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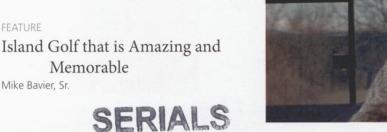
Mike Werth ♥ @werthashot (608) 214–7011 mwerth@advancedturf.com

February 2020 Vol. 73 No.8



front cover

The walking and cart path at Brautarholt Golf Club in Iceland. Mike Bavier retells his travels this past December visiting golf courses in Iceland and Greenland.



Orion Dave Ward

FEB 20 2020

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One of the more common mammals around, the groundhog is a member of the squirrel family that dig burrows for their homes. Most people think of this rodent each second day in Februrary when the movie Groundhog Day seems to play over and over again. Kati Bernardy tells their story in Nature of the Game.

03 **Director's Column** Conrad Pannkuk

FEATURE

Mike Bavier, Sr.

- 07 The Bull Sheet John Gurke
- 20 Nature of the Game Kati Bernardy and Dave Ward

2020 UPCOMING MIDWEST EVENTS

Midwest Assistant Winter Workshop at the ITF Turf Conference,

February 18, SeatGeek Stadium

Midwest April Meeting: Merit Club, John Nelson

Midwest/ITF May Play Day, May 18, Idlewild Country 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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Conrad Pannkuk

Class C Kick Off

The winter season has changed for me over the last few years. They used to be filled with the stress of starting a new semester of classes while traveling to the STMA and GCSAA conferences and trying to not fall behind. Now they have turned into a time to rest, relax, and reflect on the previous golf season.

As I reflect this year, I keep telling myself I want to be better. It is very easy to get caught up in life with the profession we are in and sometimes we might feel like we are coasting and riding the waves of life. I would say that this is how I felt most of this year entering a new personal relationship, balancing that relationship with work, and of course I cannot forget the weather. That was quite the roller coaster ride this year. Throughout all of this I have realized that I want and need to be better in my role of representing the assistants for MAGCS. For this upcoming year I would like to create more events for assistants and reach out to those assistants that I do not know and

I know that I will not be able to do this alone and I cannot make people want to be involved.

conference. Our main speaker this year will be Carlos Arraya from Bellerive Country Club in St. Louis, MO. I have heard Carlos speak a couple different times and he is very engaging and collaborative. He will be giving a presentation that will be centered around hiring, developing, and retaining employees. I felt like this would be a good topic with all of the current labor struggles. Luke Braun will round out the afternoon as he speaks about the transition from being an Assistant to Golf Course Superintendent at Flossmoor Golf Club. His talk will focus on what

ask them to get involved. I know that I will not be able to do this alone and I cannot make people want to be involved. But please, if you do want to be involved, please reach out to me. I welcome any feedback or ideas from other assistants on what they want for meet ups, education or any other ideas out there.

For this year we are combining our assistant workshop with the ITF conference. We will have education available for just assistants during the afternoon of the



to expect in the first 30, 60, or 90 days and what the change feels like from making the jump to the superintendent role.

If there are any other ideas for education or interest in hosting something at your course or club, please reach out to me at cpannkuk@wynstone.org

ISLAND GOLF That's Amazing and Memorable

Mike Baiver, Retired CGCS

PHOTO CREDITS: MIKE AND MARY BAIVER

ICELAND – an island that is the most sparsely populated country in Europe. GREENLAND – the largest island on earth that is not a continent. One might ask – how are these two islands different? One answer is Greenland is ice, and Iceland is green -- One might ask - what do these two islands have in common? One answer is – memorable and amazing golf courses.

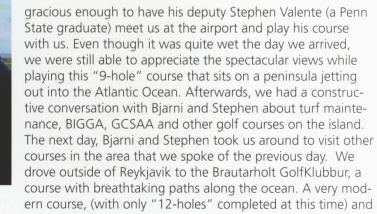
My wife and I love to travel, and we especially like to visit adventurous and unique places, which quite often includes visiting or playing interesting golf courses. Greenland was on our bucket list, and we found a cruise that included two stops in Iceland and three stops in Greenland.

