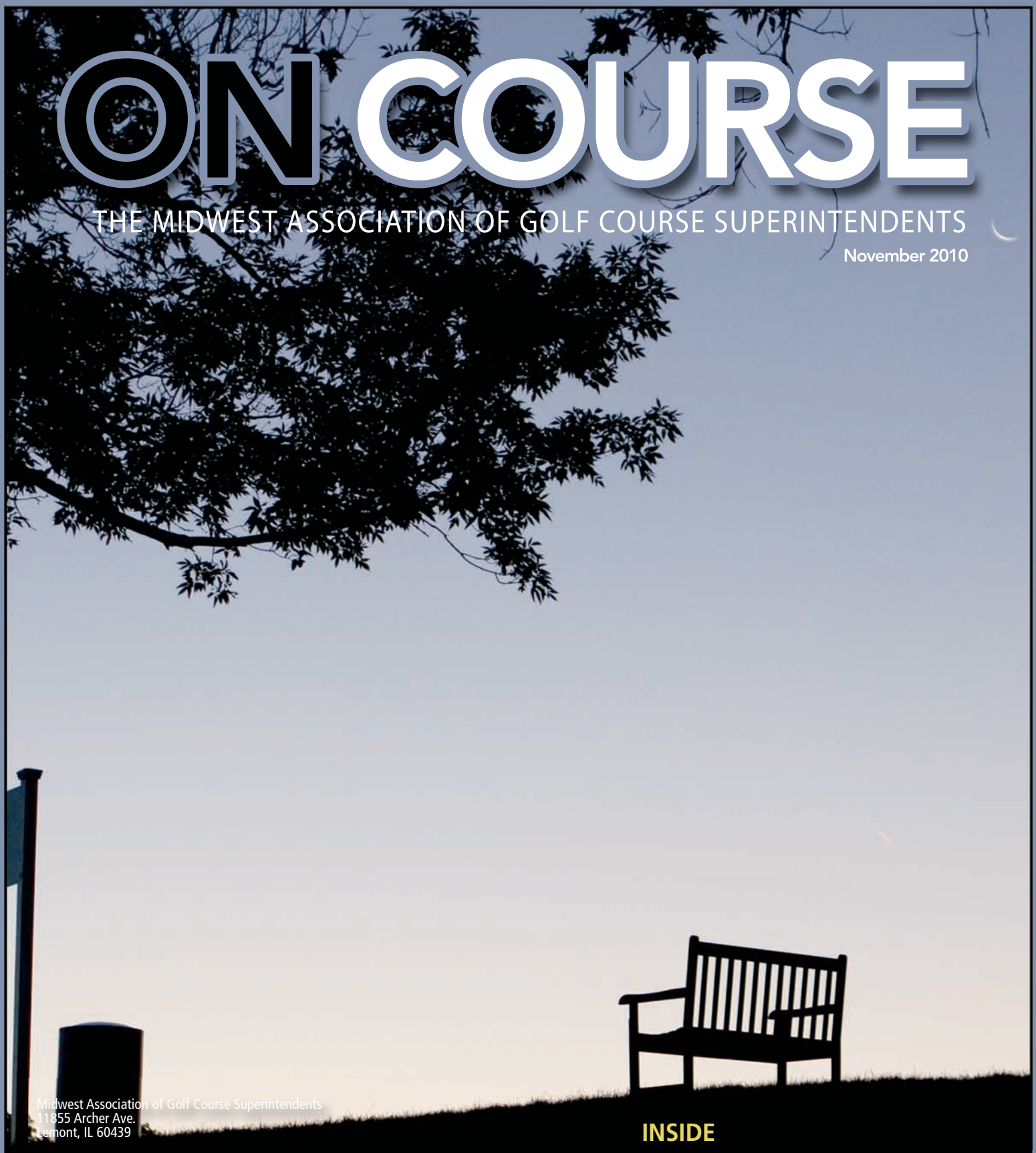
ON COURSE

THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

November 2010



Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents
11855 Archer Ave.
Lemont, IL 60439

INSIDE

Table Of Contents

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NOVEMBER 2010 Volume 64 No. 7

Mike Nielsen congratulates MAGCS Champion Dave Kohley after their round at Cantigny as they walk off the green with Chuck Anfield.

FRONT COVER

A last look at a tee on a crisp fall morning as benches, ball washers, waste receptacles are brought in from the course for winter maintenance.
Photo credit: Luke Cella

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.

All editorial and advertisement inquiries should be directed to Luke Cella, Publisher, *On Course*. 11855 Archer Avenue, Lemont, IL, 60439. (630) 243-7900 or visit www.magcs.org for rates and requirements. Statements of fact and opinion are the responsibility of the authors alone and do not imply an opinion on the part of the officers or members.

ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Scott Witte, CGCS, *Cantigny Golf Course*

A Quotable Season Comes to an End

As your president, I feel obligated to try and offer a bit of inspiration in my column. So, as I look back on 2010, I can't help but think of the German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche, who said: "That which does not kill us makes us stronger." Many of you have endured nightmarish seasons due to flooding, heat, humidity, and turf diseases. There were probably moments where you scratched your heads and wondered, "What's next!"

Another quote from Nietzsche says: "A good writer possesses not only his own spirit, but also the spirit of his friends." As I attended the Midwest monthly meetings, I sensed that the "spirit of my friends" is still in recovery mode after a long, difficult growing season. Fortunately the cool fall breezes have the same rejuvenating effect on superintendents that they have on cool season grasses. Over the course of the summer I benefited greatly from the fellowship of my friends and fellow members of the Midwest. I never underestimate the power of friendship, especially when times get tough.

One of the most important things is that we take what we learned this year and allow it to make us better. If you've made as many mental notes as I have this year, you've gained some great experience in dealing with some of nature's toughest conditions. 2010 will definitely go down as a character building year.

When it comes to character, Nietzsche also said: "Character is determined more by the lack of certain experiences than by those one has had." Obviously it wasn't our first choice to have a long, obnoxious, hot and wet summer, but we have no control over that. Our job is to weather the storm and grind out a good product for our patrons regardless of the conditions. I applaud your efforts and I pray that you'll ultimately reap the long term benefit of the experience you gained in 2010. Granted, some of those experiences really seem to suck at the time, but in the long run, we may benefit from them.

I don't know if I've succeeded in offering some inspirational thought or not, but I've enjoyed the process. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your president in 2010. I look forward to serving as Past President in 2011, as Dan Sterr takes the reins.

Lastly, I'd like to offer my own inspirational one-liner to the members of the Midwest.

