

# ON COURSE

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February 2012

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## FEBRUARY 2012 Volume 65 No. 10



The staff at Cog Hill that prepare Dubsdread for the 2011 BMW Championship, check out Nick Marfise's Director's Column for his life changing story.

**FRONT COVER**

The winter that never was. As some of my friends say, "the best a golf course can look all year long, covered in a foot of snow".  
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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CLASS C ADVISOR  
Nick Marfise, *Cog Hill Golf Club*



# Some People Hate Change

*I write to you today as the new Class B, I mean Class C, committee representative. Although this is not a position that most of you aspire to, after four years of being on the committee it was time to suck it up and take on some new responsibility. 2011 like 2010 was a tough year, as we all know. The economy and golf are still down, and the weather conditions during the summer months have been strange (my guess is that it will snow in June). As if things weren't crazy enough I decided to shake things up a little bit in my personal life.*

I started the 2011 season working for Joel Purpur at Park Ridge Country Club. Maybe you've heard of him. Park Ridge has a demanding membership with a demanding green committee, which requires the superintendent to be demanding on his staff. Ultimately Park Ridge was a great job. I lived at the maintenance shop. I ate most of my meals at the clubhouse. And Joel pretty much forced me to play Ice hockey (what more could you ask for). With all that going on, I was dating a girl who tolerated me well enough to stay with me for five years. She also has an understanding of our profession and doesn't mind the long hours that are required of me in the summer months (probably because she doesn't see me). I decided to roll the dice and propose. I figured if anyone is willing to stay with me that long, I might as well lock her down. I know what most of you are thinking, and I appreciate your thoughts and prayers... I proposed on April 28th, the same day as the royal wedding (whatever that means), and she said, "Yes."

Up to this point: I'm living the American dream in an apartment above the Park Ridge maintenance facility, and I'm engaged?

Somewhere between the end of July and the beginning of August the Assistant Superintendent position at Cog Hill Golf

and Country Club was posted on the MAGCS website. With Cog Hill being the 2011 sight for the BMW championship, I thought that the job would be a good experience and a chance to further my career. I did my home work on Cog Hill and its Superintendent (some guy from Ohio). I got my paper work together, applied, interviewed, waited for what seemed like forever; then I was offered the position, and I accepted.

All along Joel knew what I was up to, and supported my decision to go after a different job. After accepting the job I needed to tell Joel, figure out when I would leave PRCC, and start at Cog Hill. I couldn't really tell if Joel was happy for me, or happy to get rid of me. He just told me I had ten days to pack my stuff and get out. This was August 12th

Between jobs, excited about the future, the wedding planning has begun.

Knowing that I needed to move, I started looking for apartments, which isn't one of my favorite things to do. It's tough to find a "nice apartment" for cheap. We wound up finding a decent one-bedroom apartment for rent, but the management was looking to gut and remodel the inside (the previous owner had like 27 cats). The work on the

*(continued on next page)*





apartment would take one month, so I wasn't going to be able to move in until late September. I had decided to sign the lease anyway; it would be nice to move into a brand new place when the work was completed. Now that I had nowhere to live, and I was starting a new job in approximately 10 days, I needed to figure something out fast.

I decided to suck up my pride and ask my parents if I could move in with them for a month. My parents live in Orland Park about 10 minutes from Cog Hill. The weekend before my first day on the new job I moved. With 90 percent of my stuff stacked to the ceiling in my parents' garage, I was living out of a suitcase back in my old room. I remember having a moment to myself that night. I was standing there in the middle of the room with my suit case in one hand and a pillow under the other arm, using a few choice words. I asked myself, "What the Fudge am I doing?" I tried to remind myself it was all going to work out.

Temporarily squatting at my parents', excited about the new job, hoping I'm making the right decision. When Kelly and I talk on the phone, we talk about wedding plans...

Although it wasn't ideal, the living situation would wind up working out pretty well. My days prior to the tournament were an average of 14 hours long. I wouldn't come home til dark. So my mom usually left dinner on the table. I would eat, then go to bed, then do it all over again the next day.

Upon starting at Cog Hill I didn't really know what to expect. I did to a certain point, but when you start a new job there is always that unknown. All four courses at Cog Hill are maintained out of one shop, including the championship course, "Dubsdread." About a week before I arrived, Scott Pavalko and the Cog Hill team decided that the collars on Dubsdread should be resodded. The original collars were A1/A4 bentgrass. At collar height and with the summer

stresses of 2011 it was feared that the collars wouldn't perform well for the tournament. The decision had been made to re-sod the collars to Penncross bentgrass. I assisted in the sodding of the last four or five collars, and we were off and running for the tournament.

After getting the collars sodded and in place it was now time to keep them alive. This was how my basic responsibility fell into place. Scott had asked if I would be comfortable looking after the greens and collars for the few weeks prior to the tournament. He felt it was important to be the eyes and ears on the golf course, so that he could be more flexible dealing with the logistics of the tournament. In a place as big as Cog Hill (1000 acres) this seemed to be a very basic task, although it was pretty overwhelming in itself. I had never managed and looked after 19 USGA sand-based greens. They tend to be a completely different animal than soil-based greens.

So, up to this point, I'm squatting at my parents; I've started working at a world renowned golf course; I'm working an average of 14 hours a day; and when I talk to my fiancé, all we talk about is wedding stuff.

