

are often restrained when used on change of direction fittings, or valves.

Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

There are a number of designations and acronyms used for thread types. A short glossary is shown below:

BSP = British Standard Pipe Thread (international)
MPT (also seen as **MIPT**) = Male (Iron) Pipe Thread
FPT (or **FIPT**) = Female (Iron) Pipe Thread
MAT = Male Acme Thread
FAT = Female Acme Thread
MHT = Male Hose Thread
FHT = Female Hose Thread
MBT = Male Buttress Thread
FBT = Female Buttress Thread
TPI = Threads Per Inch



Are you calling me FAT?

Female Gasket Fitting = A bell end that includes a gasket at the end. A tapered piece of pipe is lubricated and forced through the gasket. Water pressure pushing against the back side of the gasket helps create a seal.

Coarse Thread - A coarse thread is larger, there are fewer threads per inch.

Fine Thread - A fine thread is smaller, more threads per inch.

Service Tee - A service tee is a fitting that creates an outlet in a main line to bring it to a 1 1/2" swing joint size

Service Elbow - A fitting that converts the end of a main line to 1 1/2" swing joint size.

Spigot - A male pipe sized fitting that can be glued into a socket, or fitted into a gasket fitting. The outside of the fitting shown below

Socket - A female end of a glue fitting.

Inlet - The first portion of a fitting, sprinkler, or pipe that water contacts as it flows through the system to daylight. For example, the inlet on a sprinkler is the bottom fitting.

Outlet - The portion of a fitting, sprinkler, or pipe that is last contacted by water as it flows to daylight. The outlet of a sprinkler would be the nozzles.

Bell End - The expanded end of a pipe that creates a socket for the next portion of pipe to be glued into.



The bell end of a piece of pipe is expanded during manufacturing to make a socket for the next piece to be glued into.

Schedule 40 - Fitting class commonly used for 2 1/2" and smaller fittings in golf irrigation systems. Fittings are white in color.

Schedule 80 - A more robust fitting class commonly used for larger size fittings, change of direction fittings, and service fittings in golf course irrigation systems.

SDR 21 Class 200 - The most commonly used PVC pipe class for golf course irrigation systems. It is rated for 200 psi. @



A problem solved with a little ingenuity and a trip to the local hardware store.

SUPER-N-site

John Gurke, CGCS and Aurora Country Club

Bill Meyer, Park Ridge Country Club

PHOTOS: LUKE CELLA

2014 is quite an important year for Aurora Country Club, as it is the club's 100th anniversary. The original course was designed by William Boice Langford and Thomas Bendelow on what was the Minard Farm. The course has been through a few renovations since then, the most recent in 2007.

All the tees were reworked and a few new ones added on this century old course. Bunkers were also renovated adding drainage and slightly repositioned throughout. The 150-acre rolling property sports tree lined fairways and small greens, making accurate golf shots important. The greens can be very tricky at times, they have the same contours as the originals even though they were changed to USGA specs in the 1980's.

On to the man of the hour: John Gurke, CGCS. I



John (did the horizontal stripes make me look fat?) and Aaron are looking forward to hosting the Midwest members this June.

would assume most of you reading this are familiar with John's name at least, as he is an associate editor of this great publica-



Aurora Country Club celebrates its centennial this year.

tion and the author of the ever amusing Bull Sheet. John is a native of Wheaton and got the golf bug when he started helping out his brother at Butler National during the Western Open, at the ripe age of 14. He continued to work at Butler National throughout high school, working for Ed Fischer and then Oscar Miles. After high school, John attended the University of Illinois, not initially going for turf but changing majors once he had a semester or two under his belt. During his summers throughout college, John would come back and work at the Oak Brook Public Course for Rick Wilson. After graduation, John hooked up Ed Fischer again and became Ed's assistant at Old Elm Club in Highland Park. After a few years at Old Elm, John became the Superintendent at Bartlett Hills Golf Course taking over for Joel Purpur. Three years later



he moved to Aurora Country Club and that was 24 years ago.

