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TOC

TABLE OF CONTENTS

front cover

It's been several years since the Midwest made its way back to Hughes Creek in Elburn, site of the Midwest/ITF Play Day in May. The rolling hills and wetlands create a fun and challenging layout.

4

FEATURE

Across the Pond
Chuck Barber

16

FEATURE

Super-n-Site
Wil White

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A group of local superintendents attended the BTME (BIGGA Turf Management Exposition) this winter. Prior to attending the conference, the group visited some historic golf sites. Chuck Barber describes this part of their travels in the first of a multi-part series. Page 16.

DEPARTMENTS

- 03 Director's Column
Ed Bruansky
- 09 The Bull Sheet
John Gurke
- 18 News from Allied Groups
Shane Conroy
- 22 Education Wrap Up
Larry Lennert
- 24 Nature of the Game
Dave Ward / Kati Bernardy

DATES

2018 UPCOMING MIDWEST EVENTS

- 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
- 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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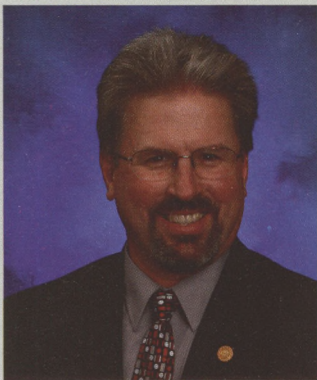
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Ed Braunsky
Geneva Golf Club

Clippings

For many years, I have penned an article for the Geneva Golf Club's newsletter called the "Tenth Hole". You have to admit, it's a clever name considering we're a nine-hole club!

My part of the collaboration is called *Clippings* and it covers the events, happenings and requests of the grounds and greens scene at the club. Each time I write it, there is always something to talk about.

The Geneva Golf Club has existed for 118 years now. Like most clubs we'd always like a few more members. The finance committee would like our budget to be in the black at the end of our year, or at least break-even. Happenings run the gamut from golf events and tennis to paddle tennis and many social events throughout the year. The club has remained strong and healthy for so many years due to committee run events and participation.

Like the GGC the MAGCS has been in existence for many years. The Midwest enters its 92nd year in 2018. Many facets of the Midwest continue on without skipping a beat. This was evident during discussions at the Past Presidents meeting which was held at the Geneva Golf Club on March 5th. The Midwest is healthy financially, we have consistent membership rolls and our members continue to find value in the Midwest. Much is done behind the scenes and we can attribute it to the excellent job Luke Cella does. Thanks Luke!

Many facets of the Midwest continue on without skipping a beat.

Throughout the year, individuals and companies request information about the Midwest. Luke does a great job of telling them about the benefits of membership whether they are a superintendent, an assistant, or a company looking to get a foothold in our market. The Midwest has created a great opportunity for those who have a product or service that can benefit our industry. Many companies have realized this and continue to support the Midwest through all our available opportunities and I'd like to say thank you to all companies who annually support the Midwest.

Finally, many happenings abound in and around the Midwest. Another strong meeting calendar has been created for the upcoming season. The new Match Play event will be starting soon. The education lineup is impressive and winding up again this year at the Midwest Clinic at Medinah. BMP'S will be published at the end of the year. Videos and strategy for outreach are being planned to help reach out to attract students into our industry. How about the new logo? Big hit! The list goes on as does one of the strongest golf course superintendent associations in the country. A big thank you from the Past Presidents Council goes to the current Board of Directors and to all who serve the Midwest. Here's hoping all have a great 2018 season! @

Across the Pond

Part I

Chuck Barber, St. Charles Country Club

PHOTO CREDITS: CHUCK BARBER

I am a lucky person. I work in a terrific industry where sharing information, resources, manpower and time are considered virtues. There are limitless education opportunities to learn more about the management and care of the grasses, the people, and the game.

The GCSAA provides a forum, a clearinghouse, for the best education available in the world each year during the Golf Industry Show. The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents provides education from many of these same GIS presenters right here in our area. After the Golf Industry Show concluded in 2017 I asked myself: What else is out there?

The answer came when TurfNet, an organization that provides an online community for Golf Course Superintendents, promoted their trip to the British and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association (BIGGA) meeting in Harrogate, North Yorkshire in Great Britain. The British Turf Managers Exposition is like the GIS in America, just not as big. I don't mean to diminish it in any way as the education, networking and events were first rate all the way around. There are just many fewer golf courses, products, and people dedicated to the game of golf in the UK.

My first concern when I became interested in attending BIGGA was the cost. How could I possibly afford a trip to the UK? My next concern was more practical: I didn't even have a passport; so I had to figure out how get one of those. I had never travelled overseas so I was intimidated by the prospect of landing in a whole new country even if they spoke the same language.

