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Briarwood Country Club's native areas were created by Paul Voykin and crew before they were cool.

Congratulations to Paul Voykin on his induction into the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame. Cover photo is one of the many golf holes at Briarwood that use native plants and non mowed areas to enhance the golf experience. Photo credit: Luke Cella

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ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT Chuck Barber, *Indian Lakes Resort*



Summertime Fun

Luke Cella, our esteemed Executive Director, asked me if I could write a few pages for On Course. As a co-chair of the Editorial Committee I am responsible for content in the magazine. That was 48 hours ago and I thought long and hard about what to discuss and it came to me last night when I was getting my 7-month old daughter, Molly, ready for bed.

As golf course superintendents we are asked to give up much of our lives for the good of our employer and, by extension, the golf courses that we are tasked with managing. We wake up early, we stay up late, we have families, girlfriends, friends, and neighbors. In short, we have lives. I am currently in my fourth season as a superintendent and one of the most important things I've learned in that time is to know when NOT to be at work.

The reason we work the way we do is so that the lives we lead away from the golf course are possible. The reasons vary from person to person and none of us has the same life as the next. I recognize the need to be away from work throughout the year to be with my family. My wife, Tina, and I have two kids. Molly is seven months and Tom is three years old. I keep a file of images of my family on the computer at work and I look at them from time to time. My most recent visit to the file was the inspiration for this article.

As a new parent, I am preaching to the converted for those of you with children, no matter what age they are. I can say with

a great deal of certainty that nothing can prepare you for having kids. Nothing. The advice will come from everywhere: Friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, strangers and acquaintances. Politely acknowledge the advice, smile and go about raising your children in the way you see fit.

The position I hold at Indian Lakes allows for a great deal of freedom in my schedule and it is our general manager's policy that no one works seven days in a row if it can be avoided. I know many of you reading this work every day and I won't attempt to change that. I will say that when I did that over the last few years I stepped back and realized I had missed a great deal of my son's life. I make a point of it now to bring Tom

to the golf course on my day off (if we're able) as he loves playing in the sand traps, driving with me and the dog on the golf cart, and sitting on the machines. I will bring our clubs with us and we have a great time. On the occasion when that isn't possible or necessary we take advantage of Chicagoland as much as we can. The whole world is literally at our doorstep and much of it can be done on the cheap if you know how to work the system:

- The Chicago Public Library system has museum passes for each museum in town and you can check them out just like a book. Getting in two adults and up to 4 kids in for free is a great way to see the Museum of Science and Industry, Art Institute, Field Museum or the Shedd Aquarium.
- Chicago has one of the most extensive parks systems in the country. It could be argued that the Chicago lakefront is unique among virtually every other city in the world in that it is wide open for the citizenry to

enjoy. Furthermore, there seems to be one playground per block in many neighborhoods both in the city and in the suburbs. These places offer fun, free entertainment as well as good exercise for both you and the kids.

- The Lincoln Park Zoo is free and accessible by public transportation. If you haven't seen the ComEd Zoo lights at Christmas you don't know what you're missing.
- A two-year membership to The Brookfield Zoo is \$177 and pays for itself after the second visit. Tom and Molly enjoy (continued on page 5)

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going and I love seeing them experience the wildlife and habitat the park offers. My father, George, is a volunteer and we try and co-ordinate our visits with his shifts so the kids can see their Grandpa. There is a METRA stop right Don't forget to take some time for yourself. I play in a golf league once a week to have a little "Chuck time" though work is frequently discussed during play. Tina has yet to find her 'thing' away from the kids and me. Your spouse or significant

next door, which makes the zoo even more accessible.

All of us have a driving range or mini-golf course within a short drive from home and while that is never free, it is a great way to whack some balls and it is relatively inexpensive.
I will tell you the kids have to be 3 or 4 before they can be trusted with a busy driving range. I speak from experience here.

