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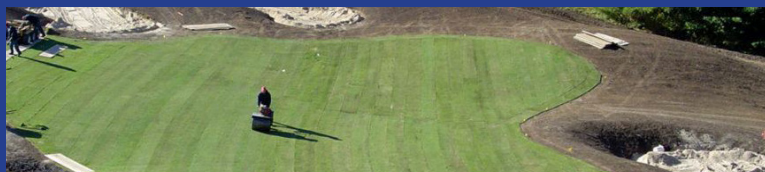
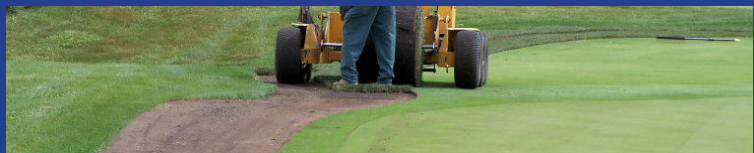


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FEATURE
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front cover

The CDGA has hired a new Director of Turfgrass Programs, Dr. Jesse Benelli. Jesse has been attending several area events recently and wrote an introduction for our membership. Check it out on page 4.



Wheaton Park District and owner of Arrowhead Golf Course recently installed a new ice rink system using the same chiller they use during the summer months to air condition their fitness center. Page 8.

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DATES

2017 UPCOMING MIDWEST EVENTS

- 2/8/17 Midwest Hospitality Reception, Orlando, FL
- 2/16/17 Annual Asst. Winter Workshop, Lemont IL
- 4/25/17 MAGCS April Meeting, Calumet Country Club
- 5/22/17 MAGCS/ITF Play Day, Cress Creek Country Club
- 6/26/17 MAGCS June Meeting, Elgin Country Club
- 7/20/17 MAGCS 9 Holer, Arlington Lakes Golf Courses

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Bill Meyer
Class C Advisor

My New Year's Resolution is to Have a Resolution

Now that it is 2017, I'm excited to see what it brings for me, the golf course, and of course, MAGCS. As I write this in January everyone is still talking about New Year's resolutions.

I'm not a big New Year's resolution guy. I never really understood why people would wait until the first of the year to start something. Also maybe I'm just jaded but I feel like a lot of people don't really follow through on their New Year's resolutions. Case in point: the gym is really packed for January and February then everyone disappears by March.

I think this is the year I will buy into it though and try and set some goals for myself. I think it is an excellent opportunity to lay out a path for what I am looking to accomplish personally, looking for that 400 lb deadlift, and within my career, becoming a more efficient communicator and manager with my staff. And lastly, to continue to become more involved within the Association. I hope all of you reading have a goal similar to my last one; getting more involved with MAGCS. We are very lucky in this area to have such a large group with so many opportunities to get involved in golf events, education, or even writing (Justin and Luke are always looking for more articles for the On Course).

Assistant superintendents I encourage you to get involved and go to as many golf or education events as possible. You never know what you will learn or who you will meet that can help you greatly in your future. MAGCS sees the value in Class C members and offers some events just for us, like the Class C Winter workshop and our revived informal Assistant shop talks. The shop talks are a great opportunity to get away from the course for a few hours, see what some other people are doing, meet some of your peers, grab some food, and have an adult beverage. This year we look forward to having 5 or 6 shop talks throughout the year. We are setting up the schedule now for them, at least locations and general areas – we're trying to move them around Chicagoland so as many Assistants are able to attend as possible. If you're interested in hosting one, please contact me. Otherwise, I really hope to see quite a few of you assistants at these events. In the meantime, please sign up and plan to attend our Class C Winter Workshop on February 16 at the Midwest Golf House. We have arranged a nice lineup of speakers designed with the assistant in mind. This year's morning theme is golf course design and construction followed by an afternoon panel of newly minted Superintendents with open and engaging discussion for all.

I wish everyone the best of luck for the 2017 season and I hope to see all of you at some of the many great events that the Board has planned for this year. @

Welcoming our New Pathologist

Jesse Benelli, Chicago District Golf Association

My name is Jesse Benelli and I am the new Director of Turfgrass Programs with the Chicago District Golf Association. My path to the turfgrass industry was like many others in the early 2000's. I enjoyed the game of golf and wanted to stay involved in the sport anyway possible.

Sadly, I knew my golf game wasn't going to be my ticket. Thus, in 2002, I joined the agronomy team at Tyoga Country Club in my hometown of Wellsboro, PA. My enthusiasm for turfgrass management led me to enroll at Penn State University, majoring in Turfgrass Science. During one of my internships, I gained experience combatting numerous plant pathogens causing damage to our playing surfaces. Over time, I grew an appreciation for how destructive these small organisms can be when they populate in large numbers. After graduating in 2007, I became the research technician for the Penn State Turfgrass Pathology program. My core responsibilities were to manage the fungicide efficacy program and assist in diagnosing turfgrass samples received at our lab. This work experience provided me a backbone of instrumentation to pursue graduate studies at the University of Tennessee.

