

Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, an Audubon international program. Rich Harvest is the 47th course in Illinois and the 753rd in the world to receive the honor.

CDGA recently announced that it has chosen Thor Guard to provide real-time weather information to its 400 member facilities. Thor Guard Weather—the company's proprietary weather information service—delivers broadcast-quality local, regional, and national radar images via the internet in five-minute increments, and will be available to golfers and staff on computers located at each CDGA facility.

Congratulations to MAGCS members **Scott Goniwiecha**, the new superintendent at the Glen Club, and to **Scott Hillyard** who is now superintendent at Hawthorn Woods Country Club.

Also with a new address change is MAGCS member Aaron Johnsen, formerly with Spectrum Technologies. Aaron has accepted a position with Olds Seed Solutions, a WinField Solutions company as a Professional Products Advisor, supporting turfgrass seed, fertilizer, and crop protection chemicals in Minnesota and Northwest Wisconsin.

The ITF recently sent all superintendent members a letter introducing their newest event to help raise money for turf research and to promote our profession. The **BigPar3** will be the **World's Largest Closest to the Flagstick Contest** and will target the end user of our your fine turf, the golfer. The ITF is asking for your participation on August 21, 2010. Please step up and offer your course, a few hours of your day (great job for your assistant and staff) and help promote our profession. The ITF plans to submit to the Guinness Book of World Records at the end of the event. Check out [bigpar3.com](http://bigpar3.com)

If you attended the Golf Industry Show in San Diego, you can now take advantage of a unique follow-up tool that allows you to contact exhibitors whose booths you visited while there. Go to [www.golfindustryshow.com](http://www.golfindustryshow.com) to view your detailed trade show information, and see contact information along with links to the exhibitors' web sites.

In a somewhat related matter, GCSAA announces its Call for Presentations for the 2011 Orlando Education Conference. To submit your ideas for presentations, or to deliver one yourself, fill out the Call for Presentations form at [gcsaa.org](http://gcsaa.org). And while you're there you can also check out GCSAA TV's "Optimized Land Use in Chicago" presentation featuring **Tony Kalina** and Prairie Landing Golf Club. Whoever said the camera adds ten pounds? I think it's much more.

Finally! It's here! DuPont's new, updated Weeviltrak.com is up and running for superintendents to keep current with all things Weevil (as in Annual Bluegrass Weevil), including tips on comparing their size so that you can choose which is the lesser of two weevils. Get it? See what I did there?

Neuroscientists at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia have discovered that the scent of fresh-cut grass triggers two sections of the brain—the amygdale which deals with emotions and the hippocampus which deals with memory. As a result, sniffing your golf course can help relieve stress and boost your memory. I wonder if they studied what the smell of dead grass triggers.

Green Care for Troops, a program of Project EverGreen, is a nationwide effort that connects green industry professionals with local military families to provide landscape assistance while troops are serving away from home. The program already has thousands of military families and numerous industry professionals and volunteers signed up, and welcomes more. To help, go to [www.projectevergreen.com](http://www.projectevergreen.com) and click the Green Care for Troops box.

The Longshore Club Park Golf Course in Westport, Conn. has an answer for all the courses worldwide that are suffering through cutbacks in labor as a result of the economic downturn. To assist with course cleanup in the spring, anywhere from 30 to 50 local residents simply come out with their own rakes and start cleaning. Superintendent Dan Rackliffe, CGCS has been there 23 years, and doesn't know how long before that the trend began—probably during that other economic downturn in the 20's.



Photo courtesy of the Westport Patch.

*Members of the Staples High School boys golf team rake debris from the fairways at Longshore Club Park Golf Course in Westport, Conn.*

MAGCS offers its condolences to **Bob Kronn, Sr.** and **Bob Kronn, Jr.** on the loss of Richard Kronn, the brother of Bob Sr. and uncle of Bob, Jr. in March. Our sympathies also go out to **John Turner** and his family on the passing of his father William Turner on April 10th at the age of 87. And sincere condolences to **Mike Handrich, CGCS** of Racine Country Club and his family on the passing of daughter Holly M. Verdiguell in April after a courageous battle with cancer.

Let's all wish happy trails to our friend **Keith Rincker**, CDGA's Manager of Turfgrass Research and Website Coordinator as he heads off to greener pastures—literally. Keith will be leaving on June 14th to join Dr. Brian Diers at the University of Illinois to work on soybeans, and more specifically to map the resistance of brown stem rot. His work for the next four years will obviously be much different than what he has been doing for us at Golf House, but he is confident he is up for the challenge. To fill his ample shoes, **Tom Sibicky** has been

(continued on page 23)

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hired, and will train under Keith until his departure. Congratulations and best of luck to you, Keith and Tom!



