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TABLE OF CONTENTS

front cover

Since the death and removal of so many ash trees on our golf courses, it might be time to relook at building nest boxes for birds. Lori O'Connor covers some of the basics when preparing to build nest boxes in our first feature article.

4 FEATURE

Housing for the Birds of

Golf
Lori O'Connor

18 FEATURE

Honoring our Employees

Chuck Barber



Henry's Pub turned out to be a great venue for the Midwest's Hospitality Reception in San Diego. Jake Vollbeer's Director's Column starts the coverage of the event and it continues through Bullsheet.

DEPARTMENTS

- 03 Director's Column
Jake Vollbeer
- 09 The Bull Sheet
John Gurke
- 20 Education Wrap Up
Chuck Anfield

DATES

2016 UPCOMING MIDWEST EVENTS

- 3/9 Midwest March Meeting, Top Golf - Naperville
- 4/26 Midwest April Meeting, Ruffled Feathers Golf Club
- 5/16 Midwest/ITF Play Day, Makray Memorial Golf Club
- 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

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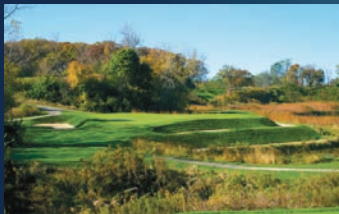
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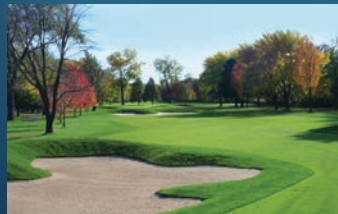
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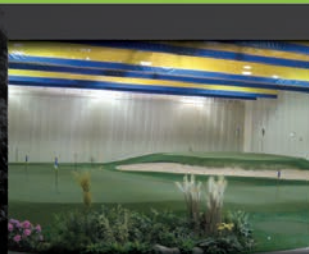
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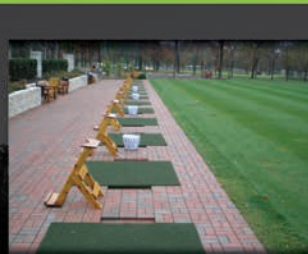
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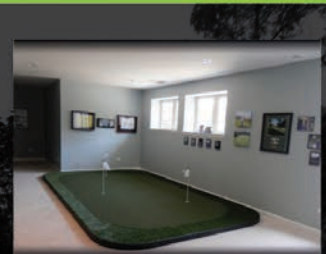
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San Diego in the Books



Jake Vollbeer
Burris Equipment Company

Let me first start by saying that San Diego is an excellent venue for our biggest trade show experience of the year, especially when you consider the fantastic weather we had for this year's Golf Industry Show (GIS).

Many attendees not only found time to squeeze in some golf, surfing, biking and even (so I hear) snow skiing, and still managed to visit the trade show and take in some education opportunities. The GIS also provides the once a year opportunity to network with companies and people that we normally communicate with via phone or email. Nothing compares to face to face communication.

This year's trade show showcased many new product offerings from various manufacturers and included a green complex provided by the Golf Course Builders Association. In addition, there was a ride and drive location for some of the various all electric products. Many of you took in the opening and closing ceremonies that featured the presentation of the Old Tom Morris Award to Herb Kohler and the closing ceremonies that showcased Comedian Frank Caliendo. In all, it seemed that attendance and participation in all of the trade show activities was good.

Outside of the trade show the MAGCS again hosted the ever popular Midwest Hospitality Reception at Henry's Pub. A special thank you goes out to all of our volunteers who manned the door and sold raffle tickets, in all \$2,520 was raised for scholarships. Brian Thomson was the big winner of the evening taking home a drone, Brian Stout won the driver, Greg Rounds won the putter, Verlyn Strellner was the winner of the speaker, and Kurt Galisdorfer won the gift card. 260 attendees enjoyed over 1,000 drinks, (I'll let you do the math) during the course of the event. I thank all of the sponsors of the Hospitality Reception whose support help make this a great event every year.

As a reminder to all of our commercial members, some new advertising offerings have been added for the 2016 year and include: enhanced directory advertisement, website banner and box advertisement space, E-mail marketing opportunities, and monthly meeting education sponsorships. These enhanced opportunities can help get your message out to your customers and are quite unique to the MAGCS. Please take the time to visit the website and download the 2016 Media Kit and/or see Luke Cella with any additional questions. @



It was only fitting the winner of the blue-tooth speaker was Verlyn Strellner...and when we explained that it hooked up to your phone, he whipped out this beauty.

