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THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

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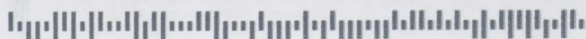
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Arlington Lakes Golf Club is owned and operated by the Arlington Heights Park District, a community that values golf and the recreational benefits it brings their residents. Al Bevers will host our July Midwest 9-Holer and show off the AHPD's jewel of a course.

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FEATURE

**US Open**  
Chuck Anfield

## SERIALS

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FEATURE

**Super-n-Site**  
Conrad Pannkuk

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Rewards from volunteering last a lifetime in the form of friends, experience and memories. Chuck Anfield spent the week of the US Open helping out and making the event a success. He's talking with Mike Ford, Lead Assistant at Shinnecock above and shares his full experience on page 4.

## DEPARTMENTS

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Todd Schmitz
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- 18** Midwest Personality  
Brian Stout
- 20** Nature of the Game  
Dave Ward / Kati Bernardy

## DATES

### 2018 UPCOMING MIDWEST EVENTS

- 7/23 9-Holer at Arlington Lakes GC, Al Bevers host
- 8/27 Golf Championship, Highlands of Elgin, Brad Legnaioli host
- 10/2 October Meeting at Seven Bridges,  
Dave Gelino & Don Ferreri host
- 12/5 Midwest Turf Clinic & Annual Meeting,  
Medinah Country Club, Steve Cook host

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

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Todd Schmitz,  
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## Finding Labor Within Your Community

We all have been fighting the good fight for some time now to find labor for our operations. Just as we think we have it figured out searching every corner of our communities for labor, the following season we find ourselves back to the drawing board no further along than the previous year.

We have used up all the leads that our staffs have to offer and applicants don't come calling like they used to. Some of us have increased starting pay and/or benefits as if that was the problem but still can't find individuals that want to work on our courses. "Want to work" may be the catch phrase as there seems to be a shift in culture (maybe a subject for a future article), but I hope this isn't the case. I have been fortunate to find a new source of labor every couple of years. Collectively when I need labor I have different sources to go to.

There are two temporary or "temp" agencies down the street from the golf course that I use every year. They come in handy when I need instant labor like when the golf season arrives earlier than expected. Last year, when spring came really early there was a lot of clean-up to do, and my regular crew hadn't rolled back into town yet, I took advantage of this labor force. These short-term hires can also be a great audition for future labor opportunities to see if potential employees will actually work out in your operation. Temporary labor may be the answer if you have only enough staff to maintain the course but you have projects to get done. The temporary labor will be there for the duration of your project and then gone when you don't need them anymore. Temp agencies will cost a couple dollars more per hour, but in a pinch, it may end up worth it. Most are willing to pay more per hour to attract labor and the flexibility offered by this service outweighs any increased costs. I have been using temp agencies for the past six years and wish I would have figured the out sooner.

Wayside Cross Ministries is another labor source I discovered two years ago. These individuals have fallen on hard times and are recovering from whatever misfortunes may have come their way. After graduating from their program, they are able to re-enter the work force. I have two returning employees from this source who have turned out to be dependable, capable of all maintenance tasks on the course, and happy to have a job and be working. They are dedicated to getting their life back together. One caveat with their program is they are required to go to church on Sunday which means they have to work Saturday mornings.

While volunteering for a community event, I met a gentleman who owns a company that trains athletes and coaches a high school travel baseball team. After these athletes move on to college they need summer jobs. At the start of the season I will give him a call and let him know how many employees I might need for the summer months. They tend to work for their freshman and sophomore years before they find work in their areas of study the last couple of years of their college careers. I'm currently on my second batch of college students this year. This year I was provided with more people than I needed and passed leads onto the clubhouse for work opportunities. Though they are not main part of my labor force, they do help to round out the staff for the summer months. They help me to get the flowers planted, composted, watered, and beds mulched; in addition, they walk mow the putting greens each day. They've even helped me to get some projects done including our bunker renovations the past couple of years.

Our parks department participates in in program that provides special needs students an opportunity to come and work in our greenhouse and learn tasks to perform in a work environment for four hours a week. One high school group comes in on Tuesdays and another on Thursdays. These students (mostly autistic) will help out by doing tasks like sanitizing pots, filling pots with



# 2018 US Open Volunteer Experience

Chuck Anfield, CGCS

PHOTO CREDITS: CHUCK ANFIELD, CGCS

This year's 118<sup>th</sup> U.S. Open was held at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club on Long Island in New York. The course is located about 90 miles due east of New York City. A few years back, it was only a two lane road in and out of Long Island. It has been upgraded over the years to four lanes to accommodate the massive traffic flow from the city. During tournament week the driving commute was between 3-4 hours plus.

