

on 06/2018

THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

# COURSE

MY RETIREMENT

ON COURSE TURNS 70

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The North-Packard layout was designed when it seemed architects wanted to see who could make the toughest course. The 18<sup>th</sup> at Eagle Brook exemplifies this mantra with OB left and water all along the right side and surrounding the green.

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FEATURE

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Max Blomquist

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One way to enjoy retirement is to buy a sports car when you are still working and can afford one, hold on to it until you have the time for it. Pete and granddaughter Maddy going out for a cruise in his retirement.

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### 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

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Luke Cella  
MAGCS

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We roll out of one of the strangest Springs that many superintendents have experienced no matter their age. We experienced 16 days in April where the temperature was 32 degrees or lower; the monthly average temperature was only 49 degrees.

It was the fourth coldest April on record. May moved in and not to be outdone set a new record for the most rainfall (8.18" - the old record was 7.59" from 1945; the monthly average is only 3.56") And to beat April further still, May ended up to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> warmest on record since 1871. Additionally, we experienced the warmest May 25<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> temperature average of 90.7 beating the old record for that week by almost 3 degrees. I think many are apprehensive to even think how June will compare.

## The Bull Sheet

This is our bulletin. Here we keep  
Our Treasured thoughts.

Come take a peep,  
Come kindred spirits; you will find  
A word to cheer your troubled mind.  
These things we've cherished,  
                                odds and ends;  
We share them with our greenkeeper  
                                friends.

Come sit beside us and we'll take a peek  
As we turn the pages of this sheet  
And dream a dream of happiness,  
we hope may bring  
Better turf conditions for you and I,  
THIS SPRING.

-Author unknown  
from the 1<sup>st</sup> issue of Bull Sheet

If you can believe it, *On Course* turns 70 this year. The inaugural issue named the "Bull Sheet" began as a means to keep the members of the Midwest informed about turf, golf, the surrounding industry and what other members were up to. As stated in the first published editorial report in January of 1950:

"The important objective of the bulletin is to promote sincere interest in Association functions and responsibilities. Considerable time and effort is consumed in the layout work of each issue by a few members who are willing to give up some of their limited time towards the welfare and progress of our Association. What is needed most of all, is constructive comments from members. This will indicate the bulletin is not being taken for granted."

I think it is safe to say, the publication was not taken for granted. It continues with many of same tenets and is an important part of our Association today. The newsletter's role in keeping the membership informed and in touch with each other was integral to the success of the Midwest. Other than the wall phone, meeting face to face, and a few scant periodicals like the USGA's *Bulletin of the Green Section* were the main sources for information. "Bull Sheet" had a question and answer section where members wrote in their questions and fellow superintendents did their best to answer:

**Q:** "A Customer recently asked me a question as to the proper cup set for hole cups in putting greens. On thinking over my reply, I realized I don't have any specifications at my finger tips on this vital problem, and I'm asking if you can provide me with the information through the "Bull Sheet". Yours very truly, Paul E. Burdett.

**A:** Dear Paul: The top rim of the hole cup should be set about one inch below the surface of the putting green. If the rim is too close to the surface, golf balls striking the metal edge with minimum speed are apt to deflect out of the cup. If this does not answer your question, I'll have to fall back on some of the experts. N.C.J.

This simple exchange puts things in perspective; I never experienced setting a cup without a cup setter and always had the Rules of Golf with its stipulation of the proper depth for a hole liner. I found it wasn't until 1952 that the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews and the USGA agreed and published that if a liner is used it should be sunk not less than one inch below the putting green surface.

As we produce *On Course* throughout the rest of the year we've going to reprint some articles and tidbits from years' past. I think you'll be amazed at some of the practices we take for granted and even some of the things we still don't know. Stay tuned. @



# My Retirement

Peter Leuzinger, CGCS Retired

PHOTO CREDITS: PETER LEUZINGER

People have different ideas about retirement. It might depend on how old or young you are. Some might dread the thought of not having a job, earning a great salary, moving away from the neighborhood and comfort zone, entering retirement life. On the other hand, some people can't wait to have free time and other changes in their retired life.