Keith Rincker

The MAGCS March monthly meeting was held at Midwest Golf House on the 16th with a full house in attendance. Featured speaker Dr. Peter Dernoeden of the University of Maryland presented several interesting topics, including his research on "The Nature of Dollar Spot and its Management", "Managing Greens Under Stress," and "Tenacity: A New Herbicide for Golf Courses." Also making presentations were CDGA's **Dr. Derek Settle** who spoke on disease control of Waitea and Fairy Ring, and Keith Rincker who enlightened us on, among other things, biorationals such as Rhapsody, EcoGuard, and Dew Cure. It was a great day of learning, and we thank everyone who had a hand in making it possible. Oh, and if you're looking to see the mugs of Derek and Keith in print, check out the March Golfdom on page 12. Dr. D. and Keith are shown flanking **Dan Dinelli** during a boat cruise of the San Diego harbor during the Golf Industry Show.

You can also catch **Mark Petitgoue**, **Paul Bastron** and **Brian Baker** taking a technology test drive on the trade show floor on page 60 of April's GCM. If you want.

Congratulations to **Josh Therrien** and his new bride Andrea on their recent nuptials. Josh is assistant superintendent at St. Charles Country Club (**Jim Keith**, **CGCS** superintendent), which is also where the reception was held and some crazy dancing MAGCS-style took place according to our sources. Best wishes to you two in your long lives together.



Josh is the one in the tux and probably the last time he will wear a flower on his lapel.

Belated congratulations to **Brad Chamra**, formerly at the Beth Page State Park Golf Courses who is now assistant superintendent at Arrowhead Golf Club (**Mike Mumper** superintendent).

## CLASSIFIEDS

**Equipment For Sale:** Another way to ease your budgets is to take a look at these fabulous offerings from your fellow superintendents:

- Park Ridge Country Club has the following items on the block: 1 Jacobsen LF 3400 Fairway Mower, year 2000, 3916 hours, asking \$4,900 OBO; 1 Ryan GA-60 Aerifier, year 2000, 261 hours, asking \$2,500 OBO; 1 Ford 250C Diesel Tractor with torque converter transmission, 1650 hours, asking \$8,000 OBO; 1 Ford 231 Tractor, 7137 hours, asking \$3,500 OBO. Call **Nick Marfise** at 708-224-8829 for details.
- Lincolnshire Country Club is selling a Tycrop MH400 Material Handler with only 20 hours of use, in excellent condition, with conveyor belt attachment included. Give **Brian Racette** or Harry a call at 708-672-5709 for information.
- A first-time-ever for this magazine. White Pines Golf Course has a Package Sewage Treatment Plant for sale. This is a membrane bioreactor package treatment plant with ultraviolet disinfection system and a 10,000-gallon per day capacity. It is a compact alternative to septic systems and aeration/settlement ponds. Equipment is housed in a modular concrete building with a 30'x8' footprint, and is manufactured by Enviroquip of Austin, Texas. It was originally installed in the fall of 2005 at a cost of \$300,000. The asking price is \$150,000. Contact **Steve Partyka** at 630-768-0906 or email him at partykasteve@yahoo.com.
- Bryn Mawr Country Club has the following items for sale: 1990 Ryan GA-60 aerifier with low hours; 1993 MP1100 160-gallon Toro sprayer with computer controls; 2005 electric Salsco greens rollers with 1392 hours. All items are in very good condition and are ready to use. Call Brian at 847-677-4112.
- Indian Hill Club offers these beauties for sale: 1993-ish Jacobsen Turfcut 422D with 72" deck, runs well; a 1997 3-wheel Cushman truckster 27HP water-cooled engine with GA-60 controls mounted; a 1992 Ryan GA-60 aerifier that runs well; and a Turfco F12D Belt Topdresser with a 6' chevron belt. All offers considered and likely accepted. Call Dave at 847-528-6656. **-OC**

