

FEATURE II

Scott Goniwiecha, *The Glen Club*

The Glen Club Bunker Project



The Glen Club is a Tom Fazio designed championship golf course located on a 195-acre piece of land in Glenview, Illinois. Some may know it as the former site of the Glenview Naval Air Station. The course opened in 2001 and has hosted seven Illinois Opens and numerous Nationwide Tour events.

Throughout the brief history of The Glen Club, there have only been minor changes made to the golf course. The bunkers remained relatively untouched and were in need of some work. Being a Tom Fazio course, most of the bunkers have his usual steep sloping faces of sand, which look great, but washed out frequently. This movement of sand plus the regular wear and tear wreaked havoc on them. In their short lifespan they became contaminated with silt and p-stone. The p-stone created poor playing conditions and the silt clogged the pore space in the sand, which stopped the bunkers from draining properly. Even a medium sized precipitation event would leave a large pond of standing water in the bottom of many of them that would have to be pumped out. This, combined with the repairing of the washouts, resulted in a horrendous amount of labor after each rain. The need for a bunker renovation was a necessity.

In the summer of 2011, we decided to start with the greenside and approach bunkers and leave the fairway bunkers for later. The project entailed renovating a total of 39 bunkers, which covered approximately 52,000 square feet. The scope of the project included removal of all the old sand, the cleaning of the drainage pipe, installing new p-stone, installing a liner, adding new sand, and re-sodding the edges

of the bunker. Leibold Irrigation, Inc. was selected for the project, and work started the first week of October 2011.

We began each bunker by first marking out the entire area that was planned to be re-sodded. It was amazing once we started analyzing the bunker edges how much bunker area was actually lost over time. We typically re-sodded the entire bunker face and approximately two rows outside of these lines. After the sod was stripped, the sand removal began. The old material was hauled and dumped into one of our fescue rough areas. The Glen Club has over 70 acres of fescue rough, so finding a spot that was not in play and easily accessible was relatively easy. Once the old sand was removed the depth of the bunker changed dramatically. This was something that I was not expecting and had to adjust my plans. I only budgeted to install an average depth of five inches of new bunker sand. When the old sand was removed, often there was a cavity that was two times larger than the original had existed. To resolve this issue this shortfall of sand and dollar quantities, the contractor recommended to dig a hole where we were dumping the old sand and use the native soil to lessen the depth of each bunker that was too deep.

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STURF

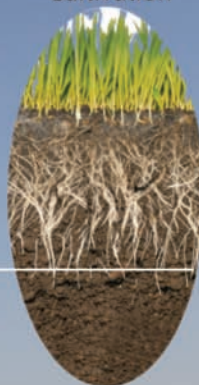
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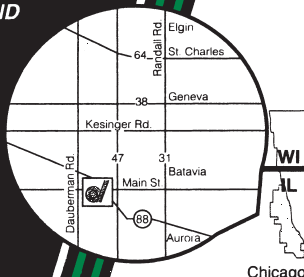
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At this point all the drainage lines were exposed, so the next step was to remove all the p-stone and discard it with the old sand. Then the drainage pipe was disconnected and brought outside of the bunker to be cleaned thoroughly. We also wanted to make sure that all the drainage lines leaving the bunkers were draining properly so they were flushed with water. Once they were certain that everything was working, the pipe was placed back into the trenches and backfilled with new p-stone.

After the drainage system was completed, the installation of the bunker liner followed. Throughout the many meetings before the bunker project was approved by my supervisors, the most questioned item was the need for a liner. By talking to many different superintendents, and researching all the different kinds of liners, we decided to go with the SandMat 350 white fabric liner. The main reason we chose this option was to correct the issues that had plagued the original bunkers. It was important to keep the bunker sand in place and to prevent the migration of larger stone particles into the bunker sand. Most important to the success of the project was to reduce labor costs associated with washouts and maintenance. Purchasing and installing the SandMat added a large expense to the project, but one, I felt was worthwhile.

Once the liner was installed and stapled down, the new bunker sand was added. Of all the different options of bunker sand that are available, we narrowed our choices down to the Steep Face Bunker Sand and the Best Tour Grade Bunker Sand. We selected these two sands because of their

angular properties. We knew the shape would help to keep the sand on our severely sloped bunker faces in place. In the end we decided to go with The Steep Face Bunker Sand because its natural brown color would fit in with the landscape of The Glen Club when compared to the bright white sand of the Best Tour Grade brand. After it was distributed evenly throughout the bunker, the sand was compacted to a five-inch average. Once the sand was installed, new sod was laid and the bunker was completed.

