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FEATURE

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How often do we drive right by many of the small flowering plants found in Spring? Kati Bernardy and Dave Ward describe several of the Native Spring Ephemerals and their interesting life cycle in Nature of the Game.

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DATES

2018 UPCOMING MIDWEST EVENTS

- 4/23/17 Spring Scramble at Ivanhoe, Tom Prichard host
- 5/16 ITF/MAGCS Play Day at Hughes Creek, Jim Pedersen host
- 6/4 June Meeting at Eaglebrook, Craig Kight host
- 7/23 9-Holer at Arlington Lakes GC, Al Bevers host

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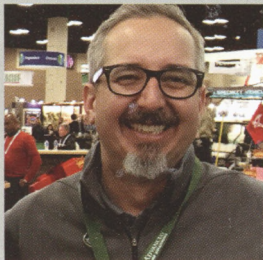
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Shake it Off



Rusty Stahlewitz
Advanced Turf Solutions

I am beyond excited to be the new Commercial Representative on the MAGCS Board. I look forward to contributing to the magazine on a more regular basis. For those of you that don't know me, I'm the Regional Sales Manager for Advanced Turf Solutions.

Through my career I have worked my way up from a Crew Member to Superintendent and General Manager (not sure that was a promotion). I've run two Community College Turfgrass Management Programs and led a few Trade Associations. I bring that varied background to assist the association, however I can.

It is tradition for us to have a recap of the Golf Industry Show in this issue of On Course. I will not break that precedent. For a Vendor, San Antonio was a great host. The weather was perfect! Cold and gray. It kept a lot of you in the Trade Show, so I got to see you! The reception and hospitality areas were all in close proximity to the Convention Center (except BASF, but the venue was cool). For a guy that needs to get to 4-5 events each evening, this is important. The food was great and we never had trouble finding a place to meet. The MAGCS Hospitality Room was once again awesome. Luke does a great job. I would once again like to thank everyone that helped with registration. It was way smoother than my exit from San Antonio.

I touched 8000 people in 6 days.

While I'm on the GIS and trade shows in general, I have a rant. Can I do that here? When are we going to stop shaking hands? It is disgusting! I touched 8000 people in 6 days. I used hand sanitizer and washed my hands often. I got home and got sick. Really, sick. Can we fist bump or bang forearms or just acknowledge each other with words and eye contact? Granted, I was stuffed in a tube with 200 other humans to get to San Antonio and then didn't take the best care of myself when I arrived, but I think the communal sharing of all we have touched is unnecessary. Handshakes started as a way to prove we were unarmed. I'll assume you are all unarmed or at least not looking to do me harm when we trade pleasantries in front of Golf Course accessories. That being said, next time I see you I'll reflexively shake your hand.

Every year on the way home from GIS I start to mentally shift gears. As Turf Maintenance Departments finish up their checklists and prepare for green grass, we in distribution must do the same. Many of us are also reloading our warehouse facilities after a slow winter or a busy Ice Melt season. I really don't think there is a down time in the cold season for most of us in the industry. There are just differing types of busy. We switch from Education and Trade Show busy to Spring Preparation busy and Planning Busy to Execution Busy. Every Spring I am excited and ready for the new challenge, as I think most of us are. The challenge makes it fun. We complain about it (like handshakes), but we love it. Here's to this year's set of challenges, may your preparation be adequate for excellent execution. @

Remembering Brent Wadsworth

John Gurke, CGCS, Aurora Country Club

PHOTO CREDITS: VARIOUS

On February 7, 2018, one of the game of golf's biggest names and a true benefactor not only to our industry, but to so many outside of golf moved on from this life. Brent Wadsworth, the founder of Wadsworth Golf Construction was 88 years old when he passed away at his home in Yorkville, Illinois, leaving behind his wife of 64 years, Jean and their four children.

Born in Buffalo, New York in 1929, Brent's parents moved to Joliet Illinois shortly thereafter, where he grew up attending the Joliet public schools. He attended the University of Illinois, where he studied landscape architecture, and went on to work in the office of prominent mid-century golf course architect Robert Bruce Harris. Brent had a passion for aviation as well, and obtained his private pilot's license from the Lewis School of Aeronautics, and also served in the U.S. Air Force from 1952 to 1954 before joining with Edward L. Packard in forming the Packard and Wadsworth golf course design firm.

In 1958 he established the Wadsworth Golf Construction Company, as his interest in building courses outweighed his interest in designing them, and he saw at the time that there were too few builders specializing in golf, especially in creating superior golf facilities. With the rapid growth of the game across the country at the time, to meet the demand Wadsworth opened offices in the Tampa, Florida and Phoenix, Arizona areas as well as maintaining the original location in Plainfield, Illinois. Today, Wadsworth has built or restored over 900 golf courses, mostly in the U.S., many of which you may have heard of, like Augusta National, the Greenbriar, Castle Pines, and Shadow Creek to name but a few.

