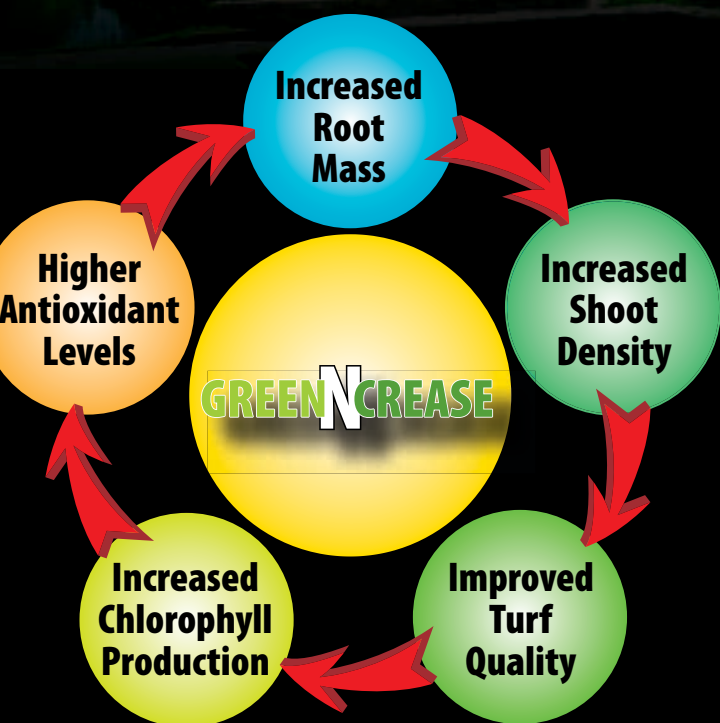


GREENNCREASE

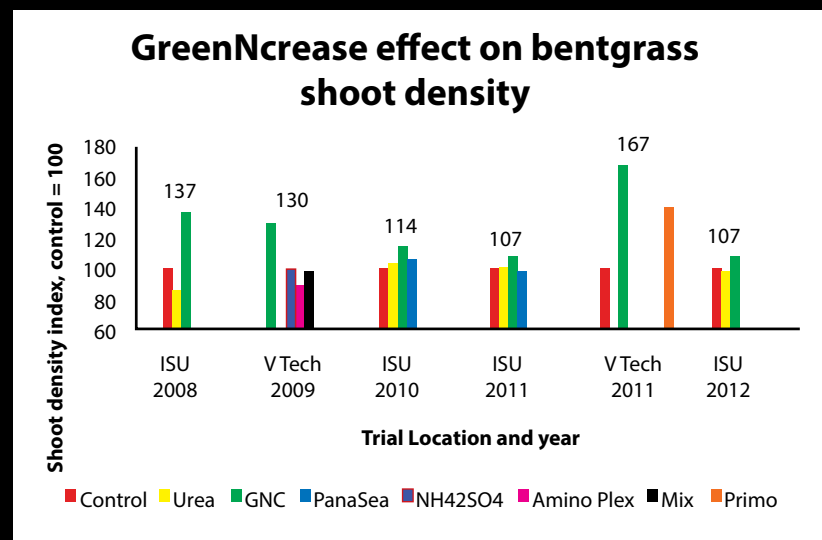
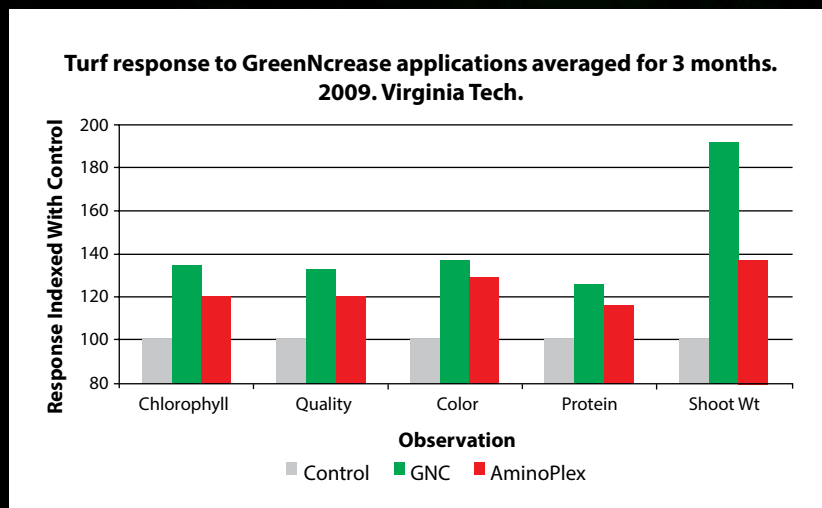
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GreenNcrease rate effects on creeping bentgrass drought resistance. 2009.
Ervin, E.H. and X. Zhang. Virginia Tech.



