

carts and see where they were deposited around the course. He also wanted to see the location of the home of the suspected vandal.

I showed Gianni the receipt found outside the home of the suspected vandal. He was pleased that we had this and thought we now had some hard evidence. His next step was to take the receipt to the store where the beer was purchased and look over the videotape. Luckily for us, this particular store catalogs all video by the register that made the sale. It was very easy for him to see who purchased the beer and get a name.

For me, the next part was very exciting but also nerve racking. Gianni called me at home, said he had spoken with the young man who purchased the beer, and that he had spilled his guts and told him everything. Gianni said what he would like to do next is stake out the home and go in and question the kid. This was all sounding good to me, until he said he wanted me with him. For those of us who watch crime shows, and I do, it always seemed exciting to go into the suspects house and grill him...until you have to do it. I was extremely nervous about this. I was unsure how it would play out in real life.

We waited in my cart outside of the house, behind some bushes. During this time—about an hour but it felt like a week—we went over how we were going to approach this. He knew what he was going to ask to draw out the real answers. My only job was to look official. Maybe we could make him nervous.

The kid came home, we knocked on the door, and the parents let us right in. We sat down with the young man, told him why we were here and what we planned on doing. This had no effect on him. He quickly asked us to leave, which we had to do. He told us never to come back. At that moment, Gianni became really frustrated with his attitude and wanted to do whatever it took to put him away for this.

Months have gone by. Gianni calls every once in a while to give me an update on the investigation. I am getting frustrated that it is taking so long, but I am relieved we have somebody working for us. Now the bad part; it happens again. Our back door is kicked in, a Workman is stolen, tees, benches, and signs are torn apart. My initial thought is how can this happen? The kid is under investigation for vandalism and he does it again?

The clubhouse also has a break in. Bottles of alcohol are stolen, and small items are moved or removed. We now have the attention of all Ivanhoe staff; to say we are on high alert

would be an understatement. We take drastic measures; new cameras are installed in the clubhouse. At the grounds department, we install a heavy gate. We now have motion sensor lights and cameras. All things we did not want to do, but when your back is to the wall, you do whatever it takes.

2009 goes by without incident. We cruise through the season without a word from anybody from Lake County. I am happy that no vandalism has occurred but a little frustrated that there seems to be no resolution. Toward the end of the season, I actually put it out of my mind; it seems like something in the past.

Out of the blue, in January 2010, I check my mailbox. What do I find...? A subpoena from the Lake County States Attorney's office to appear in court the next week for this case. I was to be in the attorney's office on Monday to go over our deposition; we were scheduled for a week-long trial before the judge.

I sat in the attorney's office with our detective who will appear in court with me. We are going over dates, details, and dollar amounts. All things I had put out of my memory until now. My nerves are racing. I would have to sit on the stand and tell our story. I had no problem with that. It was the fact that the defense lawyers would have their chance to ask me questions as well. The uncertainty of what they might ask had me sweating. This was finally happening and I was a nervous wreck.

As I sat in the waiting room, going over my dates one more time the states attorney comes in to advise me there may be a deal. The defense isn't sure they have a solid case anymore as the judge wants to hear all three incidents today. Originally we were going to take them one at a time, each in front of a different judge. This decision, one judge to hear everything, has spun the case in our favor. Once the plea is put to paper, I am asked if this suits Ivanhoe. I was unsure so I deferred to the attorney. He advised me that this would be acceptable as we could take this plea to civil court and get all of our money back.

In the end all parties are happy with the outcome. The ordeal took three years, and I'm glad it's over. The experience is one that I will never forget. You never know if you'll go through something like this again, but in retrospect I'm glad I did. The range of emotions you feel in dealing with something like this is one that will be hard to find again. **-OC**

