THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

August 2009

## Coghill Golf & Country Club

Ken Lapp

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents 11855 Archer Ave.

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#### INSIDE

**Design for a Rough Economy** 

Summary of Golf Course Tree Inventories

Class C Update, Bull Sheet, and more.

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#### Table Of Contents www.magcs.org



#### The 9th tee complex sports seven teeing boxes for all skill levels on Dubsdread.

#### **FRONT COVER**

The 18th at Cog Hill's Dubsdread, site of the 2009 BMW Championship, and the August combined meeting of MAGCS and the ITF. You can bet the hole location will be back left for tournament Sunday. Cover and above photo: Luke Cella

#### **DIRECTOR'S COLUMN**

#### 3 No Small Task

Dan Sterr

SUPER -N- SITE

#### **5** Ken Lapp –N– Coghill Golf & Country Club

Luke Cella

#### **FEATURES**

7 Design for a "Rough" Economy Doug Myzlinski

## 13 A Summary of 20 Years of Chicago Area Golf Courses Inventories

Kris Bachtell

#### DEPARTMENTS

18 the Bull Sheet
John Gurke

**33** Class C Happenings



The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS), founded December 24, 1926, is a professional organization whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance. We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

The MAGCS member is also an environmental steward. We strive to uphold and enhance our surroundings by promoting flora and fauna in every facet in a manner that is beneficial to the general public now and in the future.

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#### DIRECTOR'S COLUMN Dan Sterr, Stonebridge Country Club



## No Small Task

There has been a post it note attached to my computer screen since the first of April reminding me of the article I needed to write for On Course. The article was due July 1st.

It is now July 7th and I am just now sitting down to write. I did call Luke on June 30th and asked him for some ideas on what to write and he informed me that he did not need the article right away, so I was able to put off writing the article for another couple of days.

Serving as the current Secretary/Treasurer of the MAGCS, I have come to appreciate all the hard work and dedication not only the current Board of Directors has put in to the success of the association, but all the previous members of the Board of Directors and Executive committees. Luke Cella is a tremendous asset to the association. His dedication, not only to the association, but the profession of the Golf Course Superintendent is outstanding. I can truly say that Luke has the best interest of our association and our profession at heart.

The amount of work that goes in to running an association like ours is tremendous. There are many tasks that not only the Executive Director, but the Board of Directors needs to perform in order for the association to run efficiently. Everything from answering the phone at the office, to preparing an agenda for the upcoming Board of Directors meeting, to paying the association bills, to running a monthly golf event, and to preparing a budget all just do not happen; they take the dedication of many individuals involved with the association.

During a MAGCS Board of Directors Meeting, the members approve the minutes from the previous meeting, review the Financial Report, review any communications to the association, review the Executive Director Report, and review a report from the Commercial Advisory Council and the Class C Advisor. After the Board has reviewed these items they move to Reports of Committees. Each member of the Board of Directors is responsible for a committee. The committees are Arrangements, Education, Golf, Editorial, Partnership Task Group, Membership,

The amount of work that goes into running an association like ours is tremendous.

Employment, Scholarship, Media and Public Relations, By Laws and Nominating, Past President Council, and Benevolence.

During the meeting, committee chairman, will report on the status of their committees, After the report of the committees there is a report of the officers, this is where the President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer report any pertinent information to the Board of Directors. The meeting then moves to unfinished business, then to New Business, and finally to the Directive Summary—this is where the Board Reviews any outstanding items that need attention and what Members of the Board or Staff or both will handle. If needed, the Board of Directors will move to Executive Session. From the list of committees I think you can see there are many things that go in to running the association.

Because of the dedication of our current Board of Directors and Executive Director, and the path that all the former members of the Board of Directors and Past Presidents set our association on, the MAGCS is looked upon as one of the premier associations in our profession and we all should be very proud. -OC

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#### SUPER - N - SITE Luke Cella, MAGCS

# COCHILL



## Ken Lapp -N-

## Millions of Rounds Under His Belt and Still Counting

Ken Lapp has been a golf course superintendent for the past 54 years. At 73, he still enjoys what he does, he must. At an age when most are well into their retirement, Ken is looking forward to hosting his 18th PGA tour event with new anticipation. Coghill's #4, Dubsdread, just reopened this spring after a complete renovation that began the day after hosting his last PGA event, the BMW Championship in September of 2007. With a few finishing touches, the course is ready and waiting. Ken defers the success of the project to the weather and staff, "We caught a break", but those in the know, understand a large part of the accomplishment was due to Ken's ability to manage. Ken has never been afraid to ask questions and seek answers, a trait most admired and one not so common these days.

Ken began his career working for his father, Amos Lapp at St. Andrews in West Chicago, and soon found himself the golf course superintendent at Fresh Meadow in Hillside at the age of 19. Trusted at such an early age, young Kenny proved himself to be a hard worker, a quick learner and a value to the industry. After 18 years at Fresh Meadow, Ken headed to his current course(s) at Cog Hill in 1973. Ken has worked for the Jemsek family his whole career, from St. Andrews to Fresh Meadow

and still at Cog Hill. When asked how many rounds of golf he has provided through his efforts, he told me, "to be honest, I never thought of that as a number." Doing the quick math, I replied it has to be many millions, a milestone that few will ever reach. Ken eschewed responding in his humble way.

Ken oversees the four golf courses at Cog Hill. Many of his 75 staff members have been with him since the early to mid 80's (some longer than that!), a testament to his kind demeanor and forthrightness. Never wanting to over-

step his bounds, Ken is very modest man and defers credit and praise away when often he is the one responsible. In a conversation about hosting the many PGA and other national events (A U.S. Amateur, a couple of Men's Public Links and a Women's Public Links) Ken stated, "The guys know what to do, they just start getting ready for the tournament. Often, they remind me of what needs to be done".