Our journey started in Reykjavik in late summer, which (as a bonus) meant we had a slight chance of seeing the Northern Lights which are typically visible in the winter months. Playing golf is not always possible during the winter season. However, golf is usually available almost 24 hours a day during the long sunlit days of summer.

Before we departed for Iceland, we contacted Bjarni Hannesson, (an Iceland native and a very respected superintendent/ agronomist/consultant on the island) who is the superintendent at the "9-hole" Ness Golf Club. Bjarni, like most superintendents had duties already planned for the day, but was



One of the latest pieces of equipment used in Iceland is a robotic rough mower.





Stephen Valente, Bjarni Hannesson and Mike at Ness Golf Club



The maintenance shop at Reykjavik Golf Club is underneath the clubhouse.

with all the latest golf course maintenance equipment. Our next stop that day was at Golfklubbur Reykavikur (the "27hole" Reykjavik Golf Club) the oldest and largest golf club in Iceland. Here we had a chance to try some Icelandic food for lunch and later chatted with Holmar Christiansson, the head greenkeeper, (also a Penn State graduate). We then set out to see the Test Plots nearby the Reykjavik Golf Club where Bjarni was testing different varieties of grasses that may be more suitable for their local climate.

Another special course on the island is the Keilir Golf Club. The uniqueness of this course is exemplified by having the front "9-holes" being played over lava, and the back "9-holes" played on a peninsula at the entrance of the harbor. Both 9s offer exceptional views and are challenging to play. Whether you have the opportunity to play the Keiler Golf Club or not, I think that this course is certainly worth the visit to experience its uniqueness of the course layout and the beautiful views.

There are currently 15 "18-hole" courses and 46 "9-hole" courses on the island. The courses in Iceland truly have beautiful landscape, and the Icelanders young and old, love and enjoy the outdoors. So much so... that GOLF has become the 2nd most popular sport on the island. We wish we had time to experience more of them.



Test plots of turf at Reykjavik Golf Club.

After several days in Iceland, we continued our voyage across the Denmark Strait, and travelled to the eastern coast of Greenland. We then made our way through the southern part of Greenland, travelling through the Prince Christian Sound. Here, heads of glaciers calve form-



Mike at the Nuuk Golf Club

ing icebergs that emptied into the waterways. There is only one settlement amongst the fjord system, and it is surrounded by steep mountains and glaciers within the sound. This small settlement has just over a hundred inhabitants and is only accessible by boat or seaplane. After leaving the sound, we continued our journey north towards Nuuk, stopping at two larger towns with populations from 1,500 to 3,000. Since there are no roads connecting the towns, travel is a bit more difficult for the natives. Unfortunately for golf fans, there are no golf courses to be found in any of these small harbor towns.

Our last stop was to Nuuk, the capital of Greenland. Nuuk is the largest city in Greenland and has a population of 18,000. Most of the nearly 56,000 residents of Greenland live in this city. It has an international airport, beautiful downtown, and as you may expect, is home to one of the two golf courses that are in Greenland. We checked the city maps and were able to locate the Nuuk course in the outskirts. So, we took a taxi out of town to see what this very remote course had to offer. Unfortunately, the course was closed the day we ar-



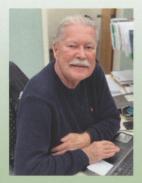
The first hole at Nuuk Golf Club.

rived. With our significant efforts to get there, we gladly took the opportunity to walk most of the course. It is a "9-hole", par 33 course with one par five. The Nuuk Golfklub is the only course in the world where you can play on arctic grass, which covers its fairways and greens. Greenland's landscape

continued on page 16 ...

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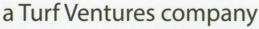


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FBullSheet



FEB 20

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 18-19 – TURF Conference 2020 presented by the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation at Toyota Park in Bridgeview, IL (18th) and Panther Creek Country Club in Springfield, IL (19th).

February 18 – MAGCS Annual Assistant Winter Workshop at SeatGeek Stadium (Toyota Park) in Bridgeview, IL.

February 25 – Dog Day at Medinah Country Club, Steve Cook to host.

February 27 – CAGCS Shop Tour: Bridges of Poplar Creek and Medinah CC (cagcs.org for details)

Thank you to all our HOSPITALITY RECEPTION SPONSORS The evening was a tremendous success! Look for our write up next month in On Course.