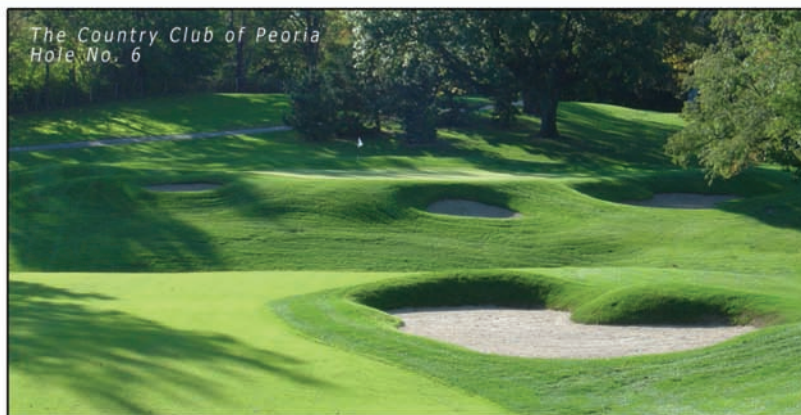


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SUPER -N- SITE

Steven Biehl, Naperville Country Club

Mark Kowaliczko -N- Joliet Country Club

A sunny day trimming bunker edges, trimming around trees, chasing quick couplers around the course while irrigating through the night is a typical day for Mark Kowaliczko at Joliet Country Club...while he was in high school.

Mark grew up across the street from Big Run Golf Course. However, when it came time for the requisite high school job, his father knew Ted Mochel, and that led Mark to the Joliet Country Club. Those early years at Joliet Country Club, under Ted's watchful eye, may have seemed trivial at the start, but they eventually led to a career in the golf industry, including the title of Past President of the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS).

Joliet Country Club is one of the oldest clubs in the Chicago area, founded in 1905. It was a 9-hole golf course until the early 1920s, when another nine holes were added. Only minor changes have been made since then. The biggest came only a few years ago when a clubhouse construction project required the reworking of a few holes.

Mark's high school job made an impression. His love for working on the course finally won out over the Biology degree he was working toward at Loyola. He transferred to University of Illinois to pursue a career in the golf industry. Upon completion of his degree, he was awarded the assistant superintendent position at Bryn Mawr Country Club under Mike Nass. Mark spent four years as the assistant at Bryn Mawr before he moved back to Joliet Country Club, this time as superintendent, in September of 1986.



Mark Kowaliczko

In his office, Mark's golf clubs are in the corner, in case there's an urge to golf. A stack of books on the shelf hints at a love of reading. A closer look reveals titles about Abraham Lincoln, giving away Mark's interest in the history of the United States. But, the most imposing thing in his office is the large picture of his kids. Mark and his wife Diana have four sons. Their oldest, Zenon, is graduating from high school in just a few months. Zach is a sophomore and has started playing golf, which Mark admits has led him to play a little more often. Mark and Diana's twin sons, Christian and Chandler, are in seventh grade and keep them busy

between volleyball and gymnastics.

Mark got started in the golf industry like so many others – he worked on a golf course during high school. He is still in the industry for the same reasons that many others are – he enjoys being outside as well as the collegial relationship among superintendents. On April 27th head to Joliet Country Club and enjoy being outside in a collegial atmosphere. **-OC**





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MIDWEST BREEZES

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



“So What Do Golf Course Superintendents Do in the winter...in Seattle”?

In the Midwest regions, when people find out that we are Golf Course Superintendents, the number one question we always get asked is, “what do you do in the winter”? Our courses are for the most part closed and the ground is often frozen and/or covered with snow. We work on indoor stuff or work outside pruning trees and shoveling snow.

There is one part of the country that grows cool season turf varieties (also known as the poa annua capital of the world) and continues to play golf in the winter. This most unique place is the Pacific Northwest (PNW). So what goes on with their golf courses during the winter months?

After the GIS in San Diego, I flew north to the “megapolis” of Seattle/Tacoma/Vancouver B.C. area to further investigate this question.

Now we all know it rains a lot in the PNW. Seattle was known as the suicide capital of the U.S. because of the ever present dreary, rain, fog filled days, day after day...depressing. Most of the precipitation comes during the winter months. The rain/snow can vary anywhere from 30 to 350 inches a year depending on specifically where in the Seattle area a golf course is located. The Olympic Mountains have the ability to create “rain shadow” with the frontal systems coming off the Pacific Ocean; however, when it doesn’t rain, it can be very pleasant. By pleasant, I mean like mid 50’s and sunny. For us “snow people” coming from a sub arctic environment to a place where it is 50° and sunny, is quite warm and comfortable. For the sun starved locals, whenever the sun does peek out, they come outside to play in droves and the golf courses are packed. Many of the hard core golfers just pack their gore-tex and go play in the fog and drizzle, just a normal day in Seattle. If you wait for the sun to play golf, it may be a long

time coming. The weather forecast can be very predictable. Kind of like the opposite of San Diego predictable. Instead of sunny and warm it’s cold, gray and drizzly. So if you live there and you want to play outside, you “just do it”. Now you know how Nike (based in Portland, OR) came up with their famous catch phrase.

