tainable, having been onsite at CGC for more than a century. In addition, many of the unmowed rough areas at CGC are playable, that is, the plant growth in the roughs is open, allowing golfers to locate and strike errant shots that end up in these areas.

An ongoing study

Thus, the overall goal of this study is to not only identify grasses that can be planted successfully in Midwestern unmowed rough areas, but those that can also create a playable rough from which errant shots can be located and struck. We have established four objectives to reach this overall goal.

Study Status

The first objective of this work was to identify the native grasses and forbs extant in the unmowed roughs at Chicago Golf Club. On August 20, 2003, plant taxonomist Ken Robertson, along with Randy Kane, Doug Pool, Lee Miller and I, toured Chicago Golf Club with superintendent Jon Jennings. While some of the grasses present in the roughs were exotic turf species, we identified sevnatives, including purple lovegrass (Eragrostis spectabilis), big bluestem (Andropogon gerardii) and old field panic grass (Dichanthelium acuminatum subsp. lindheimeri). Of greatest potential utility for playable unmowed roughs is purple lovegrass, a short (to 24"), warm-season species

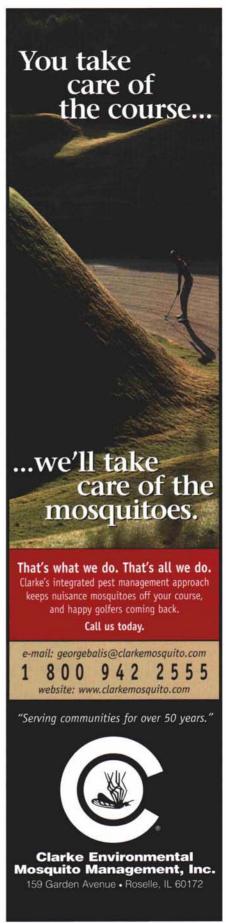
An ongoing study launched in 2003 aims to identify grasses best suited for planting in Midwestern naturalized areas that also afford a playable rough.

commonly occurring on dry sites. Its short height and attractive red-purple panicles in August make it a suitable grass for unmowed roughs.

Another objective of the work was to develop research plots at the Sunshine Course comprised of various turf, native and naturalized grasses (continued on page 13)



Fineleaf fescues (Festuca spp.) are attractive, but can mat down after flowering and often perform poorly in heavy, wet, compacted soils.



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TEL (847) 913-1414 FAX (847) 913-9690 currently grown in unmowed rough areas at Midwestern golf courses. To that end, several experiments and demonstrations have been planted at Midwest Golf House (Tables 1 and 2). Warm-season grasses, potentially suited to a playable unmowed rough, were planted in June 2003 (Table 1). All of the species in the study germinated, but only the blue grama and plugged purple lovegrasses have performed well. Plots primarily comprised of blue grama appear to be very well-suited to producing playable unmowed roughs and will be the main focus of this continuing project.

In anticipation of this project, in September 2002 we planted two fescues identified by Turf Seed Company to be tolerant of low levels of the nonselective herbicide Roundup.

We planted these grasses at several densities with the hopes of periodically using Roundup to reduce weeds in a playable thin stand of turf. The plots were treated with Roundup in the summer of 2003 and 2004, resulting in good weed control and without causing damage to the fescues. Unfortunately, in 2004 when golf balls were thrown into any of these plots, they were difficult to find and would be nearly impossible to hit out due to plant density. This was even the case in plots seeded at the lowest rates.

A third objective of this work was to develop a manual for golf course personnel that describes managing unmowed rough areas. We are presently developing a manual that (continued on page 14)

The study is generating recommendations on unmowed rough plant selection, establishment and management.

Table 1. Warm-season grasses planted to determine suitability for planting in unmowed roughs.						
PLOTS	SEEDING RATE IN G/50 FT2	APPROXIMATE # OF BUFFALO- GRASS BURS	APPROXIMATE # OF BLUE GRAMA SEEDS	APPROXIMATE # OF SIDE-OATS GRAMA SEEDS		
100% Buffalograss	45.4	5,600	0	0		
100% Blue grama	45.4	0	82,500	0		
25% Buffalograss/ 75% Blue grama	11.35/ 34.05	1,400	61,875	0		
50% Buffalograss/ 50% Blue grama	22.7/ 22.7	2,800	41,250	0		
75% Buffalograss/ 25% Blue grama	34.05/ 11.35	4,200	20,625	0		
25% Buffalograss/ 70% Blue grama/ 5% Side-oats grama	11.35/ 31.78/ 2.27	1,400	57,750	955		
45% Buffalograss/ 45% Blue grama/ 10% Side-oats grama	20.43/ 20.43/ 4.54	2,520	37,125	1,910		
70% Buffalograss/ 25% Blue grama/ 5% Side-oats grama	31.78/ 11.35/ 2.27	3,920	20,625	955		
100% Buffalograss + 12 Purple lovegrass	45.4	5,600	0	0		
100% Blue grama + 12 Purple lovegrass	45.4	0	82,500	0		
50% Buffalograss/ 50% Blue grama + 12 Purple lovegrass	22.7/ 22.7	2,800	41,250	0		

