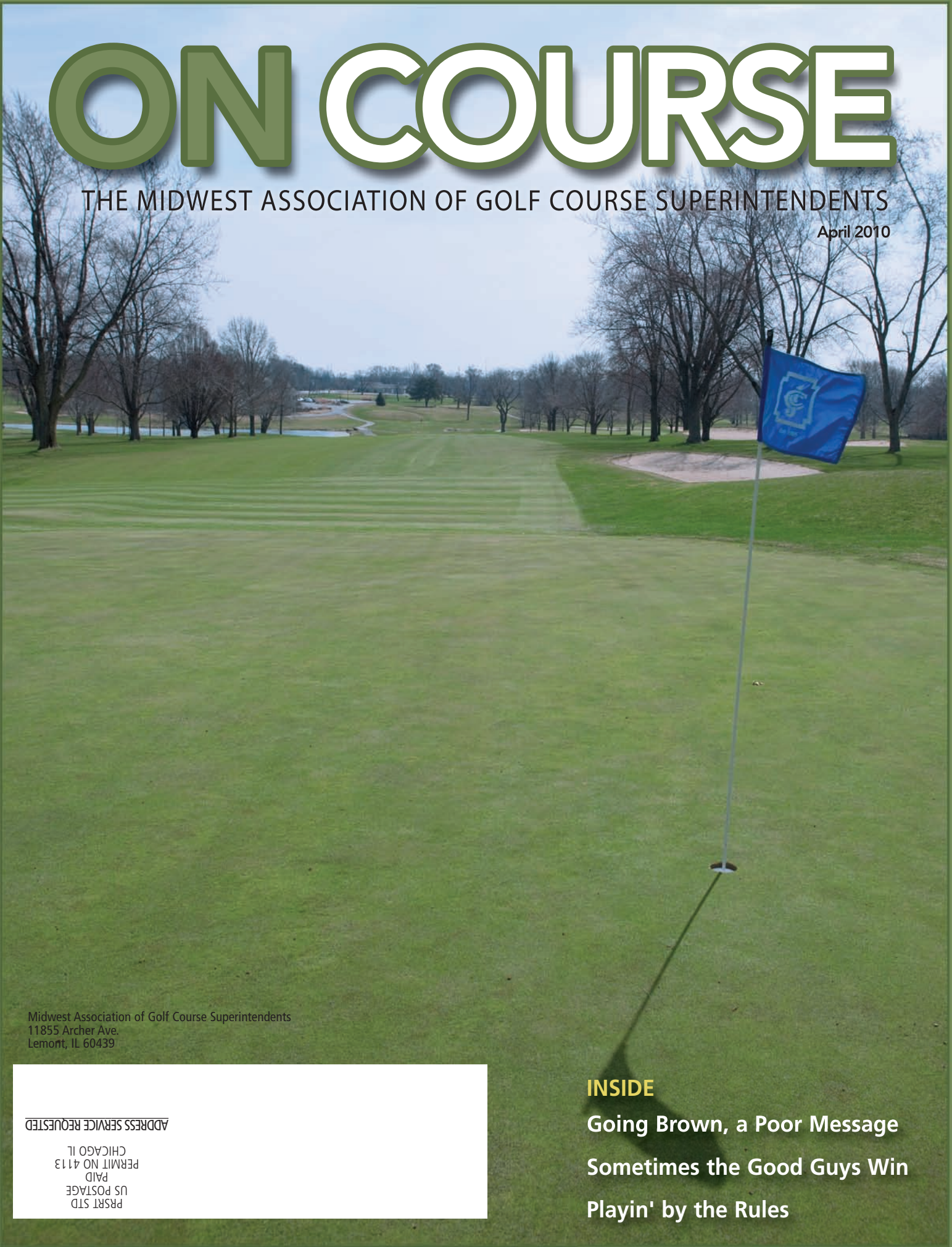


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April 2010



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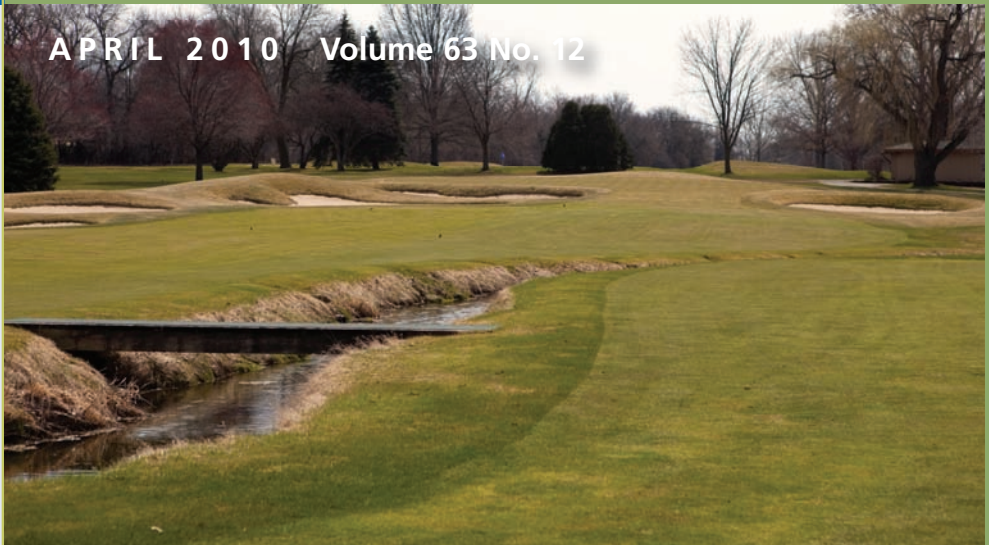
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The newly renovated (2008-09) par 4, 16th hole at Joliet Country Club is 350 yards from the tips, bringing the creek into play for the big hitters.

**FRONT COVER**

Looking back from the green on the straight away first hole at Joliet Country Club, a par 4 of 415 yards.  
Photo credit: Luke Cella

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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.

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## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Sharon Riesenbeck, *Waupaca Sand & Solutions*



# ♪ Sentimental Journey ♪

*In case you didn't know it, there is not an official song about San Diego. It came as a surprise to me since it is such a beautiful city. Great weather, great downtown, a lot of history, and from what I heard, a great place to have the GIS show.*

My annual article usually summarizes the specifics of the Hospitality Suite, but I do not know how many beers, wines, or hard drinks were consumed at this year's event, and I'm not even sure if everyone found the place! This much I know: everyone that attended said it was one of the best venues. We can all thank Luke Cella for the location as he selected it and, as usual, did a great job. I am sad that I missed one of my favorite events of the year. You get to see EVERYBODY. You can talk all night if you want to!

I won't bore you with the details, but I got sick during the GIS. To make it interesting, it happened while I was walking to the Conference Center with my new boss, Jed Owen. I am so grateful that Jed and my co-worker, Ellen Davis, were both at my side when it hit as they escorted me back to my hotel room. That is where I stayed for the remainder of the week.

I made some phone calls to good colleagues who gladly covered the event in my absence. A big "THANK YOU!" to the following guys who stepped up to the plate: Scott Witte, Luke Cella, Mike Matchen, Rick Becker, Kevin DeRoo, Colin White, Tony Kalina, Bruce Schweiger, Mike Murphy, Erwin Mckone, John Gurke, Garry Anderson, Tim Snell, Joe Etten, and Joel Purpur's "Nick's" (that is - Marfise and Walters). I knew that the event was in good hands, and if I failed to mention someone, I certainly apologize.

