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GARMENTS FOR GOLF MAINTENANCE

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2016 UPCOMING MIDWEST EVENTS

- 6/21 NCERA Research Tour, North Shore Country Club
- 6/27 Midwest June Meeting, Bryn Mawr Country Club
- 7/25 Midwest Nine Hole, Geneva Golf Club
- 8/29 Midwest Championship, The Club at Strawberry Creek

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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.

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Luke Cella, MAGCS

Back to Class B

So much for the Superintendent Member (SM) classification within GCSAA, the change back to Class B was approved at the Annual Meeting in February and the GCSAA is moving forward, back to Class B.

The reasoning is to simplify our three professional classifications of membership (A, B and C) to employers and influential golfers. It makes sense to me from a nomenclature standpoint and alphabetically.

Perhaps the larger change was made to the definition of a Class A Member. It is now more inclusive to allow individuals to maintain their Class A status when they no longer hold a golf course superintendent job, but have secured employment within the golf industry-as along as the ongoing requirements continue to be fulfilled. This allows people to hold onto their Class A status even if they are no longer a superintendent, however they won't be able to run for the Board of Directors or govern the Association. But as it is written now, they will be able to vote.

A sliding scale (of formal education and years of superintending experience and education) will still be used to determine Class A eligibility, however service points won't count during the initial eligibility judgment. A Class B member will have to figure out when they are able to apply for Class A membership based upon their formal education, superintendent experience and GCSAA approved education to make the jump to Class A.

... so coaching a little league team does not count, unless you are a child on the team, then it counts.

If you're already a Class A Superintendent, the renewal requirements will remain relatively unchanged except 3 of the 5 points will now have to come from approved education (not just 2) and service points will have to come from more golf-centric activities such as serving on Midwest Board, presenting at the Midwest Turf Clinic, attending a pre-approved Midwest Meeting, or serving on a Midwest Committee. Community service has been eliminated as a category; so coaching a little league team does not count, unless you are a child on the team, then it counts. Oh, and writing an article for On Course now counts as an education point (0.25) once it is published. Send one to me, I will publish it.

One employee category that the GCSAA recognized at the same time is the Equipment Manager, creating a specific classification for them. Currently, the Midwest has a class for them, Class DT. Is your Equipment Technician/Mechanic a member? Most likely not, however at a recent board meeting the group discussed offering more benefits for this classification, such as specific education and meetings for them and perhaps a board position similar to our Class C advisor. We'll be sending a survey to get your direct feedback and interest in supporting this endeavor.

There is a GCSAA Affiliation Task Group currently reviewing the current relationship of chapter bylaws and GCSAA bylaws. Most likely, the Midwest will be required to change bylaws to match GCSAA's in the future – but more as a formality than anything. The SM endeavor proved a membership classification doesn't change your job or how people look at you or your work. You are the one in control of that.



Garments for Golf Maintenance

Justin Kirtland, Arrowhead Golf Club

Golf maintenance staff, vendors, and other professionals in the golf business all can relate when it comes to the weather. If it's raining, snowing, windy, or sunny outside we are expected to be in the elements of Mother Nature because our chosen profession requires us to be outside most of the time.

Since I have been in the golf business I have been seeking the ultimate gear to keep me comfortable on the job. Unfortunately, comfortable and in style can be very expensive. This puts me at the clearance rack at my favorite store, REI. I find myself there way too much or on their mobile app looking for deals on the best gear. I figured I can't be the only one with this obsession, so over the past year I have collected some feedback of what superintendents are using for work gear. Work gear can be broken down into a few categories. Those categories are boots/shoes, pants/shorts, shirts, headgear, rain gear, and cold gear. Surprisingly, there were not that many differences. Overall, I call this the safe zone for gear that would be appropriate for the golf course and the clubhouse.

Boots/shoes: Redwing boots and Foot Joy trainers

Pants/shorts: Cotton khakis

Shirts: Adidas Clima-cool

Headgear: Lightweight baseball cap or just sunscreen

Rain Gear: Gore-Tex Foot Joy jacket and pants

Cold Gear: Carhartt Jacket and Bibs

I found the non-majority responses were much more helpful to me on my quest to be more comfortable at work using new technology to protect me from Mother Nature. The responses are listed at the top of the next column.

