



Each year landscape beds are filled with color surrounding Midwest Golf House. Common and scientific names are labeled.

In addition to the variety trial research and demonstrations on Sunshine Course, IPM (integrated pest management) research, under the direction of Dr. Kane and later Dr. Derek Settle, began every year on Sunshine Course. Replicated research trials focus on controlling dollar spot and brown patch, two of the biggest disease issues facing golf course turf in Chicago. Fungicide research continues to see many new and different product names. Some are available, and some are on the cutting edge and not yet available. The access of fungicide research trials to turf managers has become important and allows a direct comparison of their ability to control disease in the field. Other research to benefit golf courses has included controlling moss encroachment on putting greens in a 2005-2006 research project with the United States Golf Association (USGA). Later in 2007-2008, USGA- sponsored research investigated several

biostimulant products on putting greens with collaboration of Dr. Peter Dernoeden, University of Maryland. Herbicide research was brought to Sunshine Course by Dr. Bruce Branham and Bill Sharp from the U of I. They have shown the usefulness of new herbicides available to golf courses and sod farms.

With all the many plant types, varieties, turfgrass species, fungicides, and product testing it is easy to see Sunshine Course is a place to learn, but who are the students?

Many people can view Sunshine Course for a lesson in turfgrass science and the Green Industry. College students from Joliet Junior College visited last fall, and this spring a group of graduate students and researchers from Kansas State University and North Dakota State University got a glimpse of active turfgrass research at a facility that is also an active golf course. In addition, university researchers regularly visit Sunshine Course as they work on research projects which not only generate valuable data but later can be showcased on Field Day. Also, company research and development representatives come to visit when research of their product occurs on Sunshine Course. Not to forget, all of us in the CDGA Turfgrass Program learn from Sunshine Course every day. To learn the dynamics of the turf environment, we continually scout for pest issues and rate plots. Most importantly, participants at field day can visit to learn about testing on Sunshine Course. Each of the research trials can be visited with labeled plots. It is important to note that superintendents or interested committee members can come and inspect the turfgrass variety they are interested in. They can visualize what the end result will be on their course by seeing newer varieties in a mature state.

(continued on next page)



Many new products are tested on Sunshine Course each year.

What have we learned from this outdoor laboratory?

We learned that at fairway height colonial bentgrass gets too much brown patch to remain competitive during the summer months and cannot persist year after year. The creeping bentgrass varieties of 'Declaration' and 'Pennlinks II' have shown good dollar spot resistance and performed well in the fairway/tee NTEP trial. In 2008, newer fungicides like Emerald and Tourney performed well controlling dollar spot on Sunshine's number 2 bentgrass fairway, while some did not work during peak season pressure. We learned that moss infesting Sunshine's number 1 green can be controlled with either spot-applications of baking soda or with broadcast applications of Quicksilver. In addition, cultural practices like a low mowing height can increase moss development. Most recently, research on Sunshine's number 2 green has shown that urea can provide a good visual quality while supplying the plant with basic nutrition at a good price. Research on Sunshine Course yields results throughout the season and are posted regularly in the weekly Turfgrass eScouting Report.

What is new in 2009?

Seven years after the initial establishment of turfgrass variety trials on Sunshine Course, three are in the process of being replaced and a new trial location was installed this spring. A bentgrass variety trial is currently being established and managed as a fairway and also another to be managed as a putting green. These two trials will take a new look at about 25 varieties and incorporate two fungicide treatments to find varieties that provide adequate quality with reduced inputs. In addition to two new bentgrass trials, our number three fairway bluegrass

is currently being replaced with 52 new Kentucky bluegrass varieties that are intended to grow under fairway conditions. These varieties will be tested for their quality performance and tolerance to new selective herbicides. The fourth trial, a tall fescue trial of 58 varieties made its debut to Sunshine grounds in May and continues to grow in. These varieties will be evaluated for their resistance to brown patch. Also, an exciting new addition to Sunshine this year is a trail of different annual landscape plants. Over 150 varieties are included with 35 different petunias and various begonias, salvias, zinnias, and snapdragons. Some plants are All America Selection winners and will be released in 2010. Within the fungicide trials are several new names as well. Honor, Interface, Reserve, Triton, and Civitas are all being tested on Sunshine this year. In total, about 30 products will be tested for dollar spot control in the fairway.



