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THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

# ON COURSE

12|2020



EVERYDAY MIRACLES

SURANCE REVIEW

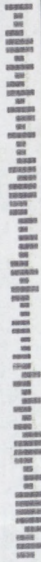


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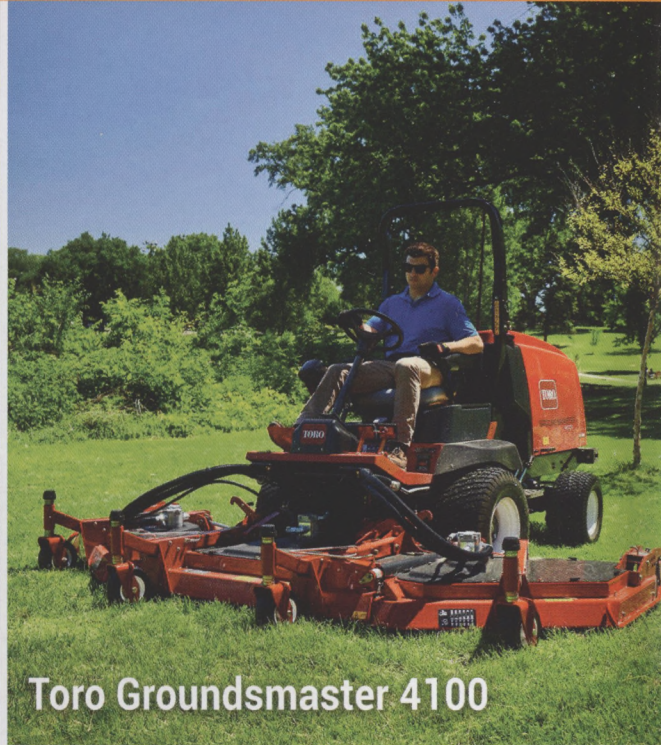
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# 06 Everyday Miracles

When a facility gets the chance to make things better, it can be the spark needed to correct other issues on the course.

Chuck Barber



# 18 Chapter Delegates Update

In October, golf courses were still seeing record numbers of rounds. The Midwest was represented by John Ekstrom at the GCSAA Chapter Delegates meeting. Take a look at the key items that were discussed and those that will make it to the ballot.

## 05 President's Column

## 11 Bull Sheet

## 16 Technician Corner

## 22 MAGCS in Motion

### COVER

Somedays it might seem the world is against you, especially for golf course superintendents. Barber's article this month seeks to explain the improbable.

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The official publication of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents  
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### MAGCS MISSION

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS) exists to promote professionalism and integrity, to provide networking, education and career enhancement opportunities to all members who facilitate the growth and enjoyment of golf.

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**Rusty Stachlewitz**

[@RustyStack](#)  
(630) 779-0761  
[rstachlewitz@advancedturf.com](mailto:rstachlewitz@advancedturf.com)



**Craig Shepherd**

[@Shepdog2101982](#)  
(563) 213-1632  
[cshepherd@advancedturf.com](mailto:cshepherd@advancedturf.com)



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# DO GOOD THINGS

Mark Kosbab, CGCS Sportsman's Country Club

Like many distinguished leaders before me, I am extremely proud to represent the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents as President. This isn't my first-time carrying the title of president though. The first time was when I was starting a landscape business – I didn't realize that when I incorporated, I would be considered the President of the company. When I needed to post a notice of incorporation in The Daily Herald and the clerk said, "Don't you remember your Mom always said you could be president." She probably said that to everyone, but at the beginning stage of going into business for myself, it was exactly what I needed to hear in order to put me in the frame of mind of getting this new business venture off the ground and more importantly a little bit of money in my pocket.

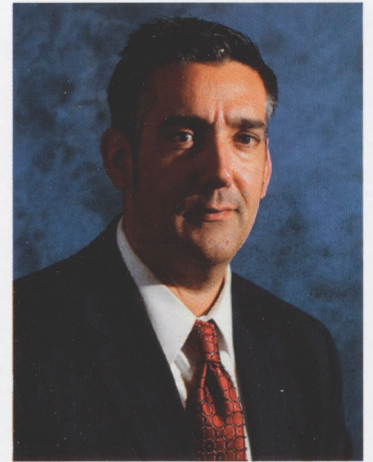
**THROUGH THE STRENGTH OF OUR ASSOCIATION AND OUR ALLIED PARTNERS, WE WERE ABLE TO WORK PAST THE LOCKDOWN AND GET OUR GOLF COURSES OPEN FOR REGULAR DAILY PLAY.**