Just after my responsibilities were laid out for me, Scott gave me a 15-page packet that had been sent to him by the PGA Tour. The packet spelled out the parameters for the condition of the golf course that were "encouraged" by the PGA Tour. These parameters are site-specific, based on the golf course and how the PGA Tour wants the golf course prepared for a tournament. It outlines specified heights of grass, green speeds, etc., all of which were discussed and written by the PGA Tour's Tournament agronomist Paul Vermeulen. Scott had mentioned that Paul would be coming to the course during advance week (week before the tournament) and would stay until the tournament was over. Paul would be helping us tweak any





**DUBSDREAD**

HOLE	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	TOT	HCP	NET
BLACK	383	607 <sup>592</sup>	216	480	215	523	456 <sup>446</sup>	423	494 <sup>477</sup>	3797	7554		
GOLD	369	565	202	446	194	509	419	407	459	3570	7144		
BLUE	353	547	194	383	184	482	381	399	431	3354	6750		
WHITE	336	525	178	371	174	462	362	381	401	3190	6382		
GREEN	333	483	154	368	171	425	359	378	374	3045	6033		
FORWARD	306	436	151	312	108	410	342	299	371	2735	5441		
Thursday AM	10.4	11.6	11.1	11.0	10.5	10.5	10.4	10.7	9.8				
PM	10.4												
PAR	4	5	3	4	3	5	4	4	4	36	71/72		
Friday AM	10.7	11.3	11.6	11.4	10.3	10.10	10.6	10.10	10.0				

necessary changes and would be another great set of eyes to have on the golf course.

Paul wound up being a great mentor through the tournament process, but in the beginning he was the agronomist from hell. Paul followed me, watched me, and harassed me until I was programmed to monitor the golf course the way he wanted it monitored. We calibrated the way I watered or didn't water. I never went anywhere without a TDR meter (I actually took it home with me by accident, twice). I mastered the tru-firm meter. There was never a time in the day that I didn't know the conditions of those greens and collars. I was focused on getting the bluegrass stand at "attention." We continued to moisten those high bunker faces so the sand wouldn't fall off. I ever so slightly cracked my hose up to lightly drip water onto localized dry spots. We added water where it was needed, and more importantly, didn't add water unnecessarily.

I need to do laundry (my suit case is empty). I've been falling asleep in my work cloths on the couch. Paul Vermeulen knows my every move. I watch the sun rise and set at work. Some nights I fall asleep while on the phone with my fiancé. Sorry, Kelly.

As tournament week started the crew and I began to fall into a bit of a rhythm. There is a lot to be said for a crew with a lot of experience. I'm not just counting years of service, but number of years that they have prepared for large scale tournaments such as the BMW Championship. Our crew put in a lot of hours and overtime hours preparing for the tournament, including time before my arrival. The course was in great shape, despite what a few critics thought of the architecture and design. It's amazing, the kind of drama that a few professional athletes can drum up, isn't it?

Tournament week starts on Monday, with practice rounds on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Thursday is the start of the real deal. We did most of our maintenance in the mornings, course setup, hand raked all the bunkers (yes, all the bunkers), and mowed greens. We would also water in the mornings, so that everything had enough moisture to get through the day. It was important that nothing dried out too

early in the week (we didn't want to peak too early). Once the "ball is in the air" or the first player tees off, there is nothing we can really do to the golf course except monitor the conditions. Without going into too much detail, tees, approaches and fairways, and any kind of second cut were mowed in a combination of every other day either in the mornings or afternoons. We typically rolled greens in the afternoons (I learned that rolling greens tends to artificially enhance greenspeed immediately after the procedure).

After everything was cut and rolled, we went back to watering. Watering included all banks and bunkers around greens, the collar and the green. During tournament week we noticed that the collars were starting to turn an off color, showing signs of stress. As a precautionary measure, we mixed together some basic nutrients and gave the collars a spray.

*(continued on next page)*

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Using a portable mixing tank and a backpack pump sprayer we treated each collar individually. It was something like 120 pumps per collar. My right arm was numb. We decided to spray the collars again on the Saturday night of the tournament; we were there til 10:30 p.m. The spray had an immediate affect, and we saw the benefits the very next morning. A jolt of color helps when your collars are being scrutinized in high definition.

The course looked great and the tournament was a success, despite what you might have heard on TV from a few critics. Even though the tournament was just about over and Justin Rose was only two holes away from being crowned the BMW Champion, our staff was preparing for its evening maintenance. After a week of pure stress, it was important to give our greens some relief by replenishing the nutrients. We whipped up a soil spray, which was then soaked in. I mean really soaked in, by hand. It felt good to flood those greens after babying them for so long.

With the tournament over, it was time to sleep. I hadn't really gotten more than five hours of sleep a night since I had started. After I woke up it was time to get my life back on track. The work on the apartment was completed approximately one week after the tournament, so I had to move. You know how much fun moving is. I continued to live out of a suitcase until we were completely unpacked; it still feels weird to hang clothes on a hanger.

In one month's time: I started a new job, four eighteen hole golf courses on 1000 acres with a 75 person crew (which hosted a PGA Tournament, the third leg of the FedEx Cup Playoffs); I moved back in with my parents; I missed two hockey games, two graduations, and one

50th surprise party (sorry, Uncle Dave). I don't remember most conversations I had outside of work, especially anything on the phone after 8:00 p.m. (sorry, Kelly); I don't know if it was the stress, or the fact that I never had time to sit down, but I lost 15 pounds through it all (thanks, Scott); I learned what it takes to maintain a golf course for a PGA Tournament (thanks, Paul). I continue to learn from Scott Pavalko, and the legendary Ken Lapp.

And even though it was the most stressful, chaotic, and exciting month of my life, I wouldn't have changed a thing, and I would definitely do it all over again. Tournament golf is addicting, and now that I've experienced it I want to do it again.

