

Upgrade your Toro sprinkler system without digging a hole! It's as easy as 1,2,3 - Take the old internal out, insert the new one and enjoy easy adjustment, easy servicing and longer sprinkler life. Toro 630, 650, 670, 680, 730, and 750 users: Call Reinders today to see how this conversion assembly will help keep your course in championship condition.

Upgrade your TORO SPRINKLER SYSTEM



Spike-Guard™ solenoid exceeds 20,000 volts without fail.



Constant velocity drive provides reliable rotation speed and saves water.



Debris-resistant nozzles eliminate clogging.

TORO

Count on it.

www.reinders.com

Reinders

Solutions & Supplies for the Green Industry

IRRIGATION SALES AND SERVICE

Darrick Robbins (630) 217-1922 • Jim Burge (847) 220-0038 • Phil Zastrow (414) 313-5247

COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT SALES

Whitey Anderson (630) 251-4832 • Joe Etten (630) 284-8492
Tim Snell (708) 284-8497 • Dave Holler (630) 244-6477 • Steve Stewart (630) 284-8496

SOFT GOODS SALES

Bruce Schweiger (608) 206-3500 • Tim Keating (630) 885-7587 • Bruce Woehrle (847) 456-1275

3816 Carnation St., Franklin Park, IL (888) 838-5778

2009 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Tony Kalina, Prairie Landing G.C.

VICE PRESIDENT

Scott Witte, CGCS, Cantigny G.C.

SECRETARY / TREASURER

Dan Sterr, Stonebridge C.C.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Luke Cella

BOARD

James Keith, CGCS, St. Charles C.C.

Robert Kohlstedt, Fox Bend Golf Course

Harry Lovero, Orchard Valley G.C.

Michael Siefken, Sportsman's C.C.

Dan Sterr, Stonebridge C.C.

Mark Thibault, Links at Carillon

Tim White, Prestwick C.C.

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Dave Braasch, Glen Erin G.C.

COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Sharon Riesenbeck, Waupaca Sand & Solutions

CLASS 'C' REPRESENTATIVE

Scott Verdun, Merit Club

TURFGRASS ADVISOR

Dr. Derek Settle

EDITORIAL CHAIRMAN

Harry Lovero

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

John Gurke

Chuck Anfield

GRAPHIC ARTIST

Mark Karczewski

Table Of Contents

www.magcs.org



JULY 2009 | Volume 63 No. 3

Happy July 2009. Plan to attend the MAGCS Family Night Picnic on July 25 at Cougar Stadium in Geneva.

FRONT COVER

Midwest Golf House, home of the 2009 iTurfExpo, the industry's newest event for the turf professional.
Cover and above photo: Luke Cella

ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

3 Isn't it Time to Give Back – Give BassAckwards?

Tony Kalina

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

5 Keep the Articles Coming

Harry Lovero

FEATURES

7 iTurfExpo – Unleashed

Jason Sarna and Keith Rincker

15 Get Converged

Luke Cella

DEPARTMENTS

20 the Bull Sheet
John Gurke

33 News from GCSAA
Luke Cella

35 Education Review
Charles Anfield



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.


This publication is not copyrighted. We would like to share our articles with any who would like to use them, but please give the author and *On Course* credit.

All editorial and advertisement inquiries should be directed to Luke Cella, Publisher, *On Course*. 11855 Archer Avenue, Lemont, IL, 60439. (630) 243-7900 or visit www.magcs.org for rates and requirements. Statements of fact and opinion are the responsibility of the authors alone and do not imply an opinion on the part of the officers or members.

If You Are Looking at a Walking Greens Mower... Start from the Ground Up.



Jacobsen® Walking Greens Mowers
now feature Classic XP™ Reels
with Advanced Relief Technology.™



Valhalla Golf Club-Louisville, KY

Experience The Eclipse™

The Jacobsen® Eclipse™ 100 series provides the ultimate combination of cutting performance and greater control. A combination that is tough to beat. From Classic XP™ Reels with Advanced Relief Technology™, Legendary™ Bedknives, Rollers, and MAGKnife™ to Turf Groomers® and Verticutters, our line of walking greens mowers feature a complete **Greens Management System** and the **best quality-of-cut on the market**. Additionally, the Eclipse 100 series includes **industry-exclusive technology** such as independent adjustable ground speed, reel speed, FOC and weight balance and the latest in hybrid or battery drives. These walking greens mowers provide superior results day in and day out that cannot be imitated. Experience the Jacobsen difference today.