Well, that business only lasted a few years before I decided I missed being on the golf course too much to continue doing landscapes. I started that business when I was lost and wasn't sure which direction I should go. I only knew one thing – turf. Almost 15-years later and I am the Golf Course Superintendent and Parks Division Manager for the Northbrook Park District, a certified superintendent and President of MAGCS. Groucho Marx famously said, "I would never belong to a club that would have me as a member." With all humility aside, I am honored to be a part of this organization and everything it stands for, but I don't think I would be where I am today without the many people that came before me. There have been so many people that have molded and guided me through my journey and have taught me what it takes

to be a leader; what it means to serve a group that has given so much to me in the many stages of my career; and how to overcome challenges and meet adversity head-on with honesty and integrity.

This past year has presented so many challenges. Who could have imagined the COVID-19 crisis or the initial lockdown, and then one of the best and busiest golf seasons that many of us have experienced in such a long time? Through the strength of our Association and our Allied partners, we were able to work past the lockdown and get our golf courses open for regular daily play. Through our strong membership and willingness to help each other succeed, we openly discussed concerns and sought out new ways of doing things to ensure safety to our staff and member or patrons. The strength of our association continues to be in its membership and our desire to do good things.

As we head into the off-season, MAGCS will be hosting informal weekly Zoom meetings to help keep our membership engaged. As most of us are becoming more and more familiar with Zoom meetings becoming the "new norm," keep your eye out for upcoming educational opportunities that we are working on to get lined-up.



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**Mark Kosbab, CGCS is the newest MAGCS President**

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# EVERYDAY MIRACLES

Chuck Barber, St. Charles Country Club



The above picture was taken in the spring of 2014. It was the front of the 2nd putting green at St. Charles Country Club. The overhead on the right shows the original small putting green and surrounding bunkers before any work was started.



The life of a Golf Course Superintendent is interesting. There are innumerable ways in which preparing a golf course for play day in and day out can change. The variables are many: The people we work for, the people we work with, the weather, the event schedule, the agronomic calendar, the machines available, and so much more. I recently had a discussion with a colleague that if you counted the number of ways things can go wrong it is a miracle we ever get it right.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Green at St Charles Country Club provided a LOT of ways for things to go wrong. Coming out of the winter of 2014 St. Charles Country Club experienced some winterkill on their putting surfaces. Many golf course superintendents in the area still remember widespread winter injury from ice buildup on greens. I will not engage in a remembrance here because we have kicked that horse to death. However, the story I am going to unfold begins at this crit-

ical time.

There are trouble greens on every course. Some are worse than others. The 2<sup>nd</sup> at St Charles is a challenging 500-yard par 5, dogleg left to a well bunkered green (also part of the story) with what could be called a lifeless green. It was a disappointing end to a good hole. The green was undersized at approximately 2700 square feet and was severely sloped from back to front. Further complicating matters was the lack of adequate surface drainage at the front of the green as the winter injury we experienced would indicate. Complicating matters here is that the wettest part of the green was in the sensitive, walk-on/walk-off area of the green. Lastly, there was a significant shade problem from evergreen trees to the south and east of the green.

One of the first steps we took to improve the green was to eliminate the shade. Our membership has come to embrace sunlight on putting greens in



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Shade was a contributing factor to the winter injury on the 2<sup>nd</sup> green. The trees in the background were removed to provide invaluable sunlight to the new putting surface.

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the last 9 seasons I have been here. This was not always the case and trying to get these trees cut down was not easy. However, I knew that one way or another we needed sunlight on this green and the club agreed.

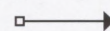
The result in 2015 was in fact worse. St Charles Country Club might have been the only course in 2015 to experience significant winter damage. After our experiences in 2014 and again in 2015 we moved forward with stripping, regrading and sodding the front half of the green. The green was drained via the XGD system in the fall of 2015 as well. These measures largely solved the critical issues of shade and surface drainage yet it did not address the character or interest of the putting surface itself.

The overhead photo above illustrates the odd shape of the green and its rather diminutive size. The bunkering around the green had become an issue as well. The bunkers had been rebuilt in 2009 with sand that the membership was

dissatisfied with as well as underlying fabric that had torn and been exposed. Managing plugged lies, severe slopes, washouts and torn fabric was more than the club could bear. They chose to hire Golf Course Mike Benkusky to develop plans for the 9th tee in 2010. I was asked by the club to hire Mike yet again to develop a Master Plan for the entire golf course with the chief goals being architectural consistency and to provide as much sameness as courses built in the 1920's and 1980's could be.

