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July 2010

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**FRONT COVER**

Seven Bridges Golf Club par 3 15th green complex pictured from the adjacent bridge. Seven Bridges was the site of the MAGCS January meeting in 2010, hosted by Don Ferreri.  
*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.

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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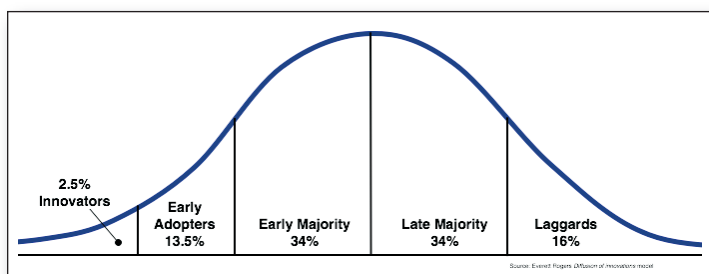
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# Early Adopter

*I ordered an Apple iPad the first day I could. I'm not sure why, but I did (a reason that socioeconomics professors call irrational behavior). I even ordered the 3G model (which allows me Internet access over 3G cellular networks around the world) and had to wait an extra month for it to arrive. I'll admit it was a painful month, because my brother-in-law brought his iPad to the house every chance he had while I waited for mine to ship. When my 3G Apple iPad finally arrived, I wasn't disappointed.*

This action of ordering an iPad the first day I could placed me in a group known as early adopters. When any type of innovation is introduced, not everyone jumps on the bandwagon at the same time. It first starts with the innovators. Those that create something and put it out there – then the early adopters get a hold of it and put it through the mill, followed by the early majority, late majority and finally the laggards. This whole process was put into terms in 1962 by an innovator, Everett M. Rogers in his textbook *Diffusion of Innovations*. It is a theory of how, why and at what rate new ideas and technology spread throughout cultures. The theory is of interest as an innovator because it helps to explain why it seems to take so long for innovations become accepted.



*Adoption of any innovation roughly follows this curve.*

Each golf course superintendent is an innovator. Some more than others, but each of you have tried something new on your property, streamlined an operation, or made a task more efficient. An innovator is a person who is the first to do something that may open a new area for others and achieves an innovation. An innovation can take on many different forms, but in a general sense, it brings about a positive change. Innovators are willing to take risks, often youngest in age, very social and have the closest contact to scientific sources and interaction with other innovators. An innovator is often linked to a pioneer, no matter what the field of study. These people are responsible for the application

of innovation and start the whole process of change.

The early adopter is the second fastest group who grab onto an innovation. They are usually young in age, are social, have advanced education and have a high degree of *opinion leadership* among the rest of the adoptee categories. Opinion leadership is defined as “leaders who are influential in spreading either positive or negative information about an innovation (Rogers, 1962)”. The next category, the early majority adopter will wait a significant amount of time before putting their arms around an innovation. They pay attention to innovation, but need reassurance before adoption from the early adopter, and this happens after time has passed. The late majority are often very skeptical and adopt after the average member of society. The laggards, often the oldest of any group, are the last to adopt an innovation. They are focused on tradition and are not often social beyond family and close friends.

Understanding this concept of innovation diffusion can be important when trying to roll out a new idea, concept, plan or process because it can help you identify the key players. Most agree for an innovation to take off, the first two groups (innovators and early adopters) are the most important ones. The innovators must be willing to try new ideas and not fear failure or setbacks, and not be afraid of stepping out of a comfort zone within social networks. Early adopters put the word out about the innovation, whether good or bad, and because of this are respected within their realm of peer networks. Early adopters are “the ones to check with” before using a new product or idea. If the innovation doesn't get past the early adopter, it is dead and won't make it any of the next categories. This day in age the time gap between the early adopter and the early majority taking hold of an innovation is lessened because of our advanced methods of communication.

Adoption of an innovation is a five step process that takes time. One must first have *knowledge* of the innovation or be exposed or aware of it. In the second step the person is

*(continued on next page)*

*persuaded* to actively seek out information about it. Next the adopter must *decide* whether to adopt or not adopt weighing the entire pros and cons of the innovation. If accepted, the adopter will begin to *implement* the innovation through use followed by *confirmation* to continue to use the innovation to its fullest potential.

As a golf course superintendent/innovator you can understand the importance of the early adopter and their reach to those within their realm. It is important to educate the early adopter and to let them form their own conclusion so they may share it with others. The greater acceptance they have of your innovation, the quicker and easier it will be for you to make positive changes at your property.

Sent from my iPad. - lc -OC



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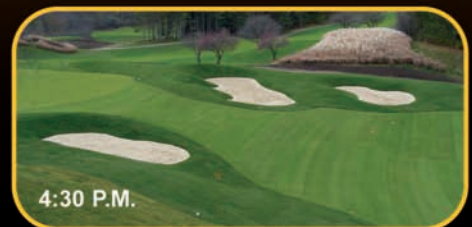
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## FEATURE I

Colin White, *Gruenmann Turf*

# Quality Used Turf Equipment: Creating Options for Superintendents



*In a perfect world, every Superintendent would have a blank sheet and sufficient budget to develop a capital plan that assures the highest of standards, regardless of cost. However, for most, the world is not perfect.*

Our present reality, of having to do more with less, requires another look at some practices that may not have been desirable in the past, including the purchase of used machinery. Equipment prices have increased at a dramatically higher rate than inflation for many years. Machinery prices are up at a time when the industry is awash with economic challenges. Something has to give, and quality used turf equipment is an increasingly viable option for many.

On the positive side, Superintendents who consider used equipment have a wider array of choices than in the past. For this, we can thank the ever helpful banking industry. Thanks to financial innovation and favorable tax treatment, courses in many parts of the country have transitioned from direct ownership or capital leasing (ex. dollar buy-out at end of lease term) to operating leases. An operating lease works similarly to a car lease. Equipment ownership reverts to the leasing company or dealer at the end of a three to five year term. Most of these machines find their way back to market at the end of the lease. In comparison to the past, when used machines were found mainly in bone yard operations, we now have a steady supply of machines of all shapes, sizes, and conditions, usually with about four or five seasons of use.

