

Congratulations to Aaron Reinhart, the new assistant superintendent for **Dave Behm** at Willowcrest Golf Club.

Friday the 13th of March may have been an unlucky day for the diaper services of Morris, Illinois, but it certainly was a lucky-charmed day for Wendy and **Andy Weadge** (Morris Country Club), who welcomed their 7-pound bouncing baby boy Parker into the world. Word has it that the Morris High School football and basketball coaches have already visited Parker with letters of intent in hand. Congratulations to the Weadges!



Wendy and Parker (or is it Packer?) with Moe Weadge, Larry Riesenbeck, and Curly Blomquist looking on.

Now that we've seen the last of winter with its prolonged ice cover, frigid temperatures, and wild mood swings with thaws and heavy rains causing flooding on many of our properties, we can look back and be thankful that we got through it with minimal damage (hopefully). Widespread reports of severe flooding, fish kills, erosion, and the usual famines and pestilence were popping up everywhere, and I thank the superintendents who shared their photos and stories of the havoc wreaked by Mother Nature on their courses.



A submerged bridge on a local golf course in March.



Lack of oxygen under the winter's thick and prolonged ice led to fish kills in many golf course ponds.

And now that the floodwaters have receded, it's a great time to inspect all those drain lines and catch basins and give 'em a good spring cleaning. Who says we don't have any fun working on a golf course?



Another glamorous job for the guy who showed up late.

Look for the 2010 Golf Industry Show in San Diego to have a stronger USGA presence than ever before—it was announced in February that the USGA has formalized its long-term involvement in the Golf Industry Show with an increased presence including additional programming, promotion, and sponsorship activities.

Also from the USGA, a reminder that the Green Section has regular Regional Updates on its website. These updates are designed to keep you abreast of the latest turfgrass and maintenance developments, or unusual happenings throughout the region. Go to usga.org/turf/regional_updates to see what's going on.

Congratulations to **Todd Schmitz** and the City of Aurora on the recent certification of Phillips Park Golf Course through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. The March 18th issue of the Aurora Beacon News had a very nice (and BIG) column on the certification process, including Todd's efforts to promote environmental awareness at Phillips Park, the 48th course in Illinois and the 681st in the world to achieve ASCP certification.



Todd Schmitz

(continued on page 23)

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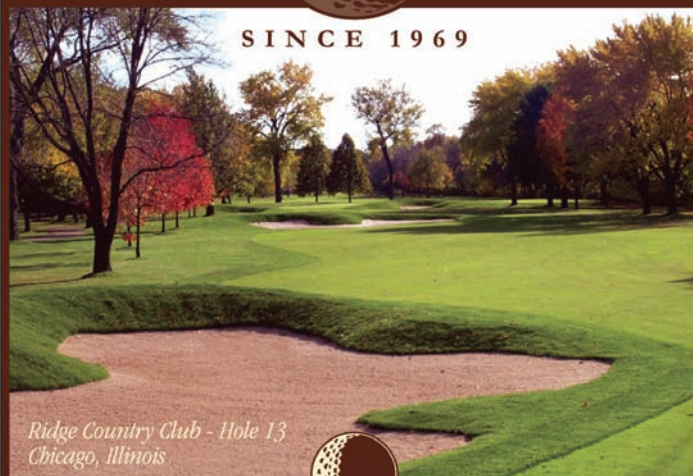


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So you might think that working for a municipality like Todd does would be too structured or regimented, right? It does have its perks, though, as the resources a village or city has are vast and can be shared. In my days at the village-owned Bartlett Hills Golf Course, many a tee was built using one of the village's big ol' honkin' endloaders. Todd took that thinking to the next level this winter—he made a bulk lime application to the Phillips Park Golf Course fairways using a City of Aurora salt truck. Saved a bunch of money, and worked like a charm. Thinking outside the box like Taco Bell is what that is.



On March 7th, the CDGA held its annual Directors Seminar at Medinah Country Club. The purpose of these events is to gather officials from golf courses throughout the region together in one venue in order to share information and exchange ideas in an open format. After the general remarks, participants break out into several subgroups that focus on more specific areas of golf club governance, such as finance, house, golf, and grounds and greens. This year, the subject for the grounds and greens group was the current economy and its effect on course conditioning. A panel consisting of moderator Sheldon Solow (green chairman at Briarwood CC), **Dr. Derek Settle** (CDGA), **Dave Esler** (Esler Golf Designs), **Ty McClellan** (USGA Green Section), and golf course superintendents **Bob Maibusch, CGCS**, MG (Hinsdale GC), **Dan Marco, CGCS** (Ruth Lake CC), **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** (Medinah CC), and me fielded questions from the audience of green chairmen, fellow superintendents, and various other course officials throughout a lively morning of open discourse. These seminars are a great way to bond with and educate the people that we answer to at our courses—think about attending next year's event, you won't be disappointed.


