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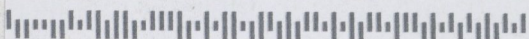
THE WAY WE WERE IS TODAY

THE PAWPAW TREE

Mike Gianopoulos

White Deer Run Golf Club

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toc

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front cover

White Deer Run Golf Club is the site of the Midwest-ITF Play Day. Mike Gianopoulos, Superintendent and Steve Daurer, Assistant will host us on May 22.

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FEATURE

The Way We Were is Today

John Ekstrom

SERIALS

MAY 22 2019



Photo: Don Cross, CGCS

Forget the May flowers, we might just need the ships after the April we've had! Our May issue of On Course welcomes two new columns to the mix: Troubles Atop (pg 24) is written by Chris Bieser of Nels Johnson Tree Experts and will cover current non-turf plant troubles (trees, shrubbery and other plants). And on page 27, Inside the Shop appears; a place for our Equipment Technicians to share information, tips, and topics.

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FEATURE

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Podcasting Primer

Darrick Robbins

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DATES

2019 UPCOMING MIDWEST EVENTS

- 05/22/19 Midwest/ITF Event, White Deer Run
- 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

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

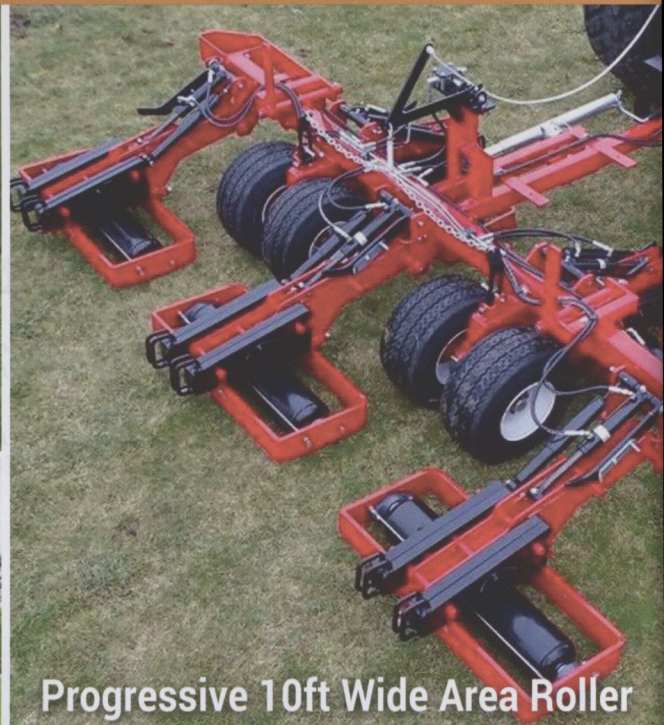
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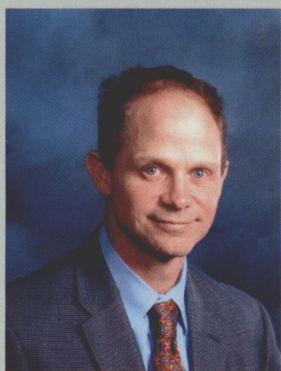
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Luke Cella,
MAGCS

Engage

If you look it up in a dictionary it reads: (en gaj, in-) vt. -gaged' – gaging 1 to pledge (oneself) 2 to bind by a promise of marriage 3 to hire 4 to involve or occupy 5 to attract and hold (the attention, etc.) 6 to enter into conflict with (the enemy) 7 to mesh (gears, etc.)

It is an important word, especially in the world of associations (definitions 4 and 5) where it is used quite frequently with the word membership and the noun form of it: membership engagement. This is one of the key metrics that associations use to judge how well they are meeting their members' needs. In one sense, we can measure this simply by looking at both present and past data. We can see how many members renew each year, how many join and how many let their membership lapse. We can look at records of meeting attendance, we can see how many are using the website, we know how many subscribers are sent On Course. There are other intangibles that are difficult to measure. Items such as relationships, information that is shared among each other, collective representation and strength through legislation or within industry groups, and recognition that exist because of the Midwest Association. Sometimes we just need to ask and this is why associations will send out a survey from time to time. Not everyone is involved or desires to be involved in the Midwest at the same level or need and sometimes that need changes.


Some members are beginning to think about hanging it up, some have just begun...

Relevance matters. One of my goals of the Midwest is that it stays relevant to our members. We've got a wide demographic of members. Some members are beginning to think about hanging it up, some have just begun their first superintendent job. Others have a solid foothold in their career and others (albeit, not many) are realizing growing turf is their passion. I suppose this has always been the case at any point in the history of the Midwest. It has survived because it has adapted over time to offer each demographic something useful and tangible.

The current board is continuing this tradition of adapting, staying relevant and engaging our members. We met in December to think strategically – to take a look at who we are and where we want to go. We departed from our tactical thinking and provoked some different thoughts.

Some of the items we discussed include:

- Our responsible use of social media, as an organization and a profession.
- Our monthly meeting structures, timing and relevance.
- Engaging (there is that word) our membership, especially the younger generations and the equipment technicians.
- Creating a network of potential employees through local high schools, trade schools and colleges.
- Local social events for spouses and family.

I walked away from the meeting energized and excited by their enthusiasm as they begin to shape the Midwest. As we work through some of these challenges, I challenge each of you to stay engaged with the Midwest. Life is easier when you find your people. Your people are in the Midwest. We have shared experiences from our own unique point of view. This helps all of us to see things a bit differently and offer options, solutions, and answers for others. 

The Way We Were is Today

John Ekstrom, Inwood & Woodruff Golf

PHOTO CREDITS: JOHN EKSTROM

The Joliet Park District (JPD) has been in operation since 1922 and opened its first golf course, Woodruff in 1926 followed by Inwood in 1931. The newest course in JPD is Wedgewood that opened in 1970. Each course offers varying yardages and challenges.

Regardless of a golfer's skill level, one of the three Joliet courses offers something to each player. And...with the exception to a design change to the front 9 at Inwood in the late 1980's, all of the Joliet 3 golf courses have remained untouched since they were built.