Housing for the Birds of Golf



Lori O'Connor, Avain Architects

"Only when we see that we are part of the totality of the planet, not a superior part with special privileges, can we work effectively to bring about an earth restored to wholeness." – Elizabeth Watson, Quaker

Chances are the reasons you considered the profession of golf course superintendent, is your love for nature, the outdoors, and possibly even golf. Whether you knew it or not at the time, you would also become a wildlife manager. From a par 3 on 30 acres to a 36-hole course on 200 acres, you are, in many ways, a steward for all life on the property.

Part of that ecosystem is Illinois' native birds. It takes decades for a tree to naturally develop cavities where birds can nest. With many courses downing hundreds of trees due to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), removing them for a more player friendly design, or trending toward native grasses in out-of-play areas, Illinois' native birds are losing their natural habitat.

Birdhouses can simulate natural nesting spots for numerous species. Birds are either cavity dwellers or nesters. It is the cavity dweller that will take up residence in a man-made box. Some of the cavity dwelling birds of Illinois are the house wren; black-capped chickadee; nuthatch; bluebird; tree swallow; wood duck; and owls.



Nesting boxes are not new to the golf industry, but superintendents should relook at their value as many trees have been removed since the EAB infestation.

When planning a birdhouse development, start by thinking about what species of birds you want to increase on your course. Let's say you are experiencing a rodent problem. A natural way to combat the little pests would be to increase your owl population. Mosquitoes a problem? Mount bat houses around wetlands or increase the tree swallow population. Perhaps you just want to enjoy the sights and sounds of Illinois' native songbirds.

Size Matters

Entrance hole diameter is the most important feature of a birdhouse. It should be just the right size to allow the native bird entrance but exclude the invasive sparrow or starling. If you are experiencing an invasive problem with larger boxes like the owl or wood duck box, remove the nest, and if necessary, destroy the eggs. It is perfectly legal to do away with them since they are invasive. The sparrow or starling may come back a few more times, but will eventually get the message and not return.

Location, Location, Location

This term applies to the placement of nest boxes as much as it does when humans choose a place to live and raise our families. A nearby water source is important to all species. Small songbirds such as the wren, tree swallow and nuthatch like to have a box about 5 – 10 feet off the ground facing away from prevailing winds.

In the early part of the 20th century the wood duck was near extinction. Thanks to conservation efforts and the use of nesting boxes the population has stabilized. The ideal placement is near a shallow wetland. If you choose to mount your box over water, place it 4 – 6 feet above the water level on a support pole with a predator guard. If you mount it on

a 4" x 4", place it near the shoreline and mount the box with the hole facing the open water. You can deter raccoons from trying to get into the box by wrapping the bottom of the post with tin or plastic.



Boxes that open hinge make it easy to monitor and clean out old nests.

If you are thinking of installing a purple martin apartment you would want to know they prefer man-made boxes. They will nest in metal boxes but without proper ventilation can get extremely hot. Place the structure on a pole 8 – 20 feet above the ground in an area where trees are at least 30 feet away. Even if martins don't take up residence for a while the apartment looks cool!

Who doesn't want eastern bluebirds on their course? *Sialia sialis* are not strong enough to peck their own hole so they rely on old woodpecker holes or man-made boxes. Golf courses are the ideal habitat – tree lined, open spaces. Their main food source is ground loving insects. Unlike other small song-

birds, the bluebird prefers a larger diameter hole of 1-1/2" round or 1-3/8" x 2-1/4". Whichever hole design you choose, place the box 4 – 6 feet above ground and 100 yards apart.

General Information

I can't emphasize enough the importance of maintaining your boxes to ensure healthy and safe conditions for the birds. It doesn't require a lot of time and depending on the quantity of boxes on your course, can be done on a rainy day. In the fall remove and dispose of the old nesting materials. Do a quick wash with a 9 to 1, water to bleach solution. It is good practice to prop the door open for the winter months so that mice don't move in.

A well-constructed box will have some important features. They will be made of 3/4" disease, insect and rot resistant woods such as cedar, cypress or redwood. Duck boxes can also be made of stained exterior grade plywood. Having boxes with hinges will make monitoring and cleaning a breeze. If a box is properly crafted and maintained it can last ten years.