These are just a small sample of some of the great experiences available to all of our families in Chicago and the suburbs. I didn't even mention the Morton Arboretum, the forest preserves, bike paths and trails, and other public facilities that dot our landscape.



other needs to have a life outside of the family. I encourage Tina to find time with friends away from the home. Some other things I think "we" as a collective profession need to do better is to schedule and keep regular doctor's visits and get involved in our own comrunities. Some group near your home needs your help. Hopefully all of us have employers who encourage us to be with our families and to spend time away from work. The real lesson to remember is that, despite all evidence to the contrary, we work to live. It shouldn't be the other way around. **-OC**

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FEATURE | Dean MacMorris, *Nightlight*



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cieneration. Diodes are electrical

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valves that allow electrical

current to flow in only one

direction, just as a one-way

valve might in a water pipe.

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Watch out . . . There are Pitfalls to the New LED Lighting

Ever since George W. Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005, emphasis has been placed on the efficiency of lighting. The many benefits of Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting have come to our attention. While there are many benefits to LED, it also has many pitfalls that could get you into trouble. I will describe LED lighting so you can understand why it has become so popular and why there is so much confusion. It's true that LED technology is more costly on the front end. However, I will show that when it's done properly, it can save considerable money long-term.

Most of us are familiar with the common types of lighting, such as the regular incandescent, fluorescent, and High Intensity Discharge (HID) like metal halide, mercury vapor, and high-pressure sodium lamps. The Energy Policy Act of 2005, requires most of these common types of lighting to be replaced eventually with the more efficient LED.

Although people are fighting against this as we

speak, it's common knowledge that the regular light bulb is slated for extinction. We already know there has been a push to replace it with the compact fluorescent or CFL. Even though lawmakers want all of us to use CFLs, rather than regular incandescent bulbs, many people still prefer the bulbs we have used for years. Issues include the color of CFL lights, how slowly they come on, and that they are not dimmable. The argument for CFLs is their efficiency. That's also why LED is becoming much more popular. LEDs are far more efficient than CFLs. They are also dimmable and instant on.

Because many are unfamiliar with LED technology, it's easy to jump on the bandwagon without really knowing which LED fixture or lamp is the right choice. Many of the major manufacturers have been working very hard to develop a new technology that is state-of-the-art, efficient, with acceptable colors, as well as cost-effective. To some extent, there has been a rush to be the market leader with little focus on the consumer. Since most consumers are uninformed about LED lighting, they could unknowingly choose a technology with a short lifespan. Whether it's interior lighting or site and landscape lighting, it's wise to consult with a lighting professional before buying LED. of high electronic density to a region of low electronic density. This movement of electrons is accompanied by the emission of light. The more electrons that pass across the boundary between layers, known as a junction, the brighter the light.

To make the semiconductor wafers, gallium, arsenic, and/or phosphor are first mixed together in a chamber and forced into a solution. To keep them from escaping into the pressurized gas in the chamber, they are often covered with a layer of liquid boron oxide. Next, a rod is dipped into the

(continued on page 9)



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Agronomic Sales: Chicago South: Paul Yerkes, 630-514-9373 Chicago North: Charles Hill, 630-768-9275 solution and pulled out slowly. The solution cools and crystallizes on the end of the rod as it is lifted out of the chamber, forming a long, cylindrical crystal ingot. The ingot is then sliced into wafers. Each of the semiconductor materials (called substrates) and impurities result in various colors of light from the LED.

During the process of growing the LEDs, the diodes are tested for many factors. The two main factors are the color of light that the diode emits (in degrees Kelvin), and the intensity of the diode (or lumens-per-watt output). The growing process has been difficult to control; therefore, the diodes must be graded for quality in these two categories. This is called binning or batching. The greater percentage of diodes are of low quality; and therefore, are sold rather cheaply. On the other hand, the higherquality diodes command a considerably higher price. This is why there are so many different lamps to choose from at varying prices and levels of quality. The lower quality diodes, although less expensive, do not offer the intensity most consumers are looking for, which leads to disappointment and frustration.

