

Once the majority of the dirt work was completed, the regrassing was addressed. The fairways on the Red Course were seeded using a three-way mix consisting of L-93, Seaside II, and Alpha. The greens are A-1/A-4 and all have XGD drainage in place, except for the three USGA regulation greens on the Red Course. An aggressive PGR program is in place on fairways to fight against *Poa annua*. A more moderate program is in place on greens to retain as much bentgrass as possible. It's working quite well, because I didn't find any *poa* on the greens while I was there.

Not only did the membership support the aggressive renovation, but they have also implemented an equipment plan that will replace an aging fleet with one able to maintain modern course conditions. One example is the two fairway sprayers retrofitted last year with Capstan's Sharp-shooter GPS technology. Using the GPS system has decreased the spray volume by 6.7 acres per fairway application (from 55 acres to 48.3 acres). They are also able to spray at a lightning quick pace of nine mph. Previously spraying was done with three rigs at five mph, now two operators complete the task in the same amount of time. The reduction in applied area saved enough in materials to pay for the system in less than two years. A large portion of the fleet has been modernized



*The clock starts ticking. The crew takes advantage of the dry spring to strip a low area in a fairway. The ground will be re-contoured to increase surface drainage and the sod replaced within a few days before the sod expires.*

over the last two years. Like the efficiencies gained by the sprayers, new machines increase productivity by improving both the speed and quality of each completed task.

The new equipment is being put to good use. The courses look phenomenal. Kyle first credits his assistants as the main reason for the great results. He is quick to point out there were a lot of big picture plans that went into the renovation. Ryan has been at Twin since 2006, and Carl arrived in 2008. Both were critical in making those plans come together as they have. Todd joined the team in 2010, and the newest member of the team, Robin Jasper, started this spring. These four put in a tremendous amount of work. They are accountable for the day-to-day operations, the presentation of the courses, and for coordination of equipment and labor between the two courses. Kyle assured me that without their help the renovation and improvements would not be as successful as they are today.

It really was a pleasure touring the course with Kyle. It's a fantastic layout, and he did a great job explaining the renovation (unlike this article). If you are planning to attend the ITF/MAGCS Spring Golf Day, I encourage you to do so. You will not be disappointed in the venue. **-OC**

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## FEATURE II

Shane Conroy, *Park Ridge Country Club*



# Paving the Way

*Park Ridge Country Club's Cart Path Beautification Process has been ongoing for over three seasons. Under the direction of Green Committee Chairman Jim Harmon and Course Superintendent Joel Purpur, CGCS, the club has renovated four teeing areas. There is another area currently under construction and two more brick projects planned for later this season.*

Park Ridge Country Club (PRCC) faced a similar situation on a handful of holes on the course: dated cart paths and tired landscapes located near the teeing ground. The green committee addressed these issues and implemented a plan that was cost effective, and could be completed in-house. The goal was to give the areas a modern feel and to tie the design and feel with the overall theme of the golf course.

The green committee first decided to focus on one of the weaker teeing areas on the course, the thirteenth hole. The old layout featured a large asphalt cart path turn-around that was bordered on one side with large planter pots. These pots were a temporary solution that became semi-permanent. The new plan made use of a brick paver turn-around with a perennial bed cut out of the center that features a variety of plants and color. Along the exterior of the path are additional perennial beds that work well the new design. Without having a lot of supplementary space to work with, the new path

was constructed roughly in the same footprint as the original. The new path was very well received by the membership and the tenth hole was quickly targeted to receive the next makeover.

The tenth hole teeing area also featured an existing turn around, however the path was composed of crushed red brick instead of asphalt. Already there was an area cut out of the center that carts circled as they drove to get to the tee box. We did not veer very much from this design for the new brick-paver path. The end result of this path is comparable to the tee turn-around on hole 13. There is a perennial bed in the center and perennial beds encompassing much of the path. The members dedicated the planters to longtime PRCC PGA Professional Ken Weiler.