While it is correct to assume that many of these machines have been reasonably maintained, a minority are gems, and a few lemons are hiding among the rest.

How to get the best and avoid the rest? A few basic steps can help greatly.

**Inspection:** The course equipment technician should be very involved in establishing three standards: proper operation of every system and control; confirming that the machine had

routine lubrication and servicing; and confirming the integrity of the most costly components: frame, engine, and drivetrain.

Among operational checks, function of safety interlocks is often overlooked.

For past maintenance practices, wear should be appropriate for machine age and hours of use. Is the wear and tear consistent with proper maintenance practices? Are lift arm bushings tight? Are there signs of abnormal or abusive wear? Do lift arms carry a static load? Do hydraulic lines appear in good condition, etc?

Engine and drivetrain tests can range from simply checking for proper operation to engine compression and pump pressure tests.

While it is difficult to check every single facet, a good inspection will lead to a decision on whether the machine has been reasonably maintained and on whether the major components are in good shape.

**Cosmetics:** Does the machine look its age? Foot beds rarely lie. A 200-hour machine does not have

the paint wear in foot beds of a 3000-hour machine. Heavily sun faded surfaces may indicate prolonged outdoor storage. Many reputable resellers make a practice of repainting entire components, but selective spot repainting may be an attempt to conceal rust or other damage.

### **What the supplier has done to the machine:**

The supplier should have a rigorous inspection process that documents in detail what has been done to each machine. The technician can then verify the supplier's report. Vague answers from the supplier are a red flag. Some of the industry jargon can be misleading. For instance, 'reel and roller bearings have been gone through' only means that they have been

*(continued on page 7)*





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checked and are working, it does not mean they have all been replaced. 'Refurbished' means something different to nearly every supplier. Each can answer differently when ask what it means in relation to their machines.

Support after you buy: Do you have a strong sense that the supplier will stand behind the machine and you after you buy it, whether through a written warranty, a handshake agreement, or their reputation? Do they provide customer references you can talk to and trust? Does the 'national' reseller in the trade magazines have as much stake in supporting you as local suppliers do? While many of the national resellers are very reputable, it may be difficult to get timely service from someone hundreds of miles away.

Next is how much to pay. As with cars, turf maintenance machines depreciate most rapidly during their first few years. A rule of thumb for a machine in good condition is that about 40-60% of the original value is lost after four to five years and 1200-1500 hours of use. Then depreciation slows. Once the hours exceed 2000, and particularly beyond 3000 hours, depreciation accelerates again. In our climate, with 300-400 hours of use per season, good quality four-year machines can be purchased at about half the price of new.



How does this add up? The math works differently for every club and situation. What is common to all is that good used equipment can create options for the Superintendent and his club. For example, a Superintendent may contemplate a budgeted capital purchase of \$25,000. He may buy a new machine for \$25,000. But if he decides to spend only half of that on a used machine, he now has new options: additional capital purchases to reach \$25,000; or redeployment of some of the \$12,500 saved into operating expenses; or simply not spending the money saved. In our present reality, creating options can be critically important.

Whether used turf machines are right for you is your decision alone. Equipment resellers provide you with a middle ground between paying for a new machine and being unable to purchase what you need. Concerns about machine quality and support can be addressed by evaluating both the machine and the supplier. In the end, quality used equipment is another option for Superintendents and their clubs to consider when economizing in today's business environment. **-OC**