When most people think of LED lighting, the first thought that comes to mind is that the light is too blue. Some people think they are eerie looking. When Christmas lights first came out in LED several years ago, they were all blue in color. be the case until there is an industry standard and larger quantities are produced. With all of the focus on LED lighting by many different manufacturers, the technology is improving greatly and the prices are falling. In the past a viable LED replacement lamp(s) was not available. In the last few months, cost effective options have been made available for retrofitting many of the common incandescent and HID fixtures.

LEDs run on direct current (DC), as opposed to alternating current (AC), the standard in office buildings and homes. This requires the diodes to have a "driver," which converts the power from AC to DC. The advantage is the lamps themselves use approximately half of the energy. Unfortunately, the driver generates heat in the conversion process, and this heat is detrimental to the diodes themselves. This and the limited space an existing lamp occupies cause a restriction on how big or powerful a driver can be before it generates enough heat to damage the diodes. This is the reason many LED lamps perform at a lower level than their incandescent rivals even though they are sometimes as much as ten times more expensive. It isn't cost effective to replace an entire existing fixture to convert to LED. Technology is quickly moving in the direction of producing lamps *(continued on page 11)*



This was because cooler colors are the most cost-effective to produce, and they happen to have the highest lumen-to-watt output. The warmer yellow light has less lumen output. At the time, the blue option was the only one available. Manufacturers could not produce a bright enough warm diode. Since then, the technology has changed so warm, cool, and cooler options are available cost-effectively. The color of light is measured in degrees Kelvin. See the chart at right:

The technology is changing quickly. Manufacturers are limiting their inventory of fixtures and lamps, not wanting to manufacture and inventory product that may become obsolete before it's sold. This is a major reason why LED remains much more costly than the more common forms of lighting. This will continue to

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that are more powerful, and generate little enough heat, to offer a reasonable alternative.

The main reason LED lighting was developed in the first place is its energy efficiency. Today, many of the high quality lamps can reduce energy consumption by as much as eighty percent. Lamp life is approximately eight to ten years. Compare this to incandescent, fluorescent and HID, and you will quickly see why LED is growing in influence and popularity. There is so much attention being given to LED worldwide that quality, efficiency, and light color improvements are occurring on an almost weekly basis.

Fixtures that once cost several thousand dollars are now available for less than \$500. As lamps and fixtures improve, the prices continue to drop. Within the next several years, we will probably see LED fall into line with existing, conventional fixture pricing. It is already possible to do an LED retrofit of conventional lighting that will provide a reasonable return on investment. While the initial investment is substantial,



the energy savings and the lamp life soon pay off. With a nearly eighty percent reduction in energy usage for lighting, it is possible to do simple calculations on what the annual electrical savings will be. For example, a recent LED retrofit conversion of the site and landscape illumination at Butterfield Country Club will net approximately \$3,400 in savings annually. This savings is for site and landscape lighting alone. To compare lumen-to-watt ratios and lamp lifespan, see chart below.

The LED phenomenon is the most significant change in the lighting industry since the invention of the original light bulb by Thomas Edison. LED will continue to evolve and become the replacement for the lighting we know today. LED is truly a "green," sustainable alternative for the future.

MAGCS member, Night Light, Inc., located in Lombard, Illinois, has already converted all of their incandescent and HID landscape illumination to LED. Mitch Beiser: mitch@nightlightinc.net, or www.nightlightinc.net. -OC

SOURCE	Lumen/Watt Ratios		
Incandescent lamp	17 - 20		
Tungsten Halogen lamp	17 - 20		
HID: Metal Halide	<u>65 - 115</u>		
HID: Mercury Vapor	50 - 60		
HID: High Pressure Sodium	85 - 150		
Fluorescent lamp	50 - 100		
Induction lamp	60 - 90		
LED lamp	30 - 100		

11

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Brandon Burns, Weed Man-Arlington Heights

FEATURE II Luke Cella, *Publisher*

Paul Voykin makes it Five in the Hall of Fame

On October 21, 2011, Paul Voykin, 80, will be inducted into the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame. He is the fifth golf course superintendent to receive this honor and joins the likes of Bob Williams, Ray Gerber, Oscar Miles and Carl Hopphan.