provides "cookbook" information about selecting, establishing and managing plants for unmowed roughs. This manual is to be based on this and previous field research, library research and a survey of Chicago-area superintendents currently managing naturalized and native unmowed roughs successfully.

This past winter, we surveyed Chicago-area superintendents to identify plants and establishment and management methods currently employed in their unmowed roughs; 90 surveys were sent to Class A and Class B members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents and 54 were returned. We are currently analyzing the survey responses; a copy of the survey and some preliminary responses appear at the end of this article (Table 3).

A fourth objective of this work was to host research field days at Midwest Golf House. In October 2003, approximately 15 turf industry professionals attended an informal open house at Midwest Golf House where research and demonstrations were displayed. On September 16, 2004, we hosted our first research field day at the Midwest Golf House site for interested golf course superintendents and others involved in the golf industry.

We expect that results of this project will benefit Midwestern golf courses in identifying plants suitable for native and naturalized sustainable roughs. It will also provide information about establishing and managing these areas. Additionally, we envision enhanced wildlife environments and more interesting golf. This project will deliver plant selection, establishment and management information for unmowed native and naturalized Midwestern golf course roughs, as well as educational and instructional opportunities generated by the research plots, Web site, field days, and planting manual. Moreover, it is anticipated that the research plots will generate data for additional articles in trade publications.



Table 2. Roundup tolerance study.

TURFGRASS	SEEDING RATE IN G/48 FT.2		
Aurora Gold Hard Fescue	10.9 g		
Aurora Gold Hard Fescue	21.7 g		
Aurora Gold Hard Fescue	43.5 g		
Aurora Gold Hard Fescue	87 g		
Aurora Gold Hard Fescue	87 g + 43.5 g Annual Ryegrass		
Tomahawk RT Tall Fescue	43.5 g		
Tomahawk RT Tall Fescue	87 g		
Tomahawk RT Tall Fescue	130.5 g		
Tomahawk RT Tall Fescue	130.5 g + 43 g Annual Ryegrass		

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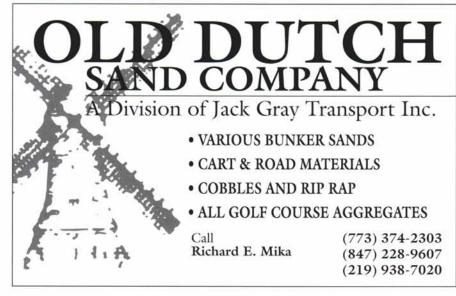


Table 3. Selected responses to 2005 MAGCS-GCSAA unmowed rough survey.

QUESTION	YES	No	Unsure
Is any part of your facility currently covered with unmowed grassy areas, wildflower plantings, meadows, or prairies?	47	7	0
In the near future, do you intend to expand your unmowed grassy areas, wildflower plantings, meadows, or prairies?		22	0
Were these unmowed areas part of your facility's original design?			
	15	25	5
Would you like to create unmowed grassy areas on your course?		9	0
Would you like assistance in creating unmowed grassy areas on your course?		14	0
Would you like to incorporate PLAYABLE unmowed grassy areas in your course(s)?	20	20	0
Do you fertilize your facility's unmowed grassy areas?		41	0
Do you mow your facility's unmowed grassy areas?		15	0

If the unmowed grassy areas were NOT part of your facility's original design, how were these areas established?

- just let the area grow (21)
- planted exotic grassy species (e.g., fine fescues) (3)
- planted native grasses species (e.g., little bluestem) (8)
- planted exotic grassy species and flowering plants (3)
- planted native grasses and flowering plants (15)
- other (3)

What were the biggest challenges you faced in converting to or installing unmowed grassy area(s)?

- weeds (27)
- slow establishment (10)
- golfer resistance (14)
- unkempt appearance (20)
- lack of plant or establishment process knowledge (4)
- other (1)

What are the biggest challenges associated with your unmowed grassy area(s)?

- weeds (35)
- golfer resistance (13)
- nuisance insects/wildlife (1)
- slow play (12)
- unkempt appearance (22)
- other (1)

What weeds most commonly occur in your unmowed grassy area(s)?