Mike developed a plan for the bunkers to be rebuilt in our areas most in need including the 10<sup>th</sup> green, the 11<sup>th</sup> green and the 2<sup>nd</sup> green. The putting surfaces on 10 and 11 perform well and average around 6000 square feet. The membership was happy with those greens. However, they elected to rebuild the bunkers and the 2<sup>nd</sup> green during construction. In their estimation, it was time to rip the band-aid off. Work was scheduled to begin in the fall of 2017 with the goals of optimizing surface

When infrastructures deteriorate over time, superintendents often do the impossible to keep things from completely failing. Utilizing their abilities and skills, superintendents prolong lifespans to the often unseen parts of the course. Sometimes there is no other alternative than to fix the problem at its very foundation. When this occurs, it can be a great opportunity to show the membership how good things can be when problems are addressed and remediated properly. St. Charles Country Club took the opportunity to fix their 2<sup>nd</sup> green complex, showcasing it for other renovations that followed.



and subsurface drainage, improving the grass species and having more hole locations.

The photo below shows the former footprint of the green and the size of the extension of the green off the back. In all Benkusky found room for an additional 3000 square feet. Further, the slopes were corrected to move water off the green and to add a number of hole locations throughout the green. Lastly, the bunkers were rebuilt with no



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Architect Michael Benkusky extended the green depth increasing the putting surface by an additional 3000 square feet. In terms of cupping locations, the green was more than doubled.

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liner, improved drainage, minimal sand flashes and improved sand (Pioneer, from Waupaca).

The result can be seen in the overhead photo to the right. Based on the performance of the new bunkers the membership voted to rebuild the remaining bunkers on the course 2 years later and the project was completed in the fall of 2019. The 2<sup>nd</sup> green was a good example of how improved greens could perform and leading to the eventual rebuild of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> greens in the fall of 2019.

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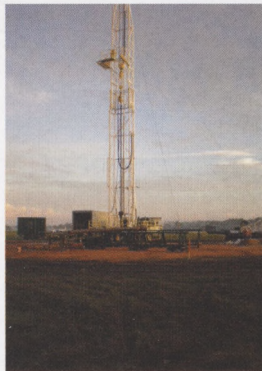
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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Important Dates to Remember

Merry Christmas!

Maybe a little snow somewhere in here.

January 13, 2021 - MAGCS Online Education - Wetting Agents

February 2-4, 2021 – GIS Virtual 2021 at any location you choose.

A little more snow, maybe here, but just a little.

February 17, 2021 – ITF's Turf Conference at any location you choose.

March 1, 2020 – Deadline for Class A and CGCS Points submission through GCSAA.

## DUES RENEWAL

The Midwest has sent out dues renewal statements for 2021. Please keep an eye out for them. Renewals can be processed online or by sending payment to our administrative office at Midwest Golf House. - While renewing, take a look over your contact information and make sure it is correct.

# THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS

Congratulations to our new and returning Board members, who were sworn in earlier this month at the MAGCS Annual Meeting. Your new Board is comprised of the following dedicated individuals:

President **Mark Kosbab**, CGCS Sportsmans Country Club

Vice President **Todd Schmitz**, Phillips Park Golf Course

Secretary/Treasurer **John Ekstrom**, Inwood Golf Course

Director **Nate Bolhaus**, Briarwood Country Club

Director **Craig Kight**, Eagle Brook Country Club

Director **Charlie Lukan**, Shepherd's Crook Golf Course

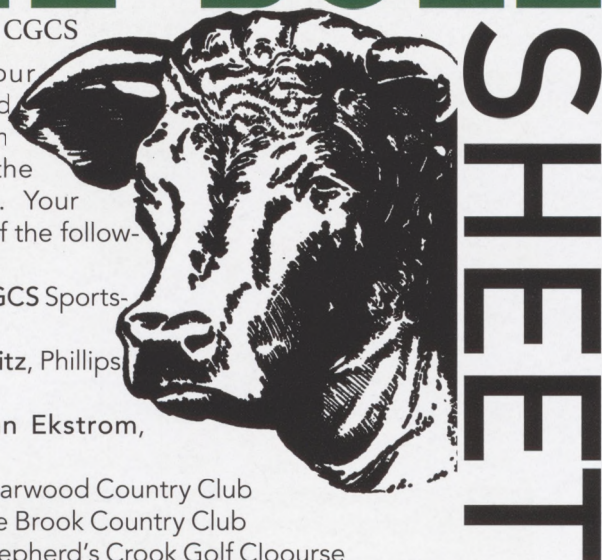
Director **Matt McDonald**, Water's Edge Golf Course