Now that it's all over, it's time for Scott and me to figure out what a "normal" day is like at Cog Hill. Cog Hill does over 100,000 rounds of golf a year. We are open all year long, even in the winter. With the good weather, we are looking at record numbers for these last few months. The winter months are consumed with maintaining our fleet of golf carts (over 500) in house, and getting ready for the upcoming golf season. It's funny to say that, seeing as the season never ends, even with six inches of snow on the ground (we still check for frost). I enjoyed being part of an event that is seen on a national stage, and I enjoy working at a facility that is world renowned. The very near future will be exciting and interesting as you can imagine. If you're going to stop by, which I hope you do, call ahead because navigating this large and intense property takes a little extra time. **-OC**





## FEATURE I

Ken Shepherd, *Retired Golf Course Superintendent*



# Grass Roots Planning Encouragement for the Next Generation

*Before I decided to semi-retire from the Lockport Township Park District on June 30, 2011, I began to think about what I wanted the retirement phase of my life to look like. After some thought, I asked myself why would I want retirement to be any different from the way I lived before I retired. I also realized that whenever I have been successful, it was always because I had set goals and then implemented plans to reach those goals. As a result, I've spent the last couple of years on goals and plans for what I would do after retirement. As rewarding as it has been to be a turfgrass manager for over thirty years, I know that my new goal -- to mentor and counsel the younger generation -- will be just as important, rewarding, and challenging as my career in turfgrass has been.*

To be a leader and mentor for the next generation has always been a passion for me. My father was the first person to teach me the foundational truth of hard work. I will always remember him saying, "If you're not going to do it right, then don't do it at all." As I moved into my career in turf, I remember hearing great stories about superintendents who took the time to mentor the next generation of golf course greens keepers. I hope those men who chose to mentor the next generation realized what an impact they made by choosing to stand beside younger men and share their time and knowledge with them. Mentoring and teaching has always been a backbone of the golf course industry. As much as the younger generations of the past have benefited from good leadership, the present generation has suffered from a lack of it.

I say this from my own experience as a mentor to young men from fatherless homes. The most recent statistics that I have show that as many as thirty-nine percent of American children live in homes without a father present, while eighty percent of inner city children have no father in their home. There is a deep need for leadership in our country and in our homes.

During the last ten years of my career I made a concerted effort to spend time with the young people working for us during the summer. I asked them about goals, plans, and their future careers. From the responses I received, I became really concerned. I couldn't understand how juniors or seniors in college could be so close to graduation and tell me that they still didn't know what they wanted to do! Instead of being frustrated with their responses, it was time to help them out.

One of the first things I did was to do a presentation called, "Tools to Build a Career." In it, I explained that having a degree is very important and will help open many doors. However, if a college degree is the only tool you have in your

tool box, it may not be enough to get a job in this economy. Several tools could help set you apart from other applicants. Tools that can be remembered with the acronyms CAD and WEB. CAD stands for Character, Attitude, and Drive. WEB stands for Work Ethic, Entitlement (nothing is deserved until it is earned), and Below (there is no job that is below you). If the young would add these tools to their boxes, prospective employers would be a lot more excited about hiring them. Guiding young adults in developing skills and making them able to fill their tool boxes with a wide array of tools is where leadership proves invaluable.

Grass Roots Planning is a free service aimed at seeing the next generation successful in their lives and in their careers. It's a service that's available to anyone. I've already made presentations to junior high level through college age students. In April, I will be addressing the Lockport Rotary Club. Available presentations include: Communication, Career Planning, Decision Making, and Character/Leadership. Information packets are also available, which include a business card, resume, references, and sample presentations. After all this preparation and work, I've been asked whether I will be frustrated if people don't listen or respond. My reply is, no. The plans for me to do this were set long ago when the Lord blessed me with a career that would afford me the opportunity to return the blessings I have received.

Let me close this article on planning by sharing with you the bible verse that we use as a theme in our summer camp for fatherless young men. The verse that Team Focus shares with the young men is Jeremiah 29:11, "'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" **-OC**

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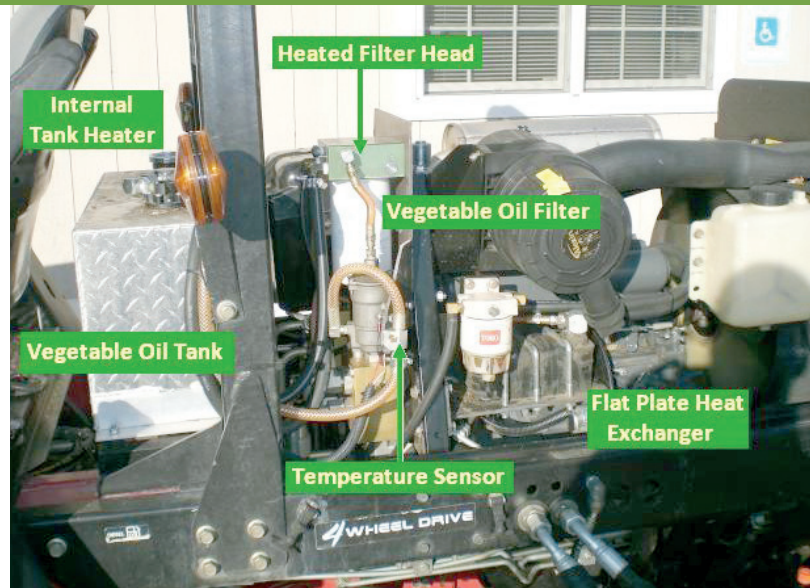
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FEATURE II

Bryan Stromme, *Billy Casper Golf*

# Waste Vegetable Oil as a Fuel Source for a Golf Course Rough Mower



*Jason Wolf, Superintendent at Whisper Creek Golf Club, Huntley, Illinois, a Billy Casper Golf facility, operates a diesel-engine rough mower that burns waste vegetable oil (WVO) as an alternative fuel source. Doug Waldron, Equipment Technician, is responsible for installing and maintaining the conversion kit in the rough unit. Reduced environmental impact and lower fuel costs are the primary project benefits.*

Restaurants with deep fat fryers produce WVO. Ordinarily they have a disposal vendor, who charges to haul the waste oil. The Whisper Creek team harvests 55 gallons of WVO each week from the restaurant adjacent to the clubhouse, at no charge to either party. WVO from any kitchen contains water and debris (like chicken parts!). The team must remove this debris before it can be used as engine fuel. An electric-powered centrifuge is used to remove the contaminants.