So back to the song that I want to dedicate to San Diego:  
**Sentimental Journey\***

---

*♪ "Gonna take a Sentimental Journey,  
Gonna set my heart at ease. Gonna make a  
Sentimental Journey to renew old memories.  
...Never thought my heart could be so  
yearny. I've Gotta take that Sentimental  
Journey" ♪*

---

As many of you know, it is time for me to relinquish my position as the MAGCS Commercial Advisor. But I will not disappear. I am going to concentrate my volunteer efforts, which my company-Waupaca Sand-wholeheartedly supports, on philanthropic organizations such as the Wee One Foundation; we want to be there for you.

I have absolutely loved my experience serving the Association. Everyone should try it once! The camaraderie is contagious. Maybe I am naïve, but I am fascinated with you "GOLF GUYS." Keep in mind, I have only worked in "male dominated" industries:

- Farming
- Greek Restaurants
- Railroads
- Golf

Each one of these industries had its own challenges and its own "network." I really thought "railroaders" were the tightest bunch of guys. They encompass very similar ideals to the golf course industry: quality product, quality service, and helping out your "brothers" when they call. This is so true for golf and I am so impressed with all you have to do and all you have to know!

---

*♪ "Got my bags, got my reservations...  
Like a child in wild anticipation, I long  
to hear that, 'All Aboard!' ...Never  
thought my heart could be so yearny.  
Gotta take that Sentimental Journey,  
Sentimental Journey home." ♪*

---

With a tear in my eye, I just want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the Board Members that I have worked with over the years. Thank you for letting me be a small part of your journey. -OC

*\*Sentimental Journey, published in 1944, was written by Les Brown and Ben Homer, lyrics by Bud Green.*

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## FEATURE I

Dan Dinelli, CGCS, North Shore Country Club



# Going Brown, a Poor Message

*Just when the world is appreciating the concept of “green,” our industry seems to want to go brown! When it comes to golf, the newly coined phrase, “brown is beautiful,” concerns me. The idea is being sold based on the assumption that “brown” turf requires fewer inputs, saves money, is better for the environment, and plays better. A few key issues will drive this topic for some time to come. The industry is trying to break itself from the “Augusta effect,” where all plants are growing beautifully, and the look of perfection is seen in all elements within the landscape. “Over grooming is over spending,” is the phrase often associated with Augusta-like conditions. Some golfers enjoy the beautified landscape enhanced with flowers and shrubs. Others feel it detracts from the purity of the game. The fact is most budgets can’t afford the intensity of care golf-scapes like Augusta’s require. In many areas around the country, the drive to “go brown” is about water conservation and restrictions. In other areas the concern is water quality and the application of inputs, such as Nitrogen and Phosphorous. Many scientific studies have concluded that inputs, when used properly, pose extremely low risks on turf. However, governing bodies often overlook these studies and propose broad bans. The expense in over-seeding dormant turf is another driving force behind the idea that brown is good. Lastly, many of the better golfers enjoy the dry, firm and fast surface that thinning turf offers, because it is similar to the courses where the game originated. Regardless of the reasons driving this new trend, I feel it threatens long-term revenues, playability, the health of the facility, and the environment.*

The challenge with “brown is beautiful” or “brown is the new green” is that it can work in certain areas and be devastating in others. Yes, one can argue that over-seeding dormant turf in order to maintain the green look is spending money poorly. The game can be played on dormant turf, and the grass will grow again when conditions are favorable. There are grasses that can survive when pushed into dormancy, like the Bluegrass common in Midwest lawns and prevalent in our inner roughs. During hot, dry summers, un-irrigated rough often turns brown and gets very thin. Unless the stressful growing conditions become extreme, the turf can still be playable. However, these are the areas where we actively fight weeds and have to make turf repairs. The problem is, not all



grasses tolerate dormancy; some, like *Poa annua*, simply die. Bentgrass tolerates some brief level of dormancy, but typically dies under the added stress of putting green conditions. The variability in tolerance to stress and seasonal hardiness within turf species is confusing to the non-professional. Much of what a turf professional learns is directly related to preventing brown, stressed turf during the growing season. It has been documented that healthy, growing turf is the best defense against many pests, diseases, weeds, and wear. Typically, the grasses used in our climate on greens, tees, and fairways are *Poa annua* (considered a weed by many because it lacks winter and summer hardiness and invades the turf with its prolific seed production) and bentgrass.

*(continued on page 7)*

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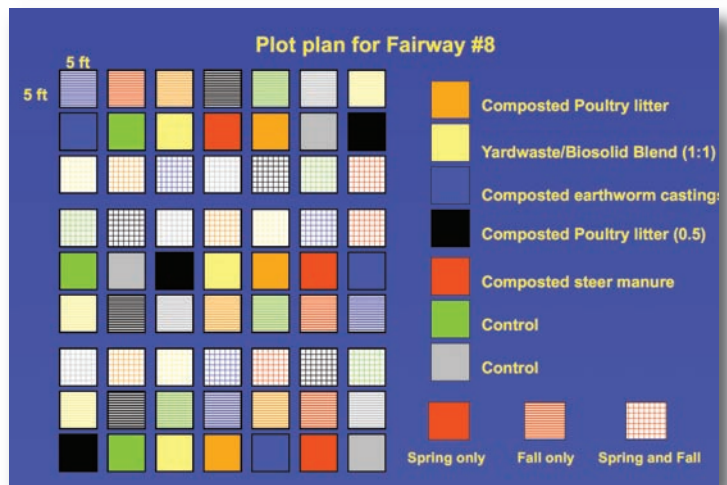
We try to favor bentgrass because it is a hardier species that tolerates weather extremes better than Poa, but Poa eventually becomes part of the turfgrass stand. These grasses, when starved for both water and nutrients, become stressed and vulnerable to some potentially devastating diseases. We are reminded of this from time to time during stressful growing conditions. Rumors quickly circulate when turf dies in key playing areas at a course. Turf loss can compromise membership retention, playability, rounds played, revenues, and the course's overall reputation.

Sustainability is another buzz word used a lot today. In our climate, with the grasses that we use, turf that continues to grow and function offers sustainable playing conditions. Stressed "brown turf" will not be capable of tolerating wear from play over time. The stand of turf will thin, allowing the surface to turn into barren soil. The potential short-term savings in going brown will be offset when additional resources are required to bring these areas back to healthy, playable turf.

Healthy, actively growing turf, which is defined by the plants' ability to photosynthesize and characterized by green color, offers far more environmental benefit than "brown" turf. The plants ability to cool the surface, filter the water and air, and anchor the soil is greatest when the turf is healthy and active.

The current economy is straining maintenance budgets. As the industry responds and budgets are reduced, golf-scapes will change at many courses. In the big picture, some feel the change will be better for the game because it will lower the cost and make golf affordable for more people. I have seen standards change during my career. We now have sophisticated irrigation systems that almost mimic rain rather than the old, manual quick-coupler systems. Mowing heights on greens, tees, and fairways are less than half of what they were just three decades ago. This has been driven by the quest for fast, firm playing conditions. Managing these ultra-low mowing heights requires a fleet of equipment, an arsenal of inputs, and an army of staff to monitor the turf's life support systems, which mimic an intensive care unit. Bunkers, once considered hazards, now receive a level of attention that rivals what we give to finely managed turf. Some insist that golfer demand drove these changes. Others think it was superintendents demonstrating their skills. Regardless of what instigated the changes, these high standards are challenging our budgets today.

