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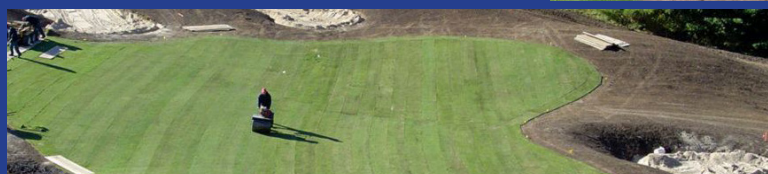
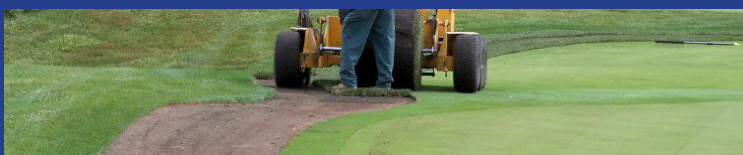


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FEATURE

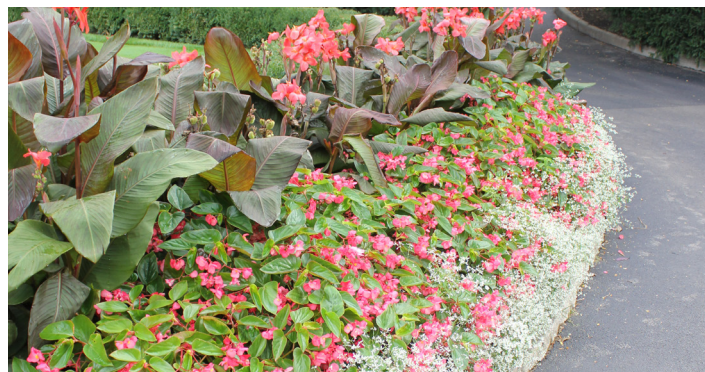
Floral Accents at

Glen Oak Country Club

Darrick Robbins

front cover

The 15th hole at Bartlett Hills Golf Club embodies the character of the course; trees, hills and a good challenge of golf. Bartlett Hills Golf Club is the site of our October Meeting, Kevin DeRoo will host. Kevin and the course are highlighted in this month's Super-n-Site, written by Kevin's son, Kyle.



Superintendents have green thumbs, it comes with the territory. Andy Dauksas, Superintendent at Glen Oak Country Club has green hands. During a recent visit to the club, Darrick Robbins took the time to take a few photos and really notice the other plant life that Andy and his staff manage starting on page 20.

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DATES

2016-17 UPCOMING MIDWEST EVENTS

- 12/7 Midwest Annual Meeting and Turf Clinic, Medinah CC
- 1/24/17 Midwest January Meeting and Wee One Fundraiser
- 2/8/17 Midwest Hospitality Reception, Orlando, FL
- 2/16/17 Annual Winter Workshop, Lemont IL

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

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

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*Kris Kvelland
Ridge Country Club*

Member Education

We would like to thank the membership for their participation at monthly meetings and winter programs this year. The MAGCS strives to provide relevant and current topics at these educational opportunities, allowing attendees to gain information that will assist them at their facility.

There were some slight changes in our educational presentations in 2016. Through the creation of our Media Kit that was directed toward our commercial members and a partnership with MAGCS, we hoped to bring some of their valuable resources they have to our superintendent members. We put into action the pilot program for educational sponsorship. Also, we've highlighted our educational offerings at the Midwest Turf Clinic and have made changes to the agenda and date of the event to accommodate the personal and professional commitments as the golf and work season gets pushed later into the year.

We would like to thank the presenters from the 2016 season:

- January (Seven Bridges): Ed Nangle, CDGA and Seth Jones, Golfdom
- March (TopGolf): Nick Scillia, CDGA Director of Rules and Competition
- April (Ruffled Feathers GC): Michael Agnew, Ph.D. (sponsored by Syngenta)
- June (Bryn Mawr CC): Jason Way, NFP and Canal Shores
- August (Club at Strawberry Creek): Curt Geron, EnP Turf (sponsored by ProGro Solutions)
- October (Bartlett Hills GC): Jerad Minnik, Natural Grass Advisory Group (sponsored by Sod Solutions)

As the golf season comes to a close, please keep in mind two opportunities for furthering education and networking events. The Midwest Turf Clinic will be held at Medinah Country Club on December 7th and the Wee One Auction and Fundraiser will take place on January 24th at Seven Bridges Golf Club. Details on these two programs will be communicated shortly and we hope to see many of you there.

