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front cover

The 14th hole at Mt. Prospect Golf Club is named the Serpent's Nose. It only plays 385 yards from the tips but out of bounds on the left side makes the fairway a little bit more narrow from the tee.

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FEATURE

From Clemson to Chicago

Bobby Kerr

SERIALS

OCT 21 2019

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What lengths would you do to play golf in the Fox Valley Golf League 25th Reunion. MAGCS Past President Dave Braasch played with a modified shoe because of a broken toe. Read about the whole day on page24.

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DATES

2019 UPCOMING MIDWEST EVENTS

- 10/09/19 Midwest October Meeting at Mt. Prospect Golf Club
12/04/19 Midwest Turf Clinic, Medinah Country Club
01/29/20 Midwest Hospitality Reception: Tin Roof, Orlando

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John Ekstrom

The Midwest Turf Clinic Approaches

As most of us are in the throes of aerification season, the Midwest's Education Committee has been planning our feature educational event; the Midwest Turf Clinic. Though some know no different, this event did not always take place at Medinah Country Club, nor was it only one day.


Many of the early Turf Clinics were at Olympia Fields Country Club and many of the speakers were current Superintendents and local purveyors with names like, Warren Bidwell, Gerald Dearie, Frank and Joe Dinelli, John Ebel, Ray Gerber, Carl Hopphan, Amos Lapp, Elwin Johnson, Nels Johnson, Roy Nelson, Robert Williams, and Ted Woehrlé.

It's a little bit of a surprise that many of the talks had the same themes we see today like: Fairway Renovation, Fine Turf Disease, Green Construction and Maintenance Techniques, Golf Course Irrigation, Planning Adequate Maintenance Facilities, Preparing a Budget, The Role of the Assistant Superintendent, Topdressing Stories Retold, Things I've Done to Make Golfers Happy. There were even topics related to life, Know How – Do It – Enjoy Your Work and some that were ahead of their time like Electric Greens Mowers and Purchasing a Modern Automatic Irrigation System. When I see titles like this, it makes me think about the amount of knowledge our predecessors had on these topics compared to us – or at least the body of knowledge that is out there now compared to then. It makes me appreciate the trailblazers that came before all of us and it also invigorates our committee as we try and plan pertinent, relevant education still.

This year we've invited Steve Keating, the Senior Manager of Leadership and Development at the Toro Company. Some of you may follow Steve on Twitter; he spoke to our group many years ago and was very well received. He's an energetic motivator who ties work into part of life and overall fulfillment. Many of us will benefit from his talk, especially at the end of the season when our batteries are drained and we plan to recharge.

Another returner to podium at the Turf Clinic is Paul Vermeulen, he's the Vice President, Agronomy of the PGA Tour. The last few times Paul has been in town, he's got other things on his mind, overseeing the BMW Championship and keeping the professionals on track. Paul is going to talk about his experiences in that realm of our profession and the tools that he utilizes to make conditioning decisions all over the country.

Kyung-min Han, Director of Sales and Technology is scheduled to give us an update on the long-awaited release of PoaCure. For those of you waiting for a release, we hope Han will provide some positive news.

The root of the Turf Clinic is learning from members. We're working on an afternoon of just that; short little nuggets of education provided by our members on different projects, practices and ideas they've employed at their courses. We look forward to the Turf Clinic this year and hope you'll take the time to attend. 

Know How

Do It

Enjoy Your Work

From Clemson to Chicago

Dr. Bobby Kerr, Chicago District Golf Association

PHOTO CREDITS: VARIOUS

Clemson is in the upstate of South Carolina and is home to some of the best people in the USA!! The southern culture is warm and welcoming, and feels like home upon arrival. In August of 2016, I arrived at Clemson University to work under the supervision of "world renowned" turfgrass scientist, Dr. Bert McCarty.

The focus of my research was the biology and control of goosegrass, a challenging weed to control in warm-turfgrasses. Most of the control options for goosegrass in warm-season turfgrass also have activity on the non-target turfgrasses. One aspect of my research focused on methods to reduce the turfgrass injury, while maintaining goosegrass control. Some of the methods developed during my studies have already been adopted by industry and are being used currently. The years I spent in the McCarty lab were pivotal in my development as a scientist and professional. Dr. McCarty volunteers on the grounds crew for baseball season and many of the undergraduates also work part-time on the grounds crew. This dynamic made the turf class in the fall and Monday morning meetings with the McCarty lab a lot of fun. There were many long tales told those mornings. Being an alumnus of the McCarty lab is something I'll always be proud of, and I'm striving to develop a program of similar rigor and productivity. Many of the graduates from the lab have gone on to be leaders in industry and academia.

In the three years I was at Clemson the football team won two national championships in 2016 and 2018. Interestingly, previously they won the national championship in 1981, which was the year I was born. So let's recap, they won one the year I was born (1981), they won a second the first year of my Ph.D. (2016), and a third on the last year on my Ph.D. (2018). I'm not looking for any credit, I'm just hoping the winning streak continues in my absence!