Long Island is a golf mecca. Many of the top 100 "classic" architecture golf courses reside on Long Island. Some notable courses include: National Golf Links, Maidstone, Friars Head, Piping Rock Club, Sebonak Golf Club and Bethpage Black to name a few. Golf has been and continues to be a very popular form of recreation on the island.

One of the best and a USGA favorite to host U.S. Opens is Shinnecock Hills Golf Club. Jon Jennings, CGCS is the Superintendent. Jon made the move from Chicago Golf Club in 2012 to begin preparations for the tournament. The William Flynn design went through some changes prior to the event. Upgrades and project work included: green expansion and collection areas, irrigation upgrades, fairway modifications, new tee construction and bunker upgrades. The course is built on an open, rolling terrain that is all sand based. Television does not do the course justice in its overall features and terrain changes. There are very few trees on the course, none of which come into play. The ocean is a few miles on either side of the golf course. The sea breeze which blows early and often has a fresh ocean smell.



*When you volunteer, you always meet other volunteers - like minded individuals that often have a lot in common besides golf. There was plenty of down time that provided a chance to get to know many new people that came out to help.*

The Volunteer experience begins with an application process. An application is sent to the host club typically almost a year in advance. Security clearances must be established, travel arrangements including airfare and ground transport must be coordinated, accommodation arrangements made, meals, uniforms and work maintenance assignments. This year's event had 200 golf maintenance volunteers to supplement Jon's staff of 50. The overall total number of volunteers for the event was over 4000. Without the huge input of volunteers this event doesn't happen. As you can imagine many of the volunteers were locals who live on the Island. The golf maintenance volunteers like me who traveled from all over the world to take part in the experience and were put up on the adjacent dormitories of Long Island College which is within walking distance to the golf course. There were golf writers, irrigation consultants, assistants superintendents and superintendents all staying there. There were people from Ireland, Australia, South Africa, Morocco, France, Canada, Mexico, Spain, Scotland, England, and Guatemala. There were also many men and women from the golf industry gathering from all over the United States. I'm sure I missed a few countries but you get the drift; it was an international team to prepare the golf course for our National Championship. Jon assembled a very diverse collection of people for his volunteer team led by his very capable staff. The energy and "positive buzz" generated by the team was "electric." Everyone got along together and sought out opportunities to help each other out.

I had been to New York by car before but never flown into the city. My flight landed at La Guardia which is on the East River in the middle of the city. I couldn't help but think about the movie Sully as we came in for a landing (an airline pilot made famous for landing a damaged plane on the East River). It was a clear day upon my arrival and the views from my window seat were stunning. Manhattan is one big sky scraper after another. The city is called the big apple for good reasons and it's by far the largest metro area I have ever seen. There



were trains, planes, cars and people everywhere. Busy place. I was picked up at the airport by Koz. Koz is a pro jock (caddy) at Shinnecock Hills. We talked about all things golf on the long trip to the course. We arrived in the evening and I bought him dinner for his troubles. Most of the Islanders don't like going into the city as the travel in and out is very time consuming and stressful. I get it.

Koz dropped me off at my dorm at Long Island College and I checked in. I haven't stayed in a dorm for about 40 years and I forgot how small these rooms are. No matter, it was going to be a place to sleep at night and get a hot shower. Most of my day was going to be at the golf course.

My day began with a wake up at 3:15. A fifteen minute walk to the course and an inspection through security and I was at the shop by 3:45. After a few cups of coffee, it's time for the morning meeting at 4:00. Jon would do a brief overview of the day and we receive our morning assignments. We then head outside to the waiting fleets all lined up ready to go. We would head out just as the sun was rising. Splendid sunrises greeted us each day. The course was quiet and peaceful before the spectators and players would begin to arrive.

In the mornings I was a backpack blower clean up person on the front nine. Our crew would follow behind all of the mowing fleet and clean up any loose grass clippings from the turf. We were just ahead of the final hole cutting team and the USGA set up people. We would walk the entire front nine. Our job would last about three hours and we would be getting off the course just as the players were teeing off. As you know those blowers are loud and we had to be sensitive to players coming off the first tee.