No matter your age, retirement is going to require some (1) research and planning. Our plan (DeeAnn and I) listed goals, finance, lifestyle, home location, possible downsizing and compatibility with each other as important retirement items. (2) Once retired, we felt it is important to evaluate and monitor the months ahead. Are we feeling fulfilled or are we bored? (3) The third thing to look at is what kind of surprises are you willing to accept or change. Lastly, one should strive for things looking forward and always stay positive!

Many of you in MAGCS do not know me or never heard of me. I am a person who loved the greenkeeping business through college in the early 70's until 2014, the end of my career as a grower. I enjoyed 43 years in three capacities. The first leg of that trek started at Evanston Golf Club as an assistant for two years. The next 20 were at St. Charles Country Club where I assisted Art Benson Sr. until his retirement and became Superintendent. My family of four became part of that community. My wife DeeAnn taught grade school in town and our two children were off to college at the end of those 20 years. Itchy feet left me with a desire to find a new place to try my best. I landed a 9-year stint at Ivanhoe Club. At both clubs, I became very involved with Audubon International (A.I.). After Ivanhoe, I began the second leg

of work with A.I. and 3 years as a Membership Director and Consultant in the Great Lakes Region for their certification and membership programs. Finally we get to my third and last leg, 9 years of teaching in the Horticulture Department at Kishwaukee College. My classes were in turf, environmental science and soil science. Those last and final 9 years of a career in turf really capped it off.



*Peter took up painting while still working, a hobby and skill he enjoys today. He invited his class out to enjoy the 9th hole at STCCC one evening to see what they could make of it.*

I mentioned planning for retirement. The first thing I thought of way back in my mid 30's was, "Where will we want to live?" We researched that for at least 25 years while attending GCSAA National Conferences. Almost all of the sites for conferences were in the sunbelt states. We both knew we did not want to endure harsh winters in Northern Illinois after retirement. My good friend and PGA pal, Jim Sobb, recommended Tucson, Arizona. We tried it out and loved it. Originally we hoped to retire and live in Illinois during summers and in Arizona during the winters. But, part of retirement planning involves finance. I set a goal to be debt free when I retired. We had purchased a home in Tucson in 2003 and had a comfy home near St. Charles. I had a mortgage on one of the homes. My last year of working (2014) we lost power during one of those cold blasts and our comfy Illinois home flooded when the water pipes froze and thawed while we were vacationing in Tucson. That made our decision very easy as to which house to sell and which house to enjoy in retirement!



*This is Mike, Mike the bike - one of Pete's older friends that he has become reacquainted with for exercise and peace of mind.*



Living a new life in retirement and keeping busy required planning and goal setting. We knew that abundant free time was going to be an important challenge. Not working anymore meant substituting that time with hobbies and expanded interests. The time to start that is before retirement. This one statement is most important. Plan ahead and do not wait until it is too late! We both knew we loved to travel. I enjoyed having a sports car during my working career, and I still have it. I took art lessons and learned to draw and paint artistically. We both are avid golfers and had played golf at my golf courses. We both enjoy being outside. I took up biking while teaching and enjoy it even more in the Tucson area. I have always enjoyed singing in Church Choirs. I was never an avid reader but I do read a book if desperate. These are things we took with us to Arizona.

**Golf:** Golf takes much of our time. DeeAnn plays in a league and we play together with other couples. My golf includes two retired teacher leagues playing on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I am now commissioner for the Tuesday's group of 50 players. I usually walk my 18 holes, trying to stay fit.

**Travel:** We have been to Ireland, China, Tasmania, Hawaii and road trips around the USA. We visit Illinois twice a year to keep up with our son Jeff's family. This summer we plan to visit California, Oregon, Yellowstone and the Bad Lands. I have discovered my training in horticulture makes travel more interesting.