58 tall fescue varieties are now showing their color and texture differences on Sunshine Course.



Field Day is a great opportunity to see research conducted on Sunshine Course.



*A show of color from 150 annuals
has just begun on Sunshine Course.*

Also new this year, the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation will host a new field day format called the iTurfExpo. The new event is scheduled for August 25th and 26th and the timing is perfect. Sunshine Course is full of new research and excitement, and anticipation can be felt throughout the CDGA Turfgrass Program. The number of organizations that have come together in the past to establish and sponsor research on Sunshine Course is amazing and the effort continues. The iTurfExpo will be expanded and will cover not only golf turf but also lawn and sports turf. In addition, safety demonstrations may be available for employee training. The annual ornamental trials add another component to show new introductions available for landscape beds that so many turf managers work closely with. This year Sunshine Course has expanded and added many new trials that will teach us all in the Green Industry.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful for the information provided to me by Carl Hopphan, Greg Stack, Richard Hentschel, Dr. Derek Settle and Dr. Randy Kane. **-OC**



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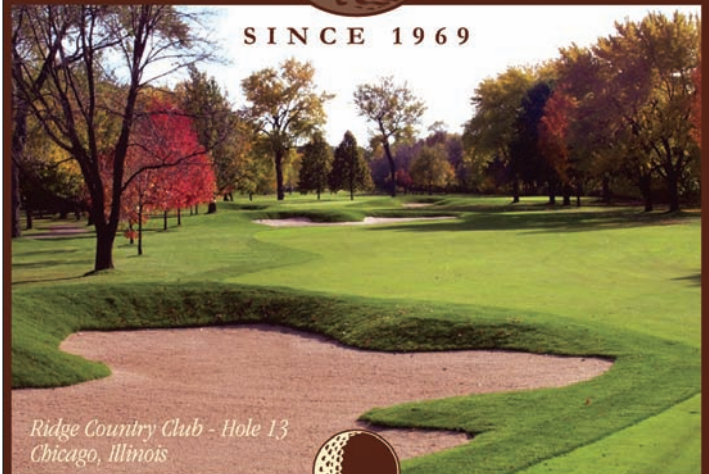


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Get Converged



It wasn't that long ago each of us had a paper calendar, a rolodex or address book, a watch on our wrist, and a phone on our desk. Sometimes I long for those simpler days, but they are gone.

Each meeting I attend I notice more and more golf course superintendents are using the latest technology to communicate. Remember the first cell phone you had? I do. It was pretty thick and bulky, and the reception was questionable. However, it got me out of the office. I was taking care of the general contracting on a construction project on the golf course and the cell phone saved me from an endless game of phone tag by allowing me to be on the golf course.

Now present day – we have converged. It is hard to find a cell phone that doesn't keep track of your contacts, has a basic calendaring program, camera, games, ability to text, surf the web, and even record video. If you are replacing your cell phone soon (most do it every two years) I would urge you to take a look at a smartphone BlackBerry, iPhone, etc). Don't take the attitude – I'm just using it for a phone when you can carry your office with you on the course.

In terms of features, most smartphones support full-featured email capabilities with the functionality of a complete personal organizer. Other functionality might include an additional interface such as a miniature QWERTY keyboard, a touch screen, a built-in camera, contact management, an accelerometer, built-in navigation hardware and software, the ability to read business documents in a variety of formats such as PDF and Microsoft Office, media software for playing music, browsing photos and viewing video clips, internet browsers, or even just secure access to company mail. One common feature associated with many smartphones is the ability to store as many contacts as the available memory permits, in contrast to regular phones that have limits to the maximum number of contacts that can be stored.

In a time when we are looking to increase our efficiencies and be more productive, there may be no better and helpful tool than a smartphone.

Synchronize with Your Computer

Perhaps the greatest key to a smartphone is its ability to "sync" (short for synchronize) with your computer. This keeps the data on your phone the same as on your computer. One added benefit of syncing your phone with your computer is that it backs up both systems. I'm not partial to someone who is

redundant, especially at a meeting, but I like to set up my data into redundant systems. Using a smartphone and a computer backs up all of your important data for both systems.