The Illinois Golf Hall of Fame was created in 1989 by the Illinois PGA Foundation in an effort to recognize and honor those individuals who have contributed to the rich history and tradition of the game of golf here in Illinois. Representatives from Illinois' allied golf associations serve on its selection committee including the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Paul was selected from a field of over 25.

Paul held the position of Golf Course Superintendent at Briarwood Country Club from 1961 until retiring in 2007. He is still part of the club, a member treasured by many. After spending a morning with him and sharing a meal, the member's love for Paul is obvious and genuine - each took the time to share a joke, a story, or concern for his well being. It was great to see. Since his retirement, Paul has had nothing but admiration and praise for Justin VanLanduit, his successor. Justin has continued one of Paul's legacies at the club – not mowing areas that are out of play and nurturing native plants in their stead. In the early 1970s, as golf course conditioning began its upward climb, Paul experimented with these "out of play" areas for a dual purpose. The first was to control costs – oil prices climbed because of the OPEC proclaimed oil embargo. There was fear that it would last, disrupting supply and causing recession. It was less expensive not to maintain those areas with fertilizers, mowing, and spraying oil-based pesticides. Secondly, Paul liked the plants that started to grow. They reminded him of his walks to school as a child in Saskatoon, a town that is now the largest city in Saskatchewan, the Canadian province north of Montana and North Dakota.

Paul was working for the Saskatchewan Telephone Company when he and his brother Peter answered an advertisement to work for the Jasper National Park Golf Course The current roster of Illinois Golf Hall of Fame members is made up of men and women who have played significant roles in all aspects of the game, from teaching to playing, course design and construction to administration and inspiration. These individuals represent not only an impressive collection of accomplishments in golf, but the true spirit and integrity that make the game great. The current Illinois Golf Hall of Fame roster includes some of the most influential contributors to the growth of the game throughout the state.

(over 500 miles away) as laborers. Peter had golf course experience working at the Saskatoon Golf and Country Club, and both were hired on very quickly. Jasper National attracted many celebrities of the day. It was a visit from Ben Hogan that caused Peter and Paul to stay in the golf business. During a talk to the caddies, Mr. Hogan told those present, "working in the golf business will allow you to live like a millionaire." Both young men were hooked, Paul especially, with his love for the outdoors. Paul realizes he's not a millionaire, but lives like (continued on page <None>)

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one – playing golf in his retirement and realizing the good fortune the industry has provided him.

Paul has received many accolades throughout his career including the Charles Bartlett Award (1967), the Leo Feser Award (1981), and the Superintendent of the Year Award (2003). Paul is a MAGCS Past President (1972) and author of two books, A Perfect Lawn, the Easy Way (1969) and Ask the Lawn Expert (1975). Both books can still be found on Amazon, the first edition of Ask the Lawn Expert is going for \$17.95 and is listed under the Collectible heading. – I've got an edition signed by the author, in which he proclaims I'm his good friend, making my copy priceless.

Congratulations Paul. -OC

The Illinois Golf Hall of Fame exhibit is located on the main level of the clubhouse of The Glen Club in Glenview, Illinois. Visitors can find The Glen Club at 2901 West Lake Avenue in Glenview, Illinois 60025.



Paul at Briarwood during his first season in 1961. This photo still hangs in the clubhouse.

Below Left: Paul finds a lead plant in one of Briarwood's native areas, a plant that is indicative a healthy and vibrant restoration. Right: Not every native area has to be large to be successful and eye catching. This one frames a green and shelters it from an adjacent hole.