*Doug Waldron and Jason Wolf*

The team stores the WVO in 55-gallon drums at the maintenance shop for immediate use as an alternative fuel.

Whisper Creek's 58 Horsepower, 2001 Toro 4500-Diesel mower now operates on WVO. A simple conversion kit allows the alternative fuel source to power the unit. The mower starts each time using diesel fuel. The WVO heats to 160-180 degrees Fahrenheit via an internal tank heater. A dashboard switch allows the operator to change the fuel supply from diesel to 100% WVO. A heated oil filter and

inline, flat-plate heat exchanger are used to maintain temperature prior to injecting the WVO into the engine's cylinders. The operator switches the fuel supply back to diesel to purge the entire system prior to shut down.

The conversion kit and centrifuge filter/pump cost \$1,800. Installation of the conversion kit and building the transport trailer took 20-24 labor hours. Driving to the restaurant, extracting the WVO

from the kitchen holding tank, processing it through the centrifuge filter, and pumping into 55-gallon storage tanks takes approximately one hour.

Data collection at Whisper Creek reveals that this rough mower burns diesel and WVO at equal rates of one and a half gallons of fuel per hour. This unit shows no horsepower or operation variance while burning WVO.

*(continued on page 11)*

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This conversion is a great accomplishment for the Whisper Creek team both within Billy Casper Golf and the golf industry. They are protecting the environment by reducing diesel usage and saving the owners money each time the unit mows. This project is a winner because it is simple to convert, uses a safe alternative fuel that is cheap and easy to store, and reduces environmental impact. Restaurant revenues might even increase once golfers at Whisper Creek catch the great new smell of the mower's emissions. **-OC**



*Vegetable oil transport trailer*

*Vegetable oil powered rough unit in action.*





THE BULL SHEET  
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



# February 2012

We welcome our newest MAGCS members, and wish the best of luck to all of them:  
**Andrew Decker**, Class C, Oakland Hills Country Club  
**Michael Donovan**, Class C, Chicago Golf Club  
**Brian Smith**, Class E, BJS Sales/Fore-Par Golf  
**Justin Apel**, Class C, Ruffled Feather Golf Club

Oh, and while we're in the welcoming mood, any time WINTER wants to show its face, I'd welcome THAT too! (Editor's note: At press time, winter was still in hiding and had no comment).

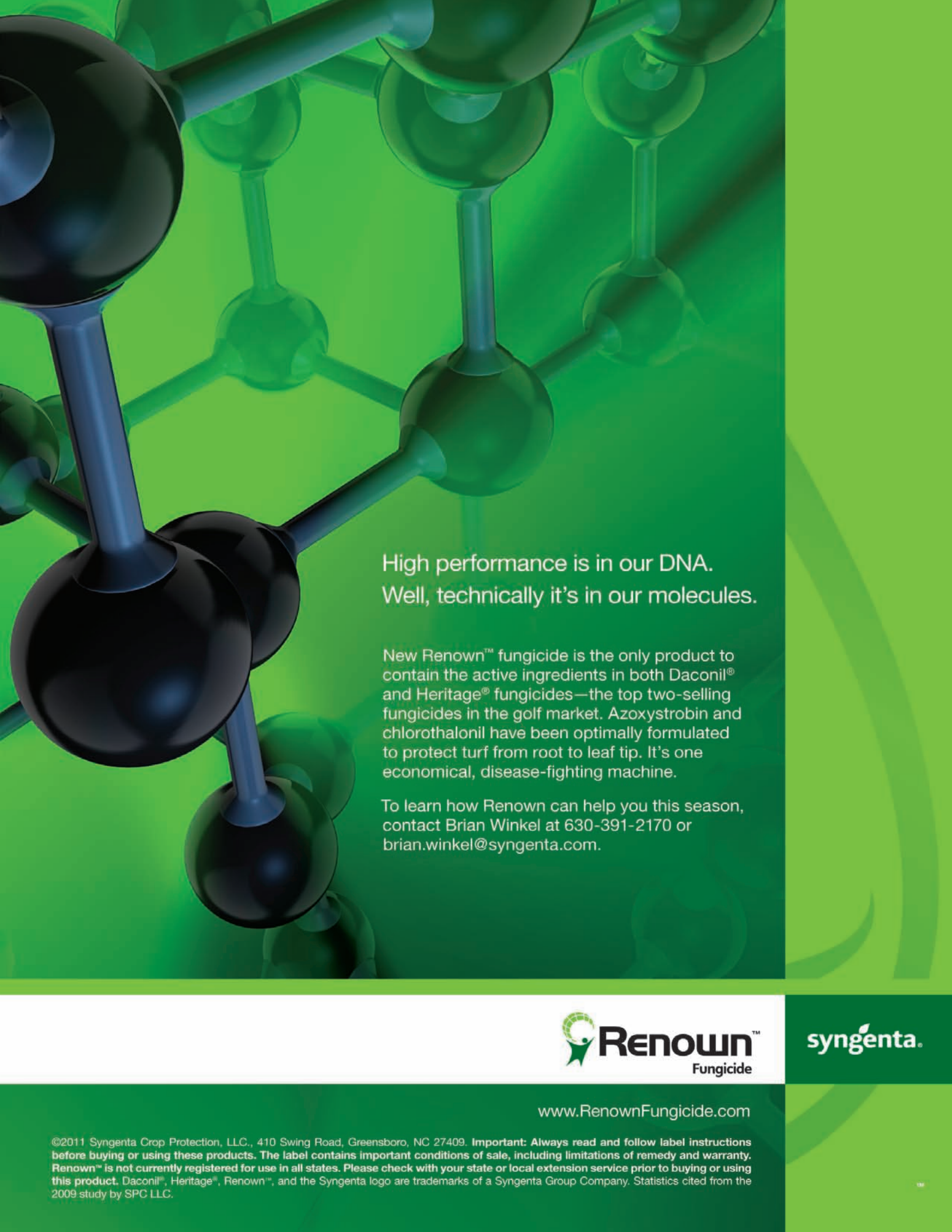
Correction: Winter DID make a brief appearance after all—note the date stamps at the lower right of each photo. From a sunny 54-degree day on the 11<sup>th</sup> (a mower demo in January?!?) to something a little more seasonal on the 12<sup>th</sup>, this has surely been one whacky winter.



