

ON COURSE

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May 2011

Briar Ridge Country Club

Erwin McKone, CGCS
and Dave Miloshoff



Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents
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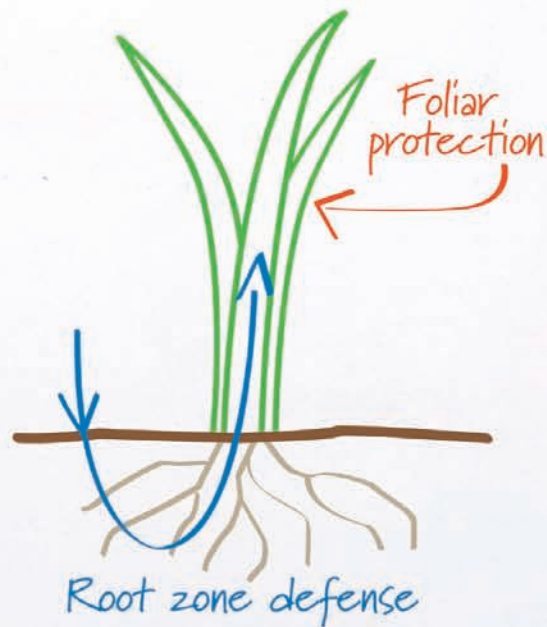
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Briar Ridge Country Club's bluebirds are actively making homes in the nest boxes on the property. Pictured above, a female bluebird arrives at her box with some grass in beak to make it homey.

FRONT COVER

Three little obstacles guard the small putting green of the relatively short par 4, (385 yards) 7th hole on the White Course at Briar Ridge
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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Conveying Meaningful Information

Several weeks ago MAGCS sent out a survey to the membership on communication via email. The information that was gathered is helping direct our resources to the modes that matter most. We had a very good response rate. Just over 250 people filled it out – thank you very much to those that responded – it really helps to do this every now and then.

Email, by far is the most desirable method of communication, 95% of you prefer this method. The choices were email, Facebook, Twitter, texting, telephone and other – actually I was a little surprised no one wrote in telepathy. Not everyone surveyed had a Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn account, but everyone had an email account (makes sense, that's how we sent the survey) that they check quite regularly, the minimum was 2 times per day. 110 people surveyed had a smart phone with their email on it.

I was really happy to see that the email format, frequency and content are well received. We will try and add some more pictures to the mix and keep the content fresh to inform all our members. Only half of you knew MAGCS has a Facebook page and a Twitter account. I'll start to include links to these items in all our future communications, so if you chose, you may follow us in this manner.

The jury is still out on posting pictures of members from our events through different social media outlets. After reading some of the responses, I don't think we were clear enough about the photos we would post for the public to see. When the question was written, I only thought images of the membership as professionals attending meetings, education and networking would be used. Each month, we take many pictures at our events and not all of them make it into the magazine, primarily because of space limitations. The idea was to post these "unpublished" pictures to share with membership.

Out of the 242 respondents, 75 of you said you would consider receiving only a digital copy of On Course. 131 responded that you would like the digital version as well as a printed copy and 36 of you intoned you only want a printed copy of the magazine. This is a large change from when we asked the question three years ago, enough for us to look into this endeavor – look for a more detailed survey to help us create this option that is first class and valuable.

Only half of you knew MAGCS has a Facebook page and a Twitter account.

Game on. 115 of you said you would like to participate in a monthly photo contest of pictures from your course. I'll publish/print/post as many as I can and the editorial committee can be the judge of them. Please send your images (highest resolution possible) to luke@magcs.org and look for them to show up. We'll have to come up with a prize, maybe an all expense paid trip to the Turf Clinic and a frame for your photo? No matter what the prize, please send your pics so everyone can enjoy them.

The most exciting response received was to the question: "Do you like the idea of our website highlighting one member each month on our home page? This "Member Profile" page would include information about the course/club, the positive environmental impacts it brings, special challenges faced and portray our members in their key role in maintaining the golf course/club." 191 agreed that this would make sense, and even better 153 said they would participate. I look forward to developing this addition to our website and sharing the positive impact of golf. We will develop this in two ways, one an email survey that you can fill out and submit with your information, or if you prefer a phone call interview – we'll write it up for you.

Thanks again to all those that participated in the communication survey, look for improvements coming to an Association near you. **-OC**



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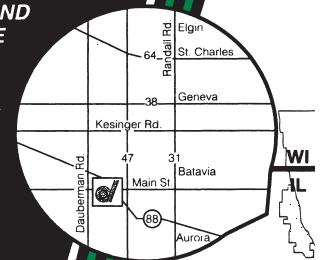
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FEATURE I

Dr. Tom Voigt and F. Dan Dinelli, CGCS

NTEP Putting Green Trials in Illinois 3 Trials in 14 Years and Still Testing



In three National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) studies beginning in 1997, University of Illinois researchers studied creeping bentgrasses on a managed putting green in Urbana. They also worked collaboratively with Dan Dinelli in two on-site trials at North Shore Country Club in Glenview. These trials evaluate the performance of creeping bentgrasses in Illinois in order to assist golf course superintendents and designers when choosing grasses for redoing existing greens or when planting new designs. In this article, we summarize the findings from previous evaluations and provide an update of the current trial.

The creeping bentgrasses in these trials have been rated monthly through the April-October growing season for several characteristics. Quality ratings are made by combining appearance (color and genotype segregation) and important playing surface characteristics (e.g., density, leaf texture, putting surface, resistance to weed invasion, insects and diseases, and mowability). The ratings are presented on a 1-9 scale, where 1=dead turf, 9=best possible putting green quality, and 5=minimally acceptable putting green quality. Genetic color ratings are also presented using a scale of 1-9, where 1=light green and 9=dark green. Spring greenup ratings are somewhat similar also using the 1-9 scale, where 1=completely dormant bentgrass and 9=completely green. Uniformity was rated on a scale of 1-9, where 1=completely nonuniform (entire plot shows total variant segregation) and 9=completely uniform (no segregation over entire plot). Finally, density ratings are presented on a scale of 1-9, where 1=open turf of minimal density and 9=maximum density for the turf use.



1997 On-Site Trial at North Shore Country Club

On-site creeping bentgrass and/or bermudagrass trials, sponsored by the United States Golf Association (USGA), the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), and NTEP were planted in 1997 at 16 U.S. locations. The North Shore Country Club site was planted on a newly-constructed

short game practice facility putting green with a 90/10 Dakota reed sedge USGA rootzone. Eighteen commercially available creeping bentgrass cultivars were planted in 5' x 10' plots replicated three times. The plots were maintained at 0.125".