"I was very fortunate to get to spend time with Brent Wadsworth—he was very involved during a renovation project at Fox Bend in the mid-90's and I had the chance to play golf with not only him, but his good friend Leon McNair on several occasions. I always felt after spending time with Brent, whether walking and discussing the project or any other maintenance at Fox Bend, or playing golf with him that I always learned something that helped me in my career. How could you not when you look at the list of the courses around the world that he had been involved with. I wrote Brent a letter back in December of 2016, congratulating him on his Distinguished Service Award from GCSAA and told him how much I enjoyed the time I got to spend with him and how it had helped me become the superintendent I am today; he wrote back saying, "Your letter was so nice that I am putting it in my keepsake file." He truly was a nice, nice man and a true gentleman that did so much for the game of golf. He will be missed." *Dan Sterr*

Mr. Wadsworth's contributions to building the venues we play our great game on is notable enough, but what he has done throughout his life to build the game itself, and to help less fortunate souls enjoy the game—particularly the disadvantaged youth and physically impaired people—is even more commendable. To further this goal, in 1997 Brent, along with

his wife and children established the Wadsworth Golf Charities Foundation. The Foundation has, through the years, sought to make the character-building attributes of golf accessible to more people by making gifts and grants to many organizations across the country that support the Foundation's mission of self-improvement, which in turn benefits society by making the world a more honorable, gentler and friendlier place.

Brent Wadsworth's legacy stretched beyond the world of golf as well. Around his hometown of Joliet, he may be better known for his contributions to local institutions and causes than for his prodigious efforts in our industry. He was a benefactor to the Rialto Square Theatre, and also to the Joliet Township High School Foundation, for which he served on the reunion committee every five years when the class of '47 got back together. The Farragut Elementary School, which he attended, has a park named after him. He was a donor to



Brent Wadsworth sketches out golf course construction plans. A UI graduate and donor, Wadsworth was a nationally renowned golf course builder, constructing more than 900 courses across the U.S. who started his company right here in Plainfield.

the Joliet Grade Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence, and he started the Brenton Wadsworth Scholarship Fund that helps Joliet grade school students.

"It hurt deeply to learn of Brent's passing. He was my mentor for many years, and my employer for 14 of those years, but more than anything he taught me accountability, responsibility, and attention to detail. Most everything that I learned in this business came from being a student of the "Wadsworth school." Suffice it to say that I learned to do it right the FIRST time and to be observant, because "if you can't see the problem, you can't fix the problem." A true believer of whatever we do in this business, we must do it "for the good of the game." He was a true friend to golf course superintendents all over the world. Beyond his support of our industry, Brent was one of the most generous people I have known; his generosity continues not only to impact the game but many of the communities where he lived.

When I think of him, I remember so many good times, conversations and golf matches that I played with him as my partner. He had a very lively sense of humor. We laughed a lot, especially during matches against my two brothers Jerry and Leon. The comments made during the matches contributed to our success as much as whatever skill we may have displayed. He loved to verbally stick it to them. I'm smiling as I write this with some of those great memories." *Jim McNair*

Here is just a sampling of the honors that have been bestowed upon Mr. Wadsworth:

- Illinois Golf Hall of Fame Inductee
- American Society of Golf Course Architects' Donald Ross Award

- Golf Course Builders Association of America's Don A. Rossi Humanitarian Award
- Illinois PGA Foundation's John Gleason Ambassador of Golf Award
- Chicago District Golf Association's Distinguished Service Award
- ExxonMobil Community Philanthropic Award from Channahon Parks Foundation
- University of Illinois' Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award
- Phi Gamma Delta's Distinguished Fiji Award
- Lewis University's Honorary Doctorate of Humanities Degree
- Joliet Area Sports Hall of Fame Inductee
- GCSAA's Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award

I could have asked any of our many friends in this association who knew Brent personally, or who had worked with him, or who had just drawn the lucky straw and got to play a round of golf with him, and all would have the same things to say. Our industry, our association, our entire world has lost one of the truly great men to have lived amongst us. Brent Wadsworth is gone, but his legacy will live on forever. Godspeed, Mr. Wadsworth. @



*Photo by: Courtesy Illinois Golf Hall of Fame
Brent Wadsworth, top left, at his 1991 induction into the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame with other inductees Dann Marshall, bottom left, Bob Goalby, top right, and Harry Pezzullo, bottom right.*



