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The sun comes up at Geneva Golf Club, host of the MAGCS scholarship outing later this month.

FRONT COVER

The 5th at Geneva Golf Club, a 156 yard par three is uphill and a forced carry over a several steep faced bunkers.

Photo Credit: Luke Cella

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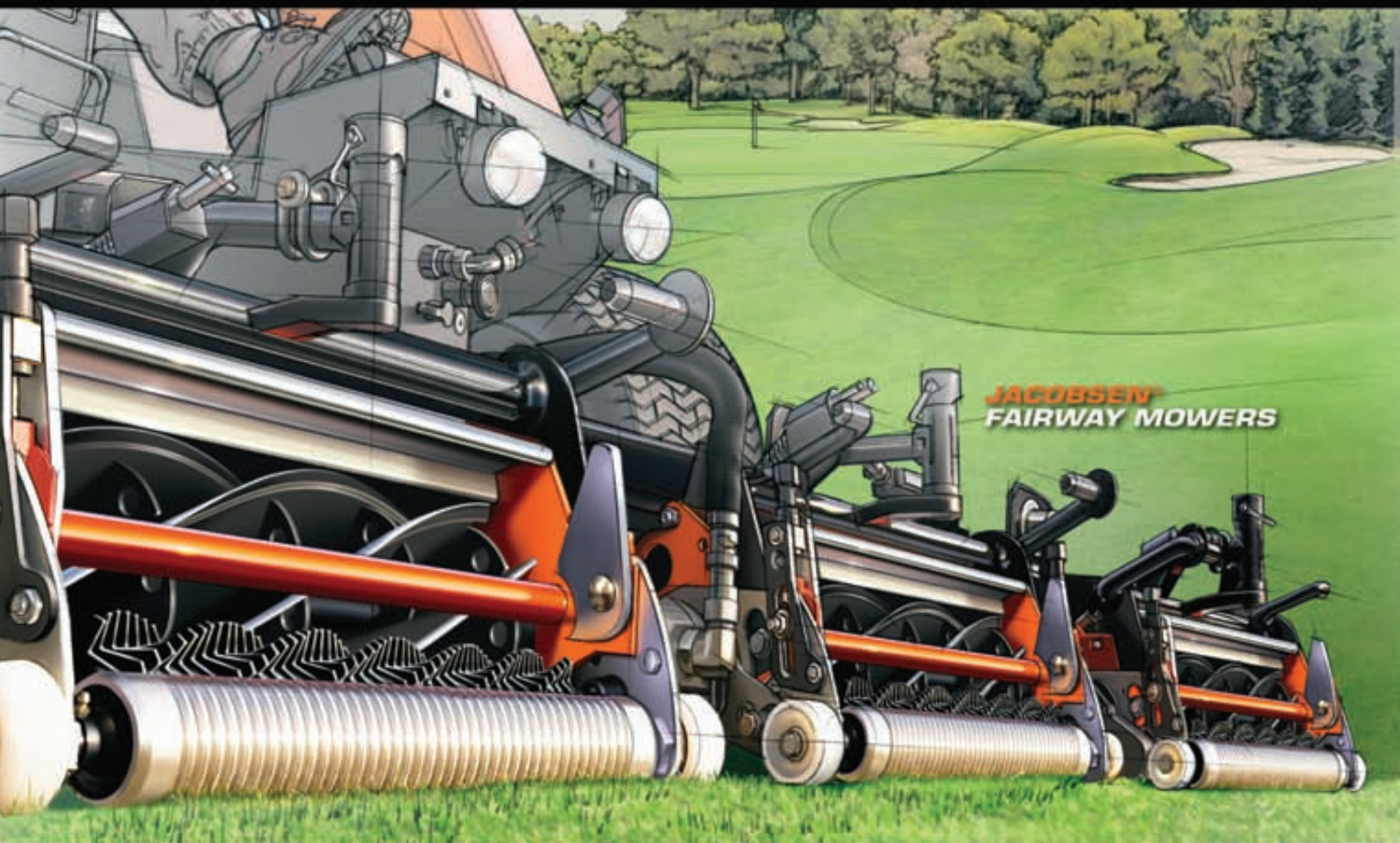


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The MAGCS member is also an environmental steward. We strive to uphold and enhance our surroundings by promoting flora and fauna in every facet in a manner that is beneficial to the general public now and in the future.

