



Building a Stronger Management Team at NIGM

The National Institute of Golf Management conducts a school annually for Public Facility Managers at Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, West Virginia. The program, which was started in 1984, consists of three levels. The Academy for Operation Solutions is for first year students, The Academy for Strategic Management Practices is for second year students, and The Academy of Higher Learning is the graduate class. The program is flexible enough that you can complete it at your own pace. You don't have to attend in consecutive years if your schedule doesn't permit. Some students attend every other year and complete the graduate class in the fifth year. Once you are a graduate of the program, you may return to attend the Graduate Class as often as you like. The program is beneficial enough that some students have returned to the school for several years and have then become instructors. The school is sponsored by National Golf Foundation, Club Car, Oglebay Resort, National Recreation and Parks Association, and the GCSAA. The Oglebay Resort is a training facility used by many groups and organizations. It is located on top of a mountain (seclusion) and encompasses over 2000 acres. It offers 262 sleeping rooms, 50 private cottages, three golf courses, skiing, a restaurant, pub, indoor/outdoor pools, health club, banquet rooms, ice skating, a zoo, and so on. During our visit this year, there were two days when people were skiing and golfing on different areas of the property.

The curriculum portion of the program runs Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. till 4:45 p.m. Over the three year curriculum, classes cover a wide variety of topics ranging from advertising to website design. This year some of our classes were:

- Are You Really Maximizing the Capabilities of Your Golf Course?
Steve Mona-GCSAA
- Developing a Master Plan for Your Facility.
Greg Martin-Greg Martin Designs
- Are You Really Optimizing Your Staff and Resources?
Mark Woodward- Torrey Pines
- The Future of the Industry: Are We Doing Our Part?
Ron Stepanek-PGA

Every year the program starts with a "Welcome Reception & Orientation" on Sunday night at 6:00 p.m. They also have a keynote speaker. This year it was Steve Mona. He spoke of a "National Golf Day" in Washington D.C. on April 16th, which will bring all the golf organizations together to help promote the game. Steve also touched on the different "hats" he is wearing now with the GCSAA and World Golf Foundation. He also gave us a theme for the week, "If not us, then who?" that reflected

"88% of golfers prefer playing conditions over challenge. 74% would pay 25% more for better conditions. Yet conditions are the #1 reason for not returning."

Steve Mona
CEO GCSAA, CEO World Golf Foundation

on the direction of the game of golf and who is going to control it if we don't. Outside of classroom time there are other social events during the week at night. The Graduate Class conducts Fun Night on Tuesday. This is a fundraising event for scholarships for students in the program. There is video horse racing, blackjack, 50/50 raffles, and putting contests. Everyone purchases "fun money" to play the games. The fun money winnings are then used to purchase merchandise donated by the students.

(continued on page 13)



We don't just offer products. We offer solutions.



At Bayer, we offer the perfect solutions for those tricky grubs. Nothing new there. What's special is what else comes with every package. Unlike those other guys, we've also got just the thing to keep your course running like clockwork. Along with every product we offer comes our research and development team, sales support and easy-to-access customer service. **Backed by Bayer** means your turf is green and more importantly, your reputation is golden. For more information ask your Bayer Field Sales Representative or visit us at BackedByBayer.com.



BACKED
by **BAYER**

If you are a grad student, Monday night is planning for Fun Night. Wednesday night is Solution Summit, which takes the open individual classroom discussion of Hot Topics to a larger venue with the input from all three classes. Thursday night is the Graduation Banquet, which is a formal affair, with dinner, program, and plaques given to Second Year and Graduate Class students for their achievement. The evening ends, like all evenings, in the resort's only pub, Glassworks, where ideas and interaction between students keeping flowing, as do the beverages.

It may be hard for some of you to envision driving for eight hours to West Virginia and back with your Pro or GM, but I decided to attend this program with my PGA Operations Manager. We started three years ago. I thought this would be a great way to improve on our relationship personally and professionally. I was also interested in having a better understanding of what happens on the on the other side of the business, so I could be in a better position to contribute to our operation. I was surprised at the number of other students from our area that attend the program. I definitely have made some new friends and contacts in this industry. We have found the school very beneficial, and have continued with the program, attending the Academy of Higher Learning this year.