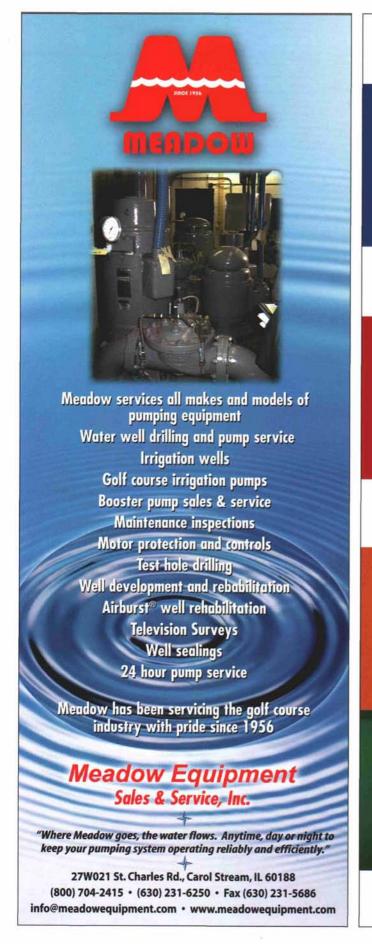
- Canada thistle (43)
- quackgrass (8)
- tall fescue (6)
- chicory (5)
- reed canary grass (6)
- unsure (6)
- white or yellow sweet clovers (20)
- giant reed (4)
- other (6)

How do you control weeds in your facility's unmowed grassy areas?

- spot-apply herbicides—please list herbicide(s), rates, and timing (28)
- broadcast-apply herbicides—please list herbicide(s), rates, and timing (8)
- hand pull or mechanically remove (25)
- other (0)

Do you burn your facility's unmowed grassy areas?

- we conduct burns in-house in the autumn (5)
- we contract burns in the autumn (1)
- we conduct burns in-house in the spring (24)
- we contract burns in the spring (0)



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Tony Kalina Prairie Landing Golf Club

Todd Schmitz -N-





Todd and wife Tina with their son, Aiden, and Todd's daughter, Tiffany.

Those of you with children have almost certainly heard them ask you, "Why did you do that?" Sometimes what seems clear or second-nature to us can be just the opposite for children. Often we do things just because it feels right—a "something- in-my-bones-tells-me-so" kind of thing, with no real explanation at all. Children don't have that sense or feeling. It has to develop over time. As children, we learn by emulating what we see and hear, mostly our parents. Todd Schmitz, our host superintendent when the Midwest Association of GCS visits Phillips Park Golf Course on the 13th of this month, is a case in point.

When Todd and his brothers were young, their father, Ray, would take his sons to work with him at Green Garden Country Club on weekends and evenings.

Working on golf courses has been in Todd's bones for a very long time. "It just feels right," says Todd. Todd comes from a family whose name is synonomous with golf. Todd is the eldest son of Jan and Ray Schmitz. Ray is a longstanding MAGCS member who served our Association as president in 1992. Ray has been a golf course superintendent since 1967. He retired briefly from Flossmoor Country Club in 2002, only to return to our profession at Frankfort Square Links in Frankfort Square, IL, in March of this year. The "Schmitz superintendent boys" don't stop with Ray and Todd. Mark Schmitz, Todd's youngest brother, is the golf course superintendent at The Meadows Golf Club in Blue Island, IL. That makes three supers in one family: one father, two sons. That doesn't happen often. Oh yeah, Todd's brother Andy is an electrical engineer who lives in Aurora. He probably plays more "enjoyable" golf than all the other Schmitzes combined. Maybe he has the time, too.

When Todd and his brothers were young, their father would take his sons to work with him at Green Garden Country Club on weekends and evenings. Ray was the superintendent there, and Todd recalls first "helping" his dad cut cups and move tee markers when he was six years old. "I felt that I was really helping Dad out when we went to work with him. We enjoyed riding around on the course, setting sprinklers, moving hoses, checking on things. It was a riot," Todd remembers. In actuality, Todd and his brothers, Mark and Andy, would just be horsing around, roughhousing, fighting with each other as one would expect three boys to do while their dad tended to things. "It was so much fun," Todd recalls.

Todd is a 1987 graduate of Joliet Junior College, with an associate's degree in business. In 1997, Todd completed the two-year turfgrass management certificate program at Rutgers University. He has served as an assistant golf course superintendent at Springbrook Golf Club, Naperbrook Golf Club, Prairie Landing Golf Club and Aurora Country Club before earning the (continued on page 18)

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opportunity to become the golf course superintendent within the Aurora Park District, at Fox Valley Golf Club in February 2002. In September of that year, Todd was reassigned as superintendent of Phillips Park G.C.