This year, it will be all-new, and many are looking forward to it. Previously rated, at 73.8 "Dubs" from the tips played to 6,945 yards with a slope of 139. Emerging from the hand of Rees Jones, it now boasts 7,616 yards, a rating of 78.1 and a slope of 152. Each hole has seven sets of square tees, deepened bunkers, new sand, and elevated and intriguing putting surfaces. Gone are any drainage issues with the installation of a SubAir system under each surface that will allow Ken to get things firm

and fast. Still learning the ins and outs of the SubAir, Ken is excited to have this system at his disposal. Ken told me 1,888,808 square feet of bluegrass sod was planted, a number that helped them to open the course this past spring. When I toured the renovation last fall, I found myself taking a picture of the putting surface admiring the purest stand of bentgrass (A1/A4) I have ever seen.

When I ran into Ken, he was happy with the project and the way it all came together. He said he was

a bit tentative taking the reins prior to the start but found it to be invigorating and fun. Ken enjoyed working with Rees Jones and all those on the project and in typical Ken Lapp fashion gives all the accolades away. It will be our honor and privilege to play Dubsdread ten days before the BMW Championship commences. We look forward to playing one of Chicagoland's most famous golf courses this month. Thank you Ken for making this possible. •OC



Ken Lapp, Golf Course Superintendent of Cog Hill, father of 3 and grandfather of 5, is at home on the golf course.



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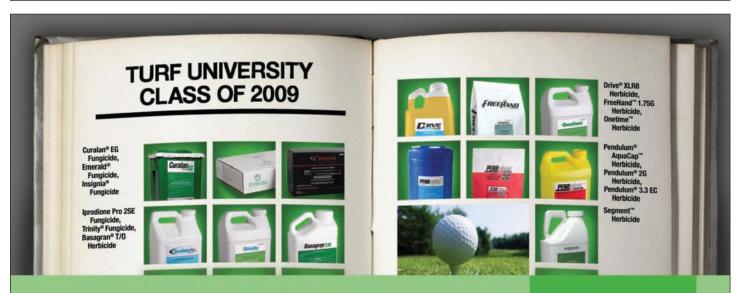
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#### FEATURE ARTICLE | Doug Myzlinski, Jacobson Golf Course Designs



## Design for a "Rough" Economy

"Depression is the inability to construct a future." Rollo May

Whether you call it a recession or depression, difficult economic times are certainly upon us. Anyone who has not felt a tightening budget or a request to make a cut-back is in a unique situation.

The game of golf felt this downturn well before the recession was official. The reasons for this decline have been clearly documented over the past nine years. Heck, articles have been published in the *Wall Street Journal* that depict the game on the verge of extinction!

Indeed, golf rounds have dropped 5.7% since 2000, and golf participation has decreased by 1.5% in the past

five years. We have been presented with many negative statistics. I will not discuss those numbers further in this article. Instead, I will present ideas from a design perspective that can help accomplish more with less.

#### **MASTER PLAN**

Before making any changes that can affect the playability, functionality, or aesthetics of the course, it is absolutely

necessary to develop a comprehensive Master Plan that addresses both the physical and operational aspects of the facility. A mission statement is established, along with goals and objectives that focus on the facility's long-term benefits.

Working with the facility's golf committees and staff members, a plan should be developed by third party professionals such as arborists, irrigation consultants, golf course architects and/or agronomists. This will eliminate the possibility of members or golfers misconstruing change as personal preference. The plan should then be circulated among the members or small breakout committees. Next, feedback should be provided to the consultants. The plan is then developed, adopted by the Club, and implemented according to established priorities.

#### **DRAINAGE AND CIRCULATION**

Heavy rains this spring have shown us that drainage and cart path circulation can have a direct reflection on our revenue. Many courses experience standing water and have no ability to circulate golf carts after rain events. In Chicago we have approximately 210 potentially playable days of golf. In 2008, weather limited the number of days to approximately 181. This means we had precipitation during the hours of play for 29 of our 210 potential days. The 29 days of course closure increase greatly if the precipitation is not removed from the course through drainage or if there is no way to circulate carts

during moist ground conditions. It may be an inconvenience for golfers to be restricted to cart paths only, but at least they have the opportunity to pay a green fee and damage to the golf course is minimized.

Drainage pipe is relatively inexpensive to install and can normally be installed by staff. The full efficiency of existing drainage can be maintained by flushing out debris, keeping inlets open,

and removing roots that have penetrated pipes. Adequate drainage, especially in bentgrass areas and on golf course features, can yield greater savings than any other design element discussed here.

Remember that the two most important things in any golf course operation remain: 1) getting water off of the course, and 2) getting water on the course.

#### **IRRIGATION**

Technological breakthroughs in irrigation equipment have provided the opportunity to irrigate smarter and reduce water and energy expenditures. There is technology being developed (continued on page 9)

7





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that will optimize current irrigation systems by measuring and calculating the correct water requirements. This is done with information gathered by small electrodes distributed throughout the golf course, forming a sensor network. These nodes allow for the sprinklers to be activated and deactivated efficiently with consequent water savings estimated at between 20 and 30% of current requirements. This translates to cost savings and a Greener approach to irrigating.

#### **FAIRWAYS**

Generally, the most costly element to maintain on a golf course is the premium playing surface of bentgrass (approximately \$1,200.00 per acre, per year). Most courses include this

turf on tees, greens, and fairways. This can total 30-40 acres on an 18-hole course. The reduction of the size of these areas and their replacement with bluegrass or fescue can yield significant savings in chemical applications and mowing time.