Since I entered the golf industry back in the mid 1990's, the courses I worked at had either Rainbird or Toro automated irrigation systems. The majority of these systems were double row with good coverage. I would hear occasional talk about a few local courses that still had single row quick couplers with a centrifugal pump and needed night watermen to operate it. At that time, I could not imagine working at one of "those" courses.

My prior course, Indian Boundary, owned by Cook County Forest Preserve and managed by Billy Casper Golf had an automated system that functioned well. I enjoyed working there. It was always very busy (250-300 rounds daily) but it was an hour commute each way with a 4:00 am start time. However, when I heard that a course for the Joliet Park District had an opening for Superintendent, I jumped. I have lived in Joliet for the past 13 years and JPD had many things I was looking for...good community support, IMRF, and a great staff. Then, came the irrigation system. In getting to understand more about it, I knew it functioned well but it just took several staff to work overnight to irrigate the golf course. Night waterman! From listening to stories from several of my former employers, Ken Lapp and

Bob Maibusch about how they used to have to night water back when they started in the industry, I knew this was going to be an interesting situation. Certainly no offense to Ken and Bob, but most manual systems have been gone from courses for quite some time.

The irrigation system is the 'heart and blood' of the golf course. However, I have heard them called many things over the years. "The Dragon", "the irritation system", and other words that I probably shouldn't mention. The fact that an irrigation map at Inwood that dates 1967 exists and is still in use, I knew there would be challenges. The systems at Inwood and Woodruff operate similarly. They both have valve control boxes for greens and tees. By opening these valves, you turn on the entire green or tee complex. Hence, all areas of the greens get equal amounts of water regardless of need. Having a working watch, phone or some other device to help you remember to shut it off is important. Once opened it doesn't shut itself off. This also holds true for the tees. You learn to appreciate individual sprinkler control. When watering in wetting agents or other products, having someone with you to water behind is key.



Centrifugal pumps are simple, rotated by a motor but need to be primed before they work.

Security...the last few years this has become an ongoing problem. Woodruff Golf Course is located on the east side of Joliet adjacent to Pilcher Park. Both the golf course and park are beautiful areas during the day; however, at night can present some dangerous situations. Also, Woodruff is totally secluded should any problems occur. Being a large park that

is open to the public 24/7, we have found homeless people, kids roaming around, and other people in the area during the night hours. I guess the saying, "nothing good happens after midnight" is true. At Inwood, the golf course property is adjacent to our athletic complex, the very busy Jefferson St., and Juvenile Prison to the south. Needless to say, there is much more light around the Inwood course than Woodruff. In working in these situations, we use several things to help us: lights on all vehicles, headlamps for the staff to wear, and radios for all employees. The Woodruff facility takes three employees to water overnight due to its age whereas Inwood only takes two staff members to complete the process.



The night waterman's arsenal of quick key and impact sprinklers.

Completing the night watering duties takes anywhere from 8-11 hours depending on the time we need them to water. Being a single row system in the fairways does not really allow for efficient coverage but we do supplement by hand watering as needed during the day. The drought conditions of last summer presented that need. It was a learning experience for my staff as they had never hand watered fairways in the past.

The "old" way is still the way at Inwood and Woodruff. @

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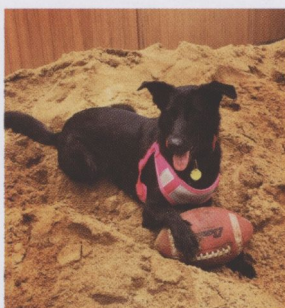
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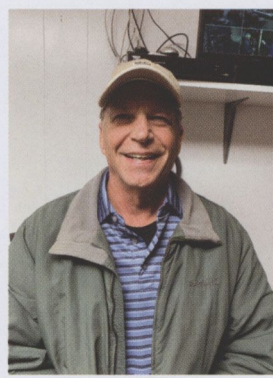
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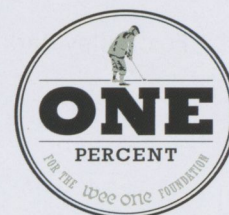


Dale Ostrander



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The Bull Sheet



DATES TO REMEMBER

May 2019

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

May 14 – Chicagoland Turf Superintendent/Member event presented by Turf Ventures and Syngenta at Black Sheep Golf Club in Sugar Grove, IL, Dave Biery host superintendent.

May 18 – 11th CDGA Foundation Golf Marathon at Zigfield Troy Golf Course in Woodridge, IL, Dennis Troy host superintendent.

May 22 – MAGCS monthly meeting at White Deer Run Golf Club in Vernon Hills, IL, Mike Gianopoulos host superintendent.

May 23-26 – The debut of the Web.com Tour/Western Golf Association's Evans Scholars Invitational at the Glen Club in Glenview, IL, Peter Schmidt host superintendent.

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.

Wow! Lots of options for getting a round of golf in on June 24th huh?

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

Richard Behan, Nordic Plow, LLC, Class E

Aaron Butler, Onwentsia Club, Class C

Dave Field, Waters Edge Golf Club, Class DT

Jody Fitzpatrick, Blue Planet Environmental, Class E

Alec Hindman, Olympia Fields Country Club, Class C

Shane Lohman, Indian Hill Club, Class C

Michael Schwartz, Village Links of Glen Ellyn, Class C

Rob Sheehan, Reinders, Inc., Class E

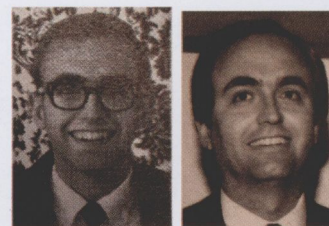
Kyle Strojny, Cog Hill Golf & Country Club, Class DT

Michael Taylor, North Shore Country Club, Class C

From mowing to snow blowing—last month surely was a roller coaster ride in Mother Nature's amusement park, wasn't it? From watching the final round of the Masters while 4-8" of snow fell outside your window to 80 degrees the following week, and then as the month came to an end, She gave us one last middle finger and dropped another few inches on us. And that was two days before the Spring Scramble at Idlewild was scheduled, and subsequently cancelled due to rain. It's nice to live in an area that has all four seasons, but do we need to experience all of them in a weekend?