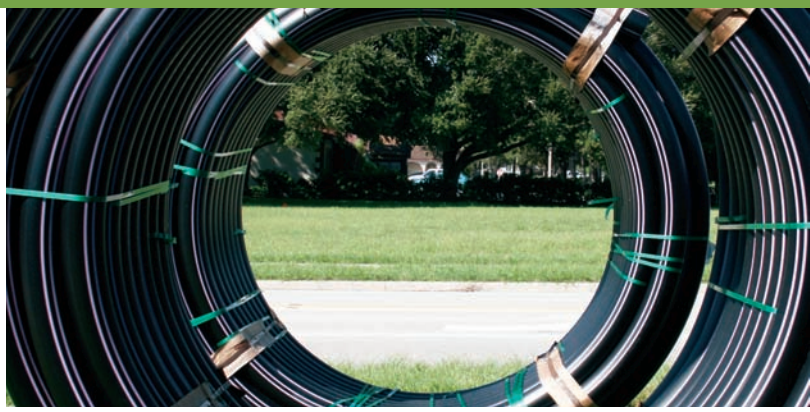
"Regardless of difficulty, may every growing season… be a season of growth."

Scott A. Witte, CGCS

President MAGCS 2010 **-OC**

FEATURE I

Larry Collins, *EC Design Group, LTD*



HDPE vs PVC, What's the Difference?

Over the years there have been many "latest and greatest" ideas in the irrigation business that have not really worked out. They sounded like the thing to do at the time, but they turned out to be a liability down the road. Anyone that has epoxy coated steel fittings knows what I mean.

One of the "latest and greatest" things people keep asking us about is High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe. The truth is, it's not new; it's just becoming more popular in golf course irrigation systems. It has many attributes that Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) does not. So, how do you determine if it's right for your golf course?

HDPE – What Is It?

High-density polyethylene is a ductile, durable, virtually inert thermoplastic composed of ethylene polymers. It begins as a translucent, tough solid. In pipe-grade resins, ethylene-hexene copolymers are usually specified with carbon black pigment for weather resistance.

HDPE can bend and curve, without fittings, at angles that would exceed manufacturer specifications and cause PVC pipe to break. Furthermore, HDPE has a much higher impact resistance then PVC. This is helpful both in new construction and in exposed crossings.

In theory, there are virtually no joints in an HDPE-piping network. The change-of-direction sections are fused to the pipe either by butt fusion or electrofusion. The system is monolithic once the fusion process is complete.

HDPE pipe can tolerate freezing much better than rigid pipe, an important consideration in northern climes. PVC pipe has a crystalline temperature of 32°F, at which point it becomes brittle. HDPE pipe has a crystalline temperature of -180°F, which means less potential for failure. In fact, water can freeze and thaw repeatedly inside of HDPE pipe without causing permanent damage to the pipe. HDPE is more durable and forgiving in most applications than PVC. With proper fusion, HDPE does not have joints that fail. Polyethylene pipe is more flexible and has greater impact resistance than PVC.

For example, a scratch as deep as 10% of the wall thickness doesn't reduce the pressure rating of HDPE pipe. PVC is notch-sensitive, meaning it has a greater tendency to fracture because of the presence of a notch, crack, or scratch.

Moreover, HDPE piping systems are more surge tolerant than PVC, which means fewer repairs caused by pressure surges. If an HDPE piping system is in need of repair, electrofusion couplings are the simplest way to facilitate repairs. The days of thrust blocks and joint restraints are gone, because everything is fused together.

From an environmental stand point, if you are using fertigation, HDPE is inert and will not readily react with other chemicals. Furthermore, the production of HDPE is far less destructive to the environment than the manufacture of PVC. The disposal of chemicals used in PVC, including chlorine, has become an environmental issue.

HDPE pipe has been used in water-works for more than 50 years, so it has a proven track record of reliability.

Types of Fusion – Butt Fusion

Butt fusion – the most common type of fusion – is used to connect lengths of pipe and to connect fittings to pipe. When two pieces of pipe are to be joined, a fusion machine holds them stationary. The edges of both pieces of pipe are shaved to ensure they are clean and straight. A heating element is lowered between the two pieces of pipe and left there for a pre-determined period of time, based on pipe size and wall thickness. After the ends are adequately heated, the heating element is removed and the two pieces of pipe are pushed together. Once the pipe has cooled, the fused joint becomes as strong as the pipe itself.

(continued on page 6)

. . . and Electrofusion

Electrofusion is a simple method that works well for repairs or in locations where a fusion machine won't work. The fitting is placed on the pipe and a machine is hooked to electrodes on the fitting. When the machine is turned on, the fitting is fused to the pipe by energy passing through the electrodes.

Applications for HDPE

In the past, HDPE was used primarily in bridge crossings, or for bores under creeks, lakes or roads. The fact that it was monolithic and flexible made it the perfect fit for these applications.

Cost prevented people from using HDPE for their entire system. Pipe, fittings, labor and the unknown all contributed to what used to be exponentially higher installation costs. As time has passed, and contractors have become more familiar with the pipe, the costs have come way down. Some contractors now prefer an HDPE installation over PVC. The gap between an HDPE install price and a PVC install price is minimal these days.

So who should put in an HDPE system? Several factors should be considered. What are your soil conditions? Are they rocky, sandy, shifting, built on a landfill? If you answered yes, these are conditions where the flexibility and strength of HDPE pipe would make it a great choice.

In rocky soils, the scratches that pipe can sustain are less likely to cause problems. Because the piping network has no joints there's less opportunity for pieces to pull free in shifting soils.

HDPE is still the best alternative for a bridge crossing, where a pipe will be exposed to the sun and freezing temperatures. The carbon-black injected into the pipe protects it from harmful UV rays. Boring under roads, cart paths, parking lots, and lakes has become much more affordable and causes very little disruption. These days contractors would prefer to bore with HDPE – they know there will never be a need to repair that pipe.

With all of its good qualities, HDPE still comes at a premium price on installation. Not everyone needs HDPE for their system. PVC systems have been around for a long time. As long as quality fittings, thrust blocks and/or restraints are used – and a good contractor installs it – PVC should last 25 plus years. Superintendents who have endured the nightmare of frequent fitting failure because of a bad installation or the use of epoxy-coated steel fittings will have a harder time being talked into using anything other than HDPE.

