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on 10/2018

THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

# COURSE

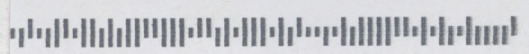
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PRAIRIE SMOKE PLANT

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## Seven Bridges Golf Club



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## front cover

Last year, Seven Bridges Golf Club celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> year of existence. Don Ferreri, Dave Gelino and Adam Charters host the Midwest for the October 2-Man Team Event.

# 4 I6

FEATURE

### Data Driven Superintendent

Luke Cella

FEATURE

### Super-n-Site

Rob Bredemus



For the past 15 years, members of the Midwest have been heading north to the Wee One Golf Outing at Pine Hills Golf Club. A record number of players (200) took part in the event and raised funds for those in need. Scott Spieden, Ben Exline, Charlie Brugler, Eric Ensign, and Warren Shafer pictured above after golf.

## DEPARTMENTS

- 03** Director's Column  
Mark Kosbab / John Ekstrom
- 09** The Bull Sheet  
John Gurke
- 14** Nature of the Game  
Kati Bernardy / Dave Ward
- 20** MAGCS in Motion  
Luke Cella

## DATES

### 2018-19 UPCOMING MIDWEST EVENTS

- 10/17 Midwest Equipment Tech Training, JW Turf, Elgin IL
- 12/5 Midwest Turf Clinic & Annual Meeting,  
Medinah Country Club, Steve Cook host
- 02/06/19 Midwest Hospitality Reception, San Diego, CA

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# ALWAYS IN SEASON



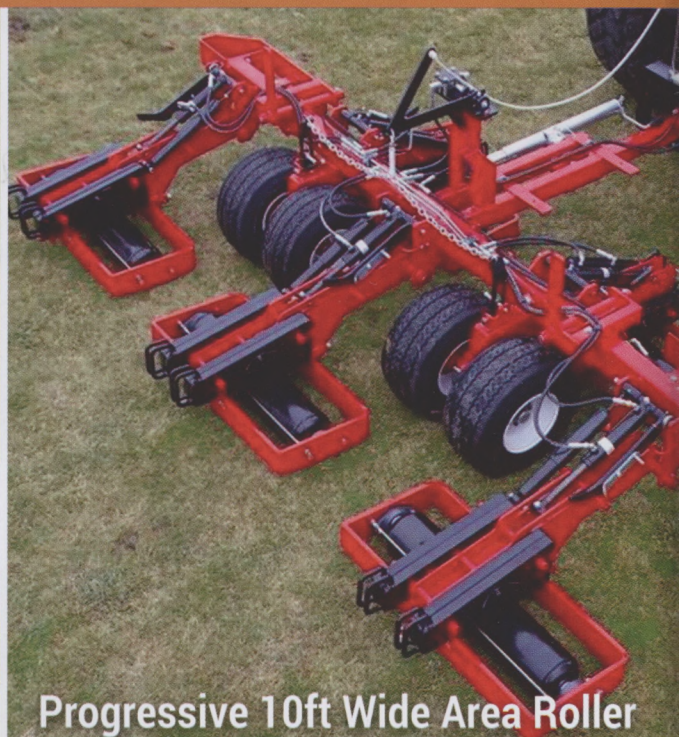
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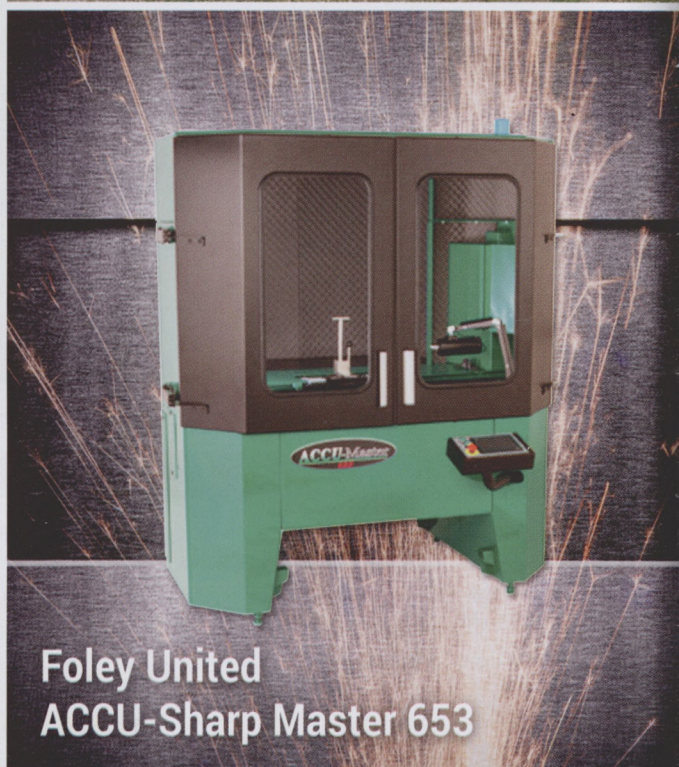
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Mark Kosbab  
Sportsman's Country Club