Having this new gear information I at least had a stepping stone to start researching what might work the best for the golf course superintendent. In my research I discovered rain gear is described and advertised in many different ways. We call a jacket waterproof when its water resistance keeps out

Boots/Shoes: Redwing boots and Keen shoes

Pants/shorts: Columbia and North Face polyester/spandex blend wicking

Shirts: Any type of wicking material. Under Armor, FootJoy, Antigua, Ben Hogan, Nike

Headgear: Sun Visor, Straw hat

Rain Gear: Gempler special, Helly Hansen, Carhartt

Cold Gear: Carhartt jacket and pants

a driving rain. Though there are no standards tests, manufacturers want to keep you dry.

Waterproof/breathable: This rain gear keeps rain from getting through to your skin, but also moves sweat back through to the outside world. If you're planning any activity that gets limbs and lungs pumping, this is your kind of gear because both precipitation and perspiration can soak you. **Water-resistant:** Also breathable, this is gear that can handle light rain for a brief time like windbreakers and featherweight jackets. If precipitation lingers or starts coming down sideways, these won't be up to the task.

Waterproof/non breathable: Think poncho. If you simply need to keep the rain out while sitting or standing around, this gear does just fine and costs very little. This could be a good cover up for fairway or rough mowers. If you do any movement though your rain poncho will be hot and sweaty inside.

The key component of rain gear fabric is a coating or membrane that does the trick of blocking rain while also allowing sweat vapor to escape. Because it's relatively delicate, this membrane is bonded to a protective fabric to create what is known as a laminate. Almost all rainwear is made using one

of the two technologies.

Laminates vs. Coatings

There are two main types of manufacturing processes that companies utilize to make fabric waterproof. The simplest is by spraying a coating (usually some form of polyurethane) on a layer of the fabric. This offers good waterproof performance, decent breathability and adequate durability. Garments from the spray technology can be light to ultralight in weight and are usually easier on the pocketbook. The other process takes a membrane (like polyurethane or polytetrafluoroethylene) and glues it to a layer of fabric. These products offer the best waterproof performance, breathability, durability and are pretty lightweight. All this comes with a price tag, and they are the most expensive. Gore-Tex has dominated this market for many years but now there are alternatives like eVent, Sympatex, Omni-Dry, HyVent and H2No some produced by the major outdoor clothiers. It is just tough to beat the brand recognition Gore-Tex has, especially when a person is spending a lot of money on a rain jacket.

Most rain gear including all waterproof/breathable rain gear, has an added durable water repellent finish known as DWR. When a jacket's outer fabric is "water repellent," where precipitation literally beads up and rolls off. This isn't the same as a fabric being water-resistant, which is an overall assessment of its ability to prevent water penetration. This DWR finish is critical if you want your high-tech jacket to keep working its magic. When the DWR wears off your jacket's surface your fabric can get wet. Your underlying membrane or coating will still keep water out, but the soaked surface fabric slows the movement of sweat vapor to the outside. The wet lining might even stick to your skin, making it feel as though the jacket is leaking. The good news is you can reapply this coating to your clothes, in fact it should be part of your rain gear maintenance routine. When rain stops beading up or when a wet surface fabric gives you cold spots, it's time to reapply.

The membrane or coating is sandwiched inside layers of fabric and technology. An outer layer stands up to abrasion and repels rain, while an inner layer protects against body oils and wear-and-tear from the inside of the jacket. The three types of construction used in rain gear are a 2-layer, 2.5-layer and 3-layer. Here is a brief diagram to help explain.

Two Layer Technology

The membrane or coating layer is applied inside an outer fabric layer to form a single piece of material. A loose-hanging liner is added inside that to protect the membrane or coating. Because it's quieter (less "swishy" as you walk), 2-layer