I earned my MS and PhD degrees at the University of Tennessee under the direction of Dr. Brandon Horvath with a concentration in turfgrass pathology. My MS research focused on plant health characteristics of creeping bentgrass during summer stress in response to strobilurin fungicide applications. My PhD research explored novel fungicide spray application strategies to better control large patch disease of zoysiagrass. This research may also provide a roadmap to

combat other hard-to-control diseases such as take-all patch of bentgrass surfaces. My graduate research was presented at local, regional, and international conferences to audiences including turfgrass managers and scientists alike. As much as I enjoyed presenting data to large audiences, the most enjoyable part of my graduate experience was meeting new people and building lasting relationships.



Dr. Benelli has been making the rounds presenting at the ITF's Turf Conference, The Midwest's January Meeting and Northwest's most recent educational event. He's excited to be here and is ready for the golfgrowing season to begin.

At the CDGA, my position affords me the ability to meet many new faces in this growing industry. I look forward to hearing your stories as much as you will look forward to mine. I am excited to travel across Chicagoland and beyond to meet with as many turfgrass professionals as I can to help promote a better environment for you, your staff, and your turf. In addition to onsite visits, my responsibilities also include the continuation of our applied research program. I will be in collaboration with our research manager, Ron Townsend, to develop this program moving forward.

The mission of our research program is to provide innovative solutions that keep pace with the ever changing landscape of the turfgrass industry. We will work alongside golf course superintendents and industry professionals to achieve this common goal. Although our applied research will be geared toward golf course surfaces, our efforts may

Continued on page 23.....



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The Common Ground Initiative

Paul Koch, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin – Madison

Golf courses provide a wealth of environmental and economic benefits to our communities, from runoff mediation to carbon sequestration to contributing \$2.4 billion to the Wisconsin economy (according to the 2010 Golf 20/20 report). Golf course superintendents are excellent stewards of the environment, and most meticulously monitor the inputs they apply to ensure only the minimum amount needed for acceptable turf quality is used.

But increasing concern over pesticide usage is percolating into the region from all directions. From the north, Canada has large-scale pesticide restrictions on golf course turf with more on the way. From the east, Connecticut and New York have banned most pesticide applications on public school property and golf course superintendents in the region are concerned they may be targeted next. From the west, our neighbors in Minnesota commit significant resources to outreach with state decision makers to mitigate the impacts of new regulations on the golf industry.

No significant restrictions are on the horizon here in Wisconsin, but that doesn't mean that superintendents here aren't interested in reducing the impact of their pest management programs. In fact, a full 86 of 119 respondents (72%) to a survey I sent to the WGCSA email list agreed with the following statement, 'It is important to reduce the overall environmental impact of my pest management program' (Figure 1). I have heard the same thing in discussions with multiple superintendents in Wisconsin and elsewhere about their interest in reducing the impact of their pest management programs. Some are interested because they believe it's the right thing to do, others are interested because they want to reduce pesticide exposure for them and their employees, and still others are interested because their facility has identified reducing pesticide impact as a priority.

As a result of these individual discussions my team

here at UW is working on an initiative that will scale up our efforts to work with a larger number of superintendents, something we're calling The Common Ground Initiative. I want to stress that this initiative is still in the development phase, but we're unveiling it to you now because we want your feedback and participation in making the initiative as impactful and beneficial for your operation as possible. Below are some answers to questions that you may be having right now as you read this article:



Dr. Paul Koch presents the Midwest Turf Clinic in 2014.

WHAT IS THE COMMON GROUND INITIATIVE?

The initiative starts with the basic principle that the entire community benefits when healthy, functional turfgrass landscapes are present. The 'common ground' comes from the desire of all parties to maintain these important landscapes while using pesticides that have lower non-target effects. The primary purpose of the initiative then is to provide guidance and incentive for turfgrass managers in Wisconsin to transition towards lower impact pest management programs AND to document and promote the move towards lower impact pesticides for those that participate. The initiative will eventually encompass all segments of the turfgrass industry, though each industry segment will be handled independently because of their unique needs.

WHAT IS THE COMMON GROUND INITIATIVE NOT?

It is NOT a mandatory program. It will be completely voluntary and should only be implemented by those who think it will benefit their operations.

It is NOT a pesticide reduction or elimination program. Rather, it provides an incentive to pivot away from older pesticides that have a greater environmental impact to newer ones that have a lower environmental impact.

It is NOT a cost reduction program. While we feel that when properly implemented into an integrated pest management program the costs will not be prohibitive, we understand that newer chemistries are usually more expensive than older ones.

It is NOT a set pesticide program. The initiative is designed to have a target parameter that the participants will be required to meet, but also allow for ample flexibility to create the program that best fits the needs of each facility. Pesticide records used in this initiative will NOT be made public. The only thing made public is whether a particular institution is participating or not.

HOW WILL THE INITIATIVE WORK?