## Member Education

As we start to transition into the fall season and cooler temperatures, we would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for attending the 2018 monthly MAGCS meetings and education seminars.

Education is integral to our growth as professionals and the Education committee works hard to provide current, pertinent learning opportunities. This year included the following presentations:

- January (Seven Bridges) – Dr. Cale Bigelow, Purdue University. "Alternative Fairway Grasses, Natural Organic Inputs, and More!"
- March (TopGolf) – Joseph Cooper, Meteorologist Thermodynamic Solutions. "From Tee to Green: How Weather Consulting Can Help Your Long, Medium, and Short-Range Game"
- April (Ivanhoe) – Dr. Larry Silcox, PCNB: New Information About an Old Fungicide
- June (Eagle Brook Country Club) – Fred Warner, Nematode Diagnostician, Michigan State University. "Nematodes: More Common Than You Probably Know"
- August (The Highlands of Elgin) – Dr. Paul Koch, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison. "Implementing the Smith-Kerns Dollar Spot Model at Your Facility"
- October (Seven Bridges) – Greg Martin, Martin Design. "The Preserve at Oak Meadows – The First Season"

Thanks again to our hosts and sponsors that make these events such great events to learn and to network!

Please know that the education committee is always looking for speakers and looking ahead to 2019. If you have an idea for a presentation or know of someone who might be willing to speak at a monthly meeting or at our annual turf clinic, please contact the MAGCS at any time.

We would also like to remind you about the Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club to be held on December 5th. Along with many other topics, we will be hosting Dr. Fred Yelverton from North Carolina State who will be sharing some brand-new data regarding *Poa annua* management. More details on the event will be communicated in the coming weeks.



**MIDWEST 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Turf Clinic**  
**December 5, 2018**  
**Medinah Country Club**  
**Steve Cook CGCS MG host**

**Please plan to attend this year's Midwest Turf Clinic as we make plans to honor Dr. Tom Voigt for his years of support and commitment to our membership and industry.**

# The Data Driven Superintendent

Luke Cella, MAGCS

PHOTO CREDITS: VARIOUS

We live in a data driven world and the decisions you make on the golf course are not immune to it. How do you sift through the data produced and collected everyday from your golf course and make a sound decision? Recently I took part in a meeting where superintendents were discussing their decision making process when it came making applications of plant protectants.

This made me think of some of the tools available to superintendents that enable them to collect data. Whether it be growing degree days, moisture meter readings, clipping yields, putting green speeds, chemical and fertilizer costs per acre, to part time labor, superintendents are constantly putting a number to items.

## GROWING DEGREE DAYS

A method to estimate heat accumulation by using daily maximum and minimum temperatures using a sine curve to approximate the diurnal temperature curve was first published in 1969. It underwent several iterations and in 1983 the concept took hold. As stated by Wilson and Barnett in their opening paragraph, "Questions such as when to plant, whether the crop is developing on time, and when to initiate set control actions are particularly difficult to answer, because the timing it not always the same each year."

Most superintendents are astutely aware of growing degree days and use them for timing applications of plant protectants, especially growth regulators, seed head suppression, and some insecticides and fungicide applications. No matter what model, or calculator one uses, all state in one form or another, "When it comes to growing degree day models, it is important to realize they serve as useful

guides, they don't replace scouting techniques or your own observations on the course." (greencastonline).

