

When a Golf Course Superintendent takes on the task of a golf course renovation, one of the most studied and researched decisions is what varieties of grass to introduce. With television putting high expectations in the minds of most golfers, the decision about grass varieties is of major importance. The choice must insure that the grass can withstand demanding playing conditions. Rolling and mowing at lower heights than ever before puts a great deal of stress on any grass plant. One must be sure the grass selected can withstand the stress applied.

The chart below illustrates which grasses the surveyed superintendents chose for different areas of the golf course. Keep in mind, that growing conditions may differ due to many factors (sand/soil, trees, lakeside, etc.), but the overall growing region remains the same.

AREA	VARIETY	% CHOOSING THIS VARIETY
Greens	A Series (A1/A4)	98%
	G Series	2%
Tees	Penneagle/Pennlinks	75%
	Penncross	20%
	Others	5%
Fairways	Penneagle/Pennlinks	70%
	L-93	20%
	Others	10%

("Others" include *low mow blues* and other bentgrass varieties)

In the Chicagoland area, a Golf Course Superintendent managing a renovation can usually complete a project in eight to ten months. This of course is if the club is willing and able to close for the entire period. In some cases, closing the doors is not feasible or is simply unwanted. Doing a project in phases, so the golfers have minimal inconvenience, is an option, but it comes with side effects, most notably inconsistency.

More times than not, a common sense approach to any renovation project will help you achieve great results. Assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the existing golf course and determining if the proposed changes will solve those problems is a great starting point. A few stakes, some paint, and a creative imagination can help provide a clearer picture of the proposal.

The Chicagoland area boasts some of the greatest Golf Course Superintendents in the Nation. The information presented above is backed up by countless years of experience and knowledge in the turf grass industry. Whether you are planning a renovation or have completed a renovation, now you know how your decisions compare.. **-OC**

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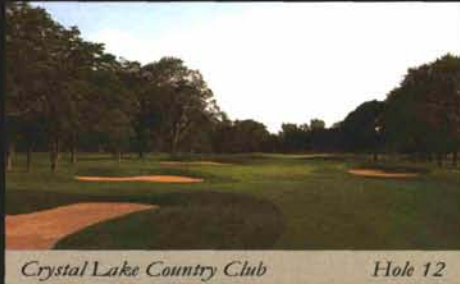
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MIDWEST BREEZES

Brad Anderson, CGCS, Associate Editor



Evanston Golf Club, Dan Charlton

Last fall Evanston Golf Club underwent a complete golf course overhaul. The rains that plagued the project really tested everyone's patience but the end product is extraordinary.

The greens were extended to the original 1920 Donald Ross fill pads, and seeded with A-1. Dan reports that the A-1 has performed even better than he expected during the first year. The maintenance practices for A-1 are very similar to the practices that were used on the older grasses, but hand-watering has become a thing of the past.

The remodeled bunkers were grassed with H&E's XL2000 low-mow bluegrass sod to provide a nicely manicured border that releases balls that fly into the grass faces. The steep grass faces are kept green throughout the heat of summer with hand watering every Monday. Additionally an application of 16/90 wetting-agent was applied to the grass faces in the spring to help water retention. The bunkers are hand mown with Robin Flymo's every Tuesday. Approximately 42 man-hours are required

to complete the mowing process. The time for watering and hand mowing the new bunkers is scheduled maintenance, whereas hundreds of unscheduled man-hours were required to rebuild and repair the older flashed sand bunkers after every rainstorm.

To visually disguise Evanston's flat topography the fairways were killed off, re-contoured, and seeded to Pennagle II and Pennlinks II.

The new fairway contours required new lateral fairway irrigation lines and this was a good time to upgrade to newer fairways heads. All new irrigation lines and heads were also added around the greens and tees.

The tees were seeded with T-1. The rootzone is 7-2-1 mix. They have performed well this first season in terms of divot recovery and wear patterns. **-OC**



Some great pictures of Dan Charlton's accomplishments at Evanston Golf Club.

Left: Tees were reconstructed with a 7-2-1 mix, seeded with T-1 and set a great visual for each hole's the starting point.

Middle: Fairways were re-contoured and seeded with Penneagle II and Pennlinks II to create more of a flowing feel when playing each golf hole.

Right: A stunning picture of the restored Ross greens with grass faced bunkering.