In addition, the Midwest Board will be sending a membership survey this winter. There will be an education portion for which we'd like your input so we are able to meet your needs in the coming year. Please take this opportunity and shape our educational offerings. @

Midwest Turf Clinic & Annual Meeting

The MAGCS annual education event.
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December 7, 2016
Medinah Country Club
Mark your calendars today.

Controlling Plant Parasitic Nematodes

Dr. Fred Warner, Michigan State University

I was asked to submit an article for the July edition of this magazine in an attempt to increase awareness regarding nematodes on turf. Much to my surprise, another contribution was requested.

I typically assume one article a year on nematodes is about the threshold for any publication not devoted solely to nematodes. However, the impetus for this one is the EPA registration of Indemnify™, a new product from Bayer CropScience, for the control of plant-parasitic nematodes on cool and warm-season turf grass species.

I must begin by acknowledging that my primary responsibility at Michigan State University is diagnosing nematode problems on plants and not research. I have not had funding to conduct nematode research in turf since the early to mid-1990s. With many new products now available, I hope this may change and nematode research on turf will resume in Michigan. It's not like Nematologists are so plentiful that there is nothing for us to do.

The principle strategy for managing plant-parasitic nematodes on golf course greens and tees, in particular, is avoidance. Superintendents should strive to avoid nematodes for as long as possible because once they are introduced to an area, eradication is not feasible. Many greens and tees are usually constructed with sand mixes devoid of plant-parasitic nematodes although this is not always the case. At least one golf course in western Michigan had greens constructed with dune sand from around Lake Michigan. Grasses often grow on dunes and with the sand came unwelcome visitors. Just a couple of years after establishment, greens were exhibiting symptoms. The presence of root-knot nematodes was confirmed in our lab.

Since nematodes do not possess legs or wings, we are often responsible for moving them around. If your greens were established using sod, do you know if the sod was free of plant-parasitic nematodes? The answer is, probably not. If the sand utilized to construct the greens was clean, nematodes will eventually migrate from fairways and collars onto greens. The most common activity likely responsible for

spreading nematodes on a golf course is aeration. Nematodes can travel around pretty well in those little plugs of soil. Regardless, one thing to always keep in mind when confronted with nematode problems, they spread very slowly if not assisted by us.

Avoidance is difficult since it's almost impossible to avoid things you can't see like plant-parasitic nematodes. However, what you can't see can hurt you so think about ways to avoid pathogens and implement the appropriate tactics.

Containment is another important management strategy. To contain, you have to identify problem sites and take whatever steps possible to reduce spread of the causal agents. For nematodes, this means sampling greens and tees to identify problem areas and then containing those areas. Since nematodes are often moved from one location to another in plugs resulting from aerification, the patterns in



Nematodes feed on roots (left) and there is no surprise to the impact they can have on a turfgrass plant.

which greens are aerified should be considered and possibly altered. Geese can move some nematodes and management of geese is difficult, often out of the control of a superintendent. But, you have complete control over the sequence of sites you aerate on your golf course. Focus on the things you can control.

Population reduction is the final management strategy to discuss. If nematode numbers reach damaging levels, it may, and probably will, be necessary to reduce their numbers to improve turf health and alleviate symptoms. This is where nematicides, like Indemnify™, will play a role.

The active ingredient in Indemnify™ is fluopyram. This product has fungicidal and nematicidal properties. Bayer markets a product with the same active ingredient for use on soybeans called ILevo®. At MSU, ILevo® has been shown to reduce numbers of soybean cyst nematodes in a greenhouse study and cyst nematodes, in general, are very difficult to control with chemicals. This work was primarily done by Dr. Marty Chilvers who is the field crops Plant Pathologist on campus while I provided the nematode counts.

I have been involved in no trials where Indemnify™ has been applied to golf greens for nematode control. However, I have provided nematode counts for a golf course in western Pennsylvania and they have been authorized to use the product on many of their greens. If I continue to receive samples from them, I will obtain some anecdotal information regarding its effectiveness for control of the three most common kinds of plant-parasitic nematodes found on turf in our area, ring, spiral and stunt nematodes. On the five greens recently sampled, they received high or severe risk ratings for the three aforementioned nematodes. I refer to these nematodes as “the three-headed turf grass monster,” due to their frequencies of detections and the numbers found. They are common and often very abundant.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that Nortica® has been used by many superintendents and has been effective. Being that is a biological, it does not provide a quick knockdown of nematodes. Avid® is another product that has been used to control nematodes in turf. It is labeled for use only in a few states (not Illinois). The insecticide, chlorpyrifos, can also provide some nematode control but nematode populations often bounce back fairly readily after its use. As a disclaimer, I apologize in advance for failing to mention any of the other turf grass nematicides such as Multiguard Protect®.

