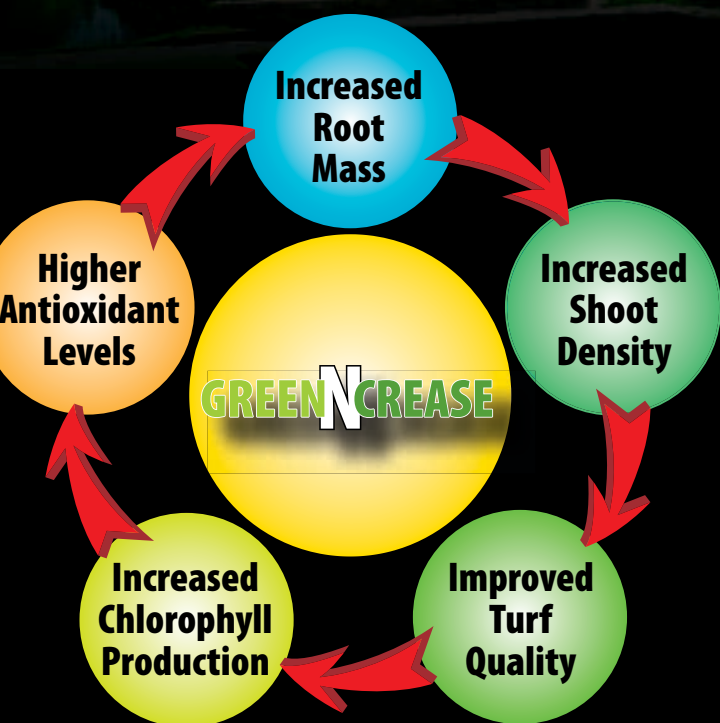


GREENNCREASE

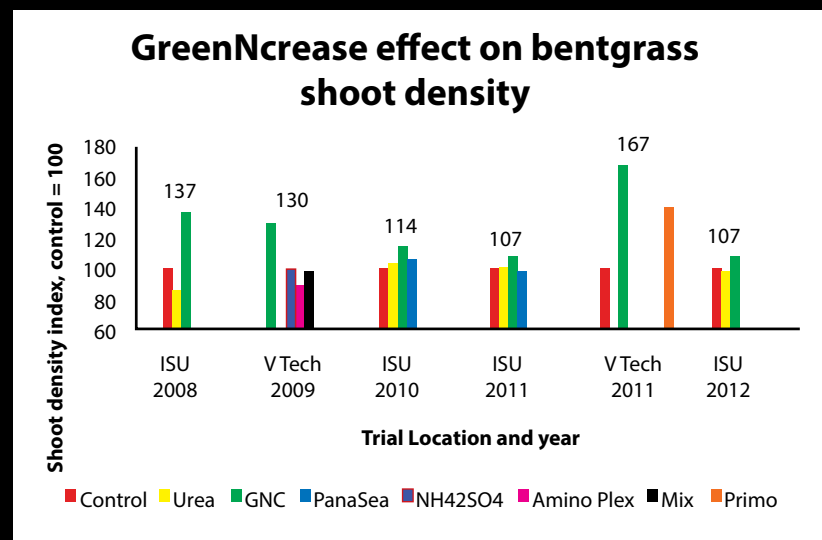
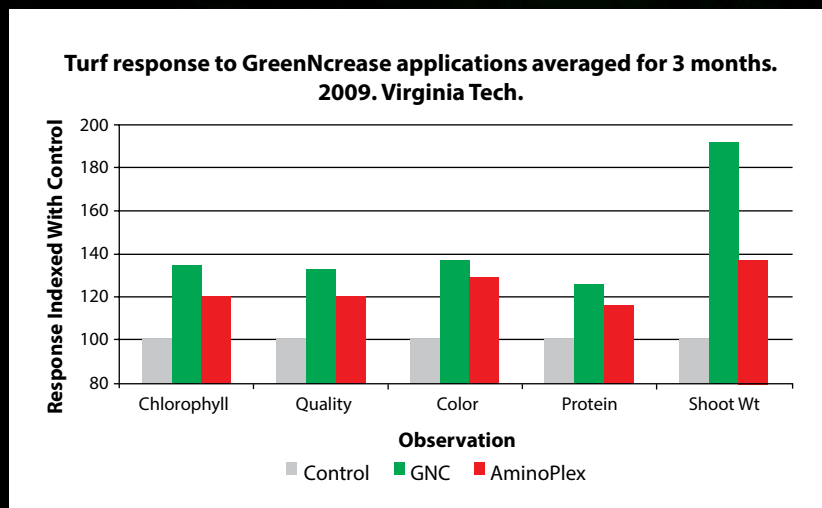
Say Hello to GreenNcrease
and Goodbye to Stressed Out Turf!