ORLANDO 2020 THANK YOU Golden Tee Club Ahoy polloi, and a warm welcome to our newest MAGCS members, who are:

James Cameron, Class A, White Eagle Golf Club Doug Eggert, Class A, Sanctuary Golf Course John Kramer, Class DT, FP of DuPage County

Congratulations to the great state of Illinois—the latest state to publish Best Management Practices (BMP's) for golf courses. The long-time-in-the-making document was a collaborative effort of the five GCS chapters in Illinois, along with the Illinois EPA, Illinois

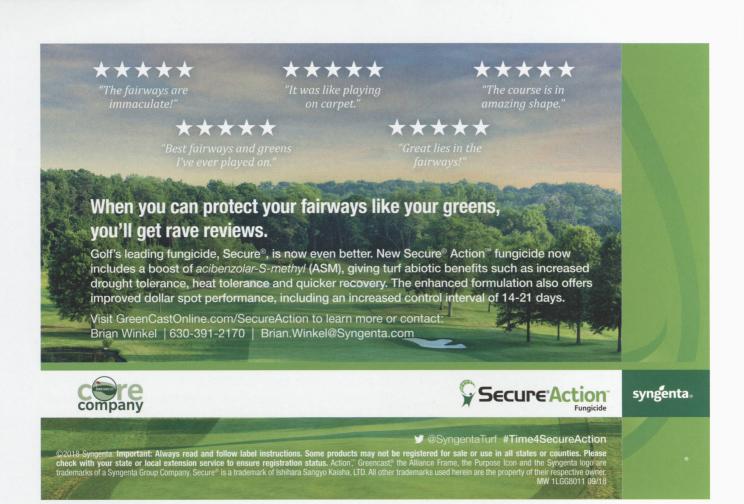
Department of Natural Resources, University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, Chicago District Golf Association, IPM Institute of North America, North Central IPM Center, and the USDA. Special thanks go to the steering committee which included MAGCS members Luke Cella (committee chairman), Don Altman, Dan Dinelli, Mark Kosbab, and Andy Morris. The committee also included Matt Dutkiewicz of Ingersoll GC in Rockford, John Kueper, executive director of the Southern Illinois GCSA in Carlyle, Steve Leach from Gateway National Golf Links in Madison, Alex Stuedemann of TPC Deer Run in Silvis, Jeff Szymonik from Pinecrest GC in Huntley, and Greg Willman from Panther Creek GC in



Springfield. Great work, gentlemen! You can find "Best Management Practices for Golf in Illinois" at www.gcsaa.org/bmp.

Our sympathies go out to MAGCS members **Kevin DeRoo, Danny Quast** and **Aaron Reinhart**. Kevin's father Frank DeRoo passed away in late December, and Aaron's dad died on January 11th. Danny's wife Beverly Quast passed on January 12th in their winter home of Ft. Myers, FL. Please keep these families in your prayers.

We wish all the best for Justin VanLanduit, who has retired from Briarwood Country Club and the golf business to pursue other, more important interests. Justin's crew threw a going-away party for him last month, where they presented him with their very own





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8 |S|COURSE 02/20

.....Bull Sheet from page 7.

rendition of the "Turf Tank," which they welded together from miscellaneous shop parts. Fare thee well, Justin!



JustinVanLanduit and his crew wish him well.

Another MAGCS member recently changed jobs as well (though not as drastically as VanLanduit). Mike Mumper, formerly with SePRO is our new North Central Sales Manager for Sipcam Agro USA. Congrats, Mike, and good luck in our new role.



February's "Clavin-ism:"

Did you know—it's a little-known fact—that, while drones have many beneficial uses on the golf course, they are not allowed to be used during play to fly ahead and check out green contours and pin positions. They're not! Under Rule 4.3a, which covers equipment that reduces the need for skill or judgment essential to the game, sending your drone on a reconnaissance mission is forbidden, and would cost you two strokes in stroke play, or loos of hole in match play.