They received irrigation and pest controls as necessary. After evaluating these plots from 1998-2002, Voigt and Dinelli (2004) summarized their findings by stating that, "Five cultivars really stood out in this study." The five that performed well were Penn A-1 and Penn A-4, Penn G-1, Penn G-6, and L-93. All of these were fine-textured, extremely dense, and produced outstanding putting surfaces under North Shore management.

After 2002, this green was used to study *Poa annua* invasion and bentgrass segregation (Voigt et al., 2005, Voigt et al., 2006). There were significant differences

among the cultivars' ability to restrict *Poa annua* invasion. The top statistical group of bentgrasses had a range of 3.5% to 7.5% *Poa* coverage in 2004-05. This compares to more than 20% *Poa* coverage in the Penncross plots. Differences in bentgrass cultivar density, growth habit (upright types tended to have less *Poa* than more horizontally growing types), and growth flushes may explain the differences in *Poa* coverage. Differences in bentgrass cultivar aggressiveness – allowing more assertive types to fill in holes, ball marks, and other damage before the *Poa* has a chance to become established – may

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explain the differences in *Poa* coverage, as well. Cultivars with the least segregation and the most uniform stand, i.e., Penn A-1 and Penn A-4, had high turf-quality ratings and also had low levels of annual bluegrass invasion.

This research short-game practice green is still intact and being used by North Shore members. In 2010, the quality of the cultivars was evaluated in September and October (Table 1). While there were no significant differences among cultivars in either monthly rating, the 2010 ratings were similar to past ones. Penn A-4 received the highest mean evaluation; Penn A-1 rated near the top of the group; and Penncross received the lowest rating. The high quality ratings are a testament to turf genetics and to North Shore's management.



Table 1.
September and October 2010
cultivar quality ratings of
1997 on-site putting green
at North Shore Country Club.

CULTIVAR	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	MEAN
Penn A-4	8.0	7.7	7.8
Century	7.7	7.7	7.7
Penn G-1	8.0	7.3	7.7
Backspin	6.7	8.3	7.5
Penn A-1	7.3	7.7	7.5
Penn G-6	7.7	7.3	7.5
L-93	7.7	7.0	7.3
Cato	6.7	8.0	7.3
Crenshaw	7.0	7.7	7.3
SR 1020	7.3	7.3	7.3
Imperial	7.0	7.3	7.2
Putter	6.7	7.3	7.0
Grand Prix	6.7	7.3	7.0
Trueline	6.3	7.3	6.8
SR 1119	7.0	6.7	6.8
Viper	6.7	6.3	6.5
Penncross	6.3	6.3	6.3
Providence	5.7	7.0	6.3
LSD 0.05	NS	NS	

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This green has been a great test site; it was maintained at .095" with a fixed-head Toro 1000 walking greens mower during 2009 and 2010. Diseases have routinely gone untreated. The challenging growing conditions in 2010, combined with ultra-low mowing heights and minimal inputs applied, generated unique data relative to today's demands. Soil organic matter (OM) data was also collected comparing %OM from each cultivar. Differences were found. To our surprise, cultivars with high shoot density didn't necessarily generate more OM. Rarely are turfgrass test plots in use 14 years after planting and still providing useful and interesting data!

2003 NTEP Putting Green Trial

This trial was planted in September 2003 on native soil (silty clay loam) at the University of Illinois Landscape Horticulture Research Center in Urbana, in 5' x 5' plots replicated 3 times. The cultivars were maintained at 0.125". They received irrigation and pest controls as necessary. There were 26 entries in this trial. The ratings of the 6 velvet bentgrasses are not included in Table 2, due to poor performance (the U. of I. turf program does not recommend planting velvet bentgrass in Illinois). The top statistical quality performers in this trial were Tyee, MacKenzie, 007, Shark, Cobra 2, and Declaration (Table 2). Tyee and MacKenzie led this group in quality and summer density ratings, but lacked the darker green color and early spring greenup of other tested grasses (Table 2). Additional information about this trial can be found in the July 2008 issue of *On Course* (Voigt, 2008). Somewhat surprisingly, Penn A-1 did not perform well in this trial, after its high ranking in the 1997 On-Site trial.

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Table 2.
Mean quality performance, genetic color, spring greenup, and summer density (2004 – 2007) of 20 creeping bentgrasses in Urbana in the 2003 NTEP putting green trial.

CULTIVAR	SPRING GREENUP	GENETIC COLOR	SUMMER DENSITY	QUALITY
Tyee	5.2	6.3	8.3	7.2
MacKenzie	4.9	5.7	8.1	7.1
007	5.6	6.1	7.9	6.8
Shark	4.7	6.1	8.0	6.8
Cobra 2	4.9	6.8	7.2	6.7
Declaration	5.6	6.0	7.9	6.4
Independence	5.1	6.2	7.2	6.2
Kingpin	5.8	6.4	7.3	6.2
Authority	5.0	6.0	7.6	6.1
T-1	6.4	7.9	7.6	6.1
Bengal	5.7	6.1	7.1	6.0
Memorial	5.3	6.2	7.0	6.0
CY-2	3.9	5.7	7.9	5.9
LS-44	5.2	6.6	7.3	5.7
13-M	5.4	6.0	6.4	5.6
Alpha	5.1	6.8	6.9	5.6
Benchmark DSR	5.3	6.3	7.2	5.2
Penn A-1	5.6	6.3	7.1	5.1
Pennlinks II	5.1	6.0	5.1	5.1
Penncross	4.7	5.8	4.3	3.8
LSD 0.05	1.5	0.9	1.2	1

Table 3.
2009-10 spring greenup, color, and turf quality ratings of creeping bentgrasses in 2008 NTEP On-Site Creeping Bentgrass trial at North Shore Country Club.