Bentgrass can be eliminated from the start of fairways within a short distance of the teeing grounds. It should not be the intent to create long forced carries from the tees, but it certainly is not required that the fairway run adjacent to or immediately up to the front of the tees. Areas between landing zones can also be reduced by narrowing or even eliminating the bentgrass. Playability is foremost, and only "educated" reductions should be considered.

Altering the mowing patterns of fairways can result in a very quick and immediate cost savings. The following excerpt from an online blog clearly demonstrates this.

"Prior to 2007 the fairways at Northland were

striped with 9 holes being mowed each day for an average of 6 days a week. After calculating man hours, and fuel usage the cost to mow fairways for one season was roughly \$30,000.

Beginning in 2007 the fairways were mowed in a light and dark pattern, all 18 holes being mowed 2 days a week. After once again calculating man hours, fuel usage, then adding the cost of turf growth regulators, which allow us to mow only two days a week; the total cost per season is roughly \$12,000.

A difference of \$18,000 is a pretty nice number from something as simple as changing mowing patterns. It is because of these types of savings that we have been able to

increase our seasonal labor and other areas of the budget, which allow us to make changes, such as walk-mowing and topdressing of approaches, and hand rake bunkers."

> ~Chris Tritabaugh Duluth. Minnesota

#### **TEES**

The teeing areas have a significant impact on perceptions of the course, because they are the very first thing a golfer experiences on each golf hole. Pleasant shapes, level surfaces, and a good stand of turf will suffice for most golfers.

Many courses have multiple teeing locations to provide yardage elasticity. Each tee is located independently on a sepa-

rate box. Combining tee boxes into larger pods at the yardage locations that are most often played can save time and money. This limits the idle travel time of the mowers from one box to another. Proper sizing is essential to allow for divot recuperation and teeing variation.

Square tees can provide a "classic" look while maximizing area for tee markers, but they can be very expensive to maintain because of walk mowing. The same look and feel of the tee can be preserved with straight edges and rounded corners. This permits a riding mower to be utilized to maintain the tops. The corners need a minimum radius of 8' to avoid tire marks on the surface.

Adequate spacing between tees and adjacent features, such as cart paths, should also be considered. The distance of the gentle slope between the two features should be in increments that equal the cut of the mowing unit that will be used to maintain the area.



Striping the fairways takes time and fuel. This can be reduced by mowing using the ring-around-the-rosie pattern.



Proper tees sizing and growing conditions help to reduce inputs and create better playing surfaces.

#### **BUNKERS**

Whether your course has five sand traps or 105, these design elements can be "hazardous" to maintain. The response of most superintendents when asked which element of a golf course is most difficult to maintain is usually the sand traps. When building or reconstructing these hazards, two determinations need to be made before tearing up turf. The first is what style fits your course's character. Second, can that style be maintained within your budget.

Regardless of the style, construct the bunker using USGA (continued on next page)

function properly, it deters golfers and costs the course money. A heavily used bunker costs just as much to maintain as a rarely used bunker. Converting some of the less "important" bunkers to grass hollows can ease the budget while preserving design integrity.

With any bunker that is going to have flashed sand, be sure to take advantage of the advanced technology in erosion control. The cost of installing erosion control fabrics such as Sandtrapper II or SandMat is very quickly recouped.

"The bunker fabric installation in our bunkers has saved us 80-90% of the time it used to take us to replace sand on the faces after a rain storm."

> ~Dan Dinelli CGCS, North Shore Country Club

Grassed faced bunkers should use growth regulators and drip irrigation to reduce maintenance while preserving healthy turf. The steeper the face is graded, the more time and money it will take to maintain it. Draping push mowers over the top edge of a bunker with ropes is not a way to reduce costs! Consider grass-

ing these faces with a combination of bluegrass and fine fescue seed blend as the fescue will survive under stress and provides great aesthetic value.

Also, be cognizant of the position of these hazards adjacent to other golf course features such as putting greens. The

mower width that is used to maintain the rough grass should be the minimum distance between the hazard and the feature. Otherwise, the mower will ride on the putting surface, creating additional stress.



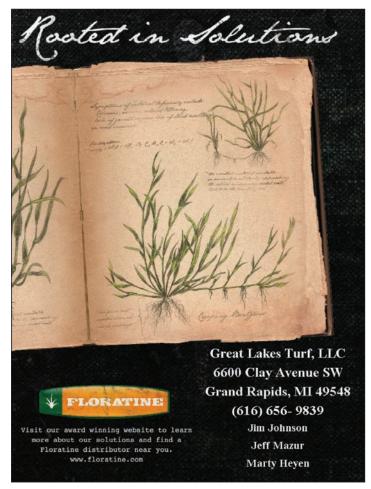
Turf cannot be healthy without proper sunlight and air movement (i.e., budget expenditure). Golfers cannot enjoy themselves (i.e., spend money) on a golf course if their game resembles pinball instead of golf. Evaluate the vegetation on your site and determine if a tree or shrub is a burden to your budget. If so, remove it and plant another one somewhere well off the fairway.



High flashed sand faced bunkers are nice to look at, but ding the labor line every time downpours hit.



Bunker fabrics help to reduce labor and reduce sand contamination.





#### **NATURALIZED AREAS**

Areas of the golf course that are considered out of play can be converted from maintained bluegrass/poa/fescue into naturalized areas. These areas are typically adjacent to tee complexes and well separated from fairways and greens. They will not be maintenance free, but they will cost far less than normal rough due to the reduction in mowing time. Weed eradication and supplemental planting will continue to be needed. These areas also reduce water requirements and enhance wildlife habitat.

In conclusion, when reducing maintenance costs you



Native areas are not maintenance free, but can reduce some inputs such as water and fertilizer.

cannot sacrifice the integrity of your course or the enjoyment of the revenue generating golfer. The key to success with any of these changes is to follow your well-developed Master Plan and bring cohesiveness to the golfer and the golf course. Cohesiveness is what will allow us all to get through these difficult times.

