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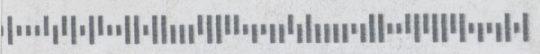
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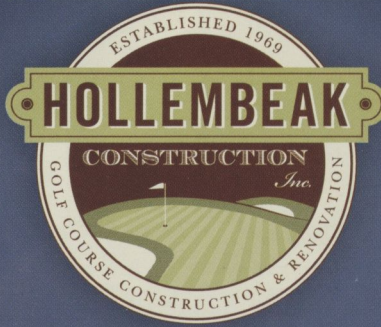
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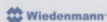
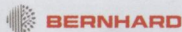
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front cover

Justin Kirtland, Andrew Cross and Tim Johnson will host the June Meeting at Arrowhead Golf Club. Looking back from the green on the 13th East provides a great view of the subtle terrain changes of the property.

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Conrad Pannkuk

SERIALS

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Connor Healy hosted sixth graders from Ebinger School in Chicago to Conway Farms as part of the First Green Program. Find out why he decided to do it and how easy it was to set up and run. Page 18.

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FEATURE

One Day to Make a Difference
First Green at Conway Farms
Connor Healy

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DATES

2019 UPCOMING MIDWEST EVENTS

- 06/24/19 Midwest June Meeting at Arrowhead Golf Club
- 07/11/19 Midwest 9-Holer at Pottawatomie Golf Club
- 09/04/19 Midwest Championship at Mistwood Golf Club
- 10/09/19 Midwest October Meeting at Mt. Prospect Golf Club

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Luke Cella,
MAGCS

No Way to Describe It

Over the past several weeks all of us have been hindered by the weather. The Midwest's April Meeting was a washout at Idlewild Country Club. We looked to reschedule the event, but a date couldn't be found between the club's and the Midwest's calendars that seemed to work.

Kurt Sams, CGCS still wants to host us and we'll get to Idlewild one of these days. We pushed back the first round of the Midwest Match Play Challenge by a couple of weeks because of so many rain outs. Since then, I've listened to many talk about the weather and not just as an ice-breaker in a moment of awkward silence.



Each day brought the same as the day before: rain and more rain. Fairways and roughs were left uncut and when they finally were, it took many subsequent mowings, baskets and blowers to get the clippings under control.

The record setting rainfall this May superseded last year's (2018) record of 8.21" by a few hundredths of an inch at the time of printing so who knows where we'll finally end up. We've easily doubled the average amount of rainfall in the month of May and we're at 21" of rain since Jan 1, the normal value is around 13". Last May the rain came in a few storms; the rain this year was relentless; it seemed to rain each day, soaking the ground enough to make mowing (especially rough) impossible. I've pulled some pics from social media to document the struggles we've experienced. All in all, I wanted to document this May and hope the next time we experience one like this, someone will have to do a search to find this issue of On Course rather than talk about the last year. @

Waste Management Phoenix Open

Conrad Pannkuk, Wynstone Golf Club

PHOTO CREDITS: CONRAD PANNKUK

This winter I had the opportunity to volunteer on the grounds crew for the Waste Management Phoenix Open (WMPO). It was quite the experience to say the least. I remember watching this tournament growing up and have seen how popular it has become in the last few years.

I had the perception that this tournament was just a giant fraternity party and not much else. While it was like this the majority of the week, this tournament also has a very large charitable impact. The tournament this year broke records yet again by raising \$13.2 million for local charities. The tournament also breaks records with attendance every year. When I normally think of a golf tournament, I would think the hot ticket would be for the final round on Sunday, not in Phoenix. It is all about Saturday at the WMPO with tournament attendance soaring over 200,000 people. It is hard to put the experience of Saturday at the WMPO into words and I hope everyone has the opportunity to be a part of it either as a spectator or volunteer.

I spent the week working on the front nine mowing tees. The front nine is overshadowed by the back nine and the popular finishing holes. It was a lot quieter in the mornings on the front nine without the rush of fans to the stadium hole on number 16 except on Saturday. In the afternoons, a

large number of spectators would have to stumble through the front nine to get back to the Princess Resort located by five tee. It is absolutely crazy the things that people will offer you to get a ride across the golf course to their hotel. If you want to know details, pull me aside at a MAGCS event and I can fill you in. Everything was pretty calm during the afternoon shifts at the beginning of the week but it started to get wild on Wednesday during the pro-am. Luckily we did not have to mow rough outside of the ropes or else rough mowers would have to dodge spectators that had a few too many beverages and laid down for an afternoon nap.