Our neighborhood is fun. To our wonderment, we have never enjoyed so many friendships in a neighborhood. We enjoy weekly happy hours in the "hood" and going out for meals with new friends. Most of us are retired and we have the time to share and know one another. We are rarely bored these days.

We believe it is important to understand that, although we enjoy each other's company, we do have Pete time and DeeAnn time. We would probably drive each other crazy if we were together all of the time. For example, she volunteers at a grade school where one of our granddaughters attends in Tucson. We have 8 grandchildren. 5 in Illinois, (all grown), and 3 in Arizona still growing. Our daughter, Megan, lives here in Tucson and her family keeps us busy with swim meets,

theater productions and mountain bike races.

**Surprises:** I am surprised how much I enjoy retirement. I am rarely bored. Having been a superintendent, I became a problem solver with skills to fix things. I am now able to apply those skills for our family and sometimes a neighborhood friend. Health issues and high priced medical expenses are always a concern. We stay as active as possible and watch what we eat. I recommend retirement if you are over 65. Medicare is a big help. Try to stay working through 65 years of age.

When we were younger, retirement seemed like a "no worries" time away. But, if you really think about it, retirement might last a quarter of a lifetime. One might think there is plenty of time to save for retirement and entitlements like Social Security will be secured for you. It will not be enough. It is hard to save dollars while starting a family. But, the sooner you start saving, the more those compounding interest and investment dollars will add up. When you are starting a career in turf management, think about the benefits and perks available with the job. In my era, the thinking was the private club sector paid the highest salaries. However, the people working for municipalities, park districts and forest preserves may have ended up with better pensions plans not offered in the private sector. Prestige comes in many ways when it comes to salaries and glamor at a private club versus the muni down the road. However, job security and a municipally backed pension are huge after 25 to 35 years of employment.

Each generation has its savings challenge. Your generation may have been caught in the housing crash and recession after 2007 and that makes saving tough. My generation lived through similar situations. We had military service (drafted two weeks after marriage) and double-digit inflation when I was discharged from the U. S. Army. (Loans were 15% for mortgages). Inflation was in the runaway category. Later we lived through stock market crashes and two more recessions. These are challenges one cannot ignore or use as an excuse not to save money to build your family's equity. Please remember this; as your savings grow, so will your self-esteem and comfort levels. It is a very good feeling knowing your IRA or 401K will be there with a social security income. Please remember, no one's entitlements are guaranteed. Do your best to retire debt free.

**Lastly:** The last thing I will leave with you is not to worry about changing a life style from working every day to retirement. You will probably use your good working skills to make retirement successful. Retirement means you can and should enjoy the last part of your life. When people are too tired to live, they reach the end of life. I am not tired! You won't be either. Plan for life after a career and enjoy the gift of good health. I have always said, "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you handle it." This positive attitude is a good thing to live by and pass on to your friends and loved ones. No matter what happens, be kind, save for the future, give back, pay it forward, retain your skills, continue your learning ways and make your lives better all the way through. @



*Pete and DeAnn with their two children, Jeff and Megan celebrating a birthday in AZ.*





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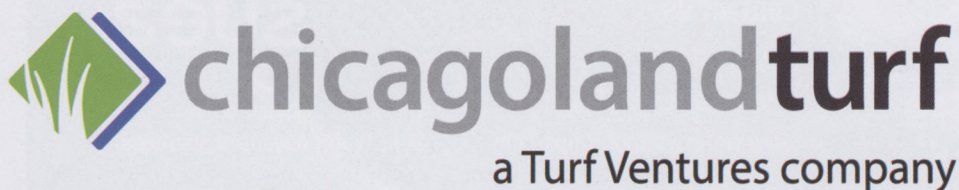
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# THE BullSheet



DATES TO REMEMBER

June 2018

**June 12** – 2018 CAGCS Founder's Cup at Knollwood Club in Lake Forest, IL, Drew Barnett host superintendent.

**June 14-17** – The U. S. Open at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club in Southampton, NY, Jonathan Jennings, CGCS host superintendent.