## MOISTURE METERS

The concept of soil moisture meters has been around since the 1920s but the development of the system we use today didn't really happen until the 1960s. In a patent application from 1964, inventor Charles Matlin explained:

"The electrical resistivity of soil is primarily a function of soil density, salinity and moisture content. At any one location, moisture content is the variable of major concern. The resistivity, maximum when the soil is dry, decreases as soil moisture increases until saturation is achieved. Electrical energy, when applied to metallic conductors embedded in the soil, causes an electrical current to flow between the conductors, the amplitude of said current being directly proportional to the soil moisture; minimum current flow in dry soil, maximum current flow in saturated soil. This invention uses a soil moisture sensor consisting, in part, of two metallic conductors electrically separated by insulating material. The external part of the electrodes are in direct contact with the soil under test. Therefore, this soil combines with the soil moisture sensor to become a resistive component of an electrical circuit. The application of electrical energy to this circuit results in a current flow which is translated into either a meter reading or a light intensity of a lite bulb."

This concept has not changed and is still in use today. Whether a handheld meter or ones that can be installed within the soil profile, soil moisture meters produce data superintendents can use to adjust their irrigation decisions. Most superintendents know that plant available water in a soil is constantly in flux and the amount a plant needs changes like/ with the wind (and many other factors) when trying to produce above standard playing conditions.



*In the early days of firmness testing, a steel ball was dropped from about head-high onto a putting surface and the depth of the indentation was measured.*

## CLIPPING YIELD

Some superintendents have been measuring clipping yield from their putting greens as a way to track plant growth rate. There is no set industry standard to measuring clipping yield, but all superintendents do it to one degree or another. While most visually inspect the amount of clippings in a mower's basket, some superintendents will measure or weigh the amount of clippings collected each day from a specific putting green or two. Adam Moeller, an Agronomist from the USGA has made a video of the process and explains the practice can help superintendents make more informed designs when deciding to fertilize, regulate, single/double mow, roll or groom a putting surface. Whether one goes through all the steps outlined in the video, or just peers into basket data is being collected. Adam Moeller from the USGA, explains the process in a video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtgwEqYmV6A>

## GREEN SPEED

One of the simplest and most known data points in the realm of greenkeeping is the Stimpmeter reading. The tool was developed to measure the consistency among greens on a golf course. Many superintendents know what their green speeds are, some post them daily for members, others have ranges they keep their greens. How fast the ball rolls is an important characteristic of most putting greens and golfers really take notice when they are at either end of the spectrum. Supers know what they can do to speed them up or slow them down, there is a whole arsenal of processes that can be used including doing nothing at all.

## FIRMNESS

In the last ten years, the newest data point that superintendents are paying attention to is firmness. The USGA developed the TruFirm to measure the firmness of a turf surface by measuring the impact of a golf ball-sized steel shaft on a surface. In 2010, Stanley Zontek proposed that "these tools (firmness meters) allow every golf course to measure and make their own decisions on firmness." Since then, I've listened to talk from moisture content, sand size and shape, to cultivar types when trying to figure out how to keep things firm on their putting greens, fairways and bunkers. Firmness discussion is only warming up as fairway topdressing programs have taken a foot hold and water restrictions impact management in the future.

It will be interesting to see what we decide to measure next. Despite what the next item will be, it will produce another piece of data. So what do you do with it? When a computer programmer sits down to create an algorithm, "Starting from an initial state and initial input, the instructions describe a computation that, when executed, proceeds through a finite number of well-defined successive states, eventually producing 'output' and terminating at a final ending state." Basically, in a computer system an algorithm is a takes input and uses logic to create output but follows a defined path or set of instructions to create the result. Seems simple, but when applied to something like a golf course, complexity arises.

Golf courses are not static. Most of the things that you manage are in a state of change like the weather, soil and plant systems and of course your personnel. Other items impact your decision making process and like the perception of the golfing community you are providing conditions for each day. Their expectations and what they deem are "good" factor into your management scheme. How often

do you hear, "my members like the greens around an 11, any faster and everyone starts to three putt"? Maintenance standards are the intended output and how you get to them depends on way too many factors to list. This is where you come in, with your knowledge and experience you are able to reach your intended output with all of the inputs you encounter each day. I wonder how much of the data is truly useful, and how much of it can cloud the process? In the world of golf course maintenance, it seems most of the data is good, but it is only one small piece of the puzzle that helps you in your daily decisions. In that same meeting that made me think about this topic, a superintendent explained his whole theory on using a GDD model to schedule growth regulator applications. His detailed GDD model defines when his next application should go down so his plants won't come out of regulation. After explaining their process for tracking GDD and their model he admitted, it's still just a guide. His GDD model doesn't know if it is the weekend, or if there is rain in the forecast.