John tells me of the things that makes Aurora such an enjoyable place to work is the people. The management team is very willing to do what needs to be done, whether that's John and his assistant, Aaron Reinhart, carving the ham at the Easter brunch or the GM and golf pros helping clean up major storm damage. John also can't say enough about his own crew. Most of his seasonal staff has been around just as long

In John's personal time he is an avid reader. In the last seven years John has also gotten into snowmobiling. He has a regular spot in the Upper Peninsula where he snowmobiles all winter and he is accompanied by some other MAGCS members on these trips, such as: Dave Groelle, Todd Schmitz, Dan Murray, Dave Fisher, and Dave Biery. His favorite trip this year was a four day backpacking trip covering about 800 miles.



The bunkering at Aurora Country Club fits well with the design and flow of the course popping in and out of the mature tree lined fairways.

as he has, and his two most important guys are Aaron, and Nick Pavlovich, his long-time equipment technician. Last but not least are the four-legged members of his crew, Millie and Rooby, a pair of blue heelers who do a great job of driving off any winged rats (sorry geese) that might think to make the course home, and Tilty, the stray cat that showed up a few years ago and hasn't left.

The biggest project that John says he's going to be dealing with this year is the removal of Ash trees due to EAB. They have also started a project to plant new trees in the major gaps left after the removals.

To finish it up, I asked John a couple of random questions:

Q: What keeps you coming back every day? **A:** The uncertainty and the nervous excitement of what the day will bring.

Q: Favorite Book? **A:** *Don't Stop the Carnival* by Herman Wouk

Q: Favorite Food? **A:** John said he could eat pizza every night. The best, he says, is Al's Pizza in Warrenville, with sausage and pepperoni and an extra spin in the oven. That last part is a special request, but John says it makes the cheese perfect.



Also he says you **MUST** wait 20 minutes before you eat it so that it gets the right consistency.

Q: Where would you go on vacation, no cost to you? **A:** John would be in the British Virgin Islands on a catamaran with a captain taking care of the sailing part. Sailing from island to island with no real plan, just relaxing and enjoying the sun and some drinks.

Q: Favorite movie trilogy? **A:** This was a hard one, but John decided that his favorite trilogy was The Bourne movies, although we thought there might be four of them now. Some of his other favorites are: It's a Wonderful Life, Shawshank Redemption, and Some Like It Hot.

Q: What are you looking forward to this year/New Year's Resolution? **A:** The biggest thing that John is looking forward to is becoming a Grandfather. One resolution he had for this year is to get a little more involved in social media, primarily Twitter.

The last time John hosted an event was June 1994. From what he tells me, it was a 96 degree day and the power went out in the clubhouse. He says back in those days, after golfing, everyone took showers and had a formal dinner complete with coat and tie, so you can imagine it was a disaster. Just about everyone left. As fate would have it, the power came back on right as everyone had almost left. So, fingers crossed we will have better luck come this year at Aurora. John, Aaron, Nick, Millie, Rooby and Tilty all are looking forward to hosting us on June 16th when MAGCS pays a visit to the 100-year old Aurora Country Club. @

Aurora Country Club in its 100th year. The course will provide a test for our June contests: the Dom Grotti and the Class C Championship. Top: The 9th hole ends with the clubhouse as a backdrop - don't go long on your approach as it is almost impossible to keep your chip back onto this front sloping green. All of the tees were rebuilt and or added in the last renovation and don't be surprised at the size of a couple of the greens, especially the 11th - it's only 1,961 square feet with OB down the left side!



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Dr. Ed Nangle addresses the group at Silver Lake Country Club at the April Meeting.

Chuck Anfield, CGCS Heritage Bluffs Golf Course

The MAGCS Members met for the April Meeting at Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park for a day of education and golf. MAGCS President, Dave Kohley, his Staff and the Coghills were the hosts for the day.

