

on 05/2016

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front cover

Tim Christians and Juan Acosta will host the MAGCS/ITF combined May Meeting at Makray Memorial Golf Club. Pictured is the 15th hole from the green. The mounding on the right side of the hole makes the fairway feel narrower than it is, and the OB on the left doesn't help a hesitant tee shot either.

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FEATURE

Pigments and Their Value Today
Ed Nangle



A lucky staffer of Congressman Lou Bareletta taking his dog Riley for a walk. I'm sure it fell under the "other duties as assigned" in the job description. National Golf Day is right around the corner.

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2016 UPCOMING MIDWEST EVENTS

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- 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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Ed Braunsky, CGCS
Geneva Golf Club

Create an Identity

Identity is defined as: “the fact of being who or what a person or thing is.”

There has been a lot of talk lately about identity in the media and it seems like it never stops.

Maybe because it instantly creates controversy, and we know controversy creates interest. Are you a Cubs or Sox fan; A Democrat or Republican; A Bear fan or Packer fan; A Gurke or Blomquist? Those last two, I am still trying to figure out!

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents created its identity many moons ago, almost 1170 or 90 years this coming December. It was founded on the sharing of information, information that was quite valuable because there was not a lot of it at the time. Those who got together early on, did so to share information freely amongst each other. This continues and drives the Midwest to be one of the premier superintendent associations in the country today.

Just look at the many services and programs offered by the MAGCS. The monthly education is first rate. The golf meetings are at great venues and this publication speaks for itself. Those who serve the Midwest continue to carry the torch and care for all of us, like those early founders. They meet each month and discuss ways to move the association forward. They gladly give up their time to make things better. We are very blessed to have Luke Cella as our Association’s Executive Director. Luke plans out and organizes what needs to be done to take care of the membership. How often in your life can you rely on whatever you need done right the first time? Luke has established quite an identity.

Make it a goal this season to redefine/refine your identity.

Make it a goal this season to redefine/refine your identity. What do people think about you when they think of you? Furthermore, realize some of expertise that is around you. Ask one of the many outstanding commercial members of the Midwest to help with your turf or maintenance issues. The identities of many commercial members are top notch for a reason. They work hard to know your business and are here to help you. They see a lot of operations and can be a great resource before you start something new – they may know someone in the business that has done something similar.

These were just a few of the topics we spoke about at the Midwest Past President’s meeting. It was my pleasure to host this group of men recently at the 116 year-old Geneva Golf Club. The GGC created an identity a long time ago. It has a rich tradition of being a “hands on” club that has survived and prospered for many years. It will also be my pleasure to host the Nine Hole Event at the GGC on July 25th of this year. Please fix your divots and repair your ball marks since no one will do it for you! I’ll be the guy in purple and gold. Some things are hard to redefine or refine! @

Pigments and Their Value Today

Ed Nangle, Ph.D. Chicago District Golf Association

As I begin this article we head into another summer of coaxing and pushing ourselves to get the most out of putting surfaces and other areas of highly managed turf. I know questions will arise about products as they do each year when they come to market.

One group of products that are currently on the market and used in a broad range of settings are pigments. The word pigment is associated in the turfgrass industry with the color green and has been for quite some time. To some, it conjures an immediate “snake oil” sentiment, but in other situations pigments have become a well-accepted management tool that superintendents use in their regimes.

While garnering much attention in the turfgrass industry recently, pigments are by no means a new development. The chemical backbone of the color that the turfgrass industry is currently utilizing emerged in the 1930’s and is known as phthalocyanine (1). The compound is structurally similar to a porphine (2) and eerily close to the pigment chlorophyll. Variations do occur like heavy chlorination on the outside of the phthalocyanine ring and the center of the ring is occupied by copper. In chlorophyll this ring is made up of magnesium and there is an absence of a phytol tail. Scientific jargon aside, the takeaway is this compound is extremely heat stable and has good resistance to light degradation and provides a bright and large array of blue and green hues.