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The R.E.D. Zone

A Look at the Re-registration Eligibility Document

Before you read this article, answer these questions: Is chlorothalonil (Daconil®, Manicure®, Echo®, Docket®) important to your pest management regime? How about iprodione (26GT®, 18 Plus®)? Vinclozolin (Curalan®, Touché®)? Take your time now.

Your answers were probably, "Yeah, I use these, but what's the point?" or "Yes they are very important to me." Or perhaps you answered, "Yes, oh crap, that reminds me, I have to order more because I'm going to be spraying for snow mold soon."

Now answer this. How would your pest management regime be affected if these three active ingredients were to be taken away, never to be available again? What if they were gone? I would bet at least one of these active ingredients is important to you and how you control disease. I also think that not having them would affect your regime immensely.

A few years back, there were concerns with the use of chlorothalonil on turfgrass. There were questions about it being banned altogether. Chlorothalonil is one of the oldest fungicides around; it dates back to 1966. Given its long history, one wondered why the EPA would eliminate it. Why would they get rid of something so prevalent in the industry for disease control? Well, chlorothalonil is still around, and most of us have forgotten that there was ever a concern about losing this chemistry for good. But what happened then that changed the way we use chlorothalonil and other pesticides forever?

In 1988, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Roenticide Act (FIFRA) was amended by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to require review of the environmental and health affects of older, registered pesticides. In 1996, FIFRA was further amended by the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) to require all pesticides to meet new safety standards. This changed the way pesticides are evaluated in

relation to their health effects on infants, children, and other sensitive individuals. Under the act, a Re-registration Eligibility Document (R.E.D.) must be completed for every pesticide registered before November, 1984. It is up to patent holders to research and pay for the R.E.D. process, which can take years and millions of dollars to complete.

In the case of chlorothalonil, the R.E.D., which was completed in 1998, is a 337 page document. It is an extensive review of all the studies run by the product's patent holders. The document describes the product's effects on human health and the environment. Based on the R.E.D. findings, chlorothalonil is now restricted for use on home lawns. For golf course turf there is a cap on the total amount of product that can be used on an annual basis. Each treated area is different. For example, greens are 73 lb. ai/A per year, tees are 52 lb. ai/A per year, and fairways are 26 lb. ai/A per year. The cap further restricts use to a maximum of 7.3 lb. ai/acre per application. The minimum spray interval is seven days for 7.3 lb. ai/acre and 14 days for 11.3 lb. ai/acre. The total product application must fit beneath the seasonal cap. These

are the EPA's conclusions on the use of chlorothalonil on turf. The end result is not that detrimental. It could have been a lot worse, right?

Pesticides containing iprodione and vinclozolin were also on the EPA's chopping block. These chemistries underwent the same review process as chlorothalonil and have also been restricted.

Iprodione was first introduced in 1979 as a fungicide. Since then 21 iprodione products have been registered.



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The EPA issued a R.E.D. for iprodione on September 30, 1998.

For vinclozolin, on the other hand, a few more steps had to be taken to get the R.E.D. issued. The fungicide vinclozolin was introduced in 1981. A Data Call-In (DCI) or a "pesticide audit" was ordered in 1991. It required the patent holders to submit additional data on their product's residue chemistry, toxicity, environmental fate, and ecological effects. DCIs were also ordered in 1995 and 1996. These called for additional environmental, ecological, and post application information. With this added information, vinclozolin was finally ready for the R.E.D. process. On September 29, 2000, the EPA completed the R.E.D. for the use of vinclozolin on turf.

My point is that even though these chemistries have been around for years, it doesn't guarantee that they will be around in the future. We have to fight to keep them. In the case of PCNB, the EPA has decided that it is ineligible for re-registration for turf use. Because PCNB did not meet the health and ecological standards, EPA did open a public comment period. They extended the deadline date three times in order to give product users the opportunity to comment on the importance and use of PCNB. Did you comment? Oops. Many of these chemistries are very important to us in the turf industry. Some of us may be unaware that there were times when we could have lost them. There are companies out there doing their best to keep these products around. Some are also inventing new chemistries in case the old ones get the axe.

