



Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc.

A Proud Tradition Since 1930



Phone: 847-475-1877 • Fax: 847-475-0037
www.nelsjohnsontree.com



toc

TABLE OF CONTENTS

front cover

Beverly Country Club, site of the ITF/Midwest combined May Monthly Meeting will certainly be a challenge and enjoyable for all.

Photo credit: Kirk Spieth

4 FEATURE

Growing Grass Way Up North

Marty Baumann

8 FEATURE

The Bridges of Indian Hill Club

Aaron Becker



Grant Runblade offers a new perspective on making creations out of snow. Off Course tells the story of Grant's passion. (page 24).

DEPARTMENTS

- 03** Director's Column
Edward Braunsky
- 11** The Bull Sheet
John Gurke
- 17** Super-n-Site
Bill Meyer
- 20** Education Review
Chuck Anfield
- 22** Midwest Breezes
Chuck Anfield
- 24** Off Course
Grant Runblade

DATES

2013 MIDWEST EVENTS

- 4/30 Midwest April Meeting, Calumet Country Club
- 5/13 Midwest / ITF May Meeting, Beverly Country Club
- 7/20 Midwest Family Night Picnic, Cougar Baseball Game
- 7/22 Midwest July Meeting, Edgewood Valley Country Club
- 8/26 Midwest August Meeting, Crystal Lake Country Club
- 11/14 61st Midwest Turf Clinic, Medinah Country Club

2013 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Dave Groelle, CGCS, Royal Melbourne C.C.

VICE PRESIDENT

Dave Kohley, Silver Lake Country Club

SECRETARY / TREASURER

Chuck Barber, St. Charles Country Club

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Luke Cella, CGCS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Matt Harstad, Calumet Country Club
 Matt Kregel, The Club at Strawberry Creek
 Kris Kvelland, Ridge Country Club
 Jim Pedersen, Hughes Creek Golf Course
 Justin VanLanduit, Briarwood Country Club

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Bob Kohlstedt, Fox Bend G.C.

COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Jake Vollbeer, Burris Equipment Company

CLASS 'C' REPRESENTATIVE

Shane Conroy, Park Ridge Country Club

EDITORIAL CHAIRMAN

Matt Harstad

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

John Gurke, CGCS
 Chuck Anfield, CGCS
 Chuck Barber



Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS) exists to promote professionalism and integrity, to provide networking, education and career enhancement opportunities to all members who facilitate the growth and enjoyment of golf.

On Course is published monthly with original member content. For advertising opportunities please call 630-243-7900.

© 2013 by Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.

Reuse permissions: admin@magcs.org

Trust your whole
course to Quali-Pro®.



Introducing Enclave™, the ultimate
fungal control that's proven to go
the distance.

New Enclave™ is a broad-spectrum fungicide
featuring a unique quad-control technology that
helps you prevent and eliminate many diseases
on your course. The result? Healthier turf with
a product that costs less and does more. That's
value.

See why Enclave is one of the best fungicide
values on the market today —

visit www.quali-pro.com/enclave or
contact Nick Strain.

Ph: (608) 301-6407

Email: nstrain@quali-pro.com

QUALI-PRO > Basically Better.

© 2013 Quali-Pro. Quali-Pro is a registered trademark of MANA.
Always read and follow label directions

Our Reputation is Spreading

Wheeling 847.537.2177

Mokena 708.444.2177

www.arthurclesen.com

ARTHUR
CLESEN INC

Book your spreads NOW....
Dates are filling fast.



