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Luke Cella

front cover

Silver Lake Country Club, the site of our first 2014 outdoor monthly meeting. Pictured is the second hole on the North Course, Dave Kohley Golf Course Superintendent.

PHOTO: Silver Lake Country Club



The greens staff at Oakland Hills Country Club spend a sunny day this spring clearing ice and water from a putting surface. Photo credit: Steve Cook, CGCS MG

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2014 MIDWEST EVENTS

- 04/29 Midwest April Meeting, Silver Lake Country Club
- 05/05 Midwest / ITF Combined Meeting, CC of Peoria
- 06/16 Midwest June Meeting, Aurora Country Club
- 8/26 Midwest Golf Championship, Harborside International

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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.

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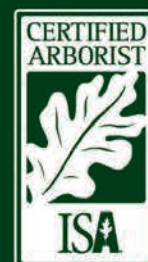


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Past Presidents Meet Again

The Past Presidents Council (PPC) of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents met on February 26 at the Geneva Golf Club.

The meeting was attended by the following Past Presidents: Pete Leuzinger, CGCS Retired, Bob Kohlstedt, Gary Hearn, Scott Witte CGCS, Don Ferreri, Kevin DeRoo, Luke Strojny, CGCS, Joel Purpur, CGCS, Tony Kalina and Al Fierst. Members present from the current Board included: Chuck Barber, Justin VanLanduit, Jim Pedersen, current President Dave Kohely and Luke Cella.

This year, as in the past, the PPC was given the opportunity to suggest any ideas or changes that would help MAGCS improve and grow. From the outcome of the meeting, it was apparent the PPC felt the current board and staff are doing a great job of keeping the Midwest at the forefront of the profession.

Different facets of the Association are discussed including the financials, membership, membership classifications, charitable contributions, monthly meetings, education, On Course and the GCSAA. The association has been able to control costs and expenses the last few years through careful management. The board of directors hinted a dues increase in 2015 may occur if projections prove one is needed to continue membership benefits on par with rising costs.

Since its inception, several companies have embraced the Core sponsorship program. It continues to be a viable program for many. It has allowed companies flexibility in payment for association services, advertising and support throughout the year. After another successful Hospitality Reception in Orlando, plans are being made to find a site in San Antonio. Early research shows, the Midwest should not have trouble finding a venue for our size group.

PLANS ARE BEING MADE TO
FIND A SITE IN SAN ANTONIO.

Whenever there are many different superintendent job openings in the area, the Midwest scrutinizes their employment referral program to help advertise members of the Midwest as viable candidates. The Midwest only offers clubs and companies a way to advertise open positions (through an online post) and will continue to offer this service in the future. A short letter has been developed by the Employment Committee to offer this service to clubs and courses in the area and will only be sent when it is confirmed that a facility is in the process of searching for a superintendent.

The Midwest is going to take a year off from hosting the Family Night Picnic at the Kane County Cougar Baseball game this summer. The Association was one of the Cougars longest running returning groups, however the board has decided to try something new. They are developing a family event at the Midwest Golf House for families, the date is to be determined. Plans for the event include different games for our children in a relaxed atmosphere on the Sunshine Course. This sounds like fun and something that could turn into a new tradition. Last year, the Midwest hosted a new event, the 12 hole event at St. Charles Country Club. The board hopes to continue this event in the coming year and they've been talking to a few 9 hole course superintendents to find a spot.

Column continued on page 22

Now is the Winter of our Discontent

Chuck Barber, St. Charles Country Club

William Shakespeare wrote this line in Richard III. I believe the bard's intention was to set the tone of the play about King Richard III of England as a self-loathing, cruel despot. What it means for us is spring is here and winter has gone. The forecast is for a high of 30 tomorrow (3/22/2014) and snow but I'm confident that what feels like an eternal winter will release its grip soon.

Some of the ways we measure a winter's characteristics are snowfall, temperatures, days of snow cover, and ice cover. I won't rehash any of that here because I'm fairly certain that we all have vivid memories of winter 2013/2014. The expression goes that misery loves company so I figured I would try and get the word out that many superintendents in the area might be struggling with damaged turf, for a variety of reasons, as we (slowly) emerge from this winter.



Low spots that have accumulated prolonged periods of ice cover may be troublesome once the growing season begins.

(between cells) causing a decrease in water potential outside the cell. The cell begins to move out of the cell toward the ice crystals in the intercellular spaces and subsequently freezes. Thus, dehydration occurs within the cell. The colder the temperatures the more water travels down the gradient toward the frozen water. At 14 °F (-10°C), 90% of the osmotically active cellular water will move out of the cell into intercellular spaces (Thomashow, 1998).

Continuous Ice Cover Injury

The reasons commonly proposed for ice injury are the buildup of toxic gases and/or the development of anoxic conditions, and the loss of cold hardiness. It appears that carbon dioxide (CO₂) accumulation under ice cover is a major contributor to the death of herbaceous plants (Freyman and Brink, 1967). Intermittent



The snow slowly recedes off the 12th Green at St. Charles Country Club to reveal what is underneath.