"He who does not economize, will have to agonize."

~Confucius

-OC

## TGIF SEARCHABLE TOPIC



#### Want to know more about this subject?

**Keyword:** golf course design, money

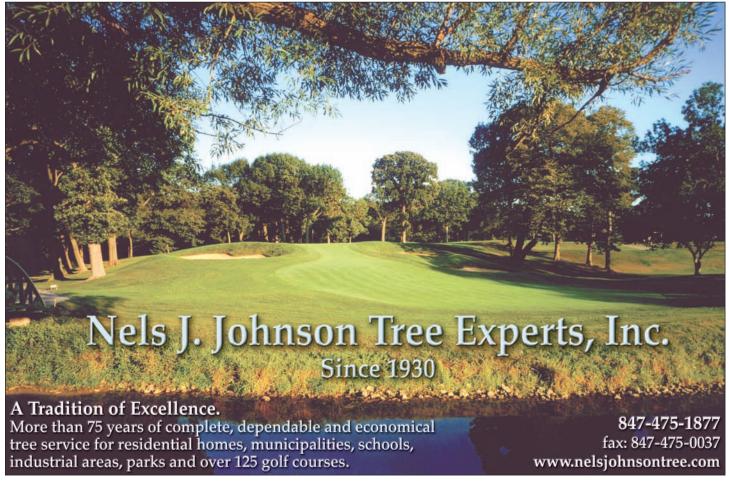
Number of Entries: 12 Highlighted Articles:

- Old problems, new challenges: Nuisance problems have emerged as major management issues on golf courses
- Mastering the moment: A comprehensive master plan can help ensure the vitality of your facility now and in the future
- Dollars and sense: Making it in a tough economy: In these hard times, superintendents have to be extra creative



A solid design can help to reduce inputs while keeping the key playing surfaces your number one priority.





FEATURE | | Kris Bachtell, The Morton Arboretum

## A Summary of 20 Years of Chicago Area Golf Courses Inventories

Since 1988, I have provided part-time consulting services to golf courses, principally in the Chicago area, regarding tree-related issues. The services provided include recommendations relating to disease and insect problem diagnosis and control, tree selection and transplanting, tree placement and obstruction resolution, pruning and specialty care, and comprehensive tree inventories and assessments.

The tree inventories and health assessments are extensive, all inclusive projects. Each tree in the in-play and service areas of the golf course is examined and its health assessed. On a typical 18-hole golf course three, 10-hour days are required to examine every tree. The specimens are tagged with a quarter-sized, numbered inventory tag, identified as to species, and assessed for physical condition, and physiological age status. The size of the tree is not considered particularly important. The physiological age is considered a more important measuring "tool" for a tree's health and potential longevity than its physical size. Physiological age is classified as one of following: not yet established (recently transplanted) or established; healthy or not healthy; immature, mature, mature and declining, or severely declining; and removal recommended due to health, poor position on the course, invasiveness, poor structural integrity, or other reasons. Arboricultural treatments useful in preserving the tree, such as pruning, cabling and bracing, lightning protection, and treatment for a specific problem are also recorded. The incidence of lawn mower and golf ball injury are specifically noted. The information is compiled and presented in a detailed report that outlines important issues and necessary steps needed to maintain the trees on the course. Specific attention is given to the most serious problems that were discovered during the field work.

These inventories and assessments have largely been conducted in the Chicagoland area, but a limited number have been conducted in other parts of the country. Most of the golf courses are private, but a few public courses were inventoried as well. The Chicago area golf courses were evenly distributed throughout the metropolitan area. A total of 36 tree inventory and health assessments have been conducted to date. Four of

these involved a re-inventory of previously inventoried Chicago area golf courses and three golf courses were outside of the Chicago region.

## Listing of Inventoried Chicago Area Golf Establishments

Bob O'Link Golf Club
Bryn Mawr Country Club
Butler National Country Club
Calumet Country Club
Chapel Hill Golf Club
Crystal Tree Country Club
Elgin Country Club
Flossmoor Country Club
Glencoe Golf Club
Idlewild Country Club
Knollwood Club
McHenry Country Club
Naperville Country Club
Northmoor Country Club

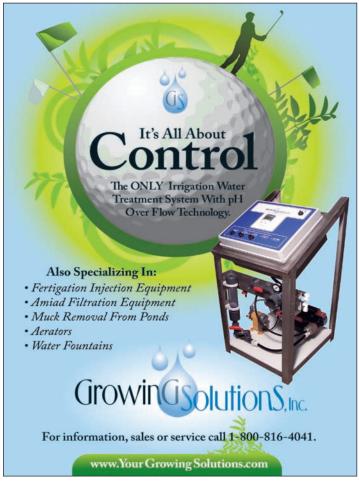
Oak Park Country Club
Park Ridge Country Club
Prestwick Country Club
Riverside Golf Club
Ruth Lake Country Club
St. Charles Country Club
Shore Acres Country Club
Skokie Country Club
Sunset Ridge Country Club
Tam Golf Course
Turnberry Country Club
Twin Orchard Country Club
Wynstone Golf Club

## **Statistics regarding the Chicago Area Golf Course Tree Population**

In the following discussion, golf courses that were inventoried more than once were counted only once in the analysis. The statistics from the first inventory and assessment are used in the analysis – a total of 27 golf courses. One was a 9-hole course, one was a 27-hole course, and the remaining were standard 18-hole courses.

(continued on page 15)







Based on historical records and early aerial photographs, many golf courses were developed from what had been agricultural land. Before golf course development, some of the properties had been open agricultural field areas, but many were farmsteads that contained a composite of agricultural fields, treed pastures, and farm buildings. Several of the golf courses were initially developed on property that held large-scale remnants of groves of large native trees. Many of the golf courses, particularly the private courses, were established in the early 1900s. Ongoing land redevelopment, and tree planting and removal have continued since their founding.