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front cover

The 13th hole at Aurora Country Club looking from the green back across the pond to the fairway. A well placed tee shot will give access to this elevated and well protected green.

PHOTO: Luke Cella



This view of the 13th at Aurora shows the elevation and bunkering surrounding this relatively small and sloping green.

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- 06/16 Midwest June Meeting, Aurora Country Club
- 7/10 Midwest Nine Hole Event - Woodstock CC
- 8/26 Midwest Golf Championship, Harborside International
- 10/06 Midwest October Meeting, Briarwood CC

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Matt Harstad, On Course
Editorial Chairman

I Took a Picture

When I became chairman of the editorial committee, I always said to myself I wasn't going to write the repetitive or standard "we need articles" column because it seemed like that was the typical issue of the editorial committee, and so far I've been able to avoid it.

The fact remains, we do need articles. In order to continue to avoid saying "we need articles," I'm going to say that we just need ideas for articles.

We have members of the association that are great writers, but don't always have something to write about. G.K. Chesterton has a great quote that I often think about when trying to come up with a topic for them, "The blank page is God's way of letting you know how hard it is to be God."

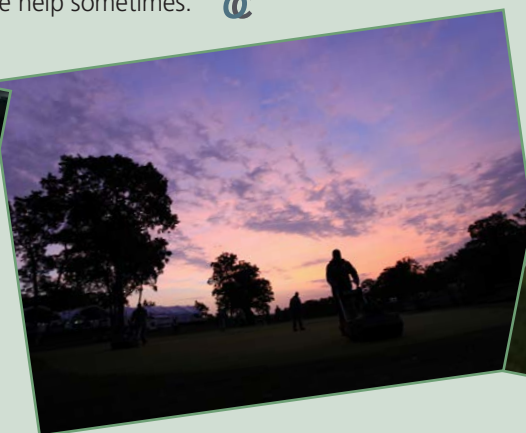
If you have anything that you think would make for an interesting article in On Course, please give Jim Pedersen or me a call/email and we'll add it to the list of ideas that we are assembling. If you are doing a project on your course, or if there is a topic that you would like to learn about, let us

THE BLANK PAGE IS GOD'S
WAY OF LETTING YOU
KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO
BE GOD. - G.K. CHESTERTON

know and we will do our best to get it written. The topic doesn't even have to be golf course related, maybe you or another member that you know has a unique hobby, or you read an interesting book, etc. It could be great content for the magazine.

Helping to add content to the magazine will also soon have a potential prize to go with it. We are going to begin a photo of the month feature. I know that we all take some beautiful pictures of golf courses, and some very humorous ones too, so send us your best. One photo will be selected each month to appear in the magazine, and from those, a yearly winner of a \$100 gift card will be chosen at the Annual Meeting in November. If you have a photo you would like to enter send it to luke@magcs.org and the Editorial Committee will choose a winner each month. Next time you grab a great shot, share it with the membership and allow others to enjoy it.