CULTIVAR	2009 GENETIC COLOR	2010 GENETIC COLOR	2009-10 MEAN GENETIC COLOR	2009 SPRING GREENUP	2010 SPRING GREENUP	2009-10 MEAN SPRING GREENUP	2009 MEAN QUALITY	2010 MEAN QUALITY	2009-10 MEAN QUALITY
V8	5.7	6.3	6.0	4.3	5.7	5.0	6.7	7.1	6.9
PST-OJO	4.0	5.7	4.9	5.0	5.3	5.2	6.4	7.2	6.8
LTP-FEC	6.3	7.0	6.7	4.0	6.3	5.2	6.7	6.8	6.8
MVS-AP-101	6.0	6.3	6.2	5.3	6.0	5.7	6.2	7.1	6.7
SRP-1GMC	5.0	6.3	5.7	4.7	5.3	5.0	6.3	7.0	6.7
Declaration	6.3	6.3	6.3	4.3	6.7	5.5	6.2	6.8	6.5
Pin-Up	5.7	6.7	6.2	5.3	5.7	5.5	6.2	6.5	6.4
Authority	5.7	6.7	6.2	4.7	6.0	5.4	6.2	6.3	6.3
A08-TDN2	5.3	6.7	6.0	4.7	5.7	5.2	5.8	6.6	6.2
SRP-1BLTR3	5.0	6.3	5.7	4.3	5.0	4.7	6.0	6.1	6.1
AFM	5.0	6.0	5.5	4.7	6.0	5.4	5.5	6.5	6.0
Penn A-1	6.0	7.0	6.5	4.7	4.7	4.7	6.0	6.0	6.0
Alpha	6.3	7.0	6.7	4.3	6.0	5.2	5.5	6.1	5.8
T-1	7.3	7.3	7.3	4.0	5.7	4.9	5.3	6.2	5.8
L-93	6.7	7.0	6.9	4.7	4.0	4.4	5.1	5.7	5.4
Penn A-2	6.3	7.0	6.7	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.2	5.6	4.9
Penncross	5.7	7.0	6.4	5.7	3.7	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.6
LSD 0.05	1.4	0.9		2.7	1.3		1.1	0.6	

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2008 On-Site Trial at North Shore Country Club

In September 2008, the most recent of these trials was planted at North Shore Country Club, again on a newly constructed, short-game, practice putting green with a sand-based rootzone. Due to poor growing conditions and slow bentgrass coverage, the plots were overseeded in April 2009. Nineteen bentgrasses were included in the trial. They were planted in 5' x 5' plots, replicated three times (Table 3). The plots are maintained at 0.125". Five additional high-performing bentgrasses from previous trials were added to the official NTEP test (Table 4) in order to compare their performance with the official entries. Two velvet bentgrasses are in the official trial, but are removed from Table 3 due to extremely poor performance. The trial is scheduled to end following the 2012 growing season.

After two years, most of the top performers are experimental types (Table 3). While it's too early to make recommendations, 007 and Declaration are performing well in the current study, as they did in the 2003 trial. As in the 2003 trial, Penn A-1 has dropped in rank from its previous performance in 1997. As in the past, Penncross ranks lowest in turf quality.

Table 4.
2009-10 mean spring greenup, color, and turf quality of creeping bentgrasses growing with (but not officially included in) 2008 NTEP On-Site Creeping Bentgrass trial at North Shore Country Club.

CULTIVAR	SPRING GREENUP	COLOR	TURF QUALITY
007	5.3	6.8	6.7
CY-2	4.5	5.7	5.9
Mackenzie	4.8	6.2	6.0
Penn A-4	4.7	7.2	6.2
Tyee	5.3	6.0	6.4

Final Thoughts

Using the results from these trials can guide you in selecting creeping bentgrasses for future plantings. Overall, Penn A-1 and Penn A-4 are still performing well on the 1997 green. Tyee did well in the 2003 trial and continues to perform well in the 2008 trial. This is also the case for Declaration and 007. It appears that the quality of the commercially available creeping bentgrasses continues to improve. New varieties lead in performance as new trials are developed. Thus, the future for creeping bentgrasses looks strong.

That written, we believe that the best research is local and the best way to evaluate new putting green bentgrasses is to grow them on your own site. In that way you can test performance under your management and growing environments. If at all possible, choose several of the top performers and evaluate them on a practice green prior to planting. Select the grass that meets your performance and comfort levels. **-OC**

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Avoid the Rebound: Use of Growing Degree Days to Re-apply Growth Regulators

The most poorly understood products applied to turfgrass are plant growth regulators (PGRs) because 1) it is difficult to tell when they are working and 2) their labels can be vague. This is especially true when PGRs are applied to golf course putting greens. Despite best efforts, it is nearly impossible to tell how well a PGR is suppressing putting green clipping yield. As a result, many golf course superintendents use vastly different application rates and frequencies for each PGR in their arsenal. This ambiguity leads to one of the most common questions superintendents tend to ask, "What rate should I use on my greens?"

Before we tackle that question let's get back to the basics.

The most commonly applied PGRs used on putting greens are Primo Maxx (trinexapac-ethyl), Trimit (paclobutrazol), and Cutless (flurprimidal). These products alter growth rate in two distinct phases. Following PGR application clipping yield becomes suppressed relative to non-treated turfgrass; the suppression phase. After a period of time the suppression phase ends and clipping yield increases to a level greater than non-treated turfgrass; the rebound phase. Researchers have found that the duration of the suppression phase is dependent upon air temperature (Lickfeldt et al. 2001; Beasley et al. 2007).

As air temperatures increase into the summer the length of the suppression phase decreases. This occurs because turfgrass plants breakdown PGRs, such as Primo Maxx, faster as air temperatures increase (Beasley and Branham, 2005). This means that calendar based PGR re-application intervals are not efficient at maintaining yield suppression because the ideal re-application interval changes during the course of a growing season.

During my Masters degree with Dr. Soldat at the University of Wisconsin-Madison we studied how PGR re-application frequency and rate affected yield suppression on creeping bentgrass golf putting greens; primarily with Primo Maxx. Instead of evaluating inefficient calendar-based intervals (i.e. weekly or biweekly applications), we used a growing degree day (GDD) model to estimate the duration of the yield suppression phase and aid in scheduling Primo Maxx applications. The goal was to sustain yield season-long yield suppression and avoid the rebound. Growing degree day models are used extensively in traditional agriculture to estimate crop growth and development in relation to air temperature and recently have been used to estimate weed growth and development in turfgrass, i.e. *Poa annua* seed head formation (GDDTracker.net). To calculate GDD

This means that calendar based PGR re-application intervals are not efficient at maintaining yield suppression...

the high and low air temperature are averaged together, subtracted from a base temperature where metabolism is minimal, and added to values from the previous days.

In a 2008 study, we measured daily relative clipping yield from a creeping bentgrass putting green treated with Primo Maxx every 100, 200, 400, and 800 GDD as well as every four weeks. The GDD was calculated in degrees Celsius with a base temperature of 0°C and began after the previous Primo Maxx application. After the GDD threshold had been surpassed (i.e. 200 GDD after Primo Maxx application), Primo was re-applied and the model was reset to zero. We realize that most American avoid using the Celsius scale, however, it is convenient in this case because there is no need to subtract a base temperature (the base is 0°C). Additionally, spreadsheet programs such as MS Excel can be used to track the progression of GDD after PGR application and convert temperatures to Celsius. $\text{Temperature } ^\circ\text{C} = \text{Temp } ^\circ\text{F} - 32 - 1.8$

We found that the 400 GDD, 800 GDD, and four week re-application frequency did not maintain season-long yield suppression (Fig. 1). We plotted relative clipping yields at

(continued on next page)

different GDDs after Primo Maxx application to create a Primo Maxx response model (Fig. 2). This model showed that the suppression phase occurs during the first 300 GDD; after 300 GDD the turfgrass entered the rebound phase of increased yield relative to non-treated turf. The maximum amounts of both yield suppression and rebound was 18% of the non-treated turf.