**NO INTEREST
NO PAYMENTS
UNTIL AUGUST 2009!**

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DEALER FOR DETAILS ON THIS PROGRAM.

Burris
EQUIPMENT

Burris Equipment Company
2216 N. Greenbay Road
Waukegan, IL 60087

For more information about Jacobsen walking greens mowers call 1.888.922.turf or visit www.jacobsen.com



PGA

TEXTRON FINANCIAL

Golf Equipment Finance

JACOBSEN
A Textron Company

When Performance Matters.™

The Official Turf Equipment Supplier to The PGA of America and The Exclusive Turf Equipment Supplier to PGA Golf Properties.
© January 2009, Jacobsen, A Textron Company.

ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Tony Kalina, *Prairie Landing Golf Course*



Isn't it Time to Give Back – Give BassAckwards?

If I told you that the MAGCS Board is planning to conduct a special golf event to raise funds to support our scholarship - would you want to participate? What if I told you that you were going to have guaranteed fun, and the event was a never-before contested golf format for MAGCS—that it was fast, safe, moral, and legal and benefitted high school and college students—would you sign-up? If you answered yes to these questions then you just took the first step for playing in a “BassAckwards” Outing to support the MAGCS Scholarship Fund.

The MAGCS Board of Directors and I are excited and proud to introduce this exciting, new opportunity to you. A “BassAckwards” Outing is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21st at Prairie Landing Golf Club, in West Chicago, IL. The registrants will play 9-holes of golf – “BassAckwards”. “BassAckwards” is a play on the word ‘backwards’ because that is exactly what we’ll be doing – playing golf backwards!

Confusing, troublesome, awkward, you say? Not at all! Here’s an example of how it works. Let’s say you’re starting on the 5th hole in this shotgun event. You’ll tee it up on the 5th tee, but you’ll play your tee shot back to the 4th green. After holing out on the 4th green, you’ll proceed to the 4th tee where you will play your tee shot to the 3rd green, and so on, and so on. Each hole played will have been fashioned into a unique, new par 3-hole to defy and challenge with exacting yardages provided! It’s that simple and amusing!

The “BassAckwards” format is enjoyable and satisfying for golfers of all skill levels and abilities. The event will start around 1:00 p.m. and conclude with a cook-out following the golf. So, it won’t take up your time with an all-day episode. Good food, good drink, good times—all while we raise money for our good cause. Further details can be found under the events calendar at www.magcs.org. I hope you can join us for this one-of-a-kind affair. It should be a blast!

*Good food, good drink, good times -
all while we raise money for our good cause.*

This year’s scholarship applicants are being judged for their application completeness, scholastic merit, and community service. Sixteen scholarship applications were received from students this year—4 high school and 12 college. Scholarships winners and their families will be honored for their achievements and awarded their gifts during the MAGCS Family Picnic Night at the Kane County Cougars baseball game on Saturday, July 25th in Geneva, IL. If you have never attended this picnic, you are really missing out!

Since MAGCS’s inception in 1926, our association has strived to provide education, networking and growth opportunities to every member. Those goals remain steadfastly firm with our Scholarship Committee and Board of Directors. Try to make one of these two special events this year. If you cannot, consider making a generous donation on behalf of our member-ship’s students and families.

Isn’t it time to give back? Isn’t it time to give “BassAckwards!” **-OC**

We're all about **Water**,
budgets in the **Black**
and your course staying **Green**



Customized System Design

Controls & VFD Service

Pump Station Retrofits

Irrigation Pump Repairs

Remote Control Systems

Preventative Maintenance

System Startups

Well Pump Repair

Well Drilling & Rehab

24 hr. Emergency Service



**"Honesty, Integrity
and Complete
Customer Satisfaction"**

Serving Customers throughout the Midwest
Toll-Free 800-383-7412 Fax 920-324-3431
www.pumpstationpros.com

Courtesy of Kohler Co.

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Harry Lovero, Orchard Valley Golf Course

Keep the Articles Coming



This is my annual plea as Editorial Committee chair to our membership for a call out for articles. It truly amazes me when I pick up another industry magazine and see an article in it penned by one of our own. That in itself is a great accomplishment to be read nationally. In addition, many of you that have written for industry publications have taken the time to write for your association publication, "On Course". Moreover, we thank you very much for that. However, there are those of you who prefer to write only for industry magazines and prefer not to write for "On Course". I wish I understood why. With a membership of right around eight hundred strong, if "On Course" had at least half of you writing for it and contributing occasionally, I would never have to write a column like this.