It might be impossible or futile for you to write a complete code that creates the ultimate playing surface. Some of the inputs can be defined and placed on paper to create the basis for your code. However, when the inputs are changing, the complexity can become too great to clearly define. This is where your experience, your knowledge and ability to make sound decisions with all of the information you have at any given moment comes into play. You're the algorithm and you should share it. @

### References:

Baskerville & Emin (1969) Rapid Estimation of Heat Accumulation from Maximum and Minimum Temperatures.  
Wilson and Barnett (1983) Degree-days: an aid in crop and pest management.  
US Patent Office: patent/US3882383A/en



*Golf commentators like to talk about green speed, but sadly never relate it to playability like slope, windspeed, or moisture.*

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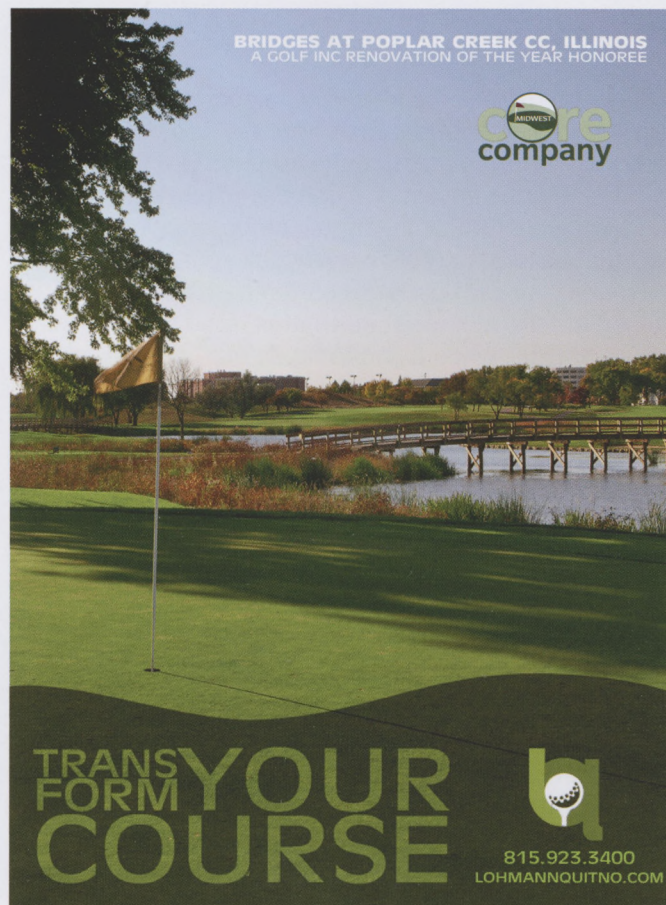
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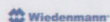
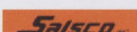
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# The Bull Sheet



## DATES TO REMEMBER

October 2018

**October 17** – Midwest Equipment Manager/ Technician Education: "Tier 4 Diesel Engine Re-generation" at JW Turf HQ in Elgin, IL. Register at [magcs.org](http://magcs.org)

**October 17** – "Creating Healthy Landscapes: Planting for Pollinators" symposium at the Danada House in Wheaton, IL. Check out [www.dupageforest.org](http://www.dupageforest.org) for information.

**October 17-19** – GIE+EXPO at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, KY.

**November 10** – 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Club Leadership Conference for private club officers and staff. Medinah Country Club - Register: [cdga.org](http://cdga.org)

**December 5** – 66<sup>th</sup> Midwest Turf Clinic and Annual Meeting at Medinah Country Club, Steve Cook, CGCS, MG host.

If you have John Deere equipment on your golf course, or any other brand that J.W. Turf carries, you've come to know this guy. Joe Hutsler (whose name for about 20 years I wrongly thought was HuStler like the magazine I've never read) is the guy we all have turned to when looking to fix whatever is broke—the go-to guy with an incredible wealth of knowledge who has, for years, been getting our machines back on the course lickety split. The excellent Service Manager for J.W. Turf celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the company on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Joe started working for the Buck brothers in 1978 under his father who was Service Manager then, and has dedicated his life to servicing John Deere equipment and being a bank of knowledge for his customers and fellow employees.



*Joe Hutsler celebrates 40 years with JW Turf.*

Congratulations to Joe Hutsler on an amazing run, and may it last another 40 (he'd be a hundred and something, but these days you never know)!

