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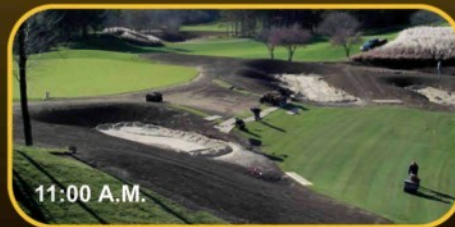
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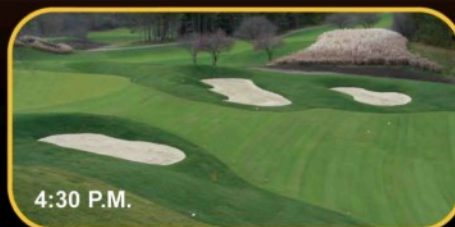
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DECEMBER 2010 Volume 64 No. 8



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(l to r) Ed Braunsky, Bob Kohlstedt, Jim Keith, Chuck Barber, Dan Sterr, Nick Baker and Dave Groelle.
(Not pictured: Mike Mumper, Dave Kohley, John Nelson, Joe Schneider, Luke Cella)
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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ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Dan Sterr, Stonebridge Country Club



Throwing Rocks out of Bunkers

It is both an honor and a privilege to be selected as the President of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. I remember working at Springbrook Golf Course in the late '70s, when I was in high school. I read the "Bull Sheet" that my boss, Bill Walsh, had in his office. I remember thinking "wow" this is really some neat stuff. The important people in our business are the President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and Directors of an Association; they must be really important. Never in a million years did I think I would be one of those guys. I remember my first day of work at Springbrook in the fall of 1977. I was sent out to rake bunkers and given the five-minute instruction on how to use the Sand Pro. I proceeded to rake the bunkers. On the 6th hole I was doing my thing with the Sand Pro when I came across a large rock. I picked it up and threw it out of the bunker into the rough. There was a guy mowing rough at the time. From a distance, he had seen what I did, and came over to the bunker. He kindly explained to me that it was not a good idea to throw the rock into the rough, that the rock could damage the mower he was pulling behind the tractor. That guy was a Past President of the Midwest Association, Joel Purpur. Thanks, Joel, for taking that job at Naperville Country Club when you did, because that allowed me to have my first job on a golf course. From that time on, I knew that I wanted to be a Golf Course Superintendent.

We all entered this profession for a reason. Some of us because we love the game of golf; some because we like to be outdoors; some because we like to grow things; some because we thought it would be really neat to drive the cool equipment that they used on the course. I'm sure there are hundreds of other reasons, but the one thing that I believe everyone has for this profession is passion. In this profession, we all make sacrifices: weekend work, early mornings, late nights, meetings that sometimes last into the wee hours of the morning, but we do what we do because we have a passion for it. How many of us have had employees that expressed an interest in working on a golf course, but after the first few weekends of early mornings they don't want to work on a golf course anymore? We stayed because we are passionate about what we do, and we care about what we do. We're all very proud of our facilities, and we should be. Every now and then, Mother Nature reminds us who is really in charge. But after a couple of months of down time, and I use that term loosely, we are always ready to tackle a new season. How many of us are really excited in spring, when we mow greens for the first time? I know I am. Sure we all have times when things aren't going well, or when the weather deals

us an event that is not so kind. We think, "Why am I doing this," "why did I enter this profession?" But at the end of the day, the end of a season, we all reflect back and realize why we do what we do. I have been lucky to be involved with the Board of Directors since April of 2005. I can honestly say that everyone I served with has had a true commitment and passion for the Midwest and the profession. I would like to encourage everyone to be active in your association, whether it be serving on a committee, hosting a monthly meeting, or attending a monthly meeting.

Mother Nature certainly delivered us a blow this year. She reminded us of how humbling this profession can be. We have some down time. I encourage everyone to reflect on this past season, spend some time with your families during the holidays, recharge the batteries, and come out ready for the 2011 season. **-OC**



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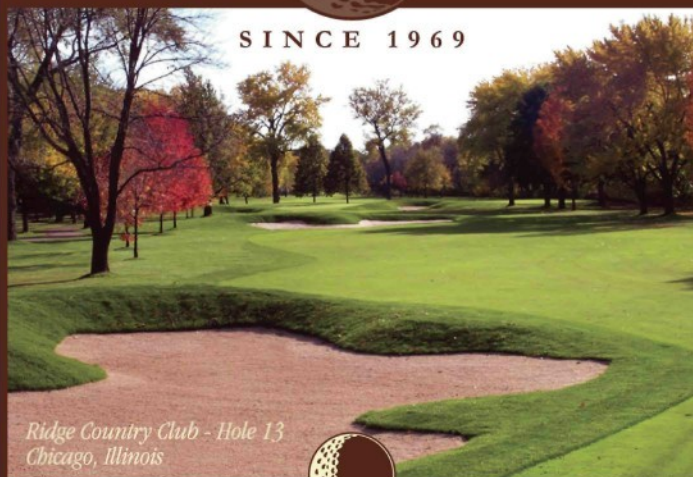
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FEATURE I

Nick Marfise, *Park Ridge Country Club*

Irrigation Demo Hole



The hot weather this August through October was a good argument for a new irrigation system. With the economy the way it is, spending a few million dollars on a completely new irrigation system may not be feasible. Collaboration with Liebold Irrigation, Inc., and Rain Bird® has allowed Park Ridge Country Club to be the first golf course in the Chicagoland area to have the newest technology in golf course irrigation.