Upon completion of our tasks we would head back in to the shop, put our tools and carts away and go in the tent for a healthy and hearty breakfast. The food was really good overall. It received rave reviews universally.

I would go out on the course usually with one or two of the other volunteers after breakfast and watch the players navigate their way around the golf holes. As the PGA tour says, "These guys are good." This is not an understatement. After walking around for a while watching some of the top names in all of golf play on turf that we had maintained, it was time for lunch.

Lunch was enjoyed usually while watching golf on TV. Typically, I would not go out on the course after lunch. I would hang out in the air conditioning and save my energy. The days are long and it did get hot in the afternoon. It was best to conserve my energy where I could in order to not bonk or collapse. It's a long week with long days. We would sit around and discuss the player's reaction to the course and we would compare our careers and experiences in the industry. The networking experiences were outstanding. When you get a bunch of turf heads in the same room the discussions are predictable. All things golf and all things golf maintenance are reviewed. We are fortunate to have so many good and dedicated people in our industry. One of the best things



*Some evenings were spent fluffing rough or filling divots. It was a great time to be out on the course and soak it all in.*


about our profession is our people. It is unique among professions to share information, knowledge and experiences freely and openly.

We would have dinner at 4:00 and then meet at 5:00 for the evening maintenance tasks. It would vary depending on the needs of the course on that day. I was either fluffing rough or filling divots or whatever else there was a need. The weather was really nice and it was a pleasure to be out on the course in the evenings after the players and the fans had gone home. The long shadows cast by the setting sun really accentuated the classic design features of the golf course. Just magnificent!

The tournament was played and we had a winner. The crew all gathered on the 18th green and we had our photograph taken with the champion. The sun set once again and day was capped by a celebration with our crew back at the shop for a job well done. Then it was over, time to get some sleep and travel the next day back to work to our real jobs. The memories gained and relationships established will never be forgotten.

Volunteerism is a common activity in the golf industry at major local and national golf events. Clubs will "donate" their staff to supplement the host clubs existing labor to take the maintenance to the highest level possible. If you get a chance take advantage of the opportunity to volunteer at a local or national event. It's a very rewarding experience that in the long run will help your club and yourself advance your way in the profession. It's a "win-win" relationship and I highly recommend it. @





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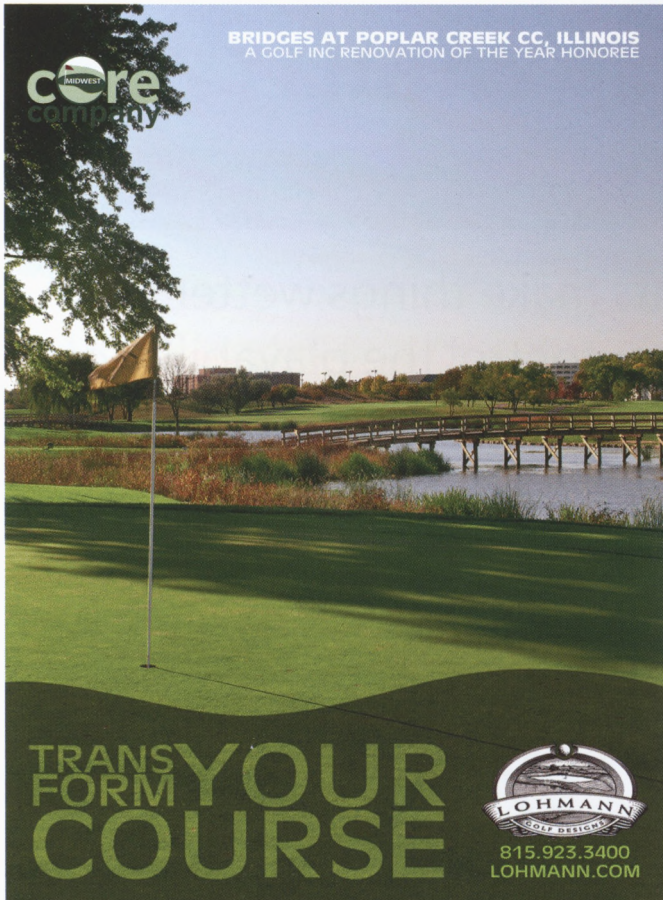



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A.



B.



C.





