities



Greg Martin overlooks the project at Oak Meadows Golf Course where he set to to create an environmentally beneficial and engaging golf experience.

cannot. Golf has a responsibility to do so. Golf must do more to solve environmental problems in neighborhoods, communities or regions. The benefits will be widespread.



Fairways tend to narrow over time with edges that creep in and driplines that overstep. Opening up play corridors can actually create greater strategy for individual golf holes.

Millennial Task Group Update

GOLF 20/20's Millennial Task Force held (MTF) has held regular meetings for more than a year. The group has been vetting vendors and drafting storyboard ideas for a millennial-focused campaign in 2016. The MTF will focus on two key projects:

1) Ensuring the industry is ready for millennials by providing guides and best practices to be utilized by golf's allied partners.

2) MTF plans to attend at least one "Major." No, this is not a golf major. The MTF plans to present the brand of golf at a major millennial event, such as a music festival or conference, frequented by millennials. The goal of having a presence at this type of event is to introduce 18-34 year olds to the game and showcase golf as fun, young and cool. Details will be provided when available.

Task Force members represent the following golf and non-golf organizations: Buffalo BIG, CMAA, Golf Digest, Google, GoPro, LinkedIn, LPGA, NextGenGolf, PGA TOUR, Twitter and USGA.

SOURCE: Golf20/20 Quarterly Report

The word sustainability is thrown around easily and is generally accepted to mean environmental benefit. That is a disservice. True sustainability [for golf or any other resource] is constructed from equal parts economic viability, environmental benefit and operational efficiency. Authenticity, width and environment are linked to each other. Authenticity is more natural and easier to build, less costly, softer on the environment and easier to market; Width will help playability and thusly, help economic sustainability. Environmental solutions relate specifically to the site's uniqueness to introduce authenticity. And so on....

A sustainable golf course, therefore, that employs all three, will win golfers. More importantly, sustainable golf will improve the public perception and carry this great game into the next century.

Take one of each and call me in the morning. @

2016 National Golf Day

WE ARE GOLF will once again visit Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. for the ninth annual National Golf Day on Wednesday, May 18, 2016. Stakeholders are encouraged to attend this annual event and spread the word through social media.

WE ARE GOLF has provided talking points that we all should know about the game of golf today:

- Golf is a nearly \$70 billion industry.
- Golf impacts approximately 2 million American jobs with \$55.6 billion in annual wage income and makes significant contributions to America's culture and economy.
- One out of every 75 jobs in the United States is impacted by the golf industry (2 million out of 150 million)
- Approximately 143,000 charity events had 12 million participants in 2011 and raised \$3.9 billion (\$26,300 per event).
- Approximately 25 million Americans play 455 million rounds annually at the nation's 15,350 facilities.
- 76 percent of facilities are open to the public.
- Approximately 9 of 10 golfers play on public courses.

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Rounding out the Team

Shane Conroy, GCSAA Field Staff

Like the superintendent profession, the role of the equipment manager has evolved over recent years. Equipment managers play a crucial role in the golf course management team, and are vital to the success of the facility.

With equipment technology changing and greater demand than ever from golfers for tournament quality conditions, it's important for equipment managers to be up-to-date with the latest trends, techniques and education, and GCSAA is helping to do just that.

By offering an equipment manager classification within GCSAA, we are providing equipment managers all the value and benefits that come along with GCSAA membership.

Creating a GCSAA equipment manager classification helps give the profession an identity within the association, and gives the equipment manager the resources available to perform their job at the highest level.


We all know the benefits of proper networking within our profession. Communicating with industry professionals gives us access to information and insight from some of the best in the business. EM's have numerous responsibilities at their facilities: training employees, creating equipment budgets & schedules, communicating with vendors and forecasting future equipment needs are only a few of these tasks. With these responsibilities and more, it's important for equipment managers to have access to proper networking opportunities. GCSAA allows the EM to reach out to other equipment managers in their area, but also gives them access to receive information from EM's across the nation. Not only will this benefit the EM in his day-to-day operation, it will benefit the entire facility and staff.

There are multiple education programs available for equipment managers through GCSAA. Webcasts, video links, GIS sessions and seminars are all available to GCSAA mem-

bers. There are also certificate programs available to equipment managers which gives them access to the highest level of education. These certificate programs cover six different areas: hydraulics, electrical, internal combustion, drivelines, chemical sprayers and cutting units. EM's can earn their certificates by completing the courses and successfully passing the exam. Equipment managers also have access to the soft skill education programs GCSAA offers as well. Since many EM's are responsible for creating budgets and training employees,

it's important they have the proper training in business development, HR, and people management, all of which is offered through GCSAA.