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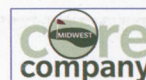
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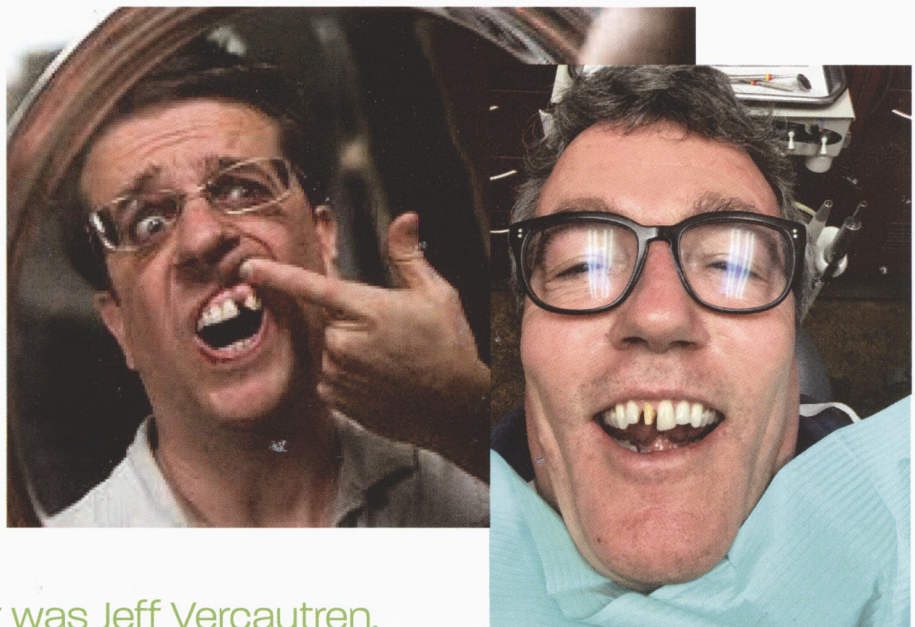
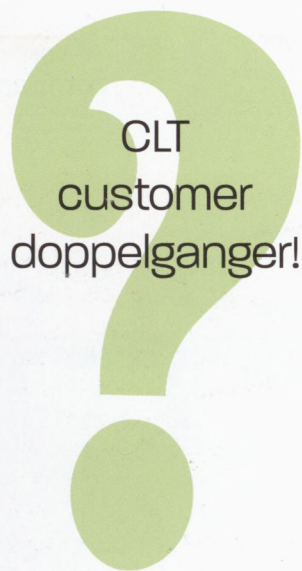
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CLT Monthly Quiz



Last month's winner was Jeff Vercautren.
Answer was A3, B1, C2



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The BullSheet



DATES TO REMEMBER

April 2018

April 5 – CAGCS April Breakfast meeting at Lake Shore Country Club, Jeff Frentz host superintendent.

April 21-May 13 – Audubon International's 4th Annual BioBlitz 2018 running from Earth Day to World Migratory Bird Day.

April 23 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Spring Scramble at Ivanhoe Club in Ivanhoe, IL, Tom Prichard host superintendent.

April 25 – National Golf Day in Washington, D.C.

May 14 – Michigan Wee One Golf Outing at Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville, MI.

May 16 – MAGCS/ITF Spring Golf Day at Hughes Creek Golf Club in Elburn, IL, President Jim Pedersen host superintendent.

May 24-27 – KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship at Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor, MI, Brad Fry host superintendent.

We welcome you, our newest members to our association, and wish you all the best. You know who you are, and now we all do too:

Adam Charters, Class C, Seven Bridges Golf Club

Joshua Hazel, Class C, Ridgemoor CC

John Nugent, Class B, Heritage Bluffs GC

Steve Olken, Class E, Harris Golf Cars

Dave Roberts, Class B, Heritage Bluffs GC

Craig Smith, Class C, Chicago Golf Club

Ben Taylor, Class DT, Midlothian CC

Richard Van Arsdale, Class C, Merit Club

Warm wishes to **Bob Rigney** (aka Nick Offerman) on his big move. Bob has left Nettle Creek for the land of Mark Twain, Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn to take the superintendent's position at Hannibal Country Club in Hannibal, MO. Good luck Bob (right)!



So this happened in January Longtime MAGCS guy **John "JT" Turner** (aka Jim Palmer) has a new gig and a new business card to boot—JT is the Territory Manager for Aquatrols, covering the upper Midwest, and is very happy to be back in the manufacturers' side of the business. Congrats to JT (left)!

HELP WANTED

Several area courses are looking for help while they host professional tournaments. MAGCS.org has all the contact information.

KPMG Women's PGA Championship

June 25-July 1, Kemper Lakes

Constellation Senior Players Championship

July 9-15, Exmoor Country Club

USGA Senior Women's Open

July 9-15, Chicago Golf Club

Please consider lending a hand or at least get on their inclement weather call list.

Ever dreamt about working abroad on a golf course during a major event like a Ryder Cup?