The amount of spectators really started to pick up during the second round of the tournament on Friday. It seemed like people were coming into the gates nonstop throughout the whole day. This was just a warm up for the madness that was coming on Saturday. The gates for the tournament open at 7 am, yet when we pulled into the maintenance shop at 4:15 there were already numerous people lined up by the front entrance. The sun is not even up at 7 am when spectators start running through the golf course to the sixteenth hole. I was finishing up mowing 4 tee and headed to 5 tee when the gates opened by the Princess Hotel. It was a mad dash to the stadium hole. The things that people wear astounded me, it was pretty funning seeing Big Bird, Mario, and Luigi running through the desert in the dark to make it to sixteen and get seated for the day.

Even though I spent the week on the front nine, I still got the opportunity to go over to the sixteenth hole when they were getting ready to cut the cup on Saturday morning. I got into the stadium hole right when one of the most senior employees at Scottsdale started the walk with the flag from the tee to the green. The spectators started a "Flag that hole!" chant while he walked up to the green. Once he found where the cup was going the "Pound that hole!" chant started and moved on to the crowd grunting each time the cup cutter was hammered down. Saturday afternoon led to even





Each event on the PGA Tour has something they are known for; many of the crowd's shenanigans would not be allowed at other venues but has become the norm in Phoenix.

more people passed out in the rough for an afternoon nap. It was very hard to make it through the golf course and complete the maintenance that we needed to do. One spectator took it a little too far and rolled down one of the hills under the ropes and then started running around the green until he was caught and arrested. Saturday evening concluded with a picture of the staff and volunteers in front of the eighteenth green.



The front nine of the course is where I spent my time mowing tees. It's not in the limelight at the WMPO but you do get to see some characters not normally seen at golf events.

All in all volunteering for this tournament was a great experience and a great way to escape the Chicago winter for a week. If anyone is interested in helping out with this tournament, please reach out to me and I can get you in contact with the right person. cpannkuk@wynstone.org @



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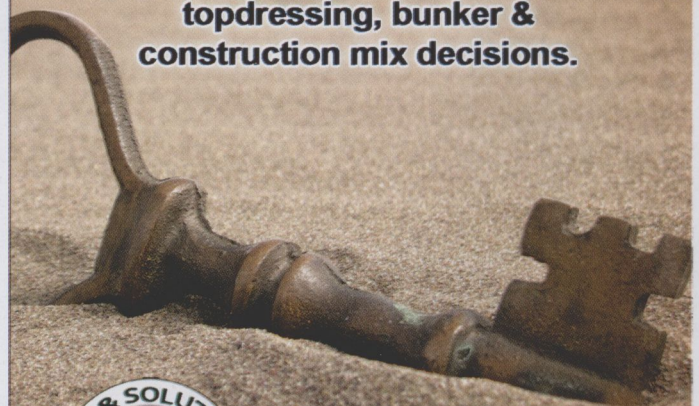
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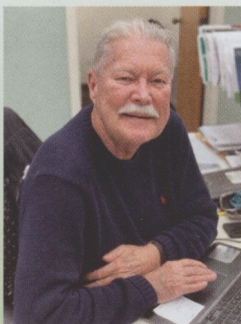
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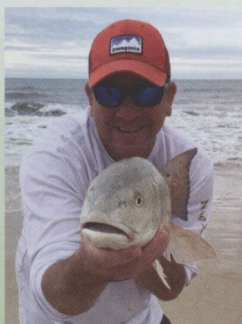
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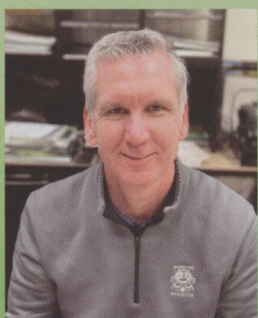
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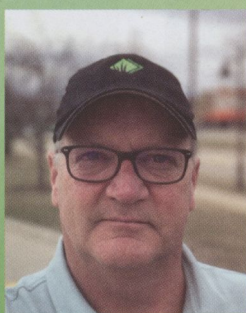
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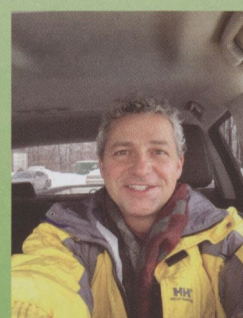
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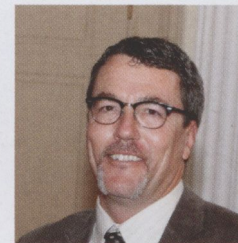
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#The BullSheet



June 2019

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 11-June 23 – Audubon International's BioBlitz 2019 at golf courses anywhere and everywhere.