We had a massive pile of old sand that was located in one of our fescue areas that had to be leveled, shaped, and contoured to match the surrounding landscape. This area was prepped, and in early November we seeded it to the original fescue mix and laid a straw blanket to help prevent washouts from heavy rains.

The entire project really couldn't have gone better, and thanks to the amazing weather that we experienced in the fall of 2011, everything was completed in five weeks. From a maintenance standpoint, it has been a great relief to not have to pump and repair washouts after every heavy rain, and all of that labor can now be allocated to other areas of the golf course. In addition to reducing labor costs, the level of playability has increased also. All of the feedback I have received from the membership has been very positive. The completion of this project has been a great addition to The Glen Club.

I wish everyone a great fall as you put your courses to bed for the winter, and let's all hope for a little cooler 2013! **-OC**



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SUPER -N- SITE

Billy Sharp, *Chicago Highlands Club*

Matthew Harstad -N-



Driving east on the Tri-State toll way near Homewood, Illinois, one can just catch a glimpse of Calumet Country Club, despite the course only being 15 feet from the expressway. The best way to actually see the unique design and great playing conditions of Calumet Country Club is to play a round of golf, or in my case, get a first-hand tour from Golf Course Superintendent Matt Harstad.

Calumet Country Club is a Donald Ross design that was established in 1901. Located on 120 acres in south Chicago-land, the club sits on a prime location to entice new players and members from the surrounding villages and suburbs. The club was originally located at 95th Street and Cottage Grove, but moved to its current spot shortly thereafter. One unique and interesting thing I learned about the course is that part of it, specifically hole 7, was originally part of Lake Chicago. Lake Chicago was a huge extension of Lake Michigan hundreds of years ago. The sandy soil is not found anywhere else on the course except hole 7 and is the prime indicator that it used to be some sort of beach. Another sign of Lake Chicago is a stand of Black Oak trees on the seventh hole as well. The rest of the course consists of the native soil, which is home to Washington bent/*Poa* greens, as well as bent/*Poa* tees and fairways. Another interesting tidbit about Calumet's early history was that Byron Nelson won his 11th straight tournament victory at this club in 1945, claiming the title in the Chicago Victory Open.

Superintendent Matt Harstad is an Illinois native and has been on the job at Calumet Country Club since February of 2006. Prior to that, he spent time as Assistant Superintendent at Butterfield Country Club and Ravisloe Country Club both after a short internship at Naperville Country Club. Matt is a Penn State alumni. He graduated in 2000 from the well-respected turf program. Since coming to Calumet, Matt has overseen various projects that not only help to improve



*Matt and Nittany, not a lion
but we know where he got the name.*

playing conditions, but also help to beautify the course. One of the first major projects he accomplished was the installation of the XGD drainage system in the greens on holes 12, 14, and 16 during his second season. Matt explained that these were extremely problematic greens during the summer and since has noted great improvement in the years after the installation of the system. In addition to the drainage, the crew has been consistently removing trees around the green complexes in order to promote greater sunlight and air movement. Matt said that some greens were almost completely shaded during the critical hours of the day when the sunlight was most needed. From 2008-2009, Matt oversaw a complete restoration of all the greenside bunkers at Calumet Country Club. The old, contaminated sand was removed, new drainage installed, followed by the installation of the new sand. The difference between the new and old bunkers is like "night and day," according to Matt.

The feedback from the membership has been very positive, helping to justify this large and costly project.

Like many other Superintendents in the country, Matt is working with a tightened budget. The economy has affected every club in the United States, private or public. At Calumet Country Club, larger more expensive projects are broken down in to smaller jobs to help spread out the cost and labor. Matt has done a terrific job with what he has been given.