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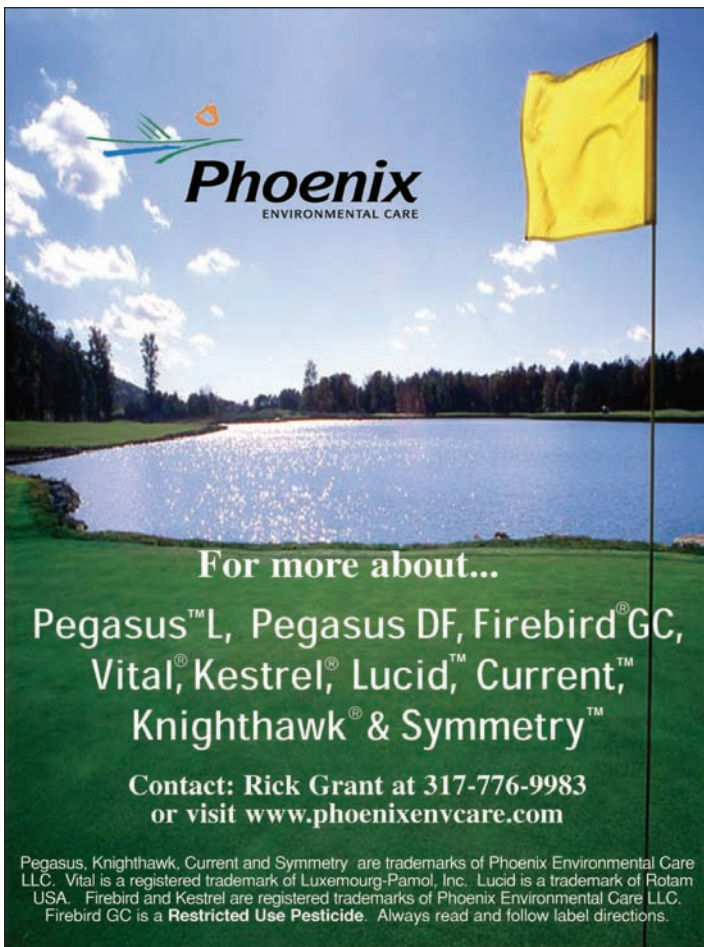
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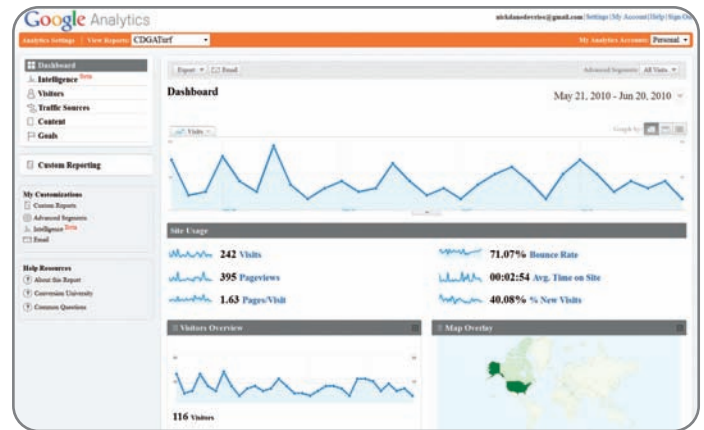
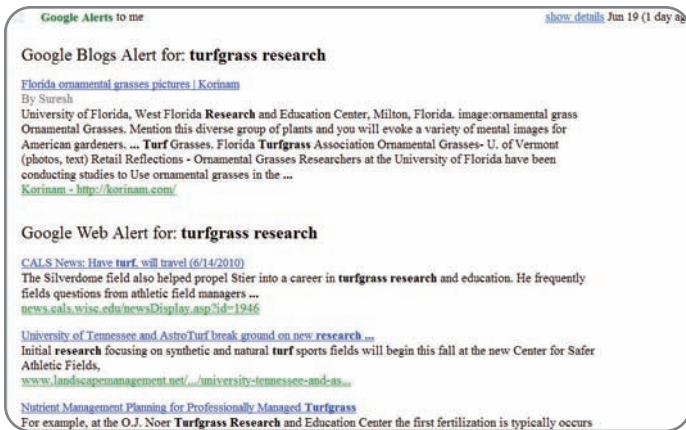
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If having your company's name added to the English dictionary isn't enough, Google has also earned recognition from Fortune magazine as the best place to work in the United States. Google is best known for its informal corporate culture that creates a healthy environment for creative minds to succeed. High employee morale is achieved through offering amenities including rock climbing, foosball tables, and a workout gym all at the corporate office. But all this pampering has paid off because Google employees have produced some very innovative web tools. Tools that benefit everyone from the Craigslist bargain shopper to search engine optimizers – and you can use them all for free.



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Google Alerts is a tool that gives you email updates on the latest relevant Google results (web, news, blog posts, etc.) based on your choice of query or topic. Alerts allow you to know instantly when any content hits the web containing the keywords you select. Use Google Alerts to monitor a developing news story, keep current on a competitor and/or industry, get the latest on a celebrity or event, and keep tabs on your favorite sports teams.

I also think it is smart to use your name or your business name as a search term. By doing this you will be the first to know when anything on the web is created about you or your organization. If you are interested in search engine optimization – aka ranking higher in a Google search – then you can use alerts to see how aggressively competing websites are targeting keywords that you are interested in.

To get started using Google Alerts visit [google.com/alerts](http://google.com/alerts).

## Google Analytics

Google Analytics is another free tool that gives statistics and other useful information about the visitors to your blog or website. It is easy to setup and you only need a Google email account to get started. There is an education section filled with videos and seminars on how to get started, but in reality, the statistics and user interface is pretty self explanatory.

For anyone that uses reciprocal linking as a means of search engine optimization – Google Analytics can be used to see if your reciprocal links are active and also how much traffic is driven from sites that refer to your site. For example, through Google Analytics I found out that the Greens Department at Naperville Country Club linked to the CDGA Turfgrass website on their blog – [www.napervilleccgrounds.blogspot.com](http://www.napervilleccgrounds.blogspot.com) – Dap to Tim and Steve! Google Analytics also informed me that the largest website to drive traffic to [www.cdगतurf.com](http://www.cdगतurf.com) is our twitter account ([twitter.com/CDGATurf](http://twitter.com/CDGATurf)). Seeing this statistic was very reassuring to me because I sometimes feel like Twitter is a waste of time.

(continued on page 11)

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Below is some additional information you can receive about the visitors to your website for FREE using Google Analytics\*.

- Browsers – Internet Explorer - 60%, Firefox - 35%, Safari - 4%, Chrome - 2%
- Screen Resolution - 1024x768 - 18.5%, 1280x960 – 15%, 1280 x 1024 – 12%
- Traffic sources
- Direct - 60%
- Referring Sites – 21%
- Search Engine – 19%
- Mobile Devices – iPad - 50%, iPhone – 25%, Android – 25%

\*These statistics were taken from visitors to the CDGA Turfgrass website.

Visit [google.com/analytics](http://google.com/analytics) to get started.



## Google Reader and RSS

**Real Simple Syndication (RSS)** is a way to easily view headlines, updates, and content from multiple websites in one location. An RSS Feed is what you subscribe to on a website to receive notifications when new content has been posted. Blogs are the most common RSS feeds because they are constantly updated with new posts. RSS serves two major functions: to inform you as soon as new content has been posted and to present the information in a standard format.

**RSS Readers.** An RSS Reader or Aggregator is a computer program that works on your behalf to watch for new content on websites you care about. When something new is posted on a website you have subscribed to, the aggregator will display a notification that includes the article title, short description, and link. This allows you to quickly glance through multiple headlines and move on if you are not interested. Let's say for example you have ten websites that you like to read on a frequent basis. You could visit each website one at a time to maybe find new content, or you could subscribe to the RSS feeds on those websites (if they have them) and receive notifications when fresh material has been posted.

**Craigslist and RSS.** Anyone that uses Craigslist knows that the best deals on everything from apartments to electronics go to the person that replies first to a listing. When making a big decision like where you are going to live or what you are going to drive – you want the upper hand right? That is why Craigslist adding a RSS feed to their search results page is such a big deal. It means that you no longer have to search again and again for new listings; the results can come right to you. Search

Craigslist for what you are looking for just as usual, but when the results are created click the RSS link tucked in the lower right corner to get matches sent straight to your aggregator.