This past season we worked with the green committee and updated two teeing areas. The first one completed was

*(continued on page 15)*





# A NEW TURFGRASS CHEMISTRY FOR POA ANNUA ELIMINATION



Every golf course superintendent battles his particular problem weed that impairs playability. For most, it's *Poa annua*.

*Poa annua* survives as a weed due to its high genetic variability, rapid germination, short life cycle, and tolerance of compacted soil. *Poa annua* quickly dies in warm weather, leaving areas bare until permanent turf has had time to fill in. Bentgrass provides conditions that are ideal for *Poa annua* growth, including high moisture, nitrogen, high-traffic levels and routine fungicide use.<sup>1</sup>

## A New Turfgrass Chemistry

XONERATE™ (Amicarbazone), an entirely new turfgrass chemistry, is a post-emergent herbicide for the control of *Poa annua* on golf course fairways, roughs and tees. XONERATE is available in an easy-to-use water-dispersible granule formulation.

Studies have shown XONERATE to be 90 percent effective, more than any other product on the market for the control of *Poa annua*.

## The XONERATE Difference

XONERATE offers selective removal of *Poa annua* in many cool- and warm-season turfgrasses, including creeping bentgrass and Bermuda grass. The mode of action in XONERATE eliminates *Poa annua* with little to no disruption to the growth of bentgrass.

With XONERATE, golf course superintendents will be able to re-seed creeping bentgrass at seven or more days after the last application in roughs, fairways and tees. The first application can be scheduled in the spring as early as six months after seeding creeping bentgrass in the fall months of the previous year.

"XONERATE does what it says it does. It will eliminate your *Poa annua*," says Cory Troyer, golf course superintendent at Otter Creek Golf Course in Columbus, Indiana. "If you plan it out properly-use XONERATE in a program—I think it will be a fantastic way to re-establish bentgrass in a high *Poa annua* population."

## How XONERATE Works:

- XONERATE is absorbed by plant leaves and roots for quick, residual, post-emergent activity.
- Inhibits photosynthesis in sensitive plants by interfering with normal electron transport resulting in subsequent cell membrane and chlorophyll loss.
- *Poa annua* control occurs over a three- to four-week time period<sup>2</sup>
- *Poa annua* initially becomes chlorotic (loss of green color), followed by necrosis (browning of plant tissue)
- Temporary yellowing of the turf may occur after application. This effect is temporary and the turf will recover in 14-21 days.

## Meeting Your Goal of Improved Golfer Playability

Improving playability and aesthetics is every golf course superintendent's goal. The elimination of *Poa annua* from existing turf will increase the consistency of the playing surface and decrease color variation.

*Poa annua* grows in a different direction and at different growth rates than bentgrass so the greens tend to be bumpy, says Shawn Emerson, director of agronomy at Desert Mountain Golf Course in Carefree, Arizona. "They [members] want to play in the best conditions possible so we have to come up with a system and a strategy that meets their expectation and works in the environment to kill this *Poa annua*."

XONERATE offers a new way of approaching the age-old problem of *Poa annua* to help golf course superintendents meet their goals.

<sup>1</sup> Grounds Maintenance, Controlling *Poa annua* in bent grass greens by Bert McCarty, Clemson University, December 22, 2011

<sup>2</sup> Rates and application will vary by turf type and geography.



BEFORE



AFTER



on the sixth hole, which did not feature a center perennial bed, but one solid circular turn-around. The layout of this path was very similar to the original asphalt path, again due to lack of space. The current path however features a larger turn-around area making it easier for carts to access the back portion of the tee. The path on the twelfth hole was the second upgrade completed in 2011. It was originally a red gravel path that made a turn behind the men's tee. Due to the carts turning while on the path, it would frequently rut. Like previous path renovations, the layout of the old path is very similar to the new path.

This year the work has been focused on the cart path around hole 14. The majority of the brick laying began late last season and was finished up this spring. We mainly left the perimeter cuts to finish as the winter we never had moved into the summer month of March, 2012. This is the first path renovation that saw the actual teeing ground receive a renovation as well. The green committee wanted to give the hole more teeing space to break up divot patterns on the short par 3. As a result, the men's tee was expanded. The hole gained more teeing options and allows play from a new angle.