Our golf world lost a true legend last month on January 9th. Pete Dye, a past president and fellow of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 1995 Donald Ross Award winner and 2003 Old Tom Morris Award winner, passed away at the age of 94. A list of his most famous courses includes Harbor Town Golf Links, TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course, The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island, PGA West, Palm Desert, and Whistling Straits to name but a few. Mr. Dye's wife Alice, who passed last year at 91 years old, was also a golf course architect, as are their two sons, P.B. and Perry Dye.

Flossmoor Country Club, which was purchased by 1899 Golf Group—a four-person partnership—will re-open this March as Flossmoor Golf Club, remaining a private club. The club is one of the Chicago area's oldest, opening its Herbert J. Tweedie-designed course in 1899.



Flossmoor Country Club is now Flossmoor Golf Club.

Well, the numbers are tabulated, and they don't paint a pretty picture. The past decade is unofficially the hottest on record, and 2019 was the second warmest year on record. These were just a couple of the findings reported in the Genevabased World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) report launched at a climate summit in Spain. Also among the report's findings were that global hunger is on the rise after a steady decline in the previous decade. Have a nice day!

Here's a little ray of sunshine for our industry as reported by tacorelish.com in its "The Baby Boomer Generation Still Thinks These Things Are Cool" feature—They love playing golf. To paraphrase: The 60-somethings enjoy this non-endurance sport, pretending to take it seriously while conducting business on the course. AND they're living longer, which is nice.

Q: What is the best-selling energy drink at **Brian Bromann's** club?

A: Red Bull Valley.

Justin Prescott, the equipment technician at Kenosha Country Club, is having a great winter. Justin was named a 2020 Melrose Equipment Management Experience winner, AND has completed both Level 1 and Level 2 of GCSAA's Equipment Management Certificate Programs, making him the first Equipment Manager in Wisconsin to complete Level2. Congratulations Justin!



George O'Hara has a famous daughter! Nikki O'Hara was prominently featured in the January 28th Aurora Beacon-News article titled "State Honors Downtown Aurora's Endiro Coffee." Nikki is the general manager of the coffeehouse on New York Street in Aurora which was named one of five New Makers in the Illinois Made program, a promotional campaign that focuses on local, unique, off-the-beaten-path experiences

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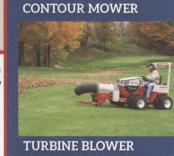
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.....Bull Sheet from page 9.

throughout the state. How many copies of that newspaper did you buy, George??

In a unique juxtaposition of "golf lists," Golf Magazine recently came out with its "11 Toughest Tee Times in the World to Get" around the same time Golfweek came out with its "Best Courses You Can Play." For our area, these were the Best Courses You Can Play (meaning open to the public): Cog Hill No. 4, Highlands of Elgin, Thunderhawk, Stonewall Orchard, Preserve at Oak Meadows, Mt. Prospect, Mistwood, Ravisloe, Bowes Creek, The Glen Club and Pine Meadow. Conversely, the Chicagoland area had one course on the Toughest Tee Time To Get list—Chicago Golf Club, with a #5 ranking, joining the likes of Cypress Point, Muirfield, National Golf Links, Fishers Island and Seminole.



JT and one of his toys.

No, John Turner did not shrink—his toys are just really big. JT finished this radio-controlled glider with a functional rudder and elevator and a nearly 100-inch wingspan over the holidays after it had sat in its box on a shelf for over 20 years. Getting it airborne is much like a real glider—you tow it behind a motorized RC airplane and release it in flight. Who'da thunk?

OK, why not? Dogs can't operate MRI scanners. But catscan.

There may be hope for glyphosate yet. The EPA and Justice Department in December said a federal appeals court should reverse the lower court verdict finding Bayer AG liable in the case of a California man who blamed its RoundUp weed killer for his cancer. The government said that glyphosate is not a carcinogen and as a result a warning on the label was not required as California state law demands. More to come I'm sure.

Sad news recently, when Neil Peart, the world-renowned drummer for Rush died at 68 years young. Or did he?

Is Jeff Hoste actually Neil Peart? OR...Good grief! I'm so confused!

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Jeff Hoste or Neil Peart, or could it just be another loveable blockhead?

Great news! You will not be getting any more of those annoying sales calls from Southern Golf Flags! They were acquired by WIttek Golf, so now those annoying calls will come from Wittek instead. Woo hoo!