The key is balance. We must balance the turf's health, playability, economics, and environmental concerns to meet reasonable expectations and function. In short, this is what Superintendents are trained to do. The millions of dollars spent in research to better understand and manage turf's ecology and improve its playability are wasted when plant health is ignored. The training, tools, and resources that allow practitioners to grow healthy turf have little value when plant function is allowed to fail. "Going brown" in our climate is misunderstood. I feel it is a poor message that could lead to unattractive consequences for the golf course. **-OC**



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# Sometimes the Good Guys Win

*The Friday of Memorial Day 2008 started out like any other day. I show up for work, assign daily jobs and send the crew to work. That was exactly how my day was going until I got the first call about a cart in a lake. My first thought was the safety of the crew member who happened to drive in. As I am on my way, I receive a call from my foreman about a cart in the native grass. At this point I realize this is too much of a coincidence, and something is wrong.*

Fast forward an hour or so. We have five different carts that have been pulled out of either a lake or a native area. All had been destroyed by vandalism. Greens had been driven over; flag sticks had been broken and stolen; and numerous signs had been destroyed.

You can imagine the headache this creates; I was not prepared to do sod work and get the tractor and chains out that particular weekend. While the crew is working putting the courses back together, I am busy with the Lake County police, putting together a police report as well as taking pictures of the damage – something that you don't learn in school or on the job.

The most difficult part was the feeling of helplessness. Ivanhoe is a course surrounded by homes; this sort of vandalism could happen any day or night. How can you protect yourself from something like this? It was frustrating to have no other option but to file a police report and wait for the justice system to run its course.

This was not the way I wanted to start my first summer, not to mention Memorial Day, at Ivanhoe. Our focus quickly shifted from setting the course for a large day of golf to removing carts from areas where they didn't belong and putting the course back to normal so nobody would notice. This is one of those stresses that we've all heard about but hope never to experience.

Unfortunately for Ivanhoe, we experienced it again. The next weekend, it all happened again. Carts that were damaged a week ago were taken out again. The same people who had taken the carts the first time saved the keys and used them again.

The same damage was repeated. Six different greens were driven over, numerous flag sticks were broken, flags were stolen, and countless tee markers were missing. Again the feeling of sheer helplessness hit me. I thought I had told the police who was causing the damage in my first report. Now it was happening again. The anger and panic were a little overwhelming.

We ran into a little luck on the second incident, as crazy as that sounds. Outside the home of the suspected vandal, we found a receipt for a case of Coors Light — the same beer we found in the carts after both incidents. To an amateur sleuth like me, this seemed like a slam dunk.

It was after the second incident that Justin VanLanduit (Briarwood CC) contacted me to inform me that Paul Voyken (Briarwood CC) was a close personal friend of the Lake County Sheriff. After asking Justin for help, he asked Paul to do us a favor and put in a call to his friend, the Sheriff. Soon after speaking with Justin, I was on the phone with the Lake County Sheriff. Unbeknownst to me, he is a huge golfer. His exact words were, "there is nothing I hate more than vandalism on a golf

course, whatever I can do to help, consider it done." A day or two went by. I was contacted by the Sheriff again and told I should be receiving a call from a detective that day. Now I felt like something was getting done, real progress.

No more than 30 minutes after hanging up with the Sheriff, I was on the phone with Gianni Giamberduca, Lake County detective. He came out to Ivanhoe to inspect the damage. We rode around the course. He wanted to see the

*(continued on page 11)*



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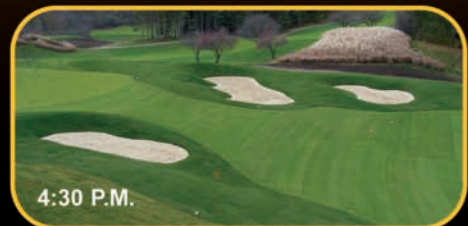
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carts and see where they were deposited around the course. He also wanted to see the location of the home of the suspected vandal.

I showed Gianni the receipt found outside the home of the suspected vandal. He was pleased that we had this and thought we now had some hard evidence. His next step was to take the receipt to the store where the beer was purchased and look over the videotape. Luckily for us, this particular store catalogs all video by the register that made the sale. It was very easy for him to see who purchased the beer and get a name.

For me, the next part was very exciting but also nerve racking. Gianni called me at home, said he had spoken with the young man who purchased the beer, and that he had spilled his guts and told him everything. Gianni said what he would like to do next is stake out the home and go in and question the kid. This was all sounding good to me, until he said he wanted me with him. For those of us who watch crime shows, and I do, it always seemed exciting to go into the suspects house and grill him...until you have to do it. I was extremely nervous about this. I was unsure how it would play out in real life.

We waited in my cart outside of the house, behind some bushes. During this time—about an hour but it felt like a week—we went over how we were going to approach this. He knew what he was going to ask to draw out the real answers. My only job was to look official. Maybe we could make him nervous.

The kid came home, we knocked on the door, and the parents let us right in. We sat down with the young man, told him why we were here and what we planned on doing. This had no effect on him. He quickly asked us to leave, which we had to do. He told us never to come back. At that moment, Gianni became really frustrated with his attitude and wanted to do whatever it took to put him away for this.

Months have gone by. Gianni calls every once in a while to give me an update on the investigation. I am getting frustrated that it is taking so long, but I am relieved we have somebody working for us. Now the bad part; it happens again. Our back door is kicked in, a Workman is stolen, tees, benches, and signs are torn apart. My initial thought is how can this happen? The kid is under investigation for vandalism and he does it again?

The clubhouse also has a break in. Bottles of alcohol are stolen, and small items are moved or removed. We now have the attention of all Ivanhoe staff; to say we are on high alert

would be an understatement. We take drastic measures; new cameras are installed in the clubhouse. At the grounds department, we install a heavy gate. We now have motion sensor lights and cameras. All things we did not want to do, but when your back is to the wall, you do whatever it takes.

2009 goes by without incident. We cruise through the season without a word from anybody from Lake County. I am happy that no vandalism has occurred but a little frustrated that there seems to be no resolution. Toward the end of the season, I actually put it out of my mind; it seems like something in the past.

Out of the blue, in January 2010, I check my mailbox. What do I find...? A subpoena from the Lake County States Attorney's office to appear in court the next week for this case. I was to be in the attorney's office on Monday to go over our deposition; we were scheduled for a week-long trial before the judge.

I sat in the attorney's office with our detective who will appear in court with me. We are going over dates, details, and dollar amounts. All things I had put out of my memory until now. My nerves are racing. I would have to sit on the stand and tell our story. I had no problem with that. It was the fact that the defense lawyers would have their chance to ask me questions as well. The uncertainty of what they might ask had me sweating. This was finally happening and I was a nervous wreck.

As I sat in the waiting room, going over my dates one more time the states attorney comes in to advise me there may be a deal. The defense isn't sure they have a solid case anymore as the judge wants to hear all three incidents today. Originally we were going to take them one at a time, each in front of a different judge. This decision, one judge to hear everything, has spun the case in our favor. Once the plea is put to paper, I am asked if this suits Ivanhoe. I was unsure so I deferred to the attorney. He advised me that this would be acceptable as we could take this plea to civil court and get all of our money back.

In the end all parties are happy with the outcome. The ordeal took three years, and I'm glad it's over. The experience is one that I will never forget. You never know if you'll go through something like this again, but in retrospect I'm glad I did. The range of emotions you feel in dealing with something like this is one that will be hard to find again. **-OC**

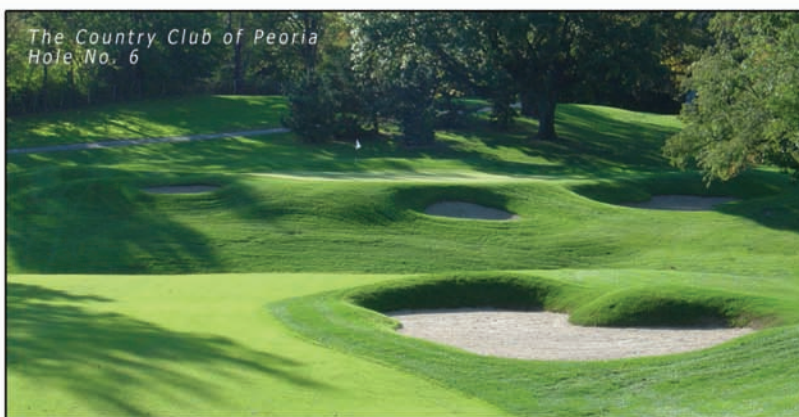


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## SUPER -N- SITE

Steven Biehl, Naperville Country Club

# Mark Kowaliczko -N- Joliet Country Club

*A sunny day trimming bunker edges, trimming around trees, chasing quick couplers around the course while irrigating through the night is a typical day for Mark Kowaliczko at Joliet Country Club...while he was in high school.*

Mark grew up across the street from Big Run Golf Course. However, when it came time for the requisite high school job, his father knew Ted Mochel, and that led Mark to the Joliet Country Club. Those early years at Joliet Country Club, under Ted's watchful eye, may have seemed trivial at the start, but they eventually led to a career in the golf industry, including the title of Past President of the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS).