Why does injury occur on cool-season grasses? CDGA Director of Turfgrass Programs, Dr. Ed Nangle, Ph.D. tells us here:

Freeze Injury

Although turfgrasses undergo cold acclimation, freeze injury is a potential problem on cool season turfgrasses like annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) and perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*). Freeze injury and conversely tolerance is due in large part to how the turfgrass plant reacts to cell dehydration. As temperatures drop below freezing water within the plant freezes intercellularly

thawing helped eliminate the CO₂ buildup and injury to the plants in this study did not occur (Freyman and Brink, 1967). The loss of cold hardiness under ice cover occurs and varies among turfgrass species. Under continuous ice cover annual bluegrass loses its cold hardiness, while creeping bentgrass is not affected (Thompkins et al., 2004). The loss of cold hardiness in annual bluegrass is likely due to the anoxia (lack of oxygen) conditions that develop under an ice cover (Thompkins et al., 2004).

Ice Formation in Association with Freeze Injury

In areas where continuous ice cover for over 45 days is unlikely due to winter weather patterns being broken due to intermittent periods of thawing, ice formation can play a role in freeze injury. Under this scenario a rapid drop in temperature resulting in freezing water around the growing point during late winter or early spring can cause freeze injury primarily to *Poa annua*.

The critical precursor to freeze injury is the loss of cold hardiness through dehardening and subsequent re-hydration of the annual bluegrass crown region. Continuous ice covers as previously mentioned contribute to the decline in cold hardiness. However, the most important factor regulating de-hardening is temperature (Tompkins et al., 2002). In annual bluegrass the de-hardening process can occur quickly when soil temperatures exceed 46 F (8°C) for 48 hours (Tompkins et al., 1996).



A green suffering from damage from ice formation around the crown of the plant - that pulls water out of the plant cells.

Proactive Attempts

What can we do to mitigate winter injury potential? I will refer to the good Dr. Nangle again.

1. Produce a healthy plant going into the winter. A weak *Poa annua* plant with low carbohydrate storage is not going to tolerate ice cover or be resistant to freeze injury as a healthy plant. Shaded areas are more prone to freeze injury than sunny areas, probably due to the carbohydrate status of *Poa annua* (Rossi, 2003).
2. Eliminate poorly drained areas. *Poa annua* growing in areas where water accumulates is at high risk to rapid freezing during freeze/thaw cycles.
3. Provide drainage for removal of water from excessively wet

areas. During freeze/thaw cycles the presence of excessive moisture can enhance freeze injury.

4. Reduce thatch. A significant thatch layer results in the plant's growing point to lose contact with the soil as it elevates into the thatch layer. This will expose the plant more readily to freezing temperatures.
5. Potassium fertilization. In turfgrasses potassium is often applied for increasing the chances of winter survival. Potassium is an ion that helps lower the osmotic potential of the cell decreasing water the potential for water flow from the cell.
6. Reduce the likelihood of excessive growth going into the winter. Overstimulation of growth promotes succulent high water content cells that are more likely to encounter freeze injury.
7. Reduce shading. Although not fully researched, a degree of correlation has occurred with freeze injury and degree of shading. Shading may contribute to increased freeze injury due to plant cells tend to be:
 - more succulent in shade and have larger intercellular spaces,
 - lower carbohydrate levels, which may influence water potential, as well as the energy requirements of the turf
 - shaded areas tend to be wetter, which may contribute to the severity of freeze/thaw cycles in late winter.



We all know how problematic shade can be in the summer but we forget how much it can contribute to winter damage as well by slowing soil warming and snow / ice melt.

Communication and Resources

How are you communicating injury or potential injury to your customers, owners, members or managers? The USGA has a video on sampling frozen turf to determine if injury has occurred. It can be found on YouTube, search terms USGA turf sample ice.

Further, they have a video on the importance of winter weather concerns here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROHZofjndkA>

Make sure everyone who needs to know about injury or potential injury stays informed as spring progresses. Provide



The damage from the winter that would never end won't be really apparent for several more weeks as soil and air temperatures begin to climb and stay.

information on where injury has occurred, any potential reasons for why it occurred, what can be done to recover from that injury and the corrective steps that will be implemented to provide healthy turf moving forward

For those of you who make it out of winter unscathed, congratulations. For those of you who didn't, you are not alone and there are resources available to help you communicate and recover. I for one am cautiously optimistic that we will have a great 2014 golf season here in the area. THINK SPRING! @



Samples from a predominantly Poa annua putting surface are troublesome as they are checked for life.



Bentgrass samples taken from the same golf course appear to be in much better health and will spark many conversations this spring about bentgrass conversions.

For

Turfnet subscribers, the #WORSTWINTEREVER webinar can be found in their archives, and some are available to non-subscribers as well.

The USGA is another source for information through their regional updates and don't forget about the CDGA Turf Program.