We found that the 100 and 200 GDD re-application frequencies maintained season-long yield suppression (Fig. 1). The 100 GDD re-application interval resulted in a greater level of yield suppression than the other treatments. The 200 GDD re-application interval is the furthest Primo Maxx re-application interval to maintain yield suppression because the yield begins to transition into the rebound phase after 200 GDD. For some perspective, 200 GDD occurs in 14 days during an average May in Madison, WI (average day temp. 57°F) and as frequently as every 9 days during an average July (72°F). During a heat wave with high temperatures of 100°F and lows around 75°F (average day temp. 89°F) 200 GDD occurs in 7 days or less (Fig. 3). This illustrates how Primo Maxx re-application interval needs to be

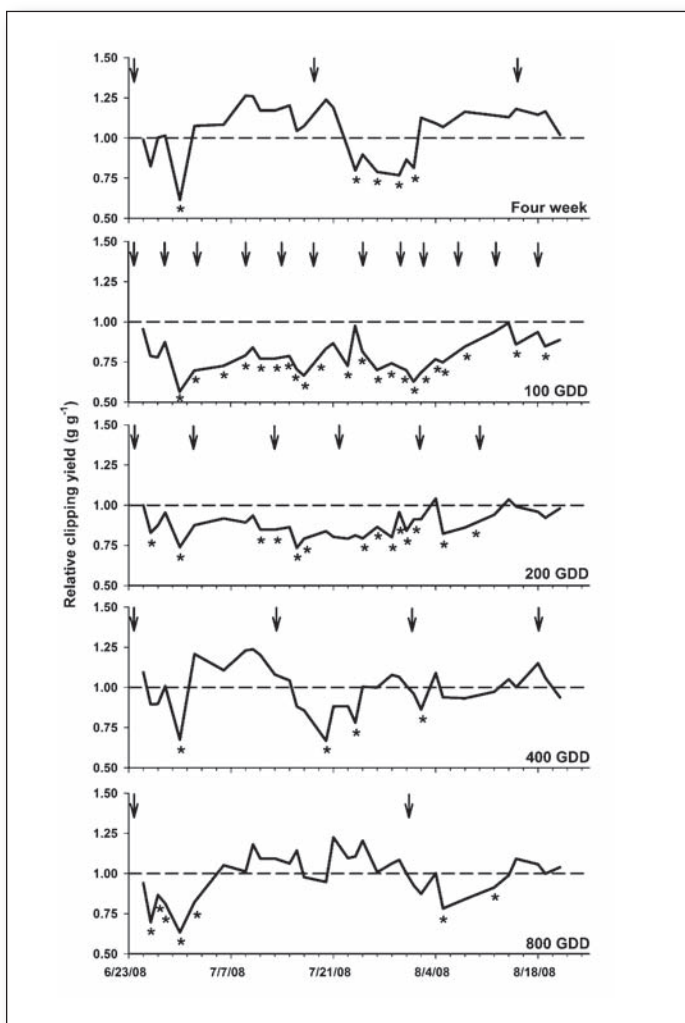


Figure 1. The effect of Primo Maxx re-application frequency on the relative yield of a creeping bentgrass putting green. Stars indicate days clipping yield was less than the non-treated control (dashed line) and arrows indicated Primo Maxx applications. Primo Maxx was applied at the labeled rate for golf course putting greens of 0.125 fl oz/M. Values below the 1.0 reference line indicate yield suppression while values above the line indicate the rebound phase.

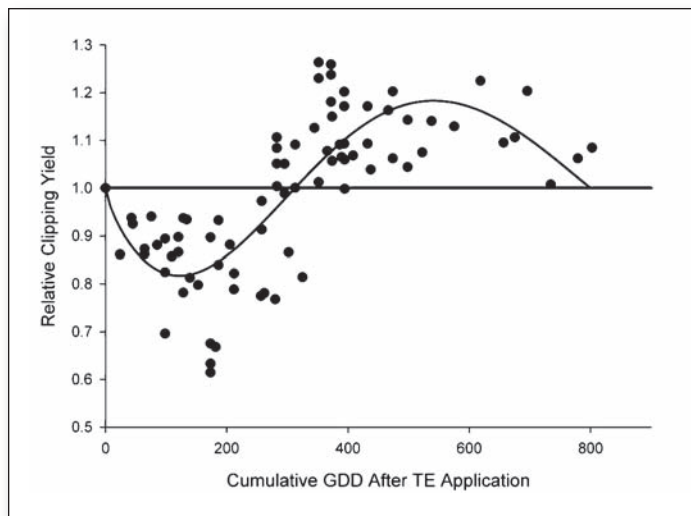


Figure 2. Relative clipping yield of a creeping bentgrass golf putting green at various growing degree days after Primo Maxx application. Cumulative GDD was calculated in degrees Celsius with a base temperature of 0°C from the time the previous Primo Maxx application. Primo Maxx was applied at the labeled rate for golf course putting greens of 0.125 fl oz/M. Values below the 1.0 reference line indicate yield suppression while values above the line indicate the rebound phase.

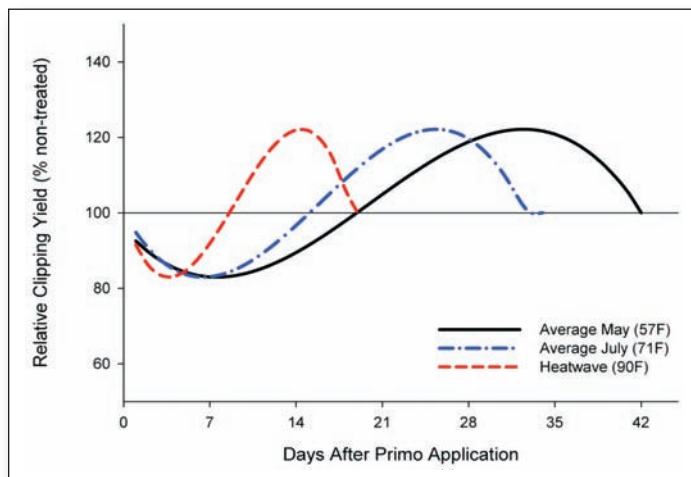


Figure 3. The influence of air temperature on the duration of the yield suppression and rebound phases in Madison, WI. Values below the 100% reference line indicate yield suppression while values above the line indicate the rebound phase.

adjusted depending upon air temperatures to avoid the rebound phase. As temperatures warm into the summer, Primo needs to be re-applied more frequently than it does in spring and fall to avoid the rebound.