THE BULL SHEET John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



July 2011

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 5 – Deadline for the call for nominations for the 2012 GCSAA Board of Directors. July 8 – Deadline for applications to this year's Green Start Academy sponsored by John Deere Golf and Bayer CropScience to be held on October 5-7. July 12 – 11th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing and Scholarship Fundraiser at Marengo Ridge Golf & Country Club in Marengo, IL, Luke Roth host. July 13 – ITF/NWIGCSA Summer Golf Day at Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa in Galena, IL, Tom Tully, CGCS and Kurt Strother hosts. July 18-23 – U.S. Girls Junior Championship at Olympia Fields Country Club in Olympia Fields, IL, Sam MacKenzie, CGCS host. July 19 – Midwest Regional Turf Field Day at the Daniel Turf Center on the Purdue University campus in West LaFayette, IN. Info can be found at www.mrtf.org. July 26 – Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Summer Field Day at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility in Verona, WI. Go to www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org for details. July 30 – Deadline for submissions to TurfNet for its "2012 Superintendents Best Friend Calendar." August 1 – Deadline for submissions to Lebanon Turf for its "2012 Dog Days of Golf Calendar" and its "2012 Dog of the Year" contest. August 1 – Deadline for entries in Rain Bird's 2011 Intelligent Use of Water Film Competition. August 6 – MAGCS Family Night Picnic and Kane County Cougars game at Elfstrom Field in Geneva, IL. Register online today. August 7 – Deadline for nominations for GCSAA's Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award.

Congratulations to **Greg Zumdahl**, former Class C member at Bolingbrook Golf Club on his new position as Turf Specialist for Spectrum Technologies, Inc. Greg's responsibilities will include consulting, educating, and promoting research to Spectrum's turf and golf course industry segments.



Also making the move to the sunny side of the street is **Al Pondel, CGCS** who has joined the sales team at Harrell's Fertilizer, LLC. Al was previously the long-time superintendent/ GM at Rockford Country Club. Congratulations Al and best of luck in your new career.

Harrell's has been busy lately, adding **Pete Kiraly** to the sales team as well. Pete is the former superintendent at Canyata Golf Club. Congrats to Pete.

(continued on page 18)

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Finally! The Illinois PGA Golf Hall of Fame has honored the fifth-ever golf course superintendent into its fold in naming Mr. Paul Voykin as one of its 2011 inductees. Paul joins the elite company of former inductees Bob Williams, Ray Gerber, Oscar Miles, and Carl Hopphan, and for very good reason. It was Paul Voykin who coined the term "overgrooming is overspending," alluding to the need for golf courses to dedicate their out-of-play areas to low-maintenance native plantings that would serve as habitat for wildlife while also reducing maintenance costs. Paul was also a pioneer in being one of the first superintendents in the country to hire Hispanic workers in the early 60's. Among his other accolades, Paul was named Superintendent of the Year in 2003 at the GCSAA Conference and Show, and is a past president of MAGCS. The award will be presented on October 21st at The Glen Club in Glenview, IL. Congratulations, Paul!



In 2004, Eric Nalder (Nadler Golf Car Sales) hands over the keys to Paul's new Club Car Precedent Champions Edition golf car.

For the third year, Syngenta is inviting golf course superintendents across the country to apply to attend the Syngenta Business Institute, an innovative professional business development program. The program was developed specifically for golf course superintendents, in conjunction with Wake Forest University. The four-day program is designed to grow the professional knowledge of golf course superintendents and assist them with managing their courses. It takes place from December 5th through the 8th at the Graylyn International Conference Center on the campus of Wake Forest in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. To apply, go to www.syngenta.com, but do it quickly—deadline for applications is August 17th. 25 superintendents will be chosen from the applications received. Good luck.

Just around the corner is the **3rd Annual iTurfExpo** at Midwest Golf House and Sunshine Course in Lemont. The new and improved 1-day event will feature several noted out-of-state speakers including Dr. Lee Miller from University of Missouri, Dr. Aaron Patton from Purdue, Dr. Jim Kerns from University of Wisconsin, along with our favorite homeys from Champaign-Urbana and Carbondale. There will be many new twists and lots of great information to glean. Mark the date—September 22nd!

Eddie Braunsky, CGCS averted a near emergency recently when his RainBird irrigation system suffered a setback. Luckily, **Scott Pace** was Scotty on the Spot and climbed through the mess that is Eddie's office to make the necessary repair.



Thank goodness disaster was avoided—here is Scott leaving the property after making the just-in-the-nick-of-time fix (note the puddles from yet ANOTHER June downpour)



Eddie also threw in this photo—his new and ingenious use of business cards to make sure those mowers are sharp. He assured me that there was no malice aforethought when choosing whose card to use.