Director **Mike Paciga**, Kemper Lakes Golf Club

Director **Dan Stahl**, Orchard Valley Golf Course

Past President **Brian Stout**, The Arboretum Club

**Justin Kirtland** has completed his Board service—we thank him for his commitment to our Association.



Welcome to **Arron McCurdy** who is the new superintendent at Shoreacres in Lake Bluff.



The reason Arron is at Shoreacres? Because **Brian Chasensky** is the new superintendent at Northmoor Country Club in Highland Park. Congratulations on the move, Brian (left).

Slightly belated congratulations to Wedgewood Golf Course superintendent **Dan McDonald** and

his wife **Anne** on the September 14th birth of their baby **McNugget Jacob Francis McDonald**.

Our condolences to **Kerry Anderson** and his family on the passing of Kerry's father **Don Anderson** last month.



This year has brought huge changes to many of the things we have grown accustomed to in our daily lives. Many of our traditions have been put on hold, and some are just coming to an end. One example of this that hits home is that 2020 will be the last year the Meyer family will be at the helm of Hughes Creek Golf Club in Elburn, IL. **Dave Meyer**, a past MAGCS president in 1989, built Hughes Creek and opened it in 1991. Dave sold the club to the Forest Preserve District of Kane County in 2000, but continued to operate the course under a management contract until his death in 2004, when his daughter **Heather** took over. Alas, all good things must end, and early this year, with Covid-19 creating uncertainty and the management contract up for renewal in December, Heather decided not to renew. The course will remain open under the management of Golf Visions. □ —> II



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On the bright side, the transition at Hughes Creek allowed for superintendent (and also a past MAGCS president in 2018) **Jim Pedersen** to become available, and I am happy to announce that Jim has joined the Aurora Country Club Grounds team, bringing his wealth of experience to the operation.

So now that I'm thinking of it, Hughes Creek gave MAGCS three of its presidents—**Dave Meyer**, **Jim Pedersen** and **Dave Braasch** in 2008. Hmm.

Golf Magazine has published its latest Top 100 U.S. Courses list, and this year two local clubs were included. Chicago Golf Club (**Craig Smith**, supt.) in Wheaton is #14 (architects C.B. Macdonald, 1895 and Seth Raynor, 1923), and Shoreacres in Lake Bluff is #24 (Seth Raynor, 1921). And just because **Jon Jennings** has kept his MAGCS membership, we can proudly boast that one of our own is the #3 course in the land—Shinnecock Hills in Southampton, NY (architect William Flynn, 1931).



**Craig Smith**, Superintendent at Chicago Golf Club.

Looking at the Top 100 list by architect (because I have nothing better to do), not surprisingly the trio of A.W. Tillinghast, Donald Ross and Seth Raynor have 30 of the 100 best courses in the U.S. Also surprisingly, the Golden Age team of William Langford and Theodore Moreau (Bill and Ted) had but one course crack the list—their excellent adventure in Green Lake, Wisconsin in 1930 that resulted in the awesome Lawsonia Links at #87.

By the end of the year, GCSAA hopes to have a Grassroots Ambassador for each of the 535 members of Congress. As

of mid-October, there were 436 grassroots ambassadors across the country, so the goal is attainable. Since its beginnings in 2014, the program has sought to establish a network of committed volunteers to serve as the go-to people for federal lawmakers and their staffs on golf course management issues. If you are interested in becoming a grassroots ambassador, contact Chava McKeel at [cmckeel@gcsaa.org](mailto:cmckeel@gcsaa.org).

OK, why not? These days, people are making apocalypse jokes like there's no tomorrow.



Those white cakes aren't breath mints Eddie. Please don't eat them.

What does the BIGGEST Viking fan on the planet do when he loses a bet with a Packer fan, being forced to wear that awful green and gold jersey? **Eddie Braunsky** honors the bet, does his

penance, and then even washes the jersey before returning it to its rightful owner. I'm sure it said Laundromat somewhere on that door.