That being said about our goofy weather, at least we avoided worse, like the folks at Trystan Tree Golf Club in Corvallis, Oregon who had this headline in the news to deal with: "College Rowing Team Practices on Flooded Golf Course." That's never good.

50 Years Ago This Month (as reported in The Golf Superintendent, the official publication of GCSAA) – It cost you \$65 bucks to join GCSAA, which included a Variable Pension Program with your membership. Also in May of 1969, Timothy J. Miles (Golf Visions) and MAGCS Past Presi-



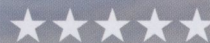
Joe Williamson in 1969 and 1985.



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dent (1985) Joe Williamson were each named winners of a scholarship from the GCSAA Scholarship and Research Fund. And lastly, Lewis Line Golf Equipment Company, a supplier of golf course accessories, ran a very "risqué" ad featuring a Playboy Bunny from the Playboy Club and Hotel in Lake Geneva, WI where one-time MAGCS member Tom Burrows was superintendent of the courses there. I think we can figure out why Tom is smiling in the ad...

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News has recently broken that Lewis Line is going retro, bringing back the Bunny ads, and is casting Bunnies to appear in them. We've obtained one of their audition photos (one that didn't make the cut), and are happy to share.



Eddie Braunsky - the fuzzy new face of Playboy.



Derek Weber, moves from Flossmoor to River Forest.

Congratulations to **Derek Weber**, formerly at Flossmoor Country Club who is the superintendent at River Forest Country Club in Elmhurst, IL.

If you have children or grandchildren who are college students (or are high school seniors who have been accepted to a college), MAGCS has three \$2,000 scholarships available to them. The application can be found at www.magcs.org under the Resources tab. The deadline to submit an application is June 14th, so get on it.

Our thoughts go out to the family and friends of John Boese who passed away suddenly on March 19th at the age of 55. John was a 23-year employee of Nadler Golf whom many of us got to know in our dealings with the Nadlers over the years.

A toast to Joel Purpur and Linda Castellano who were married in March. Best wishes for all the happiness these two deserve!



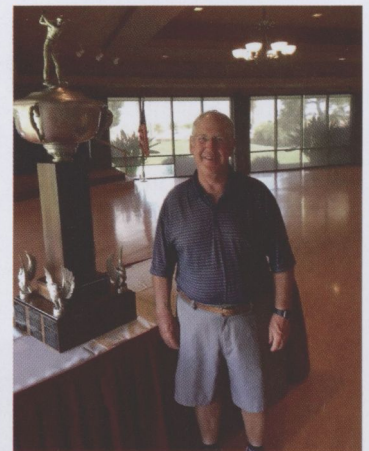
Congratulations Joel and Linda.

Q: What does the night watchman at **Jeff Donahoe's** course do when vandals just laugh at his guard dog?

A: Sycamore ornery dog on them.

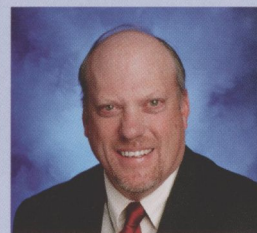
That was a bit of a stretch.

What do you do when you head off into the sunset of retirement, but still have game? If you're **Bob Krohn**, former superintendent at Woodstock Country Club and 12-time MAGCS Golf Champion, you put a whuppin' on the boys in Sun City West and win your Senior Club Championship with a couple smooth rounds of 77 and 73. That's what! Congrats Bob, and keep the trophies coming!



And while speaking of our retired friends, does anyone know whatever happened to past president **Gary Hearn**? There is a rumor floating about that he followed his dream of being a television star.

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



"Roads are a suggestion Marge, just like pants"

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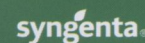
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on COURSE

April 30th was National Golf Day, and GCSAA members once again represented our industry with a strong showing of over 200 volunteers for the third annual Community Service Project on the National Mall the day before. National Golf Day celebrates the game's \$84.1 billion economy, nearly \$4 billion annual charitable impact and its many environmental and fitness benefits, and provides industry leaders to meet with members of Congress, the Executive Branch and federal agencies to discuss golf's 14,000-plus diverse businesses, two million jobs impacted, tax revenue creation, and tourism value.



John Ekstrom represented the Midwest at National Golf Day in DC.

May's "Clavinism:" Did you know—it's a little-known fact—that 59% of superintendents surveyed reported that they went through last season with unfilled/open positions on their staffs? They did. GCSAA's 2018 Labor Survey found that a good majority of us experienced difficulty in filling out our staffs, and it seems to be continuing this spring.



Luke Cella and Brian Termini.

Brian Termini showed up at MAGCS HQ with a check for \$350 this month from the Growing Greens program. Growing Greens was established by Cushman to support local chapters and their programs. For every new Cushman Hauler utility vehicle purchased, \$50 is delegated by the purchasing course to the Midwest. Over the course of the last two years this



program has raised \$1,900.00 for the Midwest – and those dollars have been used to support our education programs throughout the year by paying for speaker expenses and honoraria. Thanks to all who have taken part in the Growing Greens program.

Golf Witticism of the Month (from Bob Murphy): "I'm very even-tempered on the golf course. I stay mad all the time."

Congratulations to Brian Bressler, Equipment Tech at Medinah Country Club on completing GCSAA's Equipment Management Certificate Program Level 1 in March. The program has been rebranded from its original moniker of Turf Equipment Technician Certification Program (TETCP) in order to better align it with the competencies and help the audience identify it easier (I think it's because saying TETCP sounds funny). Anyhow, well done Brian!



What a dog looks like as it contemplates whether it will let you live or not. Andy Weadge's boy Tank opted for the former, and Grant Rundblade is still with Reinders (after successful face-replacement surgery).