In 2009 and 2010 we wanted to verify that the 200 GDD model worked on a different creeping bentgrass putting green and see how it was affected by Primo Maxx application rate. There were two application rates (0.125 and 0.25 fl oz/M) applied either every 200 GDD or every four weeks. In both years the 200 GDD re-application interval maintained season-long yield suppression regardless of the time of year. Surprisingly, we found that the 0.25 fl oz/M application rate did not increase either the level or duration of yield suppression. Application rate

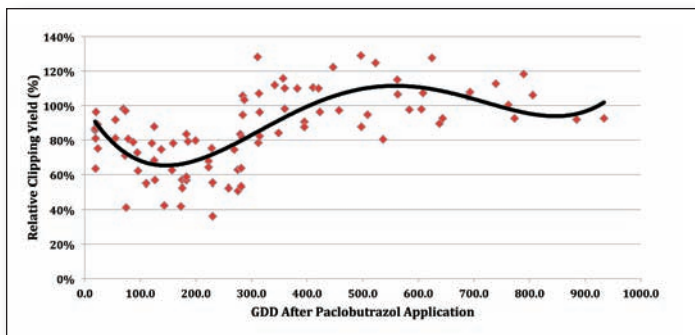


Figure 4. Relative clipping yield of a creeping bentgrass golf putting green at various growing degree days after Trimmit application. Cumulative GDD was calculated in degrees Celsius with a base temperature of 0°C from the time the previous Trimmit application. Trimmit was applied at the rate of 0.125 fl oz/M. Values below the 100% reference line indicate yield suppression while values above the line indicate the rebound phase.

did not matter. The only effective way to increase the amount of yield suppression is to re-apply more frequently than 200 GDD (i.e. 100 GDD). The only benefit of the high application rate is that the bentgrass visual quality was greater compared to the labeled application rate of 0.125 fl oz/M.

It needs to be very clear that 200 GDD re-application interval is only meant for Primo Maxx applications to creeping bentgrass golf putting greens. Bermuda grass greens and taller mowed turfgrass such as Kentucky bluegrass athletic fields are more sensitive to Primo Maxx and would have a different Primo GDD threshold. Some preliminary research on *Poa annua* putting greens found that the 200 GDD re-application interval is effective at maintaining yield suppression of *Poa*. We also have found that 200 GDD applications to mixed bent/*Poa* green decreased the *Poa annua* population from 23% to 16% of the surface. However, golf course superintendents visually estimated that there was more *Poa* invasion on those same plots. This occurred because the bentgrass and *Poa annua* populations began to segregate as the grass density increased with repeat Primo Maxx applications. This gave the illusion of more *Poa* invasion while the actual amount of was diminished (verified with a grid count).

We also wanted to determine the GDD threshold for Trimmit application to creeping bentgrass and *Poa annua* golf putting greens. We used the same methods described above to determine Primo Maxx GDD. Trimmit was applied at the rate of 0.25 fl oz/M (11 fl oz/A) and was lightly watered in after application. We found that 300 GDD re-applications (base °C) maintained yield suppression during the growing season for both grass species. After approximately 350 GDD the turf entered the rebound phase (Fig 4). A word of caution however, the 300 GDD Trimmit treatment contributed to the collapse of the *Poa annua* stand during 2010 and was described in more detail in Dr. Soldat's January/February 2011 Grass Roots article (<http://www.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flink.pl?recno=175732>). In conclusion, the use a GDD model to estimate PGR metabolism and schedule re-applications increases application precision and removes some of the mystery and misconceptions involved with these PGRs. If you have any questions or would like a copy of an Excel spreadsheet to track GDD accumulation please email me at wck38@cornell.edu. **-OC**

Increasing Primo Maxx application rate did not increase the level or duration of yield suppression, but the higher application rate resulted in greater visual quality enhancement.

Summary Points

- PGRs reduce clipping yield for a duration dependent upon air temperature. GDD systems can be used to estimate the duration of the suppression growth phase.
- Re-applying Primo Maxx to creeping bentgrass putting greens every 200 GDD (base 0°C) maintained season-long yield suppression regardless of season.
- The 200 GDD re-application interval is specific only to creeping bentgrass (and likely *Poa annua*) golf putting greens. Other turf species have different GDD thresholds which need to be determined experimentally.
- Increasing Primo Maxx application rate did not increase the level or duration of yield suppression, but the higher application rate resulted in greater visual quality enhancement.
- Re-application of Trimmit to creeping bentgrass and *Poa annua* putting greens every 300 GDD (base 0°C) maintained yield suppression. However, that application frequency was stressful on the *Poa annua* and contributed to collapse of the turfgrass stand in 2010.

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SUPER -N- SITE

Nick Marfise, *Park Ridge Country Club*

Erwin McKone, CGCS and Dave Miloshoff -N- Briar Ridge Country Club



This year's 2011 ITFI MAGCS Spring Golf Day will be hosted by Erwin Mckone, CGCS and Dave Miloshoff at Briar Ridge Country Club. The 27-hole golf course is located in Schererville, Indiana on the old Aaron Hart farm (48 minutes from I-88 and 355, measured just recently). Eighteen holes opened for play in the spring of 1980 and nine holes were added in 1989.

Erwin has been the Director of Grounds at Briar Ridge since 2004. During his tenure at Briar Ridge, he has implemented many changes to the golf course. Erwin notes, he could not have brought Briar Ridge to the point where it is today without his Superintendent, Dave Miloshoff. A common theme at Briar Ridge and the driving force behind the two's success, is their awareness of the impact that the golf course and their operations have on the environment. Both men not only work tirelessly to maintain a pristine course, but also to incorporate sustainable concepts whenever possible.

One of the green practices that they put into action is a visible vegetable and herb garden near the clubhouse.

Club members benefit from the visual aesthetics of the garden while also experiencing the results on their dinner plates. For a unique change of pace, Dave has even planted fruits and vegetables in some of the landscape beds by tee complexes. Tomatoes, eggplant, watermelon, pumpkins, and ornamental peppers have replaced more traditional annual plants. Dave has also converted once annual flowerbeds into native plantings using perennial plants. These expanded natural areas reduce labor and yearly costs, and allow more wildlife to move into the area. Erwin plans to add two beehives to the golf course later this year. The bees, as you all know, will help with pollination.

Dave and Erwin are also very conscious of their water usage at Briar Ridge. They have created different irrigation



Erwin (l) and Dave setting up their empty bee hives in early spring.

programs and have been converting many full circle heads to part circle heads, in order to water more efficiently. Another water-saving trick that Dave and Erwin employ is using compressed air to clean equipment and mowers instead of water. As a result of their efforts, not only is a natural resource conserved, but the course saves money as well. Erwin and Dave also hope to initiate their own watershed program by planting native grasses and other plants to help filter nutrients near drains and runoff areas.