The goal of On Course has always been to publish a magazine that is solely made up of member created content. At times it can be tough because we are so busy with our "day" jobs, but we will continue to do our best to find and create content that is informative and enjoyable, we just might need a little help sometimes. @





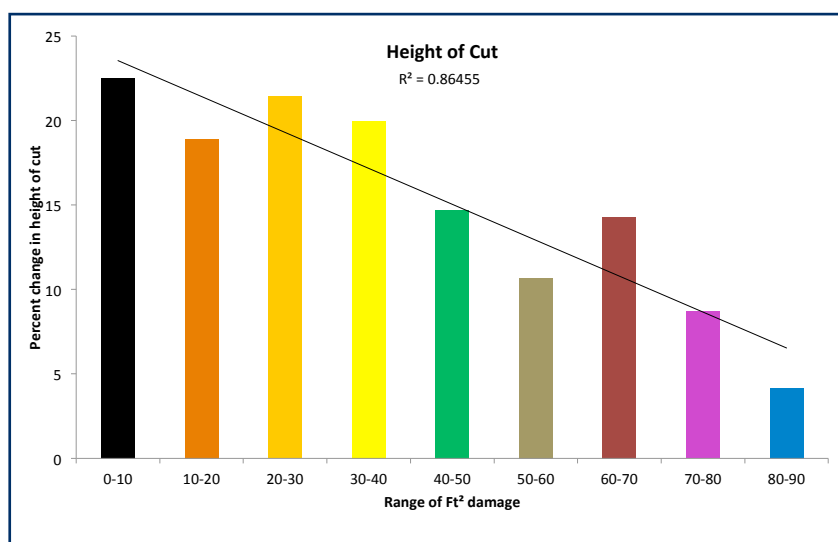
The Joys of Winter and the Heartbreak of Summer

Dr. Ed Nangle, Chicago District Golf Association

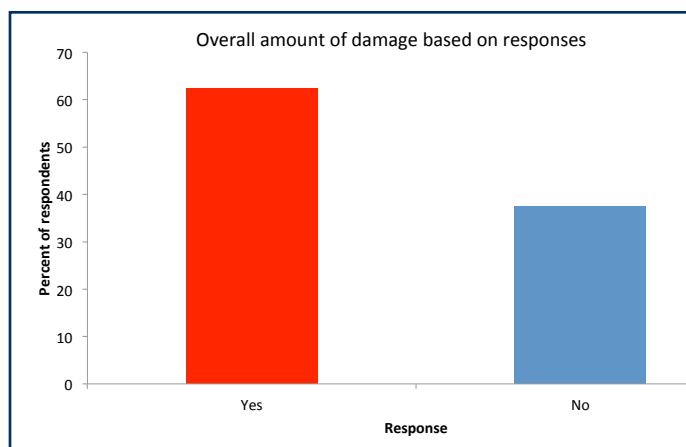
The CDGA and the Midwest conducted a survey of the membership this spring. Dr. Nangle took the time to present the findings at the April Meeting at Silver Lake Country Club (see Education Wrap Up). He also took the time to delve deeper into the data and presents correlations here. He shares his findings here.

As time has passed and still many of us are somewhat frustrated as to how things could so dramatically wrong over the winter, the survey which you participated in has produced some interesting results. I for one would like to thank you for your inputs and hopefully we can further place useable information in your hands. In regards to overall responses, a majority of almost 2:1 respondents indicated that you suffered some damage to your putting greens (Overall response figure). If we add in tees and fairways I would expect that the percentage of courses that saw damage would get close to 80%. Reports of older cultivars of ryegrass also suffering badly from the winter have surfaced which only added to the total amount of courses impacted. For the most part of the courses who didn't suffer damage were lucky enough to have relatively pure stands of creeping bentgrass.