Monitoring your boxes is not only fun but essential. Before opening any box tap first. If it is occupied the bird will exit and you can check for eggs. Keep track of your findings and post it on your blog or in the locker rooms for members and guests to see. The general public is becoming more and more tuned in to their natural environment and enjoy golfing where sustaining wildlife is part of the big picture.

Installing nest boxes is a relatively inexpensive way to add interest and show your guests that you take wildlife seriously at your course. Avian Architects crafts all boxes in Illinois to DNR specs. If you have any questions or would like a complimentary consultation, please contact me at 708-465-9333 or avianarchitects@gmail.com.

Let's tee it up and let it fly. @



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BullSheet



March 2016

Dates to Remember

March 9 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Top-Golf in Naperville, IL.

March 15 – 2nd Annual Harrell's Educational Seminar at the Doubletree Suites by Hilton in Downers Grove, IL. Contact your Harrell's rep for details.

March 31 – Deadline extension date for distributing Forms 1094-C/1095-C of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to employees.

April 11-12 – Golf Course Industry's GCI Tech Conference: Forecasting the Future at the Carolina Golf Club in Charlotte, N.C. Watch your mail for an invitation.

April 15 – Deadline for nominations for TurfNet's 2016 Technician of the Year Award presented by the Toro Company. Forms are available at www.turfnet.com.

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

May 14 – 2016 Sunshine Through Golf Par 3 Golf Marathon at Zigfield Troy Golf Club in Woodridge, IL, Dennis Troy host.

May 16 – ITF/MAGCS Spring Golf Day at Makray Memorial Golf Club in Barrington, IL, Tim Christians host superintendent.

May 26-29 – 77th Senior PGA Championship at the Golf Club at Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor, MI.

May 31 – New deadline for filing Forms 1094-C/1095-C of the ACA with the IRS (June 30 if filing electronically).

He's BAAAAA-ACK. **Virgil Range** (r) is making his way back to our area where he will take over a familiar role—that of assistant golf course superintendent at Aurora Country Club beginning March 14th. We—and I in particular—wish him the best.



Al Van Alsburg has a new business card. Al is the Wisconsin and Northern Illinois chemical and fertilizer sales rep for the Van Diest Company, which has 17 distribution centers across the Midwest, and has been serving the agriculture industry since 1956. Good luck Al!

Also on the move is Reinders, Inc., who this month is moving from its Vernon Hills location to Buffalo Grove, IL. The new store is located at 111 Lexington Drive, a block north of Lake-Cook Road near Milwaukee Avenue. The phone number remains the same (847-573-0300). What a nice start to celebrating 150 years in business!

The 48-year-old Lake Bluff Golf Club (**Rob Foster** superintendent) is under new management. Billy Casper Golf was unanimously selected by the Lake Bluff Park District to manage its golf facility on Chicago's North Shore.

I've had the "opportunity" to learn just about everything one can possibly learn about ice skating rinks this past winter (and there WILL be an article about all that in the foreseeable future). What stands out as the most frustrating aspect is how much damn work they are to create the perfect surface when guys like **Kevin DeRoo** can do it without even lifting a finger. At least my tennis court won't be dead when the rink gets stowed for spring...



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Things are getting exciting in **Paul Bastron's** life. Kenosha Country Club has begun a comprehensive design-reinstatement to the Donald Ross layout which will include using Ross' original routing plans to realign fairway and approach areas, reclaim original surfaces, and reinstate original bunkers. Also included in the project is a significant tree-removal plan, redesign of the irrigation system, and relocating bridges on the course, which was founded in 1898 and moved to its current location along the Pike River in 1920, and is one of just two Donald Ross designs in Wisconsin. Paul and architect Drew Rogers secured the original Ross routing plans from the Tufts Archive in Pinehurst, N.C., as well as aerial photography of the course dating from 1937. Good luck with the project, Paul!



Paul Bastron and Kenosha Country Club are going to begin a redo of the old Ross layout among other improvements.

The Michigan Golf Hall of Fame (MGHOF) has made several announcements involving familiar faces and places. First, Dr. Joe Vargas, plant pathology professor at Michigan State University for 46 years and prolific speaker at over 1,000 education events worldwide will be inducted into the MGHOF in June--much deserved recognition for a legend in our industry. Also, Oakland Hills Country Club (**Steve Cook, CGCS, MG**), in this its 100th year will receive a MGHOF Special Award as the state's premiere championship club, having hosted U.S. Opens, PGA Championships and Ryder Cups to name a few. Congrats Steve and Doc Joe!