Our objective here is to have enough information for the editorial calendar so that we do not have to go begging and relying on the same authors to fill the pages of your association magazine, which is nationally recognized as a top notch golf course association publication.

Please do not get me wrong, I do not want to shame you into contributing; however, it would be nice to get something to work with. I know you all have the talent to go to your computer, or your legal pad, and write out an article. I have never seen a more talented group of individuals than our Midwest Association. Again, I know it takes time, and as I always say, the article can be professional, personal, or a hobby; it does not always have to be entirely technical.

Mental blocks plague us all, but with all of our individual career experiences, I am certain there is an article in there just waiting to get out. You will not know until you try.

In addition, please try to include photos. It is always a plus to visualize what it is that you are writing about.

In addition, please call Luke Cella or myself if you are not sure or if you need a little assistance. This is my third year as the Editorial Chair and believe me, it is nerve racking every month to see if Luke is going to have enough print to get it done, but amazingly enough we do. Thanks to Luke and the talents of our graphic artist Mark Karczewski for always getting the job done.

My challenge to you, the membership of The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, is simple: PLEASE KEEP THE WELL FROM GOING DRY! Remember, this is your association, and we are here to serve you. Without your help and participation, there is no association.

I would also like to give a big thank you to my editorial committee, John Gurke, Dr. Derek Settle, Darrick Robbins, Fred Behnke, Chuck Anfield, Scott Verdun, Larry Tomaszewski, Ted Soenksen, Wes Danielewicz, Virgil Range, and Charles Hill. In addition, of course to Luke Cella for his guidance. And to all of our authors who have taken the time throughout the years to pen articles for us.

Scott Verdun and the Class "C" advisory committee are responsible for the Super -n- Sites every month. Thank you Scott.

Finally much gratitude to our sponsors for their untimely-continued support of "On Course". Please acknowledge them and say thank you to let them know how much you appreciate their continued support.

We will see you in "On Course". **-OC**



ARTHUR CLESEN INC.

Dedicated to Service!

See the difference.

Quality products • Priced competitively • Prompt delivery

You get fast, courteous service from Arthur Clesen Inc.

We've staked our reputation on it.

Try us and see the difference.

▶ **WHEELING** p. 847.537.2177 f. 847.537.2210 ▶ **MOKONA** p. 708.444.2177 f. 708.479.9477

Tour-Redi

USGA. Spec Sand Based
Bent Grass

*Lay it and
Play it!*

CENTRAL SOD
Tour-Redi Turf

- USGA Spec Sand Based
- Available in "Greens" Height
- Multiple Varieties
- Custom Grown to Your Specifications
- Delivered and Installed Throughout the Midwest
- Poa Free!
- Sand Based Low-Mow Bluegrass at Tee height

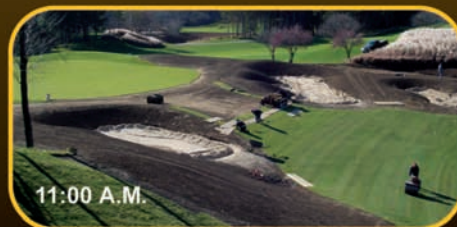


Fescue Sod Available

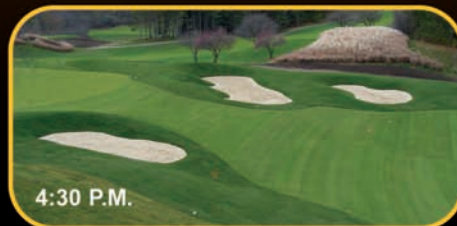
1-800-310-0402



7:45 A.M.



11:00 A.M.



4:30 P.M.

www.centernalsod.com

FEATURE ARTICLE I

Jason Sarna, MAGCS and Keith Rincker, CDGA

iTurfExpo – Unleashed



On August 25-26, 2009, the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation (ITF) will host the first ever iTurfExpo at the Midwest Golf House Complex – Sunshine Course. This event combines aspects from both the annual Illinois Professional Turf Conference (IPTC) and the biennial Midwest Field Day into one unified event.

The ITF is committed to funding turf research and education in Illinois. It seeks to accomplish this through:

- Providing the best solutions for turf management
- Presenting opportunities for members to advance their knowledge, professionalism, and value to the turf industry in Illinois
- Establishing a viable network between industry, research, and education

The iTurfExpo is the conduit for all of these objectives to occur. The ITF is steeped in funding turf research and strives to bring impartial and useful research conclusions to its members. The unique setting of the Sunshine Course allows the ITF to conduct this research and present findings directly to you—the turf professional. We have all spent many winter seminars viewing slides and images of turf under research, the iTurfExpo allows our researchers to present their findings in real life. Come be a part of this exchange of information. Bring your questions and leave with new understandings that make you a better turf manager.