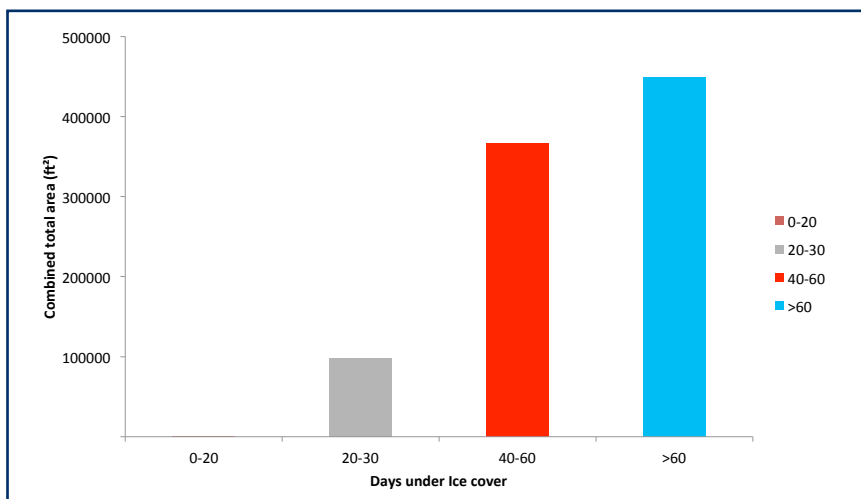
As I went through the data one point that rose its head related



to mowing heights. Based on the data received and transformed to indicate the percent change in mowing height (Increase) the smaller the amount of total area damaged. The relationship is far from perfect; however the idea that carbohydrate reserves are extremely important would be strengthened in the fall when you have greater leaf surface to aid in light capture going into winter. The R2 value which can point to a POSSIBLE relationship was relatively strong – especially for a biological situation which was subject to such extreme conditions (Height of cut figure).



Without doubt the longer the period we were under ice, the greater the damage was. While 60 days is traditionally considered the maximum timescale for sustaining *Poa annua* under ice, there was still damage found even under shorter time periods. The variability in *poa* biotypes may lead to some of the differences, while microclimate effects undoubtedly both hindered and helped *poa*. Despite the graph indicating timescale damage, not all courses suffered from the problem and one course with high



concentrations of poa who did nothing whatsoever, suffered almost no damage (Days under ice).

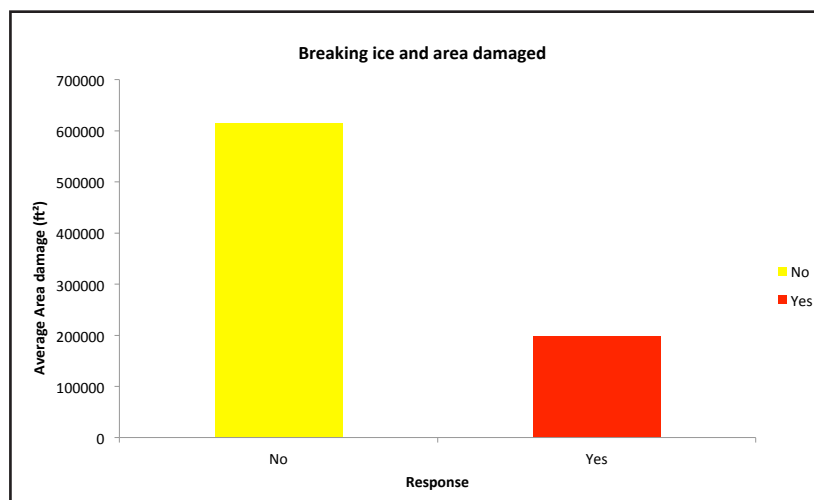
There was some concern that breaking the ice early created a problem and this does not seem to be the overall case. A vast majority of the damage by area as we can see according to survey responses was found at courses that did not break ice. Yet again however there are incidences of breaking ice early either did not help or even early efforts were fruitless as superintendents found that greens were already in bad shape despite the aggressive approach (Breaking ice).

Of the controversial sentiments there are of course two that will raise their head. I could not clearly see a relationship between fertility and the problems that arose. There were some refinements that would need to be put to the quiz and more specific answers based on the data we received. It does seem that applications of urea as a dormant feed may not be ideal – but it is also easy to say that a majority of responses were also from managers who used urea and so the probability of damage occurring was greater – the joys of statistics! The question needs to be revisited, I will add one caveat however, if a quick release source of N is available and poa is regaining activity within 24 hours of exiting freezing conditions then uptake and activity will certainly be pushed to a greater extent by the availability of a quick release portion of a fertilizer – remember despite being coated there is still some quick release of N (Fertility).