There were 20 students in our classroom, which was setup in a U-shape that made the class's open format work well. At the graduate class level, contributing is what it's all about.

"Trend going towards Family Recreation- Better to be able to accommodate at your facility."

"20 million golfers, 100 million spectators = 80 million non-golf market, why?"

***-Ron Stepanek
PGA Director of Programs***

"80% of what determines the quality of your golf course is underground and not seen."

***-Greg Martin
Martin Design Partnership***

With a class of 20, everyone gets to know each other pretty well by the end of the week. From attending over the years, I came up with a theme that describes the school: "We all have the same problems and issues, but our solutions are different, and that is what we come here to share." This leads to CASE — copy and steal everything — which is what every discussion is about. Take something that has worked for someone else back and implement it in your operation. It ends up with a discussion the following year on whether it worked or how you had to tweak it for your facility, which may end up helping another student. In some cases instructors end up learning as much from the students as we do from them. On Monday we start out as a class by making a list of Hot Topics. These are work issues that we came to get resolved and would like to discuss during the week, in addition to the set curriculum. Our list this year had 32 items on it. The last hour of each day is dedicated to talking about a couple of items on this list.

I realized that the whole experience did not affect me as much as it did my Operations Manager. It wasn't that the information had less relevance in my day-to-day operation than it did in his. It was that being in an environment of sharing ideas and exchanging information doesn't happen within his professional organizations at the national and local levels. Because of the type of individuals superintendents are, and because of the organizations I have been involved with, I have taken this sharing, helping, and giving environment for granted. My Operations Manager has always been a little envious of how we treat, educate, and support one another in our association, and now I understand why.

Keep On Giving! **-OC**

31 Flavors of Bunker Sand? Well...Almost!

We have so many varieties of bunker sand that you may even find one your members like! Flavors include...

- ✓ North Face™ ✓ Rockford Bunker
- ✓ Steep Face ✓ Best™ TourGrade
- ✓ Morris Bunker ...and more

Click to ask Sharon for more information:
www.WaupacaSand.com/BunkerInfo.htm



715-258-8566 • www.WaupacaSand.com

syngenta

POLYON

BASF

STANDARD
GOLF COMPANY



Chicagoland
TURF



1444 Bernard Drive
Addison, IL 60101

Phone 630.268.8871
Fax 630.268.1357



Trent Bradford
630.742.2327

Walter Fuchs
630.258.8765

John Lebedevs
630.742.4905

Brian Baker
630.546.1454

Sean Hearden
630.742.4135



Growers of Quality Sod

SERVICE!

LOCAL GROWING FOR
EASY PICKUP OR QUICK DELIVERY.
DELIVERY ON TIME, EVERYTIME.

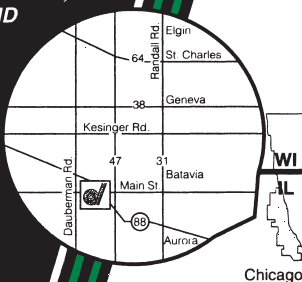
QUALITY!

FEATURING
ELITE KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS,
BENTGRASS SOD, AND
TURF-TYPE FESCUE
• LOWER MAINTENANCE
• MORE DROUGHT
& SHADE TOLERANT
• BETTER WEAR RESISTANCE

NEW
PRODUCT

PRICE!
CALL FOR A QUOTE

630-557-2900



MAIN STREET
11 MILES WEST
OF BATAVIA, IL



Emerald Isle Solutions™

Emerald Isle True Foliar Nutrition Programs

**Provide Increased Root Mass,
Controlled Tissue Growth,
Color, and Consistency.**

CPR

4-0-1 Turf Fertilizer

**Fairway
SeaQuential**
6-0-2 with Liquid Chelated Iron

**NUTRI-RATIONAL
TrueFoliar
N-P-K Plus**
10-3-16

**NUTRI-RATIONAL
TrueFoliar
N-K Balance**
10-0-10

**NUTRI-RATIONAL
TrueFoliar
Si**
3-0-10

**NUTRI-RATIONAL
TrueFoliar
Mg-Mn**
6-0-0

PO Box 1325
Frankfort, IL 60423

800-732-9401
Fax: 815-463-8395

MIDWEST BREEZES

Chuck Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



“South of the Border”

So where do you go and what do you do when winter seems to go on and on and on? The endless days of cold, dreary, oppressive overcast sky's and bitter winds from the north drag you down. Spring seems like it's never going to come. Cabin fever boxing you in...