The iTurfExpo research topics are:

- Fungicide Trials and Programming
- Organic Fertilizer Trials
- *Poa Annua* Management and Control
- New Herbicide Testing
- Turf Variety Trials
- Foliar Nutrition



In addition, the iTurfExpo allows attendees the opportunity to see new products and services, but unlike the IPTC, the iTurfExpo tradeshow is outdoors. Turf professionals work outdoors, why shouldn't they have education and events specifically designed for them to learn in their working environment? The iTurfExpo does just that. Through careful and advance planning, the iTurfExpo strives to achieve the following:

- Create an atmosphere where attendees can actually SEE the latest products and equipment in action, not just brochures and parked equipment
- Offer attendees the opportunity to discuss products/equipment with suppliers and professional product representatives
- Discuss options for future needs

The iTurfExpo is the fundraising event for your profession. Through

the utilization of the Sunshine Course and the Midwest Golf House Complex, the ITF is able to provide access to the event at a very reasonable expense for all attendees. If you register prior to August 14 (early bird registration deadline) the registration fee for an ITF member is only \$50 per person. The cost of the IPTC and Field Day combined (2008 numbers) would total over \$250! The iTurfExpo provides attendees with just as much useful information at not nearly the cost, a true value to you and your facility.

(continued on page 9)

**Stress can go in any
direction!
Is your turf ready?**



**Your PROGRO agronomist can map out a
strategy to successfully manage
summer stress.**

**ProGro Amino Acid Foliar
Armor Tech Fungicide
Armor Tech Phosphites**



Aaron Goy
Eco Agronomist, Managing Partner
Cell: 859.991.0828
aaron@progro-solutions.com

Rusty Stachlewitz
Agronomist, Chicago Region
Cell: 630.779.0761
rusty@progro-solutions.com

www.progro-solutions.com

**The "No Stress" tank
mix that puts you
in control of summer
stress complex.**



Turn the table on summer stress complex
with the reliable control and proven power of
Fosetyl-AI 80WDG and Chlorothalonil DF.

Today, golf course superintendents need both
quality and value. And that's exactly what
Quali-Pro has been delivering since day one —
proven products featuring the newest formulation
technologies at an unprecedented value.

Unsurpassed Quality. Outstanding Value.
Get to know Quali-Pro.

For more information, contact Doug Suttor at
616-403-3983 or any of these authorized
Chicagoland distributors:

Arthur Clesen Inc • BTSI • Conserv FS

QUALI-PRO

Know the Sign. Greater Than Or Equal To.

©2009 FarmSaver.com, LLC. Quali-Pro is a registered trademark of FarmSaver.com.
Know the Sign is a trademark of FarmSaver.com. Always read and follow label directions.

Please note, your fee covers entry to the event for both days. You and your staff are encouraged to come each day, as the research presented will be different.

Attendees will also have the option to play at Cog Hill's Dubsdread on Tuesday, August 25 @ 1 pm at an additional cost. The field will be limited to the first 144 registrants and may fill up fast as we will be the last group on the newly remodeled course prior to the PGA Tour coming to town. Thank you to Ken Lapp, golf course superintendent, for hosting this event for our group. The event will be a two man best ball.

The iTurfExpo also offers many different education sessions for you and your staff. Utilizing the environment and resources of the Midwest Golf House Complex, the education has been planned to be different from anything you can get and see indoors. The education committee has chosen topics and sessions based on their ability to be led outdoors. The idea was simple – if it is a class that can be taught indoors, we will present that in the winter, let's create education sessions that are hands on and interactive. The sessions that will be presented include:

- Bedknife Facing and mower sharpening
- Chainsaw / Line trimmer Safety
- Chemical Mixing and Loading
- Annual Flower Trials
- Irrigation Repair
- Logo Painting
- Paver Installation
- Pesticide Spill Containment
- Pruning Walk
- Rotary Mower Sharpening
- Sprayer / Spreader Calibration
- Weed Identification

Education sessions will run concurrently and be repeated throughout, there is no need to sign up for a specific one, just attend the ones that interest you or your staff.