Having an equipment manager involved in GCSAA will help streamline communication between equipment managers, the superintendent and the staff. The daily needs of the superintendent coincide with functioning equipment, working together on this effort saves multiple resources such as time and money. Having an EM who is tuned into what is happening on the golf course, and understands the art and science of maintaining the property will only benefit all involved. GCSAA membership allows the EM to better understand your role and demands as a superintendent, and in turn, gives you information on some of the issues and concerns the EM faces each season.

Superintendents, assistants and equipment managers have long been the back-bone of a successful golf course management operation. Adding your EM to GCSAA will provide more synergy and efficiency to all parties involved. 



GCSAA has created a new membership class for the Equipment Manager (EM), one that the Midwest has supported for many years.

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Dates to Remember

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

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

February 10 – MAGCS Hospitality Reception at Henry's Pub at 618 5th Avenue in San Diego, CA.

February 19 – Deadline to register any small unmanned aircraft (drone) you've already been operating.

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

February 26-28 – 33rd Chicago Golf Show at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, IL.

March 15 – Deadline for applications for the new ASGCS/USGA consulting program—information follows.

April 15 – Deadline to nominate your equipment technician for TurfNet's 2016 Technician of the Year Award presented by the Toro Company. Go to www.turfnet.com and click on the obvious thingie.

April 26 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Spring Scramble at Ruffled Feathers Golf Club, Ed Esgar host superintendent.

February 2016

Happy February, and a warm MAGCS welcome to our newest members, who are:

- **Brent Richard**, River Bend Golf Club, Class SM
- **Michael Seaton**, Kankakee Country Club, Class SM
- **Matt Dutkiewicz**, Ingersoll Golf Course, Class SM
- **Jason Hazel**, Ridgemoor Country Club, Class C
- **Josh Jackson**, Eaglebrook Country Club, Class C
- **Justin Jurczyk**, Briarwood Country Club, Class C
- **Gary Slaughter**, Beverly Country Club, Class C
- **Darin Cahoy**, Great Lakes Water Resource Group, Class E
- **Mark Frever**, DryJect Great Lakes, Class E
- **Chris Kehe**, VGM Club, Class E

We have had a little movement in the MAGCS ranks recently.

Aaron Reinhart, (pictured below) former assistant superintendent at Aurora Country Club is the Superintendent of Golf and Food & Beverage Operations for the Fox Valley Park District. Ryan Jerome has taken over as sales rep for Winfield, replacing Al Van Alsborg. And Growing Solutions has welcomed **Michael Benkusky** (Michael Benkusky, Inc.) as its consultant for the design of golf course Environmental Centers. Congrats to all and good luck in your new enterprises.



MAGCS Annual Assistant Winter Workshop will take place on February 23rd at the Midwest Golf House. The Class C Committee has recruited some great local talent to educate and prepare them for their career path. **Bryan Stromme**, (image right) the former Regional Director of Agronomy for Billy Casper Golf and now a District Sales Manager for Rain Bird will share the history and evolution of management companies and how they fit into today's golf market. He'll also discuss simple ways to measure progress and success as assistant superintendents. **Sam Mackenzie**, CGCS MG will share his methods as he mentors and prepares his assistants for their careers. Craig Shepherd, ProGro Solutions will round out the day teaching the group about the process



of bringing new chemicals to market and the similar process for grass seed. All assistants are welcome to attend, members or not.

Our sympathies go to the family and friends of Paul Burger, who tragically lost his life in a snowmobile accident last month in Wisconsin. Paul had worked for Central Sod Farms and Green Source, Inc. He was just 45 years old. Donations in Paul's name can be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital by visiting www.stjude.org.



MAGCS members will miss our friend, Paul Burger.

Last month, Brian Baker of Turf Ventures presented the Wee One Foundation with a check for \$17,000, which was accrued from their donations of 1% of their TV branded product sales as well as all non-agency purchases made by customers like you in September of last year. As a result of this donation, families in the golf industry who are enduring medical hardships will receive help from Wee One, which is a really good thing.



Brian Baker presents Wee One Director Mark Petitgue proceeds from the Turf Ventures 1% giveback purchasing program.