Our association lost a great member and friend last month when Sharon Riesenbeck suddenly passed away after battling scleroderma and



*It's hard not to think of Sharon and smile for all the laughs she shared with us.*



pulmonary hypertension. All of us remember Sharon for the wonderful person she was—a dedicated and involved member whose infectious smile and colorful wardrobe (complete with matching hats) lit up our monthly meetings, and whose sense of humor always had us laughing. While we extend our condolences to Sharon's family, let's also thank them for sharing her with us—you were one of a kind, lady!

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"It was like playing on carpet."



"The course is in amazing shape."



"Best fairways and greens I've ever played on."

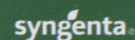


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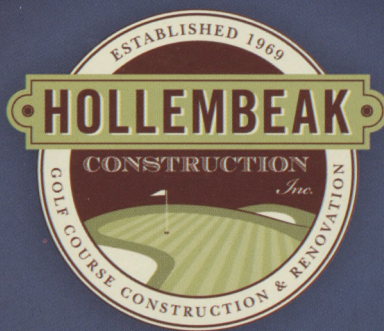
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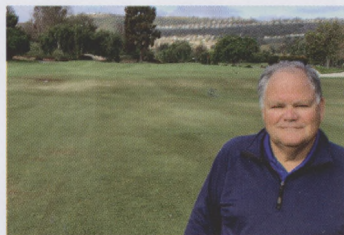




Congratulations to Luke Strojny (left), former superintendent at Prairie Bluff Golf Club who is now at The Preserve at Oak Meadows in Addison, IL.

Also on the move (and strictly for the fun of it I'm guessing) is **Roger Stewart**, who is the Interim Superintendent at El Niguel Country Club in Laguna

Beach, California, after the course underwent a thorough remodel for which Roger finished the grow-in. Roger will spend about two months on the job while bunking at the Casa de Williams (Bruce's house) in Manhattan Beach, while Bruce conducts a job placement for the club through Executive Golf Search, Inc. Nice work if you can get it, huh?



*Roger Stewart, back in the saddle again.*

Speaking of **Bruce Williams**, who seemingly LIVES in airports and on airplanes, our Executive Director **Luke Cella** recently ran across the past president of both MAGCS and GCSAA by pure chance in—of all places—the airport (O'Hare to be exact). Bruce was likely laying over between visits to exotic places abroad, while Luke was driving for Uber, looking for a few extra \$\$s.



OK, why not? When attacked by a mob of clowns, always go for the juggler.

Our industry is obviously going to the dogs. Coming to you with your December issue of *Golfdom* magazine will be the 2019 Underdogs of Turf calendar presented by Rain Bird, John Deere and *Golfdom*. This third entry into the golf course dog calendar market is the brainchild of Kasey Kauff, director of grounds at Trinity Forest Golf Club in Dallas, Texas, whose vision was to create a calendar that featured dozens of dogs on each page as opposed to one per month. That all said, if you want to submit your dog for consideration for the 2019 calendar, go to [www.golfdom.com/underdogs](http://www.golfdom.com/underdogs) quickly--the deadline is October 15th.

Congrats to **Todd Schmitz** and Phillips Park GC Pro Jeff Schmidt on taking home top honors in the 20th Annual Wadsworth Cup matches held at Heritage Bluffs in Channahon on August 31st. The competition, which pits staff members from the many area courses built by Wadsworth Golf Construction,

has served as a fun way to bring people together for a fun day of sharing ideas, telling a few old tales, and perhaps even learning a thing or two while enjoying one of the great courses from the Wadsworth portfolio. This year's



*Our friend Jim McNair had a lot to say about Brent, a man that was loved by many.*

version was even more special, as the participants not only celebrated 20 years of the matches, but also the life of company founder Brent Wadsworth, who passed away on February 7th. MAGCS members **Greg Martin** and **Jim McNair** were on hand for the day, both delivering wonderful tributes to the man who touched so many of our lives in this industry.



*Jeff Schmidt and Todd Schmitz won the Wadsworth Cup in 2018.*

October's "Clavin-ism:" Did you know—it's a little-known fact—that not all golf balls have the same number of dimples? It's true—golf balls

have anywhere from 330 to 500 dimples depending on the maker, but the ideal ball will have between 380 and 432.

Our condolences to the family of **John "JT" Turner** whose mother Rosemary Turner passed away in her sleep on September 21st at the age of 93 years.

Q: What does **Andrew Redding** receive every time he has his course in perfect condition?

A: Ruffled Feathers in his cap.