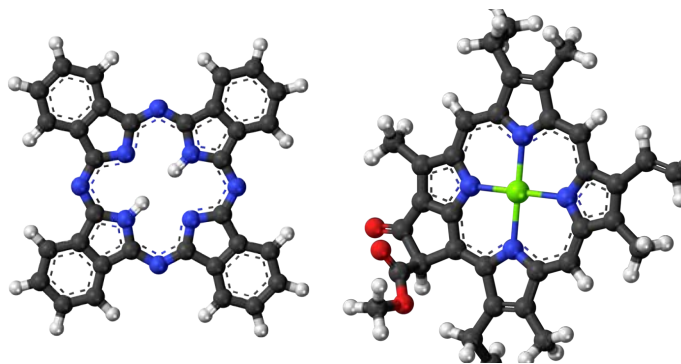
Our interest in the turf industry is in two separate areas when it comes to pigments. First, is the impact that these pigments have on the light itself as it hits the surface of the turfgrass leaf blade. We are interested in this reaction and how it impacts plant health. Unfortunately there is only limited work published currently on how pigment products impact

light and measured turf reaction. Some of our fungicides are susceptible to light degradation (3) and so any form of protection (from pigments) natural or synthetic that they can potentially receive from this addition can be beneficial (4).

The second area of interest is the direct effect we see on turfgrass plants from the pigments themselves. Interest and insight in this area has been growing with some mixed views and results. For example, there have been specific changes in use patterns of pigments leading to a shift in our industry mentality. Pigments are now used over dormant warm season grasses quite extensively and overseeding has become less of the norm. This has been driven by cost and also an acceptance from the golfing public on the use of the colorants and playing on “died” turf. In the northern part of the country there are perceived benefits to turfgrasses during stressful periods of the summer period.

USE PATTERNS

There has been some trial and error with these products and some information has emerged both anecdotally as well as from academic endeavors. Superintendents have found uses for these products on cool season grasses like south facing bunker faces (anecdotally we have seen a variety of courses retaining turf in this situations that might not normally have done so in years past). Another measure of turf that seems to improve with the use of pigments is spring green up. Gener-



The left structure is the compound phthalocyanine and is similar to the chlorophyll compound whereas the center ring in the chlorophyll molecule is occupied by a magnesium and copper occupies that spot in phthalocyanine.

ally, it is believed that pigments do help to warm the canopy (darker colors absorbing radiance) and differences have been noted in (Picture 1) lower and higher heights of cut. In addition to quicker color is the ability to get grass going earlier, coinciding with the eager golfers who traditionally put a beating on courses during this part of the year that fosters slower growth. In the transition zone where courses are dealing with much slower greening (zoysiagrass) superintendents are trying to purposefully enhance earlier green-up with some success (Picture 2). Consistency in the color of a course is a big driver for use. When some bentgrasses may start to show patchwork of colors with fluctuating spring temperatures pigments can offer a more aesthetically pleasing surface. This may be crucial for early season special events and also for managers who are impacted by television requirements in the early part of the year.



Picture 1. A range of products were evaluated in field use conditions to aid with surface green up in 2014 – variations between untreated and treated areas are pretty obvious.

we need to be very cognizant of is the fact that we are not painting the turfgrass leaf like the surface of your living room wall – therefore the impact is semi-discriminating. If the light hits the pigment it has an effect, if light does not hit the pigment then simply there is no impact. However, it seems that completely painting the surface would not be a good idea for a variety of reasons; stomatal conductance, surface temperature, and masking effect.

The pigment component when combined with the fungicides do not bring any fungicidal capability to the game. The benefit is gained in its relation as to how it alters the impact of light intensity – particularly in relation to grasses like *Poa annua* which seem to be stressed in high light intensities compared to bentgrasses (*Agrostis* spp.). One area that has popped up of concern is whether or not the pigments should be used in shaded conditions. If you think about shaded conditions, they already lack light intensity and favorable light wavelengths for plant growth. Adding a pigment in this situation could compound the issue, so care is needed. One last anecdotal issue that has arisen is in relation to switching between a pigment and a dye for use with herbicides; efficacy of herbicides may be limited by the addition of the pigment and so try to avoid this if at all possible.