Happy 75th Birthday to the National Golf Foundation. NGF was founded in 1936 by brothers Herb and Joe Graffis, who also were the first publishers of *Chicago Golfer* magazine, as well as two of the most important early national golf magazines—*Golfdom* and *Golfing*. To celebrate the event, NGF has created a film to document the evolution of the golf business over the last 75 years. Go to www.ngf.org and click on the video thingie—it's well worth the 15-minute time investment. Do you have someone in mind that has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession? If so, waste no time in nominating them for the Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award, which was first presented in 1932 and has been presented annually by GCSAA since 1975. The deadline for nominations is August 7th, so get on it. You can access the form at www.gcsaa.org.

The 62nd GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic has a home for 2012—it will take place at five courses among PGA West, LaQuinta Resort, and Desert Willow Golf Resort in Palm Springs, California from Feb. 24-26.

- -

GCSAA has released the highlights from its 2011 Compensation and Benefits Report that it conducts every other year. In a nutshell, member superintendents, on average: Are 45 years old (I wish). Manage a crew of 21 (I wish). Feel secure in their jobs (I wish). Plan to retire by age 64.4 (I wish). And seasonally, work 55 hours per week in the spring, 60 in the summer, 51 in the fall, and 41 in the winter (I wish). Oh, and the survey also found that member salaries are still rising—by an average of 2.9%. I wish.

Also from GCSAA—the newly redesigned GCSAA.org is up and running. If you haven't had the opportunity to check it out, check it out. It's very fun.

You can finally sleep now—GCSAA has announced the site for its 2015 Golf Industry Show and it is...San Antonio,

Texas. With the downsizing of the Show in our current economy, CEO Rhett Evans stated that it has opened the door to explore smaller venues, and San Antonio—the home of the Alamo and the Stetson hat factory—fit the bill. The Show will take place from Feb. 23-27, 2015.

This is not one of those stupid MAGCS celebrity look-alike things that we've been running lately. This is just a guy (**Greg Johnson**—Eagle Brook Country Club) with his head cover that is also his identical twin. Do you see it?



(continued on next page)



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 THIS is the stupid MAGCS celebrity look-alike thing. Steve Kerr—big-time shooter of 3-point shots and **Keith Krause**—barfs if he drinks 3 shots. Brothers?



If you are a TurfNet subscriber and are either a current blogger or are considering it, but have no clue about image editing or graphic design, they can help you. The folks at TurfNet are offering to professionally design a custom theme for your blog AT NO COST. All they need is a good headshot photo of yourself, several good scenic shots of your course, and a logo and they will handle the rest. Contact Peter McCormick at www.turfnet.com for more info. Did you see the June issue of **GCM**? Prominently featured in it was **Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG**'s article that ran in *On Course* titled "Shoot the Elephants First." Way to stir things up, Tim!

He hasn't even unpacked his bags, and he's already hobnobbing with local celebs. **Brad Anderson, CGCS** at Bittersweet Golf Club recently cozied up to former Bear Tommie Harris when Tommie dropped in for a round of golf. That's Brad on the right.



Thanks to all those who attended and to **Luke Strojny, CGCS** for hosting the MAGCS June meeting at Prairie Bluff Golf Course on June 21st. 126 members and friends enjoyed the education, the course, the food, and the camaraderie to honor **Ken Shepherd** as he retires from the industry. Jim Kerwin, General Manager and Head Grower of Terrona





Farms of Peotone, IL led the day off with a great talk about new flowers and their uses on the golf course. **Luke Cella** videoed it if you missed it—give him a call and he will send you a copy of the talk.

The golf event revealed the newest MAGCS Champions: The Dom Grotti Championship was captured by **Matt Harstad** and **Adam Lencke** of Calumet Country Club. Matt shot his best round ever, 80 beating his single-digit-handicap assistant Adam by one for a net score of 134. They were followed by **Chuck Anfield** and **Dave Roberts** (143), then **Dave Groelle** and **Brian Placzkowski** (144) who edged out **Don Cross** and **Jacob Miskiewicz** (144) in a scorecard playoff for the third spot. 13 teams competed for the Super/Assistant title.