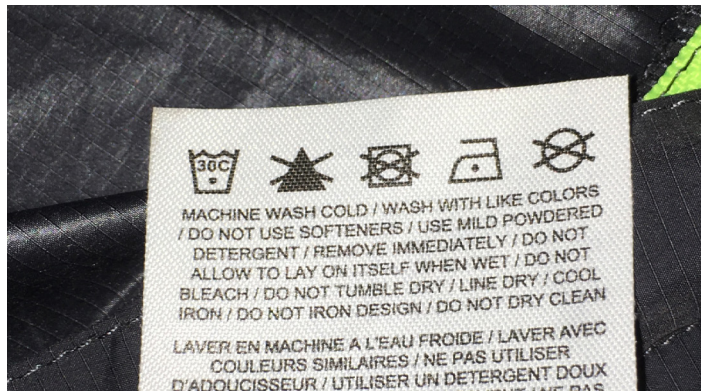
Gore-Tex is the go to fabric maker in the realm of waterproofs. At least they've spent the most money marketing their brand for the past 40 years.

construction is favored for urban and travel rainwear. Regardless of intended use, this design is found in moderately priced jackets.

2.5 Layer Technology

This is where the term "layer" can be confusing. Like 2-layer and 3-layer constructions, this design uses a lightweight yet durable outer fabric as its first layer. The second "layer" is actually a polyurethane laminate or coating applied inside that first layer. Finally, a protective sheen or print (a "half layer") is laid down over that second layer.

While 2.5-layer designs don't typically match the breathability or durability or others the jacket made this way is usually lighter and more affordable. However, some wearers think 2.5-layer jackets feel clammy if it is warm outside as they tend to hold sweat in too.



Like you've never heard this before, but always read the label - especially when it comes to caring for your high priced garment - it may not like to be treated like your socks.

Three Layer Technology

There are coatings in this format, just a membrane tightly sandwiched between a rugged face fabric and a liner. These offer the most durable and breathable construction. This construction is used most frequently in tough environments where use is heavy and frequent. They are the most expensive too.

The technology in the rain gear is the biggest factor in the cost but how it's put together is important as well.

A true rain jacket and pants must be fully seam taped in order for it to be fully waterproof. This feature is something to look for in jackets and pants but if the manufacture is calling it rain gear it is pretty much standard. Don't assume a jacket is fully waterproof based on finding seam tape in the hood and shoulders. It's common practice on water-resistant jackets as well.

Keeping water from seeping through zippers requires a rubberized coating or a storm flap. Coated zippers, also called

laminated zippers, are harder to zip up and down but save on total weight of the jacket or pant. The laminated zipper also needs a cover at the top of the zipper to keep water out. This little piece of fabric might also be called the hut or zipper garage. Finally there is a Velcro or button fabric flap that keeps water from seeping through your regular zipper if you don't have the laminated zipper. It seems that more manufactures are moving towards the laminated zipper in instead of the fabric flap.

Even the most breathable rainwear can get hot and sticky during very active times and no superintendent wants to be hot and sticky when they have to tell pro shop that it's cart path only. Almost all rain gear has pit zips or some jackets have mesh liners in torso pockets that can double as additional vents. Both features are something to look for when purchasing your rain gear. Pockets, especially if they have waterproof zippers, will add to the price of a jacket or pant.

After you make your clothing purchase, make sure you know how to take care of it. Can it be machine washed? How about fabric softeners? Many of the new fabrics don't play nice with them, check the label and make your clothes last as long as they should. The sun/wind/rain and our work is tough enough on them. @

Sources:

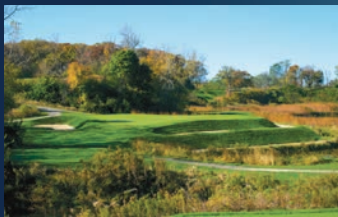
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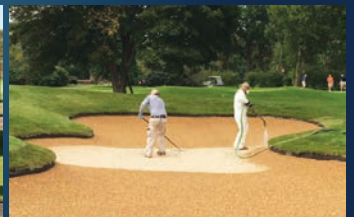
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#BullSheet



June 2016

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 6-12 – Web.com Tour's Rust-Oleum Championship at Ivanhoe Club in Ivanhoe, IL, Tom Prichard host superintendent.

June 8 – Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS) Founder's Cup golf event at Wynstone Golf Club in North Barrington, IL, Ben McGargill, CGCS host superintendent.

June 10 – Application deadline for the MAGCS Scholarships. More info follows.

June 13 – Sunshine Through Golf Foundation Outing at Knollwood Club in Lake Forest, IL, Drew Barnett host superintendent.

June 17 – Application deadline for the Oscar Miles Endowment Fund. More on that follows.