Some search feeds that I made include:

- Vinyl for under \$5 in Chicago
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- Free stuff in Downers Grove
- One bedroom apartments with hardwood floors and a view for under \$1200 in Chicago

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# Joint Restraints versus Thrust Blocks for System Fortification

*When considering an irrigation design and a budget to match, one of the items that always comes under fire is whether to use joint restraints or thrust blocks. On the surface, a joint restraint system appears to be a premium – especially if your focus is material cost. However, if one takes the time to survey site soils and contractor installation capabilities, material costs become a smaller part of the installation price.*

Let's view it from a different perspective. Contractors generally look at the total cost of installation, not just the price of material to perform their installation. With a thrust block system, items that *won't* show up on a BOM (Bill of Material) are usually the incidentals – like concrete and the labor needed to install the thrust block. Those costs can vary significantly.

Remember, when truly considering the total cost of installation, the aforementioned "premium" for a joint restraint system in some cases isn't as costly as it seems. Less time and labor might be required for an effective installation that's immediately testable and operational.

When working through your irrigation design budget, ensure that you've gathered sufficient site information and investigated the marketplace to make sound fiscal decisions. Moreover, when making the specific decision of a joint restraint or a thrust block system consider the following:

## **Thrust Block Cons:**

- A properly designed thrust block involves much more than dumping a load of concrete behind a bend. The design involves consideration of undisturbed soil, soil-bearing strength, test pressure, pipe size, fitting configuration and trench depth to determine the actual bearing area of the thrust block.
- The bearing strength of the soil is expressed in pounds-per-square-foot. Therefore, the area behind the thrust block must engage enough soil area to resist the resultant thrust force at a particular change in direction.
- Tremendous thrust forces are involved: 27,000 pounds of force can be exerted by some fittings at 150 psi. Such forces and more created by pressure surges could potentially move a thrust block, even in hard soils.
- Thrust blocks, which are typically dimensioned or engineered on a plan, are difficult to quantify during inspection in accordance with the plan due to various conditions that apply to every thrust block required.

*(continued on next page)*



*Joint restraints may cost more on paper but can be buried and tested immediately after installation without having to wait for any concrete to cure.*

**Joint Restraint Pros**

- A properly designed, restrained pipeline uses the bearing strength and frictional resistance of the soil to turn the pipeline into a thrust block.
- Parameters are pipe size, pipe type, test pressure, fitting type, trench type, depth of bury, soil type and safety factors.
- The use of joint restraints allows the pipeline to be restrained, buried and tested without waiting for concrete to cure. This eliminates the need to leave trenches open for extended periods of time. The water can be turned on as soon as the restraint is set.
- Joint restraints have been used successfully for more than 25 years in water works, municipality and utility systems.

The force of water accelerating through irrigation piping can take its toll on an irrigation system. Even at controlled velocities, surge pressures pounding against fittings day-in and day-out can destroy faulty fortification and quickly or, over time, render your system unreliable at best.

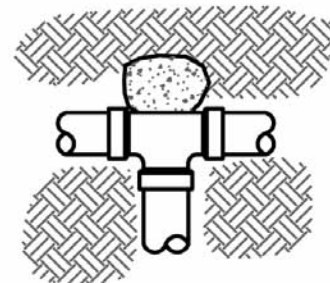
The two most common problems with every irrigation system installation are related to pipe fittings and wire splices. When considering thrust block versus joint restraint within your particular budget, be aware that, on average, joint restraints are going to cost 5 percent more in materials than thrust blocks. But weigh-in the total cost of installation and the potential for error before you decide whether or not it's really worth value engineering the joint restraints. **-OC**