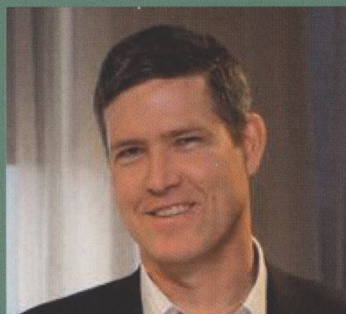
The PGA of America, through its PGA JobMatch is inviting people who are interested in working at one of its championship events to apply now. The major events are the PGA Championship at Kiawah Island Golf Resort in South Carolina (May 17-23); the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship at Southern Hills CC in Tulsa, OK (May 25-30); the KPMG Women's PGA Championship at Atlanta Athletic Club in John's Creek, GA (June 22-27); and the 43rd Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits in Kohler, WI (September 21-26). If you're interested or know someone who would be, go to [www.pgaimpact.org/pgajobmatch](http://www.pgaimpact.org/pgajobmatch).

**Q:** Why did the department store Santa have to give up golf during the Christmas season?

**A:** He had water on the knee. At least ten times a day.

**Darrick Robbins** is a nice, tall, and smart guy who is almost never offensive. **Ryan Pace** is a nice, tall, and smart guy who can almost never draft offense. A coincidence? Below.

## MIDWEST Doppelgänger



No offense, Darrick and No Offense Ryan

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It's feeling like the dog days of winter. Not one, but TWO of our members' mutts made media appearances recently. On GCSAA TV, Austin Bowman, assistant superintendent at Knollwood Club and his German Short-haired Pointer Theo were featured, highlighting Theo's "hyper" goose-chasing prowess; and in the new Dog Days of Golf calendar (sponsored by Lebanon Turf and GCSAA), Evanston Golf Club superintendent Dan Charlton's 6-year-old Fox Red Labrador Retriever Scarlet is Miss June, 2021.



Todd has Mona Lisa eyes. They kinda follow you around the room.

We also had the pleasure of seeing Todd Quitno of Lohmann Quitno Golf Course Architects in the spotlight this past October. Golf Course Industry magazine ran a feature titled "Yep, They're Still Building" about the recent boon in golf course renovations, and Todd was one of the four go-to architects for the story, which speaks to the pandemic-related surge in the golf industry from the construction/renovation point of view.

December's "Clavin-ism:" Did you know—it's a little-known fact—that, although it's pretty widely accepted that golf began in

Scotland 500+ years ago, the Chinese claim to have invented a very similar game during the Song dynasty as far back as 943 A.D.? It's true! A game called Chuiwan—chui meaning to hit and wan meaning ball—in which players used ten clubs including a cuanbang (the equivalent of a driver today) was played over a thousand years ago, long before St. Andrews saw its first golfer.

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# KNOW THY SPRAYER



Jeff Cholewa is the current Midwest Technician Advisory Chair.

Jeff Cholewa, Sportsman's Country Club



Over the course of my career, I have found that turf sprayers have always posed problems for some technicians. Most can fix the basic sprayer, engine, hydraulics, frame and body. The problem starts when the spray technician drives in with a full tank of chemicals and says the sprayer won't spray. Now what? Equipment Technicians are rarely trained on the actual operation of the sprayer. Most, if not all sprayers are controlled by a computerized system to put down the product at a specific rate. The computer controls the rate of flow taking into consideration variables like ground speed, nozzle type and spacing, and pressure. For example, the Toro Multi-Pro's system is called the Pro Control. The Pro Control System consists of a computer-based control console, a speed sensor, and a turbine-type flow meter. It controls the spray pump, boom control valves and the agitation system

of the sprayer.

So, when the Spray Technician says, "the sprayer won't spray" there can be many things causing this to happen. My diagnostic checklist starts to ask the questions: Is the pump turning during agitation? Is the pump switch on? Is the master boom switch on? Are the boom switches on? Can you make it spray while sitting still? When the answer is yes to these questions, it appears the hydraulics and pump are working since we have

Above is the popular Toro Pro Control system that is utilized at many facilities. Right is a flow meter that needs a little cleaning.

agitation and they can get the sprayer to spray sitting still. The next item on my checklist is the controller; the Pro Control not allowing the sprayer to turn on. This is where most Equipment Technicians get lost because we don't ever use the sprayer. To complicate the situation, most superintendents and spray technicians don't fully understand the set-up of a control system on a sprayer. The reasoning is when a course gets a new sprayer the dealer initially sets up the control system based on specific inputs from the Superintendent start-



ing with products typically sprayed (rates) and nozzle types. Upon delivery, training will take place on the basic use and general set up of the controller.