June 21 – NCERA 221 Research Plot Tour at North Shore Country Club, Dan Dinelli, CGCS host superintendent – information on iturf.org

June 27 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Bryn Mawr Country Club in Lincolnwood, IL, Brian Bossert, CGCS host superintendent.

July 19-24 – UL International Crown event at Merit Club in Gurnee, IL, John Nelson host superintendent.

July 25 – MAGCS Nine-Holer at Geneva Golf Club in Geneva, IL, Eddie Braunsky host superintendent.

July 31 – Deadline for nominations for the 2017 TurfNet Superintendent's Best Friend Calendar, presented by Syngenta.

Welcome to you, our brightest and shiniest new MAGCS members (who more than likely haven't received this magazine yet, but the sentiment is still there):

Tom Ballard, Class E, Eternally Green Lawncare
Mike Bartley, Class E, Flowtronex

"How Much is that Doggie in the Window?" is a lyric to a song that's like 64 years old, but that's not important. What IS important is that if that doggie were Monsanto, and the kid looking in the window were Bayer, that little doggie would be more than \$62 billion, which is what Monsanto's board turned down last month in Bayer's bid to acquire the St. Louis-based seed company. Based on the projections by the U.S. Census Bureau, the world's population will grow from its current 7.3 billion to 8 billion by 2025, 9.2 billion by 2050, and 11 billion by 2100. An overwhelming percentage of that growth is to occur in developing countries in South America, Africa and Asia. Those countries will be needing lots of food to feed all those people, and Monsanto produces more crop seed than anyone, so just do the math. Cha-ching.

Congratulations to **Bob Kronn Sr.** for turning 100 this year! Wait.... As it turns out, Bob hasn't quite reached that milestone, but his former club, of which **Jeremy Woods** took the reins after Bob's retirement in 2014 has. Woodstock Country Club is celebrating its 100th year since it opened for business in 1916, and not much has changed since then on the Tom Bendelow-designed nine-hole course. Best wishes on the next 100!

Hope to see everyone at the upcoming MAGCS monthly meetings. This month, the beautiful Bryn Mawr Country Club will host us on the 27th, when **Brian Bossert's** club will be the venue for the Dom Grotti and Class C Championships. Then on July 25th, **Eddie Braunsky** and Geneva Golf Club will welcome us for another rendition of the MAGCS Nine-Holer, where instead of golf carts, we will all be driving these:



Bull Sheet continued on page 11...

NELS JOHNSON

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You can't keep those pesky researchers down. Due to golfers' criticism of the "cookie tray hitting a car" noise the Nike SUMO 2 driver makes when striking the ball, researchers looked into it to see if those criticisms were merited. Turns out they were—they found that the club produces two sounds at 2000 hertz and 3000 hertz that were 10 times louder than most other clubs. They also found that those two sounds fall within the range of frequencies that the average human is most sensitive to hearing (akin to scratching a chalkboard I assume). So there you have it.

Get your cameras and start snapping. It's almost time to get photos of your golf course dog in to TurfNet for a chance to be featured in the 2017 Superintendent's Best Friend calendar presented by Syngenta. Nomination forms are available at www.turfnet.com, and the deadline is July 31st.



Rules of Golf Quiz:

A player's ball lies in a tree beyond the reach of a club. He makes a swing with a club at a lower branch of the tree and the ball falls to the ground. What is the ruling? Answer at the end.

It's that time of year—be very vigilant in checking your trees for these two destructive pests:

Bagworms and Tent Caterpillars



Our golf season is well underway, and lately there have been some events at some real premiere facilities. On May 5th, **Justin VanLanduit** and Briarwood Country Club hosted the Pro-Superintendent Championship, where **Jim Canning** and Curtis Malm from White Eagle Golf Club and **Ben Kelnhofer** and Andy Mickelson from Mistwood tied for first place at -13. It was a Curtis-y day, with Curtis James and **Curtis Tyrrell** tying for third place with Larry Flament. Well played, Canning, Kelnhofer and Curtises!