Finally the other question that always leads to debate is related to covers. It's a very difficult topic to deal with as there is so many

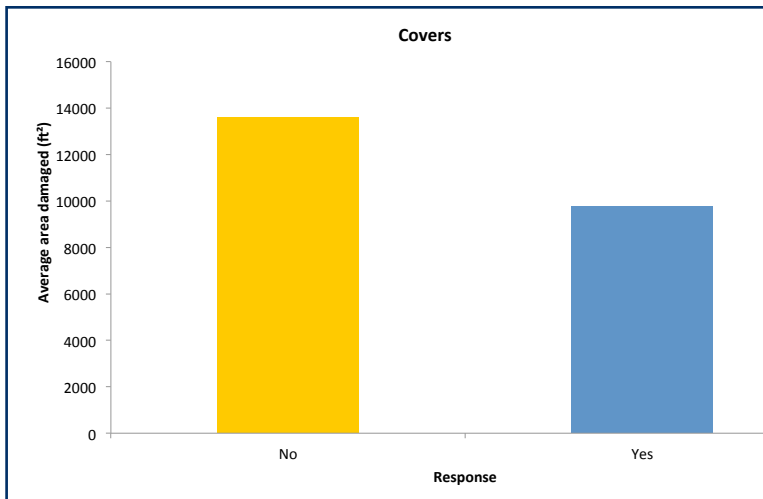
pros and cons for both. Its undeniable that covers will help recovery in the spring but how consistent they are over winter is unfortunately debatable, from a financial and labor standpoint it may not be feasible, while cover type and how to handle mid winter thaw's is also another concern. Further north, covers are a regular feature and so some credence must be given to their use – consistency is the key however. Our survey indicated that covers reduced damage by as much as 30% - now I know there are situations who will tell me I am wrong and that the covers made things worse – don't shoot the messenger – reasons for cover failure may be penetration of water underneath during the thaw period, too much warming under the covers in the thaw period leading to really actively growing Poa annua. They do protect from wind damage of course and may help in certain situations – but as I say – someone for sure is going to tell me I'm wrong on that (Covers)

Overall, the winter was a record one – the NOAA indicated that it broke all time average cold temperature from December

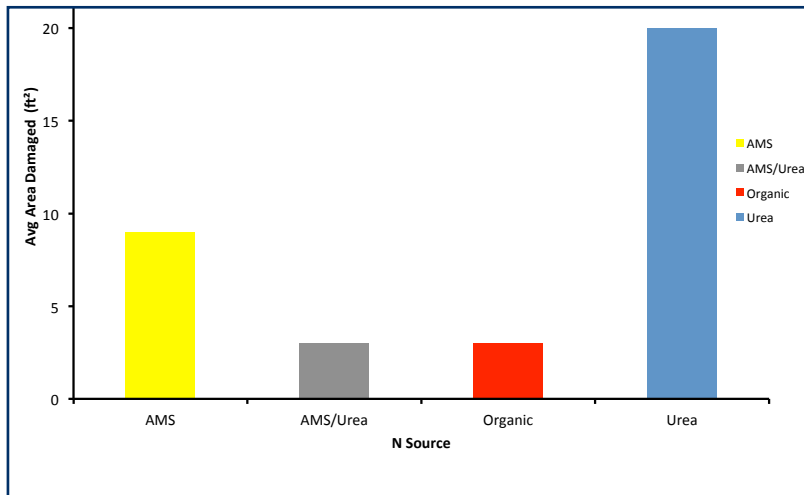


to March. Snowfall was top three in total and the swath of damage ran from Chicago through Detroit and all the way over to Massachusetts – similar to a line that storms would follow with the westerly winds. For the most part the timeline of problems seems to begin in January with ice formation events. This ice was further thickened with melt occurring on two or three sets of warming dates and the damage was then done under the heavy





snow pack. Empathy is starting to give way to frustration but unless courses are willing to go to bentgrass there is no surefire response to this occurring again. It's nice to call it a 100 -year winter – let's hope next year isn't a 1000-year winter. ☹



