

# ON COURSE

THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

January 2012



Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents  
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JANUARY 2012 Volume 65 No. 9



The new Midwest Board shares a laugh while taking a break during the strategic meeting.

**FRONT COVER**

Your 2012 Midwest Board, (l to r) Matt Kregel, Ed Braunsky, Chuck Barber, Mike Mumper, Matt Harstad, Bob Kohlstedt, Nick Marfise, Dan Sterr, John Gurke, John Nelson, and Dave Kohley. (not pictured Dave Groelle)  
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.

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

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ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT  
Luke Cella, *Publisher*



# Important Changes

*Who invented the New Year's Resolution? It wasn't a greeting card company that pushed it through like Valentines Day, Father's Day or Mother's Day. I think it was someone that saw the new year as a fresh start, a new beginning, an opportunity to begin with a clean slate. It was probably a very simple utterance since New Year's Day is preceded by a night of tomfoolery. It doesn't take much imagination to the real reason the first resolution was uttered. Resolution is the act or process of resolving, when defined further takes you to the word determine, which, I believe is at the heart of the matter – to fix conclusively or authoritatively.*

In middle December the Midwest Board met to look at the Association in a strategic manner. This is a really good practice because it encourages the Board to look at the Association from a different point of view. This differs from our normal meetings throughout the year when we are wrapped up in the minutia of the Association; running the next meeting, squaring up speakers and education, making sure arrangements are set, etc. The setting of the strategic meeting is informal and laid back with no motions or rules to promote the thought process of those present. There is a loose agenda to the meeting that the group is guided through, but the real beauty of it, is the outcome is not set and no one knows where it will go. One of the outcomes of our meeting earlier this month was to fix conclusively the mission statement.

We reviewed the mission and tweaked it a bit to better reflect who we are. It now reads:

*"The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents exists to promote professionalism and integrity, to provide networking, education and career enhancement opportunities to all members who facilitate the growth and enjoyment of golf."*

The changes come in the addition of "promoting professionalism and integrity" and "to all members" to the statement. These two changes may appear to be small on the surface but a lot of thought and discussion occurred to carefully select the words and their order. The board feels everything we do promotes professionalism. Whether it is producing a high quality desirable magazine, educating our members by vetting our speakers, visiting with lawmakers to alert and inform them, or providing venues for our members to foster relationships, the underlying intent is always to

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***"The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents exists to promote professionalism and integrity, to provide networking, education and career enhancement opportunities to all members who facilitate the growth and enjoyment of golf."***

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promote the image and the standing of the profession and the individuals that are golf course superintendents. Furthermore, the board wants to make certain that the integrity of our profession is well cared for and valued as it always has been. Lately, there seems to be some pressure on how we go about doing business, and some of this stems from the economic uncertainty, which eventually will stabilize. The integrity of our profession and our members should never waver under any circumstance – and by adding this to our mission – will keep this belief and practice revered.

With the addition of "all members" the board feels that the mission now reflects what we are: a member driven and member run Association.

As we enter into a new year, know that your board has thought about your Association, and that you have placed it in good hands. For these gentlemen truly care about serving you and the profession not only for the coming months, but also for many years to come. **-OC**

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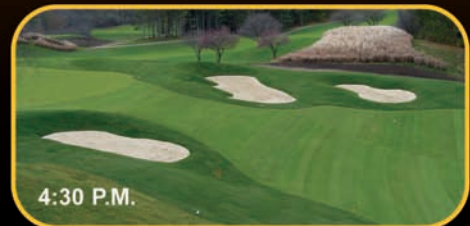
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## FEATURE

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

# MAGCS— 85 Years and Counting

*The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents enters its 86<sup>th</sup> year of existence this month. Although we cannot predict what the future holds for our organization, or for the game of golf itself, we can look back on our 85 years as an association and see how it all started, how it has progressed through the decades, and where we stand today. Ten years ago the members of the MAGCS Editorial Committee embarked on a mission to bring our colorful 75-year history to you our members and readers during our diamond anniversary celebration. For eight consecutive months On Course ran these “75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Retrospective” articles, each penned by a different author, and each summarizing a particular decade in our past. This was a huge undertaking that would never have been possible without the diligence and dedication of those authors. I wrote the first and easiest article, since the Twenties were more than half over when our association was born and since there was nobody alive to dispute any points on which I may have taken artistic liberties. Erwin McKone, Chuck Anfield, Larry Tomaszewski, Dave Braasch, Jim McNair, Shane Kissack, and Jon Jennings respectively followed with their own takes on each subsequent decade leading up to the turn of the century. It is from these articles that I have gathered most of the information for this article, which hopefully will serve to refresh the memories of our more senior members and possibly enlighten our next generation of members with this time capsule of their association’s history.*

## **The Roaring Twenties—The Birth of the Mid-West Greenkeepers Association**

The “Great War,” or World War I had ended at the start of the 20’s, Prohibition was enacted forcing many law-abiding citizens to seek entertainment in illegal “speakeasies,” as well as bringing on a rise in organized crime syndicates in the country’s major cities. In spite of this, America was thriving. During this time, on September 13, 1926, a group of sixty greenkeepers from around the nation convened at the Sylvania Country Club in Toledo, Ohio and formed the National Association of Greenkeepers of America (NAGA). Among those sixty men were Col. John Morley, the founding father and first president of NAGA, and John MacGregor, the greenkeeper from Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton, IL. Col. Morley challenged Mr. MacGregor to convene the greenkeepers in the Midwest with the purpose of organizing the district, and within two weeks notices were sent out to over 500 golf clubs in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Indiana. Sixteen

*(continued on page 6)*



of those 500 invitees attended the first meeting at the Great Northern Hotel at Jackson and Dearborn Streets in Chicago on November 26<sup>th</sup>, and the association's first officers were chosen. President John MacGregor, vice-president Alex Binnie of Shoreacres, secretary Ed B. Dearie of Ridgemoor and Oak Park Country Clubs, and treasurer Fred Sherwood—all charter members of NAGA—along with their twelve comrades chose Mid-West Greenkeepers Association (MWGA) to be our birth name, and on Christmas Eve in 1926, the association was officially launched.

During those times, professional sports were becoming quite popular, as the first radio broadcasts of events like heavyweight prize fights and the World Series made household names of men such as Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey, and Gene Tunney. Golf was among the sports to enjoy huge popularity in the 20's, thanks in large part to characters such as Walter Hagen (winner of four PGA championships including the 1925 tournament held at Olympia Fields, and two Western Opens), Gene Sarazen (winner of the 1922 US Open held at Skokie CC), and Bobby Jones, the amateur phenom from Georgia who, from 1920 to 1929 captured the imagination of a country with victories in three US Opens (and 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes in four others), four US Amateurs and two British Opens. Jones also led the US teams to Walker Cup victories throughout the decade, including an 11-1 drubbing of the British team at Chicago Golf Club in 1928.