In the early hours of May 11, 2019, I got into my 1998 Ford Ranger and Google mapped my way from Clemson, SC to Downers Grove, IL. The journey took me through North Caro-

lina, passing Asheville on up through Tennessee, then into Kentucky, through Indianapolis, before entering into the great state of Illinois. All in all, the journey took around 14 hours, my favorite part of the journey was driving through the Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky.



As the season starts to slow down and fall is approaching, it's a good time to reflect on the season as a whole. Things in the area definitely started out a little more than wet, the rainfall total for May broke the record books. As we moved into June and July the temperatures gradually increased and drier conditions prevailed. August seemed to be a good month for growing grass, a few problems came into the lab at the Midwest Golf House, but not many. I tried to get out and visit people over the season where and when I could. Heading into next season I'm hoping to get down into the southern part of Illinois and into other states to visit CDGA member clubs. The range of facilities in the Chicagoland area is quite incredible and I look forward to seeing as many as possible.

One of the major projects we've been working on this summer, is plans to renovate the Sunshine Course at the Midwest Golf House. It will be a long process over the next year to renovate and improve the golf facility. Starting this fall we're focusing on thatch removal from the fairways and tees; over the years there's been a substantial accumulation of thatch. The wetland on the Sunshine Course and the drainage outlets




*The Sunshine Course Carl Hop-
phan's vision for the Sunshine
Course was to create a living
laboratory for golf and the land-
scape. The CDGA is planning to
give the course an update in 2020
with newer varieties of bentgrass,
bunker construction while ad-
dressing some drainage and other
maintenance issues.*



will also be cleared out before the snow flies. Again, over the years these areas have just become over grown and are in need of attention. The work this fall and next year is fundamental in moving the Sunshine Course forward. The plan is to close the course in July/August, 2020 and update the grasses to the latest and greatest. In addition, we will also have the newest version of bunker erosion control for superintendents to come and experience.

For 2019 we've had a number of research trials over the summer months and there are a number of ongoing trials this fall. Looking ahead to the 2020 season we're hoping to get a number of new trials in the books. Ron Townsend and I have both been writing scientific manuscripts and pursuing publica-
tions.

As we sit today the CDGA turfgrass program is in good shape, following the Sunshine Course renovations, I'm hoping to really ramp up the research and publications coming out of the program. In the long-term I'm hoping to collaborate with University professors and other industry personnel to help further develop the CDGA as a center for turfgrass research. 

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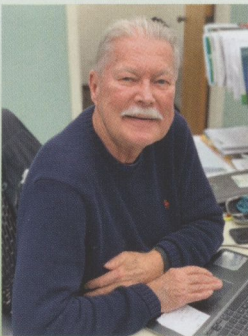
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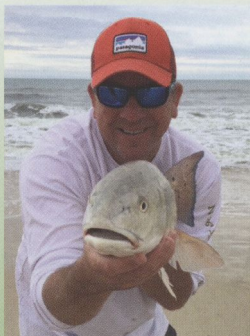
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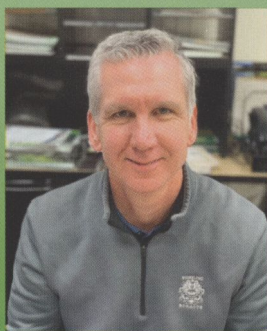
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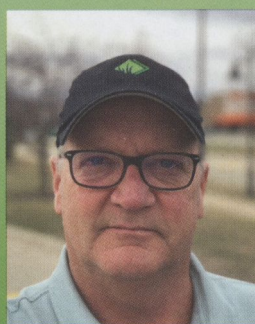
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THE BullSheet



DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct 2019

October 9 – MAGCS October Meeting at Mt. Prospect Golf Club, Darin Douglas host.

October 16-18 – GIE+EXPO at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, KY.

October 16 – Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendent's October meeting at Onwentsia, Scott Vincent host.

October 18 – Illinois Golf Hall of Fame Class of 2019 Induction Ceremony. The Glen Club.

October 23 – MAGCS Past President Meeting, Chicago Highlands Golf Club, Josh Cull host.

November 16 – The CDGA Club Leadership Conference at Medinah Country Club in Medinah, IL, Steve Cook, CGCS, MG host superintendent.

December 4 – 67th Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club—same place, same face as above.

Mark your calendars for the
67th Midwest Turf Clinic

Medinah Country Club

December 4, 2019

Steve Cook, CGCS MG host

Condolences to the family of John Lapp on his passing on September 2nd. John was the long-time superintendent at St. Andrews Golf Club in West Chicago, having worked with the Jemsek family from 1963 until his retirement in 2016. May he rest in peace.

Congrats to **Tommy Witt**, CGCS of Northmoor CC and his 12-year-old pug Bowie on Bowie's appearance in TurfNet's and Syngenta's "Ruff & Ready" 2020 Superintendent's Best Friend calendar. Bowie was looking sharp as the June feature pooch.