The UW turf team is currently in the process of establishing the average level of pesticide usage from the golf industry in Wisconsin. Based on the results from our research over the past couple years, we will then establish a target reduction in environmental impact relative to the statewide average that we feel still provides plenty of options for maintaining healthy turf. Those interested in participating would contact us and work with us to develop a pest management program that meets the target parameter. If your program already meets the target parameter then you would not need to make any changes to be a participant. Following approval of the plan the course would then be a certified participant and could use the initiative to promote their sustainability efforts to their membership, their board, their municipality, or the general public. Participants would average their environmental impact over 2 years to account for fluctuations in pest pressure, and participants will have a multiple year 'grace' period to transition their current program into one that meets the initiative's target.

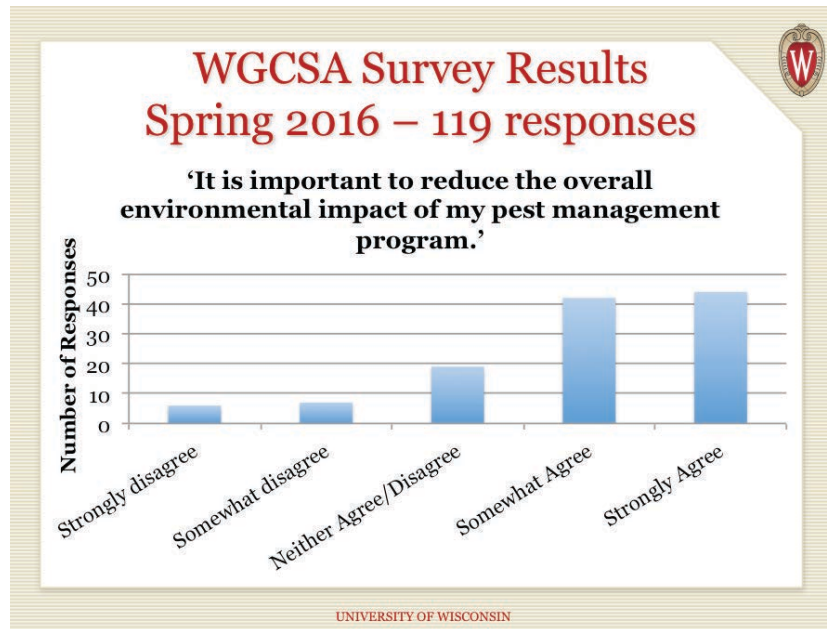


Figure 1: Responses to an online survey sent out to the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association email list.

How will we measure environmental impact?

This is one of the remaining sticking points, as there are several metrics for measuring impact... and all have significant flaws. The two that we are currently working with are the Environmental Impact Quotient (EIQ) and the Hazard Quotient (HQ). The EIQ attempts to be all encompassing and take into account numerous factors related to human and environmental

health, but it is heavily correlated to amount of active ingredient applied and is a big, long, complicated equation. The HQ only takes into account acute or chronic toxicity to humans, but is a much simpler equation. For the time being we will work with both and make a decision later about which one is more effective for our needs.

CAN IT WORK IN THE FIELD?

For the last 3 years we have had a 'Reduced-Risk Disease Management' trial that we have exhibited at our Summer Field Day (<http://tdl.wisc.edu/2014-summer-fungicide-research-reports/>). Over those 3 years we have consistently demonstrated acceptable disease control while reducing the amount of active ingredient applied and the EIQ by approximately 90% over a standard program we borrowed from a Wisconsin superintendent (Figure 3). While this doesn't prove reduced-impact programs work in the field, it is an indication that this approach can be successful for many superintendents.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

The next step is to calculate the statewide average of environmental impact. To complete this we will need the pesticide records for 2015 and 2016 from approximately 75 Wisconsin golf courses.

After we calculate the statewide average, hopefully by spring of 2017, we will use our recent research to set the target parameter for participating in the initiative. I don't know what this parameter will be until we calculate the statewide average, but I can assure you it will be one that can be met! It won't do you or us any good to develop a parameter

that no one can possibly meet!

Once the parameter has been set we will solicit participants for the initiative. Participating will be as simple as calculating a current impact level and developing a plan for reaching the target within a set period (likely 2 to 3 years). Once the initiative goes live, we will discuss as an industry how best to promote and market the efforts of those participating in the initiative.

I fully understand that talking about pesticide usage and providing records can make some uncomfortable. However, I also strongly believe that not talking about pesticide usage or not debating methods that might improve efficiency or reduce environmental impact is a poor long-term strategy for our great industry. I look forward to hearing your feedback, both good and bad, and urge you to contact me with your comments, questions, and concerns as we strive to build an initiative that further showcases the environmental stewardship of the golf industry. Please feel free to email me at plkoch@wisc.edu or call me at 608-576-2673 to discuss this initiative.

Author's Note: This article describes a rough draft of an initiative being developed at UW-Madison that will document and promote reduced-impact pest management strategies for golf turf in Wisconsin. Please don't hesitate to contact me (plkoch@wisc.edu) if you have any questions or other feedback regarding this initiative.