Joliet Country Club is one of the oldest clubs in the Chicago area, founded in 1905. It was a 9-hole golf course until the early 1920s, when another nine holes were added. Only minor changes have been made since then. The biggest came only a few years ago when a clubhouse construction project required the reworking of a few holes.

Mark's high school job made an impression. His love for working on the course finally won out over the Biology degree he was working toward at Loyola. He transferred to University of Illinois to pursue a career in the golf industry. Upon completion of his degree, he was awarded the assistant superintendent position at Bryn Mawr Country Club under Mike Nass. Mark spent four years as the assistant at Bryn Mawr before he moved back to Joliet Country Club, this time as superintendent, in September of 1986.



Mark Kowaliczko

In his office, Mark's golf clubs are in the corner, in case there's an urge to golf. A stack of books on the shelf hints at a love of reading. A closer look reveals titles about Abraham Lincoln, giving away Mark's interest in the history of the United States. But, the most imposing thing in his office is the large picture of his kids. Mark and his wife Diana have four sons. Their oldest, Zenon, is graduating from high school in just a few months. Zach is a sophomore and has started playing golf, which Mark admits has led him to play a little more often. Mark and Diana's twin sons, Christian and Chandler, are in seventh grade and keep them busy

between volleyball and gymnastics.

Mark got started in the golf industry like so many others – he worked on a golf course during high school. He is still in the industry for the same reasons that many others are – he enjoys being outside as well as the collegial relationship among superintendents. On April 27th head to Joliet Country Club and enjoy being outside in a collegial atmosphere. **-OC**





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## MIDWEST BREEZES

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



### “So What Do Golf Course Superintendents Do in the winter...in Seattle?”

In the Midwest regions, when people find out that we are Golf Course Superintendents, the number one question we always get asked is, “what do you do in the winter”? Our courses are for the most part closed and the ground is often frozen and/or covered with snow. We work on indoor stuff or work outside pruning trees and shoveling snow.

There is one part of the country that grows cool season turf varieties (also known as the poa annua capital of the world) and continues to play golf in the winter. This most unique place is the Pacific Northwest (PNW). So what goes on with their golf courses during the winter months?

After the GIS in San Diego, I flew north to the “megapolis” of Seattle/Tacoma/Vancouver B.C. area to further investigate this question.

Now we all know it rains a lot in the PNW. Seattle was known as the suicide capital of the U.S. because of the ever present dreary, rain, fog filled days, day after day...depressing. Most of the precipitation comes during the winter months. The rain/snow can vary anywhere from 30 to 350 inches a year depending on specifically where in the Seattle area a golf course is located. The Olympic Mountains have the ability to create “rain shadow” with the frontal systems coming off the Pacific Ocean; however, when it doesn’t rain, it can be very pleasant. By pleasant, I mean like mid 50’s and sunny. For us “snow people” coming from a sub arctic environment to a place where it is 50° and sunny, is quite warm and comfortable. For the sun starved locals, whenever the sun does peek out, they come outside to play in droves and the golf courses are packed. Many of the hard core golfers just pack their gore-tex and go play in the fog and drizzle, just a normal day in Seattle. If you wait for the sun to play golf, it may be a long

time coming. The weather forecast can be very predictable. Kind of like the opposite of San Diego predictable. Instead of sunny and warm it’s cold, gray and drizzly. So if you live there and you want to play outside, you “just do it”. Now you know how Nike (based in Portland, OR) came up with their famous catch phrase.

In a “normal” winter in Seattle, usually the biggest problem for golf courses is the chronic and ever present management of pink snow mold or fusarium disease. The turf growth also slows down a lot but it still needs to be cut, just not as frequently. The turf stays emerald green year round, there is no dormancy. The challenge is to find the window to cut when

the turf is not saturated and there is no standing water. Most of the crews are running at near full capacity. Golf course project work is also a common winter practice. Tree removal is an ongoing battle at any golf course and they grow some pretty healthy specimen’s of Douglas Fir and other very tall conifers that create ultra dense shading of entire holes. Many courses continue to topdress their fairways, which has been a common practice for the last ten years or more to promote firmer

soil conditions and to discourage earth worms. Of course drainage projects are revealed and implemented as the soil and turf becomes water logged.

This winter was very unusual in the PNW. They had some extended freezing weather in the single digits in December that killed many of the poa annua greens. Any turf that was weakened from the previous summer got hit hard. There were even reports of pythium outbreaks last summer, also very unusual. The normal temperature range typically doesn’t get that hot or humid. Their poa never had a chance to harden off like our

*(continued on next page)*



hardy Midwest varieties usually do. Most of the winter kill damage was on poa in shallow rooted areas on greens or weak drainage areas and along drain lines. The winter kill damage was widespread across all different kinds of courses across the entire PNW all the way up and down the coast. Very few courses were spared some sort of damage.

Joel Kachmarek at Tacoma Country Club along with many other courses lost many parts of his greens. They mow the poa pretty low (around .110" summer and .150 winter) and the short rooted, short leafed plants couldn't handle the extended freeze. He is trying to stimulate re-growth of the poa by making light frequent applications of fertilizer and raising mowing heights. Many other courses got "whacked" and are playing on temporary greens. Joel has a major sewer line project that the city is installing along the perimeter of the property. The Members are not used to the greens being anything other than perfect. Communication, outreach and a past "track record" have been critical for Joel's plans to move forward.

John Alexander at Fircrest Country in Tacoma also lost some of his greens. He just recently took over the Superintendent position so he is fortunate the green failure didn't happen on his "watch". John is taking the same curative tactics as Joel, using temporary greens as needed, light spoon

feeding, raising mowing heights and communicating the challenges. The poa will grow back like it always does. Time and patience are going to be required.

Larry Gilhuly, N.W. Regional USGA Turf Advisor has been very busy making course visits. He has been writing newsletters and trying to keep everyone informed and "calmed" that this is a regional, abnormal phenomenon and that no one did anything "wrong". Everyone is trying to figure how to prevent this problem in the future. There are no easy answers.

I attended a breakfast club meeting of a group of Superintendents from the Tacoma area. They discussed everything from disease management, fertility, winter mowing, topdressing, budget cuts and project work. The main topic of conversation was the abnormal 2009/2010 winter kill of the poa annua. I always find it amazing I can sit and talk to Superintendents from any-



where in the world and we always talk about the same stuff. That's what Turf Nerds do.

Kelly Donaldson is the Superintendent at the Home Course in Tacoma. The Home Course is a public course owned and operated by the Pacific Northwest Golf Association and the Washington Golf Association. This location is the home of the Northwest Golf House, a similar concept to our own C.D.G.A. Golf House. The Hudson Bay Company had a trading post on the site in the early 1800's. It overlooks Puget Sound. There is speculation the traders laid out a crude six hole layout around the fort. This would make it the oldest golf course west of the Mississippi. Kelly will be hosting the qualifier rounds for the U.S. Amateur being held down the road this summer at Chambers Bay. He has T-1 Bentgrass greens with very little poa invasion and interestingly enough, his greens did not sustain any damage.