# BullSheet



## DATES TO REMEMBER

July 2018

**June 30** – The day we all melted.

**July 9-15** – 2018 Constellation Senior Players Championship at Exmoor Country Club, Kurt Galisdorfer host superintendent.

**July 9-15** – U.S. Senior Women's Open at Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton, IL, Scott Bordner host superintendent.

**July 12-15** – John Deere Classic at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, IL, Alex Stuedemann host superintendent.

**July 23** – MAGCS monthly meeting and 9-Holer golf event at Arlington Lakes Golf Club in Arlington Heights, IL, Alan Bevers host superintendent.

**July 24** – Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Summer Field Day at the O.J. Noer Research and Education Facility in Verona, WI.

**July 27-28** – The 26th Illinois State Mid-Amateur Championship at Glen Oak Country Club in Glen Elsen, IL, Andy Dauksas host superintendent.

**July 30 – August 4** – Western Amateur Championship at Sunset Ridge Country Club in Northfield, IL, Greg Rounds host superintendent.

**August 1** – Deadline for submissions for Lebanon Turf's 2019 Dog Days of Golf calendar. Info to follow.

**August 10** – Last day for nominations for GCSAA's Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award.

**August 14** – Deadline for applications to attend the Syngenta Business Institute 2018 which will be held in Winston-Salem, N.C. from December 3rd through 6th.

**August 15** – Michigan State Turfgrass Foundation Field Day at the Hancock Turfgrass Center in East Lansing, MI.

**August 27** – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Golf Championship at the Highlands of Elgin in Elgin, IL, Brad Legnaioli host superintendent.

**August 30** – 12th Annual CDGA Foundation White Sox Fundraiser at Guaranteed Rate Field in Chicago, IL, Roger "The Sodfather" Bossard host groundskeeper.

**August 31** – Deadline for nominations for GCSAA's Edwin Budding Award, presented with Jacobsen.

Hey June—don't let the door hit you in your keester on your way outta here! Not to be outdone by the wettest May on record, June had a little something for all of us—a couple weekend heat waves, a few gully washers here and there to spoil those Member-Guest events, and generally just a nasty attitude. I can't remember EVER saying this, but WELCOME JULY!

Congratulations and the best of luck to **Nate Bolhous**, former superintendent at McHenry CC and now the new superintendent at Naperville Country Club.



Nate and Alyssa Bolhous

- A couple of deadlines are coming up, so get on the ball if you are interested. First, August 1 is the last day to submit photos of your dog for consideration to be in the 2019 Dog Days of Golf calendar presented by Lebanon Turf through GCSAA. You COULD even win 2019 Dog of the Year (which is voted on at the Golf Industry Show in February), earning you a \$500 award, \$3,000 to MAGCS, and a \$2,000 charitable donation made in honor of your pooch. You can find information at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org), or you can contact Cynthia Spondello at Lebanon Turf at 800-532-0090, ext. 253.
- Next, August 10th is when nominations for GCSAA's Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award (DSA) are due. The award is presented annually to an individual or individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession. Past winners with MAGCS ties include **Dr. Richard Latin** (2018), **Dr. Nick Christians** and **Brent Wadsworth** (2017), **Oscar Miles** (2008), **Dr. William Meyer** (2007), **Tommy Witt** (2005), **Danny Quast** (2004), **Dudley Smith** (2003), **Bruce Williams** (2002), **Mike Bavier** (2000), **Bob Williams** (1977), **Ray Gerber** (1975), **Ted Woehrle** (1964), and **John MacGregor**, our association's Founding Father in 1935.
- Next, August 14 is the deadline to apply to attend the Syngenta Business Institute 2018 in Winston-Salem, N.C. from December 3-6. Syngenta partners with Wake Forest University's School of Business to provide superintendents with heightened business and managerial skills. Apply at <http://goo.gl/ByTpqG>. I just checked the address—yes, this IS correct.
- And lastly, August 31 is the deadline for nominations for the 2019 Edwin Budding Award presented by GCSAA in partnership with Jacobsen. This award annually recognizes an individual in the turf equipment industry whose actions have



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gone above and beyond the norm to help shape the turf equipment management industry into what it is today. Go to [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org) to nominate your guy.

Q: Who was the BEST Harlem Globetrotter to play at **Scott Denil's** course?