GreenNcrease rate effects on creeping bentgrass drought resistance. 2009.
Ervin, E.H. and X. Zhang. Virginia Tech.



Control GNC 7.7 oz/M GNC 15.4 oz/M GNC 23.1 oz/M



- Provides Heat and Drought Tolerance
- University Tested and Proven

- Rich in Amino Acid Content
- Distributor Openings Available

toc

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURE

4 The Cost of Doing Nothing

Greg Martin

FEATURE II

I4 Musing from the US Open

Ed Nangle

front cover

The picture of the 7th green at Woodstock Country Club is one of the 3 par 4s on the property, note the sloping fairway in the background.

PHOTO: Luke Cella



The fourth hole at Woodstock CC has a very narrow fairway with out of bounds all down the left side and one of the largest shagbark hickory trees behind the green that will help you line up your approach shot.

DEPARTMENTS

- 03** Director's Column
Chuck Barber
- 09** The Bull Sheet
John Gurke
- 20** MAGCS-n-Motion
- 22** Super-n-Site
Bob Kronn, Jr.
- 26** Education Recap
Chuck Anfield

DATES

2014 MIDWEST EVENTS

- 7/10 Midwest Nine Hole Event - Woodstock CC
- 8/26 Midwest Golf Championship, Harborside International
- 10/06 Midwest October Meeting, Briarwood CC
- 11/12 Midwest Turf Clinic & Annual Meeting, Medinah CC

2014 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Dave Kohley, Silver Lake Country Club

VICE PRESIDENT

Chuck Barber, St. Charles Country Club

SECRETARY / TREASURER

Matt Kregel, The Club at Strawberry Creek

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Luke Cella, CGCS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Matt Harstad, Calumet Country Club

Jeff Hoste, Village Greens of Woodridge

Kris Kvelland, Ridge Country Club

Jim Pedersen, Hughes Creek Golf Course

Justin VanLanduit, Briarwood Country Club

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Dave Groelle, CGCS, Royal Melbourne C.C.

COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Jake Vollbeer, Burris Equipment Company

CLASS 'C' REPRESENTATIVE

Brian Placzkowski, Royal Melbourne C.C.

TURFGRASS ADVISOR

Dr. Ed Nangle, CDGA

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.

© 2014 by Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.

Reuse permissions: admin@magcs.org

You can't change the climate. That's why we created new chemistry.

There's no controlling the temperature. But with Briskway™ fungicide, you can help control all major summer turf diseases with no heat restrictions. Thanks to a new active ingredient—difenoconazole—Briskway is a cooling DMI containing fungicide that can be used on all turf types, even in the hottest months, with no PGR effects. Combine that with the disease control and plant health benefits of azoxystrobin, and you can keep your turf looking great no matter the climate.

Visit www.NoHeatRestrictions.com

Brian Winkel
Cell: 1(630)391-2170
Email: Brian.Winkel@syngenta.com



syngenta®



Chuck Barber
St. Charles Country Club

How Hard Can it Be?

"A League of Their Own" is a 1992 film starring Geena Davis and Tom Hanks. The film tells the story of a World War II era women's baseball league that was formed to keep public interest alive in baseball during the war. This is not my favorite film of all time. Indeed it might not crack the top 100.

However, near the end of the film Tom Hanks' character provides a brief, astonishing moment of clarity that provided the inspiration for this column.

Geena Davis' character's husband (Bill Pullman aka "Lone Star") has returned, injured, from the war. The road, the competition and the game have become frustrating for Davis. She longs for a return to her native Oregon and the simpler life that awaits her there. In despair, fighting back tears, she explains to Hanks, "It just got too hard."

Hanks is dissatisfied with this and explains in no uncertain terms, "It's supposed to be hard. If it wasn't hard, everyone would do it. The hard is what makes it great." I am reminded of these words when things just aren't going my way at work, at home or elsewhere in my life.

As Golf Course Superintendents we are presented, almost daily, with a wide variety of challenges. We work in an ever changing, living, breathing, dynamic environment. Some of these hurdles include the weather, our customers, stakeholders, owners, members, co-workers, industry support, equipment, and infrastructure. There is quite literally a whole world out there that has the ability to screw up your day. That's what I love about my job.