Like the re-registration process, the evaluation of new chemistries has been greatly affected by the Food Quality Act. The standards for registering a new chemical are similar to the R.E.D. process, but require even more research. The cost of introducing a new chemical is unbelievable. I'll save that topic for another article. **-OC**

This information and additional information is available at the Environmental Protection Agency website, www.epa.gov.

For further information contact:

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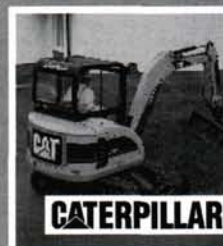
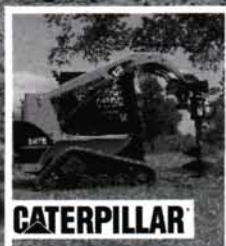
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No Dog Days this August

Did anyone have an ordinary summer? Usually it works the other way around, but it seemed that just after one of our thousand-foot deep wells failed, the rain started to fall. In our vicinity, we totaled around 13½" rain for August, with 7½" coming in one 24-hour span. A piece of equipment that was utilized most during the month was a 2-inch trash pump powered by a Honda engine. It truly worked flawlessly with minimal maintenance.

Another piece of equipment that got used to the extreme was the Toro 3020 Sandpro. Of the 42 bunkers on the property, 42 needed sand pushed somewhere or another. The dozer blade could only handle so much rain soaked/packed sand at each try, placing the real load on the system of the 3020. It held up and saved many man -hours in addition to many man backs.

There was a span of four days that the greens, approaches, and tees were not cut. Up to this point the greens were maintained at 0.125" with triplexes. I set up our walking greens mowers at 0.130" and by the time we were able to get out on the greens with them unbelievable scalping occurred, even on the sand greens. I ended up bumping up the height to 0.150" just to stop the scalping. It took all day to get the greens cut with two walkers. After every fourth pass the baskets had to be emptied by staff. Though we were able to mow greens, the majority of fairways and approaches were still sub-

mersed or just too soggy to transverse. Under normal circumstances, we drain fine as long as the north branch of the Chicago River (it borders to our north and west) is not cresting. This year it never seemed to crest.

On August 22, a Wednesday, came 80 mph winds and another 1½" of rain. Late in the afternoon, Mike Matchen (Golf Course Superintendent) phoned me and told me to park in the main lot at the clubhouse and "hoof it" to the shop in the morning. He explained at least one huge tree had blown over the service road that led to our maintenance facility.

The following morning, I arrived a little earlier than normal expecting a nice walk to the shop. Hah! Among the scattered trees, limbs, leaves, wastebaskets, and push carts, was the addition of small lakes and ponds that were not there the day before. I was not prepared with boots or flashlight, however my dog was having a great time rummaging and sniffing through all



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the debris. After 20 minutes of maneuvering, I arrived at the shop. Thankfully the building's external lights were on, which meant I could make coffee.

Mike arrived minutes later singing, "Mama said there would be days like this, there'd be days like this, mamma said". He also said there is only one word for today....which I will omit, I'm sure you can imagine one or two to fill the void.

As the starting time approached for the rest of the crew, I took the pick up truck up to closest point to the main lot to shuttle the men back to the shop. As the sun rose, the view became clearer. There was no way I had enough saw chain, bar oil, or 2-cycle mix on hand.

Once I was back at the shop, Mike, Rick, and I discussed preliminary game plans. The first priority was to clear the maintenance road. We would use the road to stage branches and tree limbs the length of its route. Two hours later, the road was passable. Next, the trash pumps went back out on the job.



Disregard all the work done to the bunkers the few days before. The sand was washed away again. As I took a ride out on the maintenance road I brought my camera and camcorder along. I was amazed by the mess. The only question that came to mind was where to start? How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time a wise woman told her children when they complained of too much home work. Well, we had one big 110-acre elephant on our hands.

By the next day, Friday the 24th, we all new this would be an endless week, right through the weekend and well into the



next week. Saturday morning I was given the task of purchasing three additional chainsaws and extras. After searching Lake County's various equipment dealers for nearly three hours I returned to the course with new artillery for timber at hand. Over the course of the week, I must have sharpened 35 chains saving the course \$300-\$350 in outside services. On a side note, we also went through 4 gallons of bar oil in just four days.