TurfNet had done the same trip in 2017 with a few superintendents from the east coast. Jon Kiger is their Director of Media Relations (among many other things) and he set up the itinerary for 2018's trip. The catch is you must get to England, TurfNet takes care of the rest of the arrangements. Our budget for education was approved in October of 2017 and Jason Kahlstorf, St. Charles Country Club's Assistant Superintendent, and I started planning. As luck would have it a few of our fellow MAGCS members were interested in going

as well. In all, Brian Palmer (Shoreacres), Scott Pavalko (Bob O'Link), Brian Moore (Glen View), Scott Bordner (Chicago), Drew Barnett (Knollwood), Jason and myself all attended from the MAGCS. We were also joined by Jason Meersman from Patterson Club in Connecticut. We got our collective heads together and worked on how to make the best of the time we would have in England. We started our trip off a few days early because when would we have the chance to get back again? We made the most of it.



I took this selfie of our MAGCS contingent (minus Brian Palmer and Scott Pavalko) as we hopped a shuttle bus at the Edinburgh Airport. This was after a full 24 hours of travel. Our planes were cancelled, delayed, switched and otherwise not on time at both ends of the trip. We were rerouted from O'Hare to Detroit to Paris to (finally) connecting from Frankfurt, Germany. From there we flew to Edinburgh on what would be an amazing trip to visit and play famous Scottish golf courses.

Right off the plane, after 24 hours of a 6-hour flight, we shuttled to North Berwick Golf Club in East Lothian, Scotland. It was late in the day and the shadows were long. How-



North Berwick Golf Club in East Lothian, Scotland

ever, the movement of the land, the proximity of the ocean and the feel of the community surrounding the course was amazing. One of the most interesting components of golf in Scotland is they are, in every sense of the phrase, community golf courses. There are walk paths for people in the town to walk their dogs, jog or just stroll through the golf course during play.

This course tour took us over the 15th green at North Berwick which is the original "Redan" hole template made famous in America by Charles Blair MacDonald and Seth Raynor. The Fried Egg tells us: Redan holes typically range from 180-215 yards and feature a 45-degree right-to-left angled green that



From MacDonald's Scotland's Gift: Golf - "Take a narrow tableland, tilt it a little from right to left, dig a deep bunker on the front side, approach it diagonally and you have a Redan."

is protected by a deep bunker that runs along the left side of the green. Redan and reverse redan (same concept except they are angled left to right) greens carry a great deal of slope that typically runs towards the bunker and from the front of the green to the back of the green. An easy way to spot a



The slopes and features of the land are severe as illustrated by Brian Moore of Glen View Club who, at 6'5" tall, shows the depth of the slope in the 17th green at North Berwick.

redan is by their defining shoulder or hump on the right side of the green, which will help funnel balls towards the middle of the green. Traditional redans also typically feature a short bunker and a bunker behind the sloping shoulder to penalize wayward shots. If you find the back bunker, a par save is highly unlikely.

After a long, beneficial walk through North Berwick it was on to St. Andrews. This picture illustrates further how much "community" there is in golf in Scotland. I took this picture staring towards the 1st tee, 18th



A midnight stroll to St. Andrews.



green and The Royal and Ancient Clubhouse at midnight. There is a road that traverses both holes that has no gate, no guard and is open ALL THE TIME! I could not help but think how different it would be given similar circumstances in America?

We started off our visit by walking along The Old Course towards the Golf Course Maintenance facility at St. Andrews and met with Gordon Moir. Gordon oversees all 7 courses in the St. Andrews Links Trust. Among many other things we talked about golf course management, golf, golfers, life and anything else we could manage to think of. He is a wonderful host. Of interest we discussed labor challenges and how difficult it is to find people to come to work. It seems our problems are theirs as well. The cold January morning was windless and sunny. When we emerged from touring the building the urge to play The Old Course hit all of us. We inquired, and Gordon was kind enough to set us up with clubs, tee times and what wound up being one of the most memorable days of golf in my life. What had started as a tour turned in to playing! Talk about LUCK!



Jason Kahlstorf's picture on the Swilken Bridge

I have a LOT of pictures of our round at The Old Course. There is only so much room for this article, so I will share some of the highlights, including Jason Kahlstorf's picture on the Swilken Bridge which was originally built 700-years ago. Once again, I was, as we all were, struck by the 'community' nature of the course. Yearly ticket prices for unlimited golf

continued on 20...



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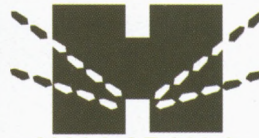
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May 2018

DATES TO REMEMBER

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 19 – 10th CDGA Foundation Golf Marathon at Zigfield Troy Golf Course in Woodridge, IL, Dennis Troy host superintendent.

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

June 4 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Eagle Brook Country Club in Geneva, IL, Craig Kight host superintendent.

June 15 – Deadline for applications for the MAGCS Scholarships—go to www.magcs.org and click on the Resources tab for information.

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 for information.

