

## MAGCS IN MOTION

Luke Cella, *Executive Director*



# June 2012

*2012 Midwest Directories are at the printer and will be sent directly from them to your preferred address on file. Look for them soon.*

The ADA Standards for golf courses have become law as of March 15, 2012. If your club or course is making alterations to the course, an accessible route is required. For more information take a look at On Course, April 2011, American With Disabilities Act Guidelines Officially Adopted for Golf Courses or consult your local favorite golf course architect.

The Midwest Board of Directors met in May and decided it was a good idea to start to use the GCSAA – Midwest chapter logo more. The Board is also looking into updating our logo to make it easier to reproduce on apparel and the like – right now, it takes a lot of stitches, not too mention a lot of space.

I recently attended the biennial USGA family meeting this past May. This meeting brings all the USGA local committee members and allied representatives together to share. Bob Vavrek was in attendance and gave a brief talk demonstration on the TruFirm device as well as soil moisture meters. I spoke

about the need to keep the science behind what we do, especially when it comes to legislation and future laws.



Sometimes I can't tell unless you let me know – if you have not been getting the Midwest's emails (we typically send one a week) let me know. There are a few reasons why this can happen, usually our server has been tagged as spam by your server or mail host. I always try to send emails from luke@magcs.org - another good practice is to add this email to your safe senders list or just add it to your contact list and systems will do it automatically.

The Kane County Cougar Game is in July this year – July 14. We moved it up a bit this year – based on weekend home games, etc – this was the best time for us. Plan to attend with your family, you won't be disappointed. Our own Jan Jarvis is going to sing during the seventh inning stretch. **-OC**



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## MIDWEST PERSONALITY

Josh Bebeau, *Highland Park Country Club*

Job Title: **Golf Course Superintendent**

MAGCS Member Since: **2006**

Year of Birth: **1982**

Place of Birth: **Appleton Wisconsin**

Current Residence: **Highwood Illinois**

College/Degree: **BS Soil Science, University of WI Madison**

Spouse/Children: **Ashley, Elijah, one more coming.**

My Favorite Childhood Memory is: **I had a great childhood.**

**I Grew up riding my bike in the country, push mowing for dad....thinking about stripes at young age.**

My Professional Mentors: **Wayne Kussow, Bret Ziegler**

Favorite Actor: **Will Ferrell**

Favorite Musical Performer: **Fun**

Favorite Restaurant: **Smokey John's Madison WI**

Favorite "Pig Out" Food: **Ice Cream, Pringles, Creamsicles!**

Favorite TV Show: **WGN Weather**

Favorite Color: **Blues**

Favorite Pro Athlete: **Stricker, Mickelson**

Favorite Pro Golfer: **Brodell**

My Handicap Index: **20**

My Favorite Place to Play Golf is: **Not my course!**

My Best/Most Memorable Round: **Hole in one #7 2006. HPCC**

The Most Interesting/Exotic Place I've been: **El Salvador, La Libertad, black sand Pacific ocean beach. Was nice.**

The Book I've Been Recommending Lately: **Ha!**

In my Spare Time I Enjoy: **road cycling, hanging with my boy and wife. ping pong, foosball**

Three Words that Best Describe Me: **consistent, sharp, porous**

What I Enjoy Most about My Job: **Doing my own thing**

What I Enjoy Least about My Job: **Sunburn**

I'm a MAGCS Member Because: **Why not. Meet great people. -OC**



Josh Bebeau and Sophia



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## CLASS C ASSISTANTS

Travis Dykstra, St. Charles Country Club



# Tip for Your Ball Mark Repair Tool

*I know I am not passing along any ground-breaking news, but all superintendents know the importance of having a consistent putting surface. One of the components of keeping a consistent putting surface is repairing ball marks on a daily basis, especially before mowing.*

Here at St. Charles Country Club three of our five walking greens mowing routes walk out from the shop and back in again. The problem we were running into was that the operator was carrying a dew whip and ball mark repair tool, while trying to operate the machine safely and effectively. After a discussion with Superintendent Chuck Barber and our Mechanic Dave Schultze, a decision was made to attach the ball mark repair tool to the greensmower. However, during discussion Dave strongly urged me to find a way we could do this without drilling any holes anywhere on the mower.