ELL



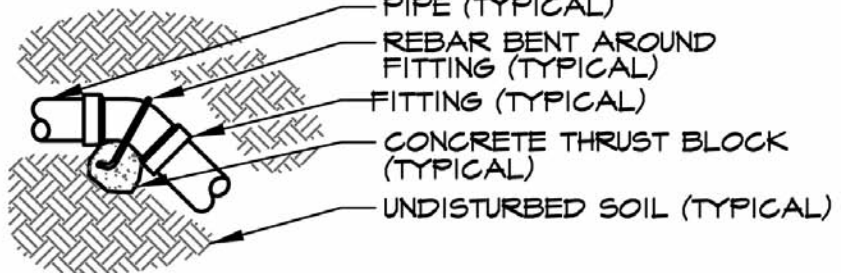
CROSS



TEE



45° ELL



45° ELL



WYE

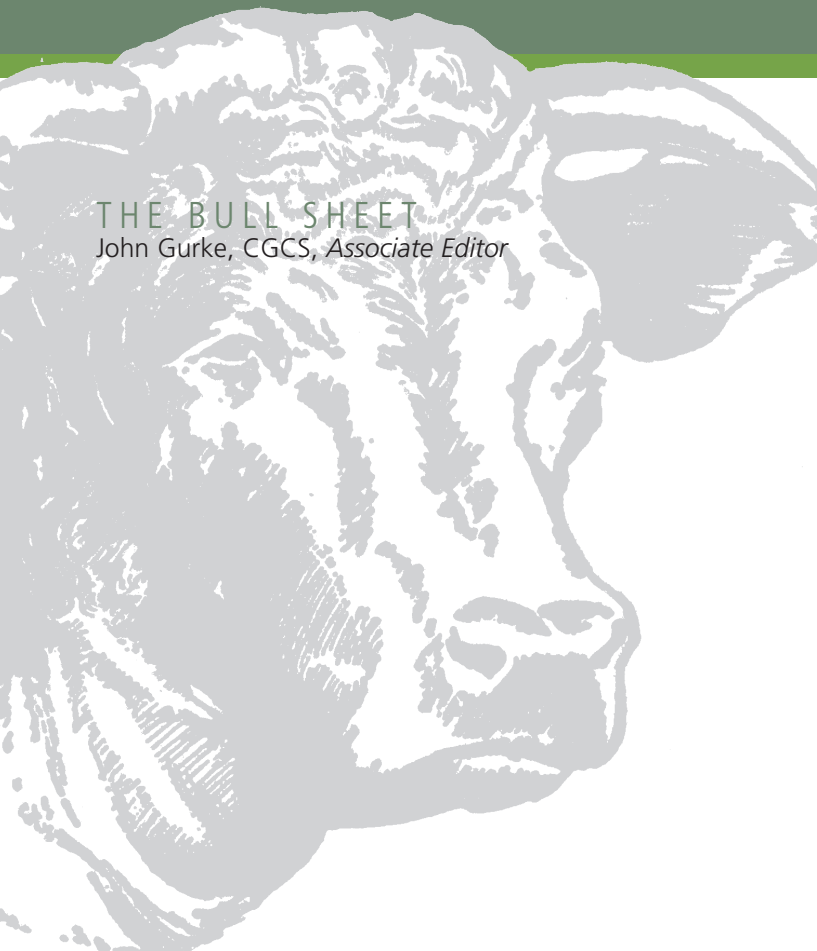
**NOTES:**

ALL MAINLINE AND LATERAL CHANGE OF DIRECTION THAT ARE TRENCHED OR OPENED SHALL RECEIVE THRUST BLOCKING OR JOINT RESTRAINTS. - SEE THRUST BLOCKING TABLE FOR BEARING STRENGTH. FURTHERMORE ANY SOILS NOT STABLE FOR ADEQUATE THRUST BLOCKING, SAID FITTINGS MUST UTILIZE JOINT RESTRAINTS AT NO ADDITIONAL COST TO OWNER. IT IS ULTIMATELY THE CONTRACTORS RESPONSIBILITY TO INSTALL THE APPROPRIATE APPLICATION TO ENSURE THAT THE FITTING OR VALVE DOES NOT MOVE FROM A OUTWARD DEFLECTION.

# THRUST BLOCK

SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

*A properly installed thrust block must take into account the soil type, soil-bearing strength, pipe size, test pressure, trench depth and as outlined in the drawing, the fitting configuration.*



THE BULL SHEET  
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

# July 2010

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- July 5-11 – 2010 John Deere Classic at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, IL.  
.....
- July 8 – J. W. Turf/John Deere Field Day at Bryn Mawr Country Club in Lincolnwood, IL, **Brian Bossert, CGCS** host.  
.....
- July 17 – Annual MAGCS Kane County Cougars Game and Family Picnic at Elfstrom Field in Geneva, IL.  
.....
- July 22-24 – Illinois Women's Open State Championship at Mistwood Golf Club in Romeoville, IL, **Ben Kelnhofer** and **Tony Smith** hosts.  
.....
- July 26 – ITF Outing at Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Club in Rockford, IL, **Scott White** and **Gordon Watson** hosts.  
.....
- July 26 – Deadline for nominations for the GCSAA Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award.  
.....
- July 27 – Wisconsin Turfgrass Association's Summer Field Day at the O. J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education facility in Verona, WI. Go to [www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org](http://www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org) for more info.  
.....
- July 30 – Deadline for submissions for TurfNet's 2011 "Superintendent's Best Friend Calendar" presented by BASF.  
.....
- July 31 – Deadline for applications for the fifth annual Green Start Academy presented by John Deere and Bayer Environmental Science. More on this only if you read on. So read on.  
.....
- August 2 – Deadline to submit entries to the "Dog Days of Golf" calendar sponsored by Lebanon Turf.  
.....
- August 2-7 – 108th Western Amateur Championship at Skokie Country Club in Glencoe, IL, **Don Cross, CGCS**, **Steve Jump**, and **Chuck Totten** hosts.  
.....
- August 11 – Ohio State University Turfgrass Research Field Day in Columbus, OH. Information is available at [www.ohioturfgrass.org](http://www.ohioturfgrass.org).  
.....
- August 21 – The bigpar3 contest at as many courses in the Chicagoland area as possible.

Let's us just get this out of the way right now. The Stanley Cup is alive and well and residing in Chicago! Congratulations to the Chicago Blackhawks on winning the most difficult trophy to win in all of sport.



*Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane show off Lord Stanley's Cup during the victory rally*

Recent moves (aside from Patrick Kane's head fakes before scoring that Cup winner): **Andrew Cross**, former assistant at Exmoor CC is now assistant superintendent at Lake Shore CC. **Nick Hillyard**, former assistant at Lake Shore CC is now superintendent at Hawthorn Woods CC. **Valerie Lawrence**, former superintendent at Marquette Park GC is now superintendent at Columbus Park GC. **Ben Taylor**, former assistant at Chicago Highlands Club is now super-

*(continued on page 17)*





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intendent at Country Lakes Village GC. Congratulations and best of luck to all of these folks in their new endeavors. And I promise—no more Blackhawks references. But they DID win the Stanley Cup.

Hey! Get online now and sign your facility up for the **bigpar3** to be held on August 21st. This thing can be really huge if you take the ten seconds to go to [www.bigpar3.com](http://www.bigpar3.com) and check it all out.

Mark Woodward, we hardly knew ya. After a quick cup of coffee as GCSAA's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Woodward announced he was stepping down on June 22nd effective immediately to pursue other interests. By the time you read this I'm sure there will be a story. In the meantime, Chief Operating officer Rhett Evans will serve as interim CEO.

The fifth annual Green Start Academy will take place from September 29th through October 1st at the Bayer Development and Training Center in Clayton, NC and John Deere's Turf Care manufacturing facility in Fuquay-Varina, NC. What is it? It's an opportunity for 50 select assistant superintendents to gather and have access to lectures, round table discussions, tours of manufacturing facilities, and networking opportunities. John Deere Golf and Bayer Environmental Science have tapped some of the industry's most accomplished superintendents and academic experts to conduct the event this year, and all assistants are welcome to apply. To do so, go to (wow—five 2-letter words in a row) [www.BackedbyBayer.com/GreenStartAcademy](http://www.BackedbyBayer.com/GreenStartAcademy) and answer one of the two essay questions. But act quickly—the deadline for applications is July 31st. Good luck!