Really? That's just plain weird. But if you are a weirdo, you have a pretty cool opportunity to go to Paris, France this coming September to work the Ryder Cup Matches at Le Golf National Albatross Course. As a GCSAA member (or a BIGGA/FEGGA member for that matter), you can apply to be part of an international team of professionals that will prepare and maintain the course for the matches, while also taking part in educational sessions and career development clinics headed up by leading industry teachers. The commitment is from September 24th through the 30th, and while I can't seem to find a deadline to apply, you should probably hurry. Visit www.fegga.org and follow the trail to apply.

If you're a golf nut, you probably know of the Fried Egg. If not, it's a web site for all things golf, intended to make it easier to bone up on all the information that's out there quickly, making you "feel like



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an insider in minutes." Along with long-form content, you'll find the bi-weekly newsletter (to which you can subscribe), podcasts and more. Why do I tell you this? Because on March 12th The Fried Egg's Andy Johnson and golf nerd Jason Way recorded the first-ever live-audience podcast, and the guests of honor were **Scott Pavalko** of Bob O' Link, **Brian Palmer** of Shoreacres and **Brian Moore** of Glen View Club. Among the topics discussed were the careers of the MAGCS' young stars, working with architects and restoring Golden Age courses. You can listen in by going to www.friedegg.co.

Congratulations to Cheryl and **Kevin DeRoo** on becoming grandparents! Again!! For the third time!!! Daughter Kayce gave birth to 8-lb, 8-oz Jack William Pieperbrink on March 18th, blessing the DeRoo family with three grandsons.



Q: What are the patio chairs at **Tim White's** club made of?

A: Prestwicker.

If it seems to you like the Tour pros are hitting the ball further than normal—witness Dustin Johnson's record-breaking 489-yard drive during the match play event on March 23rd—you are not crazy. The USGA and R&A have released the 2017 distance report, and it shows some interesting data. Since 2003, distance numbers from seven of the major worldwide professional golf tours have increased at a creep of around 0.2 yards per year. Not so for 2017, where distance went up more than three yards—a major deviation from the norm. And no—this does not translate to more distance for you.

Also from golf's two ruling bodies are some new Rules to take effect on January 1st of next year. The five most significant changes are:

How to Drop a Ball—You will drop your ball from knee height into the relief area.

Time for Ball Search—Three minutes will be the maximum allotted time to search for a ball, rather than the current five minutes.

Repairing Spike Marks—You will be allowed to repair spike marks and any other damage on the putting green caused by a person, an animal or maintenance practices.

Leaving Flagstick in the Hole—If you make a stroke from the green and your ball hits the flagstick in the hole, there will be no penalty.

Relaxed Rules in Penalty Area—You will be allowed to ground your club and move loose impediments in a penalty area (an expanded concept of water hazards that does not include bunkers).

There you have it.

Santa's Favorite Golf Witticism of the Month: Why am I using a new putter? Because the old one didn't float too well. — Craig Stadler

Our country's President certainly has a knack for making headlines, and now there's a new golf-related scandal. The Trump Organization may be in legal hot water after it ordered tee markers for its golf courses that feature the presidential seal. Federal law forbids the use of the seal for anything other than official government business, and violators could face criminal charges punishable by up to six months in prison. Oops.

I attended a seminar last month where I ran across my old buddy **John Otis** from Ravinia Green, and I couldn't help but stare at him, thinking I'd seen him somewhere recently. Then it hit me—I had just watched "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy" and saw John's evil twin in the movie.

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



John Otis



David Koehn?

April's "Clavin-ism:" Did you know—it's a little-known fact—that, according to a survey by the National Golf Foundation, 47% of U.S. households took a vacation this past winter (over 50 miles from home and including an overnight stay), and that 54% of those taking a trip traveled to a warm weather destination, AND that 25% of those folks going to a warm weather destination said they had golf on their agenda. So, by my math, 25% of 54% of 47% means 11 people played golf while on vacation last winter.

The First Green Foundation and GCSAA have signed a memorandum of understanding that will bring First Green under the umbrella of GCSAA's philanthropic organization, the Environmental Institute for Golf. First Green is an innovative education outreach program using golf courses as hands-on environmental learning labs, and has worked with golf course superintendents for more than 20 years. It provides STEM learning to students who participate in field trips to golf courses to test water quality, collect soil samples, identify plants, design plantings, assist in stream bed restoration, and study the ecology and environmental benefits of golf courses. If you are interested in hosting a field trip or helping out in any way, go to www.thefirstgreen.org.