Head south of the border to Saint Louis, Missouri! Amazingly, Saint Louis is just four to five hours of traveling south down route 55. It's incredible, what a change in latitude can do to change your attitude. They don't call it the transition zone for nothing.

So I loaded the boys (and clubs) in the van and headed on down south for spring break to check out some golf courses and the sights and sound's of Saint Louis, Missouri, the gateway to the west.

Our first stop was to the site of the 2008 BMW Championship, Bellerive Country

Club. This is the first time in many years that the Western Open will be played outside of Chicago. I can tell you, the tournament is in good hands. Chuck Gast, CGCS was our host for the day. He arrived at Bellerive three years ago from the Country Club of Little Rock.. He also has past experience working for the USGA Green Section in the southwest region. His experience in assisting other golf course Superintendents and Clubs with their

projects and problems has been a great asset for Bellerive. His attention to detail is excellent. Upon his arrival he immediately began work on an 8.6 million dollar renovation of the classic Robert Trent Jones designed golf course. Fittingly enough Bellerive brought in the “Open Doctor”, Reese Jones to do design the work.

The project included: a new irrigation system, new greens (A-4), new tees (Meyer Zoysia), 70 % of the fairways were redone- surface drainage and re grassed (Meyer Zoysia) , new concrete cart paths (1.3 million dollars alone), new bunkers, tree pruning and removal. The rough was also redone with a tall fescue turf type much resembling Kentucky bluegrass but with better heat and drought tolerance. Over *sixteen* miles of fairway drainage was installed. From the tips the course can play to 7500 yards! In short, the golf course underwent a complete make over. To accomplish the feat, the course was closed for twelve long months.

The wait is over. A lot of hard work has paid off for Bellerive. They landed the BMW Championship and possibly a consideration for a major tournament down the road. Bellerive is the “belle” of Saint Louis and is eagerly awaiting Tiger and the PGA Tour in September. Chuck Gast and his staff should be

(continued on next page)



Photos of Ann Briar's eighth on the left and seventeenth on the right show the rolling terrain and the heavily protected green sites.

highly praised for all their hard work in making the golf course a show stopper. The world *will* be watching in September.

The boys and I then called upon an old friend in John Soetaert, CGCS at Ambriar Golf Club. Ambriar is just across the Mississippi river in Waterloo, Illinois. Ambriar was named after Ann Nobbe. She was tragically killed in an automobile accident in 1991. It was her dream to turn the 226 acre family farm into a golf course. Her parents honored her request and hired Michael Hurdzan to design the layout. Ambriar opened in 1993 to rave reviews. It was immediately awarded a four ½ star rating by Golf Digest.

John began work there as an Assistant during the grow in. He was promoted to Superintendent in 1999. He currently is President of the Mississippi Valley GCSA.

The course features bentgrass greens and zoysia fairways and tees. The land has some open rolling terrain with lakes and streams. There is also some cool wooded sections featuring interesting elevation changes. #11, a downhill par four fronted by a creek is my personal favorite hole.

The logo for the golf course is an old smokehouse left over from days of yore. It still sits prominently adjacent to the clubhouse.

Our last stop, before we headed north was to Gateway National. The course is built on the banks of the Mississippi River just east of the city. It opened in 1998. It is a Keith Foster design built on reclaimed industrial land. Views of the Arch and the



Gateway National is one of the few golf courses in the St. Louis area with bentgrass fairways, greens and tees.