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Harry Lovero, Orchard Valley Golf Course



Paul N. Voykin

I had the distinct pleasure to play golf with Mr. Paul Voykin, seventy-seven years young, long time superintendent at the Briarwood Country Club in the Pro/Superintendent at Lincolnshire Country Club on the 1st of May 2008. My Pro Tom Tierney and I were paired with Mr. Voykin and his golf professional of twenty-one years Randy Cochran.

After we teed off, I realized this was actually the first time I had ever played a round of golf with Mr. Voykin. And what a wonderful time we had. As we were playing and enjoying the day, I said to myself I believe I have found my topic for my "Directors Column". I don't know if anyone has ever used this space in *On Course* to write about one of our own as the topic, but you see I just could not resist writing about Mr. Voykin.

Now you may ask yourself why he is addressing him as Mr. Voykin? The answer is simple: He's earned it! Out of respect for being one of the foremost authorities in our industry, for being in his position at Briarwood Country Club for the past forty-seven years (that is the kind of longevity and employer and employee trust and support that you don't see now a days), and for being such a majestic and respectful human being. What a personality. You see, Mr. Voykin is one of the originals that I grew up with in this industry. After forty-seven years he will be retiring from the Briarwood CC after this season.

Briarwood CC is planning a wonderful send off for him in September and I am sure there will be other surprises along the way. He is and has been a part of their family for so long and is very, very deserving of all of their praise and accolades.

His wit and humor are bar none. He has stories abound and I remarked that maybe there might be another book in the offing seeing as he is an accomplished author already; *Ask The Lawn Expert*. (By the way there are copies still available at Amazon.com very reasonably priced.) So if you are out and about at a meeting or near his course, stop by or call and say hello and wish him well. Here's to you Mr. Voykin, he is someone you should know. If you can pick up his book and bring it to him, he might even autograph it for you. **-OC**



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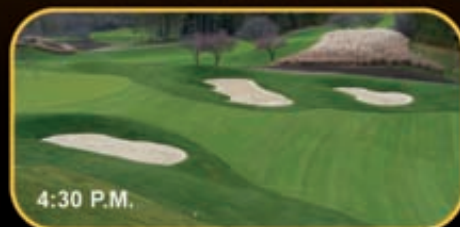
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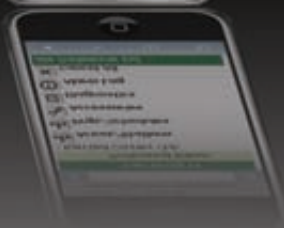
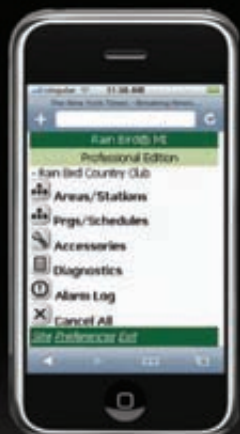


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Ed Braunsky, CGCS -N-



On July 28th, MAGCS members will converge at the Geneva Golf Club in Geneva, Illinois to play in the MAGCS Scholarship Golf Outing. MAGCS member Ed "Basamid Boy" Braunsky, CGCS will host this fun filled event. The 9-hole private course located in the heart of the western suburb is 5,853 yards from the longest tees and holds par at 68. The course was designed by James Foulis and renovated in 2006 by Dave Esler.

Early Ed

Ed's path to Geneva began early. He started his career in agronomy working for his father who was the golf course superintendent at Bliss Creek where Ed "got fired every Saturday morning" from carousing on Friday nights. Thankfully for Ed, his boss needed the manpower and forgave him by the end of the day. Ed earned his turf degree from Joliet Junior College and used that knowledge along with his father's hard work ethic to build his career. Ed moved north to stops at golf clubs in Wisconsin and later to Minnesota where a fondness began for his beloved Minnesota Vikings! About 30 years ago, Ed moved back to the Chicagoland area to work at Geneva Golf Club and has been happily employed there ever since. In 1986, he became the Golf Course Superintendent, and in 1994, he became certified by the GCSAA.