Finally! Golf Digest's 2016-2017 "World's 100 Greatest Golf Courses" list has arrived, and four MAGCS members have the privilege to be working on some of them. At #7 is Shinnecock Hills Golf Club where **Jon Jennings**, CGCS hangs his shingle; #32 is Chicago Golf Club (**Scott Bordner**); #38 finds **Steve Cook**, CGCS MG and Oakland Hills South Course entrenched; while at #51 we have the Straits Course at Whistling Straits (**Travis Schnelle** Class C member). I think they

missed a few in our midst, but crying about it would be like a Packer fan crying about the NFL's overtime rules....

Speaking of Wisconsin folks, ya gotta give 'em credit for taking the Bloody Mary to the next level—I saw this on the internet (where everything is real and true), which makes the phrase "a pork chop in every glass" kinda pale in comparison.



A big round of thanks to MAGCS members **Kurt Galisdorfer** of Exmoor Country Club, **Scott Vincent** of Onwentsia Club, and **Brian Palmer** of Shoreacres for hosting last month's CAGCS Shop Tour, which boasted a record crowd of 115 attendees. The always-popular event was held on the 21st, with coffee and rolls to start the day off at Exmoor, moving over to Onwentsia (the middle guy is the lucky one—no food service on that stop), and then on to Shoreacres where the tour concluded with a nice pizza lunch from a local eatery.

Bull Sheet continued on page 12...



CAGCS Shop Tour Hosts (clockwise from upper left: Brian Palmer, Scott Vincent and Kurt Galsidorfer.



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On the topic of CAGCS, Congratulations to Dave Radaj, CGCS as he completed his year of presidency of the Association and good luck to Don Cross, CGCS and better luck to the members as DC was voted in as the next leader.



Dave Radaj (left) is congratulated by incoming President Don Cross.

OK, why not? A cartoonist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy.

Good news on the emerald ash borer front—officials in the hardest-hit municipalities are seeing light at the end of the tunnel. Some are saying the fight against the invasive and destructive beetle could wrap up in the next few years. Why? Is it because of technological advances having been made to control the insect? Nope. It's because there simply won't be any more ash trees for the bugs to reproduce in, or for their larvae to feast upon. Dr. Phil Nixon of the University of Illinois put a scientific spin on it when he stated, "There comes a point where you have few ash trees left, where the boys and girls can't find each other and you start not having a problem." Hmm.

Paul Bettany is an actor—the kind you've seen before but never remember his name. You know, the creepy monk in The Da Vinci Code, the doctor in Master and Commander, the priest in (duh) Priest. Drew Kleinmeyer is the superintendent at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club—kinda new to town, you know the name but sometimes have trouble putting a face to it. Until now, because we have reason to believe they are one and the same.

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



MAGCS's Drew Kleinmeyer or Paul Bettany?

Conserv FS announced its 2016 Tech Day is set for March 8th at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Presentations from leading university and green industry professionals such as Dr. Joe Vargas and Dr. Cale Bigelow will cover topics like organic fertilizers and managing turf with less water. To find out how to sign up, go to www.conservfs.com

Rules of Golf Quiz:

When two players take relief from a water hazard, the order of play is determined by A) The relative position of the balls after relief is taken, or B) The relative position of the balls before relief is taken. Answer at the end.

It is official—last year's global average temperature was the hottest ever by the widest margin on record, according to both NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Data show that in 2015 the average temperature across global land and ocean surfaces was 1.62 degrees Fahrenheit above the 20th century average, surpassing 2014's previous record by .29 degrees F. Could be a trend we have going on.

Remember **Justin Kirtland** presenting the editorial awards at the Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah last November? When he spoke about the backgrounds of the two men the awards are named for? Yeah, me neither—nobody listens to that stuff, especially right after lunch. That being said, the namesake of the Fred Opperman Editorial Award, presented to the writer of the best non-superintendent written article, is, in fact, Fred Opperman. Fred was the editor of Bull Sheet and On Course from 1983 to 1999, and is currently living the dream retirement life in Bozeman, Montana, where he never seems to be



Fred Opperman, CGCS Retired never slows down showing off a recent kill on a family hunt in the mountains.

lacking for something to do. Most recently, Fred had the opportunity to spend five days with his son Todd, the Assistant Fire Management Officer at Yellowstone, and his 13-year-old grandson Zander hunting in the mountains. Youth was well served, as Fred and Todd each shot a buck mule deer, but young Zander bagged a 10-point bull elk, the largest deer of the three. Thanks for the update, Fred!