Pigments are not silver bullets, they aren't even silver for that matter. They can be considered for use if your budget allows and the opportunity presents itself. When questions arise, don't hesitate to give us a call at the Golf House even if it is to add to the pigment debate! @

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PLANT HEALTH BENEFITS

The debate over plant health benefits has been the most controversial and offered the most heated discussions when it comes to pigments. Products that tend to have more of a paint element to them seem to have a negative effect. Products that tend to focus on the phthalocyanine color concentration and/or are used in combination with fungicides have offered potentially positive results. One area of particular interest is how pigments impact light penetration into the turfgrass canopy. As we look at the pigments on the turfgrass surface there is obviously reflection of green light – we see the color right? There is plenty of information out there to indicate that the pigment also absorbs red and blue light (not all, but large areas of the red and blue wavelengths) as well as having a big impact on ultraviolet light penetration into the plant. The synthetic pigments, while not biologically active, do have similar properties to natural pigments in the turfgrass plant. They can absorb certain wavelengths and also reflect them, ultimately transmitting them to the plant as well. One thing



Picture 2. Pigments on zoysiagrass both from a research standpoint and end user standpoint have helped to retain green color longer into the fall and enhance greenup in the spring (Above) (L – treated) (R – Untreated)



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BullSheet



May 2016

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 19-21 – National Club Association's 13th annual conference at the Union League Club of Chicago, IL.

May 21 – Wee One Foundation's Michigan Wee One Event at the Wuskowhan Players Club in West Olive, MI.

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

June 1 – Part One of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation's "Midwest Turf Weed ID and Their Control" workshop at Midwest Golf House on the Sunshine Course and in the Clubhouse in Lemont, IL.

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

June 13 – 15th Sunshine Through Golf Foundation Outing at the Knollwood Club in Lake Forest, IL, Drew Barnett host superintendent.

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

After 35 years of industry service, one of our most renowned and beloved MAGCS members is calling it a career (for the time being—stay tuned). **John "J.T." Turner** took an early retirement from Bayer CropScience, working his last day on April 29th. John's rewarding career began with 16 years with Nor-AM/Upjohn, and continued with 19 more years with Bayer. He is now ready to take some time to relax...so much for that, *this just in....*J.T. has accepted a position with ProGro Solutions as their key accounts manager for WI, IN and IL. Congratulations and all the best to a great guy!



The ProGro team, with its newest member 5th from the left.

On June 1st, ITF will host a workshop called "Midwest Turf Weeds and Their Control" at Golf House. **Dr. Tom Voigt, Dr. Bruce Branham,** and **Bill Sharp** from the University of Illinois will lead a hands-on field class that will be taught in two sessions, each focusing on weeds that are actively growing at the time of the sessions. The second session will be held on September 7th at the same location. Along with learning to identify over 40 weeds, participants will learn the most up-to-date control measures available including best management practices, IPM and chemical control. Registration is limited to the first 24 people, so sign up soon. Go to www.iturf.org to register.

If you've been struggling to find a place where you can both golf AND work on your full-body tan (and who hasn't been, right?), struggle no further. La Jenny in the Bordeaux Region of France is a 750-acre naturist resort with its own golf course that you can play buck nekkid. If you're into that, head there in the warm season—they're clothed for winter. Get it?



Maybe Golf 20/20 will add this as a way to attract more people to the game.

Happy Anniversary to Harrell's, whose 75th year in business will be celebrated all summer long. Sales representatives **Jason Funderburg** and **Keith Krause** have a lineup of fun events throughout the summer to offer their customers, including a tour of Wrigley Field, a

Bull Sheet continued on page 9...

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race day at Arlington Park, and a stumble through the Koval Distillery in Chicago. If one of these guys is your guy, contact him for more info.

Q: When **Justin Kirtland** snaps under the pressure of caring for his 27-hole baby, what happens?

A: He becomes an Arrow head case.

A while back, the Daily Herald ran a story by Jim Davis called "Our Dream 18," listing his and some of his golf buddies' favorite public golf holes in the Chicagoland area. Did your course make the list? Here we go: Cantigny Woodside #2 (**Scott Witte**), Naperbrook #3 (**Kevin Carlson**), Glendale Lakes #4 (**Brian Trefilio**), Highlands of Elgin #4 AND #7 (**Brad Legnaioli**), Tanna Farms #7 (**Mike VanDeVelde**), Streamwood Oaks #9, Hilldale #10, Settler's Hill #11 (Mike VanDeVelde), Steeple Chase #11 (**Ron Doruff**), White Deer Run #11 (**John Gianopoulos**), Prairie Landing #12 (**Eric Mundt**), Oak Club of Genoa #13, Seven Bridges #16 (**Dave Gelino**), Chalet Hills #18 (**Arne Nordenson**), Heritage Bluffs #18 (**Chuck Anfield**), and Highland Woods #18 (**Justin Sample**). These guys get around!