After a few days of brainstorming I knew I wanted to use a 3/4" -1 1/8" metal tool holder (image 1), but attaching it to the handle was where I was running into the problem. After a trip to our local hardware store I found a 3/4" bottom

load clamping conduit hanger (image 2) and bolted the tool holder to the hanger together (image 3). I then bolted the two tool holders to our Toro 1000 and Toro Flex greensmower handles (image 4, above).

The end product turned out very well, but one problem I did run into was that when the ball repair tool was inserted into the holder with the engine running the repair tool would spin freely from the engine vibration. To combat this problem I found a vinyl covered tool holder from McMaster Carr products for approximately \$1.90/each. I found the bottom load hanger at our local Ace Hardware for roughly a \$1/each. So after about \$40.00 in materials and couple hours of time we have solved one problem here at STCCC. If anyone has questions I can be reached at [travis.dykstra@gmail.com](mailto:travis.dykstra@gmail.com). -OC



Image 1

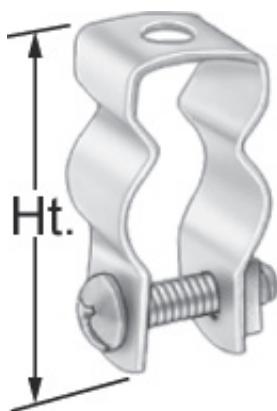


Image 2



Image 3

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## NEWS FROM ALLIED GROUPS

Bob Vavrek, USGA Senior Agronomist



# Riding the Roller Coaster

*Six Flags officially opened on May 6th, but we have been riding the roller coaster since March regarding weather conditions. Ten days worth of unseasonably warm weather around St. Patrick's Day set the stage for another season of epic turf stress. Since then, a month of average to below average temperatures have us scratching our heads once again about what challenges and surprises are in store for us when summer arrives.*

Old, experienced superintendents become old and experienced by having the ability to adjust maintenance practices according to the weather and the current needs of the turf. They are prepared to play whatever hand Mother Nature deals and have the ability to communicate with golfers regarding the rationale for making modifications to standard turf management practices. They realize that raising a mowing height, switching from grooved to solid rollers, or perhaps not mowing on a really hot day, is just as, if not more, important than having the latest and greatest biostimulant, fertilizer or plant protectant in the spray tank. Experience means making the right decision not to water fairways tonight and encourage an impending Pythium outbreak, even when you know the heat will hit triple digits tomorrow and the crew will be chasing hot spots all afternoon if the humidity suddenly drops.

Unfortunately, *Poa annua* is not very adept about adjusting to change and often folds when Mother Nature deals a bad hand. Somehow, it never fails that *Poa* checks out just before the biggest outing of the season, before the owner wants to play with his best friends or right before the club championship. Let's face it, the only thing you can depend on when it comes to *Poa annua* is that it will be undependable.

*Poa* doesn't like change. One rapid thaw-freeze cycle during late winter or early spring can produce catastrophic losses of turf on old *Poa*/bentgrass greens. Similarly, one afternoon of severe heat stress can wilt *Poa* into oblivion when roots have died back into the upper 1/4-inch of the soil profile. Many climatologists predict more heat during summers and milder, more variable weather for winters in the future for the upper Midwest. Keep in mind, mild, more variable winter conditions will more than likely increase, not decrease, the odds of turf being affected by winterkill.

Fortunately, many golf facilities in the Chicagoland area "get it" regarding the need to address the limitations of putting surfaces dominated by *Poa annua*. A significant percentage of the mid-to-upper end Chicago courses have either fumigated/regrassed or have completely rebuilt greens to convert from *Poa* to improved cultivars of bentgrass during the past 10 to 15 years and this number continues to slowly increase every year. Granted, every facility that undertakes a major renovation would probably do something different the next time around, but is anyone really ready to convert those new, sand based, bentgrass greens back to a mixture of *Poa* and old south German bent on native soil?

The interesting question is whether or not a renovation from *Poa* to bentgrass is inevitable for each and every Chicago course that strives to provide fast, firm, consistent putting surfaces for golfers from April through October? Climate change already dictates how we manage our turf...will it also dictate what species we maintain? I'm sure that question will be raised many times during Turf Advisory Service visits this summer. **-OC**

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