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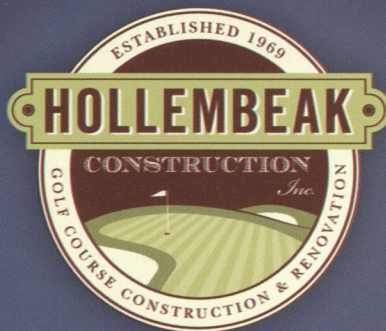
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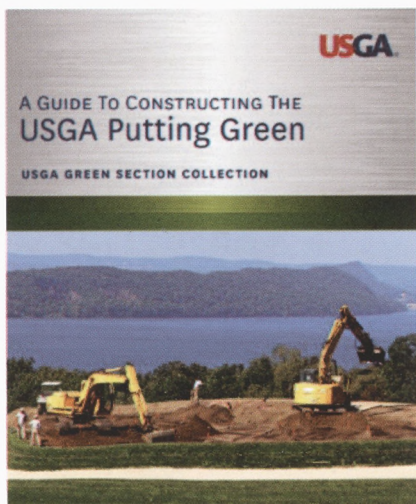


If you take a gander at last month's Club & Resort Business magazine, you might recognize MAGCS' own **Paul Bastron's** mug on page 42. In an article by Betsy Gilliland called "Ready, Set, Go," Paul was one of three featured superintendents telling their stories of their clubs' recent renovation projects. In Paul's case, the project in question is a restoration of the historic Donald Ross-designed Kenosha Country Club. Neat story.



OK, why not? Can vegetarians eat animal crackers?

This just in—the USGA has revised its recommendations for putting green construction this year. The basic guidelines from 1960 haven't changed much over the years, with the last revision coming in 2004, so this is a big step. The four main objectives with these new changes were:



- To review new technology and how it impacts green construction
- Provide education by improving the clarity and increase the awareness of the USGA's principles and methodology
- To maintain a broad range of methodology, and
- Consider alternative methods by recognizing the potential benefits and pitfalls of other methods of green construction and to provide guidance for those methods.

You can probably find out all about the revisions at www.usga.org, but I'm damned if I can.

Thanks to the fine folks at TopGolf Naperville for hosting our March monthly meeting, and to **Reinders, Syngenta, Burris Equipment, Healthy Grow** and **EZ-Go/Cushman** for their support of the event. It was a busy day starting off with education provided by Beth Carpenter and Joseph Cooper of Thermodynamic Solutions who spoke on "From Tee to Green: How Weather Consulting Can Help Your Long, Medium, and Short Range Game." After that, the brackets were drawn for the first-ever Midwest Match Play Championship, for which 48 MAGCS members will compete throughout this season. After lunch, it was time to do what you do at TopGolf—play "golf." And for those who don't think there is a connection between TopGolf and real golf, think again—in another sur-

vey by the National Golf Foundation, it was discovered that 23% of new golfers who have been playing 3 years or less started playing golf after their first TopGolf experience, and of those, 75% say TopGolf influenced their decision to take up golf. Their mantra must be true—"What's good for TopGolf is good for golf, and vice-versa."

Classifieds

We have four Jacobsen GK IV triplex mowers for sale. Each mower is diesel powered with brand new eleven bladed reels, reel bearings and bed knives. The cutting units all are equipped with groomers & spring loaded rear roller down pressure kits with extra weight added and rear roller scrapers. These units include baskets and are ready to work in excellent condition. One unit is a 2008 model year with 2,675 hours for a price of \$6,000. Three units are 2012 model year with approx 1,900 hours for a price of \$8,000 each.

Contact Dave at Indian Hill Club, 847/251-2414 or dbgetter@gmail.com to inquire.

Also for sale are these tee markers formally used by the Illinois Junior Golf Association. The following are available—make an offer:

Blue: 11 new and 73 used.

Gray: 30 new and 30 used.

White: 9 new and 23 used.

Red: 36 used.

Green: 82 used.

Black: 61 used.

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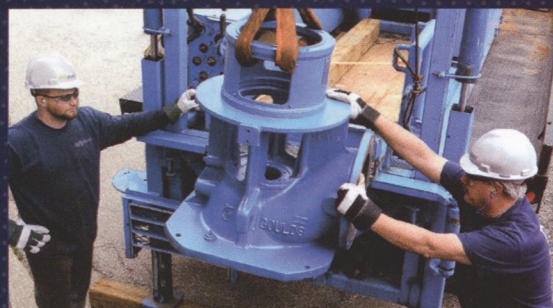
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SUPER-N-site

Tom Prichard & Ryan Mumper
Ivanhoe Club

Dale Ostrander, Park Ridge Country Club

Ivanhoe Club located in Mundelein, Illinois is gearing up to host the 2018 April MAGCS event. Making sure the course is ready to go for everyone playing are Tom Prichard and Ryan Mumper.