Congrats to Jori Hughes, the equipment technician at the Wilderness at Fortune Bay in Tower, MN (**Vince Dodge, CGCS**) on being selected as a finalist for the TurfNet Technician of the Year Award presented by Toro. Only 28 years old, Jori has been Vinnie's equipment manager for 8 years, and is one of three finalists who are eligible to win the coveted Golden Wrench. Good luck Jori!

I don't know anything about Matt Iseman. Apparently he is on American Ninja Warrior and Clean House and he's a doctor and he's a comedian and he's really really smart and really really funny. What I do know is that he looks a lot like a certain superintendent who plies his trade at Mt. Hawley Country Club in Peoria.

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Josh Cull or Matt Iseman?

A new bill proposed by Senator Jeff Flake of Arizona "could revolutionize the way clubs fill their employment needs," the National Club Association reports, through a 10-year

pilot program that would create a new guest-worker visa for lower-skills jobs. The bill could be passed and signed into law in 2017, regardless of the results of this November's elections. Not holding my breath, but that would be very helpful in today's thin labor market.

OK, why not?

All the toilets in Chicago's police stations have been stolen. The police have nothing to go on.

Ah, technology! At a golf course in eastern Tokyo, Japan, e-commerce giant Rakuten will begin using drones this month to deliver snacks and golf balls to golfers on the course. Golfers place their order by phone, and receive it lickety-split via air drop. The upsides, of course, are the labor savings to the course and not needing to tip the bar cart girl for the player.



The downside? No bar cart girl to ogle and catcall. "Check out the size of those propellers" or "Show us your stabilizers" just don't sound right.

Tom Prichard will be a busier man for the next three years. The Web.com Tour has announced it has signed a 3-year agreement with Ivanhoe Club to play its Rust-Oleum Championship there, beginning with this year's event from June 6-12. Tom's entire equipment fleet will receive a complimentary paint job for his efforts.



Rules of Golf quiz:

In stroke play, a player's caddie, who is not attending the flagstick, accidentally deflects his ball in motion after a stroke. What is the ruling? Answer at the end.

Our industry got slammed again—this time by blogger and self-proclaimed avid golfer Joe Maloney, who writes for the "Congress Blog" in The Hill. Says Maloney: "The leading golf organizations representing the game in the U.S. completely whiffed on a three-foot putt to promote themselves" and capitalize on the exposure provided by President Obama, who has played 270 rounds on 18 courses in 6 states during

...Bull Sheet from page 9

his time in office. "One would think the President's devotion to the links, coupled with Mrs. Obama's dedication to fitness and active lifestyles would produce an ideal public forum for an industry like golf to tell its story of the game's many benefits—mental, physical, and even its positive impacts on America's communities." Many responding to Mr. Maloney's blog pointed out the danger of tying marketing efforts to "the most polarizing figure ever to occupy the White House." I have a sneaking suspicion that the next White House occupant will take that title from President Obama in a heartbeat.



He may be polarizing, but he's sure not a hat guy.

Belated congratulations to MAGCS Team No. 2, who won the GCSAA Golf Championship's Chapter Team Net Division for the second consecutive year. Sandbaggers...stupid autofill—I meant gifted athletes **Don Cross** (Skokie CC), **Bob Lively**

(Edgewood Valley CC), **Paul Schaefer** (Prairie Isle GC), and **Tommy Witt** (Northmoor CC) pulled their two-peat in San Diego during the Golf Industry Show in

February. This is quite a feat since the retirement of their long time member, **Al Fierst** who was awarded the International Society of Impenitent Sandbaggers Lifetime Achievement Award last March. Their credo is "Never making a putt unless it matters."



Also taking place at the GIS in San Diego was a change in Class A Member Standards that was passed at the Annual Meeting. In a nutshell, it's good news for those wish to become Class A members again. The "Superintendent Member" (SM) Classification is now "Class B," and "Class A" eligibility is based on a combination of formal education (0-15 points depending on level) +years of superintendent

experience (3 or more points) + Education Points (variable) = 20 total points required. So basically, just in superintendent experience alone, Paul Voykin would be a "Class AAAAAAAAAAAAA" member even if he never set foot inside a school or attended a single seminar.