The Class C Champ was also crowned; Jacob Miskiewicz finished first with a 79 beating out Brian Placzkowski by a scorecard playoff. Adam Lencke finished third with an 81. 11 assistants competed for the coveted cup-cutter trophy

(yet to be named). Matt Harstad and Kerry Anderson captured closest to the flagstick honors. Lynn Wesson and Tom Savage plugged the longest putts to take home a memento. The winners of the 2-man blind draw were: Dave Kohley and Scott Pavalko, Al Pondel and Chad Walk, Whitey Anderson and Rick Wilson, Mike Hatton and Eric Nadler (best blind draw partners), John Anderson and Mike Vercautren, and Bill Ahlstedt and Jerry Cotton.

Our generous sponsors for the event were: Arthur Clesen, Inc., Burris Equipment Company, J.W. Turf, Inc., Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Syngenta, John Deere Golf, BASF, Great Lakes Turf LLC, The Andersons, Harris Golf Car Sales, Reinders, Inc., and Chicagoland Turf. Thanks to all of these fine companies Ken Shepherd shared a few thoughts with the group as the day wound down. He challenged each of us on two fronts. The first was to embrace our younger generation and encourage them to get into the golf business. Looking around the room, Ken made the point that the business is special because of the people in it (most are here because they worked on courses when they were young). Second was to pass our work ethic on to those that we take under our wing. Ken is afraid that the work ethic he learned from his father and from those seated in the room is quickly becoming a thing of the past. He challenged each of us to give opportunities to those that will carry the business into the future and teach them that there is value in a day's work that goes beyond a paycheck. Luke didn't tape this, although he wished he had.

(continued on page 23)



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> -Rich Carter, General Manager Indian Wells, CA

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E D U C A T I O N R E V I E W Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*

Adding Color to Your Course



The MAGCS Members gathered in Lockport, at Prairie Bluff Golf Club for the June Meeting. Hosting for the day was past MAGCS President Luke Strojny. He had the golf course (and flowers) in fabulous condition to honor Ken Shepard's retirement.

Jim Kerwin of Terrona Farms made an "animated" power point presentation of the benefits and beauty of ornamental annual plantings for golf courses to the Members attending.

Jim started off with the fact most golf courses have an abundance of the color green (we hope). Annual flower plantings can be used to attract new members and players to the course. He stated that women spend over 80% of the family income and bright, attractive annual plantings of color are a great way to get their attention. People love flowers. They make comments about them and remember the places with plantings that they liked.

Jim showed some exciting ways to combine colors and textures of flowers for enhanced plantings. For those who are Members of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, flowers can help attract additional species of birds, insects and butterflies. Match complimentary colors for an improved look. A color wheel can be referenced for proper color coordination.

There were some great slides of various container plantings. He recommends container plantings as the easiest and cheapest way to display annuals. Jim really likes the versatility of being able to move containers around and the creative opportunities that containers can provide. You can put unusual plant materials and combine different colors, heights and textures. Jim likes containers that are deep. They hold more soil and provide more opportunity for deeper rooting. "People want the perennial look with color. Annuals are great because they flower all summer long." Be sure to use specific sun or shade flower species for specific sites.

Hanging baskets are another great way to display annuals in a small area. Trellises are fun and European "hay racks" are another opportunity to cover up bridges and plant annuals in small spaces.

Jim says, "people are tired of the same old thing, try some new combinations, there are so many new hybrid varieties out there. You can create some dramatic effects with small plantings and they are so easy to care for." The annuals do need regular applications of fertilizer to keep the plants flowering. And good soil is essential for proper drainage.

The grass growers were a "tough crowd", especially with a non-turf topic. Jim did a great job to bring some excitement to planting flowers. Some other benefits to flower plantings are that they have a welcoming and overall calming effect. During the typical summer stress months, who doesn't need that? Want to see the presentation? Call Luke and he will send you one. **-OC**





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