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Prestwick Country Club, home of the 2008 MAGCS College Scramble will make the competitors play straight shots, otherwise this view will be seen most of the day.

FRONT COVER

The first hole at Prestwick Country Club winds its way around the lake to a open green.
Photo Credit: Luke Cella

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The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS), founded December 24, 1926, is a professional organization whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance. We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

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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Todd Schmitz, *Phillips Park Golf Course*



"Going Green" Are We Doing Enough?

The 56th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic will be held at Medinah Country Club on November 5, 2008. This year's Turf Clinic will be themed "Going Green" and focus on global conservation.

Everyday people are becoming more and more concerned about protecting the planet and conserving its resources. It's important for us to understand how certain aspects of our lives can affect the planet in positive or negative ways. Furthermore, it is our duty, as humans, to protect our planet and preserve it for future generations to come.

In the morning we will hear from Kay McKeen—Founder and President of School and Community Assistance for Recycling & Composting Education (SCARCE). Over the years, SCARCE has educated generations of teachers, students, and residents here and abroad by spearheading hundreds of interactive environmental projects.

Kay and her staff will cover the following topics, explaining the true impact of the choices we make each day within our operations:

- Landfill Education
- Composting
- Recycling Methods
- Energy and Water Conservation Ideas for Clubhouse and Maintenance Facilities
- How to Host a "Green Golf Outing"

John Walton, Vice-Chair of Chicago Area Clean Cities (CACC), will also be speaking in the morning. CACC coalition is a voluntary organization dedicated to encouraging the use of clean fuels and clean vehicle technologies in the Chicago metropolitan area. John will discuss new available and developmental alternative fuels for golf courses.

The afternoon session will feature Jim Moore (Director of the USGA Section's Construction Education). Jim will discuss the evolution of golf course maintenance and address future direction of our industry.

Chicago Cub's broadcaster, Pat Hughes, will close the day with many fun and interesting stories about his career as baseball announcer. Hopefully Pat will be able to share with us some recent World Series victory stories.

As a reminder, committee sign up sheets will be available by the registration table. The following committees are open and need your help:

- Arrangements
- Education
- Editorial
- Media and Public Relations
- Employment
- Advocacy and Compliance
- Scholarship
- Commercial Advisory
- Membership
- Class C Advisory
- Past Presidents Council
- Golf

Helping the Needy at the Midwest Turf Clinic

The MAGCS Board is asking your help to support a local charity: *The Community Crisis Center (CCC)*. The CCC, located in Elgin, Illinois, was founded in 1975 by a group of dedicated volunteers to help those in crisis due to domestic violence, sexual assault, or economic circumstances. We will have a donation box at the Turf Clinic to collect the following items:

Shelter Needs:

- Powder Laundry Detergent
- Fabric softener Sheets
- Dishwashing Liquid
- Dishwasher Powder/Liquid
- Paper Towels, Facial Tissues, Toilet Paper
- Dish Cloths, Towels, and Sponges

Food Pantry:

- Non-Perishable Canned and Boxed Goods
- Canned Fruit, Applesauce, Soups, Ramen Noodles
- Ravioli
- Spaghettios
- Chili
- Sloppy Joe Mix
- Cereal
- Rice
- Dry Beans
- Pasta and Sauces
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Saltine and Graham Crackers
- Powdered Milk

MAGCS will also accept monetary donations to support this organization.

Please come out and join us for 56th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic and find out what "Going Green's" all about. Hope to see you there. **-OC**



Tim White -N- Prestwick Country Club

Prestwick Country Club, the site of the 2008 MAGCS College Scramble, is managed by Mr. Tim White. Tim is the third golf course superintendent to manage the grounds that opened in 1964. He was preceded by long time MAGCS members Dick Trevarthan and Tim Anderson, CGCS. The golf course was designed by Larry Packard.

Prestwick Country Club is located in the southwestern suburb of Frankfort, a town that was founded by German settlers from Pennsylvania in the 1840's and 50's. It was named after one of the founding father's hometown Frankfurt-Am-Main. The Joliet and Northern Indiana Railroad built a line through the present village and named it Frankfort Station, upon incorporation in 1879, Station was dropped and the name Frankfort was inked. Of course, Prestwick Country Club borrows its name from the golf club located on the Ayrshire coast, a stretch of land that has a few other namely clubs such as Royal Troon and Turnberry.

The golf course is surrounded by homes and boasts many trees of differing species. Traversing the property, the park-like setting provides a peaceful respite for the members that enjoy playing golf.