June 10 – Assistants Shop Talk meeting and Course Tour at Park Ridge Country Club, Dale Ostrander host Assistant.

June 14 – Deadline for 2019 Midwest Scholarship applications. Read on for more information.

June 17-20 – Western Junior Championship at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove, IL, Jeff Vercautren host superintendent.

June 24 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton, IL, Justin Kirtland host superintendent.

June 24 – 19th CDGA Foundation Golf Outing at Beverly Country Club in Chicago, IL, Kirk Spieth host superintendent.

June 24 – Fox Valley Park Foundation's 25th Annual Golf for Kids Benefit Outing at Orchard Valley Golf Course in Aurora, IL, Dan Stahl host superintendent.

June 24-27 – 100th CDGA Amateur Championship at Glen View Club in Golf, IL, Brian Moore host superintendent.

July 11 – MAGCS July Nine-Holer at Pottawatomie Golf Course in St. Charles, IL, Denise Gillett-Parchert host superintendent.

July 11-14 – The PGA Tour's John Deere Classic at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, IL.

July 16-18 – The CDGA Illinois State Amateur Championship at Cantigny Golf in Wheaton, IL, Steve Kuretsky host superintendent.

Welcome to these new MAGCS members, and let's wish them all the best:

Levi Floming, Exmoor Country Club, Class C

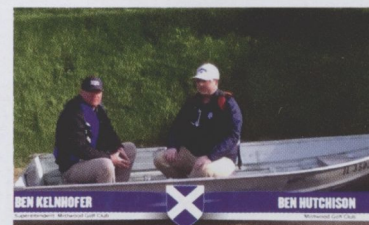
Brian Bromann, Bull Valley Golf Club, Class A

Bobby Kerr, CDGA, Class H (read on)

While we are in the welcoming mood, let's extend a hearty welcome to the new Director of Turfgrass Programs at CDGA, Bobby Kerr, PhD. Bobby has worked in the turfgrass industry for the last 22 years, most recently completing his PhD at Clemson University, where he focused on the biology, genetic diversity and innovative control strategies for goosegrass within warm-season turf. Bobby's first Scouting Report debuted on May 20th, and there will be plenty more to follow. If you would like to contact Bobby Kerr, he can be reached at 630-685-2307, or email him at bkerr@cdga.org - Read more about Bobby on page 24 in the Midwest Personality Profile.



Hopefully this is no longer pertinent, but at the time this was written, it WAS because it had to do with RAIN. The Mistwood Golf Club's Facebook page has a series of videos called "Bens in a Bunker," where Ben Hutchinson and superintendent **Ben Kelnhofer** sit in a bunker and chat about all things Mistwood. This particular episode found the two sitting in a boat in a bunker, poking a little fun at Mother Nature and her foul mood this spring with the incessant rain she's given us. I could have used that boat late last month...



The Bens in a boat in a bunker.

And then THIS video popped up on Facebook, with Bob O'Link's **Scott Pavalko** describing how much rain he was hoping for in May instead of the foot-plus we all got. Ok, it was actually on Tee2Green's page, and it was about Scott's Pure Distinction greens, but it sure looks like he's talking rain.





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Here's a little sunnier news—the 2019 Rounds 4 Research auction raised \$364,000 in its May online auction. The fund-raising program, administered by the Environmental Institute for Golf (EFIG), sold 1,465 rounds of golf in May, making it the most successful in the program's history. Since 2012, the program has raised nearly \$1.5 million in support of turfgrass studies.

Golf Witticism of the Month (from Alex Karras): "My best score ever is a 103. But I've only been playing fifteen years."

What do you do if you are a huge fan of a particular professional sports team AND the superintendent of a course hosting an outing in which an arch-enemy of your beloved team is participating? In Pittsburgh Steelers fanatic **Chuck Barber's** case, you hang a "Terrible Towel" (it's a Steeler fan thing) on the flag pole of the hole that longtime Steeler nemesis and Baltimore Raven Ed Reed is playing. Judging from the photo, Ed didn't seem too bothered by the "good-natured troll" Chuck laid on him.



More "better late than never" news on supers on the move: **Luke Braun** is the superintendent at Flossmoor Country Club, **Brian Bromann** is now the superintendent at Bull Valley Golf Club, **Eric Gabelmann** is superintendent at Lincolnshire Country Club, and Rob Bredemus is the superintendent at McHenry Country Club. Congrats to the four of these gentlemen.