(continued on next page)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 15 – Annual MAGCS Class C Winter Workshop at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.  
.....
- February 17-19 – Tinley Park Golf Expo at the Tinley Park Convention Center in Tinley Park, IL.  
.....
- February 24-26 – Chicago Golf Show at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, IL.  
.....
- February 24-26 – GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic in Palm Springs, CA.  
.....
- February 27-March 2 – GCSAA Education Conference in Las Vegas, NV.  
.....
- February 29 – MAGCS Hospitality Reception at the Hard Rock Café at 4475 Paradise Road in Las Vegas, NV from 7 to 10 PM.  
.....
- February 29-March 1 – Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas, NV.  
.....
- March 2 – “Celebrating Certification!” luncheon at the Las Vegas Hilton ballroom EFG from 12:30 to 2:00 PM.  
.....
- March 5-9 – Rain Bird Academy Irrigation Training Classes in Elgin, IL. Go to [www.rainbirdservicescorporation.com/training](http://www.rainbirdservicescorporation.com/training) for information or to register.  
.....
- March 10-18 – Chicago Flower and Garden Show at Navy Pier in Chicago, IL. Info at [www.chicagoflower.com](http://www.chicagoflower.com).  
.....
- March 21 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton, IL, **Mike Mumper** host.  
.....
- April 1 – Deadline for nominations for TurfNet’s Technician of the Year Award.  
.....
- April 25 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Spring Scramble at Naperville Country Club, **Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG** and **Steven Biehl** hosts.  
.....
- July 14 - MAGCS Family Night Picnic, Kane County Cougars. Elfstrom Stadium, Geneva  
.....



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- The Inaugural Tinley Park Golf Expo on the 17<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> provides the golf community with a fresh, new option for a winter golf show, featuring golf instruction options, info on golf courses and destinations, golf equipment, and apparel. One lucky attendee will win “Free Golf for Life” courtesy of one of the many vendors on hand.
- On the 24<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>, the Chicago Golf Show returns for its 29<sup>th</sup> year to the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, IL. This is the local granddaddy of them all, being the nation’s oldest and second-largest consumer golf show. And in keeping with the giving spirit, GolfVisions Management, operator of 12 Chicago-area golf courses is giving away a coupon for a free round of golf to every attendee.

.....  
 This month seems to be the traditional kick-off to the golf season, with quite a number of events taking place in the world of golf:

- This month on the 15<sup>th</sup>, the Annual Class C Winter Workshop was held at Golf House (and by the way, don’t be fooled by its title—it is open to all classifications, and is well worth the trip to Lemont). MAGCS members **David Marquardt**, **Greg Martin** and **David Esler** highlighted the day of education, a recap of which will be featured in the March issue of *On Course*.
- The MAGCS Hospitality Reception in Vegas on the 29<sup>th</sup> is always a great way to usher in the coming season by reconnecting with long-lost friends and colleagues in a relaxed and at times drinky atmosphere. This year’s event is at the Hard Rock Café, and promises not to disappoint.

.....  
 The MAGCS monthly meeting for next month will be held at its traditional venue—Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton, IL (**Mike Mumper**, **Justin Kirtland**, **Josh Therrien**, and **Tim Johnson** ALL hosting). Education will be provided by our old friend Dr. Lee Miller from the University of Missouri, and our new old North Central Region USGA Agronomist Bob Vavrek, so don’t miss it.

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**Dr. Lee Miller**

.....  
Congratulations to William Meyer, former first assistant superintendent at Ridgeway Country Club in Neenah, WI on his move to the assistant superintendent's position at Park Ridge Country Club (**Joel Purpur, CGCS** and **Shane Conroy**).  
.....

Time is running out to nominate your equipment technician for TurfNet's Technician of the Year Award. Presented by the Toro Company, the award recognizes the equipment manager who best demonstrates excellence in such areas as crisis management, budgeting, environmental awareness, promoting the careers of colleagues and employees, interpersonal communications, inventory management and cost control, condition of equipment, safety, and work ethic. If your technician has these qualities, nomination forms can be found at [www.turfnet.com](http://www.turfnet.com) by clicking on the "Worth His Weight in Gold" headline. Go on—get your guy a Golden Wrench for his tool box! Deadline for nominations is April 1, so hurry.  
.....

While on the subject of technicians, the Turf Equipment Technicians Association (TETA) recently announced the results of its election for the 2012-2013 Board of Directors: President, Don Briggs (Merit Club); Vice President, Matt Passantino (Twin Orchard CC); Secretary, Glenn Peters (North Shore CC); Directors, Chuck Totten (Westmoreland CC), Brian Eilrich (Glen View Park District), Kevin Bauer (Lockport Township Park District), and Steven Vasquez (Glenview Club). Congratulations gentlemen.  
.....