Rooted in Science

FLORATINE

www.floratine.com

ASTRON Potential Rootplant Drive Roots	PERK UP Heat Stress Relief	PROTESTIN Liquid Amino Acids Essential Amino Acids
Hold Water Push Water	CALPHLEX Soil Catalyst	Rapid Green KNIFE
RENAISSANCE Micronutrient Technology		

Distributed by:

GREAT LAKES TURF LLC

Jeff Mazur - 630.936.3179 Ed Fischer - 847.337.1091
Marty Heyen - 630.939.0151 Jim Johnson - 616.292.0260



Ed Braunsky, CGCS
Geneva Golf Club

Just Check Your Pillbox

Recently I turned the “Big 50” and this has given my wife more ammo to make fun of the all the “old guy” stuff I do. Some of you know what I am talking about. It seems like you get to a certain age and the old man things just start happening:


All of a sudden you are brushing mysterious flakes off of your clothes. You make strange sounds with your mouth like a dog lapping up water. Your flatulence has increased while your ability to control it has decreased. Your dress code is more like Grandpa than GQ. You get upset when you leave your cheaters in the car and can't see the menu. Words like colonoscopy and fiber are part of your dinner conversation with friends.

My memory, from what I remember, is worse. I think. This may be one of the reasons old people listen to radio stations that repeat the news every eight minutes for hours on end. One of my wife's greatest lines of all time occurred while on a trip to Cabo San Lucas. I asked her, “What day is it?” and she quickly responded, “Let's just check our pillbox!” Yes, we have a pillbox and one day, you will too. As we age, there are more pills to take, combined with that memory thing, a pillbox is the answer. Our slow season is a great time to catch up on our own health care.

It seems each winter I spend a lot of time at the dentist. My teeth have always been an issue. As a result of an old CYO injury I get to take some of mine out at night to soak them in Efferdent. When was the last time you heard CYO? I stopped drinking about four years ago (I can hear you're happy for me). That was one of the better old guy things I have done. I didn't want to add more pills to the pillbox.

Recently, (I think it was recently) a group of Past Presidents of the Midwest met at my beloved Geneva Golf Club. This group included: Tim Anderson, Mike Bavier, Kevin DeRoo, Don Ferreri, Al Fierst, Ed Fischer, Gary Hearn, Tony Kalina, Bob Kohlstedt, Peter Leuzinger, Bob Maibusch, Joel Purpur, Dan Sterr, Luke Strojny, Dave Behrman, Scott Witte, Fred Behnke and Dave Braasch. Several members of our current board were there including: President Dave Grolle, Secretary Treasurer Chuck Barber and Director Jim Pedersen and Executive Director Luke Cella. I knew I would forget someone. I was there too.

The Board of Directors looks forward to what transpires at the Past President Council meeting each year. The Council is given the chance to hear a review of the past year's activities of the MAGCS and initiatives the board is currently working through. Well thought suggestions and comments are given to the board from the perspective of those that have a history of also caring for this fine Association. This year we discussed the editorial changes to *On Course* and the new digital version that is now offered to the membership. We talked about the relationship with GCSAA as it continues to move forward. We reviewed the finances of the Association as well as the membership lists. One change that was put to the Council (via email) was the College Championship that MAGCS runs each fall at the October meeting. The golf committee is looking to spark more interest in the event and is thinking about changing that competition to be more inclusive. Since the College Championship has been around for a while, the committee wants the feedback from the Past President's before moving forward with a different or adapted event. This is the type of issue where the current leadership respects the opinions and historic point of view offered by their elders. Change is often good, and even better when it is communicated in an open venue like the Past President's meeting.

We wrapped the day with a steak and lobster lunch, actually it was more like salad and chicken. We need to watch our cholesterol and make sure we get enough roughage throughout the day. For me, the best part was after the meeting and lunch; I saw several conversations going on between young and old superintendents. This is something else us old guys do well. 

Growing Grass WAY up North

PHOTO CREDITS: MARTY BAUMANN

Marty Baumann, *Anchorage Golf Course*

Do you use Eskimos for caddies? Is your clubhouse made of ice like an igloo? Do you use snowshoes instead of spikes on the course? The idea of managing a golf course in Alaska inevitably elicits these sorts of amusing queries from those who have never visited the state.



Marty Baumann can trace some of his roots to the Midwest and he still supports the Cubs.