Looking for some used equipment? Or maybe want to get rid of some stuff? Check out magcs.org - there's a new page where members can post items for sale. It's called Midwest Mart and it will allow us to get the word out a lot faster on items that still have some life in them but are dead to you.

MAGCS/ITF PLAY DAY

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

**White Deer Run Golf Club
Mike Gianopoulos, host**

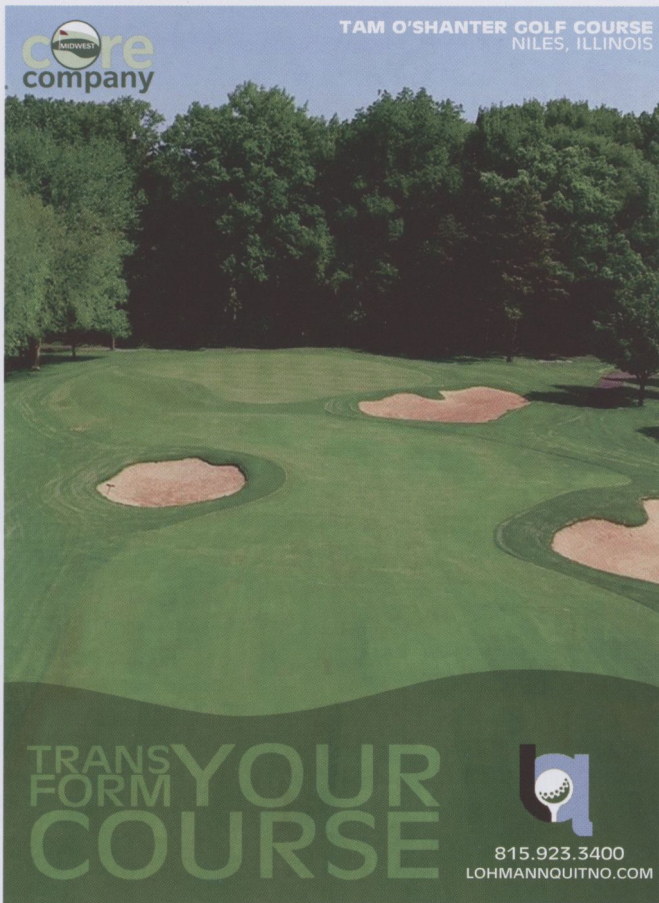
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New Membership Classes Approved by Membership

The GCSAA Annual Meeting took place this past February in San Diego, CA. During the meeting, there were a few items on the ballot which required a membership vote. There were two new association membership classes up for vote: Facility Membership and Friend of the Golf Course Superintendent, as well as a bylaw change, dues increase and the election of the GCSAA Board of Directors.

The first items up for vote were the two new membership classifications. Both membership classifications were voted through by the chapter delegates and are now official classifications of GCSAA. If you are not familiar with the new classifications, they are as follows:

Facility Membership: To qualify for Facility Membership, an applicant must be a golf course facility that employs no current GCSAA member. Facility Members shall have all rights of the Association as the Board of Directors may specify in the Standing Rules, except those of voting and holding office.

The Facility Membership is geared towards golf courses across the U.S. which do not currently employ a GCSAA member. The Facility Membership will target lower budget facilities to offer the facility employee(s) limited benefits and privileges. The Facility membership will be in the name of the facility, and not in the name of the individual member.

Friend of the Golf Course Superintendent: To qualify for Friend of the Golf Course Superintendent membership, an applicant must be an individual who supports the course and does not qualify for membership in any other class. Friends of the Golf Course Superintendent shall have all rights of the Association as the Board of Directors may specify in the Standing Rules, except those of voting and holding office.

The Friend of the Golf Course Superintendent classification will target golfers, potential advocates, teachers involved in First Green field trips and supporters of the game and industry to name a few. This classification will help create GCSAA brand awareness and allow us to promote the profession to a new audience.

Delegates also voted to approve this wording for Article II, Section 1:

The annual dues shall be sums fixed by the Board of Directors, except for Classes A, B and C. Annual dues for Classes A, B and C shall not exceed the sum fixed at any annual meeting of the Association, as decided by a balloting conducted under regular voting procedures set forth in the Standing Rules of the Convention established by the Board of Directors, in



Shane Conroy, GCSAA

accordance with Article V of these Bylaws. Dues shall be payable in advance of the member's annual renewal date.

Making this small bylaw change will now allow GCSAA to offer loyalty program discounts and incentives to current and new GCSAA members. This gives GCSAA an exciting opportunity to create loyalty programs for existing members who have supported the industry and association over their career. The GCSAA board is finalizing details on these programs; additional information is forthcoming.

Delegates also approved an annual dues increases for Class A and Class B from \$380 to \$400, and an increase for Class C members from \$195 to \$205. This dues increase is brought to the membership for a vote every two years and is based on the previous two year's CPI (Consumer Price Index); this term the CPI was 4.5%.



To round out the Annual Meeting, the election of the GCSAA Board of Directors took place which saw Rafael Barajas, CGCS, officially became the association's 83rd president. Barajas, director of golf course maintenance at Boca Grove Golf & Tennis Club in Boca Raton, Fla., and a 33-year GCSAA member, replaces 2018 president Darren Davis, CGCS. MAGCS's own John R. Fulling Jr., CGCS, grounds and facilities manager at Kalamazoo Country Club, was named vice president, and Mark F. Jordan, CGCS, superintendent at Westfield Country Club in Westfield Center, Ohio, was elected secretary/treasurer.

Jeff L. White, CGCS, superintendent at Indian Hills Country Club in Prairie Village, Kan., and T.A. Barker, CGCS, superintendent at Fore Lakes Golf Course in Taylorsville, Utah, were both re-elected. Paul L. Carter, CGCS, director of agronomy at The Bear Trace at Harrison Bay in Harrison, Tenn., was elected to the third open director position.