And in further technician news, GCSAA announced it supports the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association's (ICGEMA) certificate program. GCSAA President Robert Randquist, CGCS noted the importance of professional development and teamwork that the program will foster.  
.....

The MAGCS family received some tragic news late last month when it was learned that Aaron Easter, former assistant superintendent at Bartlett Hills Golf Course, had died at the age of 31 while snowboarding in Steamboat Springs, CO. Aaron's father, Robert Easter, is the interim Provost and Chancellor at the University of Illinois and former Dean of the College of Aces. Our sympathies go out to the family and friends of Aaron.



**Aaron Easter**

.....  
This is traditionally the time of year when some movement in our ranks takes place, and 2012 is no exception. To wit: **Mike Hatton** has left EZ-GO as of January 13<sup>th</sup> to pursue a career in sales of composites such as resin, gel coats, fiberglass, etc. Also, **Al Pondel, CGCS** is back to doing what he does best—Al, who was a sales rep for Harrell's after leaving Rockford Country Club last year, started his new position as golf course superintendent at Crystal Woods Golf Club in Woodstock, IL on February 1<sup>st</sup>, the same course that he grew up on both caddying for his dad and playing. Do you know what this means with Mike and Al off the Class E roster? It means the Class E Championship is now officially up for grabs again! Congratulations to both men, and best of luck!  
.....

Seems like only yesterday when that guy from Connecticut with the orange hair came to town and worked his magic at Chicago Golf Club. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, that guy—**Jon Jennings, CGCS**—will be taking the reins as golf course superintendent at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club in Southampton, NY. During his time here, Jon has been a frequent contributor to this association and to this magazine, serving on various committees including Editorial (for which I personally am grateful). Having tested the waters of major tournament preparation by hosting the 2005 Walker Cup, Jon will face the challenge of hosting the 2018 U. S. Open Championship at Shinnecock. Hard to imagine a better choice for the job. Good luck to Jon!



**Jon Jennings**

.....  
(continued on page 17)

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After serving 5 years as agronomist with the USGA Green Section's Mid-Continent Region, **Ty McClellan** will be leaving Illinois to take over his new duties as Manager of the Green Section's Education Program. His new role with the USGA will focus on expanding its multimedia educational products and outreach designed to help communicate the principles of turfgrass science, golf course management practices and golf sustainability issues to multiple audiences such as turf management professionals, course officials, golfers, and the general public. Ty will continue to travel extensively, frequently making presentations, writing articles, and assisting in coordinating the Green Section website content and producing the Green Section Record. As part of this change, Illinois will be moving into the North Central Region where agronomic support from the USGA will now be provided by Director Bob Brame and Senior Agronomist Bob Vavrek. Both Bobs have been part of the Green Section for more than 20 years and offer a wealth of experience to golf facilities that subscribe to the Turf Advisory Service. We wish Ty the very best in his exciting new position which will take him to Pennsylvania, and thank him for his 5 years of exceptional service to our region.



**Ty McClellan**

Also on the move is **Andrew Perry**, former assistant superintendent at Black Sheep Golf Club who has accepted the superintendent's position at Blackstone Golf Club in Marengo, IL. Andy takes over for **Nick Leu** who has taken a superintendent's job at a private club in Nebraska. Congratulations to both of these young gentlemen!



**Andrew Perry**

Due to the previous item, Black Sheep Golf Club is looking for an assistant superintendent. Interested parties should contact **Dave Biery** at 630-761-0379. It would really make Dave's life simpler if your name is Andy.

And another of our old friends has left us as of the end of 2011. Rubigan AS fungicide is officially no longer being sold by the Gowan Co. due to the increase in regulations outside the U.S. and rising regulatory costs within the U.S. according to the manufacturer.

Assistant superintendent columnist needed: If you an assistant and would like your voice to be heard, *Golfdom* magazine wants to hear from you. For 2012, *Golfdom* is making some changes, one of which is the addition of a column written by an assistant that will run three to four times per year. If you are interested, YOU SHOULD BE WRITING ARTICLES FOR ON COURSE!! And after you do that, you can email your resume along with a sample of your writing and two ideas for columns you'd like to write to *Golfdom*. Details at [www.golfdom.com](http://www.golfdom.com) by clicking on the "Assistant Superintendent Columnist Needed" headline.

How about those kooky researchers at the University of Maine? It seems they have developed a way to turn lobster shells into golf balls. After nine months of development and research, they think they have got it, by Jove. And that isn't the best part—the balls are biodegradable to boot. The University is currently taking steps to patent the process. This just has **Randy Kane's** name ALL over it.

Last month, on the 10<sup>th</sup>, the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents held its Annual Shop Tour. The three-stop junket began at Makray Memorial Golf Club in Barrington with **Tim Christians** hosting the large group for donuts and coffee and a look around his shop. From there the caravan moved a bit south and east to **Brian Mores'** maintenance facility at Inverness Golf Club, which featured some very ingenious ways of storing equipment in limited space. The final stop of the day was at the host club for the 2013 Ryder Cup—Medinah Country Club. Host **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** and his very helpful and courteous staff members led the attendees on a tour of their revamped facilities, after which a great lunch provided by a Chicago legend—Portillo's—was enjoyed by all who came out. It was a January day that found shop overhead doors open and attendees jacketless due to the odd winter weather, and it was enjoyed by all. Thanks to everyone involved for a really great day away from our own work environs.



**Tim Christians**

(continued on page 18)



Brian Mores chats with Kurt Galisdorfer.



Jeff Frenz and Curtis Tyrrell share a few words.