If you find yourself up in the north suburbs, stop in and say hello to **Paul Voykin**. Paul, who turned 89 in April, is the renowned longtime superintendent from Briarwood CC (retired) and 1972 MAGCS president, along with an accomplished writer and orator, and a member of the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame, and is living in the Brentwood North Health Care Facility in Riverwoods, IL where he is dealing with complications from dementia. Please keep him in your thoughts.



As we slogged through September with what seemed like torrential rains timed perfectly with each weekend, we were finding ourselves contemplating the weather (at least I was) and how it has changed during our lifetimes. An article that recently ran in the Chicago Tribune titled "Chicago's Strange Climate Change" confirmed this, citing a particular phenomenon which is troubling to those of us in the grass-growing game. Our area's overnight lows—which we rely on to cool our turf and soil after those hot days—are rising much faster than anywhere else in the country. On the bright side, though, our daytime highs are rising at a slower rate than they are in the rest of the U.S. so there's that to smile about. No matter how you feel about the controversial issue of climate change, these extremes we are experiencing—whether they be heat waves, cold snaps, violent storms or whatever—are here to stay, so buckle up and enjoy the ride.

Enough about what the future has in store for us—let's take a nostalgic look back at our industry's past. 50 years ago this month, in GCSAA's The Golf Superintendent magazine, **Oscar Miles**—then superintendent of Olympia Fields Country Club—had an article



"The fairways are immaculate!"



"It was like playing on carpet."



"The course is in amazing shape."



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



"Great lies in the fairways!"

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published titled "Maintenance Shops That Work For You" which described in detail the do's and don'ts of designing and building a new facility. The cost to build a state-of-the-art maintenance facility in 1969? \$51,000 to \$67,500.

Also in the news 50 years ago were the newest pest-fighting tools—systemics. Although not new to the world of medicine, they were a new development in the control of plant diseases and insects.

Q: What does **Dave Arden** call his assistant?

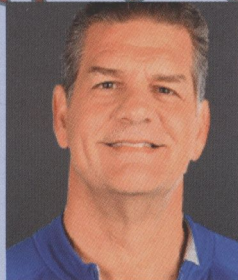
A: His Glencoe-hort.

Golf in California is just dangerous. It seems whenever there's a story about something bad happening on a golf course, it's in California. The latest story comes from the Rolling Hills Casino course in Corning, CA, where a spark from a golfer's club hitting an embedded rock landed on some dry grass and ignited, eventually spreading and burning nearly 14 acres of golf course and neighboring property. Local fire departments extinguished the blaze within an hour (a 14-acre wildfire is child's play to those guys out in Cali), and nobody was hurt other than the golfer whose club suffered a nasty dent from hitting the rock.

Our sympathies to Arrowhead Golf Club's Equipment Tech Tim (TJ) Johnson and his family on the passing of his father Gene Allen Johnson last month.

Brian Placzkowski is a very big man who looks like he could have once been a very big football player that drives a very big truck. Mike Golic is a very big ex-football player on a very big morning drive radio show. A connection perhaps?

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Brian Placzkowski or Mike Golic. We even got both of them to wear blue shirts for the photo.

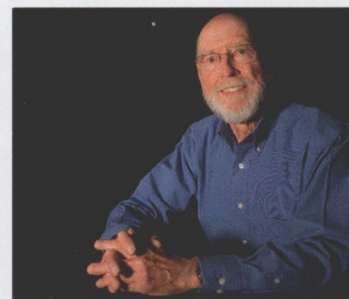
There are some BIG changes afoot at the USGA Green Section this fall, with many notable staff members retiring, including our Central Region agronomist Bob Vavrek. Bob has been with the USGA since 1990, and was named the region's director in 2015, and he, along with our region's business coor-

dinator Karen White are riding off into the sunset. We thank them for their years of service in helping to improve our courses throughout the Midwest.

OK, why not? Here in the Midwest, our mountains aren't just funny—they're hill areas.



I had the pleasure of hearing recently from **Fred Opperman**, the man who produced this publication from 1983 to 1999 while he was superintendent of Glen Oak Country Club, and the namesake of the Fred D. Opperman Editorial Award which is presented yearly to the non-superintendent author of the best-deemed article to appear in On Course magazine. Fred was MAGCS President in 1976, and upon his retirement in 1999, he and his wife Judy moved to beautiful Bozeman, Montana where they still reside today. At 80 years of age, Fred has spent the last 20 years of "retirement" working with Habitat For Humanity, having completed 61 houses around the world and starting four more, along with repairing countless others to help families in need. In 2005, Fred was one of two volunteers selected to travel to Washington D.C. and later build houses for people displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Additionally, Fred has volunteered his time with Eagle Mount, a facility committed to providing therapeutic recreational opportunities for people with disabilities and children with cancer, ice skating with the kids. He also volunteers at his church, Hope Lutheran, being instrumental in the establishment and care of its lawns and gardens. In recognition of all of his efforts, Fred recently became one of just 24 recipients of Southwest Montana's "24 Over 64 Prime Awards," designed to honor 24 individuals 65 years of age and older for their personal and professional accomplishments, talents, and contributions to their community. The 5th Annual gala ceremony was held on August 27th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bozeman. Huge congratulations to Fred Opperman on his "second" lifetime of achievements!