#### **Specifics**

A total of 49,573 trees were counted and analyzed for the 27 golf courses - an average of 1731 per course. On the 18-hole golf courses, the tree count ranged from a low of 928 to a high of 2612.

A total of 123 different kinds of trees were recorded on all golf courses! These trees are listed in Appendix #1 at the end of this article. The average number of tree species represented on a golf course was 62. The lowest species diversity range was 46 and the highest species diversity was 82.

Six genera (collective kinds of plants, for example, Maple and Oak) make up 60.8% of the trees. The most common genus is Maple, making up 18% of the total. The following table outlines the totals.

Major Genera	% of Total Trees
Maple (Acer)	18.0 %
Oak (Quercus)	16.5 %
Ash ( <i>Fraxinus</i> )	11.9 %
Honeylocust (Gleditsia)	5.4 %
Pine ( <i>Pinus</i> )	4.6 %
Elm ( <i>Ulmus</i> )	4.4 %
Total	60.8 %

The 20 most common tree species are represented in the table below. The leading species is Green Ash with 13.4% of all trees.

TREE SPECIES	% of Total Trees
Green Ash (Fraxinus pennslvanica)	13.4 %
Silver Maple (Acer saccharinum)	9.7 %
Bur Oak (Quercus macrocarpa)	7.3 %
Honeylocust (Gleditsia triacanthos)	6.9 %
Norway Maple (Acer platanoides)	6.8 %
Crabapple (Malus cultivar)	5.0 %
White Oak (Quercus alba)	4.2 %
Colorado Spruce (Picea pungens)	3.8 %
American Elm (Ulmus americana)	3.6 %
Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum)	3.4 %
Red Oak (Quercus rubra)	3.0 %
White Pine (Pinus strobus)	2.9 %
Downy Hawthorn (Crataegus mollis)	2.7 %
White Ash (Fraxinus americana)	2.2 %
Shagbark Hickory (Carya ovata)	2.1 %
Basswood (Tilia americana)	1.9 %
Austrian Pine ( <i>Pinus nigra</i> )	1.6 %
Weeping Willow (Salix alba 'Tristis')	1.6 %
Red Maple (Acer rubrum)	1.5 %
Black Oak (Quercus velutina)	1.4 %

The following table identifies the number of times one of the top 20 species was the most common tree on a course and the number of times it was included in the top ten most common species.

TREE SPECIES	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	TOTAL
Green Ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica)	10	3	4	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	24
Honeylocust (Gleditsia triacanthos)	1	3	4	3	4	3	1	2	1	1	23
Norway Maple (Acer platanoides)	1	5	4	4	1	0	1	0	4	1	21
Crabapple (Malus cultivar)	1	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	0	2	20
Silver Maple (Acer saccharinum)	6	3	1	1	3	0	1	0	0	2	17
Colorado Spruce ( <i>Picea pungens</i> )	0	2	1	1	3	3	1	0	2	2	15
Bur Oak (Quercus macrocarpa)	5	1	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	1	13
Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum)	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	2	3	2	12
White Ash (Fraxinus americana)	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	1	2	3	12
Basswood (Tilia americana)	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	2	1	9
American Elm ( <i>Ulmus americana</i> )	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	8
Shagbark Hickory (Carya ovata)	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	8
Austrian Pine ( <i>Pinus nigra</i> )	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	7
Downy Hawthorn (Crataegus mollis)	1	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	7
Red Maple (Acer rubrum)	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	0	0	7
White Oak (Quercus alba)	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	6
White Pine ( <i>Pinus strobus</i> )	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	6
Black Cherry ( <i>Prunus serotina</i> )	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	5
Black Oak (Quercus velutina)	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	5
Littleleaf Linden ( <i>Tilia cordata</i> )	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	5

(continued on next page)

#### **Importance of Species Diversity**

Diversity is nature's defense mechanism. As a general rule, no single **species** should make up more than 10% of the trees in a given management area (e.g., golf course, city streetscape, or park planting). For the same management area, no single **genus** should make up more than 20%, and no single **botanic family** (e.g., Ash is the Olive Family (*Oleaceae*) should make up more that 30% to the total tree population.

Lack of species diversity was the primary reason so many golf courses were drastically impacted when Dutch elm disease (DED) killed thousands of American elms in the 1960s and '70s. Many large and majestic American elms continue to adorn Chicago area golf courses. These trees are inherent liabilities because of the continued management they require to help ensure their utility. The percentage of DED susceptible elms on Chicago area golf courses ranged from a low of 0% to a high of 12.6%.

Another example of the danger of low diversity is the significant risk presented by Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). No native North American ash species is resistant to this serious pest introduced from Asia. As discussed earlier, Green Ash is the most common tree on the inventoried golf courses, and ashes (*Fraxinus*) are the third most common group of trees with 11.9% of the total. The percentages of EAB susceptible ashes on Chicago area golf courses ranged from a low of 4.3% to a high of 32.7%.

#### In Conclusion

As world-wide commerce continues to increase, the chance of introducing new, potentially harmful pests and diseases also increases. A diverse tree population is one of the best ways to ensure that one insect pest or disease pathogen is unlikely to affect a large number of trees. Thus one pest or pathogen cannot greatly alter the play or landscape of a golf course. Knowing the species composition of your tree population is key in understanding its inherent vulnerability.

## TGIF SEARCHABLE TOPIC



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**Keyword:** Golf Course Trees **Number of Entries:** 555 **Highlighted Articles:** 

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	Crabapple	.Malus cultivar		

## THE BULL SHEET John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



## August 2009

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

August 11 – CAGCS monthly meeting at Biltmore Country Club, **Brian Thomson, CGCS** host.