The origins of Phillips Park Golf Course trace back to 1920 when nine holes were first constructed on the hilly tract of land. In 1927, a "flat nine" was added to the original "hilly nine" to become an 18-hole layout. The original 60 acres for the park where the golf course is situated were donated to the city by the estate of Travis Phillips in 1899. Phillips had served as mayor and as an alderman in Aurora, and was also a downtown businessman of wealth and influence. Before deeding of the land, the area was known as "Sharp Shooters Park" because it offered a beer-drinking establishment, a gun-shooting range and vineyard. Try getting that business plan approved before any city planning committee nowadays!

The first of two renovations of

Phillips Park G.C. occurred in 1938 as part of the civil Works Project Administration (WPA). The WPA was funded by the U.S. government to ease the effects of area unemployment during the Great Depression. The cost of the 1938 renovation, which included regrading all greens, enlarging many tees and "rearranging traps to divide the fairways, and make playing at the park a little safer," was \$44,000. The course remained intact until the 1999 renovation.

The second renovation started



Phillips Park underwent a Greg Martin-crafted redesign in 1996. Here, hole no. 10.



The renovation resulted in a championship-caliber course playing 6,200 yards from the tips. Here, hole no. 5.

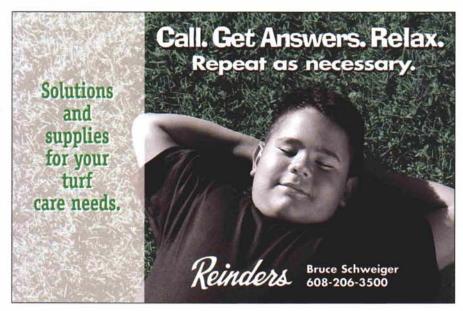
with the Aurora City Council's approval of a \$1.1-million land acquisition for further golf course expansion in 1996. The redesigned course was crafted by a hometown boy, Greg Martin, of Martin Golf Designs, Inc., and renovation work began in 1999. The new Phillips Park G.C. reopened on Saturday, July 14, 2001. The redesigned 18-hole course now encompasses "USGA" greens, a computerized irrigation system, larger greens, better overall drainage systems, strategically placed bunkers and water hazards, cart paths, a driving range and new clubhouse, as well as a three-hole Junior Course, resulting in a quality, championshipcaliber golf course. With three sets of tees, the golf course ranges from 4,760 yards to 6,200 yards, providing a wide range of challenge for varying abilities.

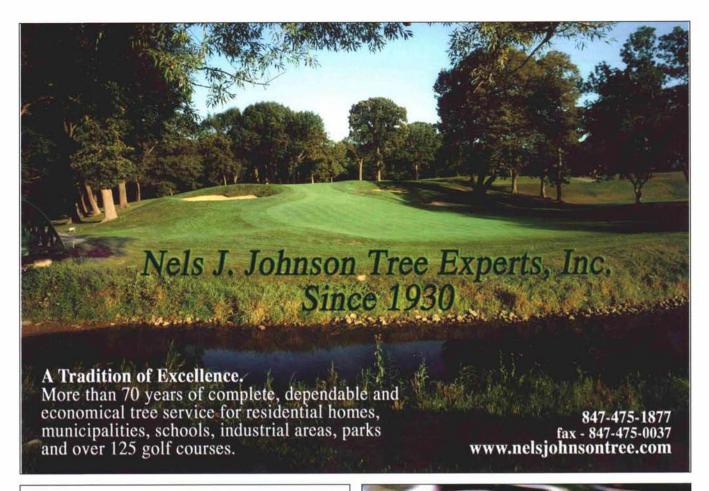
Todd lives in Aurora with his wife of 13 years, Tina. They have a four-year-old son, Aiden. Tiffany is Todd's oldest child. She is 18 years old and lives in Plano, TX. She is graduating from high school this month. In his spare time, Todd enjoys shooting pool, playing darts,

golf and listening to music. Todd was elected to the MAGCS Board of Directors in November 2004, and currently chairs the Advocacy and Compliance Committee.

As was the case in Todd's childhood, Todd now takes **his** son, Aiden, to "his" golf course to "help" pick the range and play golf. "I loved taking Tiffany, and now Aiden, to the golf course. It just feels so good, so right. It is a sheer joy," Todd explains. Doesn't that sound familiar? I think we may have a budding thirdgeneration Schmitz superintendent in the making. Just the way it happened to Todd. In his bones, indeed.







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