01/10/2012

Easy one—they both talk for a living. One talks about baseball. The other just talks. And talks. And TALKS... About anything and everything. Whether he knows what he's talking about or not. Could Fox baseball analyst and talking head Thom Brennaman and Erwin McKone be one and the same?



Thom Brennaman and Erwin McKone

North Carolina State University's loss is Syngenta's gain. Dr. Lane Tredway, head of the Turf Pathology Program at NC State has accepted a position with Syngenta as a Senior Technical Field Representative for Turf and Landscape which commenced on the first of this month.

As you read this, Fred Behnke, CGCS of Mt. Prospect Golf Club is already back at work. Why, you ask, was Fred NOT at work? According to a source close to the story, Fred had hip replacement surgery on December 29<sup>th</sup>. The unnamed source goes on to say that Fred is willing to share the name of the very gifted surgeon who so deftly performed the procedure on him with anyone who finds themselves in the similar predicament of waking up one morning to find their hip missing, and thus requiring a replacement. Hope to see you out and about this Spring, Fred!



Fred Behnke

Finally! The secret to why Randy Lusher is always smiling has been unlocked. BASF, Randy's employer, was ranked the fifth happiest company in CareerBliss' Top 50, with only Hilton Worldwide, Fluor Corp., Johnson & Johnson, and Nordstrom having smilier employees.

MAGCS members were certainly well-represented in December's *Golf Course Industry* magazine. The issue featured articles written by Bruce Williams, CGCS and Bob Lohmann, as well as an article titled "Beyond the Turf" which addressed the many non-golf responsibilities our maintenance crews have. In the article, Bob Maibusch, CGCS, MG at Hinsdale Golf Club describes the intensive amount of labor involved in his club's skeet shooting range and heated platform tennis courts. Good reading from some good fellas.

Want a free Harley? Who doesn't? The Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA) is raffling off a 2012 Harley-Davidson motorcycle at the Golf Industry Show from its booth #1774. The drawing will be held on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 PM (Pacific time).

Billy Casper Golf (BCG) has launched a comprehensive agronomy internship program designed to identify and further educate future leaders in turfgrass management. Applicants must be

currently enrolled in an accredited associate, bachelor or graduate turfgrass management or agronomy degree program with career aspirations in golf course management. Positions will be offered at select BCG-managed courses nationwide for the 2012 golf season. Application deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup>—go to [www.billycaspergolf.com/agronomyinternship](http://www.billycaspergolf.com/agronomyinternship) to download and submit an application.

.....

**Items For Sale:**

- Five Jacobsen 522A Greens King mowers with groomers—in great condition.
- John Deere Sweeper used only 4 fall seasons for fairway plugs. Machine has new brushes and new hydraulic motor for brushes.
- 2004 Jacobsen 628 Turf Cat with mulching kit—in great condition with 650 hours.

Contact Justin VanLanduit at Briarwood Country Club for more info at 847-945-3350 or [justinv@briarwoodcountryclub.com](mailto:justinv@briarwoodcountryclub.com).

.....

On January 17<sup>th</sup> the MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Wee One Fundraiser was held at Seven Bridges Golf Club with **Don Ferreri** and **Dave Gelino** serving as hosts. The morning's education program featured Paul Koch from the University of Wisconsin whose presentation was "Know Your Fungicides; Using ELISA to Measure Fungicide Degradation in the Field," as well as Leslie Lowry of the Illinois EPA who spoke on the new NDPES permit process as it relates to the golf industry. Following education and lunch, the afternoon kicked off with the Wee One Fundraiser, which included a silent auction for countless goods and services donated by MAGCS members, a Texas Hold 'Em tournament, and raffles for prizes. It was a great day for the Wee One Foundation, and a great time for everyone in attendance. Thanks to Seven Bridges for their hospitality, to everyone for participating, and to the day's sponsors, who were: **Arthur Clesen, Inc.** **Burris Equipment Company, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Syngenta.**

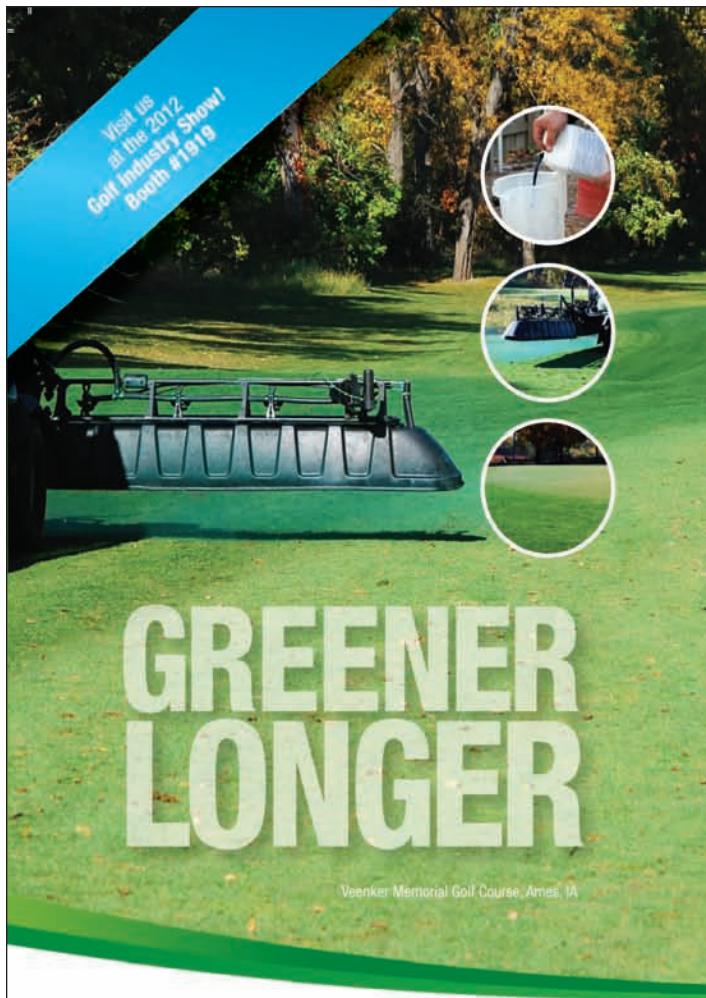
Going once... going twice... going nowhere? Guess we should have done a little more audience research before dangling our 'Greens Slope Analysis Study' out at the Wee One auction last month. No bidders... how embarrassing! Oh well, but all should not be lost for the true cause, right? So in an effort to show our commitment to the Wee One Foundation and what it represents, and also a bit of our own humility, we would like to donate the \$500 that *should* have been bid on this great product. And please, send us some suggestions for next year's auction, cause we *will* be back! Best regards, Bob Lohmann **-OC**