On to Geneva

Ed is only the third Golf Course Superintendent in the club's 108 year existence. At Geneva, Ed wears many hats. He is the golf course superintendent but is also in charge of the pool, club house, and paddle courts ... as if that is not enough.

Much has gone on at Geneva Golf Club in the past several years. Not only has the clubhouse been completely renovated, but a new pool was built and major renovations were made to the golf course. All of this work was overseen and managed by Ed. In 1999, Ed got his nickname "Basamid Boy" when he went out and fumigated all his fairways with Basamid to switch over to low-mow bluegrass.

Ed was a "Guinea Pig" because the use of the product for renovating fairways was not done before. There wasn't any information in research or from other superintendents or university studies about the product. This project also included a new irrigation system and was a huge success. From then on, anyone in the area who was thinking about a renovation and using Basamid knew that Ed was their man.



Ed Braunsky, Certified Golf Course Superintendent of Geneva Golf Club stopped moving for a half a second to take a picture for the magazine.

In 2006, Ed was up to the challenge again with another major renovation of Geneva Golf Club's bunkers and tees. Ed turned to St. Charles native Dave Esler of Esler Golf Designs to architect these changes. This renovation included the leveling and squaring off of all tee surfaces and renovating all of the bunkers to give it a jagged turn-of-the-century look. The golf course and its grounds are in immaculate shape, and with the recent renovations, Ed can be credited with bringing back the original feel of this 108 year old gem.

When the Work Day's Done

When not immersed in work, Ed loves to spend time with his first love...his family. "My wife, Sue, is a teacher, and although our schedules are conflicting, she has always understood my schedule and supported me". Ed is also a proud father of two. He has a son, Ben, who is a junior at DePauw University as well as a daughter, Emily, who is a junior at

Batavia High School.

Anybody that knows Ed would say that is a lot like Norm Peterson on the sitcom "Cheers". Everybody in the MAGCS knows his name from the number of years he has served on



various committees, being a past president, attending many events throughout the years, and writing articles for the magazine. But I like to think that he is like Norm in that he is the type of person you can go up to and have a conversation with about anything, a person that would give his shirt off his back, and would help a fellow superintendent with whatever they needed. Most of all, he would make you laugh. Ed puts it best, "Work hard and play hard." Those are his words to live by. Ed and his crew at Geneva Golf Club hope that all participants find Geneva Golf Club a challenging but worthy track to play. One more thing, bring your straight game. **-OC**



Images of Geneva Golf Club



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FEATURE ARTICLE I

Tom Voigt, Ph.D., *University of Illinois*



Four Years of Testing Yields Interesting Results in Bentgrass Trials

Compared to what was available 50 years ago, today's golf turf managers benefit from an arsenal of improved tools. There's no doubt that improvements have been made in management and irrigation equipment, as well as in chemicals for pest control and growth regulation. The most beneficial new tools available to golf turf managers, however, may be the grasses for golf courses. Turf breeders have worked wonders in selecting and creating seeded bentgrasses capable of providing the outstanding conditions demanded at the highest levels of golf.

In October 2007, we completed the four-year National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (see <http://www.ntep.org> for results of the other sites in these trials or the results of other species trials) trials of bentgrasses (*Agrostis* spp.) maintained at fairway and putting green heights at the University of Illinois Landscape Horticulture Research Center in Urbana. The putting green trial contained 26 entries (Table 1) of creeping (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and velvet (*A. canina*) bentgrasses evaluated at 24 U.S. and Canadian locations, while the fairway trial had 28 entries (Table 5) of creeping and colonial (*A. capillaris*) bentgrasses evaluated at 22 U.S. and Canadian sites. The objective of our trials was to identify the best grasses for planting in Illinois.