The 20's brought the introduction of the steel shaft to golf, as the sport attracted people from all walks of life. What was needed were courses, and architects like Donald

Ross, Harry Colt, Charles Blair MacDonald, Charles Hugh Alison, William Boice Langford, Charles Maddox, Albert Warren Tillinghast, and Tom Bendelow filled that need with their many projects throughout the country. Among the courses in the Midwest that opened in the 20's were Bartlett Hills, Barrington Hills, Briarwood, Bryn Mawr, Butterfield, Calumet, Edgewood valley, Knollwood, Medinah, Naperville, Olympia Fields North, St. Charles, Twin Orchard, Sunset Ridge, Shoreacres, Mission Hills, North Shore, Ruth Lake, Silver Lake North, Rolling Green, and Villa Olivia. Elsewhere around the country, courses the likes of Seminole, Winged Foot, Olympic Club, Pebble Beach and Firestone.

At local meetings many of the same things we are troubled with to this day were being discussed, like earthworms, moss on putting greens, brown patch and grubs. The end of the decade brought the stock market crash on Black Tuesday, October 29, 1929, leading to the Great Depression which lasted well into the next decade.

### The Thirties—Golf and the Mid-West Greenkeepers Association Weather the Great Depression

Although the Great Depression certainly put a chokehold on the lavish lifestyles and excesses of the Roaring Twenties (it even cost NAGA its nest-egg of \$16,000 when a bank in Cleveland closed its doors), many aspects of American culture seemed unscathed. Hollywood flourished, Superman debuted, and the Chicago Bears won the first NFL championship over the New York Giants. Due in part to the golf boom of

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the past decade, the MWGA was experiencing a flush of new members in the early thirties. The Depression, however, brought new course construction in the thirties to a standstill, and in fact the nation experienced a net loss in the number of courses in play—sound familiar?

Locally, several developments were taking place, such as the addition of newfangled watering systems on courses such as LaGrange, Briargate and Northmoor. Meullermist and Rainbird were the pack leaders in irrigation innovation, with products like ball-drive pop-up heads and horizontal impact drive sprinklers. A few courses did open in the Midwest including Kankakee Elks, Orchard Hills, Pistakee, Pottawatomie, Sportsmans, Timber Trails, Waveland and St. Andrews. Overseeing our association were presidents such as Ralph Johnson, Cyril Tregillus, and Frank Dinelli. It was in the thirties when Augusta National was conceived and built, and the first Masters tournament was held in 1934 (called the Augusta National Invitational) and won by Horton Smith. It was also during this decade that NAGA decided that the name “greenkeeper” alone was not representative of what we were about, and thus changed its name to Greenkeeping Superintendents Association (GSA).

Golf club technology continued to improve, as steel became the choice of shafts for most golfers. No longer did golfers request their brassies, mashies, niblicks or spoons. Gone were the cleeks and baffies. Now clubs were called woods and irons, and they were numbered. It was common for a player to carry several dozen of these clubs around the course, leading to the 1938 USGA 14-club rule which is still in place today. Not only were clubs changing, so were golf balls, when Phil Young, a decent amateur player and owner of a rubber parts company devised a method of creating wound rubber balls with consistently round, properly positioned centers. Titleist was born and golf balls joined steel shafts as items of consistency and precision.

With the threat of war looming, golf maintenance became a lower priority as the calendar turned to 1940.

### **The Forties: Golf Takes a Back Seat During the War Years**

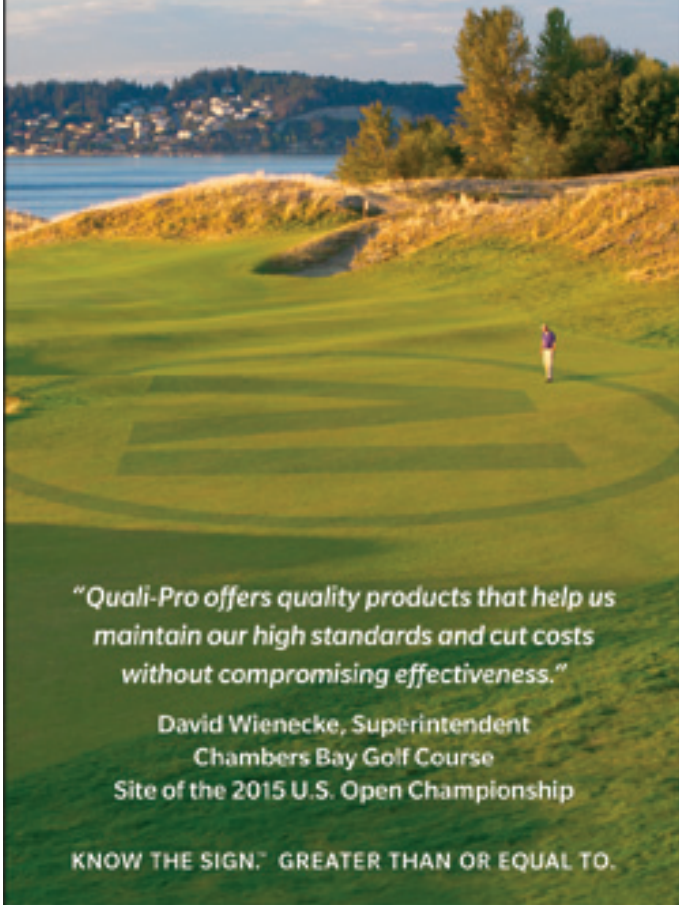
December 7, 1941—“a day that will live in infamy.” The Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor thrust the United States into World War II, and our nation’s focus united on the war effort in two separate hemispheres. While golf didn’t simply stop during the war, many golf courses were used for war-effort purposes such as military training, agriculture (Augusta National was used to graze cattle and raise turkeys), and even air strips. Local courses were forced to trim expenses and conserve resources, leading several greenkeepers to employ sheep to graze their courses and act as mowers. With the manpower shortages, many courses simply stopped maintaining bunkers, allowing them to grow over, or they tried innovative approaches using machinery to take the place of workers. Women and children became a new component of the golf labor force for the first time. Bob Hope, one of golf’s greatest ambassadors made the rounds on the USO Tour, entertaining troops usually with a golf club in his hand. He would return to the States after the war and help his buddy Bing Crosby promote the “Great Clam-Bake” on the

*(continued on page 8)*





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Monterrey peninsula that would eventually become the Bing Crosby National Pro-Am (today the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am).

The popular players of the day were Byron Nelson, Ben Hogan, Sam Snead, Jimmy Demaret and Gene Sarazen. 1948 ushered in the first issue of *The Bullsheet*, the official newsletter of the newly-coined Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS). Bob Williams was the man responsible for the name, "borrowing" it from the Fort Campbell, KY camp newsletter known as the Bull Sheet. Other notable superintendents of the day were John Darrah, Ray Gerber, Don Strand, and Melvin Warnecke, all of whom availed themselves of such new technologies as 2,4-D, the herbicide that would revolutionize the war on weeds.

When the war ended, America returned to prosperous times, and golf began its next growth spurt, thanks in some degree to an American president whose infectious love of the game led to the construction of a putting green on the White House lawn. President Dwight David Eisenhower, a hero of WWII and mastermind of the Allied invasion of France, would lead the nation into the next decade—a decade full of promise for golf and our association.