Q: When **Russ Chamberlin's** course stocks up on meat, what do they buy?

A: A Countryside of beef.

Bonus Q and A: What happens when the *Platanus* species gets exposed to pathogens?

A: They get sycamore often.

Double Bonus: Went to the zoo the other day, there was only one dog in it. It was a shitzu.


In January the EPA announced that a preliminary pollinator risk assessment for imidacloprid shows a threat to some pollinators. The assessment, prepared in collaboration with California's Department of Pesticide Regulation, indicates that imidacloprid potentially poses risk to hives when the pesticide comes in contact with certain crops that attract pollinators. The assessment identified a residue level of 25 ppb, which sets a threshold above which effects on pollinator hives are likely to be seen, and at that level and below which effects are unlikely. Three other neonicotinoids—clothianidin, thiamethoxam, and dinotefuran—are also being assessed, and are scheduled for release in December of this year.

MAGCS members in the news: The January 5th TurfNet Blog Aggregator featured **Jim Canning's** blog that focused on some late-season landscape work to rebuild a retaining wall that had become unstable. The following weeks, **Erwin McKone** was published twice, once about "Why your friends should join a country club, and another about the many winter activities available to club members (sounds like Erwin landed the Membership Director gig at Briar Ridge).



GCSAA has released its list of members' milestones, and we have several of those names in our

midst. Celebrating 50 years of GCSAA membership are **Mike Bavier**, **Fred Opperman**, and **Ray Schei**. Taking it to the next level, **Danny Quast** is in his 51st year, **Ken Lapp** 52, **Art Benson** 53, **Oscar Miles** and **Dick Trevarthan** 54 years, **Tom DiGuido** 57, and **Paul Voykin** celebrates 60 years with GCSAA. Congratulations on your milestones, gentlemen!

Quiz answer: B—The relative position of the balls before relief is taken, per Decision 10/2 

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SUPER-N-site

Don Ferreri Seven Bridges Golf Club

Caleb Swanson, Bryn Mawr Country Club

PHOTO CREDITS: LUKE CELLA

The list of Superintendents to build, grow in, and manage the same golf course (for 28 years) isn't a long list, and Don Ferreri's name is on it. Seven Bridges Golf Club is a daily fee public facility located in (and owned by) the Villiage of Woodridge in the Southwest suburbs of Chicago, and Don has been the man at the helm since before construction began in 1989.

Seven Bridges was built on the old site of the 36-hole daily fee Woodridge Golf Club. Designed by Dick Nugent, and constructed by Wadsworth Construction, Seven Bridges was born out of the need to create a storm water management facility required to comply with the Army Corps of Engineers and Illinois

Department of Transportation (IDOT) to store storm water and control its release into the East Branch of the DuPage River, which bisects the course. The 165 acre facility houses 35 acres of lakes and is surrounded by over 300 homes, condos, and 120 acres of retail businesses.



Don Ferreri providing his MAGCS Chapter Delegate update this past December at the Midwest Annual Meeting.

The Club opened its doors in July of 1991, and has been a staple in the Chicago golf market since, averaging about 22,500 rounds per year. It is consistently ranked in the top five public courses in the greater Chicago area. Seven Bridges tips out at a little more than 7100 yards and offers two distinctly different styles of golf; the front nine takes advantage of the rolling terrain and the 100 year-old oak and hickory trees and offers a peaceful, manageable feel. Whereas a large portion of the back nine weaves its way through the many lakes and the East Branch of the DuPage River is noticeably different right from the 10th tee. It provides a links style, target golf approach, making the back nine a very challenging test of the game. The playing surfaces were originally seeded with the 'Penn Pals;' Pennlinks on greens, Penncross on tees, and Penneagle for the fairways. The rough was seeded with a mix of bluegrass and ryegrass. Seven Bridges also boasts a Four-Star restaurant, The Dock, voted #1 in Woodridge, very



seven years under the tutelage of Art Benson at Butterfield Country Club as the Assistant Golf Course Superintendent. In 1987 he was hired at the Superintendent at Seven Bridges Golf Club to oversee construction and grown-in. While waiting for final approval of the complete project Don managed the existing Woodridge Golf Club on a shoestring budget for two seasons. The long awaited construction began in April of 1989. During construction and excavation of the 35 acres of lakes on the property, the material excavated

popular for its outdoor seating, golf course and sunset views.