.....



(more photos on page 20)





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## EDUCATION REVIEW

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



# 1.17.12

*The MAGCS January Meeting was held at Seven Bridges Golf Club, hosted by Don Ferreri. Paul Koch: Assistant Researcher and Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab Manager made the trip down from the University of Wisconsin Madison to make his presentation titled, "Know Your Fungicides". Paul and staff have done research using ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) to measure fungicide degradation.*

His latest research project was on "what happens to snow mold fungicides over the winter?" The fungicide product of his research featured the common snow mold fungicide of iprodione. His goal was to measure the degradation of the fungicide with snow cover and without snow cover.

Fungicides are "broken down" by numerous ways.

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6. Abiotic degradation: photodecomposition, pH

Paul's research was focusing on the effects of abiotic degradation. He used ELISA tests which uses mammalian

immune system based technology. ELISA tests are very commonly used in medical research. Some examples are: home pregnancy test kits, HIV tests and pesticide detection. Samplings were taken weekly, two for each plot, treated and untreated.

The results were variable over a two year period. One conclusion he came to was there was not much difference between plots with snow cover and plots without snow cover. One the challenges he faced was determining at what point the concentration of the fungicide no longer effective for control of snow mold. He figured and used 100 PPM as this critical point at which fungicides are no longer effective for disease control. An interesting take away was that microbial degradation was determined to be the key factor in fungicide decomposition and not photo-degradation.

*(continued on page 25)*





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So the big question becomes: do we reapply fungicides over the duration of the winter period?

The answer is not so simple with outcomes dependent upon the inputs.

Pros: can increase protection, less chance of spring disease

Cons: waste of money, spray rig traffic can cause excessive damage, granular and systemic products need to be watered in and translocation is required.

Paul also worked on summer fungicide degradation. Once again, the fungicide tested for was iprodione.

Reasons for Loss of Disease Control during the summer:

1. High disease pressure: hot, humid
2. Decomposition factors: rates, coverage, intervals
3. Depletion of protection through mowing practices

Paul focused on the depletion of protection using ELISA test kits, testing different rates on treated and non-treated plots.

His research found that high temperatures are the key component that causes fungicides to degrade faster.

His recommendations from his research:

1. Shorten spray intervals during hot weather
2. Microbial degradation is faster during warmer weather and is the key factor
3. Plant metabolism is higher during warmer weather
4. Extend treatment intervals during cooler temperatures
5. There is loss off of leaf tissue from mowing practices

### Final thoughts:

- Could disease control have as much to do with the “knockdown” power of a fungicide application as fungicide degradation and the time it takes the disease to go through its lifecycle and reproduce?
- There are many more fungicides, insecticides and herbicides to test for.
- There is so much variability from environmental conditions. Ex. Shade, soil moisture, course to course...
- What is the effect of PGR's, fertilizer, and irrigation?
- We need to continue to develop mathematical models and create inexpensive field test kits for “real time” pest concentrations.
- For more information contact Paul at the diagnostic lab: [www.tdl.wisc.edu](http://www.tdl.wisc.edu)

The next presenter for the day was from Leslie Lowry, Environmental Engineer from the Illinois EPA. Her presentation was titled “General NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Permit for Pesticide Application Point Source Discharges.”

Legislation was passed in October of 2011 associated with Clean Water Act to enact new application restrictions associated with “Waters of the State.” This may or may not affect your golf course. Waters of the State are considered water that is hydraulically connected. In layman's terms it is any water feature that runs off your property into the surrounding water shed. This does not include self-contained ponds or lakes with no discharges. Drainage ditches that may be wet or dry during certain times are considered waters



of the state. This law covers residues from treatments that include insecticides, weed and algae control, animal control and forest areas. Areas outside the scope of the law are off target drift, agricultural storm water run-off and irrigation return flow.

A NOI (Notice of Intent) permit is required to be applied for prior to applications. It can be submitted electronically and include a signed original document. The permit is good for 5 years and covers all aspects of the property if application includes all future pesticide application sites. Ideally (one) NOI is made for each property or application district. An Endangered Species Consultation is also required prior to applications. This can be done on the NOI permit process through an existing data base. If you do not exceed EPA threshold for specific pesticide product use and area restrictions this is all you will need to do. If you plan on exceeding the EPA thresholds you will also be required to submit a PDMP (Pesticide Discharge Management Plan) after the NOI permit is submitted. Record keeping will also be required.

Leslie gave a very technical presentation and this summary is designed to provide basic information about the new law. For specific detailed information visit: [www.epa.state.il.us/water/permits/pesticide/index.html](http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/permits/pesticide/index.html)

This education session was also video recorded. If you would like a copy, please call Luke at 630-243-7900 or drop him an email at [luke@magcs.org](mailto:luke@magcs.org) and he will send one out to you. -OC



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