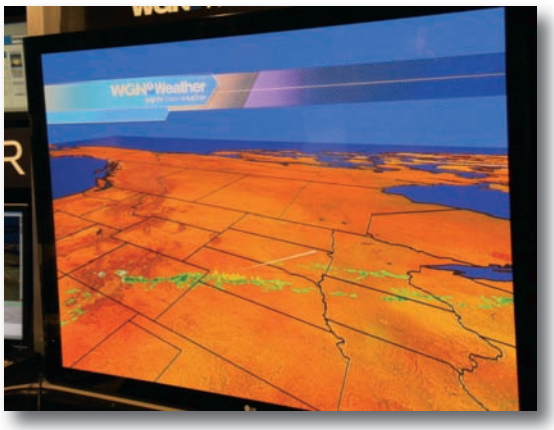
As a result HDPE systems are being installed more frequently now than ever before. If you are thinking about a new system and your golf course has the conditions previously described, it might be something to consider. If it doesn't make sense to spend the extra money, and you are not worried about any of the conditions mentioned earlier, PVC has been and will continue to be a perfectly suitable product. The majority of courses are installing PVC systems, and they will last a very long time. But there's another option out there, and this "latest and greatest" is truly a viable option. **-OC**

FEATURE II
Steve Partyka, *White Pines Golf Course*

Chicago's Most Recognizable Meteorologist

There are two people in my life that I have always wanted to meet. The first is Buffy the Vampire Slayer (Sarah Michelle Gellar), and the second is Tom Skilling. I'm still working on meeting Buffy (short of being arrested for stalking). This past summer my wife and I had got the opportunity to meet Tom Skilling. Being a Greens Superintendent I, like many of you, am a weather junkie. I'm always watching the weather, preferably Tom Skilling at 12:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 9:30 p.m.

Tom is as approachable a guy as you're ever going to meet. I had so many questions I wanted to ask. Tom was more than happy to talk at length about Door County and Alaska before getting down to business with this weather junkie's important questions. He was good enough to take us on a tour of The WGN Weather Center, showing us the computer models and websites that he uses to prepare each day's weather. After the tour we got a chance to ask the following questions:



1. What is the percentage or number of days you can predict the weather?

In general, day to day details of the weather are predictable out to seven days. General features of the evolving weather pattern can be identified out to two weeks. Clearly, certain patterns and weather features are more accurately predicted than others. For instance, precipitation – because of HUGE variations in its distribution – provides the greatest challenge. Temperature, pressure and wind are most accurately predicted. This is particularly true of higher altitude winds, like the jet stream, which operate in a region of the atmosphere less affected by factors like frictional drag from the ground or feedbacks from snow and ice cover and bodies of water. Great progress has been made in weather forecasting with the advent of high speed computing. There have also been vast improvements in remote sensing – the term applied to inferring weather conditions by using readings from satellites, microwave sensors, in-flight transponders on aircraft, and Doppler radar inferred winds and precipitation. To predict the weather at a given spot, it's necessary to know the state of the atmosphere over the entire planet. This is because what's happening at one location is inextricably linked to the large-scale pattern. There can still be huge variations in predictions of the large-scale pattern, because there are a dozen or more global computer models that forecasters use. Being able to look at ALL of these models can provide clues about which models are going off on an inaccurate forecasting tangent.

Having said all of that, here's the bottom line. Predictions of temperature for the next two days are correct to within five degrees more than 90% of the time. Forecasts at a range of seven days are as accurate as two-day predictions were in the late 1960s. In the past ten years, weather predictions have increased in accuracy by more than a day and a half. Progress continues as modeling gets us down to the scale of individual thunderstorm clusters. Individual thunderstorms are still the feature that causes weather forecasters the most grief. Cool air gushing out of thunderstorms – their so-called outflow boundaries – can and does displace heavy rains and alter temperature in ways which at times prove difficult to predict. When there are errors in weather forecasts these days, it's often thunderstorm outflows that have, in one way or another, interfered with the predicted evolution of our weather. At more distant time ranges, forecasters can offer a general sense of when and where precipitation may occur, but the details of scattered rains, snows, or thunderstorms become increasingly difficult to pinpoint in ranges of time greater than several days. Studies show weather forecasts have achieved a

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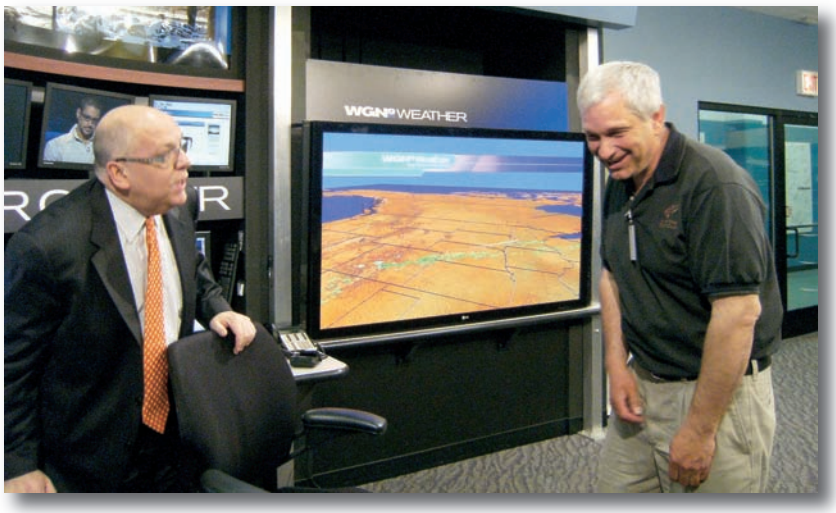
60-percent skill score at seven days out, which is why day-to-day predictions are made for a seven-day period. Forecasts of day-to-day weather beyond that period of time exist, but they exhibit limited skill.

2. How do you predict the weather?

That's a broad question which I'll boil down to basics. The process is complex and time-consuming if done properly. A forecaster today has so much computer forecast information available, he or she could literally report to work and produce a forecast by associating words with the numbers which come off the computer models. But it's always been my view that forecasting involves a man-machine mix. The human forecaster will always be in a position to add value to a computer model, or so-called 'machine' forecasts, and ought to strive to do so. This has never been more possible than in the spectacular world in which the weather forecaster operates today. Several decades ago, forecasters had one short range and one longer range model to analyze. Today's forecasters have access to the global forecast models run by the major weather processing centers of the world. They can combine the best of all of them, while fairly intelligently eliminating the "bad" forecasts. On a daily basis, I download temperature and precipitation projections from 33 runs of 10 different computer models. This includes models run by the National Weather Service, the Canadian Meteorological Agency, the European Center for Medium Range Forecasting, the U.S. Navy, the UK Met Office, a number of universities, and a proprietary set of comparatively high resolution forecast models run by our data provider, WSI. When I've finished with my daily analysis of these models, I have gathered 1,200 individual temperatures readings at 5,000 feet for as much as 16 days into the future. These temperatures are averaged—or "ensembled" as we say today. Then I "warm" these readings down to the surface, correcting for cloud cover, wind direction and speed, "fetch" or distance over water if these winds are interacting with the Great Lakes, and snow cover if that's necessary. It is through this process that I generate my seven-day temperature forecast and estimates of general temperatures projected out to two weeks. I also analyze moisture content of the air and the means, if any exists, to lift and cool this moisture in order to produce precipitation. I determine when this "cooling" is to occur, in order to predict precipitation timing and intensity. By analyzing a whole set of models rather than one or two, a better, often more accurate, forecast emerges. This process is time consuming. It depends on wisdom derived from 40+ years of predicting the weather. It's the basis on which I can, as knowledgeably as possible, correct a number of errors or misdiagnoses that can come from a raw computer forecast.