By Sunday the 26th, we were able to get out and start cleaning fairways with tractor mounted blowers. I got the opportunity to cut up some timber too. Under cutting logs averaging 30" in diameter with a 27" - 80cc chain saw was a great work out, but not when you do it once every 10 years. I couldn't raise my arms on Monday morning.



Five days later the water finally receded. With that, came the stench of which I had never experienced. I had no idea how bad dead, rotted turf could smell. Whew, did it stink.

Usually we are happy when it is the last week of August, but this year is different. We have all of our fall projects and tasks to begin: aeration, topdressing and others. I wonder what September will bring. Our crew of eleven worked diligently accruing many overtime hours on demand with no warning. Many thanks to the staff and all involved in this unscheduled turn of events.



Now as we experience the leaves falling, I wonder if the loss of nearly 80 trees back in August is noticed. I'll let you know. -OC



TECHNICAL TIP

Don Briggs, The Merit Club

The Magic of Heat

Subject:

Caster wheels for any number of manufactured mower decks.

Problem:

Removal of failed wheel bearing.

Solution:

When the bearings fail and the attempt to pull them out of the hub is almost impossible, try this full proof method. Take an old bolt-axle and weld the head directly to the inner race of the bearing. Don't be afraid to really load up a nice weld on two sides of bolt head.

Then carefully hold wheel assembly \ out in front of you and drop it square on the concrete floor. The bolt and bearing pop out together, forever.

It only took 5 minutes to knock out four sets of bearings.

I used the Toro 455D for example purposes only in this tech tip. Got a tip to share? Email it to luke@magcs.org with images if possible. -OC



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THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



October 2007

Hopefully you all received your electronic message from Luke Cella in mid-September with instructions for accessing the new and improved MAGCS web site (magcs.org). If this is not the case, please give Luke a call at 630-243-7900 or email him at luke@magcs.org. He'll set you straight.

Also, congratulations to Luke and the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents on their new "partnership." Luke's namesake Cella Solutions, Inc. has been retained to manage and oversee the day to day operations of CAGCS, including billing, web site renovation, and meeting arrangements. All CAGCS correspondence should now be directed to the following address: Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Midwest Golf House, 11855 Archer Ave., Lemont, IL 60439.

And further congratulations are in order for **Dave Blomquist, CGCS** who, as of September 13th, is the new Product Support Specialist for the Knox Fertilizer Company's Shaw's Plant Food line of professional products in the Chicagoland market. Best of luck in your exciting career move, Dave.

Big thanks to September's selfless host superintendents of the various events and outings. On the 17th **Larry Flament** and Stonewall Orchard Golf Club held the Annual MAGCS Championship. On the 24th it was Rod Johnson, CGCS and Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, Wisconsin holding the Annual Wee One Foundation's golf outing, followed by **Fred Behnke, CGCS** and Mt. Prospect Golf Club taking on the 20th Annual John Deere Team Championship on the 27th. So many events, so little time. Here's hoping you were able to make it to any of these great events and show your appreciation to their fine hosts. Thanks, guys!

Let's talk a little FedEx Cup. First, hats off to **Ken Lapp** and the staff at Cog Hill for another excellent presentation. After all the inclement weather in August, it was nothing short of miraculous to have the course in such great condition for the BMW Championship. The following week's Tour Championship and FedEx final at Eastlake Golf Club in Atlanta had a Shakespearean theme to it as all the pre-tournament press about the greens turned out to be "Much Ado About Nothing." This thing took on a life of its own, with GCSAA and Golf Course Industry magazine both sending out emails urging our support of superintendent Ralph Kepple, CGCS; and even going so far as to include a

(continued on page 22)

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 2 – MAGCS/ITF Fall Golf Day and College Championship at Prairie Bluff Golf Club in Lockport, IL, **Ken Shepherd** host.

October 2 – Member registration opens for the 2008 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FL from January 28 through February 2.

October 15 – Deadline for nominations for GCSAA's 2008 Excellence in Government Relations Awards.

November 7 – 55th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club, **Tom Lively, CGCS** host.

November 15 – Signup deadline for the Audubon Green Golfer Challenge. More follows.

November 17 – MAGCS Annual Fall Dinner Dance at Eaglewood Resort in Itasca, IL, Kristi and **Ben Exline** hosts.

December 5 – 7 – Illinois Professional Turf Conference (IPTC) at the Pheasant Run resort in St. Charles, IL.