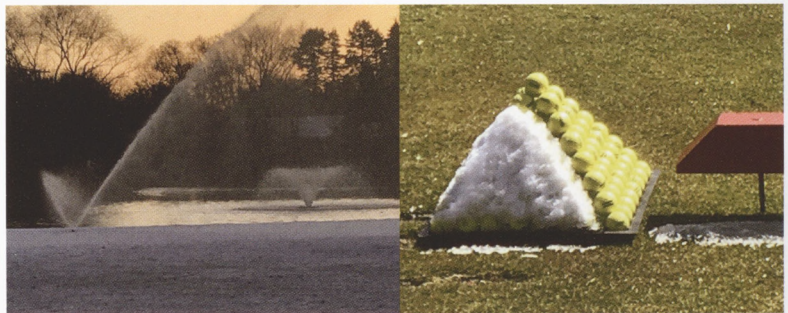
MIDWEST to offer New Scholarship(s).

Last month, the board unanimously passed a vote to offer up to four (4) \$500 scholarships for employees of Midwest members who show interest in the golf course maintenance industry. If you've got an employee that has a little interest, the Midwest would like to help them explore the profession.

Full details can be found on the website.

Applications for the other Midwest Scholarships are open, online, and due by June 15, 2018.

Nice start to the season, huh? April is DEFINITELY the new March. Or February. Just when it looked like we had turned the corner into spring, WHAM!, another kick in the huevos from Old Man Winter on the 18th, when courses throughout our area were covered in white. Strange times we are living in...



We sadly say goodbye and good luck to Jake Vollbeer, former Golf & Turf Sales Manager for Burriss Equipment, who has resigned his position to pursue a new career in a different industry. We appreciate the fine work Jake did on our association's behalf serving as its Commercial Representative, and wish him all the best.

After ten years in Houston, Phil Taylor and his wife Marilyn have made their triumphant return to Illinois (they must not report the news about the condition our state's condition is in down there). Phil has accepted the position of Golf & Turf Sales Manager at Burriss Equipment, a job he should be quite familiar with. Welcome back, Phil, and although your new home state has its flaws, at least you won't experience any more hurricanes!



We offer our condolences to the family of Jimmy Keith on the passing of Jimmy's mother Nina on April 17th. May she rest in peace.

We also sadly report that MaryRose Soenksen, wife of Ted Soenksen passed away on April 23rd—let's keep Ted and his family in our prayers.

If you are in need of some extra money to put toward your chil-

Bull Sheet continued on page 11...

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dren's education, June is the month to get those scholarship applications in. The deadline for MAGCS Scholarship applications is the 15th, and the 29th is the deadline for the Oscar Miles Endowment Fund awards. If you hadn't heard about the latter, a generous and anonymous donor gifted \$1 million to the Illinois PGA in 2004 to create two funds in honor of Merit Club's PGA Director of Golf, Don Peiper and Superintendent Oscar Miles. The fund is provided for turf research, continuing education for MAGCS and TETA members, and children and grandchildren of MAGCS members pursuing a college education. Go to www.ipga.com/scholarships for information and the application form.

Santa's Favorite Golf Witticism of the Month: Golf: A game in which a ball one and a half inches in diameter is placed on a ball 8,000 miles in diameter. The object is to hit the small ball but not the larger.—John Cunningham

I thought this was funny, but I can't remember why...



The first senior moment.

On the 19th of this month, the 10th CDGA Foundation Golf Marathon will take place at its usual place—Zigfield Troy Golf Course. The event has been an integral part of the Foundation's fundraising efforts, raising more than \$700,000 in its previous nine years. Funds go directly to CDGA Foundation programming, which utilizes the game of golf to enhance the lives of individuals with special needs, veterans and youth. If you are interested in playing, or donating to a player, contact Alex Nolly at anolly@cdga.org or go to www.cdgafoundation.org/events.

May's "Clavin-ism:" Did you know—it's a little-known fact—that golf has more than twice as many patents over the past four decades than all those for baseball, football, basketball, hockey, tennis, swimming, bowling, soccer, lacrosse and skiing combined? Yep—since 1976, there have been more than 22,000 patents connected to golf, and among the major sports, baseball is the closest competitor in the patent field with 1,508. How about that?

Better late than never: Congratulations to the MAGCS members who excelled at the 2018 GCSAA Golf Championships

held in San Antonio, Texas in February. In the National Championship, **Al Pondel** (Crystal Woods GC) and **Brian Racette** (Sand Creek CC) tied for 8th, which is pretty awesome. In the Classic II, **Matt Flory** of Westmoreland CC won the Net division, and in the Chapter Team Net division, the MAGCS team of **Steve VanAcker** (Crystal Lake CC), **Tommy Witt** (Northmoor CC), **Don Cross** (Skokie CC), and **Bob Lively** (Edgewood Valley CC) took first place and a nice little check of \$1,200 for our scholarship fund. Nice work fellas, and thanks to Steve VanAcker for putting the teams together each year.