Sean McDonough of Broadmoor Golf Club in Seattle took his lumps as well. His damage was more of an overall thinning of the poa as opposed to large dead areas. He is still playing on a handful of temporary greens. He says some of the clubs are starting to look at rolling out the sod cutters and replacing significant areas of greens.

Paul Collieran of The Members Club of Aldarra, a "slick" newer Tom Fazio designed course had only slight freeze damage to some of his lower drainage areas in his fairways. He still has a lot of bent in his greens. The course is located about an hour east of Seattle and has some nice, pretty rolling terrain. Aldarra features ryegrass fairways and tees, pretty much the standard for all new courses out there.

David Wienecke, Superintendent of Chambers Bay in Tacoma is gearing up for hosting the very prestigious, U.S. Amateur later this summer. It is located on a beautiful site adjacent to Puget Sound looking out toward the Olympic Peninsula. Chambers Bay is owned by Pierce County and is managed by Kemper Sports. David is working on adding a few tees, improving the practice area and removing Scotch Broom a noxious weed. Chambers Bay is a true links, public course built on an old sand/gravel mining pit. It is a Robert Trent II design, featuring fine fescue as the playing surface everywhere. It is a walking only course as the fescue is very sensitive to vehicle traffic. Chambers Bay was designed and built to host major championships. Links golf requires a different approach to playing the ground game and it will be a great challenge for the players. They are scheduled to host the U.S. Open in 2015. If you get a chance, this course is very unique and is a "must" play. You could play Chambers Bay in Tacoma and then head down the Oregon coast to play the courses at Bandon Dunes. You could play links golf without making the long overseas flight to the U.K!

Although normally the Pacific Northwest is not a typical destination for golf trip it does offer some unique possible options. It is one of the few places you can go golfing and alpine skiing in the same day. That ever present precipitation makes for a good snow base. Be forewarned, you won't find the champagne powder like you do in the Rockies; it's more like a cascade concrete. **-OC**





April 2010

THE BULL SHEET  
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

Welcome to our new members, who are:  
**Todd Zimmerman**, Aspen Ridge Golf Course, Regular  
**Doug Steeves**, Synthetic Turf of Illinois, Associate  
**William Staszak**, Cassidy Tire & Service, Associate  
**Bryan Ahern**, Cassidy Tire & Service, Associate  
**Joshua Grossman**, Great Lakes Turf, LLC, Associate  
Best of luck to you in your future endeavors with our great association!

Oh, and for the ONE person that didn't get the email, YES—Augusta National got snowed on. It was white and weird and they were really freaked out by it. And now it's gone and Augusta National is OK and The Masters will still be held there.



By the way, as a Class A, ART, or AA GCSAA member you can attend the Masters for no charge. It may be too late for this year, but in case you plan on going in the future, you can learn all the rules and regs by visiting [gcsaa.org](http://gcsaa.org). Or you may not want to spend all the money flying down there and staying in a fleabag motel for \$300 a night, now that it will be aired in 3D. In a first in sports broadcasting, the 3D broadcast will be distributed to those in the US with 3D-capable television sets and computers, thanks to a collaboration between Sony Electronics, Comcast, and IBM. Two hours per day of 3D coverage will be available. Not sure where to pick up the cool glasses though.

The International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association's Virtual Trade Show has been postponed from its originally reported dates of March 18 through 20 to May 11 through 13. Partnered with *Golfdom* magazine and major equipment manufacturers Jacobsen, John Deere, and Toro amongst others, the virtual trade show offers the opportunity to network with industry experts and research products from the comfort of your own office. For more info, contact Patrick Roberts of *Golfdom* at [proberts@questex.com](mailto:proberts@questex.com).

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- April 20-22 – LogiChem 2010 at the Hilton Hotel in Dusseldorf, Germany. It's some conference for chemical manufacturers, but it's in Dusseldorf which is fun to say. Dusseldorf.
- April 27 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Joliet Country Club in Joliet, IL, **Mark Kowaliczko** host.
- May 11-13 – International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association's (IGCEMA) Virtual Trade Show online. Please note this change of date.
- May 17 – ITF/MAGCS Spring Golf Day at Idlewild Country Club in Flossmoor, IL, **Kurt Sams, CGCS** host.
- June 5 – Sunshine Through Golf Foundation's 2nd Annual Golf Marathon at the Zigfield Troy Golf Course in Woodridge, IL, **Dennis Troy** host.
- June 14 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Elgin Country Club, **Phil Zeinert, CGCS** host.
- June 29 – 10th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing at Crystal Woods Golf Club in Woodstock, IL.

(continued on page 21)



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Condolences to **Marsha Traves** and her family on the loss of her father Ken Ferkula last month. Ken leaves behind his wife Carol, a past receptionist at Burriss Equipment, his daughter Marsha, son Ron Ferkula, daughter Michelle Quinlan, and grandson Jon Quinlan, a current Burriss employee.

It's never too soon to start planning your event schedule for the season which is now upon us. One event that is a favorite and a must-attend is the John Buck Memorial Golf Outing, which will celebrate its 10th rendition on June 29th at Crystal Woods Golf Club in Woodstock. The event was born to honor its namesake, as well as to benefit the John Buck Scholarship Fund which provides funding for the MAGCS, Northwest Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association (NWIGCSA) and the Kane County Farm Bureau scholarship programs. Be on the lookout for information on this fun and benevolent event.

Keep **Joe Hutsler** of J.W. Turf in your thoughts as he recovers from a heart attack he suffered last month. Joe was released from the hospital on March 17th, and his recovery is going very well.

Congratulations to **Andrew Perry**, formerly of Cress Creek Country Club who is the new assistant superintendent at Black Sheep Golf Club in Sugar Grove, IL (**Dave Biery** superintendent).

Pat Jones, who we all know from his days with *Golfdom* and more recently with *Golf Course Industry* magazine as a contributing writer, has a new business card. Pat was made an offer he couldn't refuse—the chance to return to the magazine business as publisher and editorial director of *Golf Course Industry* magazine. Pat's main concern is the readers of GCI, and he wants to hear from them. If you have comments, suggestions, or beefs about the content of GCI, you can contact Pat at [pjones@gie.net](mailto:pjones@gie.net) or at 330-523-5384.

MAGCS sends its sympathies to Jean and **Tim Davis** and **Jim Knulty** on the loss of Jean's and Jim's mother in late February.

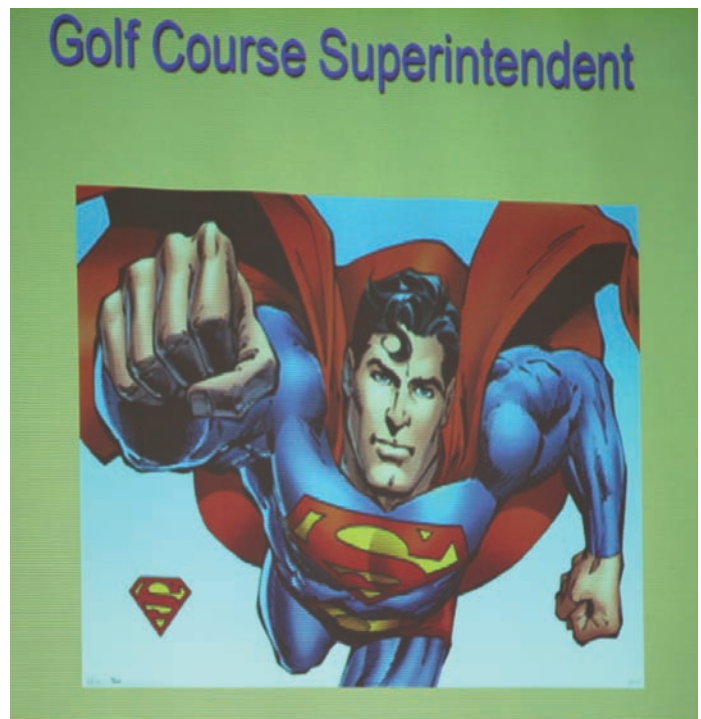
We also send our condolences to the family and friends of **Don Gerber**, the former longtime golf course superintendent of Chicago Golf Club, whose wife Lynn passed away on January 14th. Don was MAGCS president in 1962, and had been married to Lynn for 56 years.