Saint Louis skyline can be seen from many of the holes. It has the unique market niche of being the only golf course in the Saint Louis area to have bentgrass greens, tees and fairways. At the time of construction it was a bad year for zoysia sod. Mr. Walters, the owner made the decision to seed the fairways in bentgrass. Many people play the course for that reason alone.

Lee Miller works for Walters Golf Management. He relocated from TPC Summerlin in Las Vegas in 1997. He helped grow in the course as an Assistant and was promoted to Superintendent in 1998. He has recently been diagnosed with Hodgkins Leukemia. He just started chemotherapy and is dealing with the fatigue problems. His doctor expects a full recovery after treatment.

There is so much more to do in Saint Louis. You can visit the National Park and ride to top of Arch. Forest Park, undergoing major renovations, is one of the largest city parks in the nation, even larger than New York's Central Park. It features museums, pavilions, lakes, golf, tennis and every kind of field you can think of. For those who like beer, a tour of the Anheiser Busch brewery is a must stop. The Saint Louis Zoo is world class and is free. The historic downtown is also worth checking out.

So go south for the winter or spring break and enjoy all Saint Louis has to offer. **-OC**



Gateway National's backdrop is the all familiar St. Louis skyline.



Cut 'em off at the roots.

Quali-Pro Imidacloprid 75 WSB provides excellent foliar and systemic control of grubs, mole crickets and other pests in turfgrass. Learn more at quali-pro.com.

©2008 FarmSaver.com, LLC. Quali-Pro is a registered trademark of FarmSaver.com. Always read and follow label directions.

QUALI-PRO

Professional Turf & Ornamental Products



Greater Than Or Equal To. Quali-Pro® products feature formulation quality second to none for performance results equal to the competitive brands they replace.



Beauty.

Efficiency.

Display Aerators.

HYDROLogic
Turf Management Systems

800-422-1487 www.hydrologic.net

A Continuing Tradition of Quality
in Golf Course Renovation
Restoration and New
Construction



[608] 836-7041

FAX: [608] 831-4236

WWW.BRUCEGOLF.COM

USGA GREEN SECTION MID-CONTINENT REGION

Ty McClellan, Agronomist

Standing Tall

Due to a prolonged winter, spring across the upper Mid-Continent Region has been delayed by as much as two to three weeks. Many have yet to mow the putting greens more than every other day which is approximately half as often when compared to a typical mid-April schedule. Cooler than normal temperatures have certainly slowed bentgrass growth, but this does not prevent golfers' desires for greens conditioned at optimal playing conditions, particularly after the best teed it up at Augusta National last month. In response to these expectations, superintendents will entertain thoughts of lowering the putting green height of cut much too quickly and much too aggressively. Common questions posed during this early part of the season include "When and how quickly should the height of cut be lowered?" and "When should it be raised again to maintain turf health and avoid summer heat stress?"

As considerations are given to the conventional practice of lowering the height of cut only to raise it again during the summer followed by again lowering it in the fall, why not always maintain a higher mowing height so as to take advantage of increased leaf tissue all season-long? Why deplete carbohydrate reserves and weaken the turf with ultra low mowing heights heading into summer when we can instead prepare for summer by achieving deeper roots that increase recuperative potential and stress tolerance during the fall and spring? By considering the following rolling strategies, up, not down, is the direction for putting green heights of cut this year:

- **Target rolling**, also referred to as site or tournament rolling, is gaining popularity across the region for good reason. It ensures maximum surface smoothness, trueness of ball roll, and increased greenspeed on a daily basis where it is most noticeable.....around the hole. For more information on target rolling daily to preserve turf health without sacrificing playability, please see the article *Green Speed: Trick or Treat?* by clicking on or entering the following website address - <http://turf.lib.msu.edu/2000s/2006/060717.pdf>.
- Consider **alternating mowing and rolling** (as opposed to mowing everyday) to save valuable budget dollars and man-hours, while improving turf quality without adversely impacting playability. While the University of Tennessee originally researched this practice in regards to preserving turfgrass health during the heat of summer, it is gaining popularity as a season-long practice.