Tom has been at Ivanhoe Club since 2004 and has done a great job building his assistants up and helping them take the next step in their careers. Tom's method for preparing his assistants for bigger things has been to take a step back and allow his assistants to handle many aspects of the club. Tom's approach was no different when asked to be interviewed for this article. He let his assistant Ryan take the spotlight in this Assistant Super - N - Site.

Ryan earned a two-year turf degree with an emphasis on Golf through Michigan State University. He worked into this profession the way many guys do, by doing golf course maintenance at a young age. Ryan's uncle, Mike Mumper, is in the turf business in the Chicagoland area so while Ryan was in middle school, he would change cups, drag fairways and

other tasks while Mike was the superintendent at Park Ridge Country Club. Using the experience Ryan gained while working with his uncle, he got a job at Butler National the summer before heading to college. During his time at Michigan State, Ryan interned at Bel Air Country Club in Los Angeles, California. In 2010, Ryan's first job out of college was as a second assistant superintendent with Superintendent Don Cross, CGCS at Skokie Country Club. In 2011, Ryan moved on to Ruth Lake Country Club where he worked with Superintendent Dan Marco, CGCS. In 2013, Ryan got a position at Medinah Country Club the year after they hosted the 2012 Ryder Cup. While he was there, he landed on course two for Rees Jones' renovation and restoration of the entire golf course. In March of 2017, Ryan joined Tom Prichard at Ivanhoe Club as assistant superintendent replacing Nathan Bolhous when he took the superintendent job at McHenry Country Club. Ryan and Tom have built a trust in one another that helps them succeed at a high level.



Ryan and Mary Mumper.

Ryan grew up in Dallas, Texas and lived there for about twenty years. When Ryan landed the job at Butler National in 2008, he moved to the Chicagoland area and has remained. Ryan married in 2015 after meeting his future wife Mary while living in downtown Chicago. Ryan and Mary do not have children but they do have a black lab. In his free time, Ryan enjoys watching sports especially his Michigan State Spartans. While he is a fan of typical American sports such as football and basketball, one sport Ryan enjoys, according to Tom, is a little outside the box; curling. Ryan does play golf but prefers not to take it too seriously and just enjoy the round, and honestly who can blame him? Ryan and his wife try to visit Michigan often, which is a home base for both of



their families.

Ryan enjoys golf rounds with his dad and grandpa in Texas whenever he can make it down there. His most memorable moment playing golf was when he bladed a golf ball into the ankle of Dr. Trey Rodgers, the head of the turf department at Michigan State. Dr. Rodgers did make Ryan pay for that when he got back to campus by doing some painting for Mrs. Rodgers. When asked about his dream foursome, Ryan answered Tom Izzo, Michigan State head basketball coach, Carl Spackler and Miguel Angel Jimenez. Tom's choice for his foursome would be his son in law, who is now the head pro at Royal Melbourne, Rory Sabbatini because he plays golf really fast, he smokes, he drinks and has a good sense of humor and Miguel Angel Jimenez due to the way he walks around post round smoking his cigar. (Tom may have to invite me as a fifth for that round!)

Ryan got into the golf course business for his desire to work outside, he enjoys being around golf but also enjoys maintaining grass. Being able to see almost immediate progress on the golf course and the fruits of your labor is a good feeling. He also enjoys solving the different challenges he faces at Ivanhoe. Keeping up with the weather, the staff and

Tom is a task in itself but it keeps him busy and enjoys it. He would like to take what he has learned from everyone he has worked for throughout his career; Don Cross, Dan Marco, Tom Pritchard, and his time at Medinah Country Club, and use those experiences to advance his career to the next step as a Superintendent. He would take Tom's strategy with him where he goes and allow his assistants to learn and think for themselves, not forced to do things one way. Ryan says the best advice for someone that is looking to get into the business is to make sure it is something you really want to do and keep working at it. Ryan has received a lot of advice through his mentors over the years such as green side up, keep it simple and don't reinvent the wheel. One piece of advice he has taken from Ivanhoe Club is to always have multiple plans when you start something because more than likely plan A will fall through and there is a chance plan B will fall through so always have multiple backup plans to try and stay ahead of the game.

Ryan decided to make the move to Ivanhoe Club when he realized that Tom's previous assistant's names were coming up for superintendent jobs frequently. Ryan has been in the business for nearly ten years and thought what better place to go to fine tune his abilities and get help to take the next step forward in his career. Tom likes to let his assistant superinten-

.....continued on page 19.



The Marsh 9th green and surrounds with the clubhouse and the putting green of the Forest 9th in the background at Ivanhoe Club.