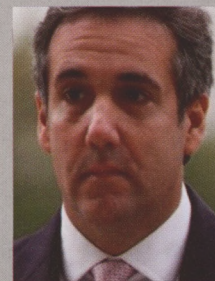
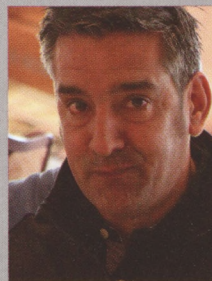


Only in Australia. This headline appeared in the Herald Sun, a Melbourne newspaper: "Drunken Dispute on Golf Etiquette Leads to Stabbing on Course." The story goes like this: three lifelong friends took to the links after watching a boxing match on TV and drinking a bit. When one of them began "damaging the greens, scratching one with a flagstick and stomping golf balls into another," the other two called him out. Apparently he didn't appreciate the etiquette lesson they were pitching, so he pulled out his trusty Smith & Wesson knife and took a swing at them. While he missed one of his mates, he connected with the other—in his thigh—and hit an artery, causing him to lose "three liters of blood and was minutes away from death." What is it with Australians and knives anyhow?

OK, why not? The thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

Kosbab. Cohen. Kosbab. Cohen. They kinda sound alike, don't they? They kinda look alike too!

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Sportsman's Country Club's Mark Kosbab and President Trump's attorney Michael Cohen

Steve Cook, CGCS want to convey his thanks to all the Midwest members and asked to pass this along: "Thank you for the kind and generous welcome I've received on my return to Medinah and Chicago. I couldn't have expected such a warm welcome. I appreciate all the emails and phone calls."

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A couple of our members were recently seen on GCSAATV, extolling the virtues of the Ryan Jr. Sodcutter on its 70-year anniversary. Dan Dinelli (North Shore CC) and Ryan Gilmore (J.W. Turf) are featured in the short film about the industry's stalwart machine that just about every maintenance shop has tucked away in a corner.



And while on the topic of equipment, did you catch the big news from Jacobsen that was announced on April 1st? They have introduced the world's first invisible walking greens mower—the TotalEclipse 2000. "This is the product no one saw coming—literally," said Chris Fox, Product Manager for Jacobsen. "It's quite a sight to see grass being cut seemingly by itself. The next time you see an empty trailer on the road, remember it might be carrying a whole fleet of Jacobsen TotalEclipse 2000 mowers."

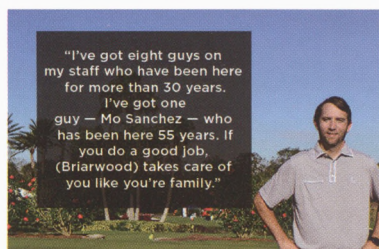


PHOTO COURTESY OF JACOBSEN

The announcement was on April 1st. Get it?

From the PGA Tour comes the long-expected announcement that it is cutting ties with its longtime WGC host Firestone Country Club, moving the tournament to Memphis, TN at TPC Southwind starting in 2019 under the title sponsorship of FedEx. Also, the Champions Tour's Senior Players Championship will move to Akron next year and be played at Firestone. Light month in the golf news world.

Did you see Golfdom's 19th Hole feature last month? You should have—it had Justin Van-Landuit waxing all poetic about the staff at Briarwood Country Club and its unusual longevity there. Nice job "TurfTank!"



GCSAA recently published its list of Certified Golf Course Superintendents and honored their years as CGCS's. The MAGCS members on that list were:



35-39 Years: Roger Stewart.

30-34 Years: Don Cross, Dan Murray, Steve Van Acker and Bruce Williams.

26-29 Years: Don Altman, Dave Fisher, Bob Maibusch, Joel Purpur, Rick Wilson and Tommy Witt.

25 Years: Tom Lively.

20-24 Years: Brian Bossert, Ed Braunsky, Steve Cook, Dan Dinelli, John Fulling, John Gurke, Jon Jennings, Kevin Knudson, Sam MacKenzie, Henry Michna and Al Pondel.

15-19 Years: Tim Anderson, Chuck Anfield, Glenn Bereiter, Luke Cella, Vince Dodge, Ron Fox, Dan Marco, Bob McCallum, Dave Radaj, Kurt Sams, Gary Schweber, Scot Spier, Brian Thomson and Scott Witte.

CGCS Retired: Chad Ball, Mike Bavier, Fred Behnke, Dave Beno, Len Berg, Kerry Blatteau, Dave Blomquist, Ron Dohman, Ed Fischer, Tom Jauch, Craig Joscelyn, John Krutilla, Pete Leuzinger, Jim McNair, Oscar Miles, George Ott, Jules Peuvion, Danny Quast, Clark Rowles, Ray Schmitz, Greg Thalmann and Randy Wahler.

Congratulations on your achievements gentlemen!

The first MAGCS monthly meeting featuring golf (the one we all anticipate so much because it's a scramble and we can suck but still do well) was held on a beautiful April 23rd at the Ivanhoe Club. May I just be blunt and say I hate Tom Prichard? The condition of his golf course (with the obvious help from Ryan Mumper and Nathan Bolhaus and a talented crew) at that time of year was stupid good—they even had striped rough where rough wasn't even growing yet! The weather picked that particular day to transition from winter to summer (we don't have spring anymore), and a wonderful day was had by all in attendance. Before getting out on the course, Dr. Charles Silcox of Amvac Environmental Products gave a presentation on PCNB: New Information About an Old Fungicide for the education portion of the day, which was followed up by lunch. After golf, a sumptuous food spread that included some ridiculously yummy pasta was awaiting the weary combatants. Congratulations to the team of Pete Kiraly, Paul Carlson, Stephen Poole and Bob Johnson on winning the scramble with a score of 50-something. Thanks to everyone at Ivanhoe Club for their hospitality and for providing such a spectacular venue, and to our sponsors whose generosity made it all possible, who were ACME Materials, Advanced Turf Solutions, Burris Equipment Company, Great Lakes Turf, LLC, Healthy Grow, JW Turf, Inc., Leibold Irrigation, Inc., Lemont Paving Co., NuFarm, Pendelton Turf Supply, Reinders, Inc., SiteOne Golf, Syngenta, and Waupaca Sand & Solutions. (Images on page 15).