## The Rock 'N' Roll Fifties: Golf Becomes Everyman's Game

The fifties were a new beginning for Americans who had put their lives on hold through the war years. Wanting to catch up on lost opportunities, folks placed more importance on raising their families, honing their careers, and making better use of their recreational time. The suburbs became the settling-down spot after the exodus of people from America's big cities. With this came a renewed interest in golf, and by the end of the fifties, the country would experience a dramatic surge in new construction. Interest in the sport grew throughout the decade, as the number of players choosing to make golf their game of choice grew to over 3 million, and golf courses numbered over 15,000. Daily-fee courses open to the public attracted even the blue-collar workers to the game, creating a demand for new courses that would spur the next building surge. Our national organization changed its name to its current moniker—Golf Course Superintendents of America, and MAGCS celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Locally, MAGCS experienced one of its finest periods, with three MAGCS members serving as GCSAA president through the decade (Ray Gerber of Glen Oak CC in 1950, Norm Johnson of Butterfield CC in 1954, and Bob Williams of Beverly and Bob O' Link in 1958).

Herbicides came of age in the fifties when many of the pre-emergence materials such as Dactal, Balan, and Betasan were developed. Other options included those dreaded arsenicals like lead arsenate, sodium arsenate, and organic arsenicals (and this was long before protective clothing and respirators came on the scene). The insecticides being used included Chlordane, Bandane, and DDT. Fertility was typically accomplished through the use of soluble materials that provided instant improvement in color and health. Penncross bentgrass seed came on the scene, offering an alternative to the predominantly-used South German strains. The end of the war also helped make steel available again, and production of labor-saving machinery was in full swing. Found in shops



throughout the Midwest were Ford and Case tractors, Jacobson and Toro mowers, and countless other items that allowed for the efficient maintenance of the courses in our area.

The fifties brought televised golf to America's living rooms. Now our heroes of the links were real—men like Arnold Palmer who burst on the scene joining Hogan and Snead. The popularity of Babe Didrickson Zaharius, one of the greatest all-around female athletes ever, laid the groundwork for the establishment of the LPGA in the fifties. The US was dominating international team matches, winning all five Walker Cups and four of five Ryder Cups. The top money winner on the PGA Tour was Ted Kroll who earned a whopping \$72,835! It was the decade of Marilyn Monroe and Elvis, the McCarthy "witch hunts," the end of segregation (Brown v. Board of Education), the start of the Cold War, and the addition of our 49<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> states in Alaska and Hawaii. The members of MAGCS were poised and ready to ring in the next decade, with such a promising future ahead.

### **The Sixties: Milestones and Mayhem**

Golf cruised into the sixties on a wave of popularity. Construction took off despite the nation's many problems. We were involved in an unpopular war in Viet Nam, and on our home front, racial tension was heating up. The threat of nuclear decimation loomed during the Cuban Missile Crisis, our finest leaders were being assassinated such as President John F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and Robert Kennedy. The Beatles invaded America in 1964, and by the end of the decade we were all admiring our Raquel Welch posters while catching an episode of Laugh In on TV. We saw the US land a man on the moon, and a guy nicknamed "Tricky Dick" get elected President.

Chicago was a mecca for golf tournaments throughout the sixties. Medinah, Beverly and Tam O' Shanter hosted four Western Opens, while Olympia Fields hosted the 1961 PGA Championship, which Jerry Barber won. Notable course openings in our area were Cress Creek, Ravinia Green, Village Links of Glen Ellen, and Pheasant Run Resort. Ravisloe CC superintendent Roy Nelson led GCSAA as its president in 1963, when MAGCS membership had reached 245. The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation was established by R. Milton Carleton, Bertram H. Rost, George Vaughan, Dr. Ralph F. Voight, and Ben O. Warren to create a fund to support turfgrass research and development at the University of Illinois, which held its first Turf Field Day in 1960. Technology was improving at a rapid rate through the sixties, with time-saving innovations such as the triplex mower making their debuts. The list of superintendents overseeing the area's courses read like a who's who in the world of golf, with names like Ted Woehrle, Peter and Paul Voykin, Art Benson, John Ebel, Ed Stewart and Warren Bidwell headlining it. After a very politically active decade, most Americans were more than ready to see what the seventies would bring.

### **A Tale of Two Seventies**

It was the best of times. It was the worst of times. It was a decade of extremes. The seventies brought many new ideas and innovations into being; however, the decade also meant the demise of many others. The passions of the sixties'

*(continued on page 10)*





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social revolution evolved into laissez faire attitudes toward civil rights during the seventies. The incident at Kent State University and the decreasing involvement in the Viet Nam War diminished the anti-war protests. The free growth enjoyed during the post-World War II era became burdened by the governmental restrictions of the seventies. It was a time when society began to take a hard look at our planet and implement changes to protect it.

For MAGCS member Jim McNair, who had just begun his career as golf course superintendent in 1970, the memories of purchasing his new Chevy ¾-ton pickup truck for \$3,100 and a new Jacobsen Greens King for about the same price are still vivid. With systemic fungicides still around the corner, the contact products used included Caloclor, lead arsenate and Acti-Dione (cyclohexamide, which has an LD50 of 3)—not much different from 3 decades prior. It would be later in the sixties that the Environmental Protection Agency came into being. Maintenance buildings in the area boasted of Toro 76" Professional mowers, Greens Kings, Cushman Trucksters, Toro Greensmasters and Roseman gang mowers. Green space became a preservation issue and the government even made funding available to municipalities, spiking a mini-building boom in municipal golf development. Around the country things were changing as well, with President Nixon's wage and price freeze, the oil and gas embargo, and the 55-MPH speed limit in effect.

Golf took another step forward with the advent of color television. Now all the lush grass and wild clothes came to us in living color, giving rise to the "Augusta Syndrome" where all courses were now being compared to the pristine conditioning and perfection that the Masters embodies. Technologically, the move to hydraulics eliminated the need for gear boxes, belts, chains, idlers, and countless bearings and bushings. Small engines were becoming lighter and more powerful while the move toward lightweight mowing on large surfaces such as fairways had begun. Architecture and construction were changing to meet the growing need for golf courses that could handle big numbers of rounds—changes like designing larger greens with more pin locations that would spread the wear and tear of all those spiked shoes more evenly. Irrigation systems improved through automation (if you can call it that), cart paths were being built at a record pace to allow for revenue to be realized even after a big rain event, or early and late season.

Locally, MAGCS members were in good hands with suppliers such as Illinois Lawn Equipment, George A. Davis (later Chicago Toro), Nels Johnson, Burdett's, Roseman Tractor, Century Rain Aid, Henry Frenzer, Clesen's, Lemont Paving, and Wally Fuchs' Turf Products. And they needed help after suffering through such turf pests as C-15 decline and the new *Ataenius spretulus* grub that attacked bentgrass roots. The first low-mow bluegrasses were being used (Warren's A-20 and A-34), and DDT was taken off the shelves, giving us back the eagles, herons, and egrets. Labor budgets in the late seventies ranged from \$95,000 to \$157,000 with superintendent salaries anywhere from \$19,000 with housing to \$40,000 without. In 1978, Medinah Country Club offered \$25,000 to \$35,000 for its next superintendent to oversee its three courses. Past MAGCS president Ted Woehrli held the office of GCSAA president in 1977, and superintendents like



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Mike Bavier, Ed Fischer, Dudley Smith, Bruce Sering, and Oscar Miles were among the names plying their trade at area courses.