What could have been ugly turned into a nice feel-good story last month at the Dean & Deluca Invitational at Colonial Country Club in Ft. Worth, Texas. PGA Tour up-and-comer Tony Finau, who is currently the leader in driving distance and fourth in club head speed on tour, hit a drive that plunked

a fan on the head, sending her to the medical tent for a few stitches. In a cool response, he got her information from tournament officials and paid a visit to her house with flowers, chocolates, and a get-well-soon card. Didn't hurt that she was not tough on the eyes, bloody face or not, but still a nice gesture.



On the 16th, the ITF/MAGCS Spring Golf Day was held at Makray Memorial Golf Club in Barrington, with **Tim Christians** and **Juan Acosta** hosting. A great day of perfect weather and some of the most diabolically slick greens you'll find were the talk amongst the players—they were really stinkin' fast!

Bob Vavrek of the USGA Green Section provided the day's education on tall fescue, and the good doctors Branham and Voigt were in attendance, in part to take that big check off **Dustin Hugen's** hands. Thanks to everyone at Makray Memorial and to our sponsors for a great day. More pictures on pages 15-16.



Dustin Hugen presented Bruce Branham with a check from the ITF to support the turf program at U of I.

Then, on the 23rd the Wuskowhan Players Club in scenic West Olive, Michigan was the site of the Wee One Foundation Michigan Fundraiser, and what a golf course! Perfect greens, tight fairways, arguably the coolest Ladies tee ever (right), and a great cause brought more than a few MAGCS members and their neighbors to the northeast together for a great day of golf. Thanks to our friends in Michigan for hosting!



Q: What happens when **Adam Lencke** aces his pesticide exams?

A: He makes The Course at Aberdeen's list.

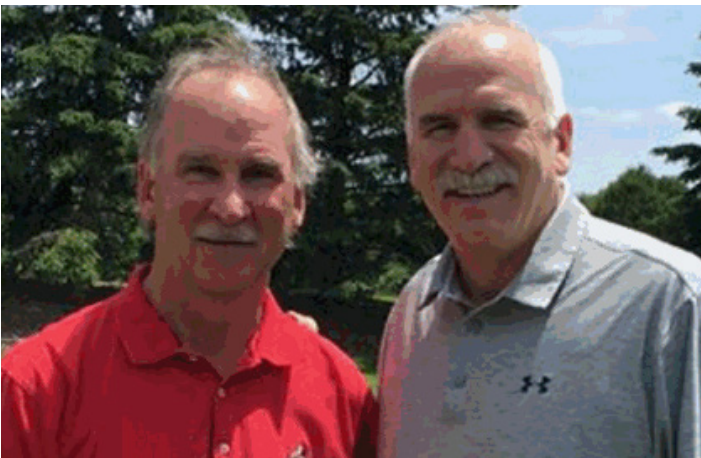
June 10th is/was the deadline for children and grandchildren of MAGCS members to apply for the three MAGCS scholarships available. Applications can be found at www.magcs.org. Also, on the 17th of June, the Oscar Miles Endowment Fund deadline arrives. In 2004, an anonymous donor pledged a \$1 million gift to the Illinois PGA Foundation in honor of Merit Club's PGA Director of Golf Don Pieper and its renowned superintendent **Oscar Miles** (who fired me MANY years ago but I'm completely over it almost), the awards for the latter to be provided for the following areas of interest: Turfgrass research, continuing education for MAGCS and TETA members, children and grandchildren of MAGCS members pursuing a college education, and non-profit organizations that utilize golf to promote youth development. Hurry—application forms can be found at www.ipga.com.

OK, why not?

Whose cruel idea was it for the word "lisp" to have an "s" in it?

Thanks to a joint effort by researchers at Oregon State and Washington State universities, protecting bees on your golf course has gotten much easier. An app has been created as an extension of the "How to Reduce Bee Poisoning" Web site they published in 2006 which allows you to find bee toxicity ratings on 150 insecticides, fungicides, miticides, slug killers and growth regulators on your smart phone. The guide also provides estimates on residual toxicity, which is not required by the EPA and isn't often on pesticide labels.

We were wrong about **Mike Sauls** and Coach Q being Doppelgangers. They're really identical twins.



Now THESE two are Doppelgangers! They even share first names. Wait, could it be that when Jimmy Reed is taking a break from turning one superintendent's trash into another's treasure, he's running the Syracuse University's basketball team? Hmmm....