Team 2's Tommy Witt was caught spending his winnings at the GIS shop. Maybe they won't run out of the short lanyards next year.

In case you hadn't heard, the rumors of Prairie Landing Golf Club's death were greatly exaggerated. The deal that would have closed the facility fell through, and it will remain in operation into the future.

Following up on the news last month of **Greg Martin's** ascension to the presidency of the American Society of Golf Course Architects was a story in Chicago District Golfer titled "Chance of a Lifetime," highlighting Greg's numerous projects in the area as well as his election as the top dog at ASGCA.

The MAGCS April meeting and Spring Scramble was held on the 26th at Ruffled Feathers Golf Club in Lemont, with **Eddie Esgar** hosting. It was a blustery, raw spring day that challenged those with the fortitude to play all 18 (my group did not possess that fortitude, despite my pleas that we soldier on). The course itself was in great shape—a true testament to Ed and his staff's hard work, and the day was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to **Ed Esgar**, **Craig Kight** and all the staff at Ruffled Feathers for providing a great venue for our first golf event of the season, and to our sponsors for their continued generosity—it is very much appreciated! Thank you **Burris Equipment Company**, **Harrells**, **Healthy Grow**, **Nels Johnson Tree Experts**, **Reinders, Inc.**, and **Syngenta**. Pictures on page 14.



Our host Ed Esgar and MAGCS VP Matt Harstad can now shave their playoff beards.

Quiz answer: There is a one-stroke penalty, per Rule 19-2.

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Images from MAGCS Spring Scramble



Dr. Mike Agnew provided the education for the day, covering plant activators and how they work. Look for Anfield's write up next month.



Still recovering from his shoulder surgery, Keith Krause joins the group for lunch with Matt Harstad (r).



Paul Carlson (red shirt), Fred Behnke (Indiana Jones hat) and Steve Bychowski (grey coat) get ready to chow down and play some golf.



The whole Schmitz family came out to play (Mark and Todd) led by Ray who just got done going over the the team's strategy. He was none too pleased with their chances.

Ben Kelnhofer of Mistwood Golf Club is ready to carry his team of Kurt Sams, Ed Nangle and Jimmy Frels to victory.



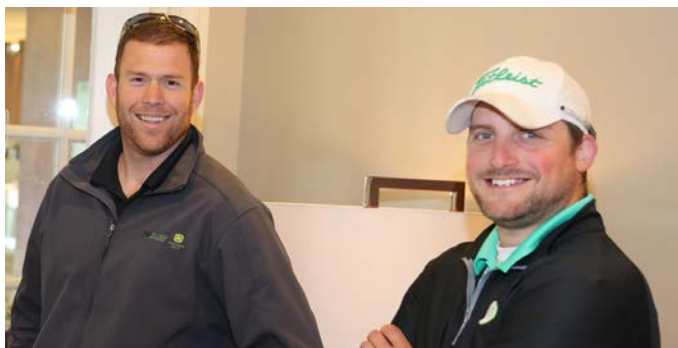
Jan Jarvis and Kerry Anderson team up for the day.



Nanook of the Northwest or at least Waupaca was taking no chances on the weather.



Someone should tell Weadge we don't hold the MAGCS College Championship any longer.



Ryan Gilmore of JW Turf and Dan Carroll of Meadowlark Golf Course are happy to be at a Midwest meeting.



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SUPER-N-site

Juan Acosta

Makray Memorial Golf Club

Ryan Williams, Indian Hill Club

PHOTO CREDITS: TIM CHRISTIANS, LUKE CELLA

There are many roads that lead to a job in the turf industry and while some are more traveled than others, the destination remains the same. Juan Acosta has taken one such journey to the place he wants to be, Makray Memorial Golf Club.

Juan has been involved at Makray since its renovation in 2002. He has seen many changes during his tenure on the course and in himself.

In 1962 Paul Makray Sr. opened Thunderbird Golf Course on the premise of offering family friendly golf without the exclusion of membership. When the course was renovated in 2002, it underwent a name change to Makray Memorial, however the ideology has lasted for over 50 years. The property at Makray boasts a 24,000 square foot clubhouse that elegantly ties old world charm with new world conveniences.