I know in order for the Pro Control to "make the sprayer spray" first needs to read certain values from the speed sensor, then it needs to read flow past the flow meter to maintain the rates pre-programed into the console. In addition, the pump, master boom, and boom switches need to be on as well.

Recently, I received a call from a technician from another course asking for assistance with a sprayer issue. The sprayer had been working fine but developed a leak at the pump. The technician easily rebuilt the pump, tested the agitation system with water and no leaks were found. He soon let the superintendent know it was ready. The Superintendent tried to calibrate the sprayer before using it again and found it was not working properly. This is when I was called for help and was able to stop by to help diagnose the issue: We found the agitation was somewhat working, the pump turning very slowly and the unit would not spray. After putting the controller into self-test mode, it would work but the spray was very minimal coming out of the nozzles. When I drove the unit it did not come out of self-test. As I was driving, I checked my ground speed and distance travelled. I could immediately tell readings were way off. It was measuring my ground speed at 1-2 mph when I was driving closer to 6 or 7 mph. I started to suspect a faulty speed sensor but was not thoroughly convinced of that because it did measure some movement.

This is when I started to look at the controller settings; everything looked correct from an operator standpoint. I wanted to see how the speed sensor was initially set up (this is done by the dealer) before shipment so we delved into the manual. This model should be set to "SP3"(gear tooth). I toggled through the settings on the controller in question and found it was set for "SP1" (wheel drive). It's not just a simple reprogram though, to change back to SP3 the console needs to be reset. The process erases all the data stored in controller and thankfully we remembered to go through each button to write down the data stored there to make the reprogram easier. We followed the instructions to reset the whole unit and then start the program process making sure to set the

ground speed sensor to SP3. We then re-entered the setting for each of the presets (1-8) and were able to get the sprayer working properly again. We're still not sure how the ground speed sensor setting got changed but that ended up being the issue.

It is important for technicians to understand the sprayer controller in addition to all the its other components. If you get a new sprayer delivered learn how to use it and program it. Record all the initial settings and keep them with the manual in case you ever need to reset the controller. Familiarize yourself with the controller using the manual so you understand what it controls so you have this information to troubleshoot problems when they arise. I encourage all operations to make sure their equipment technician is trained to use the sprayer and understands the key components of sprayer calibration and nozzle selection. Lastly, I encourage all equipment technicians to reach out to other techs for help; we all get stumped at times. I know I have. I also know that I would not be where I am at today if it was not for the network of technicians, salesmen, vendors, and others that have helped me when I needed it.

#### ON COURSE



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It's a good idea to learn all the components of your sprayer. Some of them are easier to find than others. Above is the boom section valves, each control the flow to the corresponding boom.

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AN UPDATE:

## GCSAA's CHAPTER DELEGATES MEET

Luke Cella, CGCS

The GCSAA Chapter Delegate's Meeting was held virtually on October 20 and 21. John Ekstrom and Kyle Barton both attended the meeting representing the Midwest and Chicagoland. The following is a summary of the items that were discussed and reported upon to those present. The dues increase garnered the most attention and discussion amongst those present. If you have any questions, please contact John or Kyle prior to the GCSAA's Annual Meeting at the Virtual GIS in February.

The President's Message was provided by John R. Fulling, Jr., CGCS. Mr. Fulling recognized the challenges in governing during a year like 2020 with a global pandemic and he highlighted GCSAA's success in the face of the multitude of challenges that presented themselves. The association was able to be successful due to the dedicated board, volunteers and GCSAA members who worked tirelessly to ensure golf facilities stayed open.

Association Report – CEO J. Rhett Evans briefed the delegates on the state of GCSAA and the strength of GCSAA members. He highlighted: Disaster Relief Funding – Fires, Hurricanes, Flooding, and COVID-19 challenges spurred GCSAA members to help each other by raising over \$50,000 for Disaster Relief Funding.

GCSAA/EIFG financial overview for the association – GCSAA is currently in



a strong financial position to continue to provide member programs and services with investment funds totaling \$10.4 million for the EIFG and \$8.2 million for GCSAA. And though revenues have been negatively impacted somewhat in 2020 from the pandemic, GCSAA is projecting to surpass its bottom line 2020 goals through prudent reductions in expenditures.