Rules of Golf Quiz:



A player's ball lies through the green underneath a large tree branch that fell in a storm the previous day. What is the ruling? Answer at the end.

Speaking of golf, did you know that George Franklin Grant (1846-1910) was not only the first African-American professor at Harvard University and a renowned Boston dentist, but

also the man who invented the wooden golf tee? Before Mr. Grant's invention, golfers carried buckets of sand around the course and built a small pile upon which to place their ball, which he found to be time-consuming and messy. Some courses even supplied little boxes of sand for the same purpose, hence the name tee box. Now you know.

Q: When these three show up to play a round at **Drew Kleinmeyer's** course, what are they called?



A: Cog Hillbillies

You already know this unless you live under a rock, but let's review: A bill was recently assigned to the Environment Committee (HB5900) into the Illinois House that would ban the use of all neonicotinoids in our state. The short description of the bill is called the SAVING IL POLLINATORS ACT, and includes Aloft, Arena, Meridian and Merit on its hit list. Take action if you feel that a complete ban of these products is wrong.

OK, why not?
I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

Seth Jones provided part of the MAGCS education at the January event. Is it possible we've seen him in a past life doubling as Russell Ziskey in "Stripes?" Watching him talk, I half expected him to start singing "Da Doo Run Run"

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Harold Ramis, maybe Seth Jones.

Huge thanks to everyone who donated products and services at the MAGCS Wee One Fundraiser at Seven Bridges on January 28th! The day was an incredible success, raking in

Bull Sheet continued on next page...

\$34,231 for the benefit of the Wee One Foundation. Also thanks to Golfdom's Seth Jones and CDGA's **Dr. Ed Nangle** for providing a fun morning of education before the auctions—these guys really know how to keep it lively! And finally, thanks to **Don Ferreri** and Seven Bridges for once again providing the great venue and service—it was a very nice day indeed!



Doug Davis took home the chili championship edging out Larry Lennert, Shep and Brian Stout.

For those who were fortunate enough to attend the Golf Industry Show in San Diego last month, how about that weather huh? I'm guessing that, and the million things to do in and around the city had something to do with the perceived lack of traffic on the trade show floor, even though attendance figures were about equal to last year's. Hopefully if you DID get out there, you were able to stop in at the MAGCS Hospitality Reception at Henry's Pub in the center of the Gas Lamp District. That venue was arguably the best we've had, and we've had MANY really good spots in our past. Great job by **Luke Cella** in securing the site, and many thanks to all our valued sponsors whose names are listed in this issue. Check out the recap in pictures on pages 14-15.

Some Random Highlights from Golf Industry Show



A record number of people stuck around to support the Wee One through the silent and live auction. The hosted bar helped.



Big Guy vs. Tree



Tree Won



Josh Malady (l) of Naperville Country Club and Matt McDonald of Water's Edge Golf Course enjoyed the afternoon.



When the hotels are booked, you sleep on a table. It's just what you do.



Of course Scott Witte won the Phantom 3 Drone donated by Lemont paving and CS Turf without, I'm told, folding any corners on his raffle ticket.



Anyone else take a fan break on the trade show floor?

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A Tribute to Wayne Otto, CGCS

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GCSAA has announced that Jenny Pagel-Guile, the Senior Manager of Certification, has left the association to pursue another position closer to her home effective March 4th. Stephanie Confer, a longtime staff member at GCSAA will handle those duties in the future. Stephanie can be reached at sconfer@gcsaa.org or at 800-472-7878, ext. 4424.

The Toro Company has again donated a \$50,000 grant to the Environmental Institute for Golf for its continued support of the Rounds 4 Research program. With this latest contribution, Toro has donated \$200,000 over the past four years.

It was a very good month for spotting our members in the news and in our industry publications. **Denise Gillett-Parchert** and Pottawatomie Golf Course in St. Charles were featured in a Sunday Daily Herald article about their Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program in a nice spread. **Paul Carlson** of Green Source, Inc. has been prominently featured in several articles about his Sidekick invention which was used to install the turf in Levi's Stadium for Super Bowl 50. **Andy Morris** of the Country Club of Peoria was the Superintendent Profile feature in Golf Course Trades magazine, which did a very in-depth piece on Andy's career and family.