Oopsy daisy—in May I incorrectly identified the new arrival on the Interactive Turf scene as Tom Sibicky. I was WAY wrong! Please welcome TIM Sibicky to the dedicated team of professionals at Golf House. Sorry Tim. Tim SibOcky. Kidding—it really is Tim Sibicky.

Orchard Valley Golf Club and Superintendent **Matt Senatra** were hosts to a very special guest on June 28th. Legendary golfer Billy Casper, owner of 51 PGA victories dropped by for the 16th Annual Golf for Kids Benefit Outing, meeting and greeting golfers and giving out autographed photos while recounting a few of his favorite memories including his 1966 U. S. Open victory over Arnold Palmer. Now 79, Casper is a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame, the PGA Hall of Fame, and is Golf Digest's 15th greatest golfer of all time, and still remains involved in growing the game through charitable causes benefiting young golfers.

Our industry lost one of its more renowned figures when **Dr. Malcolm Shurtleff** passed away on May 29th at his home in Pearland, Texas at the age of 87. Dr. Shurtleff began his career in academia as an assistant extension professor of plant pathology at the University of Rhode Island in 1950, and continued to in the capacity of extension professor at Iowa State University from 1954 to 1961 and then at the University of Illinois from then until his retirement in 1992. He was a prolific writer and a great resource for folks in our

profession to call upon with our plant problems. He is survived by his wife Freda and 3 children.

On a more local note, MAGCS lost one of its past members who has remained closely tied to the association in his second career. Craig Marfia, past superintendent at Ridge Country Club and Crystal Lake Country Club died accidentally on his boat "The Fisherman" in Waukegan Harbor in May. Craig changed careers and started a charter fishing service on Lake Michigan which many MAGCS members enjoyed over the past many years. Our sympathies to the family and friends of Craig Marfia.

Our heartfelt sympathies to the families of **Wally Fuchs** and **Trent Bradford**, who lost Wally's grand son and Trent's nephew Matthew Anderson to cancer in May. Matthew was just 16 years old.

As I write this we have just experienced one hell of a week of weather, with copious rains—3 storms on one particular Friday that pelted us with nearly two inches of rain and winds topping 70 mph—and hot, sticky conditions that made for some long days at work for crews across the region. That being said, Boo Hoo Hoo! Whenever I think we have it bad, I can always be thankful that it isn't worse. How about a little hail to ruin your day like they had in Oklahoma City last month? My glass went from half empty to half full when I saw these photos...



A neighbor to the north has been awarded a most coveted honor. Erin Hills Golf Course in Erin, WI—about 40 miles northwest of Milwaukee—was named the host of the 2017 U. S. Open by the USGA during last month's Open at Pebble Beach Golf Links, beating out Cog Hill Golf & Country Club in Lemont (**Ken Lapp**).

If you are a seasoned Facebooker, or if you've not yet taken the plunge, you can still access the MAGCS Facebook page as long as you have an account on the social network site. Once you add the MAGCS page as a friend, you will have access to posted updates, events, pictures, and other important information.

The 17th of this month marks our return to Elfstrom Field in Geneva for the annual MAGCS Kane County Cougars Game

*(continued on next page)*

and Family Picnic. This year will include a new twist, as MAGCS has reserved one of the new rooftop decks for the game. The evening is a great opportunity to entertain the entire family, offering up snacks and soft drinks, kids' games, barbecue buffet, beer, and baseball, all followed up with a spectacular fireworks display and the "running of the bases" to get the kids all tuckered out for the trip home. Come on out!

.....  
 The inaugural International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association Virtual Trade Show is history, having taken place from May 11th through the 13th. The event had 875 attendees who were able to view and download product information, attend educational seminars and interact in real time with company reps from 10 exhibiting vendors. Comments from attendees have been very positive, promising a second annual version of the event in 2011. Look for it.

.....  
 On May 17th Idlewild Country Club and **Kurt Sams, CGCS, Dion Pearce, and Enrique Shahagun** hosted the ITF/MAGCS Spring Golf Day on their beautiful golf course. Although the day was a tad dreary and damp, golf was played and the excellent conditions and hospitality were thoroughly enjoyed. The event, as has become customary, was a two-person best ball in match play format with scoring based on 75% of each competitor's established handicap index. A big thank you to Kurt and all the staff at Idlewild, and to the day's sponsors without whom the event could not have taken place: **Arthur Clesen, Inc., BASF, Bayer Environmental Science, Burris Equipment, D&K Turf Products, Dow Agrosciences, Great Lakes Turf, LLC,**

**Pendleton Turf Supply, Premier Greens & Turf, Syngenta, and The Andersons.** Thank you all!



*How did Kurt Sams get those greens so fast with all the rain?*



*Matt Harstad and Charlie Brugler partook in the fun at Idlewild.*

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*Kurt Sams and Asst. Dion Pearce both won closest to the flagstick events at the ITF event, awful peculiar.*



*Rick Wilson won something and John Anderson walked away with a new camera.*



*Kurt receives On Course from ITF President and founder of the BigPar3, Erwin McKone.*

MAGCS is looking for a few good men (and women). Elections for Board of Directors service are right around the corner, and anyone who wishes to contribute in the running our storied association should contact President **Scott Witte** or **Luke Cella**.

While on the subject of Luke, last month he took part in the Second Annual Sunshine Through Golf Foundation Golf Marathon at the Zigfield Troy Golf Course in Woodridge (**Dennis Troy**). The event features golfers who have volunteered to play 100 holes of golf in one day for pledges. Last year's event raised over \$100,000 to assist in bringing joy to those with special needs through the game of golf. Luke improved on last year's score by seven shots, carding a 23-over 323. He also says he ripped something in his shoulder

that he still isn't fully recovered from, and that—and I quote—“Getting old sucks.” It beats the alternative, though. Congrats, Luke!