October's "Clavin-ism:" Did you know—it's a little-known fact—that the youngest person to make a hole-in-one was 5-year-old Coby Orr of Littleton, Colorado in 1975. It's true. I wonder if he had to buy drinks for everyone in the bar afterward?

Big news from a couple of our association's offshoot golf leagues. The Fox Valley Golf League celebrated its 25th year by holding an outing on September 23rd—more on that later. The Ditch Diggers League really hit a homerun conducting a

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fundraiser for the Wee One Foundation in memory of Sharon Riesenbeck and Steve Bychowski, raising \$2,168.62 through their sales of hats and patches—what a great way to remember our two friends who were taken from us much too soon.



Golf witticism of the month (from Lee Trevino): My family was so poor they couldn't afford any kids. The lady next door had me.

We are in the midst of the best time of the year—the time when we all can get out and play golf! Whether a MAGCS event, a fundraiser like the Wee One event, a league function or perhaps a vendor customer appreciation junket, fall is the time with the best weather and course conditions to take a breather from our hectic jobs and enjoy the fruits of our labor. The September MAGCS meeting and Annual Golf Championship took place on a beautiful September 4th day at an equally-beautiful course—Mistwood Golf Club in Romeoville, with **Ben Kelnhofer** serving as our gracious host. Everything was world-class, from the clubhouse and practice facilities to the service to the golf course itself and to the food spread afterward (which included all the “O” foods—tacOs, gyrOs, nachOs, and even shrimp kabobOs). Many thanks to Ben and the staff at Mistwood for a real treat! Congratulations to Midwest Golf Champion Mike Gianopoulos, and thank you to our generous sponsors—Healthy Grow, H&E Sod Nursery, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Reinders, Inc. and Syngenta. See Page 12 for all the winners and pictures.

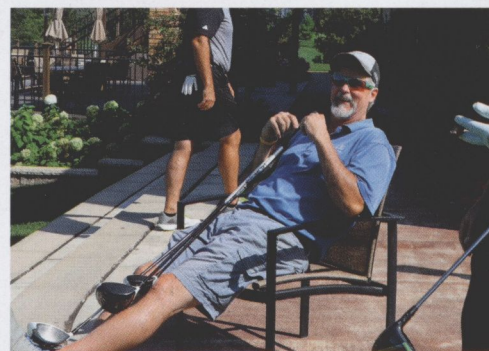
Just a few days later, on the 16th, **Rod Johnson** and Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI held the 16th Annual Wee One Fundraiser, and if you still haven't made it up to this event, you are missing something really special. Besides the magnificent golf course and conditioning, the on-course taco and brat stations are always the highlight, and the Wee One Foundation benefits hugely from this annual event. The Foundation recently hit another milestone in August gifting its 1.5 millionth dollar! Thank you once again to Rod and everyone at Pine Hills, and to the Wee One Board members and volunteers who again ran a smooth, professional operation. @

The event at Pine Hills sold out once again as 200 people came together to support the Wee One.



Turf Ventures presented a check for \$10,000 for the Wee One Endowment. (Rod Johnson and Nick Baker).

A rare shot of Kevin DeRoo without any food nearby.



Stopping for some tacos mid-round. Although I don't see any tacos.



Chad Hauth, Andrew Redding and Frank Klaus



Phil Taylor and Scott Verdun.

Midwest 2019 Golf Championship

MAGCS Champion
Mike Gianopoulos

Regular Flight
Ben Kelnhofer (*gross*)
Darin Douglas (*net*)

Senior Championship
Brian Bossert (*gross*)
Todd Schmitz (*net*)

Super Senior Championship
Ed Fischer (*gross*)
Mike Bavier (*net*)

Class C Champion
Jeremy Rolf (*gross*)
Virgil Range (*net*)