Installing these paths has been a great learning experience for everyone on the crew, including myself. We are lucky enough to have a staff who, after working on the first couple of path renovations can undertake most of the prep-work as well as a majority of the brick laying on their own. The real fun begins however, after the border and middle bricks are all laid and in place. Cut bricks obviously are required to fill in the missing space along the perimeter. I can't say enough what a good wet-saw and few replacement blades will do for the brick-cutting process. Unfortunately, we haven't had either of those...

By installing most of the current paths in the same area as the original paths we are able to use the existing sub-bases for the new paths. Not only has this kept material expenses down, but has reduced the amount of hauling and time it takes to properly compact the subsurface prior to brick installation. The green committee did a great job addressing these teeing areas and the membership has taken notice of the completed projects. The upgraded paths really do make a statement and were a great way to aesthetically improve the course without altering the playing surface. **-OC**

BEFORE



AFTER





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## MIDWEST BREEZES

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



### "2012 Golf Season.....Really?"

To coin one of my favorite contemporary expressions that seems to convey the confusion, recognition and sarcasm of unanswerable questions, statements or events is the word... **really?** One of the great things about this statement is you can add inflections as you see fit to change the meaning. Fun stuff, try it.

The 2012 golf season got started for many operations in January with unusually warm, record setting temperatures. This trend continued into February as the warm weather and lack of snowfall continued. The turf remained unfrozen and the golfers continued to play well past the usual thaw that allows Christmas presents to be unleashed for the first time in our Northern climate. For many operations the economic windfall of collecting green fees and cart revenue during the winter was a much needed boost...**really?**

March temperatures peaked in the 80's. Golfers were coming out in droves. Soil temperatures were increasing to the point where the turf began a premature growth flush. The players seemed to think that just because the temperatures were "like" June, the course conditions should also be like June. Unfortunately for many maintenance operations, many of the staff were still out of town and courses were still trying to wrap up winter projects. Superintendents found themselves short manned and a whole lot of work to do...**really?**

The early warm spring soil temperatures threw any calendar based spray scheduling out the window. Monitoring growing-degree days became the only accurate way to figure out product timing. Attempting to time pre-emergents for crabgrass control and seed-head suppression products became a challenge to make it work...**really?**

The early warm up also "stoked" the broadleaf weeds to begin to make their "charge" (As if we didn't have enough to do). High wind conditions for most of the spring made it a difficult challenge to get out and spray weeds...**really?**

The early spring has also seemed to also disrupt the turf industry chemical/fertilizer supply chains. Everyone needed everything NOW and distributors are playing "catch up."...**really?**

We just recently got a much needed shot of rainfall. Prior to that courses were "firing up" irrigation systems early, running full irrigation watering cycles, applying wetting agents and hand watering hot spots on greens with hoses. This is supposed to be our rainy season...**really?**

Some savvy Superintendents were able to get out extra early and complete their spring green core aerifications with one course I know, completing the process in February!...**really?**

Without question this 2012 year has been one unusual season so far, (massive understatement...**really?**) There are not many weather forecasters who are willing to go out on a limb and predict what the 2012 summer will be like. It would be nice to have a crystal ball or be all knowing like the great and powerful Wizard of Oz. Such is not the case, so we will do what we usually do. Prepare for the worst and hope for the best. Ladies and Gentlemen, good luck and play well. **-OC**

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## THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



# MAY 2012

### DATES TO REMEMBER

May 19 – CDGA's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Marathon at Zigfield Troy Golf Course in Woodridge, IL.

May 21 – ITF Golf Day at Twin Orchard Country Club in Long Grove, IL, **Kyle Jacobsen** host.

May 22-27 – 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Senior PGA Championship at Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor, MI.

May 25 – Deadline for applications for the 2012 MAGCS Scholarships.

June 19 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Blackstone Golf Club in Marengo, IL, **Andrew Perry** host.

June 25 – Wisconsin GCSA Golf Tournament at Oshkosh Country Club in Oshkosh, WI.

