



Brian Bossert, CGCS from Bryn Mawr Country Club.

The panel opened up with a discussion of their use and experience with some of the new fungicides discussed earlier in the day. Some used the new products out of curiosity, some got demos to try, and others liked the pre-mix aspects.

The winter ice and snow cover of this year were discussed. Tactics to cope with any problems included increasing communications with Club, pulling plugs to check for life, what to do or not to do about low pockets of ice coverage and melting or removing snow or ice. There were different opinions on what should/needs to be done. Courses that had more *Poa annua* had higher concerns.

The panel discussed how the winter was going to affect opening dates. Everyone agreed it looked like it was going to be later than normal. Panel discussions are always interesting as it creates a back and forth discussion. The panel took questions from the grandstands. There was only minor heckling.

The last speaker of the day was Dan Moore of Moore Golf. Dan's background is in research, consulting and documentation. He serves on the USGA Museum Archival Committee. Dan presented "Golf History and Photography of Golf in Chicago." Dan presented a historical perspective of Scotland's "gift" of the game of golf to Chicago. He showed some early drawings and photographs of some of the first courses built in Chicago. He reviewed the different architect's influences on the game and how that affected the original course architecture in Chicago. H.J. Tweedie, Allison Colt, Tom Bendelow, C.B. Macdonald and Donald Ross were some of the featured "pioneers" of golf in Chicago. It was very interesting and informative. @

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In 2013, the GCSAA extended the Affiliation Agreement for another year. This agreement covers the relationship between the chapters and GCSAA and defines roles and responsibilities among other things. It has not been reviewed for quite a while and Luke Cella has stepped up to help represent the local chapters on a small task force that is supposed to oversee the reworking of the document. The document oversees items as conformity of bylaws (need to be consistent with each other), Membership classifications and definitions of such, (remember changing from Class B to SM? This is why.), Annual Chapter Delegate Meeting, Annual reporting of association activities, GCSAA voting, and more. The document needs to be revised to more accurately represent the local chapters and national association.

Pete Leuzinger was in attendance prior to teaching at Kishwaukee College that afternoon. He led a discussion that centered on the future of Horticulture, a field of study that has contracted not only at Kishwaukee but across the country at an eye brow raising pace. Programs struggle with attracting students and the group has felt this in the employment market for interns, second and first assistants. Working outside and with nature is not as desirable and attractive as it used to be – at least until marijuana sales are legal in all 50 – that may produce an uptick in the study of plants.

The only old business, as I previously insinuated were the people in the room. The information that was provided to the PPC was outstanding and the group expressed its gratitude to the current board present. The PPC values the opportunity to openly discuss the past, the present and future as those who still take the time each spring to express their points of view on an Association they hold dearly in their hearts. @



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out each spring).

Curtis Tyrrell's talk was a pared down version he gave at our Turf Clinic a few years ago about tree removal at Medinah CC. His talk opened a discussion on fans and the importance of air movement.

Ed Nangle gave a very abbreviated talk, explaining that "Poa is like an Irishman, it likes it wet and cloudy." He did get asked about the bacterial wilt issue but a topic that was quickly put on the back burner when talk turned to our winter.

Bob Vavrek followed up with what we may see this spring. It certainly raised many eyebrows from the audience, especially the golf course superintendents in the group. Bob stated, "the benefits of removing snow or ice from greens or even covering them each year – it is tough to tell if these things will help to prevent injury this year." Bob explained that we are experiencing a record setting winter, as we all know, and it stands to reason that there will be some turf damage out there. It is not unlike experiencing extreme heat when we have record setting summers, it is just on the opposite end. One key Bob explained to get up and running is the irrigation system. If damage does occur and courses plot their road to recovery using seed, it is imperative the seed does not dry out – as we all know. Getting your irrigation system charged up and ready to go will keep recovery going throughout spring even if we get a dry afternoon or two. @



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