**June 15** – Deadline for applications for the MAGCS Scholarships—go to [www.magcs.org](http://www.magcs.org) and click on the Resources tab for information.

**June 18-21** – 99<sup>th</sup> CDGA Amateur Championship at Briarwood Country Club in Deerfield, IL, Justin VanLanduit host superintendent.

**June 25** – Deadline for applications for 50 assistant superintendents to attend the 13th annual Green Start Academy sponsored by John Deere Golf and Bayer. Go to [www.backedbybayer.com/golf-course-management/green-start-academy](http://www.backedbybayer.com/golf-course-management/green-start-academy) for an application form.

**June 25** – 18<sup>th</sup> CDGA Foundation Outing at Beverly Country Club in Chicago, IL, where former President Barack Obama is a new honorary member, and Kirk Spieth is host superintendent. Information can be found at [www.cdga.org/events](http://www.cdga.org/events).

**June 28-July 1** – KPMG Women's PGA Championship at Kemper Lakes Golf Club, Mike Paciga host superintendent.

**June 29** – Deadline for applications for the Oscar Miles Endowment Fund. Got to [www.ipga.com/scholarships](http://www.ipga.com/scholarships) for information.

**June 30** – Nominations for GCSAA Board of Directors due.

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

Congratulations to Kate and Aaron Reinhart (Fox Valley Park District) on the birth of their bouncing baby boy Henry "Hank" Reinhart on May 18th. Hank (right) started his life at 6 lbs. 13 ozs., and is likely growing by leaps and pounds if his daddy is any indication.



After a seemingly short stint with the CDGA Turfgrass Program, **Dr. Jesse Benelli** is headed north. Jesse joins Environmental Science, a business unit of Bayer Crop Science as its new Green Solution Specialist based in Guelph, Ontario. Congratulations to Jesse, eh?



*Best of luck, Dr. Benelli.*

Our sincere condolences go out to **Eric Mundt** and his family on the passing of Eric's mother last month. Please keep the Mundts in your prayers.

Our industry lost one of its leading icons on May 14th when Dr. James B. Beard passed

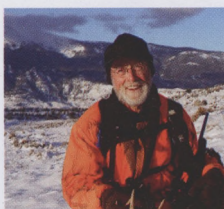
away. Dr. Beard, among his countless other accomplishments, wrote the "bible" that most all of us have on our book shelves—Turfgrass Management for Golf Courses. Rest in peace.



*He wrote the book on golf course management, Dr. James Beard.*

Correction: In the list published last month honoring GCSAA's Certified Golf Course Superintendents for their years of service, one name in particular was

omitted—**Fred Opperman**, who produced this publication from 1983 to 1999, and is a former President of MAGCS, was one of the first 50 in the country to attain CGCS status, achieving his certification on April 28th, 1972. We look forward to hearing from Fred on his latest exploits in his retirement lived out in Bozeman,



Montana!

Santa's Favorite Golf Witticism of the Month: When asked how he





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played, Baseball legend George Brett replied, "I was three over: one over a house, one over a patio, and one over a swimming pool."

MAGCS member **Greg Martin** has another feather to add to his very feathery cap—Golf Inc. magazine named The Preserve at Oak Meadows its First Place winner for Public Course Renovation of the Year, which Martin Design Partnership headed up. Greg's firm will remain busy this year with a full renovation on tap for Sportsman's Country Club in Northbrook, IL.

Q: Who are **Bret Collins** favorite cartoon characters?

A: Chip and Bloomingdale.

GCSAA has a new Chief Operating Officer as of last month. Robert M. Randquist, a 41-year member of the association and past president in 2011 has been named COO, and started in his new role on May 29th after 20 years as the Director of Golf Course and Grounds at Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, FL.



Also from the GCSAA Newsroom, the winners of the 2018 Joseph S. Garske Collegiate Grants have been announced, and one of the nine fortunate children of GCSAA members is Isabel Kregel, daughter of The Club at Strawberry Creek superintendent **Matt Kregel**. Isabel is a University of Iowa student majoring in journalism and mass communications. Congratulations Isabel and the Kregel family!