Hickory Creek meanders throughout the property creating many interesting golf shots and scenic views. Subject to flooding, this creek can create a challenge for the golf course superintendent and crew.

Tim has been at the helm of Prestwick Country Club since February 2005. Since then, he has overseen a few changes that were taken from a master plan of the property developed by local architect Greg Martin.

Tim and staff jumped in the fall of 2006 and modified each greenside bunker, by changing the sub-grade, adding drainage, and replacing the sand. In 2007, Tim oversaw the reconstruction of all 77 tees on the property. Tee work was completed by Hollembeak Construction Company. Each was sodded with a Alpha-T1 creeping bentgrass blend, a combination that Tim has been very pleased with for his teeing surfaces. Hollembeak also worked on 22 fairway bunkers, contouring, and giving facelifts while on property.

Tim has experimented with rhizomatous tall fescue (RTF) on the 9th hole around a fairway bunker complex. Tim really likes this choice of turf for this hot and dry location, explaining the RTF doesn't need all the water Kentucky bluegrass requires to stay green during the hot and dry months. Tim finds the RTF easier to manage and looks forward

to see how it performs in the coming years.

A local Southsider, Tim grew up in Homewood and began his career in golf as a caddy at Ravisloe Country Club when he was 13 years old. Not having a clue about golf course maintenance, he moved inside to work in the pro shop through high school. He did experiment one summer away from golf when he tried his hand at selling furniture. That didn't work out. Tim kept sitting down on the job.



Tim White

(continued on page 6)



Tim attended Bradley University for a stint majoring in Political Science and History. He was going to be a teacher until he returned home during summer break. Tim landed a job at Olympia Fields Country Club, under the direction of Dave Ward. Tim describes his first summer on the maintenance crew as fantastic. He loved every minute of it and his main task was weed-eating the creek where he refreshed an infection of poison ivy every other week.

This summer was truly life changing for Tim as he switched schools and majors, transferring to Southern Illinois University and taking up turfgrass science. Tim continued to work at Olympia Fields Country Club through the Senior Open in 1997 during school breaks. In 1998, Tim went to work for Dan Tully at White Hawk Country Club where he helped with construction and grow-in full time.

In May 2000, he was offered the Assistant Golf Course Superintendent position back at Olympia Fields Country Club. He immediately jumped at the chance knowing they were the site of the 2003 US Open. Tim's experience during this time grew and so did his passion for the profession. Under the tutelage of Dave Ward, Tim learned what it took to present a golf course to a nationwide audience. Luckily, Tim also learned how to deal with a property that floods. Tim tells me he has since downsized. Whereas at Olympia Fields there were 14 holes that flooded, currently Prestwick only has 11 that go under.

Tim transitioned well becoming a golf course superintendent because his passion for the job never weakened. When asked what advice he could give to current assistant

golf course superintendents looking to land the head gig, Tim told me it is important not to lose your focus or let your impatience overcome your passion for the business. Let that passion that first got you into the superintending field drive you through to where you will be someday. It is also important to use your time wisely by learning all you can and making many contacts along the way.

Tim is a hardworking golf course superintendent and leads by example. Tim is a teacher and his students are his crew. Under his sharp eye and guidance, he allows them to be creative in getting their tasks done while creating a positive work environment. He enjoys each day and the challenges it brings.

Tim is a White Sox fan and enjoys attending sporting events throughout the year. His family had season tickets for 11 years, and while growing up, Tim was never in school on opening day or as he called it, "a family holiday". To this day, his favorite player is still Greg Luzinski, (the Bull) who played for the White Sox until 1984. In his free time, Tim enjoys reading, his family and friends, and of course, golf.

If you play in the MAGCS College Scramble at Prestwick, bring a putter you can trust. The greens are known to be difficult to read, probably because they break toward the meandering creek. There is one thing for sure, well two, the golf course will be in great shape and all will enjoy the day.

-OC



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FEATURE ARTICLE

Scott Witte, CGCS, Cantigny Golf Club



Somethin's Fishy at Cantigny

Water features are some of the most attractive areas on golf courses. What lies beneath the water on our golf courses is often a mystery. Believe it or not, this is an easy mystery to solve with the help of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

For the past two years, the IDNR has been performing the "FREE SERVICE" of helping me inventory my fish populations. Since Cantigny Golf is a Certified Audubon Sanctuary, I wanted to make sure our ponds have a diversity of wildlife at good population levels. Vic Santucci, District Fisheries Biologist of the IDNR, has been a great resource, helping us begin the process of understanding what lies beneath the surface of our 11 ponds.