August 13-16 – PGA Championship at Hazeltine National in Chaska, MN.

August 18-19 – Ping Junior Solheim Cup at Aurora Country Club in Aurora, IL, me 'n' Virg hosts.

August 21 – Deadline for nominations for GCSAA's 2010 Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award.

August 21-23 – Solheim Cup at Rich Harvest Links in Sugar Grove, IL, **Jeff Vercautren** host superintendent.

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August 25-26 – Inaugural iTurfExpo at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL, Dr. Derek Settle, Keith Rincker, and Chris Painter hosts.

August 25 – iTurf Golf Classic at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club (Dubsdread course) in Lemont, IL, **Ken Lapp** host superintendent.

September 8 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Golf Championship at Kemper Lakes Golf Club in Kildeer, IL, **Dan Tully** host superintendent.

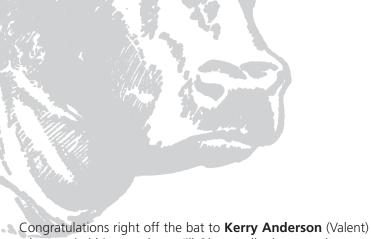
September 10-13 – BMW Championship at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club in Lemont, IL, Ken Lapp host superintendent.

September 10-17 – 55th USGA Senior Amateur Championship at Beverly Country Club in Chicago, IL, **Keith Peterson** host superintendent.

September 15 – Class C Shop Talk at the Beverly Country Club maintenance department at 5:00 pm, **Tim Nixon** and **Joe Schneider** hosts.

September 18 – Annual Class C Golf Outing and Binge Drinking Championship (optional) at Aurora Country Club in Aurora, IL, **Virgil Range** host.

September 21 – Annual Wee One Golf Outing at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI, Rod Johnson host superintendent. (www.weeone.org to register)



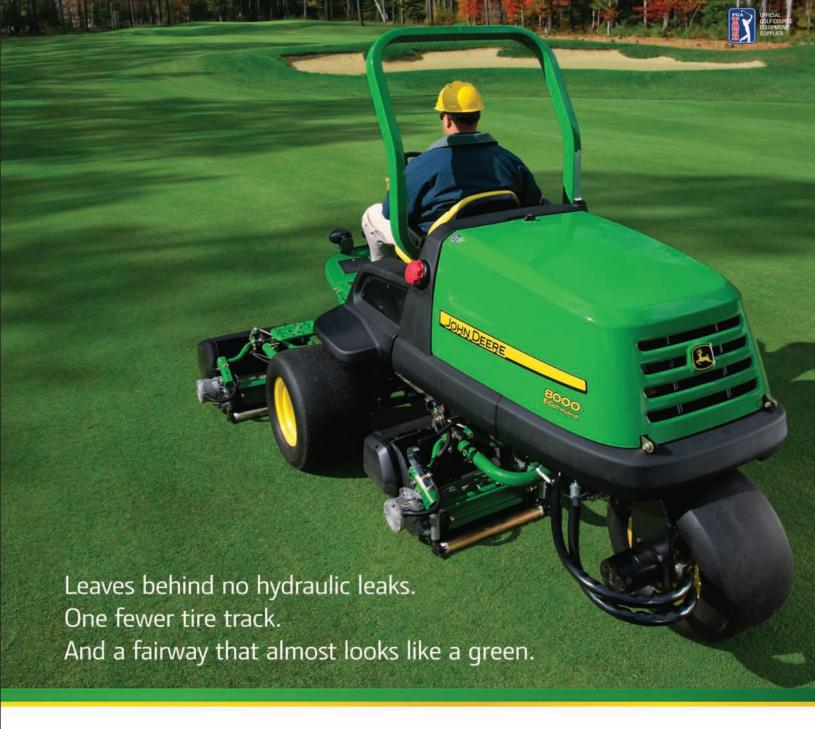
Congratulations right off the bat to **Kerry Anderson** (Valent) who married his sweetheart Jill Obermoeller last month. We wish Kerry and Jill all the marital bliss in the world!



If you have someone in mind whom you feel is deserving of our national association's highest honor, you have until the 21st of this month to nominate them for GCSAA's Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award for 2010. You can go to gcsaa.org and try to find the right place to figure out the specifics, or just call them and they'll be glad to help.

Just a reminder that next month Keith Peterson and Beverly Country Club are hosting the 55th USGA Senior Amateur Championship from the 10th through the 16th, and they could use your help. In order to get the course ready

(continued on page 21)



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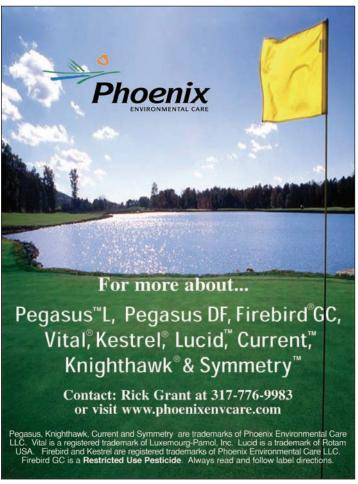
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for play each day—especially the 10th through the 13th—they are gladly accepting volunteers to assist with course preparation. To take advantage of this opportunity, call Keith at (708) 636-8700, ext. 252 or email him at kpeterson@beverlycc.org.

A couple MAGCS members from the opposite ends of the "life experience" spectrum welcomed new additions to their families recently. First, Sara and **Keith Krause** were blessed on July 7th at 9:26 am when 8-pound, 8-ounce, 20-¾" Maximillian Kane Krause was born, giving sister Lucy a playmate and future tormentor.