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Super-n-Site from page 17...

dent run the show at Ivanhoe Club so he can oversee the big picture and focus on other details. This gives Ryan the opportunity to communicate with members, to be a part of greens committee meetings, board meetings, deal with vendors and work with other departments of the club to help facilitate different events. Ryan attends all staff meetings and is involved in event planning at the club as well. He is also in charge of all of the grounds staff hiring, firing, scheduling, finances and any paperwork for the grounds staff. Tom has set Ryan up to be involved in all aspects of the club: budgeting, accounting, human resources, communication with the general manager, with the golf shop staff and the membership.

Ivanhoe Club dates back to 1949 when the member's original home, Sky Crest Golf Club, was forced to close. Sky Crest was located in Deerfield, Illinois but when property values rose they had to find new land. Ivanhoe was newly established at that time as Thorngate Club and broke ground in 1987, the club was renamed Ivanhoe Club after the second nine was finished in 1991. In 1995, a member wanted to develop land just west of the first eighteen for homes and another nine holes. Dick Nugent was hired to build another nine holes across the street. When that nine was first built, it did not get much attention. In 2000, the idea came that the new nine should be worked into a twenty-seven-hole rotation. Art Hills was hired to design with a master plan to incorporate the additional holes. This plan divided the new nine; four the holes across the street became part of what is now the Marsh Course and the other five holes became part what is now the Prairie Course. The Forest Course was also renovated. Almost all of the greens were rebuilt and all were re-grassed with A1/A4 bentgrass, the fairways and tees are Penn Links. That project took three years to complete and finished up in

2003. Tom took over in 2004 to finish the final details of the Forest Course and had everything open in June.

Ivanhoe Club consists of twenty-seven holes. The three sets of nines are on a daily rotation to make the eighteen holes for everyday play. Ryan works with the professional golf staff to coordinate this rotation. Every facility has different challenges for the assistant or superintendent but one common challenge is finding labor and keeping staff on the crew. This is not any different at Ivanhoe Club. They currently operate with a crew of twenty five individuals but in the past had thirty on staff. Tom feels that it just is not possible to get back up to thirty. A good portion of the grounds staff have been around for fifteen or twenty years. They know how things operate and what is expected of them on a daily basis by Ryan and Tom. The seasoned workers who have been around for many years have been able to bring their sons on board for the summers. With the responsibilities that Tom has given him, Ryan has made several decisions related to the course maintenance. Ryan uses a section maintenance style for the golf course; the staff splits up amongst the three courses evenly. This puts each group in charge of their specific individual nine holes. Ryan also talked Tom into making a change from walk mowing greens, approaches and tees to using state of the art riding triplexes without compromising quality of cut.

Ivanhoe Club is a private country club that averages around 22,000 rounds a year! That large number of rounds at a private club can partly be attributed to having more holes available to play. The members enjoy having a different eighteen holes to play when they come out. In addition, Tom has implemented a unique family tee or kids' tee. These tee markers are set shorter and, on par threes, they are set beyond all hazards. This allows golfers to bring their entire family and

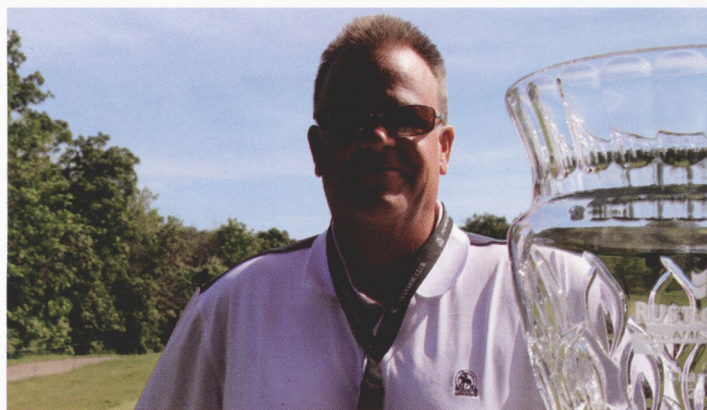


play a shorter, easier course. Each weekend, one of the nine holes is designated for these tees for afternoon play. The hope is that the family will stay at the club and enjoy a nice meal after their round with the added benefit of introducing the game of golf to the next generation.

Managing the twenty seven holes also brings challenges. Ryan has to coordinate his maintenance schedule with the daily golf schedule as well as tee times to open a different nine. The Marsh Course is built on a flood plain and was the last nine of the holes to be built. This nine is surrounded by businesses and neighborhoods that all drain onto the property and the water leaves the property through Squaw Creek. Ryan and Tom had to work with the city to clear beaver dams and other debris downstream to move water more quickly to keep two of the Marsh holes from being flooded and impassable. Ryan thinks having the three different nines is the best part about Ivanhoe Club. Having the Marsh, the Forest and the Prairie gives you all different aspects of types of courses. It also gives members a change of pace instead of playing the same eighteen holes every day.