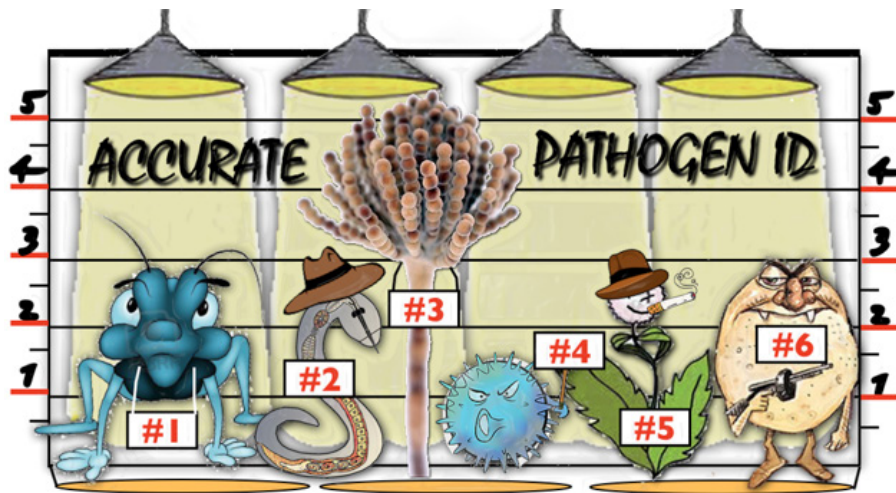
and his students, showed the fungicide chlorothanoniol provided control of sting nematodes in a greenhouse study. As I sat and listened to this presentation at the Society of Nematologists’ (yes, we do have a society) meeting in East Lansing last year, a light bulb went off for me. I had always recommended turf managers reduce fungicide use in situations where nematodes were identified as causal agents. What a waste of money, I thought to make multiple fungicide applications in an attempt to control a disease suspected to be caused by fungi but actually caused by nematodes (Superintendents comment to me that symptoms caused by nematode feeding resemble those of yellow patch). I still believe this is true if the fungicides don’t control root diseases. However, evidence is mounting that in the presence of nematodes anything that protects roots and improves root health should be beneficial. Since nematode feeding results in reductions in root volumes and weights, this really isn’t surprising. However, I’m still on the fence as to how well fungicides will consistently reduce numbers of nematodes. In the Florida study, where chlorothanoniol controlled sting nematodes, it was not effective

against root-knot nematodes. As a side note, there are many soil inhabiting fungi that parasitize or prey on nematodes. These are beneficial fungi and unwarranted fungicide use may result in their demise.

When using nematicides, it’s a good idea to keep integrated pest management practices/principles in mind, specifically

action and damage thresholds. An action threshold usually is set at a level (numbers, population densities, etc.) lower than the damage threshold because the goal of plant protection is to prevent damage. In our climates, nematode numbers are usually going to build pretty rapidly in the spring as turf is producing roots, so nematicides are best applied at this time for preventative measures. This, of course, brings us to the question of how do you monitor nematodes? The answer, sampling is the only proven method.

This article provided a rather broad overview of nematode control in turf. As is the case with insects and other plant pathogens, some nematodes are more challenging to control with pesticides than others. Being that all plant-parasitic nematodes are microscopic and the symptoms caused by their feeding are not characteristic, nematodes are often referred to as “hidden enemies.” Effective management requires diligence and knowledge. An important take home message from the July article was if you grow plants, you undoubtedly have nematodes. ☞



To the King

Greg Martin, Martin Design Partnership



Arnold Palmer died this past month. Arnold created the modern version of golf. His charm, appeal and swashbuckling game and business acumen forged what golf is today. He lived a full life. He laughed, he cried and he was inspirational. Mostly, he was himself..... congenial, genuine and down to earth.

Coincidentally, Stanley Dural, Jr. [aka: Buckwheat Zydeco -New Orleans Blues and Zydeco musician that started a music styling] and Jose Fernandez [Miami Marlins pitcher] also died the same weekend. As I listened to their stories I was struck how each was a success in their particular endeavor while remaining true to their roots. More importantly, each brought a zest to their profession that was infectious, attractive and alluring. It was hard not to root for each because they loved their craft and it showed.