.....  
 Condolences from MAGCS to Molly and **Mike Hatton** and their family on the recent loss of Molly's father in May.  
 .....

With the deadlines for the big golf course dog calendars imminent, and with the popularity of having our dogs accompany us to work being at its zenith, there is an article that was written by MAGCS member **Dan O'Brien** of Newburg Village GC that appeared in the December 2009/January 2010 issue of *Turfgrass Times*, the publication of the Northwest Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association that is a MUST READ for all of us dog lovers. The article, titled “**Pythium – Not Just a Turf Disease**” details Dan and his Llewelin Setter Gunner's experience with Pythium's insidious effect on our beloved canine companions. As Dan learned after a grueling experience with Gunner, Pythiosis is a disease that kills 80% of the dogs it infects. It is contracted when dogs act like dogs—when they frolick in water that is tainted with the Pythium oomycete, especially stagnant water. Dan's healthy 4-year old hunting dog began inexplicably losing weight, followed by bouts of diarrhea. After a battery of tests and visits to veterinarians, culminating in Gunner's admission into the University of Wisconsin's Veterinary School, Gunner succumbed to the disease. The moral of the story? This disease is very difficult to diagnose, but if you know the symptoms early there is hope for recovery. Seriously—if you have a dog, read this article. Go to [www.nwigcsa.org](http://www.nwigcsa.org), click on the link *Turfgrass Times* at the left, and click on the December 2009/January 2010 issue. It's on page 8. Thank you Dan from a fellow dog guy.



*Gunner*

The June MAGCS meeting was held at the awesome Elgin Country Club, with **Phil Zeinert**, **CGCS**, **Mike Joerns**, and **Roberto Canedo** hosting. The weather looked ominous, but an almost rain-free day on the course was enjoyed by all participants. **Randy Lusher** of BASF started the day off with an informative talk on identifying Illinois' most noxious and invasive plants, along with best management practices and controls for these pests. Immediately following Randy's presentation, it was time to hit the very hilly, tree-y and un-Illinois-like layout to contest the Senior Championship, the Class C Championship, and the Dom Grotti Championship.

*(continued on next page)*

After all the rain our area had received prior to the event, it was amazing to see how well Elgin drains—even the low areas were high and dry. The course was in spectacular condition, and those who managed to hit the ball straight were rewarded with excellent lies and great scoring opportunities. With all the undulations on the course, it was certainly beneficial to have a yardage device of some kind to dial in on those diabolical greens. My own foursome was fortunate enough to have all three helpers: the Sky Caddie, the Bushnell and the Laser Link to ensure exact yardages (example: “How far is it, Todd? 169 to Fred Behnke’s ass”) (Bushnells require large targets for accurate measurements). Those accurate measurements obviously worked, as the Dom Grotti championship was won by the team from Aurora Country Club (**Virgil Range** and yours truly) with a net 169, a comfortable 10 shots ahead of the 2nd place team of **Steve Bychowski** and **Paul Rathnau** of Rob Roy Golf Course and 26 better than **Scott Witte** and **Steve Kuretsky** of Cantigny Golf Club. My friend Peter Leuzinger was kind enough to share with me the history of the Dom Grotti award, as I am sure many of you have never even heard of the man whose namesake trophy has been contested for lo these many years. Turns out Domenic Grotti was a longtime superintendent at Sunset Ridge Country Club before Dennis Wilson took over. In the early to mid ‘80’s—probably 1984 just after Peter’s tenure as MAGCS president, he and Dennis Wilson were discussing the poor attendance at meetings, especially by assistants. The idea was to have a tournament for assistants and their super-

intendents, adding a potential 20 or so members to the list of attendees. Dennis got Sunset Ridge to purchase a nice silver cup with the name of their beloved retired superintendent Dom Grotti—as Dom always brought Dennis to meetings so he could learn the business—and the rest is history. By the way, Peter and his assistant Dan Mossblack are engraved on the cup, having won it in 1994. Grabbing the Class C Championship was Virgil Range with a net 71, narrowly defeating Paul Rathnau (75) and Travis Dykstra (89). For the Senior Championship, the competition was very tight, with **Al Pondel, CGCS** taking the cake with a 72, besting **Mark Kowaliczko** and **Rick Wilson, CGCS** who had 73’s. In the Super Senior flight, perennial front-runner **Bob Kronn, Sr.** took top honors with a 70, eking out the victory over **Mike Matchen** and his 83. There were some other winners, too, including **Steve VanAcker, CGCS** who won the Flip-Cam raffle, **Keith Krause** and **Rusty Stachlewitz** who took the closest-to-the-pin honors, and Grant Runblade who killed on the longest drive thingie. Once the course was vacated and everyone made it to the clubhouse, a phenomenal steak and assorted fixings were on tap. What a great day! Many thanks to Phil and the staff at Elgin, to all the participants who disregarded the forecast and came out and didn’t get rained on, and to the sponsors who made the day such a great success, who were: **BASF, Burris Equipment Company, Dow Agrosiences, E-Z Go, J. W. Turf, Inc./John Deere Golf, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Palatine Oil Co., Inc., Quali-Pro, Syngenta, and XGD Systems.** Awesome job everyone!