This year will be the third year in a row that the Ivanhoe Club is hosting the Rustoleum Championship which is a Web.com Tour event. This year will be Ryan's second year experiencing this event. The week of this tournament becomes a long one as the Ivanhoe Cup, a member-member club event, is scheduled on the Saturday and Sunday before the Rustoleum Championship to give the member's tournament conditions for their event. The Rustoleum Championship is advance week on the Web.com Tour; this means the agronomists, the rules officials, and the Golf Channel are there that week. The tournament director is also at the club constantly. Ryan says going home and turning the tournament on television and seeing all your hard work is a really cool feeling.

Tom holds an IEPA class four wastewater license and runs the sanitary plant across the road from the property. The course has to put down 16 million gallons of water through the sanitary plant per year. There is a well that draws water from the sanitation tank to irrigate the course at 600 gallons per minute. In drought conditions, if they can draw water from the pond on the course, however the pond is an aesthetic pond not an irrigation pond therefore keeping it as full as possible is important. Ryan keeps track of water condition,




Superintendent Tom Prichard has mentored many area Assistants and helped them take that next successful step.

precipitation totals and the city paperwork for their water usage.

Ivanhoe Club's golf courses' biggest challenge for players is the wind because the wind tends to whip through the wide open land. An example Ryan used to illustrate this challenge were the first two rounds of the Web.com tournament in 2017. The wind was calm and the scores were low but over the weekend the wind picked up and the scores were much higher. Water hazards do not come into play all that much while playing Ivanhoe but players still have to hit good shots to score.

Tom grew up in a time of the business that he enjoyed and thought was fun, setting out sprinklers for night watering and then going to work for a few hours in the morning after that. When he was still young in his career, the business was really an art, which it still is today only with more tools, technology and resources than in the past. Tom and Ryan suggest not to get caught up too much with the new technologies but still get out and learn the course without those tools and figure out the spots that need more attention than others and use his member's feedback to gauge the work. Tom's advice is to make sure you set goals for yourself, long term, short term, work and personal.

Tom and Ryan hope to have a great turnout for the MAGCS event and would love to put all twenty seven holes to use, so go on out and swing 'em! 



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Kati Bernardy and Dave Ward

Spring Ephemerals

Liverwort, Spring Beauty, Shooting Star, Common blue violet, Bloodroot, Prairie Trillium

Spring ephemerals are plants that should truly be admired. They are very busy in the spring, much like golf course superintendents, and do not get as much attention as they should. Spring ephemerals are a category of herbaceous perennials that by definition only last for a short time. In a matter of only a couple months they produce new leaves, blossom, set seed, and completely die back to the ground, disappearing until the following year. Most spring ephemerals are found in woodlands, are small in size, and prefer damp soils. They start to grow when there is a spike in temperature and race to complete their lifecycle before the leaves on the trees emerge and create a shade canopy. Listed below are only a few of the many spring ephemeral species common to Illinois.

Liverwort, *Hepatica nobilis*

Liverwort can be identified by its 3 lobed leaves that are sometimes red in color. They do not have petals but rather have 5-11 sepals that can vary in color from white, pastel pink, or light blue. These flowers each emerge on their own



Liverwort (*Hepatica nobilis*)

hairy stem from the base of the plant.

Spring Beauty, *Claytonia virginica*

A spring ephemeral very common to Illinois is the Spring Beauty. It grows 4-6" tall, has white to pinkish petals with dark pink veins, and is surprisingly a member of the Purslane



Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)

family. This plant may be more common than other spring ephemerals due to its higher tolerance to environmental disruptions compared to other spring ephemerals.



Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon meadia*)

Shooting Star, *Dodecatheon meadia*

The flower of this plant is very distinct and resembles a shooting star, hence its common name. The plant forms a basal rosette of lanceolate leaves from which a couple stems emerge and an umbel flo-
rescence holds 6-40 flowers that point down to the ground. The flowers are white to pale pink and are extremely beautiful.

Common blue violet, *Viola sororia*

The Illinois state flower is the common blue violet. The purple flowers are small, only ¾"-1" wide and fade to white in the center. They have heart shaped leaves about



Common blue violet (*Viola sororia*)

2" wide that are useful in identification.

**Bloodroot,
*Sanguinaria canadensis***

Bloodroots have a basal leaf that unfolds and allows a flower stalk to emerge. The flower is white in color and blooms for 1 to 2 days. The Native Americans used the red sap from the rhizome for dyeing skin and clothing, hence the common name.



Bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis) only



Prairie Trillium (Trillium recurvatum)

**Prairie
Trillium, *Trillium recurvatum***

Prairie Trillium plants have three leaves that are mottled light green to dark green and are about 3-6" across. They can take up to 8 years to produce a small maroon

flower. Despite their name they mainly grow in woodlands and are found in every county in Illinois.

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