- If neither strategy fits your situation, consider developing a hybrid of the two or **create your own rolling strategy** that best matches your needs and resources so that you can utilize rolling to bump up those mowing heights all season-long.

Note: Rolling can be stressful to turf health and therefore should not be overused, especially during the summer where it may be most detrimental. Generally speaking, an entire green should not be rolled more than three times weekly if performed in addition to daily mowing. As such, utilizing rolling in a target manner or alternating mow-roll practices makes sense when it comes to maintaining smooth, fast putting surfaces without sacrificing leaf tissue.

In maintaining healthy turf, it is important to remember the following:

- Research shows that even small increases in mowing height, i.e. mowing at 1/8 to 5/32 of an inch, can vastly improve turf quality through a 25% increase in photosynthetic potential and increased root mass. Furthermore, root mortality and summer bentgrass decline are mitigated by minimizing the duration in which plant respiration exceeds photosynthesis in mid-summer.
- Taller turf helps ward off invasion by moss and weeds.
- Increased leaf tissue is especially beneficial when a green is shaded and solar radiation is limited.
- Light, frequent topdressing applications (i.e. summer dustings) are more easily worked into the turfgrass canopy.
- And, despite the unpopularity among all involved, routine topdressing and aeration are still necessary for long-term putting green health and playability.

To attain the best results when utilizing any of the rolling strategies discussed above, the following are recommended:

- Use plant growth regulators (PGR's) as they are very helpful in maintaining more consistent greenspeeds throughout the day and from one day to the next. For greens comprised of more than one turfgrass species, variety or cultivar, PGR's also minimize the differences in the varying growth rates.
- Avoid flushes in growth by applying nitrogen frequently and in low amounts, such as 0.1 lb N every 7-10 days in a water-soluble, quick-release carrier.

All things considered, think again before instinctively lowering the height of cut this spring only to raise it again in the summer and lower it back down again in the fall. For your turf to benefit all season-long, it is worth maintaining the maximum height of cut (without sacrificing playability) so your turf can stand tall when it matters most. **-OC**

For more information about the USGA Turf Advisory Service or the information found in this update, do not hesitate to contact: Ty McClellan at tmcclellan@usga.org or (630) 340-5853

The New Standard in Turf Maintenance

Super 500



Terra Spike GXi



Terra Combi



Terra Brush



Call your local dealer today!

COMMERCIAL TURF & TRACTOR

Serving Missouri, Illinois, Kansas, Iowa & Nebraska

(800) 748-7497 • (660) 646-6207

comturf@cmuonline.net • www.commercialturfandtractor.com



Wiedenmann North America, LLC

Savannah, GA • Phone (912) 790-3004

Toll free (866) 790-3004 • Fax (912) 790-3005

office@terraspike.com • www.wiedenmannusa.com

RTV900

**The utility vehicle that's built
as tough as a tractor.**



Hard working, dependable and tough: the Kubota RTV900.

- **21.6 HP diesel engine** - Designed by Kubota engineers
- **Hydrostatic power steering** - Handle tight turns with ease
- **Variable Hydrostatic Transmission (VHT)** - No belts. No maintenance. No loss of torque.
- **Hydraulic wet disc brakes** - Smooth braking, even in mud and water
- **4-wheel drive** - Power through the roughest terrain
- **Ground-hugging suspension** - Fully independent front and semi-independent rear suspension
- **4 different models** - General, worksite, turf and recreational

Tractor tough. Kubota smart.
Martin Implement, Inc.
16400 104th. Ave.
Orland Park, IL 60467
(708) 349-8430

Kubota

EVERYTHING YOU VALUE
www.kubota.com



COUNT ON CLEARY

for 70 years of trusted products and formulations,
backed by years of Cleary funded University trials.
Unsurpassed end-user support.



Bill Johnson
Technical Sales Representative
815-762-9932
bill.johnson@clearychemical.com



PALATINE OIL CO., INC.

Over thirty-four years of caring service
and delivery of quality products



"One call does it all"



PALATINE OIL CO., INC.

847-358-3600

P.O. Box 985, Palatine, IL 60078