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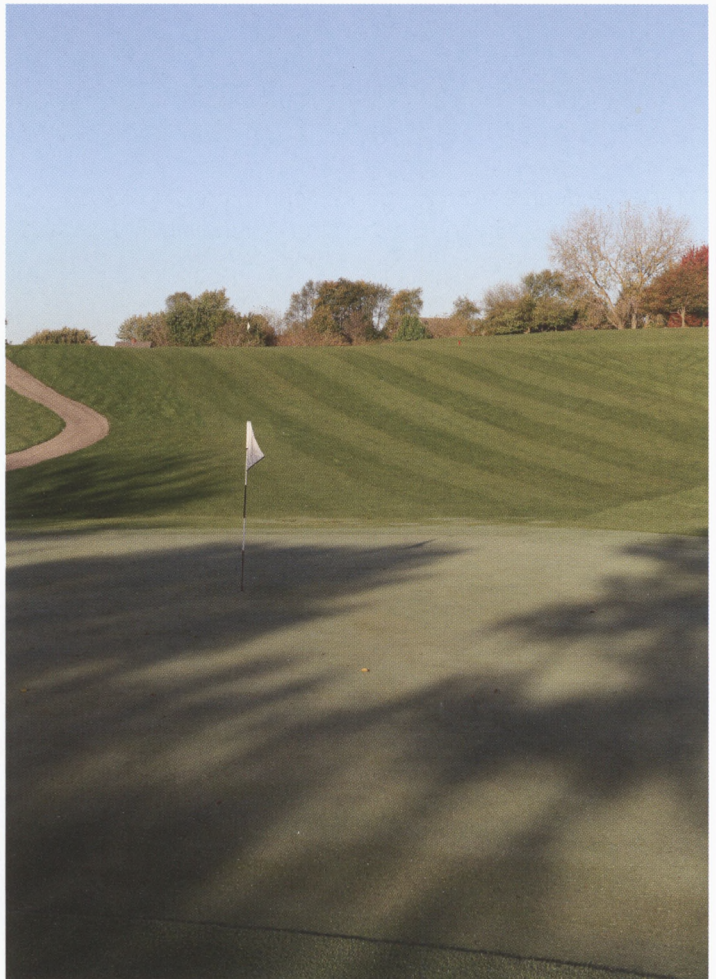
Jim Pedersen

Hughes Creek Golf Club

Wil White, Rich Harvest Farms

In the early 1990s just southeast of Elburn, Illinois 170 acres of rich farm soil turned the color green.

Starting as a nine-hole golf course, Hughes Creek Golf Club opened in the fall of 1992 from the design of Dave Meyer and Gordon Cunningham. What was once farm land, shortly turned into 18 holes by the spring of 1993. Hughes Creek's natural landscape offers gentle rolling hills, wetlands, and native areas. Bentgrass greens and tees, rye/blue mix on fairways, and the course topping out at 6500 yards; makes for a challenging round of golf for all skill levels. Jim Pedersen, golf course superintendent of Hughes Creek, gives players keen advice on playing the course: "Keep it straight, you won't find it in the rough."



The 16th hole at Hughes Creek is a short par 4 but takes a well positioned tee shot to have an even lie in the fairway for the approach shot to the green that is downhill.



Cindy and Jim Pedersen



HUGHES CREEK Golf Club

Jim Pedersen, originally from Northwest Chicago, entered the turf industry in 1978 as the mechanic at Bryn Mawr Country Club. From Bryn Mawr Jim entered into the automobile industry for nearly 15 years. Being away from the turf industry and missing many aspects of it he returned with a soil science degree from Harper College. From 1996-2005 Jim spent time at Green Acres Country Club, Family Golf, and Stonebridge Country Club. Since taking over Hughes Creek Golf Club in 2005 Jim has undertaken a bunker renovation, installation of a nursery, and the day to day general maintenance with his crew of six. He is also the current President of MAGCS. Jim currently lives in Algonquin with his wife Cindy. They have two adult children, six grandsons, and one new granddaughter. In his free time, Jim enjoys working on automobiles, motorcycles, and the never ending house remodel!



FIVE QUESTIONS FOR JIM...

Q. What is the best thing about this profession?
A. Solitude on the course in the morning. / Ability to interact with other Superintendents.