Dan Dinelli appeared in Superintendent magazine's article titled "Balancing Act," which asked several industry leaders how they successfully balance their careers and family lives. TurfNet's Turf Blog Aggregator found Park Ridge CC's **Bill Meyer's** blog updating members on the winter work being accomplished; **Jim Canning's** (White Eagle GC) blog on their winter projects also made the Aggregator, as did a couple from the prolific **Erwin McKone** describing the indoor work being done in the shop as well as a recent junket the staff at Briar Ridge CC took to TopGolf. And finally, if you're an avid reader of the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, you wouldn't have missed the article on **Fred Opperman** called "Super Volunteer," chronicling Fred's involvement in Habitat for Humanity, for which he has helped build 59 houses since 1999.

Quiz answer: The entire branch is ground under repair even if the branch was not marked as GUR but the greenkeeper was either in the process of, or intending to remove it, per Decision 25/7. 

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Honoring our Employees



Chuck Barber, St. Charles Country Club

Golf Course Superintendents spend a lot of time at work. Consequently, the people who support them in their profession spend a lot of time at work as well. The 'crew', as most superintendents call them, becomes much more than coworkers.

Given the time spent in proximity with the crew it would be difficult not to embrace them as something beyond just labor. As Dave Schlagetter, CGCS at Indian Hill Club in Winnetka, IL puts it, "Spending hours, days, weeks, and years with our staff is part of the great joy of taking care of a golf course. To learn about their history and what they've gone through to accomplish their goals is important to me. Further, to hear how hard the first generation immigrant men worked to get to the place they now stand is humbling."

Steven Biehl and Tim Anderson, CGCS MG from Naperville Country work with long-time mechanic Greg Morar. Greg Morar began working at Naperville Country Club on June 30th 1973 as a general laborer on the grounds staff. The superintendent at the time heard that he had worked at a lawnmower repair shop for a brief period and quickly used that experience for the Club's benefit. Greg has been the Club's mechanic since then.



Greg's 40th anniversary at the Club came in June 2013. Greg never likes to be the center of attention, but we still wanted to find a way to honor Greg and his continued service. Naming the maintenance facility in honor of Greg and his 40 years of service to the Club seemed like a good balance between Greg's low-key personality and the significance of the milestone. In 2014 the members officially named the building "The Greg Morar Maintenance Facility at Naperville Country Club".

The Club has had three maintenance buildings in its 95-year history with the most recent built in 2007. Greg has worked

out of and stored parts in all three alongside no fewer than 10 current MAGCS members.

Kurt Sams, CGCS at Idlewild Country Club in Flossmoor enjoyed working with Tommie Lee Walker for seven years before Tommie's retirement. Tommie Lee Walker provided 48 years of service to the Grounds Department at Idlewild. "I never questioned his devotion to the golf course. He was a great asset to the department. The membership loved and respected him for his loyal service." A year prior to his retirement I asked Tommie where his favorite spot on the course was. He replied in his famous Tommie Lee voice, "On top of the hill on #7... You can see the whole course from there". So I planted a Red Oak and installed a plaque to honor him. It reads: Tommie Lee Walker "For Your Many Years of Loyal Service" With Love and Respect Kurt Sams and Grounds Department



"I surprised him the next day by taking a ride together to visit his look out point and asked him to look at the new tree and let me know what he thought. To this day I have never been hugged harder in my life."

Upon his retirement the club installed a bench located at the

15th tee and a generous financial gift. Kurt says Tommie still makes his presence felt. "Tommie Lee still visits the course a few times a year. We enjoy a ride on the course together and I get a chance to enjoy some of Tommie Lee's stories from the past. I miss Tommie but I am grateful we still get to see each other and for the 7 years I was able to be around him." (insert sulli pic)

Sadly, not all honors are for anniversaries or retirements. Bob Kohlstedt of Fox Bend Golf Club in Oswego tells the story of "Sulli". "Bill Sullivan worked in our pro shop, everybody liked



him. He was kind and always had something to say that made you smile. He passed away from a heart attack on Father's Day 2002. As a staff we wanted to do something to remember him. I contacted Seaborn

Canvas and asked if they would embroider a small marking flag that I was going to attach below our regular green flags. It was a simple black flag with his nickname, birthday and the year of his passing. The flag company liked the idea so much they did the job for free. We displayed the flags for the whole season."