Best of luck as the season continues to progress. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out for additional information or I if can help with anything moving forward. @

SUPER-N-site

Mike Gianopoulos

White Deer Run Golf Club

James (JT) Hauser, Medinah Country Club

Mike Gianopoulos grew up in Newburg, Indiana playing the game of golf from age 7. He did not know at the time that golf would be his future. He began his career path in engineering at Purdue University. After one year, he quickly realized he had chosen the wrong area of study. This I am sure hasn't happened to anyone reading this!

While at Purdue, Mike completed several internships including stops at Victoria National and Fisher's Island. From there, Mike spent two seasons as the First Assistant at Olympia Fields before heading to Beverly Country Club. He spent the next four seasons at Beverly as the First Assistant before landing at White Deer Run Golf Club as the Superintendent.

White Deer Run Golf Club is a 18 hole public golf facility located on 240 acres in Vernon Hills, IL. It was built in 1998 and designed by Dick Nugent. It was the qualifying site for both the US Mid-Amateur Championship and the Web.com Rustoleum Championship in 2017 and 2018. Mike manages a staff of 10-12 workers with a mechanic and an assistant superintendent.



The Gianopoulos Family: Mike, John and Sally.

One of the challenges Mike and his staff faces at White Deer Run is the overall location of the Club. It is located within a neighborhood, so some of the holes wind through houses within the neighborhood. Mike may not be dealing with golf members like some at private clubs, but he enjoys the pleasure of dealing with homeowners. Their properties are butted up against the beautiful landscape of the golf course and some feel their properties need to be manicured like the course. Others may question the projects being completed on the course and worry it is impacting their property. Along with the negatives, Mike does enjoy the many compliments he receives from the homeowners and the positive relationships that he has developed.

Other challenges at White Deer Run are the size and scope of the bunkers throughout the course. White Deer Run has just over 4 acres of bunkers, that is just about twice as much as the average course. Mike and his team do not have the time or resources to dedicate to these massive beach hazards. Over the 4 seasons Mike has been at the helm, his team has been working to decrease the size of the bunkers and improve the drainage in the troublesome bunkers. Mike has a plan in place in which he has been able to improve drainage, downsize or eliminate 10-15 bunkers each year without taking away the integrity of the course design. This will help him and his team become more efficient in the manner in which they spend their time and allow them to focus on more important practices at the club.

White Deer Run supports about 25,000-27,000 rounds



of golf each season and Mike has always had the intention of wanting golfers to come back. He enjoys the fruits of his labor and wants to put out a product he is proud of and that golfers of all levels can enjoy. Mike loves being on the course, whether it is working or playing. He loves playing at White Deer Run and being able to obtain a golfers perspective to the conditions he is creating on a daily basis. His goal, like many of ours, is to have golfers walk off that 18th green with a smile on their face and an itch to come back and play again.

The most enjoyable part of Mike's job is the relationships he has built. He has found the industry to be extremely helpful. He has found time and time again that he can reach out to other superintendents about what may be going on at their particular course and the problems guys are having. Everyone is open and willing to share their advice on successes and failures that come with growing grass. One specific relationship Mike has found that has helped him tremendously, is that of retired Shore Acres superintendent Tim Davis. Tim lives close by and mows fairways at White Deer Run a few days a week. Mike could not put a value on the relationship he has built with Tim and the advice Tim has shared with him about being a successful superintendent. Mike was also influenced

by Kirk Spieth, Superintendent of Beverly Country Club. Mike began learning from Kirk while he was an assistant under Kirk at Olympia Fields. Mike followed Kirk to Beverly Country Club when Kirk took the Superintendent position. Kirk helped shape Mike as a successful superintendent and Mike views Kirk as a mentor he continually is learning from.

As for advice to the younger turf minds out there, he advises them to be patient. Many young guys in the industry are in a hurry to climb the ladder of success. Mike warns them to be patient, learn from your mistakes, and ask as many questions as possible. Everyone makes mistakes and that is how Mike has learned and made it to the position of success he is in now. The best piece of advice Mike has received came from his mother, "time heals all wounds". Mike strongly believes in this when it comes to life and to grass. Mike states "It's just grass, if it is dying, give it time, it will heal." @

More images on next page...



White Deer Run Golf Club was built in 1998 and designed by Dick and Tim Nugent. It can play almost to 7200 yards with a slope of 74.5 and rating of 148 from the tips.



Mike loves to be out on the course, whether working or playing. He's one of two Midwest members with a negative index.



White Deer Run Golf Club is built within a subdivision of homes that provides the staff at many challenges.



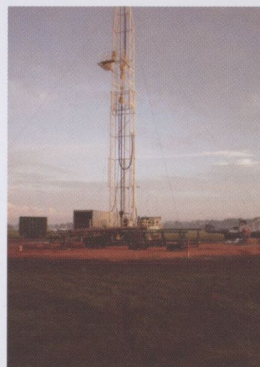
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Podcasting Primer

Darrick Robbins, Reinders, Inc.

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When I was young my family would drive from my home in southeastern Wyoming to my grandparents in eastern South Dakota every Christmas. We would climb into the back of my dad's pickup truck (with the topper on), lay out 3 sleeping bags and throw in a tank top propane heater and hit the road.

My parents felt like opening the windows between the cab and the bed of the truck was a concession to my brothers and I freezing in the back. We would rotate who would climb up into the front to warm up. (I still don't understand how it's my fault that my coat melted on the propane tank heater—but I digress.) It was 9 hours of driving time, plus whatever you lost in eating and bathroom breaks. Not that eastern South Dakota and miles of corn fields isn't scenic, but I could have used a podcast or two.

Here we are in 2019, and the amount, the quality, and the range of topics available to you for free, using nothing but your smart phone is astonishing. I can say with absolute certainty that no matter what you like there is someone out there who is making a podcast for it (well, maybe not absolutely EVERYTHING). Sports, music, design, turf (yes turf!), woodworking, fountain pens, stories, art, history, work life, sales, true crime, hunting, and a million other topics are all available to you. Sometimes you learn something, sometimes they make you think, sometimes you get a new angle on something you already knew. It is a vast amount of cool information that you have to do very minimal work to access.