Both trials were seeded in September 2003 at 0.5 pounds seed per 1,000 ft.² on native, silty-clay loam soils, irrigated as needed to maintain turf quality, and received four pounds of N per 1,000 ft.² per year. The fairway trial was maintained at ½ inch and the putting green trial at 1/8 inch. The putting green trial was topdressed with sand several times each growing season. Weeds, insects, and diseases were controlled as necessary to maintain turf quality.

In 2004, there were large amounts of *Poa annua* apparent in each trial as the grasses were greening up in the spring. Bruce Branham and Bill Sharp of the U. of I. devised a program of treating each trial plot with Velocity® (bispyribac-sodium, Valent U.S.A. Corp.) that spring, which did an outstanding job of controlling the annual interloper.

Table 1
Entries and sponsors in 2003 NTEP putting green trial.

ENTRY NO.	CULTIVAR	SPECIES	SPONSOR
*1	LS-44	creeping	Links Seed, LLC
*2	Penn A-1	creeping	Standard Entry
*3	Benchmark DSR	creeping	Turf Merchants, Inc.
*4	Penncross	creeping	Standard Entry
5	CY-2	creeping	Snow Brand Seed Co. & Chiba-Prefecture Agr. Exp. Station
*6	Alpha	creeping	Jacklin Seed by Simplot
*7	T-1	creeping	Jacklin Seed by Simplot
*8	SR 7200	velvet	Standard Entry
9	13-M	creeping	Pennington Seed
*10	Declaration	creeping	Lebanon Turf Products
*11	Independence	creeping	Lebanon Turf Products
*12	Legendary	velvet	Lebanon Turf Products
*13	Authority	creeping	LESCO, Inc.
*14	Bengal	creeping	Barenbrug USA
*15	Kingpin	creeping	ProSeeds Marketing
*16	Villa	velvet	DLF International Seeds
17	IS-AP 9	creeping	DLF International Seeds
*18	Venus	velvet	ProSeeds Marketing
*19	Vesper	velvet	Standard Entry
*20	Memorial	creeping	The Scotts Company
*21	007	creeping	R. H. Hurley, LLC/Seed Research of Oregon
*22	Greenwich	velvet	Turf-Seed, Inc.
*23	Shark	creeping	Mountain View Seeds, Ltd.
*24	MacKenzie	creeping	Seed Research of Oregon/Pickseed
*25	Tyee	creeping	Seed Research of Oregon
*26	Pennlinks II	creeping	Tee-2-Green Corp.

*Commercially available in the U.S. in 2007.

(continued on next page)

The 5' by 5' plots of each grass were replicated three times, and the plots were evaluated for quality monthly during the growing season using a 1-9 scale, where 1 = dead turf, 9 = perfect turf, and 5 = minimally acceptable turf quality for the intended use. Spring green up and genetic color were evaluated once each year, also using a 1-9 scale where 1 = light colored turf and 9 = dark green turf.

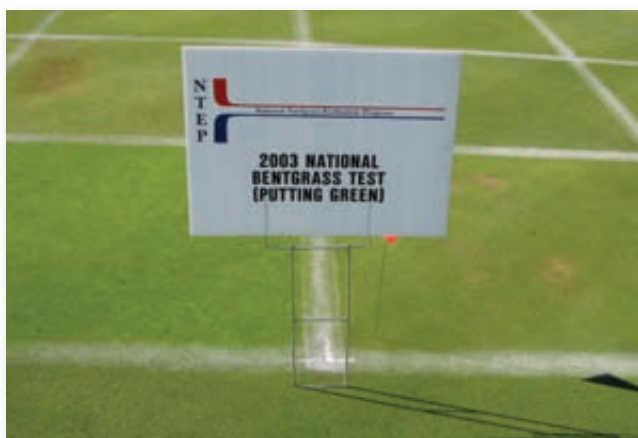
Putting Green Trial

Turf Quality – In Table 2, the means of 7 monthly evaluations per year, over four years were statistically separated using Fisher's Protected LSD. After 4 years of evaluations, Declaration, IS-AP 9, 007, MacKenzie, Shark, and Tyee were in the top statistical group; with the exception of IS-AP 9, all are commercially available. Overall, the quality of these creepers is the best we've ever seen in a long-term putting green trial in Urbana. Note that while the velvet bentgrasses in trial held up better than any we've previously evaluated, as a group, none of the velvets performed in the top groups. It's also interesting to note that Penn A-1, a top performer in our 1998 – 2001 On-Site Putting Green Trial, held at North Shore Country Club on a USGA sand based rootzone, did not perform as well in Urbana on native soil.