50 years ago this month in the world of golf course maintenance, as reported by The Golf Superintendent, the official publication of GCSAA, Warren's Turf Nurseries in Palos Park, Illinois was introducing its new A-20 Bluegrass, a turf "ideal for tees, approaches and collars. Takes short cut. Grows upright, gives better support to ball. Resistant to leaf spot, mildew, rust and stripe smut. Develops less thatch. Greens up earlier, stays green later." If memory serves, it was the choice for the new Butler National Golf Club's fairways. Also featured in the magazine from June, 1969 was an article called "Eye



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Safety" which included a photo of Park Ridge Country Club mechanic Jim LaCaeyse sporting some pretty fancy welding goggles while brazing trencher teeth.



Q: What is the signature lunch dish at **Shane Ritchie's** course?

A: The Schaumburger with fries and a beer.

Speaking of Shane Ritchie, ever catch him on "Breaking Bad"? Pretty good!

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Shane and actor Aaron Paul—the same person??

Congratulations to Jan Bel Jan, who was elected the new President of the American Society of Golf Course Architects at its 73rd Annual Meeting in Phoenix, and is only the second woman to hold that title (the first was Alice Dye).

In case you hadn't heard, the Environmental Protection Agency in April reaffirmed its finding that glyphosate, the most popular herbicide in the world, is not a cancer risk to users. "There's no evidence that glyphosate causes cancer," said Alexandra Dunn, an EPA assistant administrator for chemical safety and pollution prevention. "There's no risk to public health from the application of glyphosate."

June's "Clavin-ism:" Did you know—it's a little-known fact—that Turkmenistan, a former member of the Soviet Union, is one of 47 countries with only one golf course? It is, and it is in the minority of those, as it is one of just 19 countries to have an 18-holer as its only course. To mark the opening of Ashgabat Golf Club, Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimukhammedov (pronounced Joe Smith) put himself on State TV and promptly made an ace on one of the Jack Nicklaus-designed holes.

Congrats to **Wes Danielewicz**, Equipment Manager at Butterfield Country Club on successfully completing Level 2 of GCSAA's Equipment Managers Certificate Program.

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1LGG8011 08/18

Wes is now the third EM in our midst who has finished the program—quite an accomplishment for our local EM's and MAGCS.

Good news from GCSAA: The latest biennial Compensation and Benefits Report shows that superintendents' average salaries increased by 4.5% over the 2017 report. The average salary for a golf course superintendent is more than \$93,000 in 2019, and CGCS's saw their salaries increase by 1% to an average of \$111,250. Not to be left out, assistant salaries rose 7.3% and equipment managers saw a 7% increase over the 2017 data.

OK, why not? Crushing pop cans is soda pressing.

So there's a 50-year-old golfer in Ohio named Pete Crozier who, in honor of his late father has embarked on a journey to play 50 courses in 50 states in 50 days. Raising \$50,000 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation as he makes his whirlwind tour of the country, Crozier is memorializing his father and his battle with diabetes. And what course will he be playing in our fair (not even close) state?

Harborside International on June 28th. Good luck Jim!

Well we finally got a golf meeting in the books! And it didn't look very possible the morning of May 22nd when another round of storms had just hit the evening before. But thanks to great drainage and even greater superintending by **Mike Gianopoulos** and **Steve Daurer**, White Deer Run Golf Course in Vernon Hills hosted our ITF/MAGCS Spring Golf Day despite Mother Nature's attempts to intervene. The education portion of the day was provided by Christian Baldwin, PhD, turfgrass scientist with Scotts Miracle-Gro. After that it was all hands on deck for the Foursome Progressive Logo Ball format, whereby each foursome gets a special ball with little clovers all over it (that were VERY difficult to reproduce without a green Sharpie by the way) that each member uses for a hole, and his score with the logo ball is the team's score for that hole. On each successive hole, another player plays the ball, and so on. I played our ball on our second hole. It went into cattails. So by my math, our total score was a four (our first hole's score), so therefore we had low score and won. The argument was short-lived, and the team who actually DID win—who kept their logo ball in play for all 18 holes apparently—was the team of **Brian Placzkowski**, **Darrick Robbins**, **Grant Rundblade** and **Kyle Haines** with a blistering 83. Second place with an 86 went to **Kyle Weibenga**, **Austin Bowman**, **Jeremy Turton** and **Jeremy Rolf**; and Third place with an 89 went to **Charles Hill**, **Tom Prichard**, **Robert Bredemus** and **Michael Paciga**. Let me finish by saying thank you to the staff at White Deer Run for their hospitality and especially to Mike Gianopoulos and his crew for providing truly remarkable conditions and an excel-



lent golf course despite what curve balls the weather threw at them. Kudos! Finally, thank you to our sponsors, without whom the day would not have been possible. Our premier sponsor was **Payne Sod Farm**, beverage sponsor **Reinders** (who trucked in their own beverage cart) and **Corteva Agri-Science** (formerly Dow) sponsored a tee. @



Brooke and Justin Payne spent the morning on the 1st tee talking about Provista and other turf.