Then, a week later Grandma DeeAnn and Grandpa **Peter Leuzinger** added grandchild #6 to their brethren when daughter Megan gave birth to Ruby Lee Mogan, who came into the world at 7 pounds and 12 ounces. Megan and her family live in Tucson, AZ, and the proud grandparents are out there helping with the other two girls. Congratulations to both families!



Imagine being the superintendent at Pinehurst #2—it was recently announced that the course will host the 2014 US Open and US Women's Open in consecutive weeks from June 12th through the 22nd. This is the first time ever for one course to host both tournaments. That will be some MAJOR work, huh? Get it?

Speaking of majors, we have a couple of pretty major events coming to our neck of the woods this summer. This month brings the best junior and professional woman golfers from Europe to Aurora and Sugar Grove where they will do battle against their American counterparts in the Ping Junior Solheim Cup (Aurora CC) and the Solheim Cup (Rich Harvest Links and Jeff Vercautren) from the 18th through the 23rd. Then in September, from the 10th through the 17th, **Keith Peterson** and Beverly Country Club will host the 55th USGA

Senior Amateur Championship. Keith could use all the volunteer help he can get to get the course prepared each day, so give him a call at 708-636-8700 if you would like to help out.

During the USGA Senior Amateur Championship, the MAGCS Class C committee will hold a Shop Talk at the Beverly CC maintenance department at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, September 15th. If you are interested in attending, call Scott Verdun at 847-899-1019.

While speaking of assistant superintendents, a big event is coming up next month that brings assistants from all over the country together for two and a half days of education and networking. John Deere Golf and Bayer Environmental Science are accepting nominations for Green Start Academy which will take place from September 29th through October 2nd at the Bayer Training Center in Clayton, NC and John Deere's Turf Care factory in Fuguay Varina, NC. How does a town get a name like Fuguay Varina? Were people just mad at some guy named Varina? But I degress. To be one of the 50 assistants to get in to Green Start Academy, assistants must be nominated by their superintendent, and follow up with an essay that will be judged by a panel of industry experts including MAGCS past president Bruce Williams, **CGCS**. For more information and to apply, visit www.GreenStartAcademy.com.

So I'm channel surfing the other night, and when I click on Comcast Sports Net, I catch a glimpse of a familiar face in a vaguely familiar place. **Greg Martin** (Martin Design Partnership) was the familiar face, and the bar at Bolingbrook Golf Club was the place. The show was "Golf Chicago", and the particular feature I caught included Greg, Len Ziehm, and moderator Terry Lavin having a relaxed discussion over a couple of adult beverages on various hot topics relating to our industry. The show airs on Saturday evenings at 5, with repeats throughout the week—give it a look-see.

John Leibold (Leibold Irrigation, ProGro Solutions, Inc.) recently announced that they have obtained exclusive rights for the Leibold Biological Water Management Systems for the United States. The system offers the latest in biological waste water treatment specifically designed for golf course operations. Growing Solutions, Inc. (Warren Shafer and Scott Speiden) will serve as authorized sales and service representative for the Leibold Water Management Systems for Illinois and Indiana. For information, contact Leibold Irrigation, Inc. at 800-875-4083 or Growing Solutions, Inc. at 800-816-4041.

Heartfelt condolences to **Oscar Miles, CGCS** (retired) and his family on the passing of his wife Mardelle on July 6th.

MAGCS also sends its sympathies to the Gruening family on the passing of Lorraine Gruening on June 26th. Lorraine was the wife of past MAGCS member Marv and mother to Mike, both of whom were superintendents in the Chicagoland area.

Congratulations to **Maureen Clark** on being named Dow AgroSciences' sales representative for its Southern Urban

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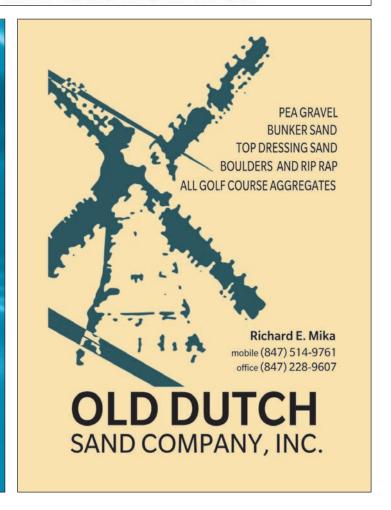
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Lots of MAGCS members were spotted in the pages of our industry's most noted publications recently. In the June issue of Club & Resort Business, Onwentsia Club's Skip Willms, **CGCS** was cited in an article about irrigation system renovations called "What Lies Below," while in the same issue Coyote Run Golf Course superintendent **Dave Ward** was interviewed by Dan Dinelli, CGCS on his ability to do more with less in today's economy. In July's GCM, Joel Purpur, **CGCS** of Park Ridge Country Club had his article published about the drip irrigation system he has been installing titled "Watering from Underground." In the June issue of Golf Course Industry magazine, Scott Verdun of Merit Club was interviewed as part of an article titled "A New Course" relating to former superintendents in new careers. Last, but certainly not least, Fred Behnke, CGCS' article that ran in *On Course* earlier this year, "The Best Defense is a Good Offense," was reprinted in The Green Breeze the official chapter publication of the Greater Cincinnati GCSA. Congratulations to all of our famous writers!

How about those stinkin' Japanese beetles and their horny little humpfests? Really not a whole lot more to say about that, except that those sign companies should produce "Tread On Me" signs with a picture of a Japanese beetle on them. Those would sell...



Don't forget about the big new iTurfExpo coming to Midwest Golf House this month on the 25th and 26th. You should have received all the information and registration documents, but if not, call Luke Cella and sign up. This is going to be an outdoor, in-season Trade Show/Research Update/Equipment and Product Demo/Hands-On Education and Training/Golf Event type deal all in two days! And the price makes it a no-brainer for bringing key staff members to experience all that ITF and MAGCS have been collaborating on over the past year. Also, don't forget the iTurf Classic golf event on the 25th at the newly-renovated Dubsdread course, whose recent facelift was performed by the "Open Doctor" Rees Jones, with Wadsworth Golf Construction doing the work. We look forward to seeing you at Golf House later this month!