Golf witticism of the month (from Winston Churchill): "Golf is a game whose aim is to hit a very small ball into an even smaller hole, with weapons singularly ill-designed for the purpose."

Well the Weadges tried their best—they got the gear and travelled all the way to Pasadena to cheer on their favorite college football team in the Granddaddy of them All—The

Rose Bowl. Heck, they even got to go down on the field and spread lucky fairy dust on the grass before the game. But in the end, their vicious pack of badgers was beaten by a bunch of Ducks. Waterfowl.

The third and



Andy and Wendy Weadge at the Rose Bowl.

final phase of renovation work at Schaumburg Golf Club is completed, and all 27 holes will be open for play come spring. Lohmann Quitno GCA, Inc. architect Todd Quitno has finished his project, with playing surfaces being re-grassed, greens rebuilt, new tees introduced, and the re-establishment of several elements of William Boice Langford's original 1928 layout. Superintendent Shane Ritchie reports that the improved turfgrass varieties, including Pure Distinction greens and Crystal Blue Links tees and fairways are already showing greater consistency and improved playability despite two consecutive wet seasons. Looking forward to my invite to play there...

Bull Sheet continued on 12 ...

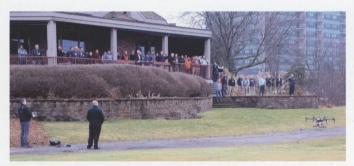
HUGE thanks to everyone who participated in and donated to the MAGCS Wee One Auction last month at Seven Bridges Golf Club. At the end of the day, over \$44,000 was raised for the Wee One Foundation! And congratulations to Jeff Leuzinger on earning the most coveted title of all—the Great Chili Cook-off winner! Thanks to Don Ferreri, Dave Gelino, Adam Charters and Seven Bridges for hosting the event and doing their usual outstanding job of accommodating us.

Equipment For Sale:

Urbana Country Club has the following items for sale:

2008 Smithco 1000 Sprayer in great condition with 1450 hours; 100-gallon tank with Raven controller--\$7,500 OBO.

2014 Jacobsen LF-1800 with newer reels and roller brushes; 2,800 hours. Also available as a parts machine is a second unit, 2012 model with 2,600 hours, no reels and a bad traction unit--\$2,000 buys both. To make an offer or learn more, call Scott White at 815-302-4834



Michael Furgeson and David Plummer of Aerial Influence started the education with a demonstration of one of their drones that can spray.



An anonymous buyer bought the winning ticket for the \$1,000 raffle and gifted it back to the Wee One. Thanks to CS Turf and Lemont Paving for sponsoring the raffle. Maybe one of these people did it?



Justin Kirtland (I) samples some of the delicious chili, and (r) the winning chef by popular choice - Jeff Leuzinger.



Brian Trifilio purchases a raffle ticket from Kendra.



Craig Shepherd and Craig Smith, Don Ferreri and Jan Jarvis

Craig Kight (I) and Paul Yerkes during one of the breaks in the morning education.





(I) Doug Myslinski and John Anderson. (r) Scott Witte donated an evening at Cantigny Gardens that was so popular, we sold two!

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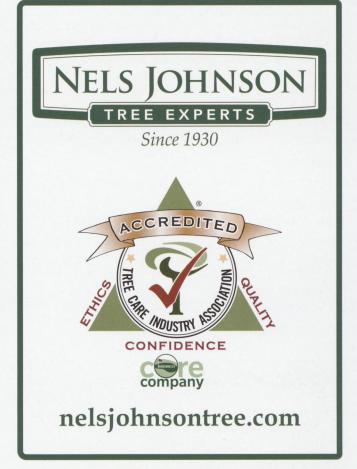
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Betelgeuse Update

Orion - The Golf Course Superintendent's Constellation

Dave Ward, Coyote Run Golf Course

PHOTO CREDITS: VARIOUS

Last year's *On Course* article about Orion pointed out that Betelgeuse, one of the most prominent stars in that constellation, could explode into a supernova at any time...in the next million years or so. Nonetheless it would be quite an explosion.