Steve Daurer and Mike Gianopoulos were gracious hosts, prepping the course despite all the rain.



Charles Hill, Mike Paciga and Rob Bredeums were quick with the comments as we began play.



Todd Fregien chops out the logo ball on the 9th hole at White Deer Run. That logo ball caused a lot of grief that day.

Your Favorite Tool

Dave Blomquist, CGCS Chicagoland Turf & Craig Shepherd Advanced Turf Solutions

PHOTO CREDITS: VARIOUS

As we vendors get around town, we see some awesome ways that Superintendents / Mechanics / crew members solve problems. Or, just get through their day. Especially with Mother Nature creating even more challenges, sometimes it's something simple that Superintendents will not be without.

I consulted the Facebook Golf Course Maintenance Group for some ideas. I also asked my cohort in crime, Craig Shepherd over at ATS, to poll a few of his guys and see what we get when we ask Superintendents **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TOOL?**

Some were obvious: Probe, Hole Changer ("Cup cutter for sure...no golf if there's no hole"), Trash Pump, Moisture Meter, Leatherman.

Some were a bit surprising: Tenacity, Hammer, Cigarette Lighter (some guy in Europe put this up on Facebook GC Maintenance site).

Some guys thought it over a bit more, maybe: Staff, Assistant (Not sure if I agree with calling an assistant a tool, but I wouldn't want to be without a good one), Mechanic.

Some were boring: Valve Key, Back Pack Blower, Carts, Hose.

Some were interesting: "Height of cut gauge. If the height is not right everything else doesn't matter", keys to unlock everything.

Some used humor, maybe: Crown Royal, Beer, "Central irrigation control! It started raining the other day, I turned it off from my phone and went back to drinking lol", Beer fridge. 🍺🍻🍷, Valium and a shot of scotch.

Some of the best responses - I think these guys have it going on: Me. 😂😂, Coffee pot, My hands, Cart girl, Common Sense, Your Brain.

But, by far, the best reply to "What is your favorite tool?" Chip Lafferty says: My dog, only creature happy to see me!!!!

Some local guys favorite tools:

John Gurke, Aurora CC – "These days, its our Honda Trash Pump that Assistant / Mechanic Virgil Range set up with a sweet trailer".

Andy Weadge, Whisper Creek GC – "Moisture Meter".

Brian Trifilio, Glendale Lakes GC – "Dave Blomquist".



*Some say men are defined by their tools; some say their defined by how they use it.
What's your favorite tool?*

Gary Schweber, Rolling Green CC – "Sod Knife. Use that thing for everything. That, and an all steel long handle shovel are the only two tools you need".

Dave Groelle, Royal Melbourne CC – "Rope FID allows you to attach rope without making a knot. This is one of my favorite tools. I hate rope and stake... so if you must have it, it must be neat and clean. This is a simple, very affordable way to make rope and stake look good. If that's even possible!"

Tom Pritchard, Ivanhoe CC – "My 16-gallon sprayer. As I drive around the course several times a day I am able to spot control weeds that the guys have missed or have to come back since the first spray. Its also my favorite job on the course! Todos Las Matos – kill them all!"

Reid Neuman, Springbrook GC – "I really like Tenacity herbicide. It allows us to spray herbicide in areas where we seed like our HGT Bluegrass driving range tee."

Tim White, Prestwick CC – "1. Greens Roller: It produces the quickest, consistent and continued membership satisfaction.
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SUPER-N-site

Justin Kirtland

Arrowhead Golf Club

Craig Smith, Chicago Golf Club

PHOTO CREDITS:LUKE CELLA

When most of us are asked the question, “How did you get into the golf business?” there is typically a story that involves experiencing an epiphany of sorts that made you say, “This is something I can see myself doing”.

Not for Justin, this revelation never happened and never needed to happen because he always knew he wanted to be a golf course superintendent. During my discussion with Justin I broke out the old cliché question of “How did you get into the golf business?” and his response was concise, he feels he was destined to be a superintendent, there was never a doubt in his mind. Justin Kirtland, a second-generation Superintendent is from Lake Orion, Michigan where he grew up working on a golf course. It was then that his passion and love for the industry was born.