By the end of the decade, Elvis had “left the building” for good, our embassy in Tehran, Iran had been seized and the Hostage Crisis had begun, and we narrowly averted disaster at Three Mile Island. We also were riding a peak of prosperity and growth in our business, and things were looking bright for the next decade.

### The Radical Eighties

Technology was the name of the game in the eighties. IBM unveiled the first PC, and cable television was launched into households everywhere. Ronald Reagan’s Strategic Defense Initiative (aka Star Wars), Geroge Bush’s “Read my lips—No New Taxes,” and Ollie North and the Iran-Contra affair were headlines. The world lost John Lennon and the seven space shuttle Challenger astronauts. The Exxon Valdez, whose captain Joseph Hazlewood ran his tanker aground while drunk, causing more than 11 million gallons of oil to spill into Alaska’s Prince William Sound (and prompting the joke whose punchline was “I said a TanquerAY on the rocks.”) We were entertained by Caddyshack at the theaters and by the ‘85 Bears during their run to Super Bowl XX in New Orleans.

Locally, MAGCS members were hosting PGA Tour stops such as the Western Opens held at Butler National and the 1989 PGA Championship at Kemper Lakes, won by Payne Stewart. Quite a few courses opened their doors in our area, including Bon Vivant, Royal Fox, Carillon, Vernon Hills, White Eagle, Woodbine, Wynstone, Naperbrook, and Fox Run.

Superintendents were constantly battling the demon green speed issue, the decision to convert fairways to bentgrass, Dutch elm disease, and countless other nuisances we still battle today. The association was led through the decade by the likes of Peter Leuziinger, Roger Stewart, Dave Meyer, Jim Evans and Mike Nass.

By decade’s end the Berlin Wall had fallen, and communism was on its last legs, leading to the eventual dissolution of the Soviet Union into autonomous republics. This left the US as the world’s only true superpower heading into the nineties.

### The Nineties: Golf’s Boom Parallels America’s Prosperity

Perhaps one of the most influential decades in golf’s history, the nineties embodied the attitude of “if you build it they will come.” Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton was elected President in 1992 and our country experienced more peace and economic well-being than at any other time in history. Studies screamed that we need to build more golf courses to meet the skyrocketing demand, and build them we did! Unemployment was at its lowest in modern times, inflation rate was the lowest it had been in thirty years, home ownership was the highest in the country’s history, and the welfare rolls were reducing. This was the decade of Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls six championships. It was also the beginning of the Tiger Woods era in professional golf, as the phenom from Stanford followed his three consecutive US Amateur victories by turning pro in 1996 and becoming the youngest player to win the Masters (in 1997 at the age of

*(continued on page 12)*

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21 years, three months, and 14 days). The modern golf boom was in full swing.

Not everything about the nineties was good, though. Terrorism, which had been confined to the other side of the world, made its way onto American soil, when in 1993—two years to the day after the end of the Gulf War—a massive explosion occurred in an underground parking garage under One World Trade Center in New York City. Two years later, the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was targeted by Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, who drove a rental van full of home-made explosives and ignited it, blowing off half of the nine-story building.

From the start of the nineties to the finish, expectations on golf course conditioning had changed drastically. Spending in maintenance budgets rose dramatically, and the quest for green speed was on. New self-contained rollers and mowers that could cut grass at under a tenth of an inch enabled superintendents to push the limit of speed—sometimes to a fault. The Toro Hydroject aerator emerged as a tool to reduce stress on greens in a minimally-invasive way. Black layer was one of the major concerns for those growing and maintaining USGA greens. There is perhaps no bigger example of the “overgrooming” era than when, in 1997, Paul Latshaw walk-mowed the fairways at Congressional for the US Open. Not to be outdone, Winged Foot Golf Club DOUBLE-cut its fairways with walk mowers for the PGA Championship in August of that year.

The nineties saw a huge rise in environmental awareness. The USGA joined forces with the New York Audubon Society to create the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for

Golf Courses, with Peter Leuzinger spearheading St. Charles CC’s becoming the first course in the US to become a fully-certified sanctuary. The Right to Know Act was passed in 1990, rinse and spill containment systems became mandatory for golf courses in 1993, underground fuel storage tanks came under scrutiny, and superintendents found themselves immersed in regulatory red tape. Safer pesticides such as Dimension and Barricade became available, as did new bent-grasses which could be mowed even lower while showing characteristics like drought and disease resistance. We were changing our courses over to spikeless golf shoes while fighting the new gray leaf spot fungus that ravaged ryegrass stands across the Midwest. This very magazine took another step forward, with its ‘Bull Sheet’ name being changed to “On Course” (marking the second time Bob Williams had named our newsletter), bringing full color to its pages for the first time in its 50 years of existence. Bob’s son Bruce Williams began the decade as our MAGCS president and went on to lead GCSAA as its president in 1996. Local clubs played host to many professional tour stops, as the Western Open moved from Butler National to Cog Hill’s Dubsdread, the Ameritech Senior Open was played at Stonebridge, the US Senior Open took place at Olympia Fields, and the 1999 PGA Championship came to Medinah, when a memorable battle between youngsters Tiger Woods and Sergio Garcia came down to the wire, with Tiger prevailing by one shot. With the internet a regular part of our daily lives, new innovations like superintendent Russ Fink of Tamarack’s Turftalk online, Peter McCormick’s TurfNet, and Michigan State University’s Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) were at our disposal. Cell phones, computerized

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irrigation control, and real-time weather radar assisted us through our workdays. Renovations to old courses and construction of new courses were happening everywhere, and people were waiting in line to play. We were heading into the next century with a full glass of optimism for our game's future.

### **The New Century: What Goes Up Must Come Down**

Soaring high heading into the new millennium, our country was soon to experience its worst moment in its history, when on September 11, 2001 terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners, crashing them into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, while the fourth plane crashed in a Pennsylvania field after passengers fought for control with the terrorists in the cabin. Over 3,000 Americans lost their lives, and our country would never be the same again. By the middle of the decade, natural disasters were grabbing headlines, when a tsunami in Asia killed over 225,000 people in 2004 and Hurricane Katrina unleashed her fury on the Gulf coast, destroying much of New Orleans. Arnold Schwarzenegger was elected governor of California, Saddam Hussein was captured and later hanged, and the steroid era in Major League Baseball came to light. America's first African American President was sworn into office, and by late in the decade the era of the corporate bailout had begun. What had been considered "too big to fail" was not, and the collapse of the sub-prime mortgage market was followed by a global economic decline. By the end of the decade unemployment had reached 10%, and our nation's budget for 2011 included a whopping \$1.6 trillion deficit.