Tom Skilling is serious about the weather and likes to share his knowledge with his fans.

3. Why does a system look promising coming across the Mississippi River and then dissipate when it reaches the Chicagoland area, only to reform over the lake?

There can be many reasons. I'm convinced that one major variable in certain weather situations can be the state of soil moisture. I've watched squall lines dry up after barreling across the Mississippi when they've encountered the dry soil between here and there. The atmospheric conditions that create the "lift," which cools and saturates air to produce precipitation, can abate as the system heads this way. The dome of cool air that hovers over the lake can, and sometimes does, introduce a means to lift air as a dissipating system approaches, reinvigorating its ability to produce precipitation.

4. If a system needs heat from the day to form a system, then how can a system form at night, when there is no heat from the day?

Great question. One way involves the formation of what's called a "nocturnal" or nighttime low-level jet stream. Once the sun sets in this type of situation, humid air streaming north from the Gulf of Mexico holds onto a good deal of daytime warmth while dry air, often to the west, begins cooling quickly because of the lack of sunlight. A huge temperature variation can develop between the dry and humid air. A wind, sometimes as strong as 70 mph several thousand feet above the ground, can blow all the way from the Gulf into the Midwest. This wind field is referred to as a "low-level jet." The fast erupting thunderstorm clusters which develop on the northernmost nose of this jet – so-called MCSs, for "mesoscale convective systems" – often produce deluges and spectacular lightning, features which have produced some of the country's most devastating floods.

5. Is it better to fly in the summer or winter, which has less turbulence?

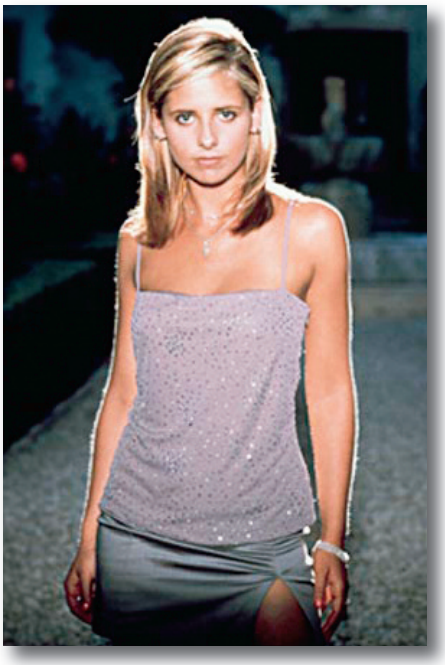
Low level turbulence decreases in the cold of winter. Thermals, comparatively small columns of rising air, don't form as frequently in winter as they do in summer. That cuts down on the turbulence of flying at lower altitudes. On the other hand, winter jet streams, up in the 18,000 to 45,000 ft. range, are capable of producing larger scale turbulence. They grow very strong in the cold season because of the huge north to south temperature differences across the mid-latitudes. This can actually increase higher altitude turbulence in winter. In general, however, the winter environment, because it is colder and denser than the one encountered in summer, provides smoother overall flight conditions.

6. Do you believe in the Farmers' Almanac?

Oh, my! It's absolutely a fun read. But I have as much faith in the Farmers' Almanac as I do in the ground hog. I'm distrustful of any prediction derived through "secret" techniques that aren't subject to analysis and review.

7. How come every weatherperson, including the Weather Channel has different predications for the weather?

Another great question. It's not at all unusual for the computer models we look at everyday to provide varied forecasts. It happens all the time! That's the big challenge facing forecasters in this day and age. In short, how do we reconcile differences, and sometimes HUGE ones, in the computer projections we all look at? As a forecaster, you have a set of global weather observations that go into the full range of computer models that are run today on the fastest computers in the world. Because we don't measure this vast global atmosphere of ours perfectly, you can make a whole set of varying assumptions on how we are going to describe the starting structure of the atmosphere in comparatively "data void" areas of the planet. When you run supercomputer models with each different description of the initial set-up of the atmosphere, you arrive at scores of different forecast outcomes. In fact, given the speed with which we can run supercomputers today (the Weather Service's IBM supercomputers are up to 17.9 trillion mathematical operations per second and growing faster all the time) that's exactly what the major weather computing centers are doing. They are running what are called "ensembles," entire sets of forecasts from the same model by entering different interpretations of the atmosphere's starting state – each completely and scientifically valid – and looking for common themes in the resulting forecasts. These sets of forecasts are being averaged into what's called an "ensemble forecast," which is far more accurate than a single forecast from the model would be. So when even machines arrive at vastly different forecasts from a single set of initial weather observations, it's not surprising that human forecasters, who also bring different levels of experience and training to the table, do the same.



Next on Steve's list... Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Sarah Michelle Gellar.

8. Why do people who work outside versus inside get more tired?

I haven't a good answer to this. I've got to be honest in saying this is a bit outside my area of expertise.

9. What is thunder snow?

Thunder snow is the result of embedded thunderstorms produced by strong, upward, vertical motions generated in some winter storms. Summer thunderstorms depend heavily on warm season heating. But other features can produce upward vertical motion that is strong enough to induce thunderstorm development. In winter, this often involves vertical motions produced in and around strong pockets of wind in the jet stream known as "jet streaks." It's interesting to note that the lightning produced in winter snowstorms is often the higher amperage, more powerful, and potentially injurious "positively charged" lightning. On average, only 10% of the cloud-to-ground lightning discharges in summer storms are this positively-charged type.