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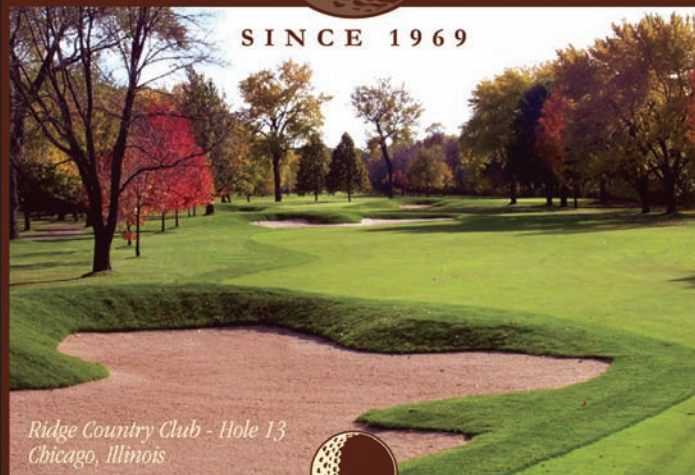
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# People of Our Industry

*I love this industry and am so enthusiastic about continuing to learn more and more. Despite my eagerness, I like to consider myself a laid-back guy, and I think my friends would agree. As a new kid on the block, I enjoy hearing the stories of the "Good Old Days" from superintendents, vendors, members, and even owners. This is an integral part of the learning process. Many of these stories are so incredible that it's hard to believe them myself. Yet, no matter how far-fetched the stories can get over time, they always bring a smile to my face (especially because one day I will be the one telling them!).*

When reminiscing with others about the "Good Old Days" it always comes down to the people in the story. Turf industry folks can relate to these types of experiences. I think it is the people in our industry that make our jobs so meaningful and fun. We relate to each other, and we care when something doesn't work out for another individual in our field.

Recently I was at an assistants' workshop at Exmoor Country Club and had the opportunity to share stories with some of my colleagues. Not only did we talk about past golf seasons, but we also shared how much we have learned from our current superintendents. It doesn't stop there, though, because we have all worked at a number of different courses around the U.S. Sharing in the knowledge from this small group made me start to think out of the box a little bit. Yes we mow greens, tees, fairways, and so on, but it is the small details that the golfer often notices. We use these stories to break the ice layer off our outer shell to show who we really are. And most importantly, as assistants we finally got to make some stories of our own.

Other professionals in the turf industry agree: we are extremely fortunate compared to other industries. We can count on one another for help. As an example of our camaraderie: if one of your greens, tees, or fairways were problematic, you would have no trouble receiving advice and assistance from another superintendent or plant pathologist. This could save your job if the problem were severe enough. In other industries, that kind of help and friendship does not always go hand in hand. What other profession can you think of where you give a helping hand to the competition down the street?



People who have been in the industry for a long time can remember never missing a superintendents meeting. Now it seems the camaraderie from the "Good Old Days" is at risk. Whether it is due to the great pressures of changing expectations and demands, or fear of leaving the course for more than a few hours, or just wanting to spend more time with your family, our unique social network is in jeopardy. We new kids on the block learn as much from these social experiences as we did from our text books. It's important for us to have mentors not

only on the course, but off the course as well. Let's face it, these relationships help us to be the mentors for tomorrow's generation. I chose this industry because I saw a great potential to meet distinguished people and have a tight group of friends that I could always count on. I was fortunate to grow up around this industry. I was exposed at a young age to hard-working, committed, and fun individuals.

Some final thoughts in these tough and ever-changing times: no matter where you stand in the turf industry it is important to stay positive. Our attitudes and philosophies define who we are. In times like this we need each other's help more than ever to succeed. To build for a great future we need to think about our unique pasts going back decades and decades, even centuries at this point! Equally important is sharing that positive attitude with the people around you. It's the joking around and the smiling faces that other people like to see, because they reflect how deep our passion is for this industry. After all, in our industry, it is the people that make it great (and of course our stories!). **-OC**

## EDUCATION RECAP

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



# Dr. Dernoeden Highlights the March Meeting

*The MAGCS March Meeting was held at the Golf House in Lemont. Dr. Peter Dernoeden was the featured Speaker. Dr. Dernoeden is currently teaching and doing his research at the University of Maryland. He led off the day making his presentation "The Nature of Dollar Spot and Its Management: Research Meets Reality". Just when I thought I knew it all, there were a lot of interesting tidbits of new information from Dr. Dernoeden's research.*

Back in the mid 1990's dollar spot became a larger disease factor when courses started seeding bentgrass instead of ryegrass. Dollar spot is the most economically important turfgrass disease worldwide. The pathogen was described by F. T. Bennett in the U.K. in 1937. *Sclerotinia homeocarpa* was named after the size of U.S. Silver Dollar.

What we know about the pathogen:

- It is spread by mycelium in infected tissue.
- It just seems to "come and go", May through December.
- There are no effective predictive models. We have rough estimates based on temperature and humidity.
- Most research has been confined to resistance management.
- All cultural and bio control has occurred over the last 15 years.