A Blast from the Past

I searched *The Bull Sheet* from 1978-79 (the second coldest most snowiest winter on record) to see how it effected the turf at area courses. Snow mold was the most devastating factor (other than several collapsed roofs of maintenance facilities). "Some buildings were a total loss; others the roofs collapsed and had to be replaced. Some equipment stored in these buildings was ruined and had to be replaced or repaired at a high cost. It appeared that the golf carts stored in these buildings suffered the most damage." – Ray Greber

Malcom Shurtleff and John Street from U of I wrote an extensive article that appeared in the June edition of the *Bull Sheet* that year and then was reprinted in October.

Even then, superintendents couldn't sit still and wait. Bob Breen, Sr. in February of that year explained, "Today I took a shovel, scooped three feet of snow off a green and removed a couple of plugs and brought them inside to look at. The first impression was that it looked as if it been removed in later April as it had good color, green seed heads of *Poa* had formed, and it was very much in the need of a mowing." He went on to say, "There were several lesions of leaf spots and *Typhula* and Gray snow mold was evident in both plugs. I would seem to indicate rather severe snow mold problems."

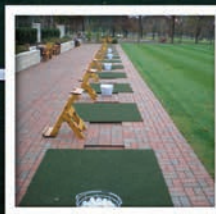
I did notice the CDGA Green Seminar had a section added to the agenda dealing with winter damage that year. In speaking with one of those present at that meeting – snow mold was the culprit that spring. There was no ice damage or desiccation with all that snow cover. Frost never formed in the ground that year, unlike 2013-14 - and if you were mowing below ¼" going into winter, you were asking for trouble. – L. Cella

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The Bull Sheet



JUNE 2014

Dates to Remember

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

June 23 – 2014 U.S. Senior Open Qualifier at Village Links of Glen Ellen, IL, Christian Pekarek host.

June 29 – Deadline for applications for the Green Start Academy presented by Bayer and John Deere Golf.

July 1 – Deadline for the Call for Nominations for candidates for the 2015 GCSAA Board of Directors.

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

July 10 – Toro Company's 100th birthday.

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.

Welcome to our newest MAGCS Members:

Adam Wiles, Conway Farms Golf Club, Class C
Matt Whatsitt, Lincolnshire Fields Country Club, Class C

Congratulations to John Ekstrom and his family on their newest arrival. Claire Ann Ekstrom was born on May 6th, weighing in at 8 lbs., 7 ozs., and 20 " long. Happy days!



There has been some movement in the ranks recently. **Rusty Willard**, formerly at the Golf Club at Harbor Shores is the superintendent at the Glen Club in Glenview, IL. **Nicklaus Yackle** is a new assistant at Medinah Country Club. **Aaron Hearn**, former assistant at Stonebridge Country Club is the new superintendent at Salt Creek Golf Course. And last but certainly not least, **Fred Behnke**, CGCS, retired superintendent at Mount Prospect Golf Club is now a Customer Service Representative for Growing Solutions. Congratulations to all of these gentlemen!

This seems to be the year of important milestones throughout our area. CDGA turns 100 this year, as do several clubs including Aurora, Oak Park, and Indian Hill Club (apologies for those I've omitted). Perhaps an even bigger milestone is that which is being celebrated by **Modesto "Moe" Sanchez**, who on May 15th began his 50th year of employment at Briarwood Country Club. When you think about it, it is truly an incredible accomplishment, especially in our industry where transience among our members (see the previous item for an example of this) is considered the rule and not the exception. Moe is that exception, and he is really an exceptional gentleman. He worked side by side with **Paul Voykin** throughout his illustrious and long career at Briarwood, and when Paul retired, Moe decided to stick around and help the new kid on the block. Congratulations, Moe Sanchez on this amazing career accomplishment!