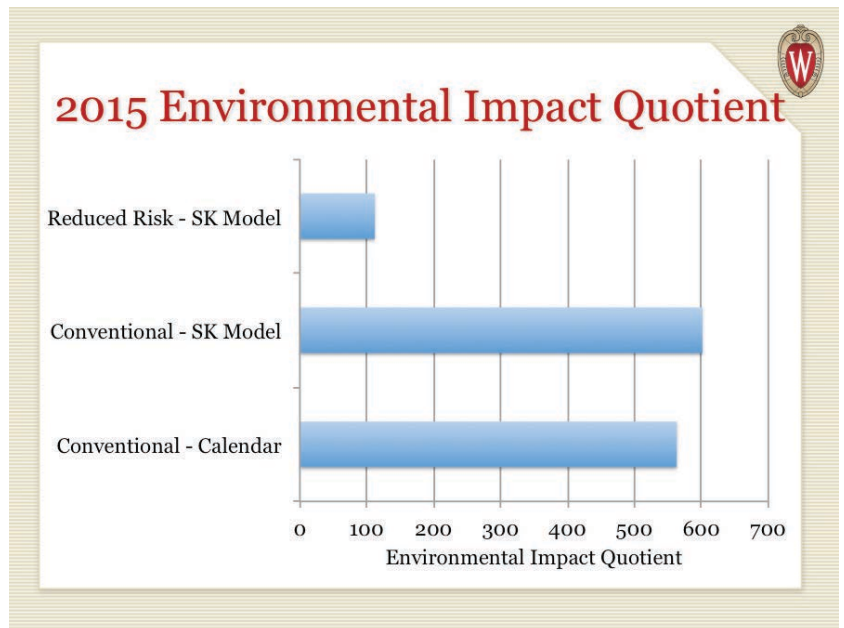


Figure 2: Study from 2015 at the OJ Noer Turfgrass Research Center in Madison, WI comparing the Environmental Impact Quotient (EIQ) on fungicide programs that used a strict calendar-based application method using conventional fungicides, application scheduling using the Smith-Kerns Dollar Spot Model using conventional fungicides, and application scheduling using the Smith-Kerns Dollar Spot Model but using lower-impact fungicides. An approximate 85% reduction in EIQ was realized when lower-impact products were used.

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February 2017

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 8 – MAGCS Hospitality Reception at Marlow's Tavern on 2101 International Drive, Orlando, FL.

February 8 – Annual University of Illinois Turf Alumni Reception from 5 to 7 PM, Tavern Opa in Pointe Orlando, FL.

February 16 – Assistants Winter Workshop at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.

February 24-26 – Chicago Golf Show at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, IL.

February 27 – March 2 – 37th Annual Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society Conference at the Hyatt Regency in Milwaukee, WI.

March 4 – CDGA's 31st Annual Club Leadership Conference at Medinah Country Club, Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS, MG host.

March 15-16 – Reinders' 23rd Green Industry Conference at the Waukesha Expo Center in suburban Milwaukee, WI.

March 23-24 – Rain Bird Irrigation training classes at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Addison, IL.

If you work at a private club, don't miss the opportunity to attend the CDGA's 31st Club Leadership Conference at Medinah Country Club on March 4th. If you aren't familiar, the half-day event brings club officials/committee chairs and members together for a series of breakout group discussions that include Golf, Finance/Clubhouse, Membership and Grounds & Greens.

Serving on the board for the Grounds Greens section are **Scott Bordner, Brian Bossert, Curtis Tyrrell, Dan Dinelli, Matt Harstad, Mark Kowalicko, Justin Van Landuit, Sam MacKenzie** and **Luke Cella**. To register, call John Petrarca at 630-685-2306 or email him at jpetrarca@cdga.org.



&

Next month, on the 15th and 16th, Reinders will hold its 23rd Green Industry Conference at the Waukesha Expo Center outside of Milwaukee. The seminar lineup is going to be a strong one, and includes a panel discussion about growing the new bentgrass varieties featuring **Mike Sauls** (Butler National), **Don Cross** (Skokie CC), and



Scott Pavalko (Bob O'Link), along with a host of other hot topics and renowned presenters. The event also includes a trade show with all the

newest and shiniest equipment on display, and a new feature called "Reinders Innovation Theater," where manufacturers will provide tips and information for using their products to produce effective results on the job. These 20-minute sessions will run throughout both days of the conference. Make your plans now to attend by visiting www.gic.reinders.com.

The latest Golf Digest magazine has hit the news stands with its "America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses" list for 2017-2018, with nearly 10% of them being managed by MAGCS members. At #4 is Shinnecock Hills Golf Club (**Jon Jennings**), followed up by #14 Chicago Golf Club (**Scott Bordner**), #17 Oakland Hills Country Club

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South Course (**Steve Cook**), #45 Butler National Golf Club (**Mike Sauls**), #48 Medinah Country Club #3 (**Curtis Tyrrell**), #63 Canyata Golf Club (**Stephen Hope**), #66 Shoreacres (Brian Palmer), #79 Olympia Fields Country Club North Course (**Sam MacKenzie**), and #88 Rich Harvest Links (Jeff VerCautren). If 100 courses isn't enough for you, for the third time ever, Golf Digest has produced its "The Second 100 Greatest" list, on which one can find Conway Farms Golf Club (**Connor Healy**) at #174, Point O' Woods Golf & Country Club (**Ron Fox**) at 185, and Olympia Fields South Course at 188.