Most smartphones will ship with software that allows you to sync with your computer. Once the computer software is loaded, you are able to

connect your smartphone into your computer with a cable that allows each to exchange data. By syncing, the computer and smartphone take a look at all your information and update each other. For instance, if I add a contact on my smartphone while on the golf course, the next time I sync with my computer that new contact will be added to my computer. Or, if I add an item to my calendar on my computer, it will add that item to my calendar on my smartphone.

Another added benefit of having a smartphone is that the first time you hook up your smart phone to your computer, it will transfer all of your contacts to your smartphone. Even if you don't have your contacts or other data on your computer, you

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can still use your computer to enter the information. No more using a small, little keypad to enter each of your contacts into a new cell phone. You can use your keyboard attached to your computer to enter your data.

Oh, another place I like redundant systems are on airplanes when I'm flying.

Contacts

My son found an old address book/keeper thing the other day at my parents' house and was amazed by it. It was one of those spring loaded things where you slid the pointer to the letter of the person's last name, pressed a button, and it opened to all the contacts in that category. (I noticed there was only room for one phone number, and certainly no email address in the contraption). Of course, you may still keep a little black book like Fonzie with all your key contacts in it, but if you are like most of us, your contacts are on your phone and the only time you ever really think about them is when you get a new one because you dread the thought of having to transfer all those numbers over to your new phone.

A smartphone will store all your contacts (for the most part, unlimited) with all their pertinent data and some data you can't even think of keeping. Smartphones offer you many different fields to keep track of, not only work and home phones, but fax numbers, email addresses, home and work addresses, birthdays (good for spouses), anniversaries (also good for spouses), children's names, and even a place to store their name spelled phonetically. Though some of this might be overkill, how nice would it be to have your new green chairman's wife's name at a moments notice?

Calendar

I can keep track of several calendars on my smartphone. You might ask why I would need several calendars instead of just one. Of course I have a work calendar. This is really my main one and gets the most entries. No need to splain this one Lucy.

I also keep a calendar for my employees with their hours worked, the hours they plan to work, and any vacation time requested. There is also a summer baseball game and practice calendar for both of my sons. I also keep a separate calendar

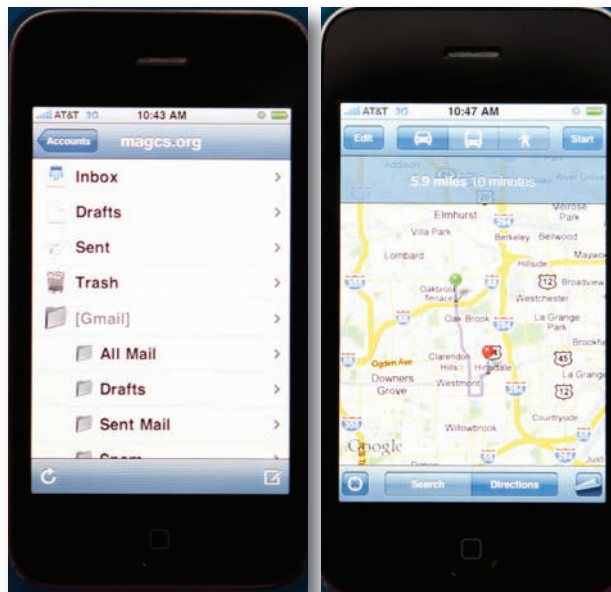
for home that includes doctor appointments, events for the kids, vacations, etc. Oh yea, I also have a calendar that has all the Cubs games on it (I downloaded and imported it onto my phone). I even just started a new calendar that I use to keep track of my "exercise," but it's pretty empty at this point. Golf is an exercise, right? I've played a few times this year, I can record the course, and the score I shot. Yes, these calendars are all on my phone. I can also turn them on and off so I don't have to view them all at once, in fact, during the last Cub's skid, I turned off their calendar for a few days.

No matter how many calendars you keep, the greatest part of having it on your phone is it is always with you. When you get that call from your friend that invites you to a Cubs game, you can check your schedule right away and figure out if you can make it.