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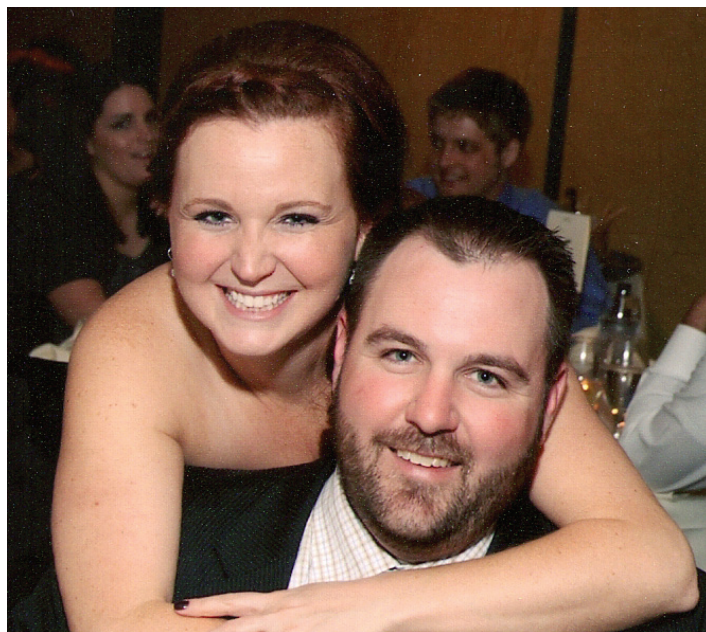


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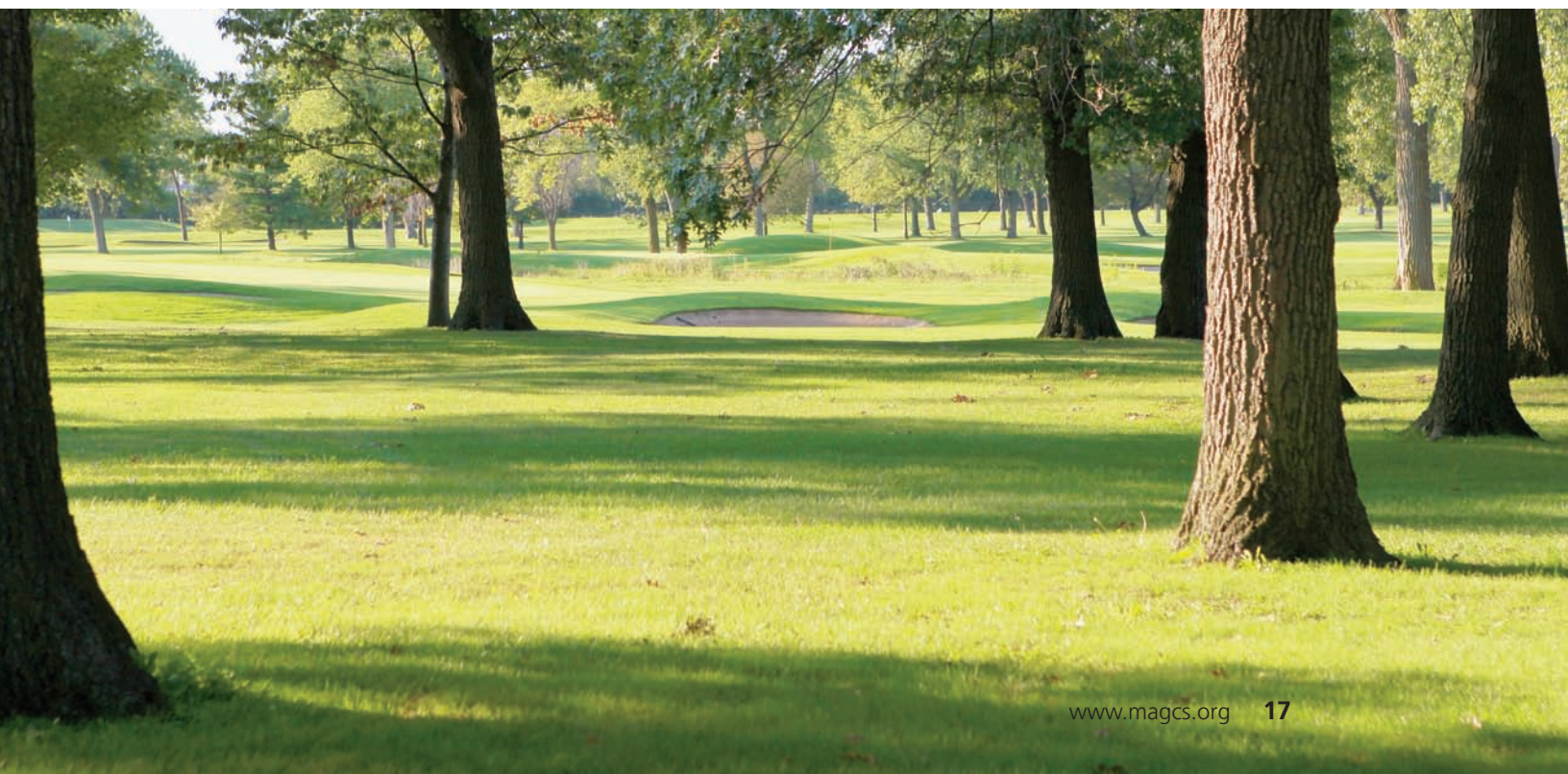