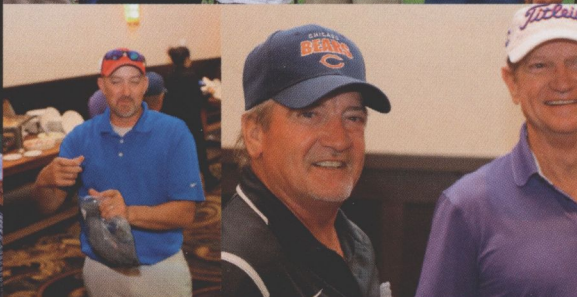
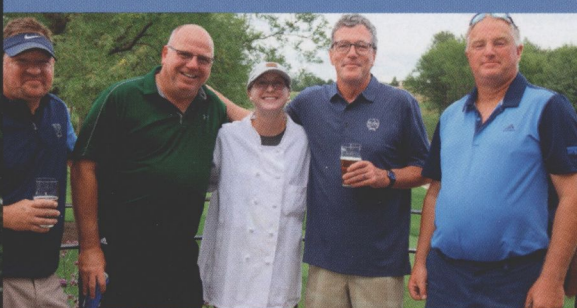
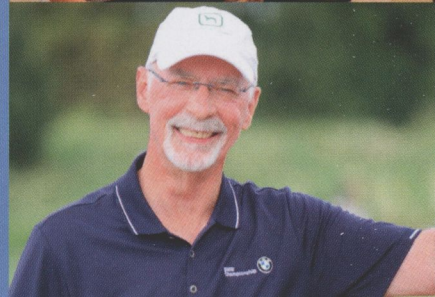
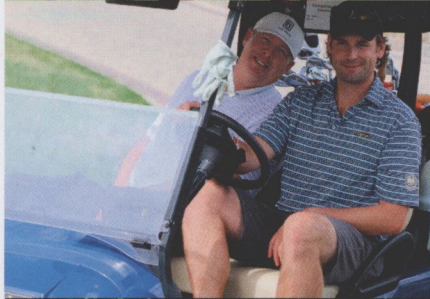
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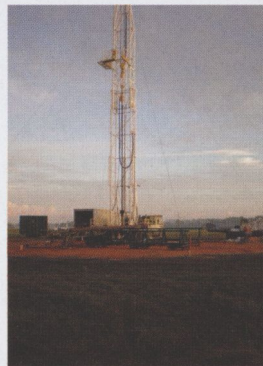
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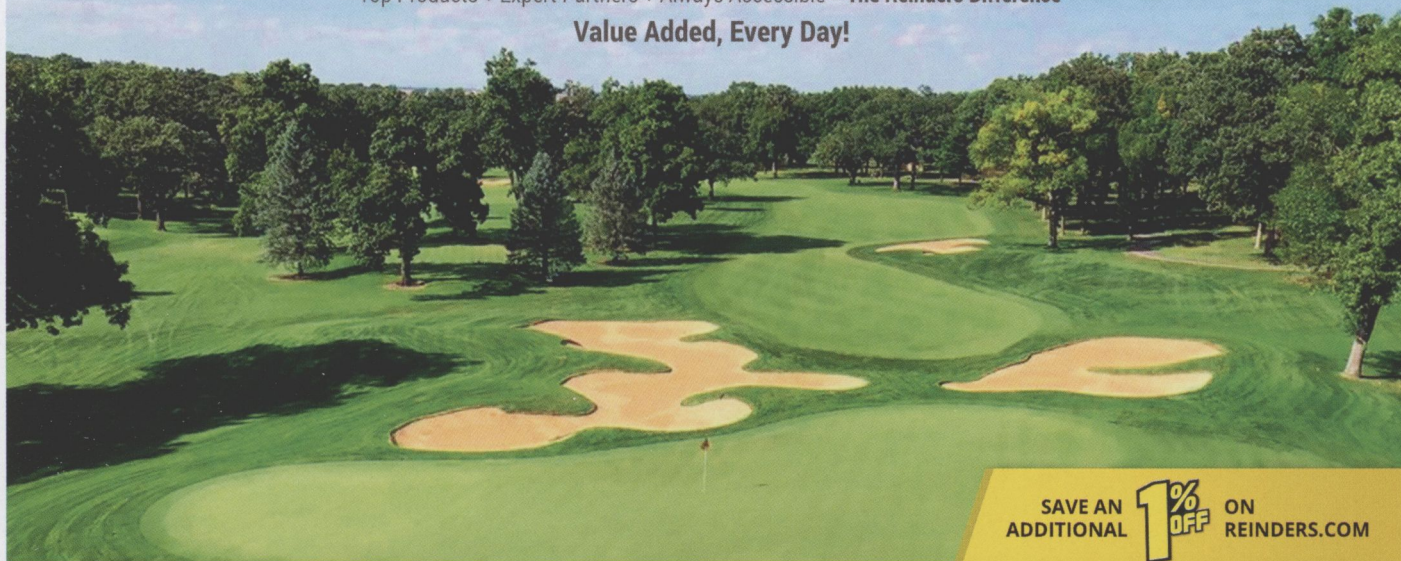
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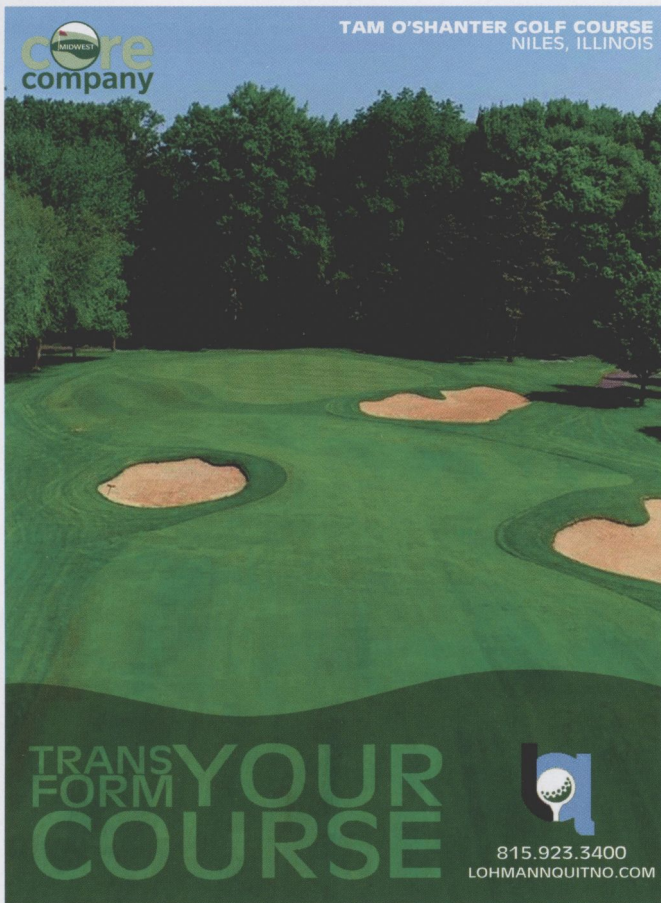
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Darin Douglas