You may be wondering what I am talking about (if not please skip down a couple of paragraphs). What is a podcast you ask? It is basically a recorded radio program (sometimes literally) that is accessible on your smart phone or computer. As a general rule they are audio only, but some podcasters (people who produce this content) video tape their podcasts and post them on a video platform like Youtube to increase their exposure. You can subscribe to a podcast just like you do a magazine, but most don't charge anything. Podcasts are generally recorded on a regular interval, some weekly, some

monthly, and others at more irregular intervals. You can set up your phone to download them automatically, or pick and choose individual episodes you think are interesting. The whole process is shaped by the person who is creating the podcast. Some podcasts are used to support a business or industry in some way, some are sponsored by industry partners, and some are financed by contributions who listen and value the content, or the content producer themselves. There are also consortiums of podcasts that are under a support umbrella. Radiotopia, and Turfnet are examples of this type of organization. There is even a funding group called Patreon that allows podcast listeners support the podcasts that they listen and subscribe to. As you can see the podcasting scene has become an industry of its own.

There are a number of ways to access podcasts. If you have an iPhone you have the Apple podcast app. Podcasts are also available through a whole host of other apps available on either the App Store, or the Google Play Store, as well as on your computer through the websites associated with the organization behind the podcast. The Apple Podcast App, Stitcher, and Spotify are examples of apps you can use to access these podcasts. You can use these apps to search for a certain subject, subscribe to a podcast, and manage your listening. Keep in mind that not every app hosts every podcast. For example, there are some podcasts that don't use Apple's podcast app, so if you are looking for a specific podcast it is often helpful to google it first in order to find out where it is available. Depending on how long the podcast has been around there can be a significant library of podcasts available to you for a given podcast as well. If you find one you like you can go back and listen to historical podcasts



Many people like the long form podcast where topics can really be delved into with little or no time constraints.

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which in some cases can encompass 10 years of material or more. Searching for a podcast in google, or in your podcast app is the best way to go and should get you going with minimal effort.

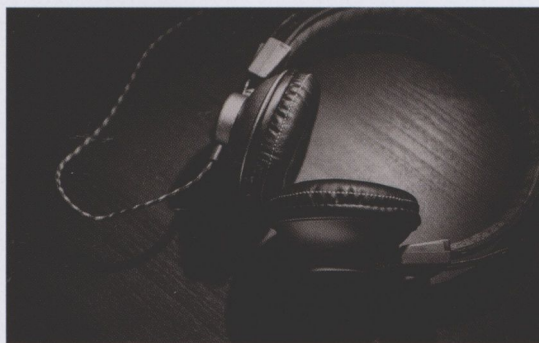
There are probably as many podcast formats as there are podcasts, but most podcasts employ one of four common elements. There are interview podcasts in which the podcaster solicits people who are familiar with or interested in a topic and plies them with questions about said subject. Frankly Speaking on Turfnet is an example of this type of podcast.

Some of our very own Chicago area superintendents have been featured on this type of episode. Andy Johnson of The Fried Egg podcast, a podcast about golf course architecture and related subjects has featured several of them. In Episode #55 he spoke with Curtis Tyrell who was at that time superintendent at Medinah Country Club. Episode #82 was a roundtable of local superintendents featuring Sott Pavalko from Bob O Link, Brian Moore of Glen View Club, and Brian Palmer formerly the superintendent at Shore Acres. More recently in Episode #99 he spoke with Scott Bordner, superintendent at Chicago Golf Club, and Episode #117 was spent with Curtis James, superintendent at Old Elm Club. These are all podcasts where the host sits down and just talks with the interviewee. It is awesome to see a number of local guys get an opportunity to share their thoughts on their golf courses, and golf course maintenance in general.

Story telling podcasts are common as well. Many of the national weekly production podcasts fall into this category. Most are what I would call nonfiction stories—something from real life, although there are serialized fiction podcasts out there that will tell a single story over the course of a season much like a TV show would. There is not as much of this type of story podcast in the turfgrass part of the podcasting industry. An example would be one of my favorite episodes

of the 99% Invisible podcast. It tells the story of a forgotten space between two stores in a mall in Providence, Rhode Island. A group of local artists gets a wild hair and turns this space into a dwelling, complete with sectional couch, lights, tv, kitchen, and bathroom—they live there on and off for 4 years!! These types of podcasts can help make the hours pass really quickly. Within the golf business this type of podcast is often about trips made to golfing venues, rounds experienced, etc. Episode #7 of The Golfers Journal podcast is just this type of story. Shane Bacon, and Chris Solomon talk about visiting South Korea and playing one of the most

exclusive resorts in the world. It sounds like it is pretty amazing playing golf when everyone on the property is interested in only 1 thing—you and your experience. Mike Rowe (Dirty Jobs guy) has some very good episodes with this type of theme. One of his podcasts is called The Way I Heard It. It is fairly short (around 10 minutes) and he tells a good story.



Podcasts travel well from phone to car to headphones.

Some podcasts use the question and answer format. This type is typically found within a certain subject, industry or trade. Listeners call or email in their questions for the hosts to answer. For me this normally takes the form of a woodworking podcast. Although it recently stopped being produced the Woodtalk podcast was for many years a staple for those of us who like to make things out of wood. There were three hosts, one who is a hand tool user exclusively, one who made his own sawmill and harvests urban logs for sale, and the founder who makes a living creating this type of content for the masses. The magic of their show was the personalities involved. Often irreverent, it was always funny, and informative. Personalities make or break these type of shows. I equate it to classes in school, Prof A can give you the information just as well as Prof B, but when Prof A presents the information, he does it in an entertaining way which makes all the difference! There is certainly room in the turf business for this type of podcast.

Continued on page 23...