Shoreacres in Lake Bluff opened a new maintenance facility in 2016. In rearranging their locker room they decided to keep Aurelio Pintor's locker in its original color and location after his passing in February of 2015.

Aurelio Pintor worked at Shoreacres for 26 years on the crew. The Pintor family counts

three additional members of the team at Shoreacres in Aurelio's two sons, Alejandro and Juan and his nephew Milton.

Superintendent Brian Palmer, assistant Ben McNair and the rest of the crew wanted to pay a small tribute to Aurelio's legacy. "We recognized a collective want to recognize Aurelio and his family. Aurelio's personality and laugh were infectious. He was always happy, and smiling. He was also very welcoming. It didn't seem to matter whether it was other employees' children or interns, they would all flock to Aurelio." When asked what it was the staff missed most about working with Aurelio they responded in typical golf course fashion: "His cooking. He was amazing in the kitchen." That's the crew for you, always thinking with their stomachs.



Remembering, honoring or memorializing employees is, many times, not a formal endeavor. Jeff Brinegar, superintendent at LaGrange Country Club in LaGrange, IL believes the crew is a second family to him. "I've spent 15 or more years with most of these guys. I look out for them as much as they look out for me." Jeff has lost two members of his second family in the last ten years. "It's incredibly hard on the crew to experience that loss. We work through it together."

Jeff says that although there were no formal, club endorsed memorials they are far from forgotten. "We still talk about them at least every couple of weeks when we say 'hey, remember when Pablo did that?' We laugh, smile and their memory returns for a moment. That's a great memorial." @





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Chuck Anfield, CGCS

Water Limits & Turf



Dr. Ed Nangle provided the lion's share of the morning's education, centering it on a study he is conducting on water.

The January MAGCS Meeting was held at Seven Bridges Golf Club. Don Ferreri and Dave Gelino were the hosts for the day. Dr. Ed Nangle of the CDGA made a presentation on Water, Wetting Agents and 2015.

Dr. Nangle started his presentation "the current political climate and the increasing environmental scrutiny on water is more pronounced now, than ever. Change is coming and you are going to need to be more public relations oriented as to water quality and water use issues." Many clubs spend a lot of money on water. Everybody wants it, everybody needs it. The public and government agencies are interested in who, where, how much and when it's being used. The GCSAA is aware of the current sensitivity to the issue and is taking steps educating the membership and lobbying on our behalf in Washington D.C.

Water is a limited resource and people are concerned. What happens to the plant when the plant is short on water needs?

1. Transpiration begins to shut down.
2. There is a decline in growth and subsequent recuperative ability.
3. The surface heat increases. Anything above 100 degrees is not good.
4. The turf struggles internally, creating a tax on the individual plants. They begin to turn purple, foot prints do not rebound and eventually death occurs.

The management process for reduced water use:

1. Use the cool weather in the spring time as time to reduce water to the plant.
2. Encourage deep rooting by withholding irrigation until absolutely necessary.
3. Reduce overhead irrigation.
4. Use moisture meters to diagnose soil moisture percentages.
5. Hand water based on moisture meter data and past experience of hot spots. Use ET models for accurate

water needs.

Dr. Nangle says "believe in it." Use infrared tool to diagnose hot spots. Conduct an irrigation audit. It measures irrigation uniformity. "You might be surprised."

Water Quality

The issues:

1. Salts- amounts can fluctuate in irrigation water and build up in soil.
2. Deep irrigation and amendments can flush salts from soil profile.
3. Solids – Inorganic and organic solids can clog soil profile and decrease water infiltration.
4. There can be a major difference between polluted and clean water.
5. pH – Bicarbonate content needs to be watched. This requires frequent sampling. It can affect soil permeability. Aquatic life can harden water and affect pH and nutrient availability.

Nutrients

1. Nitrogen can become a problem with excessive use. Run-off can occur.
2. Phosphorous use and runoff is a hot topic. Excessive run off can create algae blooms and destroy water features.
3. Potassium is highly mobile and easily leachable, yet there is no current perceived problem. Uptake is selective and coupled to microbial activity.

Take Home Messages

- There are seasonal variations in irrigation water sources.
- For better quality control more frequent testing is required.
- Nutrient applications "need to be watched."

Dr. Nangle then began to cover wetting agents, reviewing some of the basics and delving into some of the newer compounds.