While on the subject, our association can add another feather to ITS cap after having FOUR of its members named to the Green Start Academy Class of 2018! John Deere Golf and Environmental Science, a business unit of Bayer Crop Science have announced that assistant superintendents **James Hauser** of Medinah Country Club, **Conrad Pannkuk** from The Club at Wynstone, **Michael Melka** of Exmoor Country Club and **Luke Braun** from Hinsdale Golf Club will attend the educational and networking event which started in 2005. Attendees will travel to the Bayer Development and Training Center in Clayton, N.C. and the John Deere Turf Care factory in nearby Fuquay-Varina, as well as the John Deere headquarters in Cary, N.C. Congratulations gentlemen!

Happy Trails to longtime MAGCS member and LONGTIME superintendent at Exmoor Country Club **Kurt Galisdorfer**! Kurt is joining the ranks of the retired, heading off into the sunset (hopefully wearing sun screen and polarized sunglasses and a goofy bucket hat—the sun IS our enemy you know)



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after a long and illustrious career at Exmoor, which he culminated by hosting the Constellation Senior Players Championship this past July. Congratulations Kurt, and all the best in your salad days!

And now the question that remains: IS Kurt Galisdorfer really retired? Or did he find a new career as an analyst on Golf Channel under the alias "John Cook"? Hmmm.



*A younger, fresher Kurt around the time he started at Exmoor*

## MIDWEST Doppelgänger



*Kurt Galisdorfer or golf swing analyst John Cook?*

If you are located anywhere north of Chicago, you've probably either heard of or done business with Anton's Greenhouses & Garden Center in Evanston. Owner **Gary Anton** along with brother and business partner Rick, whose grandfather began the business 70 years ago, have announced the closing of the Pitner Avenue location as of September 30<sup>th</sup>, but will continue to operate their other location in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin. Among the reasons for closing this north shore institution were the challenges the Antons faced with maintaining and repairing the massive 100-year-old boiler that was bought used from another nursery and has been heating the greenhouses since the business began. Anton's will be missed by many of our members' courses, such as Bryn Mawr Country Club, which has been purchasing its annual flowers for all of **Brian Bossert's** 27 years there. Godspeed to the Antons in the next chapter of their business lives.

'Tis the season for the dreaded (or not so dreaded) Early Order Programs (EOP's), and according to a survey conducted by Golf Course Industry, not all superintendents are happy with the timing of the season. In fact, 37% are UNhappy with the timing of EOP season, most stating they'd prefer it begin later in the fall or even through the winter, stressing that a wider window would help them make better educated purchasing decisions. The survey also revealed that on average, superintendents devote just over \$100,000 for EOP spending, begging the question "Who was surveyed??"

Golf Witticism of the Month (from former PGA Tour player Miller Barber): "I don't say my golf game is bad; but if I grew tomatoes, they'd come up sliced."

September 17<sup>th</sup> found many MAGCS members trekking north to Sheboygan, Wisconsin for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Wee One Outing at Pine Hills Country Club. Let me start by saying that among the many things that bother me (the list gets bigger as I get older), mosquitoes and Africa-heat are at the top of the list. Pine Hills—and the entire state of Wisconsin, it turns out—had both on this day. Fortunately, Pine Hills also had plentiful beer, tacos, brats, and cookies; and probably the closest-to-perfect golf course conditions you could ask for, making me forget about the heat and humidity, and the f#@%&g mosquitoes. Many MANY thanks to all the sponsors of the event, to **Rod Johnson**, the superintendent and magician who hosts us every year and never fails to have a world-class course for us to beat up; to all the volunteers who manned the registration tables and helped the big day proceed without any hiccups; to the staff who kept our tacos and brats hot and our beer cold; and to the Pine Hills membership for allowing us to experience such a great venue year after year.



*Our GCSAA President, Darren Davis and CEO Rhett Evans were part of the festivities in Sheboygan as they made a contribution to the Wee One Foundation from the GCSAA in the amount of \$10,000. (L to R - Darren Davis, Rod Johnson, Rhett Evans).*



*Brian Racette hasn't had a new set of irons in over a dozen years and left Pine Hills with a new set after winning the draw down. He was happy to win them.*





# *Geum triflorum*

Common: **Prairie Smoke**

Family: *Rosaceae Family*

Dave Ward and Kati Bernardy

PHOTO CREDITS: CHARLIE McDONALD: FS.FEDU.US

Prairie Smoke, or *Geum triflorum*, is native to the northern parts of North America usually found in hardiness zones three to seven. The genus *Geum*, more commonly known as avens, encompasses over 50 different species and is part of the Rosaceae family. Other avens species native to Illinois include the white avens (*Geum canadense*), spring avens (*Geum vernum*), and rough avens (*Geum laciniatum*).

form of the flower. Since this flower blooms early in the spring, it is valuable to the queen bees that survived the winter and require nectar so early in the season. Insects and plant diseases are not an issue for Prairie Smoke, but if grown in wetter areas root rot can occur. Although native, Prairie Smoke is not common in our area due to development and plant competition and is only found in high quality prairies.