IMAGE: MEDIA.NPR.ORG/ASSETS

As I penned a tribute to Mr. Palmer for the AGCSA's website, I realized that it was his 'authenticity' that has drawn many of us to golf. We are so fortunate to have such authentic heroes in our midst. Recognize it and applaud it. No matter where it dwells.

This past month the Executive Committee met in New York to talk about the ASGCA and convene the Donald Ross Roundtable. At that meeting we were lucky enough to have

John Last, President, Sports and Leisure Group present some ideas about the State of the Game.....some thought starters.

Last painted a picture of golf that showed it to be stable, but faced with very difficult and complicated questions. From pace of play, to cost, maintenance, golfer expectations, operations and growing the game. It is each of those and all of those. John Last provided data that pointed to a wider range of need, expectation and value that younger golfers are seeking. Simply, they want authentic experiences.

Is that trait, authenticity [def: genuine, reliable and true, not false or copied] that golf needs to draw upon for the coming generations of golfers? Yes. If golfers are inspired because the experience is great, fun and authentic they will return and we will have been successful. As architects, we can lead. But our work must produce extraordinary, genuine and authentic experiences.

ASGCA is leading by making the game better for everyone, one golfer at a time. Thoughtful, right-sized, authentic experiences will win. Golf courses can't be everything to everyone and 'straddling strategies' won't win. Arnold Palmer did not straddle. He allowed all of us to enjoy the game the way he enjoyed the game – full throttle and genuine. To Arnold, golf was not a dirge: it was an expression of life.

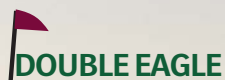
Here's to the King. @

Greg Martin wrote this tribute for the AGCSA's website last month. Greg is the current President of the AGCSA and a member of MAGCS.

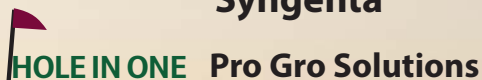
A photograph of the Space Shuttle Columbia in the process of launching. The shuttle is angled upwards, with a large plume of fire and smoke coming from its engines. The background shows a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

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BullSheet



October 2016

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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

October 12 – University of Illinois Turf Alumni Golf Outing at Ridge Country Club, Kris Kvel-land host

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

December 7 – 64th Midwest TurfClinic at Me-dinah Country club, Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS, MG host.

December 9 – Deadline for nominations for the 2016 TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta.

MAGCS is pleased to welcome the following new members to the association:

- Beau Breunig, Class A, Prairie Lakes Country Club & Inn
- Marcos Lira, Class C, Edgewood Valley Country Club

A couple of our current members have moved recently (or not so recently depending on your idea of recent). **Mike Seifken** is the golf course superintendent at Royal Fox Country Club, and **Ed Esgar** is the new superintendent at Old Oak Country Club.



Ed Esgar takes the reigns at Old Oak Country Club



Mike Seifken, new Superintendent at Royal Fox CC

Congratulations (and it's about time!)

to Team USA on its resounding Ryder Cup victory at Hazletine National in Chaska, MN. If you've not been to a Ryder Cup, try—it's a sporting event like no other. To get an accurate idea

of what it's like to be there, check out **Greg Martin's** chronicle of his experience on the grounds of Hazletine which includes his thoughts on the competition, the crowd's interaction with the players, and his views of the golf course as a world stage for the event. Good stuff, Greg!



Greg Martin, President of the ASGCA recorded his experience at Hazletine.

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Happy 90th Birthday to GCSAA!

Since 2000, the TurfNet Superin-

tendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta has recognized dozens of nominees for their work in producing great playing conditions often during times of adversity. In that time span, two MAGCS members were honored with the award—Paul Voykin and Sam MacKenzie. If you know someone who you think deserves it, why not nominate them? Just go to www.turfnet.com and click on the Features tab for the form. The deadline is December 9th, so don't dilly dally.

The latest news on that championship golf course we mentioned last month—the one to possibly be built near the planned Obama library using the Jackson Park and South Shore public links courses—is that Tiger Woods is “on board” to design Mike Keiser’s project. Although it is not a done deal, Tiger has visited and toured the site (so has Ben Crenshaw according to the Chicago Tribune, so take that for what it is). Keep it here for the latest.