I like to figure it out. If I can't figure it out on my own, I ask the people I work with. If they can't figure it out I ask the people I work for. I am the first to admit that I don't know everything. I don't have all the answers. The answers are out there.

I have always felt that control is an illusion. All things being equal the world will behave as it damn well pleases. I can't control any of the challenges that are beyond the scope of my influence. I can influence our response to those challenges. I can figure it out. I take the idea 'the hard is what makes it great' and apply it to my job. Finding those answers, solving problems, making improvements and preventing mistakes is what I enjoy most about my job.

The challenges that we face at work are not hardships, only challenges. Talk to any family that has lost a loved one, or has family serving in the military, or who has lost their home in a tornado and they can speak about hardship. In the end, golf is a game. The people we work for are supposed to enjoy themselves. I feel strongly that we can enjoy ourselves at work, too. We are only afforded so many years in the sun. Why not make the most of 'the hard' part of it? After all, the hard is what makes it great. @

IF I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT
ON MY OWN, I ASK THE
PEOPLE I WORK WITH. IF
THEY CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT,
I ASK THE PEOPLE I WORK
FOR.



The best known line from the movie "There's no crying in baseball" is followed by the funniest line of the whole movie - check it out on YouTube.

The Cost of Doing Nothing

Gregory E Martin, Martin Design, ASGCA

As golf courses grow older, they mature and the nuance and charm of a design becomes more evident. But as a living and breathing entity, golf courses age and infrastructure fails, ultimately requiring attention.

Trees planted for scale are now overgrown, impacting play and turf health deteriorates; the irrigation system is leaking and programming options are woefully out-of-date; bunkers are not draining and sand is contaminated; tee surface is insufficient; youth golf is waning; paths and circulation are crumbling and maintenance costs are swelling. Sound familiar?

As decision makers contemplate the need for golf course renovation, it is necessary to understand the simple arithmetic of improvement: there is a substantial cost to renovation. Maybe more important and less understood is “the price of inaction”. The cost of renovation may be considerably more tolerable when the substantial cost of waiting is understood.

Simply, the cost of a renovation is the price of the project, less the cost of inaction.

What is the cost of inaction? Plainly, if renovation is inevitable, maintenance costs will continue to escalate while revenues and golfer satisfaction will decline. For instance, a bunker improvement project can be a significant cost, but it may likely reduce ongoing maintenance and restoration costs while improving golfer satisfaction and use. Those should be factored as part of the renovation cost. In some cases this can be significant.

Case Study – Arrowhead Golf Club

At Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton, Illinois, the yearly cost to maintain bunkers was increasing. Labor and material costs for the 135,000 sf. of bunkers were increasing, particularly after rain events. The cost to maintain these bunkers after a rainfall [pump, restore sand and re-establish eroded edges] was

a minimum of \$35,000 per year and each year those costs were increasing. It was estimated that over a 10-year period, the cost to maintain the bunkers, if left untouched – because of failed or ineffective drainage in the bunkers – would exceed \$400,000. If left untouched, those costs would continue to escalate.



Ultimately, this project was approved based upon our analysis. We illustrated that the cost of the renovation PLUS future cost savings [Renovation] would be acceptable against the cost of current maintenance PLUS future maintenance and loss of revenue [Inaction].

The results were telling. After a fairly extensive bunker reduction/renovation the maintenance costs for bunkers were reduced substantially. Over a 10-15 year period – or the life span of a bunker - it is projected that the net savings will result in more than \$500,000 of maintenance cost savings. These future savings/benefits can now be applied to the cost of the project. A \$1,200,000 project now has a net cost of \$700,000 or less. This is substantial.

Certainly, every project is different; The specifics of design, the improvement program, the site, the soils, golfer expectations and

ownership interest are relevant and will have impacts to current and estimated future costs. However, the golfers at Arrowhead now enjoy better conditions, better strategy, and better aesthetics while maintenance costs have been stabilized. Satisfied golfers are the best marketing.

This analysis can be constructed to measure any kind of project. At Wilmette Golf Club in Wilmette, Illinois, we used this analysis to determine the viability for more significant improvements.