A: Pine Meadowlark Lemon



Audubon International and the Environmental Defense Fund recently partnered to form Monarchs in the Rough, a program that encourages golf courses to adopt conservation practices favorable to the Monarch butterfly and turning around its decline through habitat loss. The initial goal was to enroll 250 courses, but that goal was quickly surpassed and a new goal of 500 additional courses has been set. The Monarch is a prolific pollinator whose numbers have declined 90% over the last 20 years. With golf courses occupying approximately 2.5 million acres in the U.S., there are an estimated 100,000 acres with the potential to become habitat for butterflies and bees. If you are interested in joining, or just want to see what the program is all about, go to <https://monarchsinthrough.org>.

OK, why not? Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.

How much fun was it to watch the U.S. Open last month?

**Jon Jennings** and company had Shinnecock Hills looking and playing spectacularly (I for one LOVED the Saturday telecast—Phil meltdown and all), and a true test of championship-level golf was provided for the greatest players in the world. Kudos to Jon and the Shinnecock staff, along with the many volunteers from around the world (including a few from our part of it such as **Chuck Anfield, Don Cross, John Leibold** and **Stacy Wallace**) for a job very well done! Picture below.

July's "Clavin-ism: Did you know—it's a little-known fact—that Shinnecock Hills was one of the first U.S. clubs to welcome female members? It was indeed, and as a matter of fact, one of its members won the first U.S. Women's Amateur in 1895. Playing at Long Island's Meadow Brook Club,

Shinnecock Hills member C.S. Brown shot 69 in the morning and 63 in the afternoon for a winning total of 132—FOR 18 HOLES.

The National Golf Foundation has released its 2018 Golf Participation and Facilities Reports, and some of the data are actually encouraging. While the total number of traditional golfers (by traditional I assume they mean ridiculously dressed and mostly brain-dead) held steady at 23.8 million in 2016 and 2017, the latest numbers show an increase to record highs in the number of beginners and the number of people interested in taking up the game. On the facilities side, there was a 1.5% contraction in the number of U.S. golf facilities last year, with permanent closures outnumbering new openings; but an uptick in major renovations continued to drive investment in the U.S. golf market. Glass half full.

I've been taking snowmobiling trips with **Dave Biery** for years. The thing I could never figure out was 1) What made me always want to laugh when he cracked a joke, and 2) Why did I get the urge to put a leash on him and take him for a walk? Then it dawned on me—he has TWO...

## MIDWEST Doppelgänger



*Dave Biery, Jim Gaffigan or pooch?*

*Hope you enjoy your next snowmobiling trip John.*

Thank you to **Mike Bavier** for sending me countless little "odds and ends" about our business, many of which get reprinted in this column. This month, Mike outkicked his coverage by forwarding an article from the Daily Herald newspaper (us older guys still read them in their actual paper form) titled "From Tees to Taps" about Grand Rapids, Michigan and its new status as the Midwest's mecca for golf and for brewery tours. If you're a golfer and beer lover, the couple-hour drive to Grand Rapids will scratch both itches with a huge variety of great golf venues, and over 80 breweries in and around the city of 200,000. Who wants to go?






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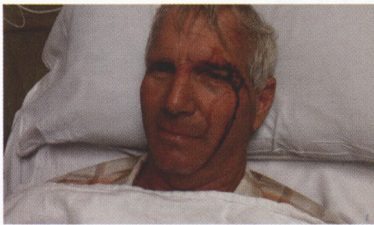
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Santa's Favorite Golf Witticism of the Month: Golf, like measles, should be caught young, for if postponed to riper years, the results may be serious. -P.G. Wodehouse

Concrete always wins.

**Dan Murray** (Pheasant Run Resort) took a nice Sunday ride on his bicycle—which I strongly advised against—and was going along just fine until he went headfirst over the handlebars and absolutely NAILED the landing. For his troubles, Dan got a broken collar bone and multiple facial fractures. "I didn't see those stairs coming" said he.