Golf in the Midwest began the decade at full throttle, as growth of the game and construction continued. Tommy Witt was president of GCSAA in 2001, and things were looking positive. By mid-decade, it was apparent that we had been a bit too optimistic with regard to the growth of the game, and when the economy tanked, so too did the golf industry to a degree. Clubs whose waiting lists were filled were all of a sudden struggling just to keep membership rosters full. The over abundance of high-end public courses began slashing rates to compete for those precious rounds. Management companies were growing in leaps and bounds, taking the reins of many financially troubled properties. For only the second time in history, golf course closings outnumbered openings. MAGCS members found themselves rethinking their entire maintenance operations, dealing with budget cuts and pay freezes. Phrases such as "the new normal" were bandied about regularly. By the end of the decade, some light at the end of the tunnel was visible, but our industry was changed forever, and everyone whose careers were involved in golf knew that the future would be much different from the past. Things taken for granted in the past, such as availability of water, will be our big issues heading into our next 85 years. Technology will continue improve, as GPS and robotics will take on an even larger role in golf course maintenance. While the future of our association looks strong, its 85-year past should not be forgotten—it formed the foundation of who we were, what we are today, and what we will be in the years to come. **-OC**







THE BULL SHEET  
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



# January 2012

Happy New Year! With the ringing in of 2012 we would like to thank our members for their continued support of this association—especially our commercial members whose generosity makes things like the production of this magazine and the ability to have golf events at such great venues possible. We welcome our newest members to the fold as well—they are:

- Ryan Cummins**, Assistant, Medinah Country Club
- Jeff Heaton**, Assistant, Westmoreland Country Club
- Richard Kyle Haines**, Assistant, Onwentsia Club
- Scott Landstrom**, Assistant, Green Acres Country Club
- John Savoie**, Assistant, Kemper Lakes Golf Club
- William Sharp**, Assistant, Wynstone Golf Club
- Dane Wilson Wilson**, Assistant, Medinah Country Club

## DATES TO REMEMBER

January 10 – Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents Annual Shop Tour—details to follow.

January 17 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Wee One Fundraiser at Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge, IL, **Don Ferreri** and **Dave Gelino** hosts.

January 26-28 – 59<sup>th</sup> Annual PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando, FL.

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 on 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. Visit [www.rainbirdservation.com/training](http://www.rainbirdservation.com/training) for info or to register.

Congratulations to **Keith Copersmet** in his new position as Energy Specialist for Conserv FS as of December 5th. Keith’s territory covers the entire Chicagoland area, where he will be in charge of sales and service for all fuel needs including premium diesel, gasoline, motor oils and lubricants as well as fuel contract programs. Best of luck to Keith, who by the way told me he doesn’t take very flattering pictures. I say beauty is in the eye of the beholder (translation: He’s right)

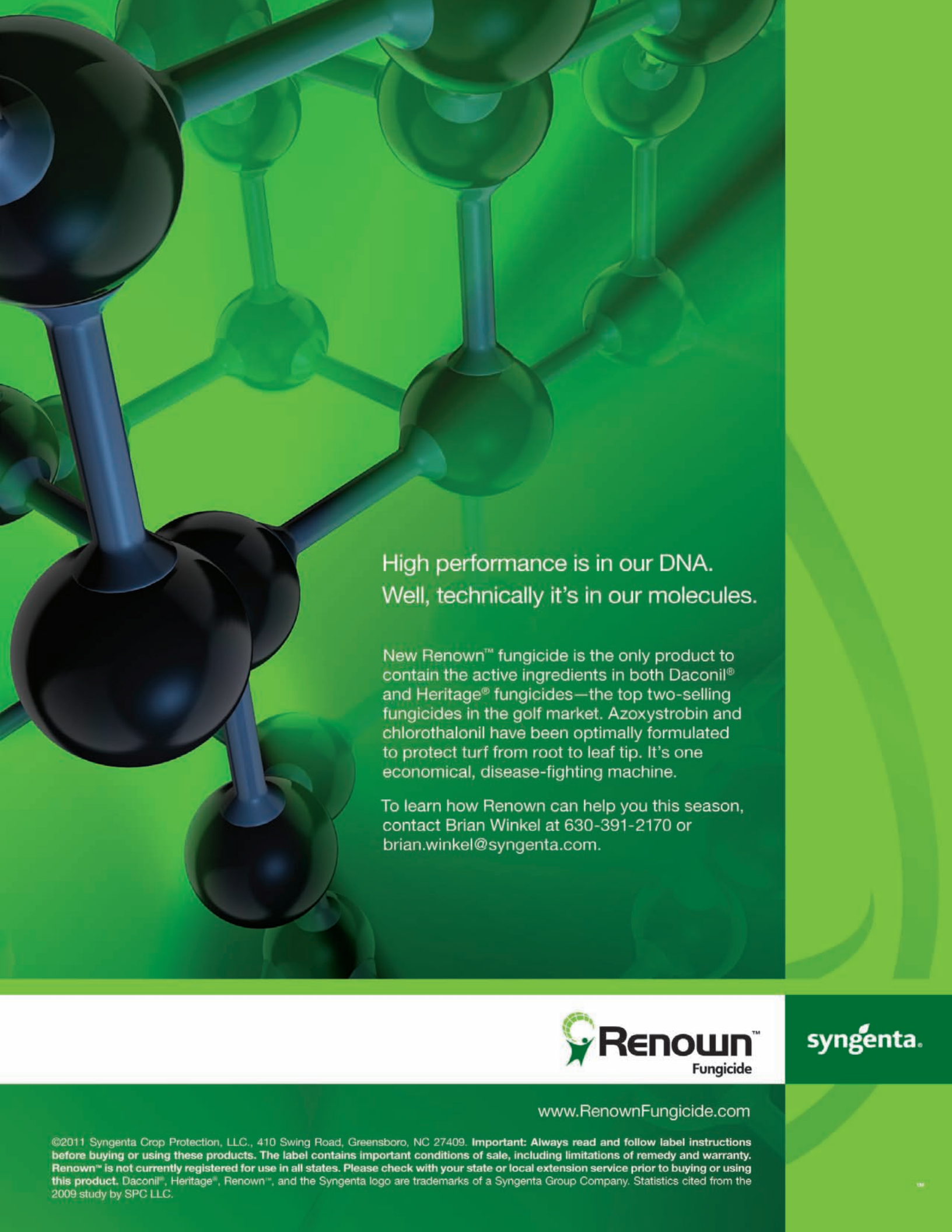


**Keith Copersmet**

The CAGCS Annual Shop Tour is scheduled for January 10<sup>th</sup>, with stops at Makray Memorial Golf Club (**Tim Christians** host), followed by a visit to **Brian Mores’** operation at Inverness Golf Club, and finishing off at the new facilities

*(continued on next page)*





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at Medinah Country Club where **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** will lead the tour. This event is a great (and cheap) way to get the guys out of your shop for a day to show them how other operations run. Thanks to the three host clubs for cleaning up their shops so we can give them the once-over.

.....  
Condolences go out to the family and friends of **David Marquardt** on the recent passing of David's twin brother Dennis A. "Denny" Marquardt. Denny lost his battle with cancer after a lifetime of service to the Bloomington, IL community where he owned and operated Denny's Donuts since 1974, and was well-known for his tireless charity work.

.....  
The Winnetka Park District recently made a decision that will ensure its Winnetka Golf Club (**Henry Michna, CGCS**) will be able to compete with its many neighboring daily-fee operations for those valuable rounds. What decision, you may be asking, would precipitate this? Was it the passing of a major golf course renovation project? No. Did they decide to lower green fees? Not a chance. Did they opt for GPS in their golf carts? That's not it either. Stumped? They did the simplest thing to keep golfers happy—they amended the liquor law to allow golfers to take the alcoholic beverages that they purchase in the clubhouse and halfway house ONTO the golf course! Apparently the original license allowed the sale of booze to golfers, but not the consumption of it outside the clubhouse or halfway house. That has been rectified thank God, and now Henry and his staff will have enough aluminum cans to throw a nice holiday party next December!