10. Can it be possible to have a thunderstorm/ tornado at 40°F? If so, how?

Absolutely! I remember a day when I was working in Milwaukee that hovered at 39° with rain and fog off the lake. All of a sudden, a tornado emerged and destroyed 16 homes in Brookfield, Wisconsin, which is located in Milwaukee's western suburbs. This happened as humid 70+-degree-air just south of a warm front interacted with the front and the jet stream to produce severe thunderstorms.

11. Can you advise again, what is used to take the temperature reading. You talked about the weather balloons, but you were also talking about in-flight data. Can you advise me more on this?

Atmospheric temperatures can be measured directly by thermometers or sensors, such as "thermistors" employed in the payload (instrument) packages of weather balloons or they can be inferred by using radiation measurements both from infrared and microwave sensors on satellites.

12. You used to have a computer model 1 & 2 to check for rain, is there any way you can get this back? I miss it.

Actually, we've moved beyond that. I think the product we now offer is more accurate in its precipitation predictions because of a much larger set of even more sophisticated model forecasts. Now we look at eight or twelve model precip projections. What we do now is even more useful. We offer a range of predictions from these eight or twelve models, plus an average of all of them. This is better than looking at just two models, and it shows how much more information is available to us these days.

13. How many years have you been doing this, and what schools did you attend.

I've been a broadcast meteorologist for 41 years, 31 of them at WGN. I attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, but when you're a weather forecaster, you go to school every day. With the pace at which new research and forecast techniques emerge today, you are always updating your training through scientific papers and training sessions, many of which are online these days.

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14. You spoke about Alaska, is that were you want to retire?

That's my dream! Alaska is a special place for anyone who visits, but I think it has a special lure among those who do what I do for a living. There are few places on earth in which the atmosphere and surrounding terrain are interacting in such interesting ways!

15. How many pets do you have?

I have one cat, Vorticity, who is 17 years old and going strong, I'm happy to say. Sadly, I lost my second cat Hercules two years ago to kidney disease. Hercules was 18 years old at the time of his passing.

16. What is your favorite restaurant and food?

I've been on a salad routine the past few months and probably will be from now on. These salads are real culinary productions with everything but the kitchen sink in them. But I have preparing them down to a bit of a science to save time as I get them ready to bring to work with me.

17. Who is your favorite weatherperson?

I love all who do what I do. Mike Hamernik of our CLTV operation is among my favorites. I like and respect his analyses of developing weather situations and the fact that he thinks outside the box, using computer models as I hope I do, as tools for producing forecasts, but with a very healthy dose of intelligent interpretation. He doesn't merely word associate with computer-produced forecast numbers. I like that very much. He's also one heck of a severe weather analyst!

18. When you are on vacation do you have any input with the Tribune column?

I am blessed to work with such a talented group of colleagues, including people like Steve Kahn, Richard Koeneman, Paul Dailey, Frank Wachowski and my producer Bill Snyder, as well as our Tribune weather page artists Tom Valle and Nelson Turac, that I truly am able to break away from our operation during vacations. I've found, too, that my getaways usually happen at about the right time, when my brain is close to being erased by the day-to-day mix of radio, television, Internet, and newspaper duties. I do love and feel blessed to be able to pursue all of these. I wouldn't trade my job for anything in the world. It has been and continues to be a joy!!! I will tell you, though, that I keep in touch with our team while away and love following the work produced by my talented colleagues!

19. Who are your favorite actor and actress?

Having worked as an advisor on "The Weatherman," Nicolas Cage is definitely a favorite. But, I admire and respect many actors and actresses and know how hard so many of them work at their craft. Their work brings us such joy – and also makes us think.

As an added bonus, Tom asked if we would to stay and watch the 11:30 a.m. newscast, which we did. In our experience, everyone at the station was exceptionally nice, from the security guard to the producer. We especially want to thank Tom Skilling for taking the time out of his busy schedule to meet with us. Regrettably he doesn't know Buffy, so I'm still on my own for meeting her. **-OC**

MIDWEST BREEZES

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*

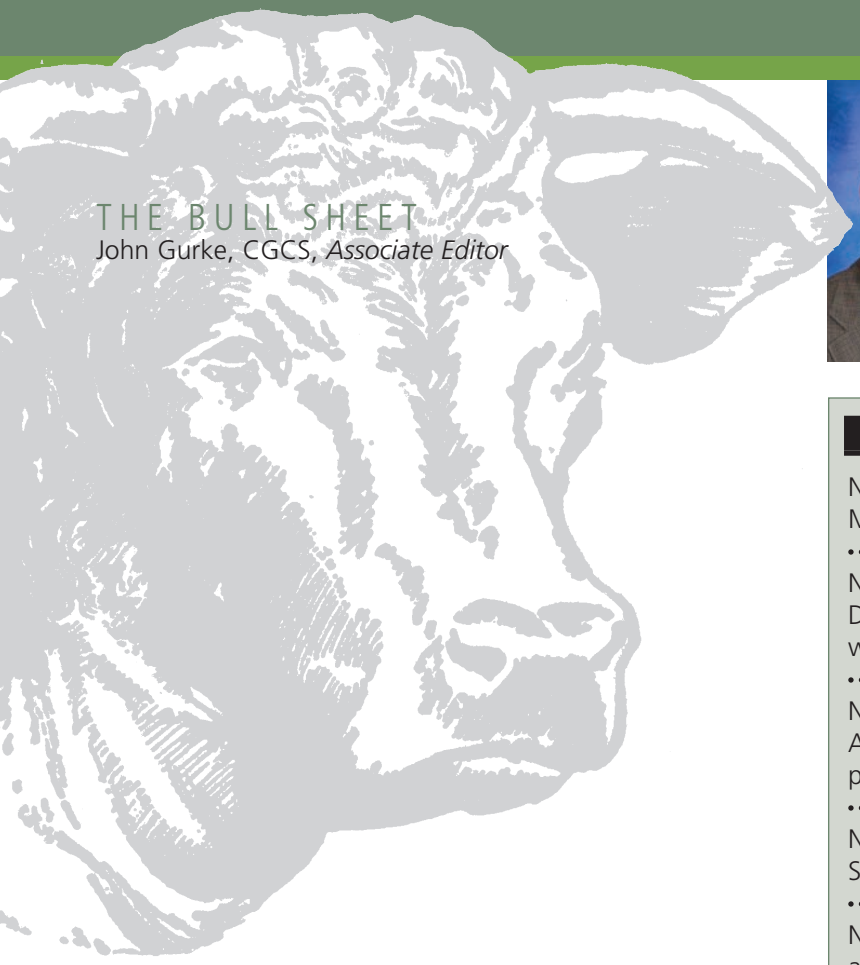
The Snapshot

In the customer service industry the common expression is: "you never get a second chance to make a first impression". Golf courses are no different; we are in the service industry. People come out to play our courses and for better or worse, the course they play that day is the impression they have for the rest of the season and sometimes longer. At times people are playing our course for a tournament, an outing or just a "road trip". People may play our courses one time the entire year and that is the snapshot they take of the golf course. Because "word of mouth" is still one of the most powerful forms of advertising the snapshot matters. Today expectations are high when it comes to golf courses.