The realities of managing the Anchorage Golf Course, however, are as unique and challenging as this great state.

Anchorage is a modern city of approximately 320,000 people that sits on the Cook Inlet. It is 100 miles north of the Pacific Ocean at about 60 degrees latitude (for reference, Chicago is around 42 degrees latitude).

The weather is similar to Northern Wisconsin or the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Alaska is two and a half times larger than Texas. It has state

parks larger than Rhode Island and Delaware. Alaska's national parks are even larger. Anchorage is home to four 18-hole facilities that serve the local community, the military, tourists, and Alaskans from bush communities. Between May and September 2012, an estimated 1,586,600 tourists came to Alaska, primarily to and through Anchorage. Additionally, many Alaskans who live outside of Anchorage come here for shopping, doctor's appointments, or for recreational and leisure activities. Anchorage residents who are employees of the oil and gas companies typically work in two-week, rotating shifts, leaving them lots of free time while 'off the slope.' The Anchorage Golf Course welcomes out-of-towners, slope workers, tourists, and locals.

Anchorage's golf season runs from the first week of May through the end of October. In order to open the course as early as possible, the covers are removed from the greens when soil temps rise high enough for the bent grass to actively grow. This allows for earlier play on temporary greens. Besides bent grass greens, we have a blend of Kentucky Bluegrass/Ryegrass fairways,

decks, collars and tees and primarily fescue roughs. The course was cut directly out of a boreal forest and is hilly and tight. We play at 6,005 yards at the white tees and 6,650 yards from the tips.

That's where the similarities to what I am used to end! We have very long days in the summer. In June and July, it never really gets completely dark at night. The sun rises in the north about 3:00 a.m. and sets in the north about 12:30 a.m. And yes, there are golfers at the gate before 4:00 a.m. every day wanting to play! Now, it's great to be able to have three full shotguns in a day in the summer, but it makes mowing and irrigating very difficult.

We budget for 10,000 rounds in June and July and another 9,000 in August to get us the bulk of our 35,000 rounds a season in just three months. Needless to say, I am here every day throughout that stretch.

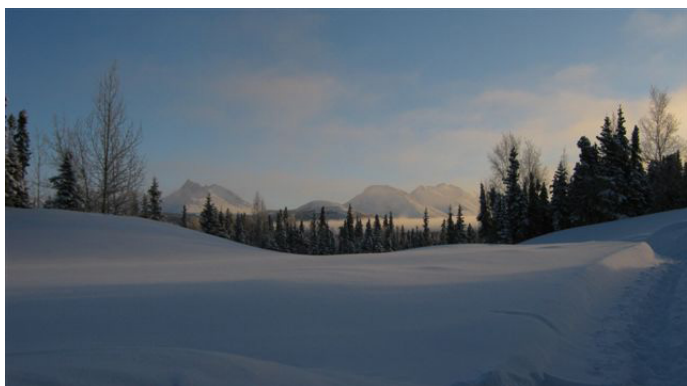
The stuff that's called soil here is a real challenge. There is no clay in our soil. Instead, we have glacial silt. It's composed of small, clay-like particles, but packs even tighter, and does not have the same properties as clay for percolation and exchange rates. The sand here is grey and black, and not available in mixes, as it is in the lower 48. Our bunkers get hard and packed down fast. We need to handle our soil nutrients and fertilization dif-



ferently to make them effective. The soil temps are lower. Below the 12-inch depth, the ground never really warms up, so organic material in the soil breaks down very slowly!

And then there is the wildlife! Moose are cool to see, but they poop everywhere,

they drag their feet across the greens and they are dangerous. How do you move an animal that stands 8 feet tall and tips the scales at 1,500 pounds if it does not want to move? I also have two black bears that live on the course. One is a sow that has cubs every year, and one is a two year old, who has made his home behind my 15th tee. Fun times!