A red supergiant, Betelgeuse is about twenty times more massive and with a radius nine hundred time that of the sun. At the time the article was written, Betelgeuse, about six hundred and forty light years from earth, was reliably the eighth brightest star in the night sky. But in October 2019, it started to rapidly dim to about half of its original brightness and is now only the twenty-first brightest star. While not certain, its diming may be an indication that it has burned through most of its hydrogen fuel and its core is about to collapse causing it to explode into a supernova.



Betelgeuse is the star that marks Orion's right shoulder.

Although Betelgeuse has never darkened this much, it is a variable star known for fluctuations in brightness. There are several possible explanations the extreme dimming. As stars rotate, hotter and brighter parts of its surface rotate in and out of view. The dimming might not be the star itself, but rather clouds of gas and dust obscuring the light or it may be an accentuated phase of its normal dimming cycle. While most astronomers believe that Betelgeuse is displaying a dimmer appearance because of the interesting stellar physics mentioned above, they also agree that an explosion in our lifetime is still possible. It is well worth it to look up and find the dimming star in the night sky. Even if it is in a pre-explosion phase, it's exciting to watch the star now as it dims. The evolution of stars usually happens so slow it is impossible to observe. Most view the phenomenon as a once in a lifetime event.

The year 1604 was the last time our species witnessed a supernova located within our own galaxy visible to the naked - eye. A new point of light in the sky suddenly appeared, brightened, and briefly outshone every other single star before slowly fading away. This was not the first such event. Earlier supernovae had illuminated Earth's skies like this in 1572, 1054, 1006, and before.

When Betelgeuse does go supernova, its brightness would spike by a factor of seven thousand, becoming the brightest star or planet in the night sky. After about ten days, it would become about as bright as the full moon and would be visible during daylight. For at least two months, Betelgeuse would retain its supernova brightness, and then gradually dim over the next year or two until it fades out of existence and Orion, sadly, loses his left shoulder.

Humans have been watching the heavens since we first evolved. Although our ancestors have observed supernovae in the past, none would have been as large and bright as Betelgeuse promises to be. Chances are remote that it will happen in our lifetimes – actually, Betelgeuse may have already gone supernova, but because it takes six hundred and forty years for its light to reach the earth, we are now just seeing it as it looked in the Middle Ages. If it does go supernova, it will become the biggest story of our lifetimes. Perhaps experiencing a supernova might even change how humanity conceives of itself, helping us realize that we are just an infinitesimal part of an infinite universe. WORTH THE SWITCH



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...Island Golf continued ..



The walking path to the first hole at Nuuk Golfklub.

makes it mostly ill-suited for golf, and is the reason why there are only two golf courses on the entire island. This is one of the most unique golf courses that we have visited, and surely would be a very memorable one to play.

The only other course in Greenland is located north of the Arctic Circle, and is known as the Uummannaq course. The course layout can change daily depending on the winds and sea. This course is on a glacier and is where the World Ice Golf Championship takes place, but only when the weather is conducive, and the sea and ice conditions are safe. Our "arctic" golf course adventures ended here. Iceland



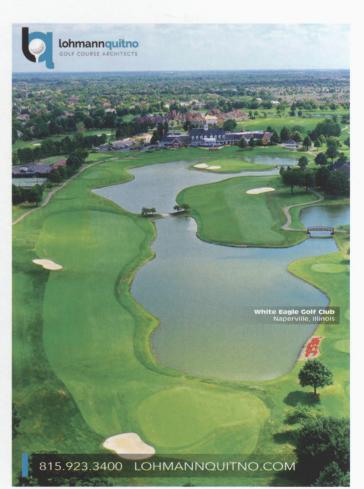
and Greenland provided us with memorable golf course experiences that were beyond our expectations. We're putting both of them back on our Bucket List, with the hopes that someday we may return.

The green tufts on the tee sign is artic grass. Nuuk is the golf course where you can play on it. The driving range below.



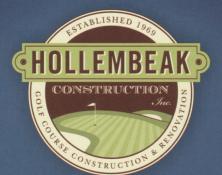


The putting green is also a sun dial hence the term putting clock.