As turf professionals, we know conditions vary day-to-day, month to month. Physiologically, the plant is different in the summer than it is in the fall. At the same daily mowing height, the greens may be fast or slow depending on the weather. It might be sunny and wet or it could be dry and cool. Maintenance tasks vary day to day. You might have top-dressed that day, aerified tees or not mowed certain areas. You might not have changed the cups, raked bunkers or maybe not string trimmed around some of the details. It might be a Monday or a Friday. The staffing levels may be different day to day and the tasks may vary from day to day. In this era of budget constraints, people are trying to do more with less. How often have you heard from golfers that they just want consistency? Golf is being played outdoors on "real" grass and inconsistency is the rule when dealing with all things natural. It's a tough "sell".

As we all know in our day to day golf maintenance tasks everything we do is a process. There is staffing, training, equipment operations and agronomics that all blend together as part of the process. It's not like an "I Dream of Jeannie" or a "Bewitched" episode where we just magically blink our eyes and the golf course looks like Augusta National during the Masters. We have to complete the tasks one hole at a time, starting at O:dark:30. It takes a few hours just to complete the daily basic morning set up tasks of changing cups, mowing greens, moving tee markers and other specialized mowing areas. To the average golfer with the 8:00 tee time all he/she sees is a finished product. They take a snapshot of that golf course on that particular day, at that particular time.

This was a difficult growing season, one of the toughest ever. Although the fall was dry, most courses had good recovery but the memories of poor turf conditions will linger. All we can do is our best to attempt to communicate what is happening with our turf and the limitations we all have with the nuances of each particular golf course. Each player who plays our courses takes a snapshot memory of their experience. Perfection is an illusion. Hopefully the pendulum will swing back to the days of yore when people were just glad to be out on the course having fun, enjoying the great outdoors and the camaraderie the game lends itself to. Until then, all we can do is try to be picture perfect. **-OC**



THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, *Associate Editor*

November 2010

A couple of venerated golf facilities in our midst have recently been honored. First, Olympia Fields Country Club was selected by the USGA as the site of the 2015 U. S. Amateur Championship, to be played August 24-30. The tournament will be contested on both the North (designed by Willie Park and opened in 1923) and South (a 1915 Tom Bendelow design) courses. Congratulations to **Sam MacKenzie, CGCS** and everyone at OFCC on this great news. Second, Cog Hill's Dubsdread course (**Ken Lapp** superintendent) was named to *Golf Digest* magazine's List of Most Important Courses by Decade in its November issue, which salutes the most important courses that have had the biggest impact upon the game decade by decade. Dubsdread was among the top ten courses in the 1960's. Congratulations to Ken, as well as to owner **Frank Jemsek** and the Jemsek family on achieving this honor.

Deepest condolences to **Paul Bastron, CGCS, Patrick Bastron,** and the Bastron family on the sudden and accidental death of Paul's father and Pat's grandfather Robert in a boating accident on October 5th.

Congratulations to **Travis Dykstra**, formerly of Prairie Landing Golf Club, who has accepted the Assistant Superintendent's position at St. Charles Country Club under superintendent **Jimmy Keith, CGCS**. Travis replaces **Josh Therrien** who recently took on the superintendent's duties at Piper Glenn Golf Club in Springfield. Good luck to Travis.

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 3 – 58th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club, **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** host.

November 9-11 – Turf & Ornamental Seminar at the Daniel Turf Center in West LaFayette, IN. Check out www.mrtf.org for info.

November 15 – Deadline for nominations for the 11th Annual TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta.

November 16-17 – The 2010 Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium at the American Club in Kohler, WI.

November 16-18 – 2010 Penn State Golf Turf Conference at the Nitany Lion Inn in University Park, PA. For more on this event go to www.paturf.org.

November 30 – Deeadline for entries in GCSAA's Turf Wars Video Contest.

December 6-9 – Ohio Turf Conference and Show at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, OH. A few simple clicks to www.ohioturfgrass.org gets you all the dope on this deal.

December 14-15 Illinois Turfgrass Foundation's Winter Workshops. Straight Education provided by the ITF. Midwest Golf House, Lemont, IL.

January 18-20 – 2011 Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show at the Polk Convention Complex & Marriott Hotel in Des Moines, IA. Try www.iowaturfgrass.org for more info.

January 19-21, 2011 – Mid-Am Expo in Chicago, IL. Visit www.midam.org to learn more.

Ravisloe Country Club in Homewood, IL began a new chapter in its long and storied history on October 4th when it welcomed its new steward into the fold. **Andrew Cross**, previously assistant at Exmoor Country Club under superintendent **Kurt Galisdorfer** was named Ravisloe's superintendent by GolfVisions Management, Inc., the club's operator. Congratulations, Andrew.

(continued on page 15)

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Andrew Cross

Don't forget the Big Cheese of Wisconsin golf turf events—the 45th Annual Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium—takes place at the American Club in Kohler this month on the 16th and 17th. Lots of good stuff up there, and a great location. Did you catch the pun there with the cheese thing?

Congrats to MAGCS members **Brad Legnaioli** of the Highlands of Elgin, **Curtis Tyrrell** of Medinah Country Club, and **Scott Witte** of Cantigny Golf Club on their recent recertification with GCSAA.

Ever wonder what happens when you slightly over-apply root stimulator to your turf? By slightly I'm talking like 100 times the normal concentration. Just ask **Bob Kohlstedt** of Fox Bend Golf Course…

What kinda cup cutter did he use to pull that sucker?

KemperSports has announced that the City Council of Highland Park, IL has chosen to extend its current agreement to manage Highland Park Country Club (**Daniel Cherrstrom, CGCS**).