The Oak Terrace Grille offers casual fine dining and as with all amenities of a private club but is open to the public. The course sits between Baker's Lake Nature Preserve and Deer Grove Forest Preserve in Barrington. A well-placed tee shot is a must out at Makray Memorial, as nine (or more depending on the severity of your slice) of the eighteen holes have the potential to find water. As a result of the renovation the greens are Penn G-2 Bentgrass and are still holding up well to the wear and tear due to the high volume of traffic Makray each year. The tees and fairways are also bentgrass surrounded by a bluegrass rough. The course is home to a state of the art practice facility that offers two practice putting greens, a short game area, and bentgrass teeing areas. The fifth hole, a par 4, seems to be a favorite amongst those who play at Makray regularly. It is a slight dogleg right, starting with a blind tee shot, before it opens up to an expansive view of the course and the elevated green. This is Juan Acosta's favorite hole.

Fresh out of high school, Juan began as an irrigation technician at Makray Memorial. He was working for the company assisting in the renovation. As Juan's responsibilities continued to grow he became a foreman with this company. His hard work and positive attitude caught the attention of the Superintendent, then Chris Blake. Soon after, Blake offered Juan a full time position on the Makray staff. It wasn't long after that, in 2004, Juan moved into the position of Assistant Superintendent. Juan grew up in Lake Zurich and he never



Juan Acosta, Assistant Superintendent of Makray Memorial.



has helped Juan to work through the online turf program, of course, at Iowa State.

Every golf course faces its own set of challenges and Makray Memorial is no exception. One of those challenges is quite unique at Makray and has nothing to do with golf. Makray is one of the top wedding venues in the area. It is so popular that if you wish to celebrate your special day there, it may take a couple of years to find an open date at the club. That's right; Friday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons aren't just for hitting the links at Makray -- those are also the days the "I do's" are said as much as the "fores". The ceremonies take place on the patio, the tenth tee, and even the chipping fairway, because nothing starts eternal happiness together better than a good out from a practice bunker.

ever dreamt about a career in the turf industry. After the last 15 years and seeing all it has to offer, Juan couldn't imagine doing anything else.

In April of 2009 Tim Christians became the new Superintendent at Makray Memorial. He and Juan got along very well diving into several projects together including tee renovations and the establishment of native fescue areas on the property. Tim being no stranger to turf education (his dad is Nick Christians, P.h.D at Iowa State University), formulated a plan for Juan to continue on his own. Tim encouraged and

Having been involved at Makray for so long, Juan has made many memories. One that still remains especially clear is the time they had to rent an excavator and dig over 20 feet deep to find what they thought was a leaking mainline. After digging their way through they found the mainline still perfectly intact. The issue turned out to be a small 2" feeder line running to the clubhouse lawn that they later discovered. It was a frustrating day that Juan looks back at now with a smile. In his free time Juan enjoys painting and cheering on his favorite baseball team, the Chicago White Sox. While Juan and his wife don't have children yet, they plan for the near future. In the mean time, it allows the couple to pay more attention to their dog Armani. *Additional images on next page.*

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Tim Christians and Juan Acosta will host the Midwest and ITF this May at Makray Memorial Golf Club.

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National Golf Day

Shane Conroy, GCSAA

National and local advocacy is essential in any profession, but it's especially true in the golf industry. GCSAA has been leading the national advocacy front, and this year is no different with our participation in National Golf Day.

The ninth annual National Golf Day, which is organized by the We Are Golf coalition is scheduled to take place later this month on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. We Are Golf was set up due to the often negative perception of the industry by the public and many elected officials. We Are Golf aims to focus on those whose livelihoods depend on golf, and hopes to have a positive impact on the small businesses that make up the industry.

In attendance at National Golf Day will be over 30 superintendents from across the country, as well as the GCSAA Government Affairs team, GCSAA Government Affairs Committee, select staff and members from the GCSAA Board of Directors. Other attendees included leading members from the United States Golf Manufacturers Council, National Golf Course Owners Association, Club Managers Association of America, LPGA, USGA, PGA of America, PGA TOUR and World Golf Foundation.