  
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*Holly Gilmour of JW Turf, and Tom Healy of Layne Western worked the registration table at Elgin CC.*



*The other adult was biting my leg while this was taken*



*Brothers?*



*Father and son. Zachary and Phil Zeinert.*

*(continued on next page)*



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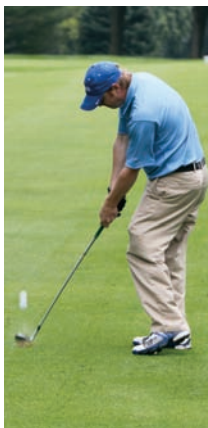
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 walk behind slit seeder \$600 obo. 2000 JD 1600 w/ 2341

*(continued on next page)*

hrs, w/ spare front & rear wheel \$10,985 obo. 1995 JD F-935 with only 1303 hrs has solid tires on deck \$4100 obo. 1995 Hollrock ball picker, w/ 2 sets of plastic baskets and lots of spare parts \$400 obo. Electric hose reel w/ chemically rated hose \$500 obo. Any questions or inquiries please contact Steve Bychowski @ 847-253-2552 or sbychowski@rtpd.org.

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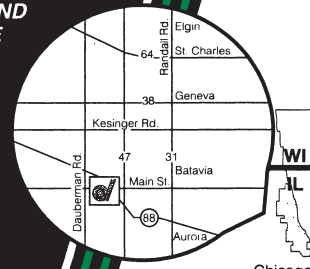
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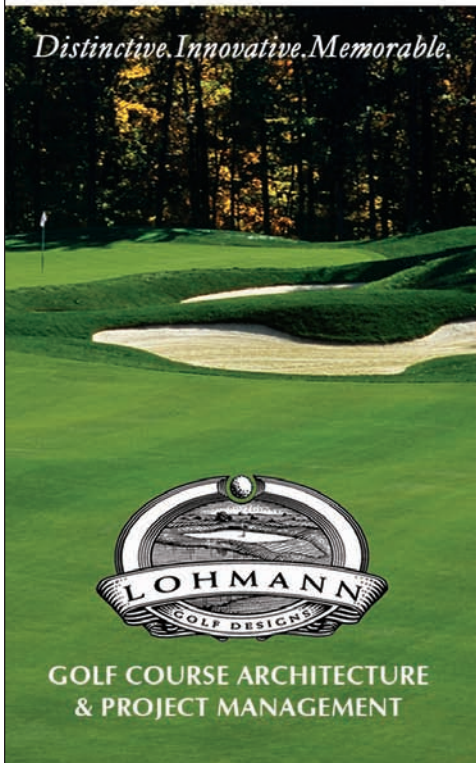
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## MIDWEST PERSONALITIES

John Anderson, *Arthur Clesen Inc.*



Job Title: **Sales Manager**

MAGCS Member Since: **1982**

Date of Birth: **8-3-59**

Place of Birth: **Joliet, IL**

Current Residence: **Naperville**

College/Degree: **U of I : (2) B.S. Forestry & Orn. Hort. (lots of BS)**

Spouse/Children: **Wife - Debbie; Alicia, Ashley, Jake**

My Favorite Childhood Memory is: : **Playing Catch-One-Catch-All or Kick-the-Can in my neighborhood. We would have over 20 kids in the games and they lasted forever.**

My Personal Hero: **Michael J. Fox**

My Professional Mentors: **Art Clesen Jr., Dick Trevarthan**

Favorite Actor: **Clint Eastwood**

Favorite Musical Performer: : **Eric Clapton**

Favorite Restaurant: **Meson Sabika**

Favorite "Pig Out" Food: **Anything from Dairy Queen**

Favorite TV Show: **"24"**

Favorite Color: **Orange & Blue...Duh!**

Favorite Professional Sports Team: **Black Hawks**

Favorite Pro Athlete: **Dennis Savard**

Favorite Pro Golfer: **Jack Nicklaus**

My Handicap Index: **Variable**

My Favorite Place to Play Golf is: **Woodruff GC - Joliet PD**

My Best/Most Memorable Round: : **All the way back to High School(1977). Match against Lemont HS at Cog Hill #3. Shot a one under 34 on the front nine. Only under par round in competition.**

The Most Interesting/Exotic Place I've been: **Definitely the highlight of my life was my visit to "Wall Drug"!**

The Book I've Been Recommending Lately: **Catholicism for Dummies**

The Last Great Movie I Saw: **Ninja Assassin**

In my Spare Time I Enjoy: **Fishing & Running**

Three Words that Best Describe Me: **Can I Help?**

What I Enjoy Most about My Job: **Getting to know people throughout our industry.**

What I Enjoy Least about My Job: **The perception people have about Salesman...We are not all "Slimy Used Car Salesman".**

I'm a MAGCS Member Because: **Easy...I have been a member for more than 25 years and the quality people hasn't changed. It makes meetings/events something to look forward to attending.**



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## EDUCATION RECAP

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



# Invasive Weeds

*The June MAGCS meeting was held at Elgin Country Club. Randy Lusher, Senior Sales Specialist for BASF (you know, the people who don't make the products, they make the products better) made a great presentation on Invasive Species Management Practices.*

An invasive weed is any plant, not native to the community. The invasive plant tends to take over and cause harm. (Don't worry Gurke; I don't think he's talking about the poa on your greens) Many of these plants were brought over from Europe or Asia for gardening purposes. Over time, the seeds of the plants were spread by birds, wind and water. Most of these plants have no natural predators which causes their populations to overtake native plant communities. The result is a mono stand of the weed and overall loss of diversity within the plant community. The snow ball effect can affect the loss of species.

Some examples of invasive plants are: Buckthorn, Honey-suckle, Spotted Knapweed, Fragmites, Reed Canary Grass, Purple Loosestrife, Canada Thistle and Garlic Mustard.

Randy played an entertaining video, highlighting some of the problems with the invasive species.

Some control methods discussed were:

- Mechanical removal
- Control through the use of fire
- Cultural control
- Chemical control

Some additional tips include timing of weed control, specific herbicide rates, cut surface applications and use of adjuvants.

Randy had a hand out for everyone with many of the invasive weed control specific herbicide rates.

For more information on control of invasive weeds check [MIPN.org](http://MIPN.org) (Midwest Invasive Weed Network) -OC



*Randy Lusher explained cutting invasives such as buckthorn without a follow up surface application of herbicide can create more work in the future because of the sprouting that occurs.*

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