A highly utilized club [35-40,000 rounds], this facility suffered from shutdowns after rain events [flat site and impacts from nearby North Branch of the Chicago River]. Turf conditions deteriorated because of inadequate drainage, sluggish recovery and over-planting. Further, Wilmette is a 90-year old golf course with design features from every one of the past decades, possessing a variety of push-up, USGA and modified sand-greens, multiple bunker types, tees of every kind and shape, as well as the described under-performing drainage system.

Recent rain events and springtime flooding caused serious damage and each year those rain events became more and more destructive. While rounds remained stable, maintenance costs associated to recovery continued to escalate.

Our Master Plan was comprehensive. It called for a substantial underground drainage system to work in concert with improved overland drainage and a new network of ponds, wetlands and swales. We proposed raising fairways [in primary landing areas] and raising greens where necessary while expanding water features to accomplish more effective stormwater management. This in conjunction with improved bunkers, tees, modifying greens to USGA standard, will produce a more resilient golf course and more efficient use of maintenance resources.

To fully understand the long-term benefits of this project we developed a matrix that compared near-term and long-term costs from No-Action to Full Course Renovation, and a variety of intermediate investment strategies. This review allowed the club, the membership and ownership to fully understand the most effective, long-term investments.

Some of the plan options included:

1. No-action;
2. Minimal in-house improvements;
3. Hybrid plan [small renovation and in-house – over time
4. Master plan “light”; and
5. Full renovation

The analysis compared implementation costs from nothing to the full “comprehensive renovation” version and then and calculated golfer satisfaction and future maintenance costs. The following were just some aspects of the review and analysis:

- Turfgrass condition, turf type, tree cover
- Golf course impacts after rain events
- Stormwater management capabilities
- Access & circulation [paths]
- Design Features [bunkers, greens, tees - recovery & consistency]

- Customer Expectation & Satisfaction
- Phase costs [Loss of income and staff costs]
- Fee impacts
- Residual income
- Aesthetics and design consistency

This analysis showed that there were substantial costs to inaction including: declining customer satisfaction, reduced golfer use, loss of cart revenue due to limited access after rain events, and increasing recovery, restoration and maintenance costs.

Ultimately, the renovation strategy selected was a mid-range plan termed “Master Plan ‘Light’”. It targeted all of the drainage concerns, necessary tree removals and improved stormwater capacity while upgrading much of the strategic, playability and aesthetic aspects of the golf course. Most of the work was contracted, with a small share of the work to be completed ‘in-house’.

Wilmette Golf Club will open in late spring, but already, the project sees benefits. Golfers are enthused and the golf course superintendent, Mike Matchen, is satisfied knowing that many of past maintenance struggles have been addressed. A significant side benefit is the expansion of wetlands and the new buffer swale system on the golf course improving water quality and reducing maintenance.



Regardless of the project there will likely be dissent. Improvement project costs are likely significant, but, long-term cost savings from those improvements may be equally noteworthy. This analysis begins to shed light on the enduring benefits of project completion while exposing the menacing cost of doing nothing. Conditions will improve, golfer enjoyment is be amplified, customer satisfaction increases and maintenance costs are, at minimum, stabilized.

Only time will tell if our financial projections are correct, but even if maintenance cost savings are nominal, conditions are improved, resources are focused and golfer satisfaction will saturate the community. There is a cost to inaction and project costs can result in savings. The cost of inaction needs to be factored and fully understood during the planning stages of a project. @

Why Drill-and-Fill™ when you can call

MAXIMUS™

BY DryJect

The revolutionary new contracted service for
Deep Aeration and Instant Fill
9"-11" deep & lower cost

- About 1 hour per green
- Inject about 2.5 tons of sand / hour
- Minimal surface disruption
- No lost or discounted rounds

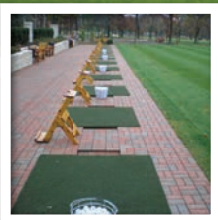
MAXIMUS
BY DryJect
Deep Aeration, Instant Fill

Andy Womack
217-549-5173

MaximusAeration.com

UPSCALE, MAINTENANCE-FREE TEE LINES:

ISN'T IT TIME TO PUSH THE EASY BUTTON?




- PRACTICE FACILITIES
- TEE-LINE TURF
- RANGE MATS
- PUTTING GREENS
- TARGET GREENS



- **HOLDS A REAL TEE!**
- Provides divot feel with no club bounce
- Used by top rated facilities
- Fat shots with **NO SKIP INTO BALL**
- Allows play and practice year round
- Saves your grass and your money
- Available in mats and full tee lines

855.796.TURF

www.teelineturf.com



**YEAH, YOU COULD SAY THIS IS A
HOSTILE WORK ENVIRONMENT.**

FOR THE TURF, THAT IS.