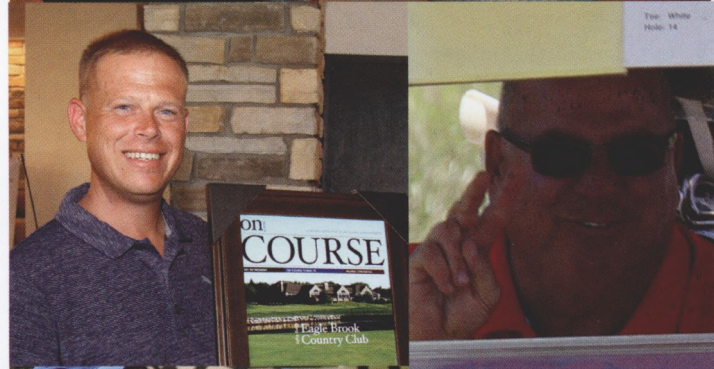


Congratulations to **Doug Davis** (Flagg Creek GC) He made an ace on the 15<sup>th</sup> hole at Eagle Brook Country Club, the day before the MAGCS Event, which definitely saved him hundreds of dollars in beverages.



*Congrats Doug on your hole-in-one.*

Many thanks to **Craig Kight** and everyone at Eagle Brook Country Club in Geneva, IL for hosting our June MAGCS meeting and Dom Grotti Championship on the 4th. In one of her rare instances of cooperating, Mother Nature gave us a rain-free day on a fun and challenging golf course. The day began with Michigan State University's Fred Warner, Academic Specialist and Nematode Diagnostician giving his presentation "Nematodes: More Common Than You Probably Know." The golf course was immaculate despite the horrible weather leading up to the event, and as is the case in all high-level skill events, the best team won the day. Congratulations to **Virgil Range** from Aurora CC and the sack of dead weight he carried on his back for 18 holes to win the Dom Grotti Championship for a second time. Following golf was a real treat—a pig roast dinner with all the trimmings to enjoy while prizes were awarded. Just a super day for all in attendance. Thanks again to Craig, his grounds staff for getting the course ready, the clubhouse staff who provided such top shelf food and service, and to our sponsors without whom we would never be able to have days like these: **Advanced Turf Solutions, Arthur Clesen, Inc., Burris Equipment Company, Great Lakes turf, LLC, Healthy Grow, H & E Sod Nursery, JW Turf, Inc., LAYNE, Leibold Irrigation, Inc., NuFarm, Reinders, SiteOne Golf, Syngenta and Water Well Solutions.** @





topsoil, planting, seedling, and watering. During the winter time, they help me out by painting items I'd normally have my staff do; they'll paint our tee markers, posts, trash cans, broken tee container, and flagsticks. This summer I had the opportunity to hire one of these individuals that was graduating and ready to enter the work force. He sets up the range for the day, cleans up broken tees before mowing, and fills range divots. I tried teaching him to mow the tee, however he hasn't felt comfortable with that yet. After working on the range tee, he helps the pro shop staff stage golf carts for the day. We store them in the basement of the clubhouse and they need to be driven up and out in front of the clubhouse. He finishes the day weeding and watering the clubhouse flowers beds. He has been a big help taking care of some simple but important tasks and he continues to learn to be a part of the group working together for a common goal. He is capable of working a 6 day, 40-hour work week and the smile on his face when he received his first pay check a couple of weeks ago was priceless

The diversity of my staff amazes me. They all work together and respect the difficulties that some of them have endured in life. The variety of my workforce has made me realize how beneficial the golf course is in addition to the game and open space to our community. It provides income for families, employment opportunities to those who need a second chance, young adults with work experience, and others an opportunity to work and be a part of team. @

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# SUPER-N-site

Al Bevers

Arlington Lakes Golf Club

Max Bloomquist, Exmoor Country Club

Al got his start in the industry working at Thorngate Country Club and then proceeded to attend Rutgers University to get a degree in Turfgrass Management.

Al secured his first superintendent job at Hilldale Golf Club in Hoffman Estates, which is also the place that he had his most memorable round of golf. He came to the tee on 18 needing only a bogey to shoot at 77 and then hit two tee shots out of bounds. After an eighteen year stint at Hilldale, Al shifted his career and managed some resort properties in Branson, Missouri. After doing that for awhile he had the itch to get back to the golf course and took a job at Palatine Hills golf course. In 2004 Al moved to his current property of Arlington Lakes and has been there ever since.

In his free time Al enjoys spending time with his wife traveling. Al has two sons, one works for Spiner electric and the other for the Arlington Lakes Park District. Al also enjoys playing golf and one of his hobbies includes building model ships.

Like most of us one of the challenges that Al faces is labor although he has had much better luck with having guys returning this year. He relies on the retired guys who keep coming back each year. Arlington Lakes is a very busy golf course which can make it difficult to get maintenance done. They do roughly 39,000 rounds a year and can reach upwards of 300 a day on the weekends. There are also a lot of leagues that take place at Arlington Lakes.