Don is a life-time resident of Naperville, and received certificates in Turf, Landscape, and Business, shifting his focus to turf based on the job openings at the time. After an internship at Riverside Golf Club under Roger Stewart, Don spent

was gravel; gravel good enough for use as base for the retail business along highway 53 that runs adjacent to the east side of the property. After two years of hard work the club opened its doors in 1991. After managing the grounds operation for 18 years an opportunity came along for Don, and in 2005 he agreed to take on the expanded role of Superintendent/General manager. Don equates a lot of his success in the dual role to his excellent team of department heads who do the heavy lifting. A very important piece of that puzzle is Don's Assistant Superintendent, Dave Gelino, who has worked as Don's Assistant for seven years, and has made himself an invaluable part of the grounds maintenance operation.

One of the biggest challenges associated with the property is managing the wastewater (flood waters) that runs through the golf course after a large rain event. Water enters the property via the East Branch DuPage River on the North side of the course and the East side via a small creek and exits the south side through a floodwater control system. As the canal that bisects the property overflows, excess water runs

The Dock (right) is a highly rated stand alone restaurant in Woodridge, not to mention a great place to enjoy a cool beverage after your round of golf.



into the lakes that serve as detention areas and the water is then gradually released back into the river. The course collects runoff water not only from the surrounding community, but also a section of I-355 - which equates to a lot of water, and unfortunately lots of debris. After every large rain event there are always debris left behind that needs to be addressed.

After being in the business for as long as Don has, he was quick to point out some of the things we all love about our industry especially the camaraderie and fraternity among those in our industry are second to none, and we are all pushing for the betterment of the game. He believes that if something is worth doing, it's worth doing well, and as superintendents we should always seek to make ourselves more valuable to our facility. Don is heavily involved with the GCSAA and the MAGCS, and Seven Bridges hosts the Wee One Auction every year after the January Midwest Meeting to support industry professionals in need. In addition Don has been the Midwest's Chapter Delegate taking time each year to meet in Lawrence with prospective GCSAA leadership, and keep his finger on the pulse of our National Association. He is a Past President of the Midwest, the ITF and has won the ITF's Distinguished Service Award. When Don isn't spending time at Seven Bridges, he takes every opportunity to spend time with his three daughters Brenda (who some of you might know as the office manager at Turf Ventures), Bridget, and Brittany, and his grandson, Ian. He is also a life long perpetually hopeful Cubs fan and a huge Chicago Blackhawks fan. @



The front side at Seven Bridges sports holes that are more of a parkland setting with mature oaks as the 4th hole below. The back nine is more penal and targeted as the holes weave their way back and forth across the DuPage River as depicted above right of the par 3 15th putting green.



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The Midwest Association of Golf Course
Superintendents exists to promote professionalism and integrity, to provide networking,
education, and career advancement opportunities to all members
who facilitate the growth and enjoyment of golf.

Chuck Anfield, CGCS

Turf Conference

The 2016 Turf Conference presented by Illinois Turfgrass Foundation was a high quality, cutting edge education multi day program, designed specifically for the professional turf manager. The goal was to provide you with the most up to date and useful information that you can use in your every day job. Jeff Gerdes and Bolingbrook Golf Club served as the host location.

Using Drones on Golf Courses

William Brown, Turf Republic

There are lots of options with drones. It is a rapidly changing technology. They come in different sizes, speeds, cameras and control options.

Drone uses:

- Documenting construction and renovation projects
- Shade studies
- Creating as-builts
- Irrigation audits
- Marketing fly overs to highlight key features
- Showcasing special events

Some things to consider if you are looking to fly high:

1. Get a high speed SD card to record your photo data.
2. You will need extra batteries. Batteries last about 30 minutes and you don't want your drone crashing. Extra batteries are about \$150 per set.
3. Invest in a good case to carry your drone around in. They are fragile.
4. New drone regulations just came out. YOU MUST REGISTER YOUR DRONE. It lasts for 3 years.
5. Register your drone as a "hobbyist." To register as a commercial operator will increase your costs and another small detail is that you will need a pilot license.
6. You will need to stay below 400 feet in elevation and 5 miles away from any airports.

Tips and tricks:

- Shoot video early in the morning or late in afternoon when the sun casts long shadows. This better highlights course features.