Some of the benefits that clubs may enjoy from healthy fish populations may include:

- Great sport fishing for members, employees, and guests.
- Habitat enhancement for birds such as herons, egrets, etc.
- Mosquito predation.
- Balanced wildlife ecosystems that integrate avian, mammalian, fish, and amphibian species.

At a relatively low cost, superintendents have a tremendous opportunity to take advantage of these great benefits.

The first step in the process of beginning a fish inventory is to fill out the paperwork. The IDNR has an application form that needs to be filled out ONE YEAR in advance. The application is only two pages long and is relatively painless to complete. It is called "The Application for Fish Management Services" and can be obtained from the Illinois Department of Conservation – Division of Fisheries.

Once you have taken care of the paperwork, IDNR will contact you and set up a date for "Electrofishing." **Electrofishing** uses electricity to safely stun and catch fish without causing them any permanent harm. It is a scientific survey method commonly used to sample fish populations. It determines abundance, density, and species composition. When performed correctly, electrofishing results in no permanent harm to fish, which return to their natural state as little as two minutes after being stunned.

The electrofishing unit that we used was a boat-mounted model—sometimes called a stunboat.



The IDNR staff beginning their Electrofishing in the Cantigny Clubhouse pond.

Stunboats use two or three electrodes to deliver current into the water in order to stun the fish. The current runs from the anode to the cathode, creating a high-voltage potential. When a fish encounters a large enough potential gradient, it becomes affected by the electricity. Pulsed DC current is usually applied, which causes "galvanotaxis" in the fish. **Galvanotaxis** is an uncontrolled muscular convulsion that results in the fish swimming toward the anode. At least two people are required for an effective electrofishing crew: one to operate the anode and another to catch the stunned fish with a dip net.



Scott Witte, CGCS and stand-in "Dip Netter" scoops the stunned fish.

(continued on page 9)



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All stunned fish are scooped up and put into the holding tank in the middle of the boat. The holding tank is half-full of fresh pond water and holds the fish until they are measured, identified, weighed, counted, and documented.



The DNR weighs and measures each fish



Two Large Mouth Bass get their weigh-in



A specimen Hybrid Sunfish shows off his colors.

The IDNR crew also measures pond depth with sonar, pond size with GPS, and pond clarity with a Secchi disk.

The Secchi disk is named after Fr. Pietro Angelo Secchi, an astrophysicist, who was asked to measure transparency in the Mediterranean Sea by Commander Cialdi, head of the Papal Navy.

In April 1865, Secchi used white disks to measure the clarity of water in the Mediterranean. Various sizes of disks have been used since that time, but the most frequently used is an eight-inch-diameter metal disk painted in alternating black and white quadrants. The Secchi disk is used to measure how far a person can actually see into the water. Water clarity is of course directly linked to the sustainability of any fish population. The disk is attached to a waterproof measuring tape. It is lowered into the lake by unwinding the tape until the observer loses sight of the disk. The disk is then raised until it reappears. The depth of the water when the disk vanishes and reappears is the Secchi disk reading. It is recorded to the nearest foot.

Based on the data collected, recommendations are made on nutrient management, proper aeration, and the introduction of native aquatic plants and buffer areas. A detailed list of the fish population gives the DNR a basis for their recommenda-

tions. It is quite possible that your pond already has a healthy balance. If it does not, the DNR will give you guidelines for harvesting or restocking fish.

One example of a restocking scenario here at Cantigny is our #2 Lakeside pond. The electrofishing produced only ONE large bass in a two-acre pond.



One Large Mouth Bass was the only fish stunned in this pond which alerted us to a problem.

The only other creatures that we stunned in this pond were a couple hundred bull frog tadpoles. It was determined that heavy ice and snow cover caused a fish kill in that pond several years back and the population never recovered. Because this pond was almost completely void of fish, it was a very good candidate for "pond restocking."

Vic Santucci gave me three different fish community options from which to choose. I chose to stock 2200 fingerling bluegill (1-2 in. long), 220 fingerling largemouth bass (2-3 in. long), and 220 fingerling channel catfish (2-3 in. long). It is absolutely imperative that these ratios be followed closely. They are scientifically proven to foster balanced populations. If the ratio is not correct, stunted fish populations may result.

I placed my fish order through the Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District. The total cost of restocking this pond was \$781.



The Logan Fish Farm on Wheels during fish pick-up day.



Counting out channel catfish for Cantigny. The Bluegills came in bags of 250 for \$55 per bag.

(continued on page 11)

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