Al does not have many big projects planned for this year because they just completed a renovation two years ago. There were many bunkers that were removed from the course which have reduced the amount of headaches for Al and his crew when it rains. The renovation also included updates to cart paths and the addition of some tees to make the course shorter for beginners. The course is made up of bluegrass tees and fairways and bent/Poa greens. Golf creations did the work for Arlington Lakes and the architect was Mike Benkusky. If you are going to be playing in the outing, Al suggests that you keep the driver in the bag because there is water on every hole except for two. @



Al (middle) with his sons, Brett in yellow and Nick in grey.





MAGCS member Mike Benkusky was retained to complete the redesign that encompassed a rerouting of the front side to allow golfers to play 3-6-9 and 18 hole increments so they landed back at the clubhouse. The design included new teeing areas for beginners, a continuous cart path system, plus the reduction of bunkers. Many of the greens were softened opening up approach shots while allowing more fair hole locations. Ten of the greens were completely rebuilt (sand based) and the remaining nine greens were resurfaced. All were seeded to V8 creeping bentgrass, a variety bred and selected for its closecut tolerance and dollar spot resistance.





**Brian Stout**  
Golf Course Superintendent  
Arboretum Golf Club/Reliable Golf  
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The Stouts: Lauren, Brian and their boys:  
Darren and Brian.

*Where did you grow up?*  
Olathe, KS  
*First golf course you where  
you worked?*  
Wolf Creek Golf Course  
*Do you have a prized possession?*  
My Char- Broil smoker  
*What do you like to drink?*  
Cold beer after a hot day.  
*Favorite job task at the golf course?*  
Mowing rough, just me and my  
thoughts.  
*Dream car?* Jetpack  
*Favorite pig out food?*

BBQ...KC Style.  
*What is your favorite movie, actor?*  
Indiana Jones movies, Andy Samberg actor.  
*What is your favorite book?*  
Harry Potter series  
*What is your favorite restaurant to go to?*  
Bavarian Lodge  
*What is your favorite band?*  
OutKast  
*What is your favorite sports team?*  
KC Chiefs/Royals  
*What is your best vacation or favorite destination?*  
Honeymoon in Antigua  
*What is the best gift you have received or bought  
for someone?*  
Received: An official Red Ryder carbine-action two  
hundred shot range model air rifle.  
Given: Any jewelry I have given my wife.  
*What is your favorite work shoe or boot?*  
Anything that keeps my feet dry.  
*What is your best work piece of apparel?*  
Sunglasses.  
*In my spare time, I really enjoy:*  
Playing with my boys and managing my futbol  
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## *Diospyros virginiana*

Dave Ward and Kati Bernardy

Common: Persimmon, Eastern persimmon, Possumwood, Date plum, Winter plum, Love's fruit


Family: *Ebenaceae*

Persimmons are native to most of the United States east of the Rockies and typically grows in dry woods, old fields and clearings. It can handle most soil types and is usually disease and insect free. It tends to sucker freely from the roots and

fruit can be eaten right off the tree but is also delicious in cookies, cakes and puddings.

Native Americans made persimmon bread and stored the fruit like dried prunes.

If the fruit has not fully ripened, it is extremely astringent and cause the mucus membranes of the mouth to contract which results in an immediate dry chalky feeling sometimes even causing choking. (If you can convince someone to try an unripe persimmon it is an experience they will never forget and you will never forget the look on their face.) The Asian variety of persimmon has been bred for its large size and the sweet taste of its fruit. It is one of the most eaten tree-fruits in the world. Historically persimmon was used to make golf club heads. The wood was also used for tools and furniture veneer.

Due to its historical significance to the game of golf, every golf facility should have at least one persimmon tree growing somewhere on the property. Prior to the advent of materials like steel, aluminum, graphite and titanium used for making the heads of today's high-tech drivers, persimmon trees provided the best material for making wooden club heads. There was a special feeling, sound and soaring ball-flight when a balata ball was well-struck with a persimmon driver. (I had a Powerbilt shallow-faced persimmon driver that I loved and played with for at least 20 years.) Although it may be a waste of time talking about the tree to younger players who have never used a wooden club, any golfer over the age of fifty will appreciate knowing persimmon is growing in its "natural" golf course environment. 