The goal of National Golf Day is to present golf's economic, environmental, charitable and fitness benefits to congressional leaders. Some of the information relayed is golf's economic impact to the tune of \$70 billion annually, the \$3.9 billion donated to charity each year, the 2 million jobs the game supports and the 2 million acres of green space provided from golf courses. GCSAA helps lead National Golf Day by scheduling direct appointments with over 100 congressional leaders, and utilizes this event to communicate the impact particular environmental and labor regulations have on golf courses across the country.

One of the issues we are concentrating on this year is the Clean Water Rule, pointing out the rule was developed without appropriate collaboration with the golf industry. GCSAA believes the EPA Clean Water Act could have met its desired goals without its unnecessary impact on golf courses, which is



There is always a display in one of the foyers where lawmakers and their staffs can come experience golf and learn about the coalition.

why we are asking for congressional support on bills opposing the rule, and asking for defunding of the Clean Water Rule for the 2017 fiscal year.

We are also focusing on labor issues, beginning with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The Department of Labor has proposed changes to the FLSA which may take place later this year, most pointedly to employees who would be eligible for overtime pay. GCSAA is supporting two companion bills, in each the House and Senate, which offer a more rational approach to an overtime pay overhaul. GCSAA also supports the Simplifying Technical Aspects Regarding Seasonability, or STARS Act. The bills clearly defines what a seasonal employee is (a worker employed for six months or less in a given year). This definition impacts golf courses across the nation as it lays the groundwork for how you determine, under the Affordable Care Act, if you are considered a large employer who must offer health insurance, and if you are, which employees you must offer health insurance to.

GCSAA will also be supporting the Personal Health Investment Today (PHIT) Act. The PHIT Act would allow Americans to access their pre-tax medical savings accounts for physical activity expenses. These expenses could be used for golf-related activities such as golf lessons, driving range fees, golf equipment and certain greens fees. The PHIT Act would make it easier, and more affordable for Americans to become involved in golf related activities. GCSAA supports the PHIT Act,



and the incentives which would get more people participating in the game.

GCSAA's Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will also take part in the hands-on-exhibits which are set up in the Rayburn House Office Building Foyer. This platform is used to highlight golf's reduced use of water and promote environmental programs put in place by superintendents throughout the country. This is also a great way to tell the story of the 15,000 small businesses that make up the golf industry. The event is truly a fantastic way to promote golf and the progressive work superintendents do on a daily basis to congressional leaders.

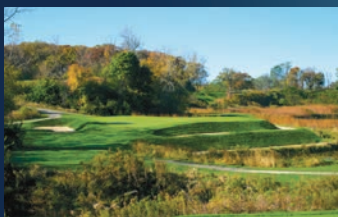


These are just a few highlights of the issues which will be tackled during National Golf Day. Our Government Affairs team will also be focused on the health of the H-2B visa program, as well as elimination of the CWA NPDES pesticide general permit. This experience allows the opportunity to create lasting relationships with key individuals who impact the profession. GCSAA's presence has a direct impact on the days' success, which will benefit all within in the turfgrass industry.



National Golf Day is also making its presence felt on social media. From the 2015 event, there were nearly 40 million impressions using the #NGD15, up from 16 million in 2014 and 7 million in 2013. The event was also covered on major news outlets including Fox Business, CBS Sports Radio, The Wall Street Journal and The Golf Channel to name a few.

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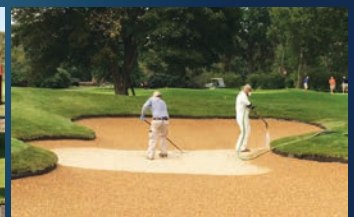
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This Golf is Ezee

Luke Cella, MAGCS

I saw one of these things at the Golf Industry Show, and I have to say – it caught my eye. It was in the new product section, a place on the floor I like to peruse and see what ideas people have brought to market. This thing had .22 blanks hanging out of it and looked like, well I had no idea until Steve Fluke one of the company founders, explained it to me. I almost forgot about it, until I saw the quarterly update from Golf 20/20 and it was again mentioned there:

“EZeeGolf is an enjoyable way of making golf courses and driving ranges accessible to everyone and was developed to help everyone enjoy the golf experience, particularly the physically limited and physically challenged, and in turn increase rounds of golf. The self-propelled EZeeGolf club enables one to hit a golf ball from 50 up to 225 yards with no swing required and represents the only path for many to enjoy the golf experience for the first time, as well as for those who have been forced to quit due to physical limitations. For many it’s either EZeeGolf or no golf at all.”