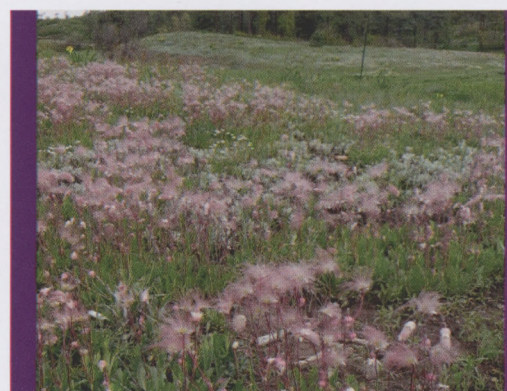
A close up of the feathery styles of *Prairie Smoke*

The plants grow in clumps and are a sign of a high quality prairie.

Prairie Smoke is a small, hairy plant that blooms in early spring to midsummer only growing up to one and a half feet tall. The flowers are very unique in that they stay mostly closed while in full bloom, resembling more of an actual flower bud. If the flower is pollinated, it will develop elongated purplish seed heads that create a haze over the prairie ground that looks like smoke, hence its common name. These long, feathery seed tails are not only aesthetically pleasing but help with seed dispersion. Prairie smoke grows best in full sun and in dry, well-drained soils. The leaves are pinnate resembling a fern with 7-19 leaflets. They are green in the spring and summer and then turn reddish purple in the fall. They are also semi-evergreen and remain red throughout the winter proving interest to the landscape.

This plant has provided many uses both past and present. Native Americans used the root medicinally to treat wounds, create a tea for sore throats, or as an eye wash. Prairie smoke can be grown in mass plantings, formed into a ground cover, or planted in naturalized areas on golf courses. This species is an excellent option to incorporate with spring bulbs since it is an herbaceous perennial and blooms early in the season. If growing in a natural area, some common companion plants include a variety of wild flax species (*Linum* spp.), prairie

coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), little blue stem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), and white or silky asters (*Aster* spp.).



The name *Prairie Smoke* is easy to understand when seen from afar while in bloom.

Pollination of this plant is difficult due to the shape and



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# SUPER-N-site

Dave Gelino

Seven Bridges Golf Club

Rob Bredemus, Kemper Lakes Golf Club

Dave Gelino grew up in Momence, IL, just east of Kankakee. He graduated from Benedictine University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and majored in Accounting. During his college summers, he worked at Kankakee Country Club.

This experience gave him the itch to go back to Joliet Junior College for an agronomy degree with an emphasis in turfgrass management. Shortly thereafter, Dave started working at newly opened Seven Bridges Golf Club. It didn't take long until he became the Assistant Superintendent in only four years.

Seven Bridges Golf Club is a public facility which opened in July of 1991. It was designed by Dick Nugent and built by Wadsworth Company. This pristine course has a variety of grasses including Penneagle on the fairways, Penncross on the tees, and Pennlinks on the greens. When you come play Seven Bridges, you will have your fair share of challenges at this par

72, 7,100 yard length course. One hardly needs to play it from the tips to quickly find the challenges Nugent built into the track. The course places a heavy premium for accuracy off the tee that translates to sacrificing some distance on several tee shots. Often, the 3-wood or utility club can set you up for a better play from the tee, especially on a couple of the par 5s. Seven Bridges faces obstacles just like any other course; besides the omnipresent labor issues, a storm water management system and the DuPage River flows through the course and can cause flooding during heavy rains. They currently do not have any large projects planned for this fall, therefore, the team will focus on drainage and tree work.

Dave is happily married to his wife Deana and they have 15-year-old triplet boys. Over the past couple of years, they have taken unforgettable family vacations which include seeing the Cubs Spring Training and San Francisco. His most memorable golf round took place at Seven Bridges where he shot a 1 under 71. A close second would be the hole-in-one he made during a Midwest golf outing in 1998.