The Turf Conference at Bolingbrook Golf Club hosted over 250 Turf Professionals from the area.

- Maintain elevations of 20-40 feet. This is the "sweet spot."
- Go slow, take your time, be safe, and avoid crashing.
- Find the right drone to fit your needs. A decent complete kit will run you about \$1000.

Drone Technology and Turfgrass Management:

Josh Friell/Hamid Mokhtarzadehm, Toro Company

This presentation was the next level of drone technology. The really high tech drones are being used by government agencies, corporations and other private entities. The actual name for a drone is a UAV: unmanned aerial vehicle. They either come as a fixed wing or rotary copter depending on how far and high the drone will fly. These things go really far and fly really high. These uses are for:

- Military uses
- Aerospace
- Entomology monitoring
- Resource management
- Surveillance

These UAV's require a complex operating system to collect and transfer real time data. Sensors can be mounted for thermal imaging and color band separation. Pretty soon we will be able to sit our offices and launch our drones to monitor the agronomics of the golf course and release the robots to cut the grass. Wow.

Digital Record Keeping

Tim Christians, Makray Memorial Golf Club

Tim has taken software technology "to the next level" to record all aspects of his golf operation. He likes the ability to "ditch the clutter" and have easier access to all of his operational plans via software. You can use apple, mircosoft, or google depending on personal preferences.

Tim created tracking templates for:

- Pesticide record keeping and inventory
- Equipment parts repair and inventory



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Tim likes the ability to integrate all aspects of his operation via software. It does require some set up time and time in the office to accomplish this but Tim feels it's worth it to keep better, more accurate records. Once the template is built it's not that time consuming. Contact Tim, he offered to help anyone get started. And always, always back up your back up, back up.

Using Technology to Enhance Water Conservation

Dr. Brian Horgan, University of Minnesota

Clean water is a valuable resource. The cost of water today will be the cheapest you will ever see. The cost will continue to rise. The scrutiny of water use will continue to increase. Water for golf courses is considered a luxury item compared to agriculture. Golf course will become a "target." The golf industry uses 762 billion gallons of water. This is only 1.5% of the total irrigation water use. Yes, there are positives to turf. It helps sequester carbon, provides oxygen, creates storm retention holding areas and provides recreational use. To the environmentalist extremists, turf is an unnatural community and not sustainable. The water critics want us to use less water on golf courses.

So how can we be more efficient with our water use?

- Use polarized glasses to detect "hot spots" on turf
- Use soil moisture probe to monitor root depth and mass
- Use ET estimators to more accurately irrigate
- Use soil moisture sensors

All areas on the golf course are not equal. Different areas with different soils require different tactics.

We have all seen what is happening in California. The water issues of the west are a history of the western expansion and development. Will this happen here in the Midwest? Be proactive, be prepared.

Comparison of Soil Testing Philosophies: BCSR, MLSN and Sufficiency

Dr. Brian Horgan, University of Minnesota

Dr. Horgan reviewed the major nutrient cycles and their movement in the soil and in the plant. He recommends soil testing at least every 3 years unless there is a problem or deficiency issue. Soil type, topography, previous testing, vegetation history are all key issues when considering soil testing. New turf should be tested at 6" depth and established turf at 4".

- **SLAN:** Sufficiency level of available nutrients- give the plant what it needs otherwise it will limit productivity.
- **BCSR:** Base cation saturation ratio- give the soil what it needs, supports the ideal soil.

Education Wrap Up continued on page 18...

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- **MLSN:** Minimum levels for sustainable nutrition- provide minimum levels of each key soil nutrient that sustains acceptable levels of turf growth and quality.

Turfgrass Varietal Development for Golf- What does the future hold?

Dr. Bill Meyer, Rutgers University

Dr. Meyer reviewed what's going on at the Rutgers Turfgrass breeding program. The main focus is on two programs.

1. Apomixis hybridization of Kentucky bluegrass. All plants in this breeding program are identical to the mother.
2. Cross pollinating for population improvement. Species being developed are tall fescue, fine fescue, perennial ryegrass, bentgrass.

The main goals of these programs are to create genetic resistance to diseases.

Dr. Meyer stressed the importance of the NTEP trials. These trials are the most accurate data collection on varietal trials. The locations of the NTEP trials are all around the country. It is the most current data on turf varieties.