Congrats to Jeff Hoste, who will be starting in his position as golf course superintendent at Indian Lakes Resort in mid-February. Jeff takes over for **Chuck Barber** who left for the green green grass of St. Charles Country Club.



Jeff Hoste

.....  
OK, we've already brought up Chuck so let's take this a step further. Chuck's last name is Barber, which is the term used for a person who cuts hair. Hair can sometimes get so long and unruly that it becomes termed a pelt (e.g., "Geez, check out the pelt on THAT chick!"). ESPN has a guy named Scott whose last name is VanPelt. Pelt? Barber? Don't you see it?

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Chuck Barber and Scott VanPelt

.....  
 This falls in the "I didn't know they even HAD an award for that" category: On December 10<sup>th</sup>, the PGA Tour's Tournament Advisory Council honored The John Deere Classic, held yearly at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, IL with its "Most Engaged Community" award. With a population of 375,000 in the Quad Cities area, the John Deere Classic drew more than 100,000 spectators to its 2011 event. Additionally, the tournament hosted an extensive armed services program benefiting the military population, as well as a Youth Day that drew more than 500 kids. From a charity standpoint, they took in over 22,000 pledges from individuals in the community. Nice.  
 .....

Speaking of awards, the United States Golf Association has announced that its 2012 USGA Green Section Award recipient is Dr. Wayne Hanna, turfgrass scientist and breeder from Tifton, GA. Dr. Hanna is a native of Texas, settling in Tifton, GA in 1971 where he began a long career as a research scientist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Georgia. During his 40-year career, he produced bermudagrasses such as TifSport, TifEagle, and TifGrand, helping to make Tifton the bermudagrass capital of the world. The award has been presented annually since 1961.  
 .....

In other news from USGA, James T. Snow, the National Director of the USGA Green Section since 1990, has announced his retirement effective at the end of 2011. Under Jim's leadership the USGA supported the creation of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, and contributed more than \$1.5 million to that cause, as well as supporting Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) through a \$1 million grant. Succeeding Jim is Kimberly Erusha, PhD.  
 .....

Sympathies to **Hank Wilkinson** and his family on the passing of Hank's mother last month.  
 .....

Cress Creek Country Club (**Elliott Dowling** superintendent) had a visit this past October from the world's top-ranked golfer—Luke Donald. In an off-week in his golf schedule, the Northwestern University alum stopped by the Naperville club to hold an exclusive golf clinic and to promote his Chardonnay and Signature Red Claret wines. A PGA Tour golfer in the wine business? Go figure.  
 .....

Congratulations to **Dan Tully** of Kemper Lakes Golf Club on being named a Director for the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents at its Annual Meeting in November.  
 .....

Kudos to everyone who had a hand in last month's ITF Winter Education program held at Golf House on the 14th and 15th. The presenters did a fabulous job—ESPECIALLY the panel of handsome, intelligent superintendents that kicked the 2-day event off. Thanks go out to the sponsors of the event, who were: Driver Level: **Syngenta**; Iron Level: **Dirt-N-Turf Consulting, Inc.**; Wedge Level: **D & K Products, Arthur Clesen, Inc., BASF, Reinders, Inc., and Dow AgroSciences**; Putter Level: **The Andersons, BTSI, and Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc., Authorized Club Car Distributor.**  
 .....

If your Holiday spirit has carried over into the New Year, you can scratch that itch by supporting the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation. Your generosity will help provide programs for more than 1,200 children and adults with mental and physical challenges and dozens of disabled veterans who deserve our support. To learn more or donate, go to **www.sunshinethroughgolf.org** and click on the Donate Now button.  
 .....

*Golf Course Industry* magazine recently featured an article co-written by **Bob Lohmann** (Lohmann Golf Designs, Inc.) called "Say What?" in which Bob and GCSAA past-president Dennis Lyon, CGCS try to dissect what managers and superintendents are really trying to say to each other. Bob tackled "A club manager's guide to superintendent speak" while Dennis handled the opposite side of the issue. Fun reading.  
 .....

Congratulations to absentee MAGCS members **Tom Lively, CGCS** and **Vince Dodge, CGCS** whose courses were selected in Golfweek's 2012 Top 100 Resort Courses. The two were neck and neck, with Tom's TPC San Antonio taking 40<sup>th</sup> and Vince's Wilderness at Fortune Bay grabbing 41<sup>st</sup>.  
 .....

**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.
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Contact Justin VanLanduit at Briarwood Country Club for more info at 847-945-3350 or justinv@briarwoodcountryclub.com.  
 .....

The holiday season has spawned two MAGCS traditions—the South Side and West Side Superintendents Parties. Celebrants gathered at Chef Klaus' Bier Stube in Frankfort for the South Side Party on Monday December 5th, and finished the week off at Seven Bridges Golf Club on the 9th. Great times, great food, and great turnout! Thanks to everyone responsible for planning and helping make both parties a success!  
 .....

(photos on pages 19, 20, 21)







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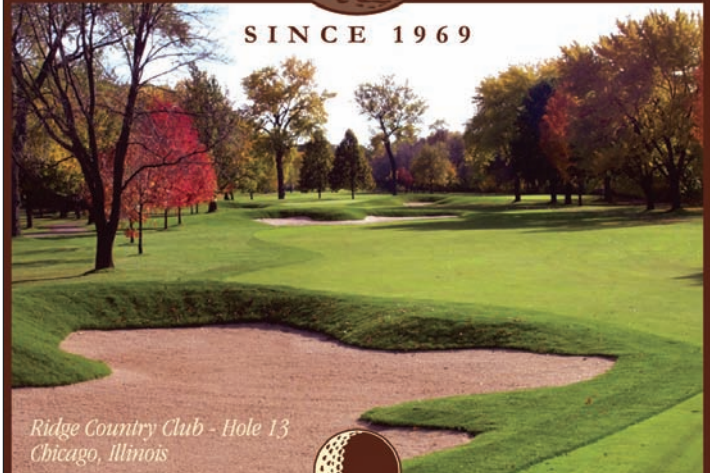
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EDUCATION REVIEW

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



# ITF Winter Workshop



Keith Krause (l) congratulates Erwin McKone on his presidency.

*The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation launched its final educational "salvo" for the 2011 year with a very solid, two day education program at the Golf House in Lemont on December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Keith Krause of Chicagoland Turf was elected as the new President for the ITF and he wasted no time moving the Association forward.*

I started out the day with an education piece formatted after an ESPN television show and called it "Charles Anfield, CGCS is Highly Questionable." The education featured a very experienced panel consisting of John Gurke, CGCS from Aurora Country Club, Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG from Naperville Country Club, Jim Canning from White Eagle Golf Club and Scott Pavalko from Cog Hill Country Club. The format of the panel was to vote "si o no" on a specific question and provide a short explanation why they voted as they did. Some examples were:

- *Poa annua* is my friend.
- Most of our players think our greens are too slow.
- We core aerate our greens.
- We use Bio stimulants on our turf.
- I expect to have a robotic mower on our course within my career.
- I expect our budget to decrease in 2012.