**IN NEWS FROM ALLIED ASSOCIATIONS:**

GCSAA announced that if you were unable to attend the Golf Industry Show in San Diego, you can download conference session presentations at [gcsaa.org](http://gcsaa.org).

Cub reporter **Chuck Barber** was on hand for this year's rendition of the Chicagoland Forum, and had the following to say about this annual must-attend event: The annual Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents Forum was held on March 10th at Naperville Country Club. Many thanks to our host **Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG, NCAA, ASPCA, CPA, CMAA, AARP, WKRP** and Naperville Country Club. The day started out with **Jon Jennings, CGCS** of

Chicago Golf Club talking about the importance of annual reviews. Jon shared with us his self-evaluation that he sends a week in advance to his reviewers (greens chairs, past greens chairs and club presidents). His Powerpoint presentation included photographic records, communications with guests and members as well as some very nice background music to boot! **Bruce Williams, CGCS** with ValleyCrest Golf Course Maintenance talked to us about how to communicate effectively with new club leaders. Mr. Williams discussed the primary goal of identifying your customers, or more accurately, who you work for. He mentioned 'touches' or, chances superintendents have to speak with or interact with our customers and employers, several times. The lesson: You can never over-communicate. Timothy Financial Services spoke next about "Eight Steps to Financial Freedom". The first step: Have a lot more money than you have right now. They had ideas on how to prepare for joblessness, saving for emergencies and for retirement. **Dave Radaj, CGCS** of Green Acres Country Club talked about his interim role as General Manager and Superintendent at Green Acres from 2006 to 2008. Accepting new responsibilities has many benefits but is not without its drawbacks. Dave's presentation yielded the quote of the day as he channeled the great **Danny Quast**: "Don't let your battleship mouth out-gun your rowboat ass." After a superb lunch with many fine desserts, Paul Vermeulen, Director of Agronomy of The PGA Tour spoke at length about how the PGA Tour manages expectations of their customers. The unique nature of their customers is they are the best golfers in the world. Paul spoke about the history of the PGA Tour which was founded to generate revenue for local charities, how tour venues are set up for events, and an interesting piece about bunkers being treated as hazards on tour. Managing expectations, in the end, is a matter of communication between the superintendent and the customer. In all, it was a grand day of education Chicagoland style!

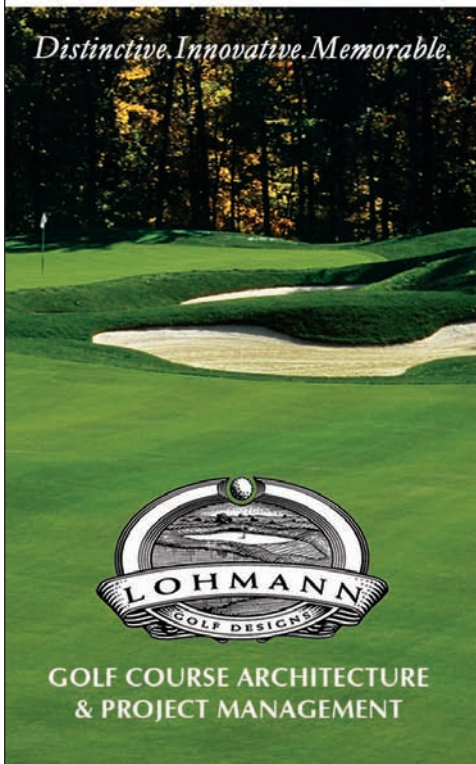


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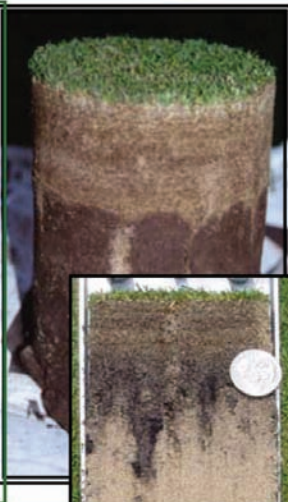


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*The best slide of the day was presented by Dave Radaj. Everyone in the room knew what he was talking about.*

The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation held its Annual Meeting on February 25th, which included its election of officers. Your new board is comprised of President **Erwin McKone**, Vice President **Keith Krause**, Secretary/Treasurer John Gurke, and Directors **Bob Dunteman**, Don Michaels, **Brian Mores**, **Josh Murray**, and **Randy Lusher**. The board thanks Tim VanLoo of Northwestern University for his service as director over the past several years as he departs for his new position at Iowa State University.

The United States Golf Association (USGA) Green Section weekly updates—which all members should be receiving electronically—have some new features, including recordings of their webcasts. If you wish, you can download such classics as “Green Section’s Favorite Gizmos, Gadgets, and Good Ideas,” or “Golfers: We Love You But Sometimes You Drive Us Crazy.” Also from USGA, as of March 1st entry applications for its three major championships—the 2010 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach Golf Links, the U.S. Women’s Open at Oakmont Country Club, and the U.S. Senior Open at Sahalee Country Club—are available online at [usga.org](http://usga.org). And finally, the last printed issue you received of *USGA Green Section Record* was the last printed issue you’ll ever receive of *USGA Green Section Record*. From now on, all future issues will be sent electronically only.

In CDGA news, our old friend Lee Miller, who headed the Interactive Turf program some years back, has accepted the position of Turfgrass Pathologist at the University of Missouri. Congratulations and best wishes to Lee. Also on the CDGA front, the annual Club Leadership Conference was held on March 6th at Medinah Country Club (**Curtis Tyrrell**, **CGCS** host). Previously called the CDGA Officers and Directors Workshop, the new name brought a new vibe to the conference, which included private club officers, PGA professionals, club managers, and golf course superintendents together in one venue for some timely discussion on the issues facing clubs in our area. Breakout group discussions were held with moderators and a panel of experts—the grounds and greens panel featured MAGCS members **Don Cross**, **CGCS** (Skokie CC), **Sam MacKenzie**, **CGCS** (Olympia Fields CC), **Luke Cella**, **CGCS** and **Dr. Derek Settle**, with exuberant Briarwood CC Green Chairman and CDGA Governor Sheldon Solow

moderating the session. The panel did an excellent job answering the questions of the audience, and explaining the fine points of how a golf course maintenance operation works. Thanks to these gentlemen for representing us in such a professional manner.

And finally, a bit about the “WE ARE GOLF” coalition that was launched at the PGA Merchandise Show and the Golf Industry Show recently. A cooperative effort between the Club Managers Association of America (CMAA), the PGA of America, the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA), and GCSAA, the coalition is looking for partners from all aspects of the industry with the common goal of enhancing golf’s stature and image at the federal, state, and local levels of government. WE ARE GOLF will make its first public appearance on the 28th of this month at the National Golf Day in Washington, D. C., and needs your help. To find out more about this new campaign, go to [www.WeAreGolf.org](http://www.WeAreGolf.org).