The Kregel family L to R Rosa Elena, Tyler, Isabel, Matt and Hannah

June's "Clavin-ism:" Did you know—it's a little-known fact—that the complaints of "nervous" golfers back in 1938 with regards to grass turning off-color after an insecticide application resulted in a pairing of the USDA and USGA to allay those fears? It's true—and the solution they devised was to add green dye to pesticides, "which when sprayed does not harm healthy grass but improves both the color of uneven greens and the tempers of the golfers who blame their putting on the uneven color of the greens," according to the Library of Congress. I think this idea has possibilities...

**Scott Witte's** new job as Director of Horticulture at Cantigny Park in Wheaton has been keeping him very busy. One thing in particular that takes much of his time is Project New Leaf, which began in late 2016 and is being completed in phases over 5 years and will enhance almost every area of Cantigny Park, allowing current and future generations to enjoy the beauty and attractions on the 500-acre estate. I think they have the right person for the job!



OK, why not? I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.



Great to see our buddy **Jon Jennings** gracing the cover of the May issue of Golfdom magazine! Unless you live under a rock, you know that Jon and Shinnecock Hills Golf Club are hosting this month's U.S. Open from the 14th through 17th, and the feature article provided an in-depth look at Jon's operation in preparing for their appearance on the biggest stage in golf. Congrats on your success, Jon!

Do you ever wonder if **Tom Wilson** (Stonebridge CC) ever trades his golf hat for a top hat and sings a few bars now and again?

## MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Tom Wilson or Willie Nelson?

One is known for growing grass, the other for smokin' it.

Hats off to **Jim Pedersen** and everyone at Hughes Creek Golf Course on hosting our May MAGCS/ITF combined meeting in some very trying weather conditions. Our record-setting wettest May ever showed its ugly face on the 16th, but Jim and crew managed to get the course playable AND allow carts out. Even with the adversity, the sun shone, the greens rolled true, the bunkers were excellent (no small feat after all the rain), and the course was loads of fun to play, especially in




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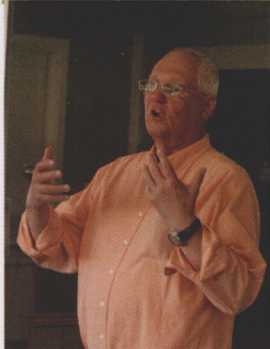
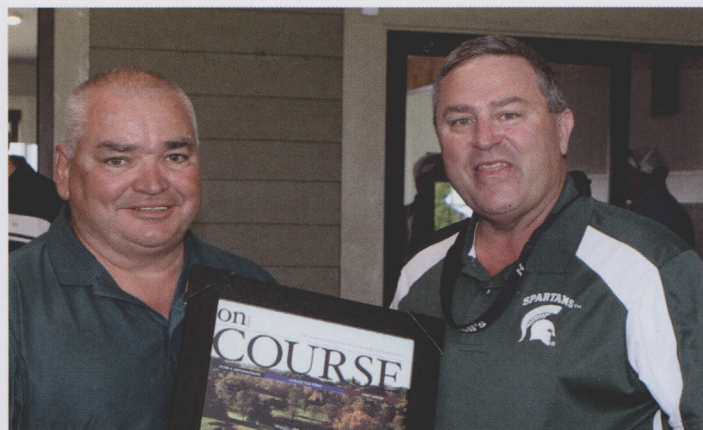
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the Shamble format chosen for this event. It was also nice to catch up with owner Heather Meyer, the daughter of Penny and Dave Meyer, who both served our association—Penny as its Executive Secretary and Dave as President in 1989. The relaxed country atmosphere of Hughes Creek and its staff made the entire day a hoot. Thanks to Jim and his grounds staff (which, judging from the “Help Wanted Grounds Crew” sign on Hughes Road was probably not very big), Heather and the inside folks, golf pro Sam Bradberry, and to Tom Voigt from the University of Illinois for his education presentation for a GREAT day! Finally, thanks to our generous sponsors for the day for their unwavering support: Premier—**Syngenta**; Beverage Sponsors—**Redline Construction** and **Reinders**; Education/Lunch Sponsors—**Arthur Clesen** and **J.W. Turf**; and Hole Sponsors—**Advanced Turf Solutions**, **BTSI**, **Chicagoland Turf**, **Dirt-N-Turf Consulting**, **Dow AgroSciences**, **EC Grow**, **Harrell’s**, **Night Light**, and **SiteOne Landscape Supply**. 