Have you checked out TGIF (Turfgrass Information File) lately? There is a new feature called "Dig Deeper" that allows you to search a full documents text (not just the words in the TGIF record). For example, searching "Cella"

in the archive site returns 18 results without the "Dig Deeper" box checked; checking the box increases the search results to 49. This feature exists now in several of the archive sites, including *Golf Course Management, USGA Green Section Record* (& predecessor titles), *TurfNews*, and *The National Greenkeeper*. Take advantage of your MAGCS membership and check out TGIF today.

On a rainy Wednesday on the 8th of July, the 9th Annual John Buck Golf Outing took place at Pinecrest Golf Club in Huntley, IL with Brian Comiskey hosting. Even though the weather was rather uncooperative, the venue was in excellent condition, and the field of participants enjoyed a truly fun day of scramble golf. The intent of this annual gettogether is to benefit the John Buck Scholarship Fund, which is distributed to the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation, the MAGCS Scholarship Fund, and the Northwest Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association Scholarship Funds. When it was all said and done, the team of...well, me, along with old reliable Jeff Hoste, old faithful Andy Weadge, and just plain old **Dave Blomquist** took top honors for the second consecutive year, carding an unsurpassed 55. Besides the great golf, the day included fantastic food and drink, and a grand time for all who endured the soggy weather. Thanks to Brian and his grounds staff, to everyone at Pinecrest for their hospitality, and to JW Turf and Buck Brothers for their kindness and generosity.



Sharon Riesenbeck tried to keep the marshmallows dry – next time – a campfire might help instead of wimpy umbrellas.



(continued on page 25)



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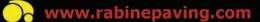
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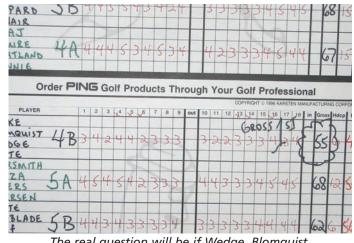
Holly Gilmour lines up her tee shot between the cones.







Everyone had trouble seeing this golfer because he forgot his blaze orange cap.



The real question will be if Wedge, Blomquist, Gurke and Hoste can 3-peat in 2010?

-OC

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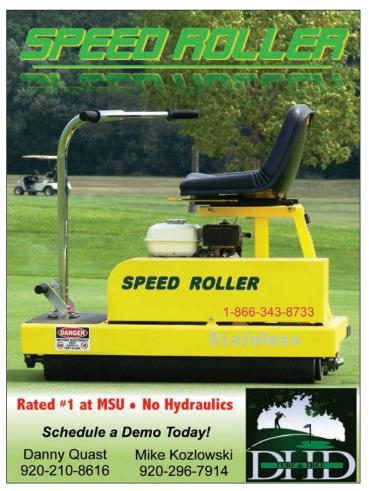
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#### CLASS C HAPPENINGS Scott Verdun. Merit Club

Over the last 8 years the Class C Committee and all Assistant members have had the opportunity to become more involved in the association as well as have many functions throughout the year to network with colleagues. For the most part these have been met with great success to be attributed to past Committee Chairmen as well as the support of the MAGCS Board. In the past few years however, as is to be expected, things have changed, and it has become difficult to get many different faces to come out to the shop talks or to volunteer for various events—even at the Kane County Cougars game it is rare to see more than 3 or 4 assistants in attendance. With these things in mind, we as a committee have decided to mix it up a little in an effort to stir up some more interest with most of the focus on shop talks.

Beginning in September with the generosity of Keith Peterson, GCS at Beverly Country Club, and the help of Joe Schneider, Assistant Superintendant, we are going to combine a shop talk with a night of helping out the hosts and volunteering during the USGA Senior Amateur Championship. On the evening of Tuesday, September 15, Class C members are invited to meet at the Beverly CC shop at 5 pm where we will be met by Joe and hopefully Keith, depending on his schedule. While having some dinner (usually pizza), they will give us a run down of what all has gone into preparing the course etc. This will be followed by an opportunity to see the golf course while helping out the crew for the evening in preparing for the final few rounds of the tournament. It is our goal as a committee to make this a regular occurrence whenever a MAGCS member is hosting an event that requires some extra hands to combine the shop talk and helping our fellow members with their tournament.



This year will also hopefully become a successful restart for the Class C golf outing. After a few stumbling blocks last year, we will be back at it at Aurora Country Club. Thanks to the generosity of the club, along with Superintendent John Gurke, CGCS and Assistant Superintendent Virgil Range. The outing will take place on Thursday, September 17 and we will begin promptly at noon. Registration for this event will be available on the MAGCS Website and reminders will be sent in emails until the time of the event. Two years ago we did this at Aurora Country Club and it was a great time at a great golf course, and I'm sure this year will be no different. Thanks again to John and Virgil for their generosity.

The final idea that I would like to get out there is something that we did a few years ago and received guite a bit of publicity, Habitat for Humanity. With the help of a number of MAGCS members, donations were solicited and we were left with the responsibility of sodding the yard and putting in the landscaping. The yard was taken care of in December on a day where we got hit with about 3" of snow and the outside rolls of sod were partially frozen, yet it was still one of the best experiences because it is such a good cause. The family that the house was being built for even came out to help move top soil with us for a while. All that said, it would be great if anyone was interested in helping to organize that again. The last house was in Aurora and we still have all of the contact info for the DuPage County Habitat for Humanity group. If anyone is interested in getting involved with this, feel free to contact either Matt Breeden or I and we can help get you started. -OC





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