Another of our affiliate groups held its annual shindig in March as well—the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS) presented the 24th Annual Chicagoland Forum at Naperville Country Club (**Tim Anderson, CGCS**) on the 11th. The morning session featured GCSAA's effervescent Lyne Tumlinson and CAGCS president **Jon Jennings, CGCS** and their "Taking Control of Your Career: Make it Magic" seminar. The afternoon was highlighted by CDGA's Director of Rules and Competitions Jodi Ciotti's talk on "Effectively Marking the Golf Course," followed by past MAGCS member Tom Brodeur of TPC Boston speaking on "Successfully Hosting

an Annual PGA Event." On a personal note, I would have better insights to offer about the presentations had I taken better notes, but I found myself distracted by the near exact similarity between the valances above the windows at Naperville and the tie I chose to wear that day. It was spooky weird knowing that I accessorize in the same manner as a banquet room at a country club. But I digress. Again. Thanks to everyone who made this another great Forum, to the guests who travelled great distances to share their knowledge, and to Tim and the staff at Naperville Country Club—yes, even the decorator who chose the damn valance material—for a great day.



Tom Brodeur nods off while reading the creed.

(continued on page 25)



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My...er, I mean this particular course's...mechanic has an ultimate set of tools, and says he can fix it.



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-OC



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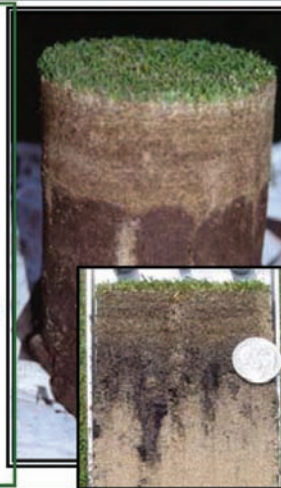


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WINTER RECAP

Nick Marfise, Park Ridge Country Club

Class C Does it Again



On behalf of the MAGCS Class C Committee I would like to thank everyone who came out to the Winter Workshop. The Winter Workshop is always geared towards career development and professional improvement. The morning's discussion featured speakers from the GCSAA: Lyne Tumlinson – Director of Career Services and Penny Mitchell - Senior Manager of Certification.

Lyne and Penny explained among other things how the GCSAA has developed new standards to become a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS). The title of CGCS is designated, as the pinnacle position in golf turf management. In order to become certified you must plan ahead. It takes time and preparation to achieve this status. The good news is that you can begin your certification process now, even as an assistant. The first step you can take is to find out where you need help.

A tailor-made tool available to members on the GCSAA website is called the Professional Development Resource or PDR. The PDR is an interactive questionnaire that assesses your past and present work experiences to help outline your skills as a superintendent. This tool was developed around core proficiencies that our peers believe make a great superintendent. The PDR shows where you excel and where you need to improve your proficiencies to learn the many different aspects of being a qualified superintendent.

The other important step to begin now is to document your work and accomplishments. One of the new requirements of certification is to create a portfolio of your career and achievements. You can do this by capturing photos of projects,

recording items in a journal and creating a living history of what you have done. This is an excellent habit to get into – it will arm you with information for your next interview and career advancement.

We switched gears in the afternoon, actually jumped gears into other professions where our turf background can be used.



*Penny Mitchell and
Lyne Tumlinson, GCSAA Staff*

Eddie Sagen - Facilities and Systems Manager for McDonalds and Eric Adkins - Director of Grounds at Toyota Park presented their professions and their start in golf. Mr. Sagen and Mr. Adkins presented together a wonderful insight into how valuable and versatile our turf degrees and knowledge have become. There are job opportunities out there that aren't focused on golf but use the same set of skills we are developing now.

Whether in golf, sports turf or another turf profession, the job market is highly competitive. The success of your facility reflects your success, so set realistic goals and accomplish those goals one at a time. Sit with your fellow co-workers and Superintendents to discuss your competitive edge, and your career decisions. Respect constructive feedback from your superiors and remember what you put off for tomorrow, someone else has done yesterday. **-OC**



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