Maryland research has been focused on fairways. This is where most of the bentgrass acreage is and where most of the money for disease control is spent. Even most of the resistant disease cultivars still get the disease, just later. Maryland measured dew formation and duration, humidity, temperature, leaf wetness. Dr. Dernoeden has concluded that dollar spot seems to follow "epidemic outbreaks", although he's not sure why.

- The first outbreak is slight pressure. This normally occurs mid to late May when average temperatures are in the mid 60's.
- The second outbreak occurs late July and early August. This is more severe and lasts longer.



*Dr. Peter Dernoeden*

- The third outbreak occurs in mid October. This outbreak hits fast and hard and has a short life.

Dr. Dernoeden's basic approach to disease management is a three pronged attack.

### CULTURAL

NTEP Trials are a good source of information in which to select disease resistant varieties to inter seed with. He cautions to only select trials for comparisons with "like" growing conditions. Different trials perform differently in different locations. Disease resistance is relative. It does not apply immunity.

Nitrogen is the only nutrient that impacts the disease. Phosphorous and Potassium have no effect. This is true in all soil conditions and under all fertility levels. He has found that

no nitrogen source has proven statistically to be better than the others. There is no correlation of soil microbial activity to dollar spot control. Spoon feeding has provided benefits, keep doing it. It is good agronomic practice. To "pump up" the fertility to grow out of the disease with large doses of nitrogen is not a good idea. Keep applications at a pound of N per thousand or less. He has found numerous benefits to applications of ammonium sulfate. There is an increased burn potential but a few minutes of water following an application will alleviate the problem. He recommends up to 3 lb. per year to reap the maximum rewards of the product.



Irrigation studies have concluded that when you water doesn't really matter during the first epidemic. If you have dry soil during the second epidemic this will increase the dollar spots damage potential. Light and frequent applications of irrigation have shown to decrease dollar spot and improve the performance of fungicides.

Early morning mowing has shown to reduce dollar spot and may be the most effective method of decreasing the severity of the disease. Just mowing alone will reduce disease by 25%. The ability of dollar spot control has been increased with mowing prior to fungicide applications by reducing severity by 55-65%.

## BIO CONTROL

Bio control has not proven to be an effective form of disease control.

## CHEMICAL CONTROL

Fungicides are an expensive form of control, but they do work. Be aware of potential resistance by using the same class of fungicide repeatedly. Use a rotational program. Spray volumes don't matter for control.

Dernooden's Tips for the Right Way to Treat Dollar Spot Control

- Use 1-2 gallons of water volume per thousand.
- Fine droplets provide better control.
- Mow before you spray.
- Keep soil moist prior to second epidemic.
- Spoon feeding helps control disease.
- Early spring fungicide applications can delay onset of disease in northern climates.

- Always rotate fungicides.
- Use Chlorothalonil or Emerald in between high risk products.
- Always tank mix for curative control.
- Low fungicide rates are fine during low disease pressure. Increase rates when pressure is higher.

The second presentation featured our own Keith Rinker, MS of the CDGA, on Fungicide Programming for Dollar Spot Control.

Keith's presentation featured results from his own 2008/2009 research at the CDGA Golf House and on site trials at North Shore Country Club and Coyote Run Golf Course. Keith compared several spray programs based on cost, disease control between contacts and systemic and overall effectiveness.

The Programs:

- CDGA Bookend Program
- Curative Program with Daconil
- No Treatments
- Daconil 14 Day Program
- Three Way 21 Day Program

Some highlights:

- Coyote Run being a public course had higher disease tolerance levels
- Effectiveness varied between programs
- Costs per day were compared

A bio rational product called dew cure was used at North Shore C.C. The concept is to "wick away" the dew and help

(continued on next page)

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prevent disease. There were some positive benefits of the program by being able to reduce the number of chemical inputs but was not proven to provide acceptable standards compared to the "norm" of a normal chemical spray program.

Dr. Dernoeden made a presentation on some research he has made on the newer herbicide Tenacity.

Tenacity is a reduced risk herbicide. It's made from the Bottle Brush plant. It's mode of action is foliar and root uptake. It results in the bleaching of the plant leaves and works by preventing the carotenoid synthesis in the plant. It's a "niche" product mainly used in seed beds for spring seeding to prevent crabgrass, nutsedge and pigweed. It's safe for Kentucky bluegrass, fescue and perennial rye. **It kills bentgrass.**

It needs to be applied twice and is slow acting. Most damage is observed after the second application.