*Persimmon trees adapt to their environment well, growing up to 60' tall if the soil is good.*



will form a thicket or a grove if not controlled by mowing or removal and is a good plant to form a vegetative screen. The fruit attracts variety of wildlife including insects, birds and mammals, including bats. It is dioecious, although sometimes both sexes can be present on the same tree. The word persimmon is of Algonquian origin and the genus name Diosyros is from the Greek and means "fruit of the god Zeus". The Ebenaceae family is primarily tropical.

Depending on soil and location, common persimmon can grow as a as a low shrubby tree with a mature height of 15'. In rich moist soil it can become a large tree up to 60' tall with a spreading crown and drooping branches. Its bell shaped flowers are yellow but inconspicuous, half hidden the plant's leaves. The oval leaves have yellow fall color. The bark is a very dark gray or black and that form scaly square blocks.

When ripe, persimmon fruit is sweet and has been compared to dates. It is best eaten after the first hard frost. The





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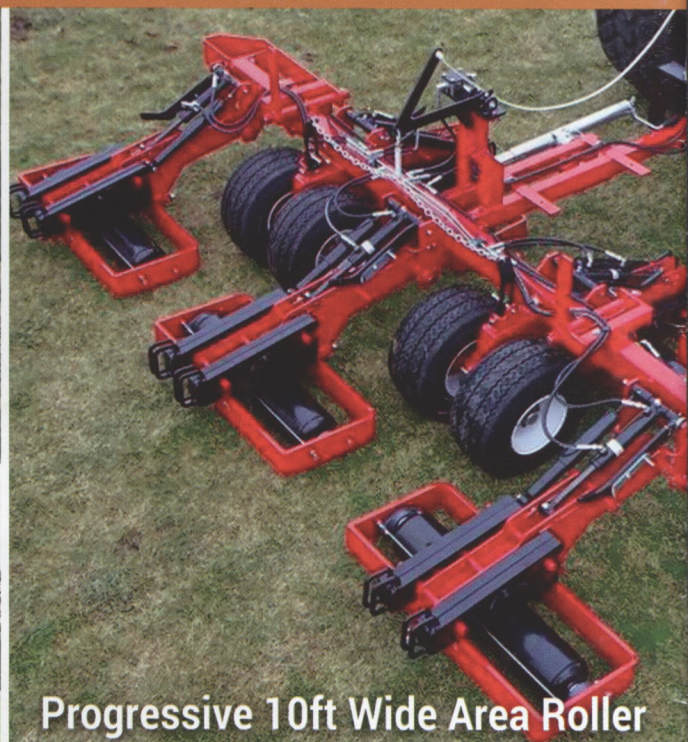




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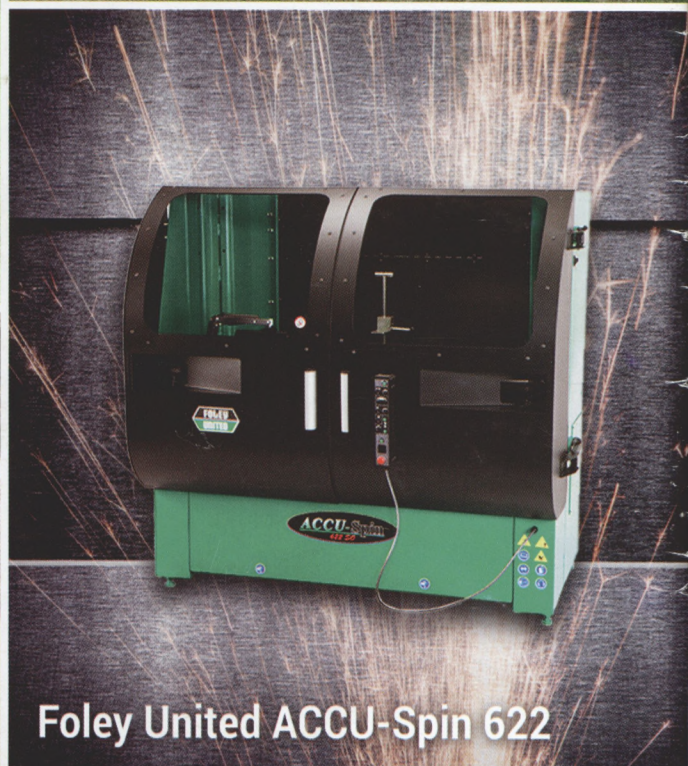
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