Dave and Erwin have recently built a greenhouse behind their shop. The heat for the house is generated by water filled hoses running through solar panels. The hoses run under the floor and radiate

heat for the greenhouse. The addition of the greenhouse allows the staff to store and preserve many of the previous year's plants and bulbs in for future use.

As gas and oil prices rise, the importance of finding alternative fuel sources continues. At the moment, Briar Ridge Country Club is adding electric carts into their operations. Erwin and Dave have their eyes set on bio diesel as an alternative energy source for their facility in the future.

The pair has also been doing some of their own turfgrass research. One of their studies includes replicating Dr. Derek Settle's experiments using bio-stimulants. They are studying dollar spot resistance through cultural practices. Cultivation methods such as verticutting, aerification, and seeding are

(continued on page 17)





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part of the experiments, as well as applications of dyes and surfactants. They are proud of the CO₂ backpack sprayer they created to aid them in conducting their experiments. Made from an old backpack blower, the CO₂ sprayer gives them the ability to apply the necessary rates for their tests without the hassle of mixing large spray tanks.

Erwin and Dave's dedication to the environment and turfgrass research shows the importance of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation. As the current president of the ITF, Erwin wants to

continue to raise awareness of the ITF in hopes that everyone involved in this business understands the future importance of research to the game of golf. It seems the number of golfers is slowly declining for many different reasons. It is unknown how many people will continue to golf, or from where that next breed of golfer will come. As the economy continues to shift, and the money spent on large trade shows decreases, it will be up to us to continue to promote the importance to turfgrass research and find the funding for it.

(continued on page 19)



Briar Ridge's newly constructed greenhouse uses water heated by solar collectors to keep things on schedule for a spring planting.

Below: The clubhouse is neatly landscaped with many perennial plants and welcomes any guest to its premises.



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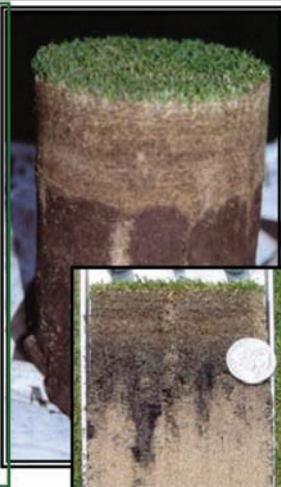


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The installation of the BigPar3 helps to create a new stream of funds for research. Not only does the event raise funds but it allows the golf course superintendent a platform to speak about present turf conditions and the importance of our profession. The great game of golf could not have come as far as it has today without research. It is through research that we have arrived at the knowledge that supports different components of the game, such as grass types, maintenance machines, cup cutters, pesticides, and constantly evolving irrigation and weather systems. As access to environmental resources become more limited in the future, it is important that golf course superintendents stay ahead of legislation by using scientific data to guide day to day operations. The end user needs to support this movement, and the BigPar3 is the conduit for this to happen.

As you continue to give your customer the best quality conditions possible, remember how important it really is to give back. The game itself relies on this. Here's to the ITF, Erwin, Dave and Briar Ridge and another 500 years of moving the little white thing forward. **-OC**

Superintendent Bios **Erwin Mckone**

- Erwin started at Briar Ridge in 2004, before Briar Ridge Erwin was the Assistant Superintendent at River Forest.
- He likes to play golf and the guitar, river fish, and shoot guns.
- Erwin Coaches his daughter's softball team.
- When he is not at work, Erwin is with his family; his wife Kristin, his daughter Molly and their dogs Ralph and Barney.

Dave Miloshoff

- Dave has been a resident of Indiana and grew up in the adjacent subdivision to Briar Ridge.
- Dave has had a passion for golf since he was a young kid.
- Dave began working at Briar Ridge through college. Dave attended Purdue University Calumet, and later got his Turf Degree from Penn State
- Dave is currently working towards certification; he is an active board member of the Michiana Superintendents chapter.
- Dave and his fiancé Stephanie will be married this September.



Left: Erwin the Apiarist is getting ready for his delivery of the bees in the coming days.

Below: One of the many areas at Briar Ridge designed to welcome bluebirds and other species of the animal kingdom.





THE BULL SHEET
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

May 2011

Welcome to the newest members of our association, who are:
Neal Skelly, Class C, Chicago Highlands Club
Chad Walk, Regular, Old Oak Country Club
Eric Blackert, Assistant, Knollwood Club
Laurie McGhee, Associate, Bailey Nurseries, Inc.
Aaron Reinhart, Assistant, Aurora Country Club
Nathan Bolhaus, Briarwood Country Club
Matt Seibel, Associate, Arysta LifeScience
Steve Olken, Associate, Harris Golf Cars
Chad Hauth, Associate, Harrell's Fertilizer, LLC
Kevin Fuchs, Associate, Harrell's Fertilizer, LLC
Matt Baumgartner, Associate, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc.
Scott Pavalko, Regular, Cog Hill Golf & Country Club

.....
Other MAGCS members and future MAGCS members on the move recently include **Brad Anderson, CGCS**, who has come back to Illinois where he has taken the golf course superintendent's position at Bittersweet Golf Club in Gurnee.



Brad Anderson

Josh Therrien has joined the team at Arrowhead Golf Club, while Glen Flora Country Club has hired Justin Olmstead, a former assistant at Milwaukee CC as its new superintendent. And last but not least, Scott Pavalko is the new superintendent at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club in Lemont, IL. Congratulations to all of these guys.

.....
Happy 20th Anniversary to the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program! Seems like only yesterday that **Peter Leuzinger** and the late **Tod Hopphan** were blazing the trail for Chicagoland golf courses in this ground-breaking endeavor.

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(continued on page 22)

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 24 – ITF/MAGCS Spring Golf Day at Briar Ridge Country Club in Schererville, Indiana, **Erwin McKone** and **David Miloshoff** hosts.
.....

June 21 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Prairie Bluff Golf Club in Lockport, IL, **Luke Strojny, CGCS** host.
.....

July 5 – Nominations close for 2012 GCSAA Board of Directors
.....

July 13 or 20 – ITF/NWILGCA Summer Golf Day at Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa in Galena, IL, **Tom Tully, CGCS** host.
.....

July 18-23 – U.S. Girls Junior Championship at Olympia Fields Country Club, **Sam MacKenzie, CGCS** host.
.....

July 19 – Midwest Regional Turf Field Day at the Daniel Turf Center in West Lafayette, IN. Visit www.mrtf.org for info.
.....