Mt. Prospect Golf Club

Luke Cella, MAGCS

PHOTO CREDITS: LUKE CELLA

Darin Douglas is the Golf Course Superintendent of Mount Prospect Golf Club (MPGC). He's held this title since May of 2013. He was the Assistant at MPGC under Fred Behnke, retired CGCS for the previous 11 years.

Darin was exposed to golf through his passion for skiing and snowboarding; not a common career path in this part of the world except if you are a native from Elgin like Darin and frequented a place known as Villa Oliva, the only ski hill around. He worked there during the winter in high school, making snow and patrolling the slope. When he needed work in the summer, he returned to the hill to mow the golf course that surrounded it working with Mike Joerns. He liked the turf so much, he switched college majors, even transferring schools to Southern Illinois to earn a Plant and Soil Science degree before following Joerns to Elgin Country Club working with Phil Zeinert, CGCS. It was shortly thereafter Darin found his way to Mt. Prospect hired by Behnke as the Assistant Superin-

tendent. And when Behnke announced his retirement, it was an easy transition for the Mt. Prospect Park District to move Darin into the superintendent position.

Darin jokes he only had one season to blame all of his turf troubles on Behnke. The Park District approved a complete renovation of the course shortly after he took the reins. They closed the course in June of 2014 when Dave Esler applied his design style and others to the neighborhood property. The "others" appear as template holes on the golf course – matching great golf holes or features of them from some of the historic golf courses in the world. Some of these features are worked in the putting greens; there's a Barritz – hole 16; a reverse Redan – hole 4; and a Punchbowl – hole 11. Esler purposefully used other famous design features like the bunkering around the 12th hole to match the 11th hole at the Old Course at St. Andrews or a bunker in the center of the approach on the 7th hole known as the Lion's Mouth bunker on the 13th the old course as well.

The greens have a lot of movement to them; however, Darin offers the advice for first-time players to hit your putts right at the hole because the breaks aren't as severe as they appear. He hears positive feedback from those who follow this advice. When the course opened after the project some of the slopes on the putting surfaces were tough to mow, however using newer flex mowers and several years of topdressing have since softened some of the more severe elevation changes. The green surrounds are still a challenge to maintain and require careful attention when turning equipment like sprayers during applications. The putting surfaces were seeded with Tee-2-Green's Pure Distinction while the fairways and tees were seeded with their PureFormance Fairway blend (PennLinks II, Pure Select and Crystal BlueLinks).



Darin lives in Chicago in the Logan Square neighborhood with his wife Amy and their one-year old daughter Maris.



The roughs and green surrounds were planted to Barenbrug's RTF and have created a nice frame for the lower cut surfaces. The other real challenge is working around play. Darin estimates the course will see around 37,000 rounds this year; a new record since the renovation.


The irrigation source is a lagoon off Busse road that is situated in a park. It is all reclaimed water from the surrounding neighborhood and is channeled to the course underground. There's only been a couple of instances where they had to supplement their supply with city water; it only takes a ¼ rainfall to fill up the ponds on property. There is a lot of developed property surrounding the course, even with Weller Creek that runs through the property it's easy to see why it doesn't take much rainfall to refill the ponds. A new irrigation system was part of the project where the mainlines are all PVC and the laterals are HDPE. Prior to the renovation the crew were professionals at fixing pipes and joints; Darin happily shares that this skill has not been needed once since the new install. Darin relies on the help of his crew, especially his assistant Sean Lee. Sean's been a part of the team since 2015.

All of the renovation scars have healed and Darin largest projects now are working to cobble cart path edges where curves don't meet golfers driving abilities to keep their wheels on the path. He does a great job of providing the residents and players of Mount Prospect GC a true value for their green fee with consistently upscale playing conditions. Darin's got a great attitude about his job and knows it is a marathon, not a sprint. Darin explained that it can get crazy busy in the afternoons and sometimes it can be next to impossible to get something done if it's in the line of play. It's better to wait until the morning, everyone is happier. Darin enjoys his work and it's apparent by the conditioning of the course.