Just what is it? Basically it is a self-powered club that utilizes .22 blanks to drive a piston that hits the ball. If you’ve ever used a Ramset to drive pins or nails into concrete, it uses the same principal or power source. A power strip is inserted into the club, yardage is set on the back of the club from 50 to 225 yards. The club is set behind the ball and a trigger is pulled the ball is launched! Depending on how you position the ezeee golf club behind the ball you can hit a draw, a fade, high or low shot.

“It is for fun and really isn’t golf,” says Fluke. He com-



Founder of Ezee Golf, Steve Fluke took a few minutes at the GIS to show me this power club.

pares it to as snowboarding is to skiing. They aren’t the same but if your friends are into one, you can still go to the slopes and do the one you like. His partner who suffered from chronic back pain but loved to play golf originally developed it. He was tired of not being able to keep up with his friends on the links. He used his aerospace engineering skills to develop the “swingless” club. Their target markets are non-golfers and individuals with disabilities who can’t swing a traditional golf club.

Their website has a few fun videos of people of all ages (I didn’t notice any children) and abilities trying them out. The reactions of a few of the people are pretty funny after they try it and see how easy it really propels the ball into the air. I think mostly, because they know how hard it is to hit a ball that far and straight.

It was interesting to see it listed in the Golf 20/20s quarterly report and I’m glad they mentioned it. Now I wonder if you could use one at a TopGolf facility, then it would really be like playing darts with golf: you’d never have to put your drink down. @

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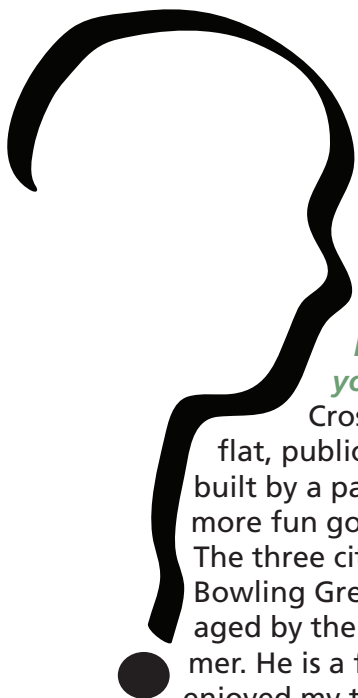
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Stephen Hope
Golf Course Superintendent
Canyata Golf Club



Stephen Hope, Golf Course Superintendent at Canyata Golf Club in Marshall, Illinois.



Where did you grow up?

Henderson, Kentucky

First golf course you where you worked?

Crosswinds Golf Course, it's a flat, public, city owned golf course built by a paving company. One of the more fun golf courses I have played. The three city owned golf courses in Bowling Green, Kentucky are still managed by the same Director Tony Whitmer. He is a first class person and I really enjoyed my time spent at his courses.

Do you have a prized possession?

I have a 2 year old German Shorthaired Pointer named Cori. She's my most prized possession at this time.

What do you like to drink?

A lot of water and on occasion bourbon. Mainly, Jim Beam but I really like Knob Creek.

Favorite job task at the golf course?

Walk mowing approaches hands down. I love the simplistic side to side pattern on the approach to a green.

Dream car?

Whichever one I am driving.

Favorite pig out food?

Ice cream in the form of an Oreo Blizzard. I eat way too many during the season.

What is your favorite restaurant to go to?

Chili's and have to start each meal with the skillet queso appetizer.

What is your favorite movie, book, or actor?

Tango and Cash is my favorite movie of all time!

What is your favorite sports team?

White Sox.

What is your best vacation or favorite destination?

A golf trip to wherever. I love seeing/playing different course and attacking the course with my mediocre golf game.

What is the worst gift you have received or bought for someone?

I received a tablet this past Christmas the exact same size as my phone.

What is your favorite work shoe/boot?

My favorite work boot is Danner for the simple reason it's the first boot to last more than a season.

What is your favorite piece of work apparel?

I started to wear a face mask in the cold weather and it is a game changer.

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