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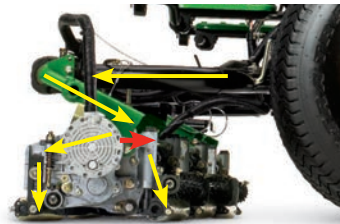
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The BullSheet



APRIL 2014

Dates to Remember

April 9 – CAGCS meeting at Lake Shore Country Club, Jeff Frentz, CGCS host.

April 27 – 2014 National Club Conference at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco, CA.

April 29 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Spring Scramble at Silver Lake Country Club, President Dave Kohley host.

May 5 – ITF/MAGCS Combined event at the Country Club of Peoria in Peoria Heights, IL, Andy Morris host.

May 15-17 – NCAA Division I Men's Regional hosted by Northern Illinois University at Rich Harvest Farms (the "Home of the Huskies") in Sugar Grove, IL, Jeff Vercautren host.

June 16 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Aurora Country Club, John Gurke & Aaron Reinhart host.

August 26 – Midwest Golf Championship at Harborside International, Ryan Tully host.

Welcome and the best of luck to our newest MAGCS members:

Janet Dietz, Fiore Nursery – Class E
Drew Kleinmeyer, River Bend Golf Club – Class A
Dustin Peterson, Rain Bird International – Class E
Tom Rasmussen, The Toro Company – Class E
David M. Ross, SePRO Corporation – Class E
Jeff Szymonik, Pinecrest Golf Course – Class DT
Adam Wiles, Conway Farms Golf Club – Class C
Rusty Willard, The Glen Club – Class SM

Congratulations to **Rick Bowden** on his retirement from Bob O'Link Golf Club after a long and illustrious career there. You've worked hard for a long time, Rick—now get out and enjoy your freedom!



Rick Bowden

While on the retirement thing, two gentlemen from the Joliet Park District celebrated their retirements together last month. **Mike Conroy** had served for 31 years at Woodruff Golf Course and **Jim Hall** had 25 years of service at Inwood Golf Course. Congrats to both!



Congratulations to Mike Conroy and Jim Hall.

Best wishes to **Scott Pavalko**, formerly at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club, on being named Bob O'Link's next superintendent, filling Rick's big shoes. (Pictured right)



Also congratulations to **Bob Rigney**, who is the new golf course superintendent at Nettle Creek Country Club in Morris, IL.



Bob Rigney, new Superintendent at Nettle Creek in Morris.

Matt Ceplo, CGCS of Rockland Country Club in Sparkhill, NY has been elected to Audubon International's board of directors. Why do you care? He replaces **Dan Dinelli**, CGCS of North Shore Country Club, who spent the last four years on that same board. Congrats Dan on your "retirement."

Also from Audubon International, Doug Bechtel is the new President of that organization after working with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for golf courses most recently.

No, he didn't get a new wife, but **Dan Murray**, CGCS DOES have a new boss. Pheasant Run Resort, where Dan is superintendent, has recently sold to a group of hotel investors and operators called Saint Charles Resort, LLC. The resort, which sits on 250 acres features a 473-room hotel, an 18-hole golf course, a 38,000 square foot expo center, two restaurants, two pool bars, and a 320-seat theater was opened in 1963, and will undergo a \$5 million rejuvenation in the coming months.

The governing body at Augusta National has once again extended complimentary daily admission to the Masters (this month from the 7th through the 13th) to all GCSAA Class A, A-Retired and AA Life Members who have a valid gold membership card. So as tempted as you may be to buy tickets from that guy in front of Hooters, don't. Use your card.



Ron Townsend, Dr. Nangle's newest translator.

Congrats to **Ron Townsend**, the new Research Manager at CDGA. Ron grew up in Columbus, OH where he caught the golf bug while playing some of central Ohio's finest golf courses while on his high school golf team. From there he attended Ohio State University, serving internships at Pinnacle Golf Club, Oakhurst CC and Kirtland CC. During his college years Ron also worked with the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation's turfgrass pathology team, performing numerous trials and making site visits and diagnostic appointments. Upon

graduation, Ron took a position at Exmoor Country Club, where he has been serving as **Kurt Galisdorfer's** assistant until now. Good luck Ron—it just may be a busy start to your new job!



No, this is not the storage area behind **Justin VanLanduit's** shop. This is the state-of-the-art equipment that was used to prepare for the U.S. Open at the Champions Golf Club in Houston, TX in 1969 (for those who don't recall, Orville Moody won) (and those yellow things in back were called tractors).

We've come a long way in 45 years.



Dave Ward had more equipment on one fairway during the 2013 Open than was used on the entire course in '69

Q: If **Greg Coyne** is the last presenter of the day at this year's Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah, what would he be called?

A: The Kankakeenote Speaker.

FMC Corp announced last month its plans to separate its agriculture and health care units from its other units that include lithium and alkali chemicals. The Philadelphia-based company said the transaction, which will take the form of a tax-free distribution of shares to shareholders, will result in two companies called New FMC and FMC Minerals. New FMC will comprise the agricultural units, including the products we in our industry use.

Here's some not so encouraging news: Horticulture and agriculture have officially made the list. Unfortunately, the list which has the two at #2 and #3 respectively is the Daily Beast's list of the 20 Most Useless College Degrees. According to their