Pitfalls: learn to crop and edit, adjust exposure on photos, careful with spelling and grammar, careful with address book, match Clubs personality, post often to maintain interest.

**Text Messaging:**

- Great communication for early morning Staff
- Be concise.
- Be clear.
- Be polite.



*Chuck Barber offers his explanation and use of Facebook.*

Chuck Barber from St. Charles Country Club presented on using Facebook.

**Facebook:**

- Facebook is great for bringing people together for good or ill.
- Choose your own level of involvement.
- Free advertising for Club.
- Find out what's going on with other users.
- Use caution, don't talk bad about people or vent frustrations of job.
- Very popular, very fast.

Erwin McKone from Briar Ridge Country Club presented on Twitter and Video.

**Twitter:**

- Another communication tool.
- Very simple, log in and it will take you step by step.
- You can forward other tweets.

**Video:**

- You can buy a hand held camera for \$120.
- Film video in short, 3 second bursts.  
Connect lots of small clips.
- Use as instructional or educational presentations.
- Keep it short, less than 8 minutes.

There were a few "cupcake" questions thrown in to break up the serious nature of the topics and it was also a way for the audience to get to know the panelists on a more personal level. The format was fast paced that covered a lot of current practices and turf related topics. We even had some fun along the way as well.

The next education session featured short, concise presentations on using current communication technologies. It was called, "Ten Minutes of the Best Communication Technology" Are you keeping up with current technology?

Dave Schlagetter, CGCS of Indian Hill Club presented on Texts and Blogs.



*Dave Schlagetter offers his insight to his blogging and simple text messaging.*

**Blogs:**

- Keep it simple.
- A picture with one or two sentences is plenty. (The more text, the greater the opportunity for mistakes).
- Don't "over" communicate.
- Practice, send and advertise.
- Use for weather alerts, projects, unusual events.

*(continued on page 24)*

Luke Cella presented on use of the "Smartphone."

**Smartphone:**

- Get converged: connect calendar, email, phone, photos, contacts, voice recorder.
- Use apps for Twitter, blogging and Facebook.
- Get weather, GPS, News, calculator, games.



*Stephen Biehl explained how Naperville CC uses many different technologies to communicate with its' members.*

Steven Biehl from Naperville Country Club presented on bringing all the media together on a customized website.

**Website:**

- Link up YouTube and videos.
- Link weather
- Link Blogs.
- Link Facebook and other links.

Most of the website work can be completed from available templates. You can customize to fit your Club needs.

Dr. Doug Soldat from the University of Wisconsin presented on "Facts on Fall Fertility."



*Dr. Soldat taught his last class of the semester before driving down to Lemont to share with the ITF crowd.*

Current prospective by turf professionals and academia is that fall fertilizing is the best time for nitrogen applications, to get into the plant roots, but the spring gain is questionable. Nitrogen gets into the plant via water uptake by the plant.

A growth chamber study was conducted by the U. of W. to study the effects of fall nitrogen applications on turf leaf and root growth.

Notes from Study:

- September is the best timing for top growth, no significant rooting occurs.
- November is the best time for root growth.
- The rate of nitrogen did not affect root growth.
- Plant use of nitrogen is temperature related. Net photosynthesis increases with declining temperatures not with nitrogen fertility.
- High rates of nitrogen in November are inefficient.
- Sand and soil will have different nitrogen retention rates.

Dr. Soldat wrapped up day one, with his presentation on "Management of Soil Water Content."

Dr. Soldat used a soil moisture sensor to map available water in the soil of a green profile. His tool of choice was the Spectrum TDR 300. He built a USGA green with a 1% grade for the study. He found that even with drainage, water still pooled at the low end of the green. His target irrigation uniformity was 80%. Soil variability can make a big difference in moisture readings. He was able to get very high quality turf with D.U's well below 80%. Over time, organic matter accumulation and topdressing can change soil variability. Different wetting agents and penetrants can make a difference.

Day two of the ITF Winter Workshops featured technical presentations by Dr. Bob Carrow from the University of Georgia. His first presentation of the day was "Turfgrass Irrigation Water Quality: Management Concerns."



*Dr. Robert Carrow balanced out the Superintendent talks with fertility expertise.*



Some notes from his lecture:

- Consider source of water as indicator of overall quality.
- Most important water quality issues concerns:
  1. Nutrient Rich Reclaimed Water
    - a. excessive N
    - b. eutrophication in ponds
    - c. backflow devices and maintenance
    - d. excessive P and leaching potential
    - e. excessive SO<sub>4</sub>
  2. Saline Waters
    - a. many different salts (cat ions and anions) exist
    - b. some salts are more soluble than others
    - c. high salt issues can cause physiological drought
    - d. can cause soil structure deterioration
    - e. specific toxicities to specific salts
    - f. nutritional disorders can result
    - g. salts will accumulate in profile and flushing may be required periodically
    - h. acidification may be required for excessive levels

In general, in our area (Midwest) we are considered to have good to excellent irrigation water quality. Water quality can vary widely and the only sure method is to conduct water quality testing, specific to your irrigation water source.

Dr. Bruce Branham from the University of Illinois took the stage to make his presentation on “PGR’s: Should We Turn Them Off in a Summer Like 2011?”

### Why do we use PGR’s?

- use for plant growth regulation when stress absent
- *poa annua* control
- enhanced turf quality
- improve turf quality
- increase stress tolerance
- increase green speed – not so much

### PGR Basics

1. turf metabolism controls length of control.
2. application timing and conditions are large factors in plant uptake
  - a. Spray volume
  - b. Temperature
  - c. Relative humidity
  - d. Time of day

Do PGR’s enhance stress tolerance? Trinexapac- Ethyl (primo) does increase leaf area and reduce senescence. It also increases cytokinin levels in leaf. Flurprimidol (cutlass) and paclobutrazol (trimmit) have similar modes of action. There has been measured a slight increase in root growth. The overall answer appears to be yes, PGR’s do improve stress tolerance.

Target regulation should be 50-70% of normal growth. More than 70% can create turf thinning. Over regulation can be a problem to drought stressed turf. Poa control programs should not be over aggressive. Combinations with DMI’s (which have growth regulation properties) during the summer should be avoided. During difficult summers, don’t stop with regulation but understand all of the factors involved.

Seaweed extracts have demonstrated to be rich in cytokinins and help reduce leaf senescence and root mortality during stress. They also seem to help with turf density. Maybe a combination of seaweed extract and PGR’s is an effective program. Test for your own specific situation.

Dr. Soldat of U. of W. presented on **PGR Research** done this past year by one of his students for putting greens.

- Trinexpac- Ethyl (T.E).at the label rate (.125 oz./m) reduced growth by 20% overall applied at 2 week intervals.
- T.E. actually grew more grass overall than untreated turf.
- Using growing day degree models, the data was very revealing
- Higher rates were not effective in extending intervals of regulation.
- Frequency matters more.
- Some decrease in poa populations was observed in T.E. applications.

Dr. Soldat continued his presentation with his research on “Potassium and Calcium for Turf” that provided some very revealing observations.