Golf Digest

2017-18 RANKING, TOP 100 U.S. COURSES

America's 100 Courses



In keeping with tradition (albeit a very new one that was started in last month's issue with the photo of **Brian Placzkowski** standing with **Tom Wilson**), we offer you another round of "Tall 'n' Small MAGCS Members." This month we feature **Chris Cameron** of Waupaca Sand & Solutions talking with **Nick "Can I Get a Step Ladder" Marfise** of Wilmette Golf Club.

Looks like New Zealand has another feather to add to its golf cap. Besides being the home to Cape Kidnappers, possibly the coolest looking golf course in the world, it now boasts the Guinness World Record holder for most rounds of golf played in less than 12 hours. Brad Luiten is the guy, and he managed to play 237 holes in 11 hours and 20 minutes, eclipsing the old record of 221 holes. He used only a 6-iron and ran 60 miles to achieve this record, with help from a few friends scattered around the course to help locate his ball.

What do Walgreens, Wendy's and Olive Garden have in common? They are the last three businesses left on Washington Road between Old Berckman's Road and New Berckman's Road that Augusta National hasn't bought out. The latest buy-out for the home of the Masters was a Pep Boys, which came at the low low price of \$6.9 million. All the land the club has purchased thus far has been used for parking; however, there are rumors swirling that some changes and extensions to the golf course may be in ANGC's future.

OK, why not?
Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.

Congratulations to Ivanhoe Club's GM Raymond Kondziela on being named a 2016 Excellence in Club Management Award winner by Club & Resort Business magazine and the McMahon Group.

Looks like Caddyshack is coming our way in the not-so-distant-future. Bill Murray and his 5 brothers, whose experi-

ences as caddies at Indian Hill Club inspired the 1980 movie, have an agreement in place to open a Caddyshack-themed restaurant/bar in the Crowne Plaza hotel in Rosemont, IL. This makes two straight months that we've run an item about Caddyshack—undoubtedly a record of some sort.

Here's a little shout-out to Senior Moments—these gentlemen have each been GCSAA members for 50 or more years! **Ray Schmitz** and **Tom Van De Walle** joined the 50 Club this year; 51 years--**Mike Bavier**, **Fred Opperman** and **Ray Schei**; 52—**Danny Quast**; 53—**Art Benson** and **Ken Lapp**; 55—**Oscar Miles** and **Dick Trevarthan**; 56—**Harold Fredrickson**; 58—**Tom DiGuido**; and the granddaddy of them all—**Paul Voykin** at 61 years with GCSAA! Congrats on these milestones!



In keeping with the Senior theme, we offer a variation of the Midwest Doppelgänger feature this month. I pass this plaque numerous times each day at work—It honors Carl Hoppman, a longtime superintendent at Aurora Country Club and Illinois Golf Hall of Fame inductee who passed away in 2013—and it always strikes me that he resembles someone, but I could never

quite place who that someone was. Until now.

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Carl Hoppman or WC Fields?

In the ongoing saga of the proposed new golf course on the shores of Lake Michigan, the Chicago Park District has awarded a \$1.1 million contract to SmithGroup JJR Inc. to draw up the plans for the project that would combine the Jackson Park and South Shore golf courses into one championship course to be designed by Tiger Woods' TGR Design.

Q: What is the cheese popcorn brand of choice at **Don Cross'** club?

A: Skokie Doke

Rules of Golf Quiz: In four-ball match play, a player's ball is farthest from the hole, while his partner's ball is closest to the hole. The partner decides to putt first, but he will be standing on the line of putt of one of the opponents. The opponents object to this procedure, because they say it will adversely affect their play. What is the ruling? Answer at the end.



Congratulations to Tim Anderson, the GM of Naperville Country Club on recertifying and thus retaining his CGCS status with GCSAA.



Tim Anderson, CGCS and his wife Linda.

David Esler of Esler Golf Designs, LLC has an exciting project afoot on the left coast. The 18-hole course he and his team are working on is called Pacific Gales, and is located on the southern Oregon coast between the fishing town of Port Orford and the famed Cape Blanco lighthouse. Based on photos of the land, it will be another spectacular addition to the growing list of destination golf courses in Oregon.



There were two excellent education offerings for MAGCS members to avail themselves of last month. On the 10th, **Dustin Hugen** and the Bridges of Poplar Creek hosted the ITF's 2017 Turf Conference, which included presentations by our old friend Lee Miller, along with **Bruce Branham**, Jim Murphy, **Ted Fist**, Alison Dickson and Olivia Kellner that covered a wide range of current turf topics. Two weeks later, one of my favorite events—the Wee One Fundraiser and Midwest Monthly Meeting—was held at Seven Bridges, with **Don Ferreri** and **Dave Gelino** hosting. The morning education was a big hit (and very well-attended), featuring Bill Kreuser and CDGA's Jesse Benelli, along with a well-deserved award presentation to **Scott Witte** and **Luke Cella** for their work with Bayer's Bee Barometer Project. The afternoon was dedicated to the Wee One Foundation, and between the silent auctions, raffles, and live auction, a whopping \$50,035 was raised for the cause! From the look of it, it was the largest crowd to attend the event in its 8 years of existence—many many thanks to the attendees for opening their (and their employers') wallets, to all the generous donors of goods and services who made the day such a huge success, to the spon-

sors for the day and especially to Bayer for their sponsorship of the lunch, which drastically reduced the cost to attend. -GREAT Day!