Speaking of Paul Voykin, he recently spent a 3-week stint in the hospital to recover from a pinched nerve in his



back. Let's all wish him a full recovery so he can get back to his old self again.

If you want (or need) a little refresher in on-course etiquette for modern times, the TPC Network—comprised of 32 properties designed to host PGA TOUR events—has released etiquette tips culled from the head golf pros in its network. These aren't your traditional "rules" that you were brought up on, but tips for the 21st century golfer on such subjects as cell phone use and playing from the tees you'll have the best chance of success. A few simple clicks gets you to all 10—just go to www.clubandresortbusiness.com/2014/04/17/tpc-network-releases-top-10-etiquette-tips/.

John Deere Golf and Bayer CropScience are now accepting applications for the 2014 Green Start Academy. They are inviting 50 assistant superintendents to attend an all-expense-paid, two-and-a-half-day education and networking event October 15-17, 2014 at the Bayer and John Deere facilities in North Carolina. The deadline to apply is June 29th, so hurry. Go to www.BackedbyBayer.com/Green-Start-Academy for the application form.

Mark July 11th down on your calendar—the Mark Olson Benefit Golf Outing will take place at Old Oak Country Club in Homer Glen, IL with Pete Lieponis and Chad Walk hosting. For those of you who don't know Mark, he works for Prime Turf, Inc. as a sales and service associate, servicing the Midwest for the past 14 years, and just as nice a guy as you can know. Mark has been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. His treatment will be extensive and his family will be in need of assistance with current and future medical expenses. The outing will raise funds to help defray some of those expenses. It is a four-person scramble teeing off at 1:00 PM, with lunch and complimentary beverage cart on the course and dinner afterward. There will be games throughout the round, and a 50/50 Split-the-Pot raffle and auction items to boot. Please put a foursome together for this cause and come have a fun day on a fun golf course. Cost is \$125 per person, or just \$500 per foursome. Go to www.weeone.org to register.



Mark Olson and Family will benefit from a golf outing on July 11 at Old Oak Country Club.

Hey, in case you were thinking of getting nominated for induction in the World Golf Hall of Fame, you should know

that the procedures have changed. Starting in 2015, there will no longer be an annual ceremony; instead, enshrinement will occur every two years. So you have two whole years to become Hall-worthy.

Among its many "Best of" lists, Golfweek magazine has a Best Municipal Courses list. Go figure. Anyhow, six of them in the top 50 are KemperSports properties, and two of them are in our neighborhood. Harborside International Starboard Course was ranked 13th, while the Port Course received a 47 ranking. Congrats to the guys from Harborside!

Have you noticed that in a year when seed is something we need more than just about anything, there isn't a whole lot out there? One of the reasons is the stuff you put on your kids' dessert—Nutella, the hazelnut/chocolate spread that has gotten so popular. Turns out hazelnuts come from filbert trees. Also turns out there aren't a whole lot of filbert trees in the world, so farmers are looking to plant them wherever they can spare the acreage. Also turns out turf seed acreage is a major go-to guy for filbert tree planting. Since the trees are a multi-year commitment, turf loses out—to the tune of 30 to 50 years for each field converted from seed production to hazelnut production. Who'da thunk?

Bob Rigney is that guy that you see occasionally at a MAGCS meeting and you go, "I KNOW that guy, but what the hell is his name??" Nick Offerman is that guy that you see occasionally in a movie and you go, "I KNOW that guy, but what the hell is his name??" Is this similarity alone enough to wonder whether they are one and the same?

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Bob Rigney - Nick Offerman, you be the judge?

Koch Agronomic Services, LLC has agreed to acquire the turf and ornamental assets, brands, and product technologies of Agrium Advanced Technologies. No lie.

Q: What is **Dave Schlagetter's** favorite classic cop drama show?

A: Indian Hill Street Blues