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# SUPER-N-site

Craig Kight

Eagle Brook Country Club

Max Bloomquist, Exmoor Country Club

Located in Geneva, Illinois, Eagle Brook Country Club plays host to this year's June MAGCS event. Superintendent Craig Kight and staff have been hard at work making sure the property is in pristine condition for all of the chapter members that plan to attend.

Craig Kight, Regional Superintendent for Arcis Golf, has been at the helm of Eagle Brook since 2015. Along with Eagle Brook, Craig also watches over multiple Arcis Golf properties in the Chicagoland area. Although his tenure at Eagle Brook has been short, his path to get there has been nothing shy of that.

Craig grew up in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, a small town located about two hours south of St. Louis. Craig's passion for the game of golf and being outdoors is what originally drove him to pick up a summer job at Cape Girardeau Country Club at the young age of fifteen. It was there that Craig learned about the day-to-day tasks involved with growing grass and

providing optimal playing conditions for golfers on a regular basis. His hard work and dedication at Cape Girardeau Country Club made a lasting impression on the membership; so much that a couple of members invested in his college education at West Texas A&M so that he could live out his dream of becoming a Golf Course Superintendent.

Craig went on to complete his college education at West Texas A&M and was fortunate to land his first Superintendent job at the age of twenty-one at a course in Midland, Texas. While he was grateful for the opportunity, growing bentgrass in west Texas is something he would never wish on anybody. The challenges associated with growing cool season grasses in Midland were, at times, stressful and daunting, leading Craig to make a move closer to home.

Following his time in Texas, Craig made multiple moves throughout the Midwest. Landing in St. Louis, Kansas City, and Chicago before becoming the Superintendent at The Hamlet Golf and Country Club located on Long Island in New York. From 2010 to 2015, he was put to the test at The Hamlet Club. He managed seventy-three acres of turf on a \$1.5 million budget while also completing a renovation during his tenure. The renovation included multiple on course improvements such as bunkers, irrigation, a fairway and tee conversion as well as a full clubhouse renovation.

In 2015, Craig made the move back to the Midwest to become the Regional Superintendent for Arcis Golf where he began watching over Eagle Brook Country Club. Eagle Brook, designed by Andy North and Roger Packard, is a links-style



*The Kights, Heidi and Craig and their children, Paige and Jack.*





golf course that meanders its way through a 600 home subdivision. The property sits on 254 acres, 94 of which are preserved wetlands that are home to numerous sorts of wildlife. Eagle Brook plays host to about 16,000 rounds per year and has a competitive golfing membership that appreciates quality playing conditions on a regular basis.

The staff at Eagle Brook is made up of two assistants, Josh Jackson and Frank Klaus, as well as a core group of six full-time employees that have been a part of the grounds crew for a number of years. As for seasonal help, Craig has navigated the difficult seasonal labor pool by looking no further than his local high school in Geneva. He employs five teachers from the Geneva Community School District during the summer months to supplement his full-time staff, bringing his in-season staff total to thirteen employees.

As for what Craig enjoys most about his job at Eagle Brook, it is simply getting the opportunity to teach and mentor people on a day-to-day basis. Teaching members about what he is trying to accomplish and always making himself available to answer questions is something that he values

and makes a point to do regularly. One of his greatest senses of fulfillment on the job is getting the opportunity to watch

members enjoy the product that he and his staff produce on a daily basis. He also takes the role of being a mentor seriously by guiding his assistants and showing them how this can be a rewarding profession without having to burn yourself out.