Dr. Ed Nangle, CDGA Director of Turfgrass Programs (who has been super busy making calls to courses) made a presentation entitled "A Winter of Epic Proportions, December 2013 to March 2014". "Based on historical weather data, this is probably the worst winter you will ever see. The next nearest winter like this was in 1903! This winter there were no geographic areas of damage, it doesn't make sense. It's not your fault. It was just one of those winters."

The winter got off to an early start in November. It was 5 degrees below average. The golf season didn't finish with a warm trend. That being said, it provided a good hardening off period for the turf before the deep freeze set in. Everyone had time to get their snow mold applications down. Everyone had to time to blow out their irrigation systems. So far, so good.

In December, the snow fall was not heavy, at first. Then January and February rolled in with a fury. The snowfall was 33" at the Golf House. This is 22" over the normal amount! The

temperature for the same time period was on average 10 degrees below normal.

The big oh-oh, or trigger moment came in mid-January when weather conditions warmed and the snow melted. Soil temperatures climbed to 45 degrees. The *Poa annua* re-hydrated and then it re-froze. Another melt and re-freeze occurred in mid-February that further thickened the ice and sealed the turf in and created lethal, anaerobic conditions. Further damage was related to ice damming occurring on green fronts and in low lying fairway and tee areas. Some turf was documented at being under the ice cover for 85 days. Some turfgrass death can occur in as little as 45 days under ice cover. The ice thickness showed variability, depending on sun exposure. Sites in the shade had thicker ice cover and were more likely to sustain turf loss.

The maximum low was -23 degrees at the Golf House. Temperature stayed below freezing from January 26 to February 18. For the record, *Poa annua* is susceptible to death or damage at 24.8 degrees. Bentgrass is tolerant to -20 degrees.

What Happened.

The turf demonstrated a predictable physiological response. The response is change in cell wall composition and a change in intracellular chemistry.

So how do we prepare? Do we back off on fall core aerification? Do we top-dress less or do we completely cover crown with sand? Do we increase our mowing heights prior to dormancy? Do we use protective covers on all of our greens? Do we shovel snow off the greens every time it snows?



Based on early survey data, 65% of the CDGA courses suffered some kind of damage to greens. "Some of the fairways and greens in March looked like zebras going to a safari."



Right now we need warmth, sufficient soil moisture in the top two inches and fertility for the newly seeded areas. Try to use more tolerant bentgrass varieties when seeding. Make sure you get good soil to seed contact. Remove sand dam lips in front of greens that form from repeated topdressing. Tree lines that shade turf and predispose turf to be weak should be evaluated for removal or pruning options. Keep covers on as long as possible. Pigments have shown to be effective at raising canopy temperatures.

Communication Moving Forward

A letter was sent to all of the Member Clubs describing climate and impacts. Monthly scouting reports are being sent out. Dr. Nangle is available for site visits.

All that being said, it was a record winter. Ice was the biggest issue. Use this opportunity to re-grass with bentgrass. "Nothing worked consistently, don't beat yourself up. Survival results were very mixed but the take away message is if you had bentgrass, you had a better chance of survival than if you had Poa annua."

Results from the survey that MAGCS members participated in was the basis for this Dr. Nangle's talk can be found on page 4. @

There were patterns of survival. Ice removal seemed to benefit certain greens. The disease pressure was unexpectedly very low, even in untreated areas. Most plant protectant programs worked well.

Recovery Steps

Permeable covers are effective in maintaining higher soil temperatures in newly seeded areas. The light heats the cover and can increase soil temperatures by 3-5 degrees. It doesn't sound like much, but every little bit helps. They also offer a greater consistency of temperature range within the soil profile. They will need to be put on and taken off daily. Ensure protective measures are taken for disease control. Air and water movement are also very important on newly seeded areas.


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