This is how most think of golf in Alaska

Some things are very different in a good way. There are virtually no insects that affect grass. Sports turf grasses are not native, so there are no real insect pests. I deal with some anthracnose and dollar spot in the summer, but very little. The big issue is snow mold. Go figure that! It can wipe out the whole course every winter if I don't spray for it. And I do spray— everything but deep rough—spending over \$10,000 on fungicides just for snow mold protection!



Nice backdrop for a driving range.

The rest is mostly the same...we use JD walking mowers on our greens, and triplex our tees, decks, and collars. We use lightweight fairway mowers and rotary rough mowers. I have an irrigation specialist and a horticulturist as well as a full-time assistant.

Last, but not least, are my customers. We have a loyal following of Anchorage residents. A Monday, Thursday, and Friday night Men's league and a Tuesday and Thursday night Women's league are among the folks we call our regulars. We have up to 60 part and full shotguns a season. About half are for char-



Marty begins his day 2:30 a.m., just as the sun sets.

ity events and half are company events. The Alaska Korean Golf Association is also big here. But tourism is bigger! We get lots of visitors from the Far East—Japan, China, and Korea—who play LOTS of golf here. We have many cruise ships that come here, and lots of people want to play a round in Alaska when they drop anchor in Anchorage.

Then there are the people who want to play 100 holes in one day. With our number of rounds, it's hard to do in less than 16 hours. When you have 22 hours of sunlight in June and July, it isn't uncommon to have someone make a reservation and play through other groups to get their 100 holes in!

And everyone wants to play golf at midnight, or all night long. We don't have any days when it's light all night—you'd have to travel 430 miles north, to Fairbanks, for that. But, with a glow-in-the-dark golf ball and a fore caddy, you can play all night, because dark in late June is really only a couple of hours of dusk.

So, that's golf in Alaska. I try to bring standards from the industry in the lower 48 to a place where expectations can be different. As a result, I have seen our rounds and share of the local play grow.



Don't veer too far off the fairways, it gets thick very quickly.

Aside from the unique challenges of managing a golf course here, the number one reason I love it is that Alaska is BEAUTIFUL! If luck is on my side, I'm certain that this will be my last golf course, and my last home! If you're ever in the neighborhood, stop on by! ☺



"I'll make dollar spot pay."



"Even the best turf can fall victim to disease. But with **Honor® Intrinsic™** brand fungicide, I won't go down easily. On top of unsurpassed disease control, research shows that **Honor Intrinsic's** plant health benefits give me a better root system so I can stand up to stresses like drought and moisture events, extreme temperatures, and aerification—better than ever."

Intrinsic brand fungicides don't just fight disease; they give turf the resilience to endure stress. Find out more by contacting Randy Lusher, 630.810.1832, randy.lusher@basf.com.



Not registered in California.
Always read and follow label directions. © 2011 BASF Corporation. All Rights Reserved.



Common Sense Turf Management

Renny Jacobson
815-791-7404
Renny@CSturf.net

FRANKFORT, IL

Why Go Shallow,
When You Can
Go Deep?

DEEP TINE
AERIFICATION



**KOELPER
GOLF COURSE
CONSTRUCTION
COMPANY**

DARRELL KOELPER
PRESIDENT

GOLF COURSE
CONSTRUCTION & REMODELING

MARENGO, IL

OFFICE: 815-568-8382
FAX: 815-568-1048
HOME: 815-568-6603



ERIC NADLER
President

2700 North Farnsworth Avenue
Aurora Illinois 60502
630.898.1616
630.898.1638 Fax
eric@nadlergolf.com
www.nadlergolf.com

Golf Cars • Utility Vehicles
Sales • Service • Leasing



Breaking barriers to better turf.

BILL SMITH
Account Manager -
Central and
Northern Illinois
Cell: 217-971-6695

REDEXIM TURF PRODUCTS:
A Division of Redexim North America
29 CASSENS COURT
FENTON, MO 63026
TEL: 636-326-1009
FAX: 636-326-4884
EMAIL: Bill@RedeximTurfProducts.com
WEBSITE: www.RedeximTurfProducts.com



Your Single Source for:

- pH Control
- Fertigation
- Injection Equipment
- Irrigation System Monitoring & Alarm

Ask about our NEW 990v!