In a “normal” winter in Seattle, usually the biggest problem for golf courses is the chronic and ever present management of pink snow mold or fusarium disease. The turf growth also slows down a lot but it still needs to be cut, just not as frequently. The turf stays emerald green year round, there is no dormancy. The challenge is to find the window to cut when

the turf is not saturated and there is no standing water. Most of the crews are running at near full capacity. Golf course project work is also a common winter practice. Tree removal is an ongoing battle at any golf course and they grow some pretty healthy specimen’s of Douglas Fir and other very tall conifers that create ultra dense shading of entire holes. Many courses continue to topdress their fairways, which has been a common practice for the last ten years or more to promote firmer

soil conditions and to discourage earth worms. Of course drainage projects are revealed and implemented as the soil and turf becomes water logged.

This winter was very unusual in the PNW. They had some extended freezing weather in the single digits in December that killed many of the poa annua greens. Any turf that was weakened from the previous summer got hit hard. There were even reports of pythium outbreaks last summer, also very unusual. The normal temperature range typically doesn’t get that hot or humid. Their poa never had a chance to harden off like our

(continued on next page)



hardy Midwest varieties usually do. Most of the winter kill damage was on poa in shallow rooted areas on greens or weak drainage areas and along drain lines. The winter kill damage was widespread across all different kinds of courses across the entire PNW all the way up and down the coast. Very few courses were spared some sort of damage.

Joel Kachmarek at Tacoma Country Club along with many other courses lost many parts of his greens. They mow the poa pretty low (around .110" summer and .150 winter) and the short rooted, short leafed plants couldn't handle the extended freeze. He is trying to stimulate re-growth of the poa by making light frequent applications of fertilizer and raising mowing heights. Many other courses got "whacked" and are playing on temporary greens. Joel has a major sewer line project that the city is installing along the perimeter of the property. The Members are not used to the greens being anything other than perfect. Communication, outreach and a past "track record" have been critical for Joel's plans to move forward.

John Alexander at Fircrest Country in Tacoma also lost some of his greens. He just recently took over the Superintendent position so he is fortunate the green failure didn't happen on his "watch". John is taking the same curative tactics as Joel, using temporary greens as needed, light spoon

feeding, raising mowing heights and communicating the challenges. The poa will grow back like it always does. Time and patience are going to be required.

Larry Gilhuly, N.W. Regional USGA Turf Advisor has been very busy making course visits. He has been writing newsletters and trying to keep everyone informed and "calmed" that this is a regional, abnormal phenomenon and that no one did anything "wrong". Everyone is trying to figure how to prevent this problem in the future. There are no easy answers.

I attended a breakfast club meeting of a group of Superintendents from the Tacoma area. They discussed everything from disease management, fertility, winter mowing, topdressing, budget cuts and project work. The main topic of conversation was the abnormal 2009/2010 winter kill of the poa annua. I always find it amazing I can sit and talk to Superintendents from any-



where in the world and we always talk about the same stuff. That's what Turf Nerds do.

Kelly Donaldson is the Superintendent at the Home Course in Tacoma. The Home Course is a public course owned and operated by the Pacific Northwest Golf Association and the Washington Golf Association. This location is the home of the Northwest Golf House, a similar concept to our own C.D.G.A. Golf House. The Hudson Bay Company had a trading post on the site in the early 1800's. It overlooks Puget Sound. There is speculation the traders laid out a crude six hole layout around the fort. This would make it the oldest golf course west of the Mississippi. Kelly will be hosting the qualifier rounds for the U.S. Amateur being held down the road this summer at Chambers Bay. He has T-1 Bentgrass greens with very little poa invasion and interestingly enough, his greens did not sustain any damage.

Sean McDonough of Broadmoor Golf Club in Seattle took his lumps as well. His damage was more of an overall thinning of the poa as opposed to large dead areas. He is still playing on a handful of temporary greens. He says some of the clubs are starting to look at rolling out the sod cutters and replacing significant areas of greens.