To go a step further, I like to look at monthly performance of the grasses in our cultivar trials. I prefer grasses that perform

acceptably through the entire growing season, rather than grasses that do well in spring and autumn, when growing conditions are good for cool-season turfgrasses, but perform poorly during the dog days of summer. Table 3 presents the number of times at monthly evaluations that the quality performance of a cultivar was above the mean rating for that month. Six cultivars, Independence, IS-AP 9, Kingpin, Shark, T-1, and Tyee performed above the mean at an impressive 26 or 27 of the 28 evaluations.

Spring Green Up and Genetic Color – The bentgrasses in the trial did not show great differences in the rate of spring green up (Table 4); 14 of the 26 cultivars were in the top-performing group after 4 years of evaluations. Moreover, none of the top performers were velvet bentgrasses. The genetic color of 'Alpha' was alone as the darkest cultivar over 4 annual evaluations. As with the spring green up evaluations, the velvet bentgrasses were lighter colored and generally more yellow-green than the blue-green creepers.



Fairway Trial

Turf Quality – After 4 years of monthly evaluations, 13-M, Alpha, Authority, Bengal, Crystal BlueLinks, Declaration, Kingpin, LS-44, Penneagle II, Runner, Shark, SR 1150, and T-1 were all in the top statistical group (Table 6) as separated by Fisher's Protected LSD. All of these grasses are creepers; none of the top performers in the fairway trial were colonial bentgrasses.

Table 2
Quality performance of 26 bentgrasses
in 2003 NTEP putting green trial
2004 – 2007

ENTRY No.	CULTIVAR	MEAN QUALITY
1	LS-44	5.7 d-h
2	Penn A-1	5.1 c-f
3	Benchmark DSR	5.2 c-g
4	Pennncross	3.8 ab
5	CY-2	5.9 e-i
6	Alpha	5.6 d-h
7	T-1	6.1 g-i
8	SR 7200	3.6 a
9	13-M	5.6 d-h
10	Declaration	6.4 h-k
11	Independence	6.2 h-j
12	Legendary	4.6 bc
13	Authority	6.1 g-i
14	Bengal	6.0 f-i
15	Kingpin	6.2 h-j
16	Villa	5.0 c-e
17	IS-AP 9	6.7 i-k
18	Venus	4.9 cd
19	Vesper	4.8 b-d
20	Memorial	6.0 f-i
21	007	6.8 i-k
22	Greenwich	4.9 c-e
23	Shark	6.8 i-k
24	MacKenzie	7.1 jk
25	Tyee	7.2 k
26	Pennlinks II	5.1 c-f
LSD 0.05	1.0	

Table 3
Turf quality performance above the mean
for 26 bentgrasses in 2003 NTEP putting green trial
2004 – 2007

ENTRY No.	CULTIVAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	TOTAL
17	IS-AP 9	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	27
7	T-1	4	2	4	4	4	4	4	26
11	Independence	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	26
15	Kingpin	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	26
23	Shark	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	26
25	Tyee	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	26
1	LS-44	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	25
5	CY-2	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	25
10	Declaration	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	25
21	007	4	4	4	4	4	2	3	25
13	Authority	2	3	3	4	4	4	4	24
24	MacKenzie	3	2	4	4	4	3	4	24
14	Bengal	2	2	3	4	4	4	4	23
6	Alpha	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	21
20	Memorial	2	1	2	3	4	3	4	19
9	13-M	3	1	2	3	4	2	1	16
3	Benchmark DSR	2	2	2	0	4	1	2	13
2	Penn A-1	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	12
16	Villa	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	5
26	Pennlinks II	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	4
4	Pennncross	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
18	Venus	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
22	Greenwich	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
8	SR 7200	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
12	Legendary	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
19	Vesper	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1