July 10 – 12<sup>th</sup> Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing and Scholarship Fundraiser at Bartlett Hills Golf Course in Bartlett, IL, **Kevin DeRoo** host.

July 14 – MAGCS Family Night Picnic and Kane County Cougars baseball game at Elfstrom Field in Geneva, IL.

July 17 – NWIGCSA/ITF Golf Day at Timber Pointe Golf Course in Poplar Grove, IL.

July 30 – Deadline for photograph submissions for the Superintendent's Best Friend 2013 Calendar presented by TurfNet and sponsored by BASF.

July 31 – Wisconsin GCSA Summer Field Day at the O.J. Noer Center in Verona, WI.

A hearty welcome to the newest members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents:

**Steven Kellerman**, Willow Hill Golf Course - Class C

**Justin Olmstead**, Glen Flora Country Club - Regular

**Scott Bordner**, Chicago Golf Club - Regular

**Tim Valicka**, Stonewall Orchard Golf Club - Class C



The following MAGCS members are hereby and officially reminded by GCSAA that they are getting older. GCSAA membership milestones this year include: **Quarter Century Club**: Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG, Don Ferreri, John Gurke, CGCS, Henry Michna, CGCS, and Scott Witte, CGCS.

In the **26- to 29-Year Club**: Don Altman, CGCS, Dan Anderson, Fred Behnke, CGCS, John Berarducci, Glenn Bereiter, CGCS, Dave Blomquist, CGCS, Brian Bossert, CGCS, Rick Bowden, Eddie Braunsky, CGCS, Steve Cook, CGCS, MG, Ernie Corsi, Greg Coyne, Steve Cummins, Kevin DeRoo, Dan Dinelli, CGCS, Dave Fisher, CGCS, Mike Handrich, CGCS, Gary Hearn, Rennie Jacobson, Tom Jauch, CGCS, Jon Jennings, CGCS, Ed Joerns II, Nels J. Johnson, Jr., Tony Kalina, Randy Kane, Kevin Knudson, CGCS, Craig Lewis, Sam MacKenzie, CGCS, John Otis, George Ott, CGCS, Chris Pekarek, Al Pondel, CGCS, Tom Prichard, Joe Reents, Kerry Satterwhite, CGCS,

Luke Strojny, Greg Thalmann, CGCS, Brian Thomson, CGCS, Gilberto Velazquez, Paul Wagner, and Lynn Wesson.

**30-Year Members**: Sandra Bemis, Tim Davis, Kurt Galisdorfer, Pete Lieponis, Tom Lively, CGCS, Dan Murray, CGCS, Joel Purpur, CGCS, Dan Sterr, and Tommy Witt, CGCS.

In the **31- to 34-Year Club** are: Jerry Arden, Chad Ball, CGCS, Paul Bastron, CGCS, Brian Chalifoux, Brian Comiskey,

(continued on next page)



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Q: Where do the birds live on **Brian Mores'** course?  
A: Inverness.

GCSAA and the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association have announced their intention to share and de-

velop resources that will benefit both organizations, their members, and the golf course management profession. The agreement was inked on March 1 at the 2012 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas.

Also from GCSAA, you can now avail yourself of "Applied Turfgrass Science," a journal of the Plant Management Network, and now a publishing partner of GCSAA. This peer-reviewed, applied journal for turf professionals is dedicated to growing the body of science-based turf knowledge for the turfgrass industry, and includes as its partners the USGA Green Section, 76% of America's land-grant universities, and Division C-5 of the Crop Science Society of America (why not C-1, 2, 3, or 4 is anyone's guess). To subscribe, go to [plantmanagementnetwork.org](http://plantmanagementnetwork.org).

And even more from GCSAA—the 2013 golf championship and education conference schedules are being condensed due to member feedback. For next year, the four-ball competition will take place on Sunday, Feb. 3, with the golf classic and national championship being conducted on Monday and Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. For those not participating in the classic or championship, a new event likely featuring a scramble or shamble format will be conducted on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup>. The education conference will conclude on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup>. So there ya go.

Thanks to the Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation, the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG) has a million reasons to smile. Ken Melrose, former CEO and chairman of the Toro

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