Casey Sheehy, Assistant Superintendent at Bryn Mawr Chili is second to none. Congrats Casey- MAGCS 2017 Chili Champion.

Equipment for Sale: John Deere Aercore 800 in good condition—includes both regular and quad tine holders, and comes with the new extra dampeners. Asking \$2,500. Call **Steve Schendel** at (630) 220-5977 for more information.

On January 18th the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents hosted their Annual Shop Tour. Around 130 people attended – starting at the Chicago Highlands, Michael Heustis welcomed the group with coffee and doughnuts. The next stop was the beautiful new compound (not a shop at all) at Hinsdale Golf Club, Eric Wiley host. The morning ended at Arrowhead Golf Club with Justin Kirtland and Tim Johnson showing off their place followed by lunch at the clubhouse.



Michael Heustis (l) hosted the first stop on the Shop Tour, followed by Eric Wiley (r) at Hinsdale Golf Club

Quiz answer: There are two correct answers (if you ask me)—A. Who cares, and B. In this situation, the side may play in any order they choose without penalty.



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A Tribute to Wayne Otto, CGCS



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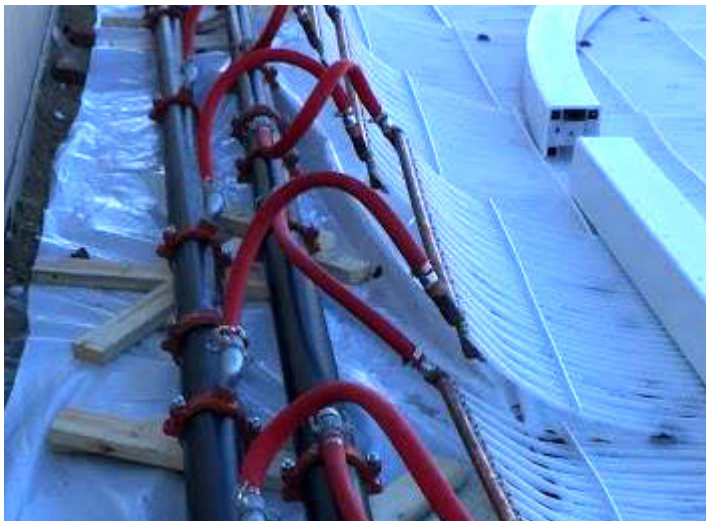
A Guide to Ice Rinks

Justin Kirtland, Arrowhead Golf Club

Every December it should be time to put your skates on and hit the ponds – at least that is how I grew up. But wait, we live in the Midwest and sometimes it can be 50 degrees in January like we experienced a few weeks ago. As a person who likes to skate, I get so tired of waiting for the ice to freeze enough to be safe for skating activities.

For me, and many other residents of Wheaton, the wait is now over. Wheaton residents and surrounding communities won't have to wait for the ponds to freeze over now in the future. The Wheaton Park District will be providing consistent ice from Thanksgiving up to St. Patrick's Day using the TRANE RTC 250 chiller that cools their Central Athletic Center in the summer months. They are now able to use the same chiller

the system to bring the rink water below freezing. The same chiller the Park District uses to cool their athletic center in the summer months is used to move coolant through under their ice rink. Even though ice is guaranteed in a mild winter, maintaining quality ice still takes work. Since many golf clubs and courses have tried their hand at skating ponds the last few years, I thought I'd ask the experts within our park district how to maintain some quality ice – even without the artificial ice makers.



Coolant is pumped through a series of header pipes eventually making its way under the ice through special pipe grids (white piping).

during the winter months to keep their ice no matter what the weather in downtown Wheaton.

They are able to do this by means of using a rink refrigeration pipe grid. It is a series of tube that are connected to a series of header pipes that move coolant through

The first tip they provided was to start as early as Mother Nature allows. Once you are able, try and get your base ice frozen – below 32 is all it takes – simple chemistry – liquid to solid. Once you have your ice set, the real maintenance begins because Mother Nature, as we know, doesn't play nice. She will be dropping snow on your rink and it will need to be removed in order for the ice to be resurfaced and utilized. The best way to do this is with a snow shovel and some old-fashioned leg work.

Use a steel or metal shovel to “scrape” the top layer of snow. This works best when the shovel is angled and you shovel from one side or end of the rink to the opposite side or end. You should always shovel in a consistent pattern either lengthwise or sideways. Scraping the ice helps to eliminate any bumps, remove any crusty snow or frosted layers. While “scraping” it is advisable to wear ice skates as it ensures and promotes both strength and speed – unless you are getting paid by the hour, then you may want to just walk it. Snow removal should be accomplished in 2 steps:

1. Shoveling back and forth continuously from one side or end to the other in rows, leaving the collected snow at the same opposite side or end perimeter.
2. Snow should remain along the perimeter until all

rows are completed. Once this is done, scrape any leftover snow to the perimeter and remove this snow by lifting and throwing it to the outside of the rink or over the boards.