Electronic calendars are very easy to set up and are great for reoccurring events. Green committee every third Tuesday of the month? No problem, create the one event and set it to reoccur monthly. Conference call at 1:00 pm next Monday? Add it to your calendar and have your phone send a reminder 10 minutes before the call with a note that contains the phone number for you to call.



One of the keys to a smartphone is its ability to store practically unlimited contact information.



Smartphones keep you in touch through e-mail and can even bring up a weather radar.

Email

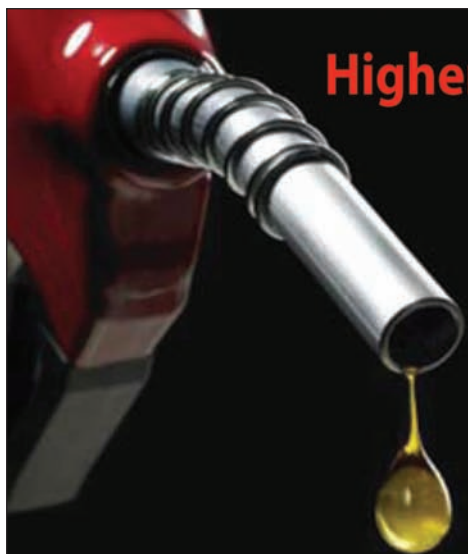
Some like to have their email sent directly to their phone, others don't care for it. I can understand the inclination not to use a phone in this manner, but no one has to know that you have your email on your phone.

I have my email sent to my phone, and I use it to keep track of what I have to deal with when I return to my office. I typically will respond to an email on my phone when I know I won't have the opportunity to sit in front of my computer and/or when a message needs my immediate attention. We all know who those people are that expect an immediate response and sometimes a phone with email helps us to live up to their standards. And actually, sometimes an email can be more

effective means of communication, especially if you don't really want to talk to the person.

Some might fear that they will mess up their email on their computer if they have it sent to their phone. Fear not, for there is an option for your smartphone to only download a copy

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Text Messaging

Most cell phone are able to text message. Text messaging, or texting, is an informal term referring to the exchange of brief written messages between mobile phones. While the term most often refers to messages sent using the Short Message Service (SMS), it has been extended to include messages containing image, video, and sound content, such as MMS messages. Individual messages are referred to as "text messages" or "texts". Most smartphones can text via SMS and MMS at present.

Tasks and Notes

Superintendents are a group of list-makers, there is no doubt about it. As you travel the course, there are always things popping up that need to be done by your staff. Part of the reason Supers like to make lists is the great satisfaction in crossing completed items off your list each day. A smartphone is a great place to keep and sort your lists. You can apply priorities, completion dates, assign staff, and even set reminders for all your tasks.

One of the greatest tools I used to make lists when I made my morning and afternoon loops was a voice recorder. I never had to stop my golf car to scribble something down—I just talked to myself as I went. Many smartphones today have voice recorders built into them and make it very easy to record a voice memo.

The difference is in the operating system (OS)

A smartphone differs from a cell phone in that it has its own operating system. For instance, the iPhone operates on the iPhone OS, basically a pared down version of their Mac OS. Other operating systems include: Symbian OS, RIM's BlackBerry, Windows Mobile, Linux, Palm Web OS, and Android.

How important is it to know about these? For the most part, not all that much; however, it might be important to know which ones are the most popular, Symbian, iPhone, and RIM's (Research in Motion) are the big three at present, because they usually have the most support and are time tested. Because these devices have their own operating system, they have the ability to add applications (e.g. for enhanced data processing, connectivity, or entertainment) - in contrast to regular phones which only support sandboxed applications (like Java games). Since the operating system is open, these smartphone applications may be developed by the manufacturer of the device, by the network operator, or by any other third-party software developer. The popular iPhone phrase, "We've got an app for that" refers to programs developed by third party developers that allow you to use your smartphone in many other ways. At present there are over 50,000 applications that you can purchase or download for free for an iPhone that

can just about turn your iPhone into anything you need it to be.

Other Functions

Camera

Most smartphones are being released with a built in camera and some actually take pretty decent pictures. Some of the newer models can even take video. You may think there is no need for a camera, but remember a picture is worth a thousand words and it might be nice to have a camera on your hip if needed.