Use on golf courses may include:

- To remove Bent in rough areas of Kentucky bluegrass
- To remove Bent in fairways of Kentucky bluegrass
- Controls Nimblewill
- Controls Yellow Nutsedge
- Controls Crabgrass
- For populations where the bentgrass contamination is very low (less than 10-15%)

Be sure to accurately assess the amount of bentgrass in the area spraying. This stuff does work. If too much bentgrass is in site, it may be better to re-sod.

Dr. Dernoeden came back after lunch for his presentation on "Managing Greens under Summer Stress".

The primary loss of turf during the summer is premature senescence. Typically this is a result of a poor growing environment, improper irrigation and mechanical injury. Typically 50% of the turf samples he handles are negative in pathogens. Wet soil, which rapidly kills roots, is the number one culprit in failed greens.

Summer Decline Complex Management Techniques:

- Stop grooming for green speed
- Syringe or hand water to reduce stress and put the water where you need it
- Use fans
- Spoon feed on 5-7 day intervals with urea
- Apply Signature/Daconil or other phosphate products (This has proven to provide some protection against mechanical damage)

Wet soil, which rapidly kills roots, is the number one culprit in failed greens. Too much water kills more greens than being too dry. Wet soils absorb and retain more heat and have lower levels of oxygen. Signs and symptoms include: wet wilt, scalding, black layer, moss and algae. The wet soil accelerates the root loss. Mechanical damage which causes bruising and scalping often follows when mowing wet turf. This is often underestimated in the amount of damage inflicted. A good indicator of wet greens is deep pitch marks. Often, chlorosis or yellowing is also an indicator of wet greens. If soil temperatures of greater than 86 degrees are sustained, roots will turn brown, shorten and turf decline is eminent.

Wet wilt is the inability of the plant to take up water despite plenty of water in the soil. This also promotes stomate

closure which inhibits the ability of the plant to cool itself. This effectively shuts down the plant retarding respiration and the plant suffocates.

Syringing has been proven to cool turf plants. Applications should be around 3-5 minutes per green. This opens the stomata's and promotes cooling within the plant. Fans have proven to be very successful in conjunction with syringing. Spiking and solid tinning promotes drying and improves aeration.

Scalding is a direct kill of the plant. This occurs when the turf is inundated with water on a hot sunny day. This often happens from a thunder storm. Get the water off with squeegees ASAP. There is also the possibility of mower injury due to the standing water. Avoid mowing with standing water and high temperatures.

Thatch management can help prevent "puffy" turf conditions. The thatch can get wet from rain and hold onto moisture during humid periods. The plants get elongated and grow adventitious roots. The thatch swells, mowers sink into the thatch and scalping occurs. Urea at .15 lb/N/M every 14 days helps mitigate scalping. Rooting in summer is influenced by making holes. Proper aeration will promote good drainage. Use a wide diameter core in the spring and fall. Heavy topdressing with sand should make to fill the holes. Aerate in the summer with smaller tines 3-4 times. Continue with a light frequent topdressing program.

The "Basics" of Summer Bentgrass Decline Complex Management:

- Increase mowing heights
- Decrease mowing frequency
- If wet, make holes, get oxygen in soil
- Don't mow when soil is saturated.
- Improved drainage
- Spoon feed
- Communicate and maintain support Team

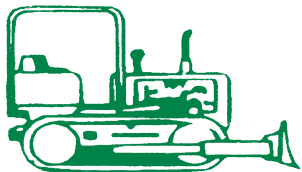
Dr. Derek Settle of the CDGA completed the very informative educational day with his presentation on "Control of Common Diseases of Chicago Greens – Waitea and Fairy Ring".

Waitea affects annual bluegrass during periods of cool and wet conditions. Mostly it is a cosmetic disease typically seen here in the Chicago area in May and June. Derek conducted trials at Biltmore country Club with Brian Thompson, CGCS and has had good control using Insignia, Banner, Bayleton, Triton and Prostar. He showed slides of the disease but he best describes it as looking like your turf got spray painted with yellow paint in a 12 inch diameter circle.

Fairy ring is the other disease Derek has been working with which he thinks favors drier weather for development. It can become more than a cosmetic problem as the rings may grow mushrooms and become hydrophobic. He worked with Dan Marco, CGCS at Ruth Lake Country Club in 2009 for his trial work. He had good success with different curative treatments using DMI's. He recommends aerifying to promote water infiltration and to disrupt the pathogen. He also recommends using spray applications of urea to mask the symptoms. He believes the disease is caused by low fertility situations.

Another great day of education put on by the MAGCS Education Committee to help you in your job. **-OC**





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