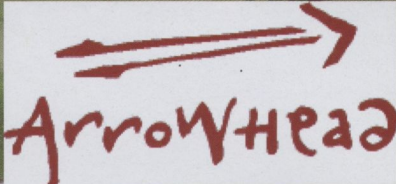
Justin, along with seemingly his entire family, attended Michigan State University from 2003-2007 and graduated with a degree in Crop & Soil Sciences. During his time at MSU, Justin had the unique opportunity to complete a full golf course build at College Fields as well as completing internships at Olympia Fields under Tom Gray and one at Kirtland Country Club in Willoughby, Ohio. During his time at Kirtland, he connected with Chad Mark who was very influential in his development as a manager. There, he had the opportunity to take part in many projects which helped create an enhanced level of comfort in construction and renovation work. Most importantly, Chad took the time to instill the qualities essential to becoming an effective Assistant Superintendent, ranging from key organizational skills to understanding the “big picture” of what it takes to manage a successful and productive operation.

After graduating from MSU in 2007, Justin moved back to the Chicago area with his then girlfriend, now wife Elise. He spent 4 seasons at Cress Creek Country Club in Naperville with Superintendent Bill Kennedy and performed bunker, green and fairway restorations. During this stop, he fell in love with golf course construction and took an Assistant Superintendent position at Arrowhead Golf Club under the mentorship of Mike Mumper, which coincidentally was also doing some restoration work. After two seasons as the Assistant, Justin was promoted to Superintendent.

After recently becoming President of the MAGCS, I asked Justin what made him want to be involved in the association, and it came back to his roots. Growing up as the son of a superintendent, he would go to the meetings of his father’s



The Kirtlands, Elise and Justin, Ivy and Marlowe.



association and loved being around everyone, embracing the comradery. After moving to the Chicago area, one of the first things he did professionally was become involved in MAGCS. He firmly believes that you need to be active in your local chapter and is excited to have the opportunity to serve as President.

Justin and his wife Elise have two little girls, Ivy and Marlowe with a third girl on the way! When asked about how to successfully balance work and family, Justin responded with "You have to make your family a part of your work." Justin brings his girls with him to work and they love being on the golf course with Dad, especially when watering needs to be done! It is rewarding for him because they are starting to understand that Arrowhead provides other families with a place to play and gather. They enjoy knowing that Dad plays a major role in supplying that experience for so many others.

In closing, Justin genuinely loves his job but more importantly the people he works with. He enjoys being on a team and appreciates working to provide something that others can enjoy. In his own words, "I get excited walking down the stairs in the morning. I literally can't wait to get to work. It's a sick thing, but I just get excited about cutting grass." @

Arrowhead Golf Club is comprised of 27 holes. The entire property is surrounded by Forest Preserve and offers a players a wonderful golfing experience.



More images on next page...



One of Justin's key staff members out early mowing the putting green on #11 East.



The 9th hole on the South Course finishes to a narrow green with water right and a bunker left.



The sixth green on the South Course can be seen beyond the water from the fifth green, a popular spot for photos on the property, and lost golf balls.



Justin, Equipment Technician Tim Johnson and Assistant Superintendent Andrew Cross.



Justin even has the deer trained to stay off the putting surfaces when heading back to the woods to bed down for the day.

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One Day to Make a Difference

Connor Healy, Conway Farms Golf Club

PHOTO CREDITS:LUKE CELLA, LEANN COOPER

Managing a golf course comes with a number of responsibilities and required tasks. Often, we are weighed down by what, at times, seems to be an insurmountable list of these items that we cannot whittle down to a manageable number.

I am frequently reminded of this Sisyphean endeavor that we call being a golf course Superintendent by a majority of the people in my life, especially those that do not work in the golf industry. Personally, I have really focused over the past couple years on managing the internal struggles that we all face and work towards reducing the stress that is regularly self-induced by the fact that we can always do more. There literally is no end to the work. If you want to find something else to do on the golf course, you can always find another task, which can easily overwhelm a person. So, this led me down a path that I have really tried to grasp tightly, working to improve my mentality in how I approach my family, friends, job and life in general. From attending seminars about mindfulness and well-being, to the type of books that I gravitate towards, to the daily conversations with family and peers, I have pursued a very pointed attempt at gaining perspective. I want to find some joy in the little things we do on a daily basis and maybe help a few others along the way.