Music Player

By now most of us know what an iPod or MP3 player is and most smartphones have the ability to play music. I'll be honest here, though my phone will play music, I have never used it to do this, I've always defaulted to my iPod to take care of this task.

Web Browsing

As cell phone carriers continue to increase the amount of data that can be transferred over their networks (currently 3G or 3rd Generation), more complex and varied applications can be used. This includes web browsing or "surfing the web". Screens on most smartphones are small and most people prefer to use their computer for this task; however, there are instances where having the access to the Internet in your pocket is a value. Checking the radar is a popular task and can be done from your smartphone's browser—handy on the course if a storm is coming and you want to know where it is.

Many other things a smartphone can do for you:

- Bookreaders (remember those things, you can download books and read them on your phone)
- Calculators (nice to have around, especially ones that will convert different measures)
- Games (there isn't much time to waste during the day, but games can be good mind clearers)
- GPS enabled – directions and

maps, marking locations, geotagging photographs (imbeds data into your picture taken with your phone to let you know the GPS coordinates)

So if you are in the market for a new phone, consider a smartphone. It was only a few years ago smartphones were big and clunky when compared to regular cell phones. For most, this was the deal breaker when choosing an item that would be a part of your wardrobe for the next few years. Let's face it, cell phones are like cars, they say something about you and when you chose one, design is just as important as functionality. New smartphones are as sleek and perhaps, a little larger than their cell phone brethren, but nonetheless still fashionable. The key is in their functionality. There are more and more things that keep you in your office and off the course, try and reverse that trend with a smartphone. **-OC**



Apple's iPhone has many applications, some productive as the voice recorder and fun like the bird field guide that not only has pictures of the little buggers but recording to help you identify their voice.

THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



July 2009

Welcome also to **Greg Johnson** of Eagle Brook Country Club who has accepted the open Director's position on the 2009 MAGCS Board of Directors. Thank you Greg for your dedication to this association, and best of luck in your tenure on the Board.

Congratulations to **Luke Cella** on his successful completion of 100 holes of golf in the Sunshine Through Golf Classic 100 marathon on May 30th. Luke competed in the event with the support of many MAGCS members who had pledged money that ultimately will go to the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation to benefit the beginners, juniors, individuals with disabilities, minorities, and economically disadvantaged in the Chicago District. Nice job, Luke.



Bob Berry, past president of the CDGA led the charge both on and off the course during the 100 holes of golf marathon. Thank you to all those that contributed. Over \$113,000 was raised.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

July 21 – MAGCS Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Outing at Prairie Landing Golf Club in West Chicago, IL, **Tony Kalina, Travis Dykstra, and Eric Mundt** hosts.

July 25 – MAGCS Family Night Picnic and Kane County Cougars baseball game at Elfstrom Field in Geneva, IL.

July 27-29 – Illinois Open at Hawthorn Woods Country Club in Hawthorn Woods, IL, **David Schingel** host.

August 1 – Deadline for entries for Lebanon Turf's 2010 Dog Days of Golf calendar.

August 1 – Coincidentally, this is the deadline for entries in TurfNet's 2010 "Superintendent's Best Friend Calendar" presented by BASF.

August 18-19 – Junior Solheim Cup at Aurora Country Club, John Gurke, CGCS and **Virgil Range** hosts.

August 21 – Deadline for letters of support and nominations to be submitted for the GCSAA's 2010 Distinguished Service Award.

August 21-23 – Ping Solheim Cup at Rich Harvest Links in Sugar Grove, IL, **Jeff Vercautren** host.

August 25-26 – Inaugural iTurf Expo at Midwest Golf House and Sunshine Course in Lemont, IL, **Dr. Derek Settle, Keith Rincker, and Chris Painter** hosts. **Ken Lapp** hosts the iTurf Golf Classic, part of the festivities with the iTurfExpo. (www.iturfexpo.com to register)

September 8 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Golf Championship at Kemper Lakes Golf Club in Kildeer, IL, **Dan Tully** host.

September 10-13 – BMW Championship at the newly-renovated Cog Hill Country Club, **Ken Lapp** host.

September 10-17 – 55th USGA Senior Amateur Championship at Beverly Country Club, **Keith Peterson** host.

September 21 – Annual Wee One Golf Outing at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI, **Rod Johnson** host. (www.weeone.org to register)