It looks as if the propane thing is here to stay. According to a recent survey commissioned by the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC), one quarter of outdoor power equipment dealers currently sell propane mower models and conversion services. But when those same dealers were asked if they expected to offer propane models within the next three years, that figure increased to 60%. So there.

Congrats to **Vince Dodge** (The Wilderness at Fortune Bay, Tower, MN) and his pooch Bob who made the cover of the 2017 TurfNet Superintendent’s Best Friend Calendar presented by Syngenta.



Bob is a golden retriever/black Springer spaniel mix who enjoys quiet evenings in front of the fire, long walks on the beach, and hates shallow people and visits to the vet.

Coming soon to a pro shop near you—a clothing line from Bill Murray described as having “a little reverence and a lot of style.” The William Murray Golf apparel collection is actually not available in any pro shop as yet, but can be found at Reservation Media’s site at www.thechivery.com. OK, I just went there, and everything is sold out, including the Cubs-themed polo. So, disregard this for now until they make more stuff.

OK, why not?

Hear about the guy who’s addicted to brake fluid? He says he can stop any time.

Bill Meyer of Park Ridge Country Club is a busy guy. As if working for Purpur isn’t a full-time job by itself, he also is the club’s Blog Master, PLUS he serves this association as its Class C representative. Now word is he has yet ANOTHER feather in his cap. It seems he’s been playing a little golf, and has gotten pretty good at it. Is it possible?

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Andrew “Beef” Johnston or Bill Meyer (or just anyone with a big beard?)

Got rage anyone? It seems to be getting worse and worse, whether it’s on the road or on the golf course. Recently, on a course in Pensacola, FL a U.S. Army specialist was run over by another golfer in her cart because he was playing his music too loudly. The victim, Drew Glover, suffered multiple fractures in his leg and is undergoing intensive rehab all because of a minor disagreement on a golf course. Are we losing our perspective?



Rules of Golf Quiz:

In stroke play, a player’s ball strikes a tree and comes to rest on the teeing ground of the hole being played. He presses down some heavy grass

that is growing behind his ball before he plays. What is the ruling?

Answer at the end.

Q: What does **Rusty Willard** mix with his scotch after a long day at his course?

A: Glen Club soda.

MAGCS Members in the News:

The latest issue of Chicago District Golfer magazine ran a great feature article titled “Pride in his Purpose” about **Jimmy Keith** and his battle with Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, a very rare genetic disease. The article shows Jimmy’s incredibly positive attitude in dealing with his health issues, as well as describing the Wee One Foundation’s assistance and the positive effect it has had on Jimmy and Melanie’s lives.



Jim and Melanie Keith at the Alpha-1 Conference in FL this past summer.

Also last month, the Suburban Chronicle ran a story last about Orchard Valley Golf Club (**Dan Stahl** superintendent) being named GOLF magazine's 6th best public course in Illinois, with quotes from **Aaron Reinhart**, who oversees the operations for the Fox Valley Park District.

Two events were held recently that brought MAGCS members to a couple great venues for some fun golf. First, on September 19th, **Rod Johnson** and Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI hosted the 13th Annual Wee One Foundation Outing as they have since the event's inception. The golf course was in its usual perfect condition, the on-course tacos and brats were their usual delicious, the post-game food spread was its usual magnificent, and despite a little rain, the usual great time was had by all. The BIG news of the day, though, was that over \$30,000 was raised for the Wee One



Dan Marco and Chef Tom Birmingham hosted the informal get together.



After golf, participants attempted to land a shot in the floating pool at Ruth Lake CC.

Foundation—a testament to the generosity and compassion of everyone involved.

On October 3rd, **Dan Marco**, Chef Tom Birmingham and Ruth Lake Country Club hosted the Chicago Club Chef/Superintendent Outing on a glorious autumn day. The casual, fun event included the chance to win some coin by dropping an 84-yard pitch into a pool floating in the middle of the lake. One person—the guy running the event named Luke Something—was able to make the shot, but was quickly disqualified for not hitting from the designated mat. A nice dinner on the patio topped off a really great day of camaraderie amongst the superintendents and chefs—thanks to Dan and Tom and Ruth Lake for graciously hosting!

Quiz answer: There is no penalty per Decision 13-2/2. 



A familiar and welcome sign pointing the way to the TACO stand at Pine Hills. (l to r) Mark Petitigoue, Nick and Brian Baker.