GCSAA membership numbers remain strong. 2019 – 18,125 2020 – 18,602. Collaboration with the FFA and growth of the First Green program will also bring more students into the industry.

State BMP Implementation Update – The delegates received an update of GCSAA's goal to have all 50 states with BMPs in place by 2020. Mark Johnson, Associate Director, Environmental Programs thanked the chapters and volunteers who have worked diligently to achieve this goal. Mr. Johnson is confident the state goal will be reached. Facility Adoption of BMPs is beginning to gain momentum as well. As of the meeting date: 40 states with BMP's in place and the remaining 10 are nearing

completion.

Government Affairs – Government Affairs Director Chava McKeel addressed the delegates regarding the Grassroots Ambassador goal of all 535 members of Congress matched with a GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador. GCSAA currently has 98 open spots. The delegates were encouraged to help find qualified individuals to fill these positions.

Rounds 4 Research – Mischia Wright, Associate Director, EIFG shared the outcomes of the 2020 Rounds 4 Research Auction and shared plans for the 2021 auction. Strong chapter support for this year's auction as evidenced in outcomes of surveys that were sent out. \$263,000 was raised. 2021 Auction dates are April 26th – May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Goals are 1,500 rounds and \$367,500 raised.

Chapter Outreach – Steve Randall, Director of Chapter Outreach shared the work of field staff in supporting chapters during the pandemic. The use of virtual platforms and safety protocols allowed GCSAA to stay connected with chapters and members. Mr. Randall briefed

the delegates on several tools that are available to keep chapters on track – Chapter Pulse and Strategic Playbook and the Chapter Assessment Survey.



Member Dues and CPI Increase – Kevin P. Breen, CGCS, GCSAA Secretary/ Treasurer, and Cam Oury, Chief Financial Officer. GCSAA follows a dues increase process which was created in 2006 with input and approval from chapter delegates. The process is tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). CPI is a tool to keep track of inflation over a period of time. Increasing the dues based on CPI equates to smaller and more frequent increases in dues rather than infrequent, but larger increases, which have a negative impact on membership retention. This year’s proposal is the following:

- 3.3% increase in CPI since over the last two years
- \$15 increase for A and B (new dues amount of \$415) and \$10 increase for C (new dues amount of \$215)
- Approval rate for dues increases using this process has ranged from 87% – 96%

The delegates offered their thoughts on the dues increase to the board during small group breakouts. The GCSAA Board of Directors will consider delegate feedback as they discuss the proposal. Delegates are encouraged to communicate the proposed dues increase with their membership and provide chapter feedback to GCSAA.

Certification Program – Jeff White, CGCS, Vice Chair, Certification Committee briefed the delegates on efforts underway to modernize the program. The program will celebrate it’s 50th anniversary in 2021.

Golf Industry Show Update – Robert Randquist, CGCS, GCSAA COO and Ed Several, Ensemble IQ shared highlights of the platform for the 2021 GIS virtual event that will support an interactive experience. Attendees will have the ability to network with colleagues, check out products on the trade show “floor” and will have access to over 80 hours of education during the three-day conference. The demo highlighted the following:

- Ease of access
- Lobby area highlighting the schedule of education
- Basic and All Access Packages built for every budget and the entire facility
- Mixer events that will encourage networking
- An interactive virtual trade show that will be staffed

Town Hall Session – The GCSAA Board of Directors and delegates participated in a town hall session. The session facilitated by GCSAA President John R. Fulling, Jr., CGCS included questions surrounding the dues increase proposal, virtual GIS, and a potential bylaws amendment that would provide the ability for the Board of Directors to remain in place during times of duress.

Candidate Breakouts – the delegates had the opportunity to meet and question the candidates running for the 2021 GCSAA Board of Directors. The candidates are:

For President – Mark F. Jordan, CGCS  
 For Vice President – Kevin P. Breen, CGCS  
 For Secretary/Treasurer  
 Kevin P. Sunderman, CGCS  
 Jeff L. White, CGCS  
 For Director (electing three)  
 T.A. Barker, CGCS  
 Paul L. Carter, CGCS  
 Jon M. Christenson  
 Christopher A. Reverie  
 Marc E. Weston, CGCS

There are three open positions for director. The terms of Barker, Carter and White are expiring. All three director positions will be for two-year terms. If White is unsuccessful in his bid for Secretary/Treasurer, his name may be submitted as a candidate for a director position from the floor. Sunderman is in the middle of his two-year term as director. If he is unsuccessful in his bid for Secretary/Treasurer he will remain on the board as a direc-

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Cole Lehman leads a group of school children at Conway Farms during a First Green Day, one of the many programs that will hopefully get back on track soon.