Calcium is a micronutrient that plays a very important role in signaling within the plant. The inside of a plant cells have very complex relationships. Calcium aids in immunity and disease resistance. Most irrigation water contains abundant amounts of calcium. He has found that supplemental applications are not needed. Too much calcium can lead to an imbalance that may lead to hard pan that will restrict air flow and water infiltration. Claims from calcium products are not always accurate for specific sites.

In most cases in our area (Midwest), managing for calcium is a non- issue.

Potassium is a major nutrient for turf. It is also the second most abundant mineral nutrient. It plays no structural role in the soil. It is important for turgor, water relations and stress tolerance in the plant.

Below is a list of “supposed” benefits or “sound bites” of potassium and then U.W. Research conclusions.

1. Improves rooting mass.
  - a. There was no observed rooting response from plot applications.
2. Improves wear tolerance.
  - a. No effect on wear tolerance and recovery
3. Improves drought tolerance.
  - a. Delays wilting -yes
  - b. Faster recovery – yes
4. Cold tolerance benefits.
  - a. Very little evidence of this on cool season turf species
  - b. Yes- for warm season grasses

Dr. Soldat commented on Dr. Frank Rossi’s work with Potassium Research at Cornell.

- No difference in color quality, ball roll over a two year period.
- Actually had more snow mold on high potassium plots.

(continued on page 27)





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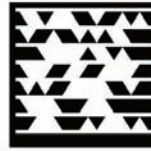
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*Drs. Soldat (l), Carrow and Branham led an open discussion on the second day of the Winter Education.*

Some final observations:

- We probably need less potassium than we thought.
- Applications can improve drought stress.
- Too much potassium can lead to potential snow mold problems.
- We probably need about a ¼ lb. K per month.
- Focus on N:K ratios. 1.5 to 1 recommendation.
- Keep it simple.

Dr. Carrow from the U.of G. came back for a presentation "Potassium and Silica: Are These Important?"

Potassium is nicknamed the "stress" ion. Its major functions are for stomatal control. It provides transpirational cooling, water use and CO<sub>2</sub> uptake. It is critical for the plant to maintain electro-neutrality. Potassium deficiency is most likely on:

1. High sand root zones
2. Predominantly acidic soils
3. High rainfall or heavily irrigated sand soils
4. Recreational turf sites prone to close mowing and high stress

There is a lot of conflicting reports about potassium use on turf that are creating confusion. Some low deficiency data problems include: favors spring dead spot, leaf blotch, take all patch, crown and root rot, dollar spot and red thread. Some high K problems favor: brown patch and pink snow mold. "But...while several diseases have been reported to be influenced by K nutrition, the responses have not been consistent or strong. Certainly, no presently known diseases can be controlled or even greatly reduced by K alone."

Dr. Carrow has specific recommendations for N:K Ratio guidelines for sand soils subject to leaching conditions. He has several books on the subject.

He continued his presentation with information on Silicon. Silicon is the second most abundant mineral element after oxygen. Low silicon solution levels are associated with highly weathered, leached, low CEC, low acid, high content sand soils. Normal levels are 3-17 mg. Si/l.

Some potential silicon benefits include:

1. Enhanced cell membrane stability, leaf and/or stem tissue strength for reduced lodging and wear tolerance.
2. Greater leaf erectness that reduces adjacent leaf shading and increases radiation absorbance.

3. Enhanced cell membrane stability which may assist in greater hardiness to chill, drought, salinity stresses; and allow continued metabolic activity for osmolites to be synthesized.
4. Reduced incidences of root and leaf pathogens.

It is interesting to note that the above responses have been observed but are not considered strong responses. Bottom line, you need to conduct your own trials to see if silicon applications are beneficial enough and quantifiable for your applications to be cost prohibitive.

At the conclusion of the day two, the Turf grass PH.D.'s gathered on the stage for one last Q and A session.

Some closing comments:

- Carrow: "Focus on the real issues with your turf, target products on specific situations."
- Carrow: "Don't make unnecessary applications, move toward sustainability."
- Branham: "More turf is killed with kindness, if it's green and actively growing, let it ride."
- Soldat: "Keep it simple, use common sense".
- Branham: "The turf grass system is a pretty good system, don't over manage it".
- Branham: "The turf grass soil microbial population is the least important part of turf system. It is one of the best in all of agriculture."

Much of the two day ITF Winter workshops were of a highly technical nature, jam packed with the latest research and data. The ITF was looking to provide you with tools you can use for real world turf growing situations. At the networking and social hour after day one I had a few people comment to me that they will probably save their Clubs money that they would have spent if they had not attended the event.

You really needed to be there to get the full story.

Practical solutions to common problems, way to go ITF!

**-OC**





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Each month the Midwest will highlight a core company in *On Course*. This month, we are honored to highlight Syngenta and MAGCS Member, Brian Winkel.



**What goods and/or services does your company specialize in?** Syngenta is one of the world's leading companies with more than 26,000 employees in over 90 countries dedicated to our purpose: Bringing plant potential to life. Through world-class science, global reach and commitment to our customers we help to increase crop productivity, protect the environment and improve health and quality of life. For more information about us please go to [www.syngenta.com](http://www.syngenta.com).

**What makes your company stand out from the competition?** Our commitment to customers goes deeper than our products – we also offer world-class technical support, innovative programs and overall value. Syngenta is dedicated to delivering products with a level of service and support, which is unparalleled in the plant protection industry. From extensive, ongoing research and development, to a nationwide team of qualified and talented field representatives and technical support staff, Syngenta continually strives to be best-in-class.

**How would you describe your relationship with your customers?** I consider myself a trusted adviser who serves as a key source of industry information and sound agronomic recommendations. As a territory manager for Syngenta, I believe in developing long-term relationships by helping customers achieve their goals, solve their problems and reduce their risk.

**How long has your company been in business?** Syngenta has been in business since November 13, 2000.

**Who owns your company?** Syngenta Crop Protection LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Syngenta Seeds, Inc.

**Will your company be expanding or bring any new products/services to the market in the near future?** With new products such as Daconil Action™ fungicide and a portfolio of several new products anticipated for introduction in 2012 and 2013, this is a very exciting time for Syngenta in the areas of innovation and product development.

**Where is your company located and what are the hours of operation?** Syngenta is the world's largest stand-alone agribusiness company, employing more than 26,000 employees in 90 countries. Our global headquarters is located in Basal, Switzerland. Our U.S. headquarters is based out of Greensboro, North Carolina.

**Company website:** Our corporate website is [www.syngenta.com](http://www.syngenta.com). Our website for turf and landscape customers, including golf course superintendents, is [www.greencastonline.com](http://www.greencastonline.com).

**Childhood Home?** I was born in Pontiac, Illinois, and raised on a small farm near Toluca, Illinois, with a population of 1,500. We're "famous" for our two Italian restaurants – "Mona's" & "Capponi's".

**First experience in the industry?** I served as the golf course superintendent at Tall Oaks Country Club from 1977 to 1982.

**Alma Mater?** I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Ornamental Horticulture/Turf Management from the University of Illinois, and graduated in 1985.

**Family?** Wife: Jeune; Two boys: Joshua – 7, Joseph – 5; and Bogey, our Australian Cattle Dog

**Hobbies?** Golf (of course), woodworking and always trying to make everyone happy, ESPECIALLY my wife and my customers.







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