Wee One



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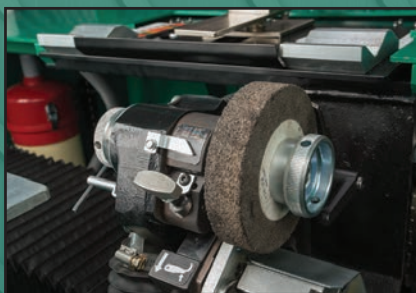
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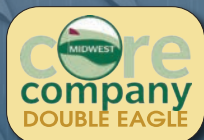
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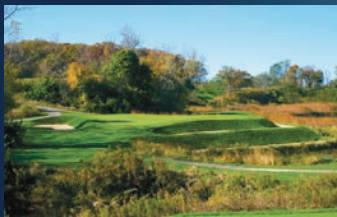
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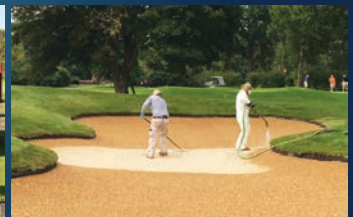
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SUPER-N-site

Kevin DeRoo

Bartlett Hills Golf Club

Kyle DeRoo, Conway Farms Golf Club

PHOTO CREDITS: LUKE CELLA

This month's Super-N-Site article features Kevin DeRoo and Bartlett Hills Golf Club. Kevin has been Superintendent at Bartlett Hills for the past 25 years. He has been happily married to his wife Cheryl for the past 31 years and has raised three children-Christopher, Kayce and Kyle. Kevin is also proud to say that he is now a grandfather with the arrival of his grandson Colin this past February.

Bartlett Hills opened its doors in 1924 as a 9-hole facility and expanded to a full 18-hole course by 1928. If you mention Bartlett Hills Golf Course to any golfer over the age of 55, they'll immediately relay the memory of a course that was built with five very distinct greens. Course architect and Illinois native Charles Maddox included his love of playing cards by

shaping five of the greens as a heart, a spade, a diamond, a club, and a star at Bartlett Hills. These original shapes helped garner attention in the golfing community, however these greens were eventually abandoned in favor of more conventional shapes with no explanation needed to a superintendent audience. Charles Maddox Sr. was an Illinois native who designed many golf courses in the area including: Old Wayne, Forest Hills CC, Oak Club of Genoa, Gleneagles, River Forest CC, Silver Lake CC(South) and Terrace Hill.



The DeRoos: Kyle and girlfriend Lisa, Megan, Christopher and son Colin, Cheryl and Kevin, Kayce and Jeremy and kneeling in front, Hunter.

The Village of Bartlett (and eventually golf course) was named after Luther and Sophia Bartlett who gave 20 acres of land to the Chicago and Pacific Railroad as it started to build a route west from Chicago to Elgin. The depot was built in 1873 and is the last remaining of its era, recently converted to a museum. The Bartletts knew a train stop would help their farming community to thrive and it does to this day – with the Metra line that connects Elgin to Chicago via the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Bartlett Hills Golf Club has gone through planned stages of renovations starting with superintendent Doug Papp all the way back to 1980. The Village of Bartlett never wanted to completely shut down the course so the renovation lasted a long time. MAGCS members Joel Purpur (82-87) and John Gurke (87-90) continued the work



DeRoo still enjoys the work a golf course takes, here jumping in to help spread sand on a freshly aerified putting surface (above). Kevin and his Equipment Technician Dennis Beyette drag fairways most mornings like clockwork (below). DeRoo is thankful for his staff certain to mention long time foremen Dave Missele and Antonio Hernandez.

and MAGCS Member and Architect, Bob Lohmann provided the most recent course planning that included: a redesign of the back nine, installation of USGA greens, installation of a new irrigation system, conversion to bentgrass fairways and new fairway bunkering. During that span Bartlett Hills constructed a new clubhouse, a new maintenance facility, and most recently, the driving range.

Even though the renovation work has settled down, that doesn't mean the job has gotten any easier. DeRoo continues to keep Bartlett Hills expertly maintained just as he has for the past 25 years. Though his crew is smaller and his budget is tighter he never fails to find new solutions to habitual problems. DeRoo continues to maintain strict cultural practices; he spikes and topdresses greens every chance he gets. It also seems that not a week goes by that Kevin isn't out on the course somewhere with a chainsaw removing another Ash tree (of which he can proudly say he has taken down 93). Despite these hardships, Kevin still enjoys the day to day excitement and says it's nice having a new and unique challenge every day.

with DeRoo completing the work in the early 2000's. Architects Killian and Nugent began some of the early redesign

I am truly fortunate in being able to write this article for a few reasons. My career began at Bartlett Hills; it is where all my interest and passion for this business began. But, I have to





admit most of that started because of the man I worked for, my father Kevin DeRoo. One thing that I have always admired about him is his dedication to his work and his ability to maintain a positive attitude. This is exactly the reason why he is as successful as a Superintendent and as a Father (although he did have a tremendous amount of help from my Mother along the way). While writing this article I asked him, what are you most proud of in all this time at Bartlett Hills?