The golf course is nestled in an older community within Mt. Prospect of well-maintained homes and landscapes with some non-traditional street names (The Club's located on See-Gwun Ave). These streets were named by a group of young girls who were involved with a group called the Campfire girls, similar to the Girl Scouts. The Camp Fire Girls



The 10th hole at Mt. Prospect Golf Club is a short par 3 carries a creek to an elevated and undulating green. The RTF rough is apparent on the back slope of the surround, as well as the narrow coffin bunker both common features on the course.

studied Native American history and these streets got their unusual names from different Native American words that the Camp Fire Girls researched. The original course was built in 1925 as part of a luxury property development project and was private. It wasn't until 1961 that the park district purchased it and it became a public facility. No one knows who designed the original golf course; it was built during the Classic era and early photographs revealed many of these characteristics. Not having a name attached to the original design may be for the best because now the residents of Mt. Prospect and the surrounding communities have a golf course that they can't play enough in part because of the work of Darin Douglas and his team. 



The Biarritz or Chasm green (above) on the short par 3, the 16th features a swale in the middle of the putting surface forces the birdie seekers to place their tee shot on the hole side of the swale.



Hole #4 green is the Redan hole (left); actually a reverse Redan canting from front left to back right.

The local's favorite hole #7 (below) features a "Lion's Mouth" bunker smack dab in the center of the approach to the putting surface. The deep bunkers with steep grass faces are a common sight at Mt. Prospect GC, a design element often used by Raynor.





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Plants to Avoid in Out of Play Rough

Dave Ward

Many golf facilities around the country and in the Chicago Area are increasing the use native plants as a part of golf course and clubhouse landscapes. The use of native vegetation is important in the creation of habitat and for the survival of native fauna, especially threatened or endangered species. Recently, Audubon International and the Environmental Defense Fund initiated a program for golf courses, Monarchs

planting, the prairie vegetation beds started to produce flowers and seed. The new course also featured about fifteen acres of out-of-play areas planted to a variety of fescues. To create pollinator habitat, prairie seed collected from the clubhouse flowerbeds was spread into the fescues areas. After a few years, a mixture of prairie plants started to become an attractive feature of the out-of-play roughs.



Most superintendents who manage their native areas will tell you it takes work to keep them looking good. Some species are just not suited for roughs that come into play.

in the Rough. The program's purpose is to encourage the establish pollinator habitat in out-of-play areas and promote the planting of milkweed on golf courses for the benefit of the endangered monarch and other butterfly species whose populations have declined more than 90% over the last two decades.

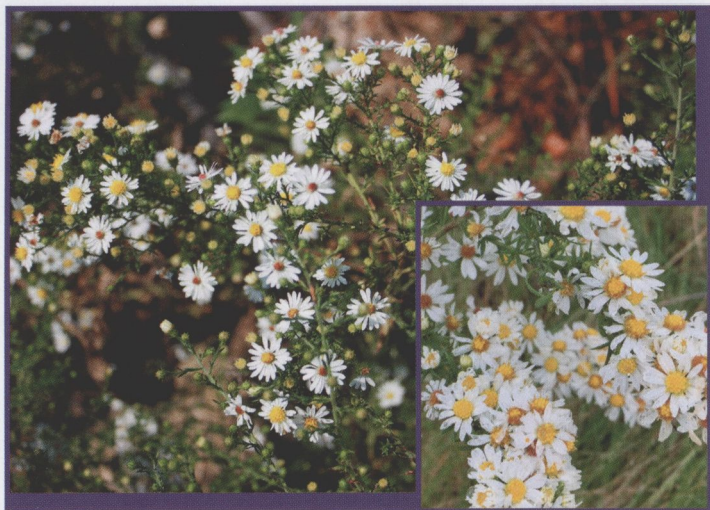
When the Homewood Flossmoor Park District developed Coyote Run Golf Course in 2004/2005, the clubhouse area included several landscape beds that used prairie grasses and forbs, (herbaceous flowering plants), in an English cottage-garden setting. This concept fit in perfectly with the park district's environmental stewardship policy. A few years after

Initially, while low on learning curve, the attitude was, "any prairie plant is a good plant". Rather quickly, it became apparent that, in an un-natural environment like a golf course's fescue out-o-play rough or English cottage-style gardens, prairie vegetation performed much differently. Without the competition inherent in a native prairie, some plants spread aggressively. Within a few years, the beautiful mixture of flowers and grasses started to morph into of a monoculture of dominating prairie plants. Once the aggressive plants had established and started to pre-dominate, they became extremely difficult to remove selectively – a problem that is currently unsolved.