Congratulations to Cantigny Golf Club’s **Jeremy Duncan** on winning a Full-Pack registration to the 2011 Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FL while he was at the trade show Happy Hour in San Diego. Cantigny guys have some magic mojo when it comes to winning stuff on trade show floors I think.

If you have items of equipment that are in decent shape but just don’t fit in with your operation, there are other alternatives to parking it in the back corner of your shop and letting it become a litter box for the cat, or worse yet, outside in the elements where who-knows-what might make a home out of it. Why not consider donating it to one of our state universities that conduct research which ultimately benefits you and your employer? If you think you have something that could be of value to SIU or U of I (mowers, sprayers, topdressers, etc.), shoot an email out to **Dr. Ken Diesburg** at SIU or **Dr. Bruce Branham** at U of I before you condemn it to a life less worthy.

Kudos Department: Two of our member courses were honored recently by *Golf World* magazine, being named to its list of the nation’s Top 25 nine-hole courses. Pottawatomie Golf Course (**Denise Gillette-Parchert** superintendent) and Chicago Park District’s Sydney R. Marovitz Golf Course (managed by **Billy Casper Golf**) were both selected to this very exclusive list from the 4,430 nine-hole courses across the United States. Congratulations!

Ah March, where we go from 30’s and snow to 60’s and golf back to 30’s and snow in the span of 36 hours. It’s also the last month for those all-day education sessions where you can pile up those crazily crucial points from GCSAA. You know, the all-day, bad lunch, try-to-stay-awake-for-the-afternoon-session education that we all need and benefit from, but struggle to avail ourselves of once the golf season begins. Thankfully, we have people in our association who think outside the box, providing education and entertainment in one package. A perfect example of this occurred on Friday, March 12th, when I wonder if ANYONE had staff

*(continued on next page)*

at work. On this day, two great events took place simultaneously that both embodied this idea. The Turf Equipment Technicians Association (TETA) presented its Fifth Annual Vendor Day at the DuPage County Airport, bringing together countless vendors and attendees for a day of information exchange and camaraderie in a trade show format that included a complimentary lunch.



*Screw the mower, Colin—how much for the plane?*

On the same day, Chicagoland Turf presented its Grand Prix 2010, which combined top-notch education with a trade show featuring many of the companies whose products they represent, along with some kick-A fun and games at Chicago Indoor Racing. How does this day sound—start with a dose of Dr. Nick Christians (Iowa State University) and Dr. Roch Gausson (University of Nebraska) speaking on their latest research with the newest herbicides. Cap that with a Q and A session including the aforementioned gentlemen and USGA Green Section agronomist Bob Vavrek.



*Bob Vavrek, Roch Gaussoin, and Nick Christians*

Follow that up with a few laps around the track while bumping and bouncing off of your buddies' cars as you fly around the racecourse



*Winner—some say cheater—of the race event Michael Miracle of Exmoor*

Then, after climbing out of your race suit, head on over to the trade show complete with open bar, college basketball, and CyberGames (like jai alai on bumper cars). A great Friday in March that had something for everybody!

To follow up on last month's news that **Scott Pace** and **Kevin West** had been hired on with Rain Bird Services Corporation of Illinois/Wisconsin (RBSC), the latest news is that Northern Water Works Supply of DeKalb, IL will serve as the warehousing and distributing company for Rain Bird irrigation products as well as offering multiple industry related products for sale. They're in the book.

So what does a guy who's hosted majors, achieved certified status with GCSAA and is a Master Greenkeeper with BIGGA do for fun? If you're **Steve Cook, CGCS, MG** (Oakland Hills CC), you climb to the 14,411-foot summit of Mt. Rainier in Washington. Steve accomplished this feat last summer, understatedly calling it "physically very difficult." Ya think?

So the Golf Marathon was so much fun and so successful last year, it now gets "Annual" added to its name. The Second Annual Sunshine Through Golf Foundation Golf Marathon will be held on June 5th at the Zigfield Troy Golf Course in Woodridge, IL with tee times from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm. This event is much like a walk-a-thon whereby golfers volunteer to play 100 holes of golf in one day for pledges. The event can accommodate 44 players, and benefits people with special needs through the game of golf. Our own **Luke Cella** is participating in the event again and will welcome any pledges from you. Last year he shot 333 with only one birdie, on the last hole. I heard he's even taking side bets that he's going to better his score. If you would like to participate in the event, sponsor or place a bet, you can contact Luke at [luke@magcs.org](mailto:luke@magcs.org) or call 630-243-7900.

Great job to everyone involved in this year's Class C Winter Workshop, which was held at Midwest Golf House on the 24th of February. Superintendents: Your assistants NEED to be at this event, and you might learn a thing or two by attending as well. For more about this year's workshop, read **Chuck Anfield's** wrap-up in this issue.

Ray Gerber, former editor of this magazine, had some interesting thoughts on the future of our business. Forty years ago this month, Ray's editorial in Bull Sheet was titled "Ye Gods, What Have We Done?" and had the following observations, many of which we are still talking about today: "Fairway watering will be a thing of the past because of lack of water. Green watering might be tolerated, however, because it is necessary to the game. We will see a sharp cutback in fertilization as we know it since it will be needed for food production. Most of our pesticides will be outlawed due to ecological effects. The use of internal combustion engines will be severely limited. And finally, I differ with most in that I think labor will be abundant and cheap, this includes superintendents."

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**Equipment For Sale:** Another way to ease your budgets is to take a look at these fabulous offerings from your fellow superintendents:

- Park Ridge Country Club has the following items on the block: 1 Jacobsen LF 3400 Fairway Mower, year 2000, 3916 hours, asking \$4,900 OBO; 1 Ryan GA-60 Aerifier, year 2000, 261 hours, asking \$2,500 OBO; 1 Ford 250C Diesel Tractor with torque converter transmission, 1650 hours, asking \$8,000 OBO; 1 Ford 231 Tractor, 7137 hours, asking \$3,500 OBO. Call **Nick Marfise** at 708-224-8829 for details.
- Lincolnshire Country Club is selling a Tycrop MH400 Material Handler with only 20 hours of use, in excellent condition, with conveyer belt attachment included. Give **Brian Racette** or Harry a call at 708-672-5709 for information.
- A first-time-ever for this magazine. White Pines Golf Course has a Package Sewage Treatment Plant for sale. This is a membrane bioreactor package treatment plant with ultraviolet disinfection system and a 10,000-gallon per day capacity. It is a compact alternative to septic systems and aeration/settlement ponds. Equipment is housed in a modular concrete building with a 30'x8' footprint, and is manufactured by Enviroquip of Austin, Texas. It was originally installed in the fall of 2005 at a cost of \$300,000. The asking price is \$150,000. Contact **Steve Partyka** at 630-768-0906 or email him at partykasteve@yahoo.com.

- Bryn Mawr Country Club has the following items for sale: 1990 Ryan GA-60 aerifier with low hours; 1993 MP1100 160-gallon Toro sprayer with computer controls; 2005 electric Salsco greens rollers with 1392 hours. All items are in very good condition and are ready to use. Call Brian at 847-677-4112.
- Indian Hill Club offers these beauties for sale: 1993-ish Jacobsen Turfcats 422D with 72" deck, runs well; a 1997 3-wheel Cushman truckster 27HP water-cooled engine with GA-60 controls mounted; a 1992 Ryan GA-60 aerifier that runs well; and a Turfcot F12D Belt Topdresser with a 6' chevron belt. All offers considered and likely accepted. Call Dave at 847-528-6656.