- P** VFD Technology
- P** Eliminates Overfeed Spikes from On/Off Control
- P** Affordable
- P** Remote Control from Irrigation Central
- P** Optimize Treatment Costs
- P** Easy to Use



PRODUCT * EQUIPMENT * SERVICE * SUPPORT

For additional info or to schedule a demo, call 800.677.8097

THE LITTLE GIANT RTV500

**Starts quicker.
Runs quieter.
Stops smoother.**

The new Kubota RTV500 compact utility vehicle has all the comfort, technology and refinements of a larger utility vehicle. Available in Kubota orange and Realtree® camouflage, the four wheel drive RTV500 is ready for work or play. Visit your local Kubota dealer to test drive the only utility vehicle of its kind.



Martin Implement, Inc.
18405 115th Avenue
Orland Park, IL 60467
(708) 349-8430

Kubota

www.kubota.com

*Realtree is a registered trademark of Jordan Outdoor Enterprises, Ltd.
© Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2008



Growers of Quality Sod

SERVICE!

LOCAL GROWING FOR
EASY PICKUP OR QUICK DELIVERY.
DELIVERY ON TIME, EVERYTIME.

QUALITY!

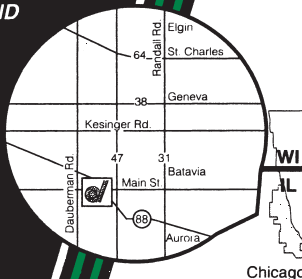
FEATURING
ELITE KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS,
BENTGRASS SOD, AND
TURF-TYPE FESCUE

- LOWER MAINTENANCE
- MORE DROUGHT & SHADE TOLERANT
- BETTER WEAR RESISTANCE

NEW PRODUCT

PRICE!
CALL FOR A QUOTE

630-557-2900



MAIN STREET
11 MILES WEST
OF BATAVIA, IL

HOLLEMBEAK CONSTRUCTION INC.

SINCE 1969



Golf Course Construction • Renovations • Bunkers
Clearing • Feature Grading • Shaping • Drainage
Tee and Green Construction • Cart Paths • Grassing
Shoreline Stabilization • Pond Construction and Dredging
Laser Tee Leveling • GPS Golf Course Mapping

P.O. BOX 103 • BIG ROCK, IL 60511 • 630-556-3891

The Bridges of Indian Hill Club

Aaron Becker, *Indian Hill Club*

PHOTO CREDITS: DAVID SCHLAGETTER, CGCS

As we enter the fall season at Indian Hill Club in Winnetka, Illinois, we welcome the opportunity to change pace. Crew members have taken on unique and specialized jobs to improve the golf course.

This past fall's mild weather and ground conditions provided the opportunity to take on two bridge reconstructions. These are bridges that provide access not only for carts on the course, but also for equipment we use throughout the golf season. In years past, during off season, we have replaced other bridges like these. In addition to providing a more stable and secure structure, we've also been able to use the same building materials and design, creating a uniform series of bridges throughout the golf course.

This past fall we replaced two bridges made of older, aged wood that was losing its integrity and stability. Both cross Indian Hill's main drainage ditch, which runs along or crosses seven different holes on the course. The new bridges were constructed of rough-edged white stones for the sidewalls. A galvanized steel pipe, six-feet in diameter, allows water to flow through. The galvanized steel pipe was ordered in lengths of 10 and 12 feet. The other materials included rough edged white stones (8-10" in width, varying lengths, and 3-4" in height), white masonry cement, concrete, and 2x6" lumber for the forms. We rented a mini excavator to dig the footers and for assistance with pipe placement.



IHC rented a mini excavator to dig footers and properly place the pipes within the ditch.