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Jim Reed or Jim Boeheim

Did you know that trees grow from both the bottom and the top? Yep—although only about 1% of a tree's mass is alive and capable of growing, if you were to put a rubber band around the trunk of a mature tree, it will expand outward with time but not move upward; whereas the living cells in the twigs cause them to lengthen, allowing for the tree to grow taller. Thanks from the Fun Fact Aficionado for that one.

Mark your calendars for MAGCS Hospitality Reception 2017. It'll take place at Marlow's Tavern on Wednesday, February 8 in Orlando.

MAGCS members were all over the media last month. TurfNet's Blog Aggregator **Joel Purpur** highlighted Park Ridge CC's tee re-leveling program he started this spring with the help of **Hollemeak Construction**; Superintendent magazine's Anthony Pioppi did a cool story titled "A Famed Club Founded on Fascinating Agronomics," about Shoreacres (**Brian Palmer**) and its conversion from forest to golf course a hundred years ago; and the Chicago Tribune's Teddy Greenstein wrote an opinion piece about Chicagoland's all-men clubs, stating that they "are not a bad thing" despite what many say. It turns out that our four stag clubs—Black Sheep, Bob O'Link, Butler National, and Old Elm—make up a quarter of the nation's all-male golf clubs! It's an interesting read.

Quiz answer: He incurs a one-stroke penalty for causing his ball to move and the ball must be replaced or deemed unplayable. @

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Images from MAGCS/ITF Golf Day

Who did Kohley have to carry on his back all day to win? Answer on page 16.



Host Superintendent Tim Christians (l) and Juan Acosta had the course in fine shape for the day.



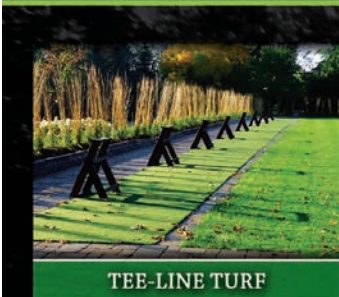
It was nice to see Matt Baumgartner out from Nadler Golf Car Sales.

ITF Immediate Past President Brian Mores did a fine job selling raffle tickets, so fine he won a prize, hmmm.....



John Jensen and Dale Parske of Reinders got out to enjoy the day at Makray.

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More Images from MAGCS/ITF Golf Day



After watching the Cubs game the other day, I figured something out. Both Ricky Wilson (left) and Pat Hughes must shop at the same store for their attire.



Mike Paciga (Kemper Lakes) and Jake Vollbeer (Burriss Equipment Co.) stopped talking when I came by. I think they were talking about their former boss, Brian Thomson.



The best bearded cart competition goes to Josh Malady (Naperville CC) and Jeff Lf Leuzinger (Healthy Grow).



Joe Ernst is going to need more than ice tea to get over looking at his partner's Mark Simon's pants all day. In fact he might want to have his retinas checked.



PJ Bugay (R), Assisant at Bridges of Poplar Creek and his partner Jon Vermeer took second place with a net 68.

Definitely not who you thought it was; Al Pondel another MAGCS Champion. They were the first flight winners with a net 63 on some really fast greens.



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SUPER-N-site

Brian Bossert, CGCS

Bryn Mawr Country Club

Todd Vermillion, Ridgemoor Country Club

PHOTO CREDITS: LUKE CELLA

The word "Assistant" by definition is a person who gives aid or support. In the golf course maintenance industry, there is no better example of that definition than the assistant superintendent position, lending support and leadership to the department, and most specifically, to the superintendent.

Today's superintendents are finding themselves pulled in many different directions, providing their assistants with the exciting opportunity to play a vital role in daily department activities. An assistant superintendent, has to be ready to lead any situation that may be delegated, all the while being able to convey the expectations of the superintendent. At Bryn Mawr Country Club, Superintendent Brian Bossert has had the opportunity to mentor several successful assistant superintendents and wants to highlight the value and significant role assistants play in today's industry through the upcoming Championship event at his course in June.