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
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If you are a new to podcast listener there are a number of great places to start listening. For anything golf related Turfnet is a great place to start. It is a collection of turf podcasts by various people covering various topics within the turf industry. They have a number of colorful titles like "The Turfgrass Zealot Project", "Frankly Speaking", and "The Ladder", and more. From a topical standpoint The Turfgrass Zealot, and Frankly Speaking are fairly wide ranging interview type shows. The Ladder is an interview show about climbing the career ladder. Living Legends interviews the gentlemen in this business that have "been there and done that" that we all look up to. The Renovation Report interviews people and lets them tell their stories of golf course renovation. This is one place you can cover a lot of the ground in the golf course maintenance business.



Golf Course Industry has a couple of podcasts as well under the umbrella of the superintendent radio network. Their site hosts the Pullin Weeds Podcast from the Carolinas GCSA which started this year. They also have Tartan Talks which is time spent with golf course architects exploring different topics from the golf world. The GCSAA got into the podcast game last year too. There are 5 episodes available that they have produced to date. The National Golf Course Owners Association has a decent podcast as well. It covers more of the business aspects of the industry, but also has episodes about the major parts of golf course infrastructure. Joe Gulotti, superintendent of Newport Country Club started his own podcast as well about golf course maintenance called The Talking Greenskeeper. I haven't listened to it yet, but he interviews people in the golf maintenance business, so I am looking forward to checking it out.

The non-golf podcast world is vast. Not that my wife and kids don't love listening to golf maintenance podcasts on long trips, but if you are looking for a few other subjects that may be of interest outside of golf here are a few ideas. Some

of them like 99% Invisible were mentioned earlier in this article. Broken Record with Rick Rubin and Malcolm Gladwell is a fascinating discussion with music producers who created some of the great records of the last couple of decades. Their discussion of Tom Petty's Wildflowers album was amazing. It is definitely worth a listen. The TED talks podcast is a great standby as well. If you aren't familiar with TED talks they are people who know a great deal about one subject, and they give a talk on this subject. They are usually less than a half hour long and showcase people who are passionate about that subject.

Freakanomics is a podcast that tries to find the "hidden side of everything". It is a long running podcast that is currently on episode #369, so there is a sizable back history to enjoy. Who can resist titles like "Where Do Good Ideas Come From?" Or "How to Optimize Your Apology", if you need one of those. There are interview type episodes with interesting people including a series on CEO's that I found interesting. "The Hidden Side of Sports" series is one that will really make you think. Some may make you mad, like "How Stupid is Our Obsession with Lawns?". Head over and see what you can find there.

Whatever you are interested in, take a moment and find that person who shares that passion and has decided to share it with the podcasting community. I find it difficult to find time to stop and think in this life we live today. I find podcasts a great way to step away, if just for a moment, and think about the world around us. Give it a try, you may find something you like to pass the hours. @

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Cool Season Mites - The Spruce Spider Mite

Chris Beiser, CA, TRAQ, CTSP, Nels Johnson Tree Experts

Early spring is the perfect time to treat for a common ailment of a very common golf course tree. The Spruce Spider Mite is just coming out of dormancy, ready to feed on whatever evergreen it can find.

The Problem

The Spruce Spider Mite (*Oligonychus ununguis*) is a nearly microscopic pest that is closer related to spiders than true insects. This pest is a common feeder on most evergreens but is a major pest of both Arbor Vitae (*Thuja occidentalis*) and Colorado Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*). These pests are nearly always present at low levels as part of a healthy ecosystem, and a healthy plant can thrive regardless of light feeding. However, unchecked their populations can quickly grow and cause significant damage to their host plant. This damage is often made worse when the host plant is under stress caused by poor cultural and environmental conditions.

The most common symptom is a stippled look to infested needles (Figure 1) caused by damage from their feeding. Spider mites feed on the chlorophyll found in plant cells and leave behind a creamy white spot wherever they feed. A single generation from egg to adult takes only 15-20 days, so this pest can rapidly outpace other beneficial insects keeping its' population in check. An excessive population will leave fine webbing wherever they feed (Figure 2) and can cause dulling and premature drop of the host plants' needles.

The Host

This pest is a cool-season mite meaning it is active during



Figure 1: Typical stippling damage from Spruce Spider Mites on Norway Spruce. Heavier infestations will cause significant dulling of the needles and premature needle-drop. Photo Credit: NJTE

the spring and fall, but the warm temperatures of the summer push it to dormancy. Look for activity to start in early April, as the Saucer Magnolia (*Magnolia x soulangeana*) comes into full bloom. Most commonly this pest is found on Colorado Blue Spruce and Arbor Vitae but can also be found feeding on Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) and If you're having a hard time seeing the common symptoms, a simple "smear test" help identify their presence. Hold a white piece of paper under

the infested branch and shake the branch. Any mites present on the branch will fall to the paper. Next, smear your hand across the paper.

If there are green streaks (indicating feeding on the plant), you have spider mites. If you have red streaks this is indicative of beneficial spider mites, who feed on the bad mites and keep their populations in check. Beneficial spider mites tend to be larger, visible with the naked eye and are bright red in color.

Treatment


On the average healthy tree, no intervention is necessary. Light populations of spider mites do not significantly impede a trees' ability to function normally. If you do notice excessive feeding or webbing on the plant, it may be time to treat. Several options are available, including miticide applications and horticultural oil sprays. Timing for miticide application is tight and must be applied when feeding is active; normally this is April or September/October. Horticultural oils control the dormant pests and therefore can be sprayed anytime during the spring or fall. However, some evergreens are sensitive to oil sprays and may go off-color if misapplied. Additionally, if you find beneficial mites on the host plant, you may want to hold off on treatment. Any spray that treats for Spruce Spider Mite will also knockdown any beneficial mites present and may exacerbate the problem. As with any product, please read and understand and follow label instructions and if you're not certain, don't heistate to contact to your local Certified Arborist to help decide an appropriate course of action. 



Figure 2: Webbing and excessive feeding damage on the terminal growth point of a spruce. (Photo Credit: USDA)



Chris Beiser is the Plant Health Manager for Nels Johnson Tree Experts. He is an ISA Certified Arborist (CA), credentialed in Tree Risk Assessment (TRAQ) and a Certified Tree Care Professional (CTSP). He's going to share his knowledge and experience of non-turf plant troubles in this column during the growing season.