"When you have been somewhere for nearly 30 years it is pretty neat to see how the course changes for the better and I am just proud to say I have been given the opportunity to help be a part of it," he replied.

Come October the days continue to grow shorter, the temperatures continue to drop, and the stress of summer fades. To me, there seems like no better time to get away. What better way to use this much needed break to enjoy the game we have all worked so hard for throughout the year. Keep October 5th marked on your calendars, Kevin and I both look forward to seeing you all there.

Image Above: The fourth hole, a par 5, looking back down the oak lined landing area. Below left is one of the newer holes, the par 4 13th. Below right is the 16th a reachable in two par 5, where notably, DeRoo scored a double eagle.



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Floral Accents at Glen Oak Country Club

Darrick Robbins, Reinders, Inc.

There are a lot of different opinions about floral accents on the golf course. Some ignore them, some are offended that they are even present, some embrace them as a duty, and some truly enjoy them as a way to express their creativity and talent in addition to what they do on the golf course. Andy Dauksas is one of the latter. I've heard it said that timing is everything, and in this case my timing wasn't great since I visited late in the season after many of the flowers were past their peak, but hopefully in your mind's eye you can see them in their full glory.

Andy has the ability to turn something crazy into something beautiful. Glen Oak put in a new pool this year, and as a part of that design the architect included beds for plants. The only problem is that these beds are at grade, in the pool deck—with a 6" root zone. Talk about ankle breakers, these are it. And that doesn't even include the lounge chairs, the children, the beach balls, chlorinated water, and whatever else ends up in there. How he keeps the kids out of it is beyond me—I think I would fill them with poison ivy. But like most things at Glen Oak, it turned out looking fantastic.

Andy and his staff like to make things themselves. He didn't say so, but when talking with him it is clear that they just enjoy making stuff, and true to form it almost always turns out beautiful. When he started at Glen Oak plain tee balls adorned the tees. There is nothing wrong with a straight forward tee ball, but it doesn't quite match up with the style of Glen Oak. Together with his father they came up

with the current tee markers—a piece of wood turned on a lathe into the form of an acorn. And his father made them for him. This simple change transforms the pragmatic tee marker into something with a classical feel, and a personal touch. Or maybe you have seen the planter boxes on the back patio—the design came from somewhere else, but with a little welding and some paint they appeared on the scene. He had a trellised bed with peas growing in a 10 foot long window box at the bottom, and there are even plants on top of the trash containers on the property.



The history of Glen Oak is respected as well. Andy took the reins from two of the true legends of the MAGCS as well as the golf maintenance profession in Chicagoland—





Fred Opperman and Ray Gerber. As we toured the course he pointed out things that they influenced, or that they had a hand in. I noticed as we drove around that several of the linden trees were growing all the way to the ground. This is unusual on a golf course so I commented on it. He said that Fred Opperman preferred trees that way and as homage to him he kept them that way as well. Ray Gerber still has a pond named after him, and even though it is flagging Andy tends a (what kind?) tree outside the pro shop planted by Fred Opperman many years ago. It is clear that there is a respect and appreciation for the men who laid the foundation for what the club is today.



None of this would be possible without Andy's green thumb. He grows many of his own plants. Some from seed, some from plugs, and some vegetatively. Last year he grew some truly massive pump-

kins that delighted visitors who entered through the front entrance last fall. An innovative drip irrigation setup allows Andy to actually grow flowers on the roof of the car port that covers the entrance to the club (image at top of page), an area that would normally be far too difficult to access and keep watered. He and the crew also have a banana plant. Each fall they move it down into the basement where it stays (much like the rest of us) biding our time until the weather is more suitable. The flower towers are something to behold as

well. Potted flowers nested into a frame to create a waterfall effect. Fantastic!

Perhaps one of the most interesting things was on the back patio where one of the members has created little ceramic planters that are wonderful. Tiny little flowers, whorls, and spikes create the most interesting accents to the outdoor fireplace. It seems that the creativity that Andy and crew have displayed is rubbing off on everyone!