July 30 – Deadline for submissions to TurfNet for its "2012 Superintendent's Best Friend Calendar."
.....

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Congratulations to **Beth Whitehouse** of Dow Agrosciences and Zachary Duschack who were married on April 9th. Time for some new business cards!



OK, let's get this out of the way right now so I don't offend anyone else or incite an ASPCA high alert: The squirrel didn't die—it was just playing possum with that dog.



Right after the photo was taken, it got up, said "hah hah" to the dog, and gallivanted back to its wonderful life in the trees. Same thing with these geese, who hatched their brood of poop machines and lived happily ever after (and tasted awesome).

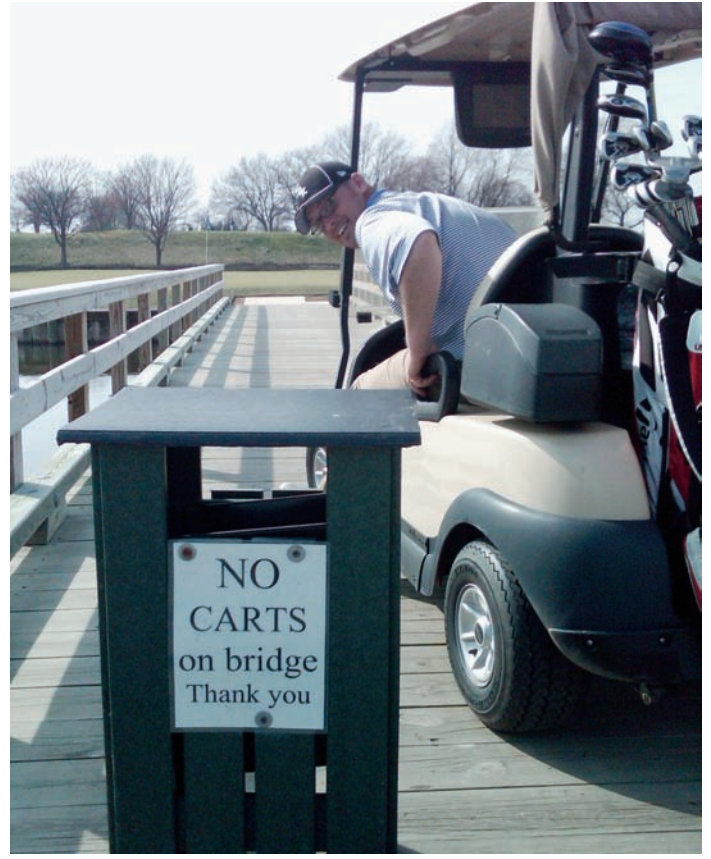
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.....
 Congratulations to **Dave Radaj, CGCS** of Green Acres Country Club on his recent recertification with GCSAA.

Syngenta's turf carbon calculator tool, which is designed to help golf course superintendents and other professional turf managers establish the total carbon footprint for their respective operations has a name now—it is now known as GreenCast EcoMeasures, and is part of a joint effort between Syngenta and Marriott Golf while it has undergone testing on selected Marriott golf courses in the U.S. and Caribbean markets.

In early April, GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans announced the beginning of an "open test" of the redesigned website and new forums product. The goals of the test are to put the site and forums into use so that any glitches or needed improvements can be identified, and to give you the opportunity to become familiar with them before they are officially launched. The current website is still the primary site, but you can access the new site by clicking the icon on the upper right hand corner of the home page. I did it. It's fun.

Also from GCSAA, you can renew your membership online by following these easy steps: Log on to gcsaa.org, click the "Renew Now Online!" button in the upper right corner (I don't get the exclamation point either), update your contact and business info, enter your credit card info, submit your renewal, and check your email for payment receipt. Piece of cake.

This is just the kind of thing that makes us all want to ring a golfer's neck, isn't it?

Oh, wait—that's not a golfer, it's a superintendent, and superintendents are allowed to do that. On their own courses. Which in this instance is Indian Lakes Resort. Where **Chuck Barber** is superintendent. Just sayin'!

A February court ruling by a DuPage County judge makes playing golf for us hackers, sprayers, slicers and hookers a little less nerve-wracking. In a nutshell, a guy hit a big hook while playing at St. Andrews Golf & Country Club in West Chicago that left the property and hit a woman on the head while she was out in her adjacent yard gardening. The woman sued, claiming the golfer was negligent by failing to properly aim and execute the swing of his golf club. The suit was dismissed because, among other things, a golfer cannot be held negligent for a ball that veers from its intended path (which would create *prima facie* liability that is not the law in Illinois), and there is inherent risk in living adjacent to where golf is played. Hack on.

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of **Steve Partyka** of White Pines GC on the loss of Steve's father Edward Partyka on April 4th at the age of 84. Ed had been the superintendent of White Pines for 50 years prior to Steve's taking the reins, and was a longtime GCSAA and MAGCS member.

H.R. 872, the federal bill to negate the need for Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) pesticide general permits for aquatic pesticide applications has passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a 292-134 vote. This good news was made possible thanks to the 650-plus GCSAA members who participated in the action alert

(continued on next page)

last month. There is still work to be done, as the bill needs to be passed by the Senate and signed into law. Keep tuned in for updates, and make your voice be heard when the opportunity presents itself.

Nice April, huh? April 18th, 3,582 miles southeast of Dutch Harbor, Alaska on the 156-acre Park Ridge Country Club, superintendent **Joel Purpur, CGCS** took this photo from his wheelhouse...er, clubhouse.



And while on both subjects (Joel and the obvious allusion to "Deadliest Catch"), am I the only one who wonders how Joel juggles his superintendent responsibilities, his world-famous hobbies and pastimes, AND has time to narrate all those Discovery channel shows AND sell Fords on the TeeVee AND star in "Dirty Jobs?"



That's one busy guy.

So the USGA people have been busy too. After exhaustive studies on use of the word "green," they have at long last reached a determination. Green is a noun and has two proper golf meanings. The first meaning is chiefly of Scottish origin—it simply defines all territory of a golf course, or all areas outside the confines of the clubhouse. Thus, it can be used in relation to all outdoor areas of a golf course. The second meaning, most readily known to modern audiences, means the area of short grass surrounding a hole. In keeping with the first meaning, a greenkeeper is someone whose responsibilities entail maintaining all areas outside the clubhouse. They also concluded that in most cases of using the

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word green in golf terminology, the use should be singular. Green fee, greenkeeper, green committee, and of course USGA Green Section are all correct uses. In no way does green refer to any particular color found on a golf course. So now that's all straightened out.