RESURFACING FLOODER

Once you have cleared away all of the snow, you will need to resurface your ice to clean away any imperfections



A pipe grid is customized to the shape of the rink and can keep ice around from November to March in the Chicago area.

and prepare the rink for skating. If you don't have a Zamboni handy, a flooder is a tool that you can use to smooth out your ice. It is basically a small boom with a towel that drags behind the water spreading it out and leveling your ice. Connect a flooder nozzle to the end of a hose and get going. For the best possible results, use hot water. When you are ready, turn the valve on the flooder to the "ON" position and start walking or skating backwards, pulling the flooder along. Be sure to watch that the towel remains flat, ensuring even distribution of the water. It is best to flood in sections from side to side or end to end, back and forth continuously. Be sure to spread the water thinly and evenly as too much water will eventually cause the ice to become too thick, impeding the performance of the chillers if you have them.



A resurfacing flooder is nothing more than a small boom sprayer with a material attached to it that helps to level and smooth the ice.

Sometimes you'll encounter some demanding weather conditions such as a heavy snow. A snow blower may be required to remove the majority of the snow, followed by a quick shoveling prior to flooding your ice. If a snow blower isn't available (or won't start) consider shoveling your rink from the middle to the perimeter.

When it rains in winter, it is best to turn off your refrigeration equipment – it won't be able to keep up with the amount of water. Once the rain stops, a squeegee can be used to remove as much of the excess water as possible. Once all

excess water has been removed, the refrigeration equipment should be turned back on or if you don't have any, hope for colder temperatures.

Sometimes the ice can become too thick for a cooling system. If this is the case, the best bet is to turn off the refrigeration equipment and allow the ice to melt and shuttle off the excess water. Once the desirable depth of ice is present, turn the cooling system back on.

Ice rinks are gaining popularity and if you are thinking of installing one next year – do your homework beforehand. A few questions you should consider answering are:



Even with an under ice chilling system, ice rinks can be a lot of work and like everything outside are at the mercy of Mother Nature.

- Where will you put the rink?
- Will it be close to a water supply that is available in the winter?
- Do you have adequate staffing to maintain it?
- Will it be strictly used for families as a recreational skating surface?
- Will it be used for hockey or perhaps curling?

Ice rinks can sound like a great idea in October as clubs and courses look for new ways to attract members and guests to use their facilities throughout the year – be prepared – a good rink takes work – maybe more than you think.

Maybe I'll see you out there before our winter ends, if not –there will be ice in Wheaton after Thanksgiving. @

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Drs. Kreuser and Benelli Tag Team January

Chuck Anfield, Heritag Bluffs Golf Course



Dr. Bill Kreuser kept everyone's attention during his presentation at Seven Bridges Golf Club this past January.

The January meeting was held at Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge, Illinois. Don Ferreri and Dave Gelino were the hosts for the day. This event featured Education from Dr. Bill Kreuser from the University of Nebraska and Dr. Jesse Benelli our new CDGA Director of Turfgrass Programs. In addition, it was the MAGCS Annual Wee One Fundraiser and Silent Auction.

Dr. Bill Kreuser presented "Growing Degree Models to Predict Plant Growth Regulator Performance." The presentation started out with, what are some misconceptions or realities (REAL or not) of the performance of PGR's?

1. Controlled Growth: REAL. PGR's applied on a GDD schedule can reduce growth and clipping in excess of 50%. The length of control will be determined by rates, timing and temperatures.
2. Green Speed: MAYBE. The benefits of green speed occur immediately after application but lose effectiveness fairly quickly. Studies have shown that golfers cannot determine speed variances of less than 6 inches.
3. Poa Control: REAL. Some of the PGR's effectively reduce annual Poa populations. Repeated use can select out the annual biotypes and select for perennial biotypes that develop tolerances.
4. Increased Rooting: REAL. In higher temperatures, PGR's have proven to increase rooting.
5. Increased Color: REAL. Trials with Trinpac Ethyl have shown increased color and density.
6. Increased Stress Tolerances: REAL. Creates a lower growing and stronger plant.
7. Decreased Nutrient Requirements: REAL. Plant growth is slowed down and less nutrition is required.
8. Seed Head Suppression: REAL. Early season applications have shown positive effects.
9. Etiolation: MAYBE.
10. Increased Tiller Density: REAL. Plant physiology changes with repeated applications

What are the biggest challenges of the use of PGR's?

- Sometimes it's hard to know if they are working
- Soil mineralization confounds PGR performance in warm and moist soils.
- Labels can be imprecise (sometimes on purpose) - good and bad.
- Avoiding rebound effect when we stretch out a spray interval.

The goals for any PGR program should include the following:

- Maintain sustained growth throughout season
- Avoid too much suppression
- Avoid wasting money on too frequent applications, too infrequent applications and excessive rates

Dr. Kreuser indicated that over regulation is possible. During the summer months PGR metabolism increases with higher temperatures. Phytotoxic responses have been observed, particularly to collars and surrounding Kentucky bluegrass.