MAGCS new member, Cassidy Tire & Service invites you to their Open House on April 20, 2010. 8 am to 6 pm, 200 S. Church St., Addison, IL Visit their website, cassidytire.com to see all the details of the day and to register or call (630)-620-2300 for more information. **-OC**

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## EDUCATION RECAP

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



# Assistants Workshop

*I attended this year's Class C, Assistants Winter Workshop held at the Golf House, in Lemont. I came away from the day long education very impressed. It was well organized and had pertinent information that any Assistant Golf Course Superintendent (or any Golf Course Superintendent) could use for pursuing their career. The whole day was planned, organized and conducted by the Members of the Class C Association. I must say it was very professional and informative, great job guys.*

Luke Cella started the day out with a very entertaining, interactive video presentation titled "Congratulations, You got the Interview, Don't Blow It". Luke used a staged video to show some of the dos and don'ts of how to conduct yourself during an interview. Luke (Oscar material) acted as the interviewee and Scott Witte (don't quit your day job) acted as the Interviewer. Luke stopped and started the video to answer questions and make key points. It was humorous and informative.

Some of Luke's major points included:

- The purpose of the interview is the last piece of the puzzle to see if you are the right fit for the Club.
- Preparation is very important. Do you have what it takes? Do your homework.
- Find out everything you can about the Club.
- Who else can you speak with to get information? (value of networking)
- First impressions are critical. Present yourself well: neat, courteous.
- Be prepared to talk about yourself. What have you done? What can you do?
- What is unique about you? Why do you want this job?
- During the interview stay focused.
- Know why you are there, if you don't want the job, you shouldn't be there.
- Stay positive, don't speak poorly of others.
- Choose words carefully, avoid trite sayings.
- Be honest and sincere.
- Use good posture; sit up straight, use eye contact.
- Stay calm.
- Why should we hire you?
- What would your present boss say about you?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses? Use concrete examples of how they mesh with Club. They want to know what is wrong with you. Don't offer any large character flaws. Turn negatives around into positives.

*(continued on next page)*



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- Can you take criticism and directions? Can you answer specific questions?
- This is your time to sell yourself, know it, practice it, and sell it.

In closing:

- Ask what is the next step in the selection process?
- Leave them with a solid impression of you.
- Thank them for their time and opportunity.
- Be enthusiastic, not aggressive.

Luke cited "10 Mistakes of Interviewees".

- Don't prepare properly
- Don't dress appropriately
- Don't ask pertinent questions
- Not being polite to everyone
- Showing arrogance
- Don't speak enough, too quiet
- Don't know your own facts on resume
- Being disinterested
- Badmouthing past employees
- Don't follow up on interview

The next part of the education featured a "lively" panel discussion of recent Assistant Superintendents who have made the jump to Superintendent Positions. This format always provides some of the best information. The panel was moderated by Nick Walters of Park Ridge Country Club and featured Michael Huestis, Chicago Highlands, James Canning, White Eagle Golf Club, Scott Vincent, Onwentsia Club and Kyle Jacobsen of Twin Orchard Country Club.

The panelists all had several things in common: (1) They were all in their early 30's (2) Were willing to relocate around the country to work at top Clubs (3) Had a range of diverse experiences (4) Had mentors of whom they were grateful to have helped developed their career paths.

These guys were great! They were very candid and enthusiastic about sharing their past experiences and were willing to answer all questions. They all had something positive to say about their long road to the top. The Assistants who were fortunate enough to be able to attend the session got a great dose of what it takes to "make it to the next level". These guys have clearly "paid their dues".

Their advice was:

- Your current boss needs to know your intentions for the future. Look for a future boss who will be supportive of these goals and be willing to make calls on your behalf.
- Work at different Clubs, for different Superintendents.
- Focus on the endpoint. Have a specific time frame and goals for current position.
- Think like a Superintendent, separate yourself from other workers.
- Networking is HUGE. This is instrumental for future contacts.
- Staying at one Club too long and getting too comfortable can be a mistake.
- Be proactive, keep an ear out for new jobs, and build relationships.
- Competition for jobs is FIERCE. Not for the shy or timid.

- You must love politics. They are a large part of a job.
- Use technology. Have a home page. Document projects.
- You never who may be your future employer. Many members have multiple memberships.
- Be determined to "win" the job.
- Tour the prospective course, request USGA Reports and past budgets.
- During the interview process, be prepared, be a "politician".
- Go slow in a starting a new job. Be sensitive to existing crew and techniques.

The panel spent a lot of time taking questions from the attendees. For Assistant Superintendents, this really was a "must be there" presentation. It was hard not to be impressed with this Class C Group. There was a lot of energy in the room. There were over 50 attendees and at least 35 of them being Assistant Superintendents. They really had their act together. The entire day was very professional. These "young lions" will be great future leaders of the industry. They are hungry and they eat meat. To reuse the PGA Tour catch phrase, "these guys are good".

The rest of the afternoon was spent in networking and playing "getting to know you" games. It was a fun and informative day. **-OC**

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# Playin' By The Rules

*I have always been a huge Doobie Brothers fan and look back fondly on all their concerts I attended years ago. From Alpine Valley to the old Chicago Amphitheater, that chest pounding music will never be forgotten. The other memory included that smell in the air. Talk about that "fresh smell of grass," you only needed to sit back and hold on tight!*

My favorite "Doobie" has always been Michael McDonald. The "Silver Fox" (as he has been called) had a great run with the band and also a great solo career. One of his solo efforts was titled "Playin' by the Rules." One of the lines from the title track is "every fool's got to learn he's got nothing to lose playin' by the rules."

We all try to go through each day following a given set of rules that have been laid out for us. My wife Sue calls me "speed limit" due to the fact that I always seem to be following that "rule of the road" that you should not speed. On occasion though, I am like Sammy Hagar "I can't drive 55" (don't tell me wife).

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents follows a "set of rules" that have been established by the GCSAA. As in year's past, the GCSAA'S code of ethics will be published in our Midwest directory. As part of the chapter agreement with the GCSAA, the MAGCS is asked to abide by the code of ethics set forth by our national association. Please take a moment to read them when you receive your 2010 directory. I also feel it is important to follow a few "rules of being a superintendent" on your own.

If you are going to be at a given golf facility, either to play golf or to look at a project, give the superintendent onsite a call ahead of time to let him or her know you are going to be there on a given day. That's not only a rule but also common courtesy!

If you have a member or golfer at a course who contacts you about a project they may want to do, let the golf course superintendent at his or her club know that you had been contacted by this person.

I heard a story years ago from my "second Dad" Albie Staudt. He told me that a member at his club contacted another local superintendent. The member asked that he stop by and look things over when Albie wasn't around. Albie explained to me, this occurred during a time when the club was not giving Albie much of a budget to get the job done. This information was never relayed to the visiting superintendent and nearly broke Albie's heart.

We should all realize that any given code of ethics is not a legal document but a moral document (thanks to one of the Past Presidents for that statement). Our association has been around for a long time and continues to be one of the best in the nation. Let's all try to "play by the rules" and keep the MAGCS as a model association for other groups to follow.

As Past Presidents Council Chairman I would like to thank all those that attended our annual meeting on March 2, 2010: Myself, Scott Witte CGCS, Dan Sterr, Bob Kohlstedt, Dave Braasch, Luke Strojny CGCS, Bob Maibusch CGCS MG, Al Fierst, Don Ferreri, Tim Kelly, Kevin DeRoo, Joel Purpur CGCS, Tim Anderson CGCS, MG, Tony Kalina and Luke Cella.

This meeting occurs every year to review our Association's current and planned activities, and to offer insight, hindsight, and foresight, to the current leadership. I am privileged to sit among those men. **-OC**

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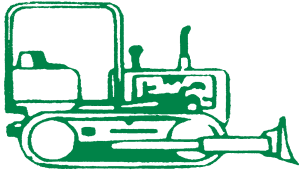
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