Turf Nutrition- The How's and Why's of Current Management Practices

Dr. Cale Bigelow, Purdue University

Why are we fertilizing? Is it for health and vigor? Color? Yield? For turfgrass nutritional values, one size does not fit all. Dr. Bigelow presented a historical perspective on nitrogen sources, rates and timings. Is the fertilization application luxury consumption or is it to meet turfgrass needs? Non target effects of fertilizer applications need to be considered. Different courses with different soils need different programs. Research has shown better overall fertility performance is gained with multiple applications through the growing season. Spoon feeding and foliar applied programs are gaining in popularity. There is more interest in biostimulant products. Should you apply liquid or granular? Biological products such as manures, beet juice, seaweed and molasses sugars are being used more frequently.

Poa Cure- A Revolutionary Approach to Poa annua Control

Kyung Han, Moghu LLC

You've heard about it. It's coming. It's revolutionary. It's expensive. IT WORKS. The biggest challenge facing controlling Poa annua in turfgrass stands is the massive number of bio types of Poa annua. It has perennial and annual types. It is in-



The Turf Conference continues to provide high quality - research driven education.

credibly diverse and adaptive. This new active ingredient methiozolin in Poa Cure selects all current Poa biotypes and control them in bentgrass, Kentucky bluegrass and warm season grasses. It controls Poa from a pre-emergent, to the seed head to the flowering stage. It even controls Poa trivialis as well. Kyung showed some amazing time elapse photography of applications to turf and the Poa just melted away over time. There were no voids as the existing stand of bentgrasses just grew right over the top of it. Magical.

For decades the industry has tried to control Poa with a number of different chemistries, none of them very successful. That has all changed. So far there have been no resistant varieties of Poa to methiozolin. After the program has been implemented and the Poa has melted away. It's gone for a while. That being said the Poa will come back over time. Retreatment years later will be necessary. Poa annua is one tough cookie. The product is currently being used in Korea and Japan. It is expected to be available in the U.S. markets sometime in 2017. Stay tuned.

Foliar Nitrogen Nutrition of Golf Course Turf

Dr. Bruce Branham, University of Illinois

Bruce reviewed the way nitrogen is taken up by the plant. He has conducted experiments at U of I to determine the amount of nitrogen that is taken up by the plant in foliar applications. Most of the N uptake occurs within 2 hours of the application. He estimates that only 35% of the N applied is taken up by the plant. The rest runs off and into the soil profile. Research has shown that lower spray volumes provide better uptake. There was no discernable difference using additives or by using different N sources.



Kyung Han keeps the audience informed about the product Poa Cure to date.

I want to give a big shout out to Dr. Branham for being the "master mind mad scientist" who put together a very progressive and technologically advanced Turf Conference. No one can do something this large alone and he had a lot of help from the ITF Board and contributing Members. Thanks to all the speakers for making the trip to Illinois and the turf geeks for showing up to check it out. As you can see, there was a lot of cool stuff. See you next year. @

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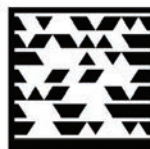
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Steven Biehl
*Golf Course Superintendent
 Naperville Country Club*

Where did you grow up?

Grew up in West Lafayette, IN. Moved to northern Michigan for 4 years after graduating from Purdue University. Then moved to Naperville.

First golf course you where you worked?

Right after getting my drivers license I started working at The Ravines Golf Course in West Lafayette, an 18 hole public course a family built on their farm.

Do you have a prized possession?

"I cannot live without books; but fewer will suffice where amusement, and not use, is the only future object." Thomas Jefferson.....and Steven Biehl.

What do you like to drink?

Sweet Tea.

Favorite job task at the golf course?

Walking the course in the morning before the golfers.

Dream car?

The General Lee

Favorite pig out food?

Pizza or Ice Cream. If it is sitting in front of me, I'll eat it until it is gone.

What is your favorite restaurant to go to?

Dinghy's Restaurant in Frankfort, MI. They have a sandwich of your dreams...

What is your favorite movie, book, and actor?

Movie - The Shawshank Redemption. Book - Franklin: Writings. Actor - Nick Offerman.

What is your favorite sports team?

I don't follow sports enough to have a favorite team.

What is your best vacation or favorite destination?


Golfing at Crystal Downs Country Club, or snowboarding at Mt. Bohemia. @



Fittingly, Steven Biehl in a museum posing for his Midwest Profile picture. Steven is MAGCS newest board member elected this past December.

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