Several MAGCS-member golf course architects have been keeping busy recently, bad economy or not:

On his golf blog, **Bob Lohmann** (Lohmann Golf Designs) relates details of his extensive work at Poplar Creek Country Club in Hoffman Estates (**Dustin Hugen** superintendent). Sitting in a flood plain and surrounded by development, the course is frequently rendered unplayable in many areas after rain events. With the help of the Bruce Company, Bob's plans call for a major redesign of the course, including lifting three fairways out of the flood plain while creating a giant system of ponds for increased and more flexible water retention. Along with this, the creek will be expanded in half a dozen different areas of the course, and connect to these ponds. With these new and improved features, rerouting of the layout in spots will create new risk-reward shot opportunities that weren't available before, along with a more attractive look thanks to the fescue-accented wildlife buffers along the new wetlands. There's much more on the plate for Bob and Poplar Creek, and it sounds as if the result will be outstanding.

Bob Lohmann

Greg Martin and his Martin Design Partnership are also kicking butt and taking names in our area. Greg is involved in several projects, including the current renovation work at Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton (**Mike Mumper** superintendent). The project is a three-phase renovation including bunkers, tees, fairway adjustments, tree removal and relocation, as well as the realignment of two holes on the East Course. At Fox Run Golf Links in Elk Grove Village (**Greg Thalmann, CGCS** superintendent), Martin will be providing a plan for infrastructure improvements and design facelift to the 40-year-old facility. This facelift will include drainage, irrigation, bunkers, tees, tree removals (a common theme around here, no?), and the redesign of two holes. Ground breaking is expected for 2011, and the project

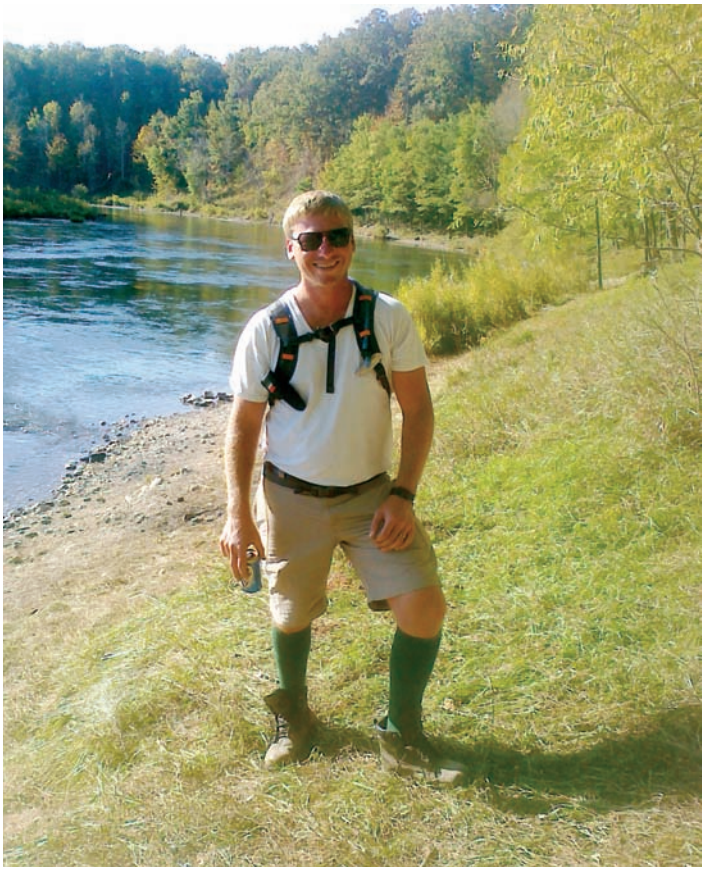
(continued on page 16)

is based on a Master Plan done by Greg in 2010. At Kishwaukee Country Club, Greg is generating a tree management plan which will analyze and determine trees for removal as well as new plantings for the course. Finally, Martin is preparing a Master Plan for Wilmette Golf Club (Mike Matchen superintendent/manager) and will begin a phased improvement plan for the 90-year-old course.

Greg Martin

Last but certainly not least, **Rick Jacobson** and Jacobson Golf Course Design have remained busy in Asia, with two projects underway. Rick recently broke ground on China's new Mogan Mountain Golf Club located in one of China's premiere resort areas about 100 miles inland from Shanghai. Also on the docket is the renovation of one of Japan's most prestigious courses—the 27-hole Ibaraki Kokusai Golf Club. The first phase was recently completed, and once it is finished, he will have installed new greens on all 27 holes (sodding them with A-4 bentgrass), renovated teeing areas, redesigned bunkers, and reconstructed cart paths. He will also improve and update the practice facility before it's all said and done.

Rick Jacobson



MAGCS Playmate of the Month: Luke Baker.
Likes: Miller Light. Dislikes: Shallow people and fashion.
Hobbies: Hiking and stealing socks from Girl Scouts.

On October 4th the gang at Cantigny Golf Club (**Dave Gelino, Mike Nass, Jeremy Duncan, Mark Kosbab, Steve Kuretsky, John Maksymiu,** and **Tom Weigand**) hosted the MAGCS monthly meeting and Golf Championship. It was a picture-perfect October day—for aerating greens in my case—and the course matched that description in condition. Greens were as slick as snot, challenging the field to go for those tough pin placements. At the end of the day, the best man won, and **Dave Kohley** emerged as our 2010 Golf Champion, edging out **Ed Fischer** (Chuck Anfield captured 3rd Place). Winners and runners-up in the other flights were as follows: Superintendent Flight, Champion **Bill Ahlstedt**, 2nd Place **Dan Charlton**, 3rd Place **Scott Witte**. Commercial Flight Champion **Chad Rotert**, 2nd Place **Doug Myslinski**, 3rd Place **Pete Kiraly**. Many thanks to Scott and everyone at Cantigny for their wonderful golf course and facilities, to everyone who participated and helped with the event, and to our ever-generous sponsors for the day, who were: **BASF, Bayer Environmental Science, Burris Equipment Company, Chicagoland Turf, Harris Golf Cars, JW Turf, Inc., John Deere Golf, Jacobson Golf Course Design, Inc., Nadler Golf Car Sales, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Palatine Oil Co., Inc., Quali-Pro, Syngenta**, and **XGD Systems**. Again, thank you all!

(continued on next page)

Scott Witte is all smiles after hosting the Midwest Golf Championship.

(continued on next page)

The 2010 MAGCS Champions - Chuck Anfield, Dan Charlton, Chad Rotert, Ed Fischer, Bill Ahlstedt, Doug Myslinski and seated Dave Kohley.

Another golf event of similar significance was held in October when **Brian Mores** and Inverness Golf Club hosted the Annual University of Illinois Turf Alumni Golf Outing. OK, maybe it shouldn't be compared to the Championship, but it's still pretty fun, bringing many orange-and-blue-clad alumni together for a day of golf and camaraderie on an outstanding golf course. Brian had it dialed in as they say, and a gas was had by all Illini in attendance. Big thanks to Brian and Inverness, and to **Matt Kregel** (fresh off the injured reserve list) for his hard work in arranging the day.