A single golf hole at Park Ridge will feature the new Rain Bird® Integrated Control system (IC system™), which was installed using HDPE pipe. Using the existing mainlines on the course, a 3-row fairway design was installed, upgrading from our old 2-row system. There will also be an increase in tee, rough, and bunker sprinkler heads. The design for the green and perimeter heads remains the same. There will be an increase in isolation valves and ground faulting as well. Rain Bird's IC modules were compatible with our current drip irrigation valves, so steep-faced bunkers can now be programmed from our central computer.

Rain Bird's IC system eliminates field satellites and miles of underground wire. The system uses a single Maxi wire running directly from the central computer to each individual sprinkler head, simplifying communication. The IC module, located on the irrigation head in place of the solenoid, does

the job of both the solenoid and the field satellites. Direct communication to each head offers state-of-the-art troubleshooting and installation. Rain Bird's IC system is similar to other decoder type irrigation systems on the market in both function and quality. Faced with many choices, we decided to go with Rain Bird's new technology for this project. Research was key in finding the right system for our facility.

Replacing heads that were 90 feet on center with heads that are now on 65 foot centers will lower water costs. This reduction is due to accurate sprinkler coverage and better water management. With better water distribution and coverage we water the fairway less often, which increases playability. We can achieve a firmer fairway, which will allow for more ball roll. Precision watering creates less inconvenience and frustration

(continued on next page)





because it requires less day-time syringing and hand watering. Better coverage creates greater consistency and healthier turf, resulting in less dead *Poa annua*.

Our decision to install the Rain Bird® IC system™ gives us state-of-the-art benefits in design, technology, and hardware. It offers troubleshooting from the central computer. With a click of the mouse you can see, on your computer screen, the health of the IC modules and the voltage running to each head. Because the maxi wire is the only communication wire on the course, you have the ability to tap right into the maxi wire to add additional sprinklers to the golf course. You no longer have to run wires from the computer, to the satellites, and then back to the sprinkler heads themselves.

By installing the system using HDPE pipe, we gain other benefits. It is much stronger than traditional PVC and less liable to damage from shifting or settling ground, heavy equipment haul roads, freezing and thawing, etc. Fewer pipe breaks means less risk of shut down for repairs, which can be critical during hot weather conditions.

Finally, this project offers other benefits. It gives the membership a chance to see the installation process on a single hole and to compare the course improvements prior to a full-scale investment. With better water coverage, the installation allows us to create and implement a *Poa annua* control program. Eliminating *Poa annua* and introducing a higher percentage of bentgrass in our fairways gives us both long-term and short-term agronomic benefits. **-OC**

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FEATURE II

Chuck Barber, *Indian Lakes Resort*

Medinah Country Club's Newest Asset



The new front entrance of Medinah Country Club's Turf Care Facility.

Just in case you thought that Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS, and the staff at Medinah Country Club didn't have enough to do during the summer of 2010, they also managed to squeeze in completion of a new maintenance building. There are many local Medinah Country Club alums who remember the good old days and the way the maintenance building used to be. It hadn't changed all that much since those good old days. Curtis and the members realized an upgrade was in order.

The staff decommissioned and moved out of the old maintenance facility in June of 2009. Construction of the new facility began later in the fall. The primary goal was to stay within the footprint of the existing maintenance building and cold storage area. The cold storage area could be expanded, but moving the entire operation to a completely different site on Medinah's property would have proven too difficult and expensive. During construction, the grounds department was staged at Medinah's new skeet range overlooking Lake Kadijah. Then, for a short time, they were in office trailers until the maintenance building re-opened in June of 2010.

The old maintenance building had several shortcomings in relation to the demands of today's golf course maintenance. First, material handling, equipment washing, cold storage, and equipment maintenance space were all in short supply. Second, office space for the management staff and space to house 54-holes worth of irrigation computers was also sorely lacking. Finally, facilities for Medinah's staff were in need of attention.

New bins were installed to handle materials needed on a daily basis including mulch, two different types of bunker sand, topdressing sand, and divot mix. This might be a lot of material handling capacity, but Curtis feels that more is needed. There is a plan in place to add more bins to the concrete footprint of "The Hacienda," Medinah's former dormitory for associates, which was demolished in 2008.