Q. What is one of the best views on the course?
A. The elevation changes on #1 or #9.

Q. Other than the golf course what else is in the town of Elburn?
A. Speed traps and a meat market.

Q. What is best advice you could give to someone young/new in the turf industry?
A. Ask Questions. Listen and watch what the superintendent is doing.

Q. What do you look forward to in the future?
A. What the next ten years of technology advancements will bring us.



The green looks pretty flat on the par 4 5th hole, but is deceptively sloped and a challenge to be on in regulation.

First Green Field Trips

Shane Conroy, GCSAA Field Staff

As the spring finally decided to show itself in the Chicagoland area, and much of the country, superintendents are off and running with the 2018 golfing season. Superintendents continued to take advantage of whatever it was Mother Nature threw at them, with many of you using the frost mornings completing fall projects, training staff, and working on the maintenance facilities to be even more productive this season. 2018 GCSAA programs and initiatives are also off and running

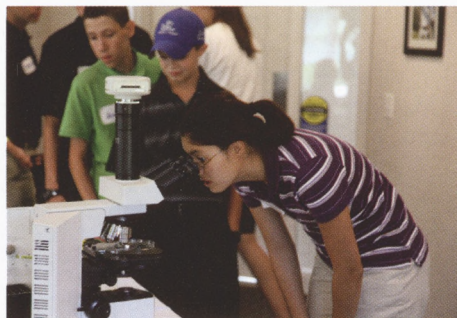
GCSAA and the First Green Foundation have officially come to an agreement which will see the First Green come under the umbrella of the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG). If you're unfamiliar with the First Green, it is a tax-exempt nonprofit, which utilizes innovative STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education using golf courses as hands-on environmental learning labs, which is the only program of its kind. The First Green originated in the Pacific Northwest in 1997, and offers extensive resources for golf course superintendents, including online lesson plans, tips on connecting with schools, and information about hosting a field trip at your course.

Golf course superintendents and industry representatives host students on field trips to teach on a variety of topics. I have been fortunate to be involved in a handful of field trips across the region, which offer the superintendent and golf course to connect with students, teachers and the community. Field trips can last anywhere from a couple hours, to a half-day. Typically, there are a handful of learning stations setup on the golf course where students rotate through during their time on the course. Sample stations may include:

- Soil Science
- Area and Volume Measurement
- Golf Course Maintenance Technology
- Environmental Stewardship
- Chipping, putting and golf course etiquette

These are just a few suggestions, as you can put your own

spin on the field trip and incorporate areas of the course which are unique to your property. Recent field trips have included rain gardens, pollinator environments, geocaching activities, and even a bald eagle nest.



Typically, there are a handful of learning stations setup on the golf course where students rotate through during their time on the course.

The agreement with the First Green will offer superintendents the ability to reach students of all ages and communicate the benefits of our profession and great game. It allows the opportunity to connect with the local community to highlight the environmental stewardship superintendents demonstrate on a daily basis, and the positive attributes golf courses bring to the area. Many of the students involved in these field trips have never stepped foot on a golf course or swung a club. Hosting First Green field trips is a great way to introduce students to the field of golf course management, and the

game of golf.

First Green field trips are just another tool in the toolbox superintendents can use to be community leaders. It allows superintendents and industry representatives to educate the public on the benefits golf courses bring using first hand examples, and be part of the active community; all while inspiring the next generation of superintendents and golfers. @



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At one point we encountered a twosome walking opposite us with their dog!

for City of St. Andrews residents for the 7 courses in the Links Trust is \$220 (pounds, not sure how to get that symbol)! The course and the city are forever intertwined and as you walk through the course the city is as much a feature as any bunker or green.

The scale of the greens was awe inspiring. All the greens on The Old Course are double greens except for the 1st, 17th (The Road Hole) and the 18th. The others are all double greens and they all add up to 18 (2 and 16, 3 and 15, 4 and 14, you get the idea).



The scale of the putting surfaces are hard to grasp.

I took this picture of the 7th and 11th greens after measuring the distance between the two flags which was 70 yards, with plenty of room to spare. The largest green there was the 5th and 13th that measured in at 39,000 square feet if the employees there are to be believed.

The scale is a sight to behold. The Hell Bunker at the 14th is BIG! I did not keep score. I did have one of the most enjoyable experiences I have ever had on a golf course on a truly brilliant, yet cold day. There are only so many chances we have in life to have an experience like that. I am forever grateful

The Hell Bunker at the 14th.



that I was lucky enough to have that one.

We checked out of our hotel at 3:30 AM the next day and lit off for Royal Birkdale. Birkdale was the host for the 2017 Open Championship. It was here where we learned about the weather in The United Kingdom as it was not enjoyable. It rained, it was windy, it was cold, it was sunny briefly and



The dunes at Birkdale were the most defining part of the flat course.

it rained again. We walked the bulk of the course and what was astonishing to me was the dunes. The dunes along the beach of Birkdale's western boundary were a sight to behold. The dunes along the par 4 13th hole



where Jordan Spieth used the rules to his advantage en route to The Open Championship in 2017 were impressive as well. After slogging through the cold rain, wind and Brian Moore checking out the wash pad at Birkdale we travelled on to Hesketh Golf Club in Southport. In yet another reminder of how intertwined courses are with their communities in The UK our host greenkeeper explained their 'artisan program' which allows town residents who can't afford membership to work for greens fees and start times. Each day the regular staff would go to the 'artisan house' and assign various tasks for the all-volunteer artisan group to perform which allowed them to work towards golfing on the course for free during slow periods in play.