Golf courses considering adding prairie vegetation in out of play roughs or flowerbeds can use the Coyote Run experience and start a little higher on the learning curve. Try to stick with some of the smaller species and minimize the use of tall prairie grasses and other aggressive species. The following plants should be avoided or used with caution:

Compass Plant/Cup Plant ***Silphium laciniatum/Silphium perfoliatum***

Compass plant and cup plant are large, (6' – 12'), coarse prairie plants with yellow flowers in the late summer. They have a large central taproot that make them difficult to remove. Without the competition of a native prairie, they tend to spread, becoming a dense stand that overwhelms competing plants. Two other members of the *Silphium* genus, rosin weed, *Silphium integrifolium* and prairie dock, *Silphium terebinthinaceum* are better selections.



Heath Aster forms woody stems though it produces nice flowers is not a great choice for playable native areas.

Heath Aster *Symphyotrichum ericoides*

Heath aster, sometimes called white-flowering aster, grow throughout most of Illinois. In the fall, it has small white daisy-like flowers with yellow centers. It can grow to as tall as three feet, has a thick woody stems and is adapted to most soils. If allowed to grow unchecked, it tends to form a monoculture. It is almost impossible to play a shot should a golf ball land in a stand of heath aster.

Common Milkweed *Asclepias syriaca*

Common milkweed (below) is the plant most people associate with the word "milkweed". It is a tall course plant with fragrant pink flowers and late in the season, conspicuous seed pods. Once established, it forms a colony through rhizomes and wind-blown seed and is an aggressive spreader. Because milkweed vital for the survival of monarchs, it is tempting to let it take over out-of-play areas. A better alter-



native might be planting swamp milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata* or butterfly milkweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*.

Big Bluestem/Indian Grass *Andropogon gerardi*/ *Sorghastrum nutans*

Big bluestem and Indian grass are the two primary large grasses of the tallgrass prairie. They are clump-forming grasses that get between 6' and 10' tall and spread easily

from seed. After the first few plants became established in the out-of-play roughs at Coyote Run, it only took few more years until the grasses started forming a monoculture. Smaller grasses like northern dropseed, *Sporobolus heterolepis*, side-oats grama, *Bouteloua curtipendula*, or little bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, are wiser choices.



Compass plants can grow 12' high.

Canada Goldenrod *Solidago canadensis*

Canada goldenrod is one of the 22 members of the Solidago genus native to Illinois. Although the plant's bright yellow flowers are an attractive addition to autumn landscapes, it is a very aggressive spreader through seeds and rhizomes. If not controlled, it will take over out-of-play roughs. It can be managed by removing the flower heads prior to seed ripening or by selective removal. Better alternatives include stiff goldenrod, *Solidago rigida*, zigzag goldenrod, *Solidago flexicaulis* and elm-leafed goldenrod, *Solidago ulmifolia*. @



The native area on this hole is an integral part of the design. There's plenty of room around the green for an errant shot, however if you hit it really poorly, the native area is penalizing. (Big bluestem in the foreground)



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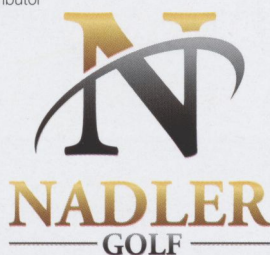
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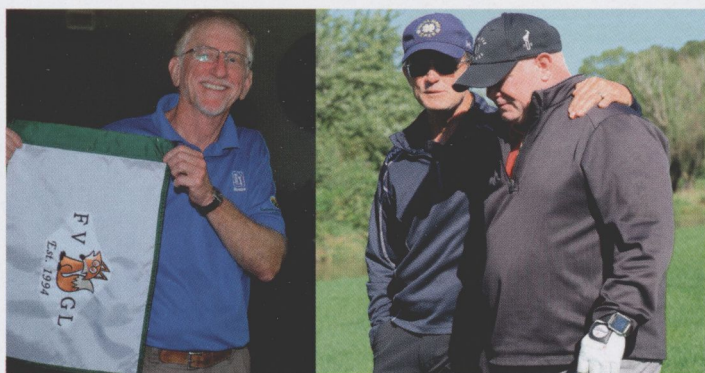
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A Day to Reconnect

John Gurke, CGCS MAGCS

On Monday, September 23rd, 41 members, both past and present, of the Fox Valley Golf League travelled from near and far to gather at Blackberry Oaks Golf Course in Bristol, IL for their 25th Anniversary Outing. When the league first got together, Blackberry Oaks had just opened, and the Bristol, Illinois business tally had doubled from one to two (the other being the world-famous Bristol Tap). Over its 25-year existence, more than 130 superintendents, assistants, sales reps, manufacturer reps, vendors and even the odd caddie master, retired GM, HVAC contractor, electrician and house painter spent their summer Wednesday afternoons at Blackberry Oaks, enjoying the company of their fellow league members, having a beverage or two, and yes, even playing a little golf. The weather was perfect for the reunion, and a nice blend of current and past members enjoyed superintendent Steve Holich's (also a past member of the league) beautiful golf course while reconnecting with old friends. Thanks to all who made it a very special day. @





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