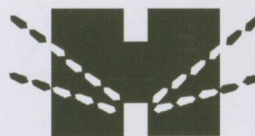
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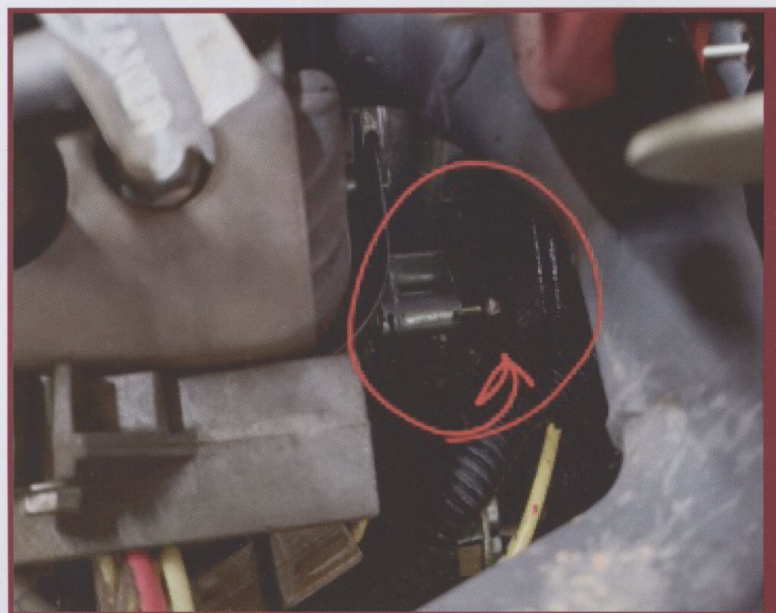
Equipment: Toro 3300 Triplex

Engine: 21 HP B/S Vanguard

Symptom: Oil Leak

We have two Toro 3300 Triplex mowers, equipped with 21 Horse Power Briggs & Stratton Vanguard Engines. Both with units have a little over 1000 hours on them. Last fall, one of the units developed an oil leak from the engine. Upon inspection, the leak was coming from the side cover of the engine. My experience with these engines led me to believe that the cover gasket was damaged, and I needed to pull the engine, tear it apart and replace the gasket. That is exactly what I proceeded to do. Once I removed the engine, I found that the side cover bolts were ALL loose. I continued to remove the side cover only to find that the gasket was intact. None the less, I removed the gasket, cleaned the mating surfaces, replaced the gasket and the crank seal, and reassembled the engine.

Just this Spring the other unit developed an engine leak, and all the side cover bolts were loose on it. I put the unit on the lift and began to tighten all the bolts on the side cover. I ran the engine and so far, there are no leaks. This will be watched over the next few days to make sure there are no leaks. @



When the second of the two mowers developed the same leak, I just tightened the loose side cover bolts instead of removing the whole engine and replacing the gaskets.

Got a tech tip or solved a problem? Send it to luke@magcs.org

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Asimina triloba

Dave Ward and Kati Bernardy

Pawpaw, Kentucky/Hoosier Banana, Wild Banana, Poor Man's Banana, Hillbilly Mango

Family: *Annonaceae Family*, (*Custard Apple Family*)

Pawpaw is a small deciduous understory tree, (up to 30'), that is native to the eastern United States from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic Coast and from Florida into Canada. It is the only hardy member of an otherwise tropical family and its cousins are popular for their fruit throughout much of Central and South America. Pawpaw has dark green, drooping leaves that give it its tropical appearance and they are pyramidal shape. They prefer moist, fertile soil and will grow in full sunlight to partial shade. It root-suckers feely and will form a thicket. Pawpaw flowers are dull-maroon to purple and produce the odor of rotting meat, attracting fruit flies and carrion beetles for pollination. Because the trees are not self-pollinating, if pawpaw is not common to an area, they need to be planted in multiples to assure fruit production.

The main attraction of pawpaw is the fruit which looks somewhat like a mango and ripen in late August or September when they become slightly soft. The fruit, born in clusters, is oblong, up to 6" in length and about 2" in diameter. The flesh is pale yellow with easy to remove black seeds and tastes like a cross between banana and mango or cantaloupe. They have a short shelf-life, tend to bruise and are eaten raw,

for bedding and mats.

Pawpaw logs were used to make split rail fences.

The seeds and the bark contain a natural insecticide that

was used as a shampoo to control head lice. Besides human consumption, the fruits are eaten by raccoons, foxes, opossums, squirrels and black bears.



Kenraiz, Krzysztof Zianek

In 1916, agricultural experts voted the pawpaw the American fruit most likely to succeed, ahead of blueberries and cranberries. But today, most people have never even heard of it, let alone tried it. Thomas Jefferson was impressed with the fruit and cultivated it at Monticello. It was said to have been George Washington's favorite fruit. Lewis and Clark relied on pawpaw to survive their journey back from the West Coast and it was known to be an important food for the enslaved population. There are at least six towns throughout the Eastern United States named Pawpaw, including ones in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. Albany Ohio hosts an annual pawpaw festival every September. Pawpaw is also the subject of a traditional American folk song, "Way Down Yonder in the Pawpaw Patch".



Scott Bauer, USDA

either chilled or at room temperature. They also can be baked into breads and desserts.

Native Americans were fond of the fruit and are thought to have cultivated the tree. The tough, fibrous inner bark of the pawpaw was used for making ropes, fishing nets and

Today there is renewed interest in cultivating pawpaw for the fruit. In Ohio and Kentucky, several pawpaw farms are cropping up. The farms sell commercially to local grocers, farmer's markets, wineries and especially breweries. Since 1994, Kentucky State University has conducted a research and breeding program, selecting cultivars based on size, taste and seed to pulp ratios. The tree is difficult to find in the nursery trade, but makes a good golf course naturalizing plant, on the boarder of woodlands and in wet areas near streams and lakes. @

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