Matt's Assistant Superintendent Dave Sievers, six full-time, and six part-time employees, have done a remarkable job during this tough summer. I was amazed at how healthy and lush the course looked during my time at Calumet Country Club. Strategic blind shots, beautiful tee shots set up over small ponds, and the early Donald Ross designed greens are just a few of the highlights I saw during my tour of the property. Expect this and more at the MAGCS meeting this October. Maybe some of those Washington bents in his greens will be a little purple with the cooler temperatures.

When Matt gets a break from the grind at the course, you can find him cheering on our hometown Blackhawks. Having a partial season ticket package, you just may see him in his favorite Hawks jersey with his face painted in the first row at the United Center a time or two during the season. Also an avid skier, Matt tries to make out to the slopes a few times a year. Matt currently lives in Homewood with his wife of four years, Lauren, and their dog, Nittany. **-OC**



Matt and Lauren



THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



OCTOBER 2012

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 15 – Deadline for nominations for GCSAA's 2013 Excellence in Government Relations Award.

October 19 – Deadline for nominations for the 2012 GCSAA/*Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards.

October 19 – Golf course equipment auction at Graystone Golf Links. Information follows.

October 22 – MAGCS Annual College Championship at Calumet Country Club, **Matt Harstad** and **Dave Sievers** hosts.

October 24 – Deadline to volunteer for 2013 GCSAA committee service.

October 24-26 – PLANET 2012 Green Industry Conference in Louisville (pronounced Loo-uh-vull), KY.

October 25-26 – GIE + EXPO in Louisville (pronounced Loovl), KY. Go to www.gie-expo.com for information.

October 29-30 – Symposium on Affordable Golf at Southern Pines, NC. Check out www.symposiumonaffordablegolf.com.

November 14 – 60th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club, **Curtis Tyrrell**, **CGCS**, **Ross Laubscher**, **Jake Mendoza** and **Jim Wallace** hosts.

November 27-30 – Second Annual *Golfdom* Summit at the Reunion Resort in Orlando, FL. Register at www.golfdom-summit.com.

November 30 – Deadline for nominations for the 2012 TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta.

First and foremost, HUGE congratulations to **Curtis Tyrrell**, **CGCS MG**, course superintendents **Ross Laubscher**, **Jake Mendoza** and **Jim Wallace**, the grounds maintenance staff at Medinah, and all of the many volunteers from around the globe who teamed together to produce the masterpiece that we witnessed during the 39th Ryder Cup matches. There are no superlatives that could do justice to what they accomplished. Thank you for showing the world what golf course conditioning and tournament preparation in Chicagoland are truly about. You can read all about the preparations in September's *GCM* magazine, the cover story of which featured Curtis and Course No. 3. And don't miss November's *On Course*, which will feature much more about the big event.

Big congratulations to Nick Kukla with Billy Casper Golf on completing the Golf Course Management Certificate with distinction from The Ohio State University. Nick started at George Dunne National Golf Course as a cart attendant in 2005, and is now the assistant superintendent. Nice work Nick!



Nick Kukla

And speaking of Billy Casper Golf and George Dunne National, on September 13th the inaugural Conservation Cup Golf Outing, co-sponsored by BCG was held at the course, raising \$100,000 for Children's Programming in the Cook County Forest Preserves. Billy Casper himself was on hand to hit the ceremonial first tee shot, talk with golfers, pose for photos, sign autographs,

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