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Why do we use wetting agents?

- We see LDS (localized dry spot)
- If soil conditions are too dry.
- If soil particles are coated with organic layers and become hydrophobic
- If we are looking for better soil water holding properties
- If we are looking for better water penetration
- If we are looking to reduce surface tension and assist the water molecule movement into the soil profile.
- If we are looking to suppress dew

Dr. Nangle review the 2015 season and had a few notes on assorted topics.

- Grub activity was late into the season and somewhat inconsistent in where damage was sustained.
- It was in general a cooler summer. Dollar spot disease management was a challenge for most of the season
- Root issues caused minor problems.
- The cool wet spring delayed seedling germination and grow-in of any new greens or new turf being established.
- Maintaining soil moisture was not a major issue.

Dr. Nangle as usual was his interesting and jovial self, sharing his experiences working for the CDGA on his research and his field work conducting site visits. He has been a great asset to our profession and we are fortunate to have him as "our guy."

Editor In-Chief of Golfdom magazine, Seth Jones took the podium to tell a few golf stories about his adventures in the media golf kingdom. He elaborated about the history of the magazine. His stories were entertaining and he did leave a few key points on his observations about our profession.

1. When asked a difficult question by a member or a golfer your answer should start with their question. Example: Why is it hard to grow grass in a drought? It is hard to grow grass in a drought because...this confirms that you were paying attention, you heard the question and it buys you time to formulate an answer.
2. Don't sell yourself short. You are a professional.

3. You are the expert and people want to hear what you have to say.
4. In most cases, the reporter is on your side. They are looking for a "sound bite" that can be quoted for their outlet.

Another great day of education provided by the MAGCS Education Committee and a great fund raiser was held for the Wee One Foundation. This January meeting continues to get better and it is a great time of the year to "get out of the office" for a day of education and to support a great cause.



Seth Jones of Golfdom wrapped up the days education asking for topics to cover in his magazine. He also donated a trip for a superintendent to the Golfdom Summit to the Wee One auction.

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Chase Bonnell
*South Course Superintendent
 Olympia Fields Country Club*



Amanda and Chase are expecting their first child any day now.....



Where did you grow up?

Star City, Indiana - just north of the Thornhope blacktop

First golf course you where you worked?

I started working at Pond View GC around age 13 or 14. It was built by my father and grandpa on farmland and the former county landfill in 1974. My mom and dad own and operate it to this day with my father being a Class A PGA Professional and the superintendent. Mom's the boss.

Family?

My wife Amanda and I are expecting our first born in March.

Do you have a prized possession?

My Grandfather's wedding ring.

What do you like to drink?

Ice cold Coca-Cola Classic.

Favorite job task at the golf course?

Spraying greens.

Dream car?

NASCAR

Favorite pig out food?

Grandma Bonnell's gingerbread cookies

What is your favorite restaurant to go to?

Currently, Velvet Taco in Old Town.

What is your favorite movie, book, and actor?

Christmas Vacation, Harvey Penick's Little Red Book, Chris Stapleton

What is your favorite sports team?

Colts, Pacers, Cubs, anything Purdue – Boiler Up!

What is your best vacation or favorite destination?

We went to Aruba for our honeymoon and to the North Shore of Oahu last year. Both were pretty awesome. ☺

On Course Advertising Index

Arthur Clesen Inc.....	17
Avian Architects.....	25
BASF.....	25
Bayer.....	25
Brookside Labs.....	25
Burriss Equipment Company.....	8
Civitas.....	25
CS Turf.....	12
Great Lakes Turf.....	23
H & E Sod Nursery.....	13
Halloran & Yauch.....	23
Harrell's.....	21
Harris Golf Cars.....	23
Healthy Grow.....	BC
Hollemeak Construction.....	2
JW Turf, Inc.....	17
Koepler Golf Course Construction.....	23
Layne.....	25
Leibold Irrigation.....	19
Lemont Paving Co.....	23
Martin Implement Sales.....	17
Nadler Golf.....	25
Nels Johnson Tree Experts.....	11
PBI Gordon.....	13
Precision Laboratories.....	23
ProGro Solutions.....	16
Rain Bird.....	22
Redexim Turf Products.....	23
Reinders Inc.....	IC
Riverwalls Ltd.....	25
Syngenta.....	6
Synthetic Turf.....	2
Water Well Solutions.....	23
Waupaca Sand & Solutions.....	21

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