Day in, day out—your turf has it tough. It must endure daily mowing, UV rays, golfers and extreme weather conditions, not to mention the constant threat of disease. Daconil Action™ fungicide combines the power of Daconil® fungicide with a revolutionary Turf Protein Booster that helps turf activate its own natural production of PR proteins. Use on a regular application interval for stronger and healthier turf that is better able to defend itself against disease while offering greater drought tolerance. So whether it's disease or cleats, it's not a problem. To learn how to rotate Daconil Action with Secure™ fungicide, visit GreenCastOnline.com/programs



To hear what superintendents are saying,
visit GreenCastOnline.com/DaconilAction

For more information on Daconil Action, contact:

Brian S. Winkel
(630) 391-2170

brian.winkel@syngenta.com



One Sprinkler. Countless Benefits. Infinite Possibilities.



Smart Access™ provides top accessibility



Pilot valve is accessible from the top



Smart Access™ compartment provides room to grow

The new Toro® INFINITY™ Series Sprinklers

are designed with your course's future in mind. A patented SMART ACCESS™ design means **no digging** or unsightly turf repair scars. They are completely backward and forward compatible. You'll also dramatically reduce time spent on sprinkler service and maintenance.

- Check Flow™ feature allows pilot valve removal with the **water on**
- Built for expansion so no need to invest in new sprinklers as technology advances
- Lower long term cost of ownership

"The INFINITY Series Sprinkler allows me to deliver the best playing conditions for our members, while managing my irrigation resources as effectively as possible within my budget."
Mike Handrich, Superintendent, Racine Country Club



Reinders

Solutions & Supplies for the Green Industry

IRRIGATION SALES & SERVICE

Darrick Robbins (630) 217-1922

Phil Zastrow (414) 313-5247

3816 Carnation St., Franklin Park, IL (888) 838-5778

www.reinders.com



www.toro.com

The Bull Sheet



JULY 2014

Dates to Remember

July 10 – MAGCS 9 Holer at Woodstock Country Club, Bob Kronn Sr., host.

July 10 – Toro Company's 100th birthday. And Bob Kronn's.

July 11 – The Mark Olson Benefit Golf Outing at Old Oak Country Club in Homer Glen, IL, Chad Walk and Peter Lieponis hosts.

July 15 – Purdue Turf and Landscape Field Day at the W. H. Daniel Turf Center in West LaFayette, IN.

July 21 – The 14th Annual John Buck Golf Outing at the Highlands of Elgin, IL, Brad Legnaioli, CGCS host.

July 24 – Iowa Turfgrass Field Day at the Horticultural Research Station in Ames, IA.

July 28-30 – 20th Illinois Women's Open at Mistwood Golf Club in Romeoville, IL, Ben Kelnhofer host.

August 1 – Deadline for nominations for the 2015 GCSAA Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award.

August 19 – 8th Annual Sunshine Through Golf Foundation White Sox Fundraiser at U.S. Cellular Field in Chicago, IL.

August 26 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Harborside International in Chicago, IL, Ryan Tully host.

Tyler Enterprises recently announced that **Dennis Hamilton** has been named a Sales Executive for the company. Dennis was a superintendent for 11 years, most recently at Macktown Golf Club in Rockton, IL, and served on the board of directors for the Northwest Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association (NWIGCSA). Congratulations Dennis!

Aaron Hill, formerly at Fresh Meadow GC is the new superintendent at White Pines Golf Course in Bensenville, IL. Congrats Aaron, and good luck in the new position.

August 1st is the deadline to nominate someone you know for the 2015 GCSAA Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award. The DSA is presented annually to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession which is significant in both substance and duration. Individuals must be nominated by a GCSAA member, an affiliated chapter, or a qualified golf association. The nominee must not have been a recipient of the award in the past 10 years. This award was first presented in 1932 and has been presented annually since 1975. Past MAGCS recipients are John MacGregor (1935), Ted Woehrle (1964), Ray Gerber (1975), Bob Williams (1977), Ben Warren (1982), Warren Bidwell (1984), **Mike Bavier** (2002), **Bruce Williams** (2002), **Danny Quast** (2004), **Tommy Witt** (2005), and **Oscar Miles** (2008). Let's get another one huh?