Today, Craig resides in the western suburbs with his wife and two kids. In his spare time he enjoys playing soccer, golfing, and volunteering as a coach for his son's soccer team. Being an avid Cardinals fan, Craig also enjoys taking in as many baseball games as possible throughout the season. Whether it is a trip to Jupiter, Florida for a spring training game or a weekend trip back to St. Louis, he is always keeping up to speed on his beloved Cardinals.

When it comes to advice, it boils down to a couple of simple things for Craig: ask as many questions as possible,



**EAGLE BROOK**  
*Country Club*



*The 15<sup>th</sup> at Eagle Brook is a short par 3; it is 131 yards from the tip and has plenty of trouble all around, plus it usually plays into the wind.*





*The 3<sup>rd</sup> hole is a deceptively easy looking par 3 from the tee. The green appears to be cut into a large hill and easy to hit. This is true, however it's best to be on the correct tier on this putting surface or three putts becomes a quick possibility.*

learn how to let things roll off of your shoulders and, above all else, be sure to make time for your family. Having navigated this crazy industry for over twenty years Craig has learned that the quicker you stop sweating the little things the better off you'll be. One of his favorite sayings that he has hanging on his office wall is "It's Just Turf". Living and working by that quote has simplified things for Craig and taken a lot of unnecessary stress out of his professional life. Craig and his staff are excited to host this month's MAGCS event at Eagle Brook Country Club. They are looking forward to a great turnout and hope to see everybody there. @



*The staff provides yardages each day for the par 3's; a nice touch that can help to speed up play on any course.*

*A few of the holes at Eagle Brook have that "Florida" feel. The course is cut into a large wetland (92 acres) that captures water from the surrounding community.*







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Dave Ward and Kati Bernardy

# *Spartina pectinata*

Prairie cordgrass, rip gut, slough grass

Family: *Poaceae*

Prairie cordgrass is a native perennial grass species found throughout most of the United States and Canada. Growing up to eight feet tall, this species is one of the tallest grasses of North America. The tough, thick leaves can reach up to two and a half feet in length and are known for their sharp, serrated edges which can cut your fingers when handling.



The “pectinata” or comb is formed by its flowers each summer.


The genus, *Spartina*, which is Greek for cord refers to these strong, identifiable leaves and gives it one of its common names. Prairie cordgrass is also called slough grass or rip gut due to its sharp edges on the leaves. The specific epithet,



The serrated edges of Prairie cordgrass can give you many fine paper like cuts on any exposed skin that brushes up against the fiber.

*pectinata*, is Latin for comb and refers to the shape of the flower that blooms from July to August.

Prairie cordgrass grows best in full sun to partial shade in wet, loamy soil but can also grow in dry, sandy soil. It can tolerate high pH soils and cannot handle prolonged flooding. Cordgrass can be planted by seed or rhizome and grows rather quickly. Unlike other warm season prairie grasses, it is best to seed in the spring.

Prairie cordgrass forms dense colonies in pond margins, prairie swales, ditches, or on the perimeter of woodlands. The aggressive rhizomes of this grass form a very dense mat underground which can be useful in many situations. It can help stabilize streambanks and can be planted for erosion control. Golf course superintendents can incorporate this native plant along pond edges or streams/rivers to help maintain or improve soil bank structure. It is also useful to wildlife providing shelter, cover from predators, food, or a nesting site for waterfowl. 



Prairie cordgrass is a rhizomatous native plant to Illinois and likes wet, loamy soil.



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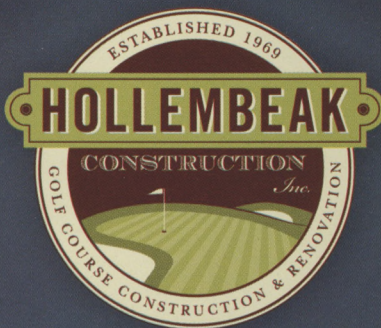
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