That leads me to the real topic that I want to share with whoever is willing to listen. I have worked in golf for the last 25 plus years and made it a career path because I largely enjoyed the work. Like many professions, the farther along in your career you get, the farther away you also get from whatever sparked your interest initially. That is natural, particularly if you have any sort of ambitions. Having been in the role of Superintendent now for a handful of years, I could really feel that pull away from the part of the job that I loved, actually working on the course! So, I wanted to find a way to reinsert that component of the initial love of being on the golf course into my routine at Conway Farms Golf Club. A little over a year ago I stumbled across a video of someone hosting a First Green Program and instantly thought that it was everything I needed personally and could serve a huge value professionally as well. I went on the First Green website and signed up immediately and

started following the channels to host an event. I eventually connected with LeAnn Cooper from GCSAA and the principal of my children's school, Ebinger Elementary in Chicago. We had a few meetings to discuss the basic concept and decided to host three events per year, one in May and two in October, where we would rotate entire classes of either 5th or 6th graders. The goal of the program is to relate what we do on a daily basis on the golf course to the STEM programs that are the core curriculums of many elementary school programs. Our first field trip consisted of 100 students from 6th grade. We broke them down into 6 groups of 15-20 students plus a couple of chaperones from the school. I lined up a schedule of 6 stations that the kids rotated through every 15 minutes. The stations were as follows:



Connor Healy hosts Chicagoland's first First Green in May.

Stop One Golf Course Setup: What are the basic features of a golf course (greens, tees, fairways, bunkers, etc.), mowing heights, and changing cups. This was led by my assistant Cole Lehmann. He did a great job and the kids certainly loved that he let them roll down the hills, play in the creek, and do cannonballs into the bunkers! The parent supervisor seemed a little more concerned about those behaviors than

us.

Stop Two Technology on the Course: Stimp meters, HOC gauges, TDR's, weather stations, etc. This was led by my assistant Kyle DeRoo. He is my in house tech guy and was able to bring the conversation down to a very manageable level for the students, which is no different from what he does with me every day. I require a lot of simplification, and he makes sure I don't confuse myself fairly regularly.

Stop Three Math: Measuring large, irregular shaped areas and how those are useful to us as well as some of the great math facts that all of us seem to have lodged in our brain,

Continued on page 20...

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like conversions between various units and weights of liquids and all sorts of fun things that kids like to hear about. We tried to relate some of those things back to their home and school life and Dave Schlagetter from Indian Hill Club led this section with great ease. He must have studied hard before coming over to help because he had some great facts to add to the table.

Stop Four Environment: Discuss weather/climate, diverse ecosystems on the course, animal and pollinator habitats, oxygen creators, stormwater and runoff filtration sites, etc. Nikki Bowen from Westmoreland Country Club was gracious enough to spend the day with us leading this section. She somehow managed to keep the students attention with far fewer props than the rest of the stations, which is no easy task. Come to think of it, she made all the kids sit down at her stop when they first got there...

Stop Five Soils: Compared different soil and sand sizes and uses on the course. Using soil sieves, soil probes and a few other display items to compare soil structure, Luke Cella led this section. This is a great one to let the kids get their hands dirty and play in the sand and poke a few holes in a green. I definitely do not remember soils class in college being that fun, and they seemed to love it.

Stop Six Golf: Putting Contest. Two of our golf staff interns led a putting competition for each group. This was really fun to see. Some of the kids have never even held a putter for mini golf, much less played on a real putting green, so this garnered a lot of excitement. The winner from each group got a Conway Farms hat.

It was a great day by all accounts. From the moment the three school buses full of kids rolled into the parking lot to the high

fives they gave me on their way out (giving them pizza and milkshakes really ups the enthusiasm), it was such a fulfilling experience. The students were so excited to be there, event the adult leaders were extremely interested in what we do and the science behind it. Our volunteers and staff took my basic outline for the stations and put their own spin on it and really elevated each section, which was really fun to watch and listen. The Principal called me that afternoon to relate how much the kids enjoyed the trip and how much they were all talking about it when they returned to school that afternoon. So, that brings me back to finding more joy in what we do on a daily basis.