General Information

Entrance onto the Sunshine Course will begin at 8 am each morning. Research stops will run concurrently at the top of each hour. At the bottom of the hour, product and equipment demonstrations will take place. Various exhibitor booths and tables will be setup throughout the course. Once inside, attendees will be able to wander and visit the various trade show booths, check out research stops, and view live equipment and products demonstrations. Food and beverages will be available to purchase onsite during the trade show.

The ITF board has been working extremely hard to create a unique, fun, and beneficial event for all parties involved. They have listened to you and hope this new venture meets your needs as a turf professional while raising funds to propel the future of turf.

There is no other show around that offers its attendees an experience like that of the iTurfExpo. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending this year's iTurfExpo!

(continued on next page)



The iTurfExpo education will be outdoors, interactive and hands on.



Come out and see research results funded by the ITF and MAGCS.



Check out the latest equipment and products in action.

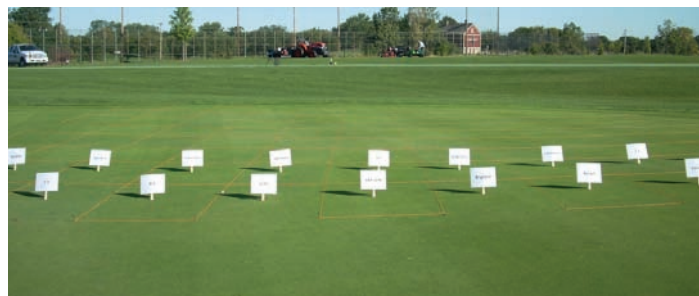
CDGA Sunshine Course, an Outdoor Laboratory



In 2001 the Chicago District Golf Association (CDGA) began construction on Sunshine Course. The idea was to build a golf course dedicated to the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation and affiliated groups for educational, therapeutic, recreational, and rehabilitative uses. The facility was to become a turfgrass research laboratory and a living arboretum. A multitude of turfgrass species and varieties as well as different trees, shrubs, flowers, and ornamental grasses, were planned to fill this outdoor laboratory. Many organizations pulled together to accomplish this task which was completed fall 2002 and saw its first round of golf in 2003. Today the idea lives on with an expansion of turfgrass variety trials and has taken on a new breath by investigation of annuals and perennials for the landscape.

When the CDGA moved to their new location in Lemont, Dr. Randy Kane already had a turfgrass program in place. Dr. Kane provided diagnostic consultation and active research. For example, his program collaborated with area superintendents to conduct fungicide and plant growth regulator trials on Chicagoland golf courses. He was instrumental in the planning of Sunshine Course's turfgrass and with the assistance of Lee Miller set up many varieties and species to cover the greens, tees, fairways, and rough. Creeping bentgrass varieties primarily covered the tees, fairways, and greens, while other not so common turfgrass species were also established. Six different turfgrass species were established on the course and over twenty-four varieties of creeping bentgrass on the practice green. Two additional plots were set up in out of play areas in collaboration with Dr. Tom Voigt and the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP). One trial included creeping and

colonial bentgrasses to be tested for fairways and tees. A second fine leaf fescue trial was installed to evaluate for unmowed roughs. These trials were the result of Chicagoland superintendents' desire for turfgrass research in their region that would be nearby and accessible. The turf industry in Chicago needed Sunshine Course, an outdoor turfgrass laboratory to address their needs.



The practice green at Sunshine Course is complete with 24 varieties in randomized plots and 15 represented in ten foot strips across the green.

As the three holes of Sunshine Course were established with turfgrass varieties, more research and demonstration plots were installed around the course. Dr. Voigt from The University of Illinois (U of I) evaluated several turfgrass species under unmowed conditions and set up a demonstration of 20 different ornamental grasses used in landscapes. Dr. Ken Diesburg from Southern Illinois University brought a touch of southern grasses to Sunshine Course as he evaluated different zoysiagrass varieties and how they establish in a cooler environment. The grounds of Midwest Golf House were also used as an educational tool when Carl Hopphan, with help of Illinois nursery men and women, planted landscape trees and shrubs around the building. Numerous ornamentals, woody and herbaceous, were selected to show the latest advancements from the Morton Arboretum, Chicago Botanical Gardens, and area nurseries. In the years that followed, two U of I Extension specialists, Greg Stack and Richard Hentschel, moved their offices to Midwest Golf House and added more landscape beds around the building. Each demonstration garden is complete with signage to show the name of each landscape plant for daily visitors and during the summer research Field Day.



Sunshine Course was completed in 2002 and serves as an outdoor laboratory for many visitors throughout the year.

Photo credit: K. Rincker