The plywood in the forefront was used to temporarily damn the water. As the water rose, pumps were used to transfer water to the low side of the ditch.

First, we had to temporarily slow and reduce the flow of water in the ditch. Thankfully, this year, the water level in the ditch didn't present a huge problem. We used sheets of plywood and steel stakes to dam any water that was present. The water that backed up against the dam was frequently pumped to the other side of the second dam to create a dry workspace. Our second step was to properly locate the bridge within the ditch. The first bridge was designed to be 10 feet wide. On each side of the ditch, we marked the width and set up string lines to ensure proper placement. Once we had the location painted, we also measured out three feet beyond the 10-foot mark on all four sides and marked that area. Our goal was to widen the bridge footers on the outside and inside of the stone sidewall to allow for a better working space. The only measurements left were to set up a level string-line across the ditch from the ground on each

side. We used this to determine how deep to excavate the ditch base to allow proper placement of the six-foot diameter pipe.

At this point, we were ready to begin digging. First, we excavated the ditch base. With the aid of a laser level, we removed enough soil along the ten-foot width where the pipe would sit. Once we had the pipe's location complete, we began digging each footer. Each footer was about five feet wide, which al-



After the pipe was set in the ditch and footers were poured, skilled staff members at Indian Hill Club began the stonework.

lowed enough room for workers to lay the stones into place. The bottom of each footer was excavated to the same level, which was established with the laser. This was the end of the major excavating. The next step was to place the pipe. The key here was to locate the pipe as accurately as possible on the side of the ditch. Once the pipe was set down, we measured off the ends to make sure we had our footers dug properly. The extra three feet dug beyond the ten foot length was also verified. Three workers pushed the pipe down the bank of the ditch into its final resting spot. Then, we set our string line up once again to make sure the pipe was at the correct depth in relation to both sides of the ditch. We also checked the pipe to ensure it was sitting level in the ditch.

Next, we concentrated on each of the four footer regions. The fact that we were working below the grade of the ditch made for a messy workspace. To help create a solid and stable base, we added crushed gravel to the footers. Again, using the laser, we made sure all four footers were level, and we graded the gravel evenly. We were at the point where we could con-




After each bridge complete and backfilled, staff finished off the grade with crushed red stone to match the existing path work at IHC.

struct our forms from 2x6s. Concrete was poured into the forms to provide a base for the white stone.

We allowed the concrete to dry overnight. We then removed the wood forms and began masonry work. At Indian Hill, we're fortunate to have several crew members who have brick-laying and stonework skills. Random-length white stones were put into place on one side of the bridge with two workers in each footer. At ground level, two additional men were preparing masonry cement and handing stones down. They worked efficiently, and the bridge took shape very quickly. Once the stones reached the correct level, the crew repeated the process and constructed the opposite side of the bridge.



With both sides of the stone bridge completed, the excavation was backfilled –both inside and outside the bridge walls. The soil was graded and compacted to match the ditch bank slope on the outside of the walls. The inside of the bridge was filled in around the pipe and graded to provide a subtle rise in the middle of the bridge, allowing proper runoff from rainfall. Crushed gravel was laid on top of the soil to establish near-finish grade. Once thoroughly compacted, we added crushed red rock material to finish and match our other bridge/cart path surfaces.

The bridge construction process at Indian Hill Club gives a uniform and attractive look to all of our crossings. The planning and labor are enjoyable components of our off-season. The feedback tells us that when course duties and weather slow down, taking on a task such as a stone bridge is quite rewarding. We're proud to share our story and our successes with in-house-managed off-season projects. 

WE PUT MORE INTO IT. YOU GET MORE OUT OF IT.

NEW ECLIPSE²



ECLIPSE² 122F shown



Three full service locations
Waukegan, Frankfort, & Ingleside.

(847) 336-1205 Phone
(847) 336-2697 Fax

www.burrisequipment.com



JACOBSEN

1.888.922.TURF | www.jacobsen.com