Patrick McDonagh, (r) the superintendent of Redtail Golf Club and a longtime MAGCS member passed away on June 12th in his home after a several-year-long battle with cancer. I had the pleasure of being acquainted with Pat, and all I can say is he was a truly good guy. He was taken from his family and friends much too soon, and he will be sorely missed. Rest in peace, Pat.



On Tuesday, August 19th the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation will hold its 8th Annual White Sox Fundraiser at U.S. Cellular Field. The cool part about it is that you can send a Sunshine Through Golf athlete to the game by selecting the "Sponsor a Camper" box on the registration form. If you'd like to help, call or email Alex Nolly at 630-685-2351 or at anolly@cdga.org.

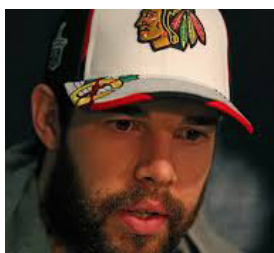
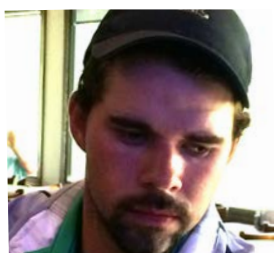
Condolences to the friends and family of Robert Graunke, who passed away last month. Bob was a longtime MAGCS member who retired after a long stint as superintendent at Eagle Ridge Resort in Galena, IL.

Congrats to **Curtis Tyrrell**, **CGCS**, **MG** and his staff on the reopening of

Medinah Country Club's Course One on June 13th. You may recall the course was closed just 13 hours after the end of the Ryder Cup matches at Medinah in September of 2012. After a 21-month Tom Doak renovation, the new course—originally built in 1924—was ceremoniously opened with a ribbon-cutting followed by a cannon blast and Mr. Doak's first tee shot off the new #1 tee.

Jake Koch is the assistant superintendent at White Eagle Golf Club. Strangely, he seems to go missing whenever the Blackhawks are playing; and the minute their playoff run ends, he's back at work. Hmmm... Is that Jake between the pipes for the Hawks, going under the assumed name of Corey Crawford?

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Jake Koch, Asst. Super or Hawk goalie Crawford?

The USGA has announced a new way for you to enjoy the game you love (or at least the game that employs you). USGA members can now experience the new Member Clubhouse, which is an online thingy that has a whole bunch of features and benefits that connect you to their tradition of excellence in golf. Go to www.usga.org to see just what those features and benefits are.

Congratulations to **Brian Placzowski**, (r) former assistant superintendent at Royal Melbourne Country Club on his new job as Equipment Sales Representative for Reinders, Inc.



Q: If **Tom Abbott** hires an old, doddering, certifiably whacko nutjob that calls games for the Sox, what would we call him?

A: Thunderhawk Harrelson.

BIG kudos to **Dan Dinelli**, CGCS and **JD Dinelli** their staff, along with the volunteers who pitched in to stage another fantastic Encompass Championship at North Shore Country Club from June 20-22. Although Mother Nature was totally uncooperative, with conditions dramatically changing every

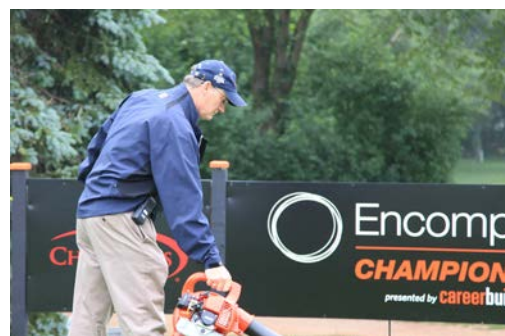
single day, yet the tournament went off seemingly without a hitch—and it ended in as equally dramatic fashion as last year, with a birdie putt on the 18th green on Sunday determining the winner. This year it was Tom Lehman who provided the fireworks; however the biggest winners were the people who made the tournament happen—congratulations Dan and JD and everyone who played a part in it!



The crew in green and the volunteers in orange. The orange made it easier to keep track of them and himself.



Each day of the tournament brought a new set of conditions that the staff dealt with successfully.



It was a senior event, even the older members of the PGA staff jumped in to help. Paul Vermeulen still knows the best way to get the job done.

There were a few young people around, Alan Davidson (l) of Northmoor CC and Brian Chasensky from Chicago Golf Club lent a hand doing course set up tournament week.