As a lot of us in the golf business, we got into the profession because we love the game of golf. This holds true for our host Superintendent Brian Bossert. Brian is originally from the village of Dwight, about two hours south of Chicago. Brian grew up working and perfecting his golf game at Dwight Country Club. Uniquely enough, Dwight Country Club has produced a handful of successful individuals in the golf industry. Brian went on to study Golf Course Management and play competitive golf at Danville Area Community College. Early in his career, Brian found his way to Medinah Country Club, where he was exposed to the regimented culture under the leadership of Pete Wilson. While there Brian also had the opportunity to learn under Scott Azinger and Mike Sauls both leaders in the golf industry. Brian then took his first Assistant job at Barrington Hills and after a season there, Brian found his way back to Medinah joining Danny Quast's team as Course #2 Superintendent. It was an exciting time at Medinah Country Club; Brian was promoted to the Course #3 Superintendent for the 1990 U.S. Open and led the extra work that comes with hosting a Major golf event. The event was a great success and somewhat historical; it was the first time sudden death was used in the Open format after Hale Irwin and Mike Donald were tied after 18-hole Monday playoff. Hale Irwin went on to win in the 91st hole, securing his 3rd U.S. Open title.

In March 1991, Brian started the next chapter of his career accepting the Superintendent position at Bryn Mawr



The Bosserts: (l to r) Briggs, Brian, Pam, Bailey and Brock.



Over the course of his tenure, there have been substantial improvements to both the club and the golf course. Some of the most recent improvements under Brian's guidance were triggered by Mother Nature. In 2013, April storms that flooded parts of Chicago took aim at the lower levels of the Bryn Mawr clubhouse and for the first time, the floodwater climbed inside. With great leadership, Brian and his staff were able to assist with the clubhouse issues and continue to complete the bunker renovation that was currently underway. In April 2014, the lower levels of the clubhouse were unveiled with several new amenities.

The second event came just last summer when a microburst destroyed and uprooted over 100 trees throughout the property. The severity of the damage forced the club to close the golf course for nearly a week while tree crews and grounds staff cleaned up. Brian and his staff worked tirelessly to get the golf course and grounds back to normal so the membership could continue to enjoy the club for the remaining summer months.


Bryn Mawr Country Club sits on 139 acres nestled in to the quiet neighborhood of Lincolnwood. It is one of few private clubs that is only minutes from the hectic pace of downtown

Country Club. This past March, Brian began his 26th season at Bryn Mawr. During the past 25 years, Brian has been a great contributor to the industry and community. In 2001, Brian served as the President of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents.



Chicago. Originally established in 1919 the course opened for play in 1921. The 18-hole championship layout was designed by William Langford. If needed, the course can stretch out to 6700 yards and the tight tree lined fairways keep a premium on a players shot making abilities. The property is primarily flat and has predominantly remained the same, even with a bunker project recently completed in 2012. Through the years Bryn Mawr Country Club has carried on the tradition as being one of the finest private clubs in the Chicagoland area.

When Brian isn't at the golf course, he enjoys spending time with his family. Brian and his wife Pam have been married for 19 years. They have 3 children, daughter Bailey (16) and twin boys Briggs (13) & Brock (13). Pam is one of Brian's biggest supporters and has come to understand that managing a golf course is a very unique profession, facing so many variables on a daily basis. Brian is very involved with his kids and their sports and has coached both baseball and softball. Brian and his wife highlight the off-season with a family vacation they look forward to every year. He is also a loyal Chicago White Sox fan and is most likely thrilled to see them currently in first place in the division. Perhaps a World Series is in their future this year.

For now it's pretty certain assistants throughout the area are looking forward to June when they can experience playing Bryn Mawr Country Club and the conditions Brian and his team have worked hard to maintain. With no doubt, it will definitely be a fun and memorable event for all involved. 





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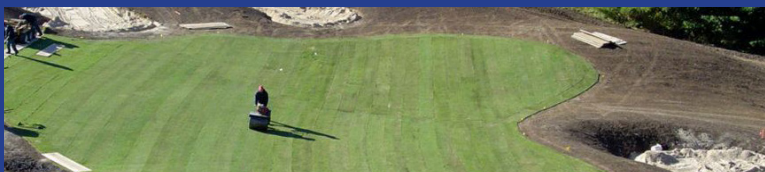
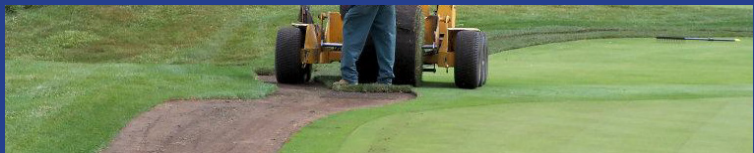


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Plant Activators

Chuck Anfield, CGCS, Heritage Bluffs Golf Course

The April MAGCS Meeting was held at Ruffled Feathers Golf Club, Ed Esgar was the host. Dr. Mike Agnew, Senior Field Technical Manager for Syngenta made his presentation, "Understanding Plant Activators."