If you have never been to Glen Oak it is a fantastic place to spend an afternoon. Although we have spent time exploring the flora that Andy and his crew so faithfully maintains the golf course is at least the equal of the rest of the plant life on the property. Head on over and get Andy talking about his place, you will enjoy it!



Ed Note: We decided to run this article now, as fall is a great time of the year to plan your beds and floral accents on your property. It's a good reminder that now is the time to work with your grower for the coming season and maybe try some new things.

(More photos and ideas on next page.)





THIS COULD BE A PAGE IN BETTER HOMES & GARDENS. ALL OF THESE IMAGES ARE FROM GLEN OAK COUNTRY CLUB IN SEPTEMBER OF THIS YEAR. FROM THE MASS PLANTINGS MIXING PERENNIALS AND ANNUALS, TO THE HANGING BASKETS, THE CONTAINERS, POOL PLANTINGS, AND HARDSCAPES, ANDY DAUKSAS' CREATIVITY, TALENT AND PASSION ARE MORE THAN APPARENT.



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Curt Geron shares his thoughts about turfgrass fertility with the Midwest members at our August Meeting.

The August monthly meeting for the MAGCS was held across the “cheese curtain” in Kenosha, Wisconsin at MAGCS President Matt Kregel’s course, The Club at Strawberry Creek.

Curt Geron Director of Sales and Agronomy for EnPturf made the trip to present a discussion on amino acid use and how they can help prevent summer decline and reduce damage to golf greens.

Summer decline on putting greens occurs when the upper root zone of the turf is subjected to prolonged temperatures above 85 degrees. The plant begins to use its carbohydrate reserves in the root zone and the plant moves into “deficit spending” mode. Mechanical wear stress, drought and disease pressure can all contribute to the slow decline of greens.

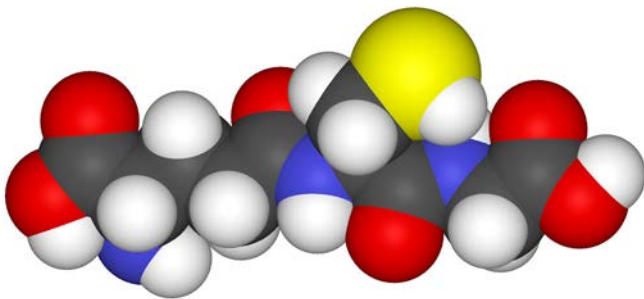
One of the goals during summer decline is to attempt to promote plant growth and health. Reducing plant injury and promoting growth becomes a top priority. One way to promote plant growth is to find a way to keep the leaf stomata’s functioning at maximum efficiency. Stomates that remain open during photosynthesis and don’t close down in stressful conditions are more effective at promoting growth. It is key to promote a stomatic activity that is in a growing “mode” and not just trying to survive.

So how do you minimize the risks during summer decline? The best chances for survival is to attempt to create small gains mostly through sound cultural practices:


1. Skip mowing and consider rolling when able.
2. Vent greens.
3. Increase mowing height.
4. Reduce grooming practices.
5. Maintain adequate soil moisture to minimize drought stress.
6. Increase air circulation by tree removal and fan installation.
7. Syringe greens to reduce canopy temperature.
8. Hand water to target specific areas requiring more water.
9. Manage disease through IPM and justified chemical use.

Curt shared some current research that indicates uploading specific amino acids into putting greens can increase stress tolerance and help reduce the effects of summer decline. Some amino acids are more important than others. It takes a specific program to get the correct amino acids at the correct time. Some examples are:

- Osmolytes- They are soluble in the solution within a cell, or in the surrounding fluid. They play a role in maintaining cell volume and fluid balance. Low levels of osmolytes can indicate cell dehydration.
- Antioxidants- These can be added to help the plant operate at better efficiency during periods of high oxidative stress. The goal is to build up levels to cancel free radicals that “tear up” the plants DNA in cell walls, mitochondria, chlorophyll and proteins.



An antioxidant is a molecule that inhibits the oxidation of other molecules. Oxidation is a chemical reaction that can produce free radicals, leading to chain reactions that may damage cells. Graphic: Ben Mills, Public Domain/Wikimedia.

Curt talked about some specific products to address these issues and the way they work into a management program. His talk was sponsored by ProGro Solutions as part of the Midwest’s Education Partnership Pilot Program. 

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