.....
 It seems like a year ago, but wasn't that Masters Sunday a hoot? At one point I think six or seven guys were tied at -10. **Scott White** (Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Golf Club) was one of the fortunate MAGCS members to make the trip down this year (by car no less). Unfortunately, Scott's young son Jackson could not make the trip; but he got to experience the next best thing—his Curious George doll went in his stead, and word is he had more fun than a barrel of monkeys. Looks like Augusta has really loosened the entry requirements, huh?



.....
 Congrats to Idlewild Country Club's **Kurt Sams, CGCS** on being the winner of a painting of a scene at Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club and Lodge in Orlando, FL, presented by Arysta Life-Science. Kurt won the painting by entering a drawing at the Arysta booth at the GIS in February.

.....
 Anyone who does not receive the weekly CDGA Turf Scouting Reports is really missing out. Dr. Derek Settle, Tim Sibicky, and their dedicated contributors put together a very useful and informative tool that is delivered to your computer every Friday throughout the season. To start receiving these reports, go to the new website www.cdगतurf.org and click on the subscribe button. It's FREE!

The National Golf Foundation held its fourth annual Golf Business Symposium in conjunction with its 75th anniversary in Chicago last month, with a host of issues being addressed. Among the items they worked on were: Generational Risk in Golf, The Geography of Golf, State of the Industry, and the Image of Golf. Crazy fun was had by all as you can imagine.

.....
 Our sympathies go to Jim Reed and his family on the passing of Jim's mother Ruth Reed on April 15th.

.....
 Got Roseman mowers? Brad Roseman, the grandson of Joe Roseman is searching for a few of his grandfather's Roseman mowers. If your facility has any, please contact him at 847-445-6660. He is trying to preserve a little bit of history before it winds up in the scrap pile.

.....
 -OC



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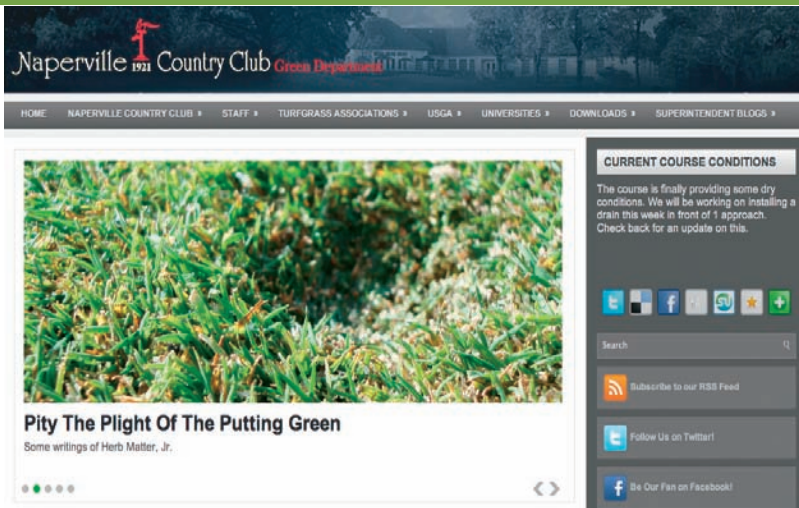
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MAGCS IN MOTION
 Steven Biehl, *Naperville Country Club*

To Blog or Not to Blog

Communication seems to be a never-ending task at many clubs. Soon after I started at Naperville Country Club, Tim and I began discussing how we could be more effective at communicating information to the members. I knew what a blog was and what it was capable of, but had never created one. We looked at examples of other superintendent blogs, and then became bloggers ourselves.

Due to the versatility of the blog, we hoped it would become our primary forum for the members. Previous to the blog, the formal communication of the green department existed of a few paragraphs in the monthly newsletter and a bulletin board in each locker room. Those outlets rarely provided the adequate length or versatility necessary for the topics we inform our members about. With the blog, we utilize however much space we need and can include pictures, videos and links of related resources. Likewise, the member can get as involved as they choose. They can subscribe to receive new postings through email, comment or just check in to read the latest posts.

We have found more to like than dislike about maintaining a blog. It has become very easy to make a large amount of information available to the entire membership. As we expand the blog's uses, it keeps getting easier. Along with the blog, we have created accounts through Twitter, TwitPic, YouTube and utilize the club's Facebook page. By utilizing the RSS feed of the blog the information we post is automatically posted on Twitter, and the club's Facebook page. With a phone smart enough, we can take a picture while on the course, write a sentence about it, and send the picture and text to the blog as an email where it will be uploaded as a new post. The RSS feed will then send the new post to anyone subscribed to the blog, our Twitter account and the club's Facebook page, all before we can get back to the office.

What started out as just a blog has turned into an entire social network for the green department. We had not anticipated the blog to be anymore than an avenue to provide members with information. Along the way, the blog has become part of a network of golf course management blogs where superintendents share information about each one's respective maintenance practices. Because of this, the decision to make the blog private or public should be made before the blog is created. If it is available to the public it can be utilized

to move internet traffic to a club's website through Search Engine Optimization (SEO).

Through it all, we still only have a small percentage of members who visit the blog on a regular basis. That number is slowly increasing as we utilize a wider range of resources on the internet. The next step we are taking is to provide a touch screen computer in the locker room that will be set to display only the blog and act as an interactive bulletin board. Whether communicating through a blog, email, or face-to-face, there needs to be two halves working together. With the blog we feel we are continuously improving our half.

Blog examples

Friday, April 22, 2011

WET WEEK FOR THE COURSE



The rain didn't want to stop this week. We had 0.70" on Saturday morning, 0.80" on Monday morning, 0.68" on Tuesday morning, 0.26" this morning and almost 0.20" since we have been at work today. Thankfully it looks like the bulk of the rain will be missing us to the south. Our total for the week is still a little more than 2.5".

(continued on page 29)

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As I mentioned earlier, most of our time this week was spent on getting our bunkers in shape. This involved trimming and pulling weeds around the edges, moving sand to provide a uniform depth and finishing up with a thin layer of fresh sand. The bunker on the left was done and ready for a fresh layer of sand.



Here is a picture of the guys adding a fresh layer to the green side bunker on 9.

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

WORK ON THE POND AT 11 TEE



Last season you may have noticed a spot between the cart path and pond on 11 was beginning to show a sink hole. This spring we dug it up to find out exactly what the problem

was. There is a pipe that moves the overflow for the pond to a concrete tank underneath the cart path. From there the water move out of the tank into another pipe that moves it to the pond on 17. After it was dug out, the underside of the metal pipe that was in the ground had completely rusted out and soil was being washed from around the pipe into the concrete tank.



The hole was dug out and a new pipe was put in place.



We were not able to get the repair completed before a rain event set us back a little.



After the rain, we needed to dig around the pipe again to prepare for more concrete to seal the pipe to the concrete tank and to hold the pipe in place. **-OC**






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