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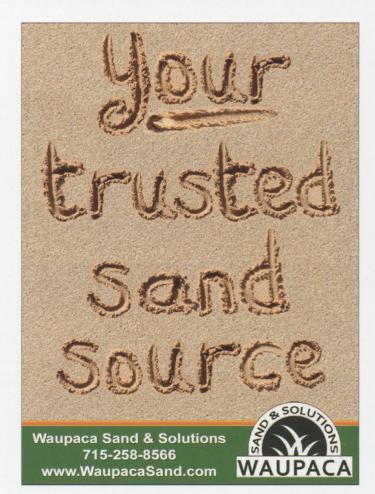
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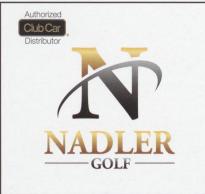
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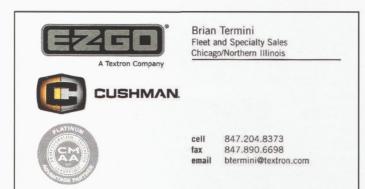
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SHORI



Kati Bernardy and Dave Ward

Marmota Monax Groundhog, Woodchuck, Whisstle Pig, Thickwood Badger

February 2nd is traditionally a day to celebrate the presence or absence of the shadow of a groundhog, also known as Groundhog Day. A yearly celebration takes place in rural Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, with a captive groundhog named Phil. The theory is that if Phil sees his shadow after emerging from hibernation, winter will last another six weeks. If he does not see his shadow, there will be an early spring. This event dates to the 1800s and is still popular today with thousands of people traveling to Punxsutawney to witness the event and partake the activities involved. The festivities are covered by local news stations across the nation and of course is the theme of the classic Bill Murray movie, Groundhog Day.

Groundhogs are native to the Northeastern Unites States, Canada, and their habitat extends all the way into southern Alaska. Typically, groundhogs are found on forest edges, fields, hedgerows, residential areas, agricultural properties and



ANDREYOSTR CC BY-SA 3.0

Marmota monax range map.

golf courses. This Illinois native is the largest species of the squirrel family averaging about 13 pounds. They have short bushy tails and their pelage varies in color including black, brown, gray, and white tipped hair. They have round ears which also serve as protection from dirt while digging.

Groundhogs are not social animals and are very territorial.

They spend their summers eating 2-3 very large meals; they can eat up to 1/3 of their entire body weight a day. Their diet consists of almost any green vegetation, fruits, bark, twigs and insects. Groundhogs dig extensive dens that can extend 66 feet with several entrances, exits, and levels, sometimes excavating up to 700 pounds of dirt. Since they are extremely slow animals, only capable of reaching about 8 miles per hour, they will also create several escape holes in their dens to keep safe from predators. Some of these predators include foxes, coyotes, hawks, black bears and snakes. Groundhogs establish territory via scent glands and communicate by whistling or screeching, hence the common name whistle pig. During hibernation, the groundhog's heart rate drops from about 80 beats per minute to 5, body temperature drops from 99 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit, and they only take about two breaths per

minute. As a result, they preserve most of their body weight during hibernation. Although not social animals, they are polygynous. After emerging from hibernation, groundhogs mate in



Groundhogs will whistle to alarm other groundhogs of danger.

the spring. Gestation takes 31-32 days and an average litter is 4-5 pups, but can be as high as nine. After two months the pups leaves and are on their own. They will reproduce at 1-2 years of age.

Like most members of the ecosystem, groundhogs can have a positive and negative effect on their environment. Their old or abandoned dens can be use by other animals including rabbits, foxes, skunks, and voles but they are also host to some parasite species including rabies, ricks, flies, lice, etc. Their burrowing can be a nuisance destroying residential, agricultural, and recreational properties. Burrows can also damage equipment, livestock, and undermine foundations. Groundhogs are used in medical research to help understand and to help find solutions for hepatitis B, obesity, endocrine disorders, and much more.

So how accurate are the groundhog's predictions of the arrival of spring? Punxsutawney Phil is only correct 39% of the time. Flipping a coin would be more reliable. A superintendent would be foolish to base a schedule on Punxsutawney Phil's annual prediction, but it is still fun every year to watch the movie, enjoy the spectacle and pray for a cloudy Groundhog Day and an early spring.



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