There are two types of plant activators: (1) ISR: Induced Systemic Resistance (2) SAR: Systemic Acquired Resistance. The goals of both plant activators is to suppress disease and impact plant stresses.

SAR

- Creates a systemic signal in plant
- Is a gene expression
- Foliar applied
- Infection in plant triggers a plant response – naturally occurring
- Salicylic acid formation application mimics plant response

ISR

- Rhizobacteria in the roots trigger response

To be considered a plant defense activator it must meet certain criteria to qualify. Some current examples include but not limited to:

1. Isoparaffin mixtures –Civitas (food grade synthetic isoparaffin with a food grade emulsifier).
2. Qoi fungicides- Heritage, Insignia (increase nitrates in plant).
3. Phosphite products (directly active on fungi).
4. Pigments (light absorption related).
5. Salicylic Acid (response short lived requires daily



Dr. Agnew presented to the Midwest at the April Meeting on the different plant activators available to the golf market.

applications).

University research data shows plant activators do control diseases such as dollar spot, anthracnose, Pythium and algae.

There has been some quantifiable data on water use efficiency. Some physiological responses include:

- Partial stomata regulation
- Decreases transpiration rate
- Reduces water loss

Other responses include:

- Increased aeration recovery
- Impact on heat and drought stress
- Stresses related to protein changes in plant
- Stabilizing cellular components from damages from dehydration

Dr. Agnew recommends incorporating Plant Activators into your preventative fungicide program. He recommends you start early and make repeat applications every 14-21 days for best results. @



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Tall Fescue

Chuck Anfield, CGCS, Heritage Bluffs Golf Course

The MAGCS May meeting was held at Makray Memorial in Barrington. Tim Christians and Juan Acosta were the hosts for the day. Bob Vavrek, USGA Regional Director of the Green Section was the featured educational speaker and made a presentation "Tall Fescue- Where are we now? How Far Can We Go?"

Fescue Facts

- Native to Europe
- Introduced to the US in the early 1800's
- Mainly used as a forage or erosion control grass
- 2006 NTEP trials at Rutgers listed over 300 varieties
- The current trend in breeding is for lower growing, darker color and finer leaf characteristics
- Tall fescue is used on the south lawn of the White House

The current use of Tall Fescue is mainly as a substitute for Kentucky Bluegrass. It has become very popular in the transition zone. So what are the strengths and weakness of each species?

Tall Fescue

Drought tolerant
Wear tolerant
Bunch grass habit
Shade tolerant
Early spring green up
Endophyte enhanced
Texture varies with variety
Good fall color
Fast germination
Reduced grub damage

Kentucky Blue Grass

Fine texture
Rhizomes aid in faster recovery
Thins out in heat
Susceptible to summer patch
Dark green color

Bob indicated that endophyte enhanced plants can be a "double edge sword." The plants are infected and are bred to be symbiotic with fungi. The current types of Tall Fescue being bred are turf type and forage type. The turf type species are designed to deter insect feeding, increase heat stress tolerances and create an allelopathic response to competitors. The forage type is designed with less diversity to create habitat for wildlife. There is a concern for herbivore toxicity.

So far, the TTTF (Turf type tall fescue) has been very popular for use on bunker faces. The quality of turf is just as good as KBG but with additional benefits.



Bob Vavrek, USGA's Regional Director of the Central Region met up with the attendees at Makray to talk Tall Fescue

There are still some questions to be answered. Does TTTF need to be rejuvenated? Can it be used in intermediate rough and be sustainable with heavy play while being maintained at lower heights? What is the reaction to PGR use?

The take away message here is we now have more options for turf varieties on golf courses. This is a good thing. As always, when in doubt, check the NTEP trials or even better, select your own variety(s) and start your own trial and see for yourself. @



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