Hesketh is a hidden gem of a golf course that has a small yet interesting place in golf history. Ten days after the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Adolf Hitler hosted

"Golfpreis der Nationen", The Golf Prize of the Nations. It was meant to further display German superiority in all endeavors, athletic or otherwise.

However, two English members of Hesketh Golf Club took home the prize from the seven nations that competed in the event. The trophy was commissioned and awarded by Hitler himself. The trophy has a colorful history of its own having been lost for decades and resurfacing at auction where it was



Hesketh Golf Club has a Club Chaplain - filled by a volunteer to offer pastoral support to those who might value someone helping them out when they are going through rough times.

purchased by a friend of Hesketh members and donated to the club where it resides today.

I never thought I would have encountered a story like that when I arrived at small golf course in England! It was a wonderful trip and I hope to some-day return and continue exploring. @

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New Information

About PCNB

and Anthracnose Control

Larry Lennert, Midwest Region Sales Manager, Amvac Environmental Products



Dr. Silcox discusses new information about PCNB and BMPs for anthracnose control.

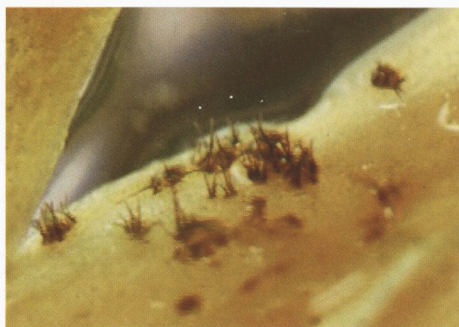
Dr. Charles Silcox, Product Development Manager for Amvac Environmental Products was the educational speaker for the April MAGCS meeting at Ivanhoe Club. His presentation was titled, "PCNB: New Information About an Old Fungicide".

PCNB (pentachloronitrobenzene) has been used as a turfgrass fungicide for over 50 years. Until just recently, it has most commonly been used in the late fall to prevent snow mold damage on turfgrass in the northern U.S., since it is widely accepted as the best single active ingredient for snow mold control. It has also been labeled for the control of several other turfgrass diseases, including brown patch, dollar spot, and leaf spot.

Some of the biological and chemical properties of PCNB include:

- It is a contact (non-systemic) fungicide.
- It has multi-site modes of action.
- It is the only FRAC Group 14 fungicide available for use on turf.
- There is no known development of resistance in over 50 years of use.
- This makes PCNB an excellent additional resistance management tool.

In 2013, researchers at Penn State discovered for the first time that PCNB has activity on anthracnose. This led to extensive additional research in 2014 – 2016 on PCNB for anthracnose control at several turfgrass research universities, including Penn State, Rutgers and UConn. In all three years of these trials, PCNB was shown to be the best single active ingredient for the control of anthracnose on annual bluegrass, even better than newer DMI and SDHI fungicide chemistries. This research also showed that a PCNB + tebuconazole treatment gave the best overall anthracnose control under the worst anthracnose disease pressure in control plots. This PCNB + tebuconazole treatment was brought to the market in 2016 by Amvac as the fungicide product Oreon™, which has just been recently renamed to Premion™. Having a new, highly effective fungicide product for anthracnose control is beneficial, but fungicide use is just one component of best management practices (BMPs) to use for an anthracnose control program.



"Fruiting bodies" of *Collectotrichum cereal*, acervuli with setae. (Photo credit: UMass.)

Dr. Silcox discussed the characteristics and symptoms of anthracnose, and reviewed the BMPs for anthracnose control that have been recently identified by turfgrass researchers. Here are some of the characteristics and symptoms of anthracnose on turfgrass:

- Caused by pathogen *Collectotrichum cereal*.
- Most commonly occurs on annual bluegrass, but can infect creeping bentgrass.
 - Symptoms usually occur May – September.
 - Infection enhanced when turfgrass is under stress.
 - Irregular distribution across turf stands in patches (4 – 12").
 - Foliar blight infects leaves, yellow, orange, red, tan in color.
 - "Basal rot" infects leaf sheaths and crowns, and can infect stolons.
 - "Basal rot" has dark brown to black acervuli with setae on crowns.

These BMPs have been identified by recent university research to reduce anthracnose:

- Apply water soluble nitrogen (N) at 0.1 – 0.2 lb./M/week, avoid N deficiency.
- Try to maintain at least 3.35% leaf tissue N, especially in annual bluegrass.
- Spring applications of granular N are better than fall applications of N.
- Use of PGRs can help offset additional growth from N applications.
- Avoid potassium (K) deficiency in annual bluegrass.
- Try to maintain leaf tissue K of annual bluegrass in the 2.4 – 3.0% range.
- Raise mowing height during stressful conditions if possible.
- If rolling can help maintain putting speed at a higher

height of cut, roll!