The best way to apply PGR's is using Growing Degree Day (GDD) models. A GDD is a heat unit measurement. Application rate had minimal impact on longevity of product. The rate impacts the amount of suppression but not the longevity of suppression. Turf grown in the shade will have longer GDD intervals. Dr. Kreuser reviewed his research with GDD models for each of the PGR's. These are his recommended application timing periods.

- Anuew: 280 GDD
- Trimmit: 300 GDD
- Legacy: 270 GDD
- Primo: 200 GDD
- Musketeer: 290 GDD

Dr. Kreuser and the University of Nebraska has launched a very useful tool for PGR applications. It is called GreenKeeper-App.com. It is a website you can download to your phone or your desktop to help you calculate GDD and pesticide applications. It looked pretty sharp and will be a great tool for PGR applications. Check it out. Dr. Kreuser indicated he is more than happy to take phone calls to take questions about PGR's

and provide support.

Dr. Benelli followed with his presentation, "Turfgrass Disease Management, With and Without the Boom". Dr. Benelli shared some very interesting research that he conducted while working at the University of Tennessee.

All golf course operations use spray programs. These programs fit into the current Integrated Pest Management and Best Maintenance Practice models. Dr. Benelli indicated our technology and use of spray practices are behind in what agriculture is using now. We are slowly improving our tactics and techniques. "One size does not fit all" when it comes to spray programs. Each course needs to make a custom spray program based on their turf needs. Every course is different.

Dr. Benelli shared some research data with some really cool slides showing his data and observations on foliar spray deposition characteristics. He demonstrated the best coverage for dollar spot applications. Dollar spot is our #1 disease. He recommends that best coverage is achieved at .9 to 1.8 gallons per thousand square feet.

Dr. Benelli shared some fascinating research he also did using Ultra violet light to control dollar spot. His lab work shows a 70% decrease in dollar spot with exposure to UVB light versus non exposure. There are many questions that still remain on this research but this still shows some innovative thought and some possible encouraging future options without the use of a spray boom. @

also be relevant to those managing athletic fields or residential lawns.

In summary, I am excited to be in Chicago and a part of the CDGA family. Please feel free to contact me if you ever want to discuss turf or just to say hello. I'm sure I will see you all at some point.

ED Note: I planned to interview Dr. Benelli for On Course, and he offered to write his own introduction. How could I say no? We welcome Jesse to the Midwest and look forward to working with him for many years to come. @

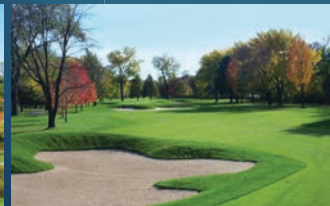


Dr. Benelli shares his knowledge about foliar application coverage.

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*John Gurke, CGCS
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Where did you grow up?
Westchester, then Wheaton, Illinois

First golf course you where you worked?

Butler National under Ed Fischer, then Oscar Miles (who with very good reason fired me)

Do you have a prized possession?

Yes—a first edition of “Don’t Stop the Carnival” by Herman Wouk. It was a gift from a good friend (which I loaned out and can’t remember to whom, so if you have it please return it).

What do you like to drink? Nothing fancy—just ice cubes. With any decent bourbon to marinate them.

Favorite job task at the golf course?

Cutting down “weeds that got hard” (thank you Steve Cook for that phrase).

Dream car? The Partridge Family’s bus because it’s the only vehicle bigger than the one I drive now. If Ford would resurrect the Excursion, I’d be ALL over it.

Favorite pig out food?

Extra cheese, sausage and pepperoni pizza.

What is your favorite movie, actor?

It’s a Wonderful Life and Some Like it Hot, *Don’t Stop the Carnival*. Jack Lemmon.

Favorite musician/band? Jimmy Buffett/Coral Reefer Band.

What is your favorite restaurant to go to?

Pascal’s Manale in New Orleans

What is your favorite sports team?

BearsHawksCubs

What is your best vacation or favorite destination?

Ontonagon, Michigan for fun; Tortola, BVI for sun.



John has been a fixture with the Midwest for many years as he contributes to this publication each month in his column “The Bull Sheet”. Those that know him beyond that are better off for having him within their life - as Jen Bushman, John’s fiance can attest.

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

Got my honey a Dude sweater that abides.

What is your favorite work shoe or boot? Keen Targhee II shoes

What is your best work piece of apparel?

Should be a wide-brimmed hat. Would the Bimini top I put on my work cart be considered apparel?

Funniest/craziest request or story on the golf course.....It’s the reason Oscar fired me, and will remain, for the most part, untold here. Let’s just say this—Western Open. Sunday round. Two cups in the 7th green and none in the 9th. ‘Nuff said.

In my spare time, I really enjoy.....Sitting back and reading a good book, or just hopping in the Jeep and heading west to places undiscovered.



John checking out the size of a new quick coupler valve at the Wee One Auction, we’ll just leave it at that.

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