Budget cuts even hit the PGA Tour this year. Paul Vermeulen knows retirement isn't as close as it used to be and will be happy to find a chair for his new desk.

Some GCSAA news for you:

It's pretty much a given that there will be a dues increase for 2011. Class A and SM members should figure on a $20 bump, while Class C members will be nicked for $10, representing a 6.3% increase.

Your October issue of GCM should have included "Your Passport to Profitability," the 2011 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show brochure. It's THE comprehensive guide to all things GIS, which takes place February 7-11 in Orlando, FL. Just doing a little math in my head I figure it'll take about $1,500 to $2,500 in money-saving ideas I'll have to bring back to make this a true passport to profitability.

Two deserving gentlemen will be honored at the Golf Industry Show in February: First, 52-year GCSAA member Frank Dobie will receive the Colonel John Morley Distinguished Service Award. Dobie is superintendent and General Manager of the Sharon Golf Club in Sharon Center, Ohio. Second, Nick Price will receive the Old Tom Morris Award, GCSAA's highest honor, for his continued lifetime commitment to molding the welfare of the game of golf in the manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris. Congratulations to these two Distinguished and Old gentlemen.

The International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association (IGCEMA) has signed on as a participating partner with the Golf Industry Show through 2014 beginning with the 2011 event.

The position description of GCSAA's next CEO is now available at www.gcsaa.org in case you fancy yourself in that role. The board has targeted January, 2011 as the interview period for candidates. I'm guessing this will lead to an announcement at the Conference? Hmmm. And no word yet regarding the mysterious resignation of previous CEO Mark Woodward—I wonder if that'll ever come out?

You are being asked to accept the Golden Tee Club Challenge presented by Jacobsen, which aims to reach 700 members in the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG) Golden tee Club by year's end. Your $100 donation helps support: Tools and resources for sustainable management of golf courses, research, education, and communication efforts. To learn more, go to www.eifg.org.

Can't resist—same photo, different caption…

"Aaargh! Pirate booty!"

-OC

ASSISTED BY THE CLASS C

Joe Schneider, *Beverly Country Club*

My Experience at Green Start

In late September, 50 Assistant Superintendents from across the country and part of Canada gathered in North Carolina. They gathered for the 5th Annual Green Start Academy, a two and a half day conference hosted by Bayer and John Deere. To be considered for the Green Start Academy, one first had to complete an application that included a written essay. These essays were reviewed by a panel of Superintendents and Directors of Golf from across the country.

During the conference, the Assistants attended talks given by turfgrass professors from the Michigan State and North Carolina State turf programs, representatives from GCSAA, John Deere and Bayer, and had roundtable discussions with superintendents from top clubs. These talks were held at the Bayer Development and Training Center in Clayton N.C. and were complimented by tours of John Deere's Turf Care factory in Fuquay Varina, N.C.

The conference started at the Bayer Development and Training Center with a talk from Dr. Tom Rufty on the "Benefits to Managed Ecosystems". He included information about using effluent water effectively. This was followed by a talk from Dr. Grady Miller on "Water Management". He stressed being proactive with water usage and having a plan set up for droughts and/or mandated water reductions. Both gentlemen are professors at North Carolina State University. Next, we ventured outside to open discussions with Mr. Tracy Lanier and Mr. Brent Rinholm, representatives from John Deere, on "Hybrid Technology". They explained the current technology being used by John Deere in their hybrid mowers and answered questions about current and future hybrid use. Next, Dr. David Spak of Bayer spoke on photosynthesis and plant health and Mr. Mike Newnam also from Bayer, covered disease susceptibility. Both displayed and discussed experiments that were ongoing at their facility.

Experts from John Deere talked about hybrid technology applications in golf course equipment.

After lunch, we boarded a bus to John Deere's Turf Care Factory in Fuquay Varina, NC. There, we were given a tour of the factory floor and shown the process of producing some of the equipment that we use on the course including the ProGator, Turf Gator, and 5-unit fairway and rough mowers. While at John Deere, we meet with Mr. Ronnie Johnson, the Plant Manager at John Deere Turf Care. He talked about the uniqueness of this factory and his management style. We then met with Mr. Steve Randall, GCSAA, to talk about "Career Development". Both talks were very open and very informative. To close out the night, we headed back to Bayer for a networking and socializing period and dinner. After dinner, Mr. Bob Farren, the Grounds and Golf Course Manager at Pinehurst, talked about the ongoing renovation of Pinehurst Course 2. They are currently eliminating some of the expansion and changes done over the years to bring it back to its original layout.

The next day we started back at Bayer as Mr. Stan Zontek, of the USGA began by giving us an update on the state of his organization. Dr. Nick Hamon from Bayer followed by discussing "Sustainable Development". To finish out the morning, we had a tour of the test plots and four test holes located at the Bayer facility. We talked with some of the researchers about the plots and test topics. The facility is located in an area of the country that allows them to have both warm and cold season grasses for testing. We also had open discussions with Mr. Bob Farren from Pinehurst and with Mr. Ken Mangum, Director of Golf and Grounds at Atlanta Athletic Club. They told their

history and take on the golf industry and answered any questions that we posed.

After lunch we heard from Dr. Thom Nikolai, from Michigan State University, about balancing budgets, turfgrass health and customer satisfaction. He referred to current research that has been going on at MSU, including rolling and mowing frequency and chemical applications. He stated that failed communication was often times the biggest flaw that a superintendent battles. We closed out the day with a trip back to the Raleigh Durham Airport to head back to our respective clubs.

I feel very privileged to have been part of the Green Start Academy. The presentations were very informative and I know everyone will take back something from the event. For me, the networking and discussions with fellow Assistant Superintendents was more important. It was great hearing from my peers on their struggles and successes. It was two days surrounded by people with the same goals and aspirations as I. It gave me a chance to see what was happening in other areas of the country. I highly recommend that anyone that has the opportunity to participate in upcoming Green Start Academy's do so. I would like to thank John Deere and Bayer for hosting the conference. I would also like to thank Keith Peterson and Beverly Country Club for allowing me the time away to participate in such an event. **-OC**

Ken Mangum, Atlanta Athletic Club and Bob Farren, Pinehurst led discussions among the attendees and shared their experiences within the golf course industry.

Assistant Superintendents attend the Green Start Academy, taking a tour of the Bayer Development and Training Center in Clayton, N.C.

On Course and the MAGCS thank our November advertisers.

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