- Avoid excessively wet and excessively dry conditions.
- Light, hand watering to avoid wilt on hot, dry days.
- Sand topdressing is very beneficial. Protect the crowns with sand.
- Try to match growth rate of turf with light, frequent topdressing.
- Sand topdressing at 100 lb./M every two weeks will greatly reduce severity.
- Heavier topdressing in the spring (400 – 800 lb./M) is also effective.
- Heavy spring topdressing is critical if light summer topdressing is not possible.
- Most important non-chemical BMPs increase N, raise height of cut, and increase sand topdressing.
- Preventative fungicide applications are more effective than curative applications.
- Mixtures of two or more fungicide active ingredients are more effective than single active ingredients.
- Preventive fungicide applications should be initiated 3 – 4 weeks prior to the onset of symptoms.
- Use a spray volume of 2 gal/M and nozzles that produce medium to coarse droplets.
- Limit the total number of fungicide applications for chemical classes that have a high potential for resistance.
- Alternate fungicides with different modes of actions, and that have different FRAC Group numbers.
- Tank mix fungicides that have different modes of actions and different FRAC Group numbers.
- Reduce preventative fungicide application intervals when disease pressure is high.

Dr. Silcox was asked about the safety of PCNB, especially if used in-season on activity-growing turf. There have been some reports of phytotoxicity and rumors of "root pruning" from higher application rates of PCNB used in the late fall for snow mold prevention.

Dr. Silcox said there have been many different formulations of PCNB fungicide products over the years, some better than others. He gave one example of a PCNB product that was used on potatoes that contained a cheap, agricultural grade soil surfactant. This same PCNB product formation was then sold for turf applications, and the ag soil surfactant caused phytotoxicity to the turf, but PCNB was blamed. PCNB formulations have improved a lot recently. In the recent university research trials of PCNB for anthracnose control, no phytotoxicity has been observed in any of the studies when applications were made throughout the summer every two weeks.

The "root pruning" concern regarding PCNB use has been thoroughly investigated recently by three turfgrass universities, including the University of Wisconsin – Madison. After three years of trials, there has been no negative impact on rooting, even at the highest labeled rate for snow mold control. Concerns about "root pruning" from PCNB use are unfounded. ©



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Dave Ward and Kati Bernardy

Caltha palustris

Yellow Marsh Marigold, Cowslip

Family: *Ranunculaceae*, (Buttercup Family)

In the early spring when most herbaceous perennials are still dormant or just starting to grow, marsh marigolds (*Caltha palustris*) erupt with a mounded blaze of yellow that shouts out in an otherwise dreary landscape. Normally blooming in late-April, (maybe late-May or early June this year), its 1" to 1 1/2" diameter bright yellow flowers are made up of 5 to 9 shiny yellow sepals that open in the early morning and close at night. The genus name *Caltha* derives from the Greek *kalthos* meaning goblet and the species name *palustris* is Latin for "of the marsh". As its name suggests, marsh marigolds are adapted to wet soil on the edges of ponds or streams, on a wet woodland floor or amongst other vegetation in wetland areas. The name is also misleading as marsh marigolds aren't marigolds at all as marigolds are in the aster family. Marsh marigolds are actually in the buttercup family and are related to anemone, columbine, larkspur and clematis. The 8" to 24" plants with glossy bright green heart-shaped leaves will thrive and bloom in partial-sun to shady conditions. Marsh marigolds are native to North America and grow from the transition zone all the way to hardiness zone 3. The species is also native to a large portion of Europe and the United Kingdom.

common plant referred to as cowslip, *Primula veris*). In the UK and Europe it has a large variety of interesting names, including: kingcup, brave bassinets, crazy Beth, horse blob, May blob, mare blob, boots, bullflower, soldier's buttons, publican's cloak, water dragon, drunkards, water goggle and publicans-and-sinners.



Like last month's ephemerals, the marsh marigold is a sure sign of spring.

Marsh marigold produces both nectar and abundant pollen which are important to early spring flies and bees. All parts of the plant are poisonous to humans and livestock and touching any part, particularly the flowers, may cause skin irritation or blistering. Indigenous Americans made tea from its roots and ate all parts of the plant after boiling them several times to remove the toxins.

Marsh marigolds can be propagated by division or by seed. Young seedlings can usually be found around mature specimens and are easy to transplant. It is a "plant it and forget it" type of plant that once established in the proper wet-soil environment, blooms every year and requires no care or maintenance.

Marsh Marigold is an underutilized plant in home and commercial landscapes, water gardens and on golf courses. It is in many ways like the spring ephemerals blooming on the woodland floor or the early flowering shrubs that first add color to a drab scenery of tan and grey – marsh marigolds signal the end of the long winter and the start of a new golf season, offering hope for the glorious weather and green landscapes to come. ©



The marsh marigold will tolerate some partial shade.

In the United States, *Caltha palustris* is primarily know as marsh marigold or cowslip, (not to be confused with the more



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