Paul Collieran of The Members Club of Aldarra, a "slick" newer Tom Fazio designed course had only slight freeze damage to some of his lower drainage areas in his fairways. He still has a lot of bent in his greens. The course is located about an hour east of Seattle and has some nice, pretty rolling terrain. Aldarra features ryegrass fairways and tees, pretty much the standard for all new courses out there.

David Wienecke, Superintendent of Chambers Bay in Tacoma is gearing up for hosting the very prestigious, U.S. Amateur later this summer. It is located on a beautiful site adjacent to Puget Sound looking out toward the Olympic Peninsula. Chambers Bay is owned by Pierce County and is managed by Kemper Sports. David is working on adding a few tees, improving the practice area and removing Scotch Broom a noxious weed. Chambers Bay is a true links, public course built on an old sand/gravel mining pit. It is a Robert Trent II design, featuring fine fescue as the playing surface everywhere. It is a walking only course as the fescue is very sensitive to vehicle traffic. Chambers Bay was designed and built to host major championships. Links golf requires a different approach to playing the ground game and it will be a great challenge for the players. They are scheduled to host the U.S. Open in 2015. If you get a chance, this course is very unique and is a "must" play. You could play Chambers Bay in Tacoma and then head down the Oregon coast to play the courses at Bandon Dunes. You could play links golf without making the long overseas flight to the U.K!

Although normally the Pacific Northwest is not a typical destination for golf trip it does offer some unique possible options. It is one of the few places you can go golfing and alpine skiing in the same day. That ever present precipitation makes for a good snow base. Be forewarned, you won't find the champagne powder like you do in the Rockies; it's more like a cascade concrete. **-OC**



THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



April 2010

Welcome to our new members, who are:

Todd Zimmerman, Aspen Ridge Golf Course, Regular

Doug Steeves, Synthetic Turf of Illinois, Associate

William Staszak, Cassidy Tire & Service, Associate

Bryan Ahern, Cassidy Tire & Service, Associate

Joshua Grossman, Great Lakes Turf, LLC, Associate

Best of luck to you in your future endeavors with our great association!

Oh, and for the ONE person that didn't get the email, YES—Augusta National got snowed on. It was white and weird and they were really freaked out by it. And now it's gone and Augusta National is OK and The Masters will still be held there.



By the way, as a Class A, ART, or AA GCSAA member you can attend the Masters for no charge. It may be too late for this year, but in case you plan on going in the future, you can learn all the rules and regs by visiting gcsaa.org. Or you may not want to spend all the money flying down there and staying in a fleabag motel for \$300 a night, now that it will be aired in 3D. In a first in sports broadcasting, the 3D broadcast will be distributed to those in the US with 3D-capable television sets and computers, thanks to a collaboration between Sony Electronics, Comcast, and IBM. Two hours per day of 3D coverage will be available. Not sure where to pick up the cool glasses though.

The International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association's Virtual Trade Show has been postponed from its originally reported dates of March 18 through 20 to May 11 through 13. Partnered with *Golfdom* magazine and major equipment manufacturers Jacobsen, John Deere, and Toro amongst others, the virtual trade show offers the opportunity to network with industry experts and research products from the comfort of your own office. For more info, contact Patrick Roberts of *Golfdom* at proberts@questex.com.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 20-22 – LogiChem 2010 at the Hilton Hotel in Dusseldorf, Germany. It's some conference for chemical manufacturers, but it's in Dusseldorf which is fun to say. Dusseldorf.

April 27 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Joliet Country Club in Joliet, IL, **Mark Kowaliczko** host.

May 11-13 – International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association's (IGCEMA) Virtual Trade Show online. Please note this change of date.

May 17 – ITF/MAGCS Spring Golf Day at Idlewild Country Club in Flossmoor, IL, **Kurt Sams, CGCS** host.

June 5 – Sunshine Through Golf Foundation's 2nd Annual Golf Marathon at the Zigfield Troy Golf Course in Woodridge, IL, **Dennis Troy** host.

June 14 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Elgin Country Club, **Phil Zeinert, CGCS** host.

June 29 – 10th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing at Crystal Woods Golf Club in Woodstock, IL.

(continued on page 21)



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