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tor. If Sunderman is elected Secretary/Treasurer a one-year director position will be open and voted on by the delegates to fill the remaining year of the two year term. **ON COURSE**



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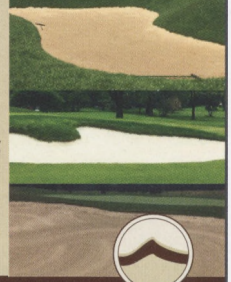
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# ARE YOU COVERED?

Craig Kight, Eablebrook Country Club



Craig Kight is a Midwest Board of Director.

As we say goodbye to Fall and hello to Winter, our emphasis shifts to post-season concerns and different priorities. As the snow makes its way to the upper midwest, the blanket atop the grass allows the shift in focus. Now is the time to reflect back on the crazy year and all that was accomplished while at the same time, look ahead to plan for the improvements in the season to come. What can you do to prepare and proactively face the challenges of growing turf? Think about the work that needs to be done and evaluate if the work should be completed, and if so, should the work be covered by insurance. We all have it but do we utilize our policies when we need to? We have all had some type of protection at our facilities but do you, the Superintendent, fully understand what may be covered by insurance? Easing the financial burden on the club, taxpayers or owners should be considered when evaluating what type of work is covered by insurance.

There are three types of insurance that play a part in your club's policies. Personal risk, property risk and liability risk, all of which can affect the safety of individual workers, our members and their guests. Each of these risk types have sub-categories that can provide a more detailed description on what could be replaced without an immediate upfront cost. Knowing what you have and how to use it is key in making sure your club is being taken care of properly. Please take this time to ask questions, review your facilities and evaluate your insurance companies.

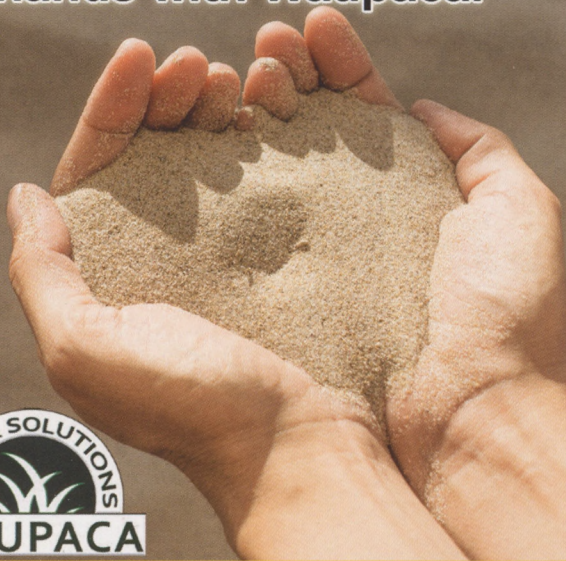
Risk management is also a crucial area in our line of work that should be evaluated as often as possible. Risk changes every day and we must be diligent in our understanding and implementation of our policies and procedures to ensure a safe environment for our staff and members. We must adapt and change when necessary because risk is ever changing. Make sure you take the time to fully review and understand what the policies

and procedures are at your club so you are ready to tackle what comes your way in a proactive, not reactive manner.

By being prepared when disaster strikes, you will reduce the financial impact on your club and handle the situation professionally and will have a better outcome. Who is the designated spokesperson for the club? Establish protocols and know who needs to be notified of an injury or damage before it happens. Prepare for the unexpected. Ask your insurance provider to complete a full risk assessment at your location and assign certain managers the task of performing regular inspections to help identify areas of concerns. Train Train Train! There can never be too much training. A trained team is a prepared team. Have open discussions with staff regarding items they may see as a risk and perform training modulus in areas that you see could be high risk. Improve your equipment training in the off season as well which will decrease the risk of improper use during season.

Taking the downtime that Mother Nature gives us in the midwest and using it to our advantage to handle the important to-do list items that may take a back seat during the heart of golf season is critical to the success of the club. What you can take care of today will help tomorrow. Be vigilant as a Superintendent, know your course and know your policies and procedures. Now is the time, act accordingly. **ON COURSE**

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