The equipment washing station has an interesting design. The water comes from the irrigation pond and drains into two basins on the pad. Sump pumps then push the water into two large tanks equipped with filter socks to collect grass clippings

and debris. Then the wash water is pumped through another in-line filter and down a rock bed before re-entering Lake Kedijah. The clippings and debris are currently harvested and put into landscape waste containers, but composting this material on-site is an option they intend to explore. Medinah felt that this mechanical system was easier to operate and maintain, because it provides a cost effective alternative to some of the recycled wash pad systems that are currently available.



The wash pads drum and basin system at Medinah Country Club.
(continued on next page)



The filter socks inside each drum

The cold storage building was demolished and rebuilt at 20,000 square feet in order to accommodate the equipment fleet. Again, it is in the same location as the former storage building. Expanding the original space proved effective and a much better option than moving the entire facility.



Medinah's new 20,000 square foot storage facility

The former shop and office space is now dedicated to equipment maintenance. There, the staff of four mechanics grind, sharpen, service, weld and otherwise pound away on all that iron to keep equipment running at all three courses.

The office space for Curtis' staff also fit inside the footprint of the former maintenance facility and its storage space. The improvements include a professional style reception area, offices for each course superintendent, one room dedicated to irrigation central computers for all three courses, and a conference room for team meetings.



The reception area for Medinah's Turf Care Center



Course Three Superintendent Dave Kloss enjoying his office



The irrigation computer room for all three courses



The conference room for staff and member meetings

As you might imagine, Medinah's staff is quite big during the peak golf season. Where, you might ask, do all those people eat lunch, or where do you have morning meetings for all three courses, or where can you communicate at one time with the entire staff? All of those things can happen in their new break room. One of the best features, in my opinion, is a large common area for lunch breaks that has dividers. Each course can have their morning meeting, but the dividers can be pulled back to accommodate the entire staff for lunch or for getting the entire department together. Further, they have a locker room with assigned lockers for each associate.



The break room with dividers for each course



Ice machines, refrigerators, microwaves, soda machines and PLENTY of coffee machines round out the break room



Assigned lockers for each and every one of Medinah's staff

The final price tag for the entire project: permitting, design, demolition, construction, FF&E (furniture, furnishings and equipment), and everything else was \$1.8 million. This is a significant savings over other plans that called for the maintenance building to be moved to a completely different site on the property. For those of you in MAGCS looking to renovate, rebuild, or build a new shop, one of the stops you might make on your tour of area facilities is Medinah Country Club. **-OC**



THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



December 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 3 – Annual West Side Holiday Party at Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge, IL. **Don Ferreri** and **Dave Gelino** hosts.

December 6 – Annual South Side Superintendents Holiday Party at Chef Klaus Bier Stube in Frankfort, IL. **Eddie Esgar** and **Keith Peterson** are once again hosting the event.

December 6-9 – Ohio Turf Conference and Show at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, OH. Go to www.ohioturfgrass.org for info.

December 14-15 – ITF Winter Education Days at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL. www.illinoisturfgrassfoundation.org

January 5-7 – Northern Green Expo at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, MN. For info, go to www.northerngreenexpo.org.

January 10-12 – Great Lakes Trade Exposition at the DeVos Center in Grand Rapids, MI. Visit www.glte.org for details.

January 14 – Deadline for submissions to *Golf, Inc.*'s Annual Clubhouse of the Year competition. Yes, there is actually a "clubhouse of the year" competition, but it only applies to clubhouses opened between January 1, 2009 and December 1, 2010. Whole buncha those around here, huh?

January 18-20 – 2011 Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show at the Polk Convention Complex & Marriott Hotel in Des Moines, IA. Try www.iowaturfgrass.org for more info.

January 19 – MAGCS January Meeting and Wee One Fundraiser – Seven Bridges Golf Club, Don Ferreri and Dave Gelino hosts.

January 19-20, – Mid-Am Expo in Chicago, IL. Visit www.midam.org to learn more.

February 4-6 – The 61st GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic presented in partnership with The Toro Co. in Palm Beach, FL.

February 7-11 – GCSAA Education Conference in Orlando, FL.

Couple quick reminders from GCSAA. First, you already should have received an email (or several) regarding the Member Needs Assessment survey currently being conducted. It contains a link to a survey that doesn't take very long at all to complete, and could help the association plan for the future in many important areas. Plus you get .25 service points for participating. Second, the biennial Compensation and Benefits survey is on its way to your PC if not already there. This survey generates valuable demographic information that in the end gets you laughed at when using it to try for a raise, but it's still fun to see the results, and you only get to see them if you take part. Oh, and you get another .25 Service Points for this one, too, which is nice.

While we're here, GCSAA President James R. Fitzroy, CGCS recently announced a reorganization of the association's programs and services, along with some significant staff cuts. Among those leaving are Bonnie Stephenson, a 36-year employee who held a variety of positions with the association, most recently serving as director of conference events and meeting planning. Teri Harris, the Director of Development for the Environmental Institute for Golf departs after 20 years, as does 14-year Editor-in-Chief of GCM Ed Hiscock and 9-year director of research Clark Throssel, Ph.D.

Surely you are familiar with the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation and the wonderful work they do for people with mental and physical challenges as well as disabled veterans.

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