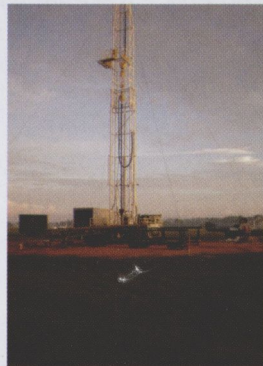
This was one day. One day I could have easily dedicated to completing some amount of extra tasks on the course, particularly given the spring we are having. Instead, we used this one day to give back a little, teach some kids about what we do, and really dedicate the whole day with my key staff to this group. In return, I found that joyfulness through the eyes of the kids and I cannot wait until the next First Green field trip this October. The GCSAA hit a homerun with this program and I would strongly encourage anybody and everybody to get involved by either volunteering or hosting a trip of their own. We all need to be advocates for our profession and what better age to plant a seed in a child's mind about opportunities in life than right before they go into high school. It took me back to when I first stepped on a golf course at that same age. I was hooked. Hopefully, I opened that door for a few other people. Whatever the case, I have not smiled that much at work in a long time. It was contagious. This stirred up a saying of an old colleague, "it is fun to have fun!" He would tell me that as he headed into every weekend. Well, as it relates to this field trip, how can you not have fun hanging out with 100 excited children? Try it, it might work for you too! @



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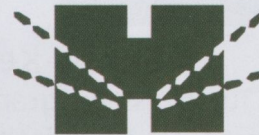
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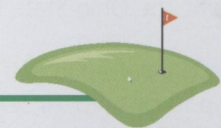
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Photo Courtesy of Bob O'Link GC & Scott Pavalko

Bobby Kerr
Director of Turfgrass Programs
Chicago District Golf Association



Dr. Robert "Bobby" Kerr made the move this May from Clemson University to the Chicago District Golf Association with his newly minted Doctoral degree where he specialized in weeds of turfgrass. His dissertation centered on goosegrass; trying to find the best control of it in other warm season grasses, namely bermudagrass.

● He earned his Master's degree from the University of Guelph where he studied the winter hardiness of *Poa annua* and creeping bentgrass. He attempted to increase the amount of fructans (Fructans are important storage polysaccharides in the stems of many species of grasses and confer a degree of freezing tolerance.) in the plant during the months leading into winter using growth regulators so they would be better able to survive the freeze/thaw cycles that periodically set them back in the spring.

The equivalent of his Bachelor's degree was earned at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston, England. There he studied turfgrass science and as he explained it, they jump right into their major and that's what they study. He also took classes at The Ohio State University along the way.

He's been involved in golf for quite a while. His experience adds up to close to 14 seasons on different golf courses including: Gleneagles Hotel (Scotland), Shinnecock Hills (USA), Dundonald Links (Scotland), Kauri Cliffs Golf Club (New Zealand), Old Course, St. Andrews Links Trust (Scotland), The Grove (England), and Miskanaw Golf Club (Canada). He made it to the ranks of assistant superintendent before returning to school to pursue higher degrees in turf; his reasoning was to be able to apply all that he has learned on the job to his research so he can find real world answers – one of the reasons he was so attracted to the position with the CDGA. He feels his practical experience and his technical knowledge will help him succeed in his new role serving the superintendents and member clubs of the CDGA.

"I'm looking forward to meeting the superintendents and developing the CDGA Turfgrass program around their needs." Don't be surprised if he asks a lot of questions when he visits your course as he figures out the direction to take his research and educational programming.

He's also looking forward to building strong relationships with industry partners. He desires to have a thorough understanding of the products and processes available to superinten-

dents and how they fit into turf management regimes.

In the meantime, he wants the CDGA Turfgrass Program to be as good as it can be on a daily basis and continue its standing among turf programs around the world. He wants his research to be superintendent driven, streamlined, and focused on finding answers that are useful.

He's coming in at a great time as plans are underway to regrass much of the Sunshine Course, including some reshaping and building of key features. Welcome Dr. Bobby Kerr.

Where did you grow up?

Kilbirnie, Ayrshire, Scotland – town of about 7,500 known for its steelworks.

First golf course you where you worked?

Gleneagles Hotel in Scotland for 4-1/2 years.

Do you have a prized possession?

My 1998 Ford Ranger extended cab with tool box – 177,000 miles and going strong.

What do you like to drink? Bud Light.

Favorite job task in the Lab? Writing.

Dream car? New Ford F150.

Favorite pig out food? Sunflower Seeds.

What is your favorite movie, actor?

Miller's Crossing, Robert DeNiro.

What is your favorite book?

Outliers: The Story of Success by Malcolm Gladwell.

What is your favorite restaurant to go to?

Chipotle, I could eat there everyday.

What is your favorite sports team?

Clemson Tigers.

What is your favorite band?

It's a tie. Oasis and Kings of Leon.

What is your best vacation or favorite destination?

New Zealand.

What is the best gift you have received or bought for someone?

First set of golf clubs from my parents.

What is your favorite work shoe or boot?

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