Dave states the best thing about being in the golf profession is the people that work in it. He loves how they are able to swap ideas, stories, and passions with each other. Everyone in the profession wants one another to succeed and will always lend a helping hand when needed. @



*The Gelinos.*



*The DuPage River is a key attribute of the course coming into play on every hole on the back. It's just best to hit the 15<sup>th</sup> green rather than come up short.*



*The American Flag is always present on the 9<sup>th</sup> green, a tradition that was started many years ago to honor all who have served our great country.*




*Some say the 10<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup> holes at Seven Bridges are the toughest stretch of holes around. They demand accurate tee shots, like the 16<sup>th</sup> above with water left and right and the undulating greens can make birdies scarce unless you leave yourself short up hill putts.*




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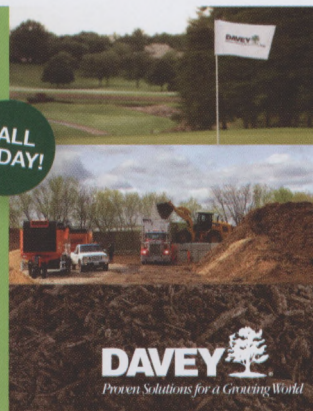
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Luke Cella, MAGCS

## Greens Staff at USGA Senior Women's Open Light Up the World. Chicago Golf Club

Congratulations proliferated the conversations around Chicago Golf Club the weeks surrounding the US Senior Women's Open. Chicago Golf Club, the USGA and all involved were thanked and offered compliments on the event. Scott Bordner, his staff, and volunteers quietly provided the conditions the USGA needed to host an inaugural event. There's another story behind the scenes of the accomplishment of the grounds crew.

It's related to Juan Hafner. Juan worked on the grounds crew at CGC for three seasons during his summer breaks from high school. He's also spent two winters working at the Club at Medterra in Naples, Florida. He spent his first eight years living in an orphanage in Guatemala before coming to the US. A family from Scott's church adopted Juan and has been able to give him a much different life than he experienced in the first part of his life.

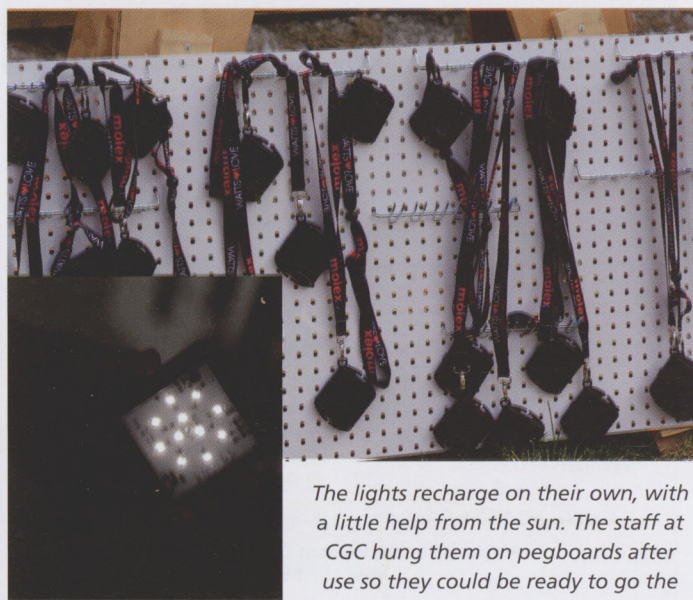


*Juan gladly took a minute to pose for a picture with all the lights that were sent to the orphanage in Guatemala where he spent the first part of his life.*


If you were able to attend the event at CGC and made your way down to the maintenance facility, chances are you saw a rack of lights out in the sunshine. These lights are solar powered, created by Molex and were used by the grounds crew each morning and evening to lengthen the day so they could get their tasks done. The lights were designed for children in Africa that have no electricity. The idea is simple, as



children walk to and from school, they can charge the lights and have enough power to read a book, light up a small room, or even a family room depending on the setting used. The 100 lights that were used by the grounds crew at CGC are now in the hands of children at the orphanage where Juan lived in Guatemala for their intended purpose. You never know how a little light shined in the right place will impact a life or two.



*The lights recharge on their own, with a little help from the sun. The staff at CGC hung them on pegboards after use so they could be ready to go the next day.*

Juan is now attending turf school at Horry Georgetown Technical College in Myrtle Beach, SC. 



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