

ON COURSE

THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

March 2012

Arrowhead Golf Club

Michael Mumper

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents
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MARCH 2012 Volume 65 No. 11



Native areas at Arrowhead flow with the layout of the course as captured here in the early fall.

FRONT COVER

A photo from the Arrowhead archives, an overhead picture of # 15 on the east course taken in the early morning after an evening of showers early one fall.
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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MAGCS 2012 Meeting Schedule

Upon return from the Golf Industry Show, it is time to jump right in to our season and I'm sure this year will be no different. Each year, when I return, I always appreciate the Midwest and its members. The GIS is a great place to catch up, network and rekindle friendships and meet new people in our industry. In fact, there are people that the only time I see them each year is at the Midwest Hospitality Reception – and they live and work in the Chicago metro area. That's the old joke, we travel 2000 miles to see each other once a year when we both share the same backyard. Let's make 2012 different as I invite and challenge each of you to attend a Midwest meeting this year.

The Golf and Arrangements and Education Committee have done a great job lining up venues, tweaking the championships, and setting up pertinent education topics for us. Let's not let them down. Put the dates on your calendar and plan to carry on those conversations and relationships started in Las Vegas. Not everything has to stay there!

Midwest members Mike Mumper, Justin Kirtland and Tim Johnson will host our March meeting at Arrowhead on the 21st. Our old friend, Dr. Lee Miller will be on hand to present a very timely talk on "Efficient Use of Spring Fungicide Applications for Disease Management". He will be followed by our new USGA Agronomist, Bob Vavrek talking about the 2011 season with his talk entitled, "From the Freezer to the Fire".

Tim Anderson, CGCS MG and Steven Biehl will host our April meeting at Naperville Country Club on the 25th. We'll play our traditional Spring Scramble and many of us look forward to seeing the new layout at this historic club.

The ITF and MAGCS combined meeting will take place at Twin Orchard Country Club on May 21, Kyle Jacobson host. The golf event in years past for this fundraiser has been a Ryder Cup format that pits each foursome's cart partners against each other. It has been a while since we've been at the "Twin" and this promises to be a popular event.

A place we've never played will be the site of the Midwest's June meeting, Blackstone Golf Club in Marengo on the 19th. Andy Perry, the new golf course superintendent at the facility will host us and prepare the course for our Class C Championship and Dom Grotti contests. We look forward to playing this course, designed by one of our very own – Bob Lohmann.

Be sure to attend the John Buck Memorial Golf outing on July 10 at Bartlett Hills Golf Course. Kevin DeRoo will host this event that raises money to fund the Midwest's Scholarship fund. We'll be awarding the Midwest Scholars this year, as in years past at the Midwest Family Night Picnic on July 14 at the Kane County Cougar ball game. The new upper deck

(continued on next page)





has been reserved for us, plan on bringing your family and enjoying some small town baseball in a fun and relaxed setting.

Jim Knulty will host the Midwest's Golf Championship on September 24 at Big Foot Country Club. All of the MAGCS championships will be contested across the border; the Regular, the Senior, the Super Senior, and the Commercial.

The Midwest Annual Meeting and Turf Clinic will be held at Medinah Country Club in November, most likely a little later than the first week as in years past. The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation is moving its Winter Workshops to early January and creating a Turf Conference centered around education. Look for more information soon from the ITF.

Also, if you are so inclined, the Midwest booked the Hotel Solamar in San Diego (think rooftop event from 2010) for February 6, 2013 for the next Hospitality Reception – but please don't wait until then to see your friends and acquaintances. **-OC**



FEATURE I

Dave Marquardt, *Dirt-n-Turf Consulting, Inc.*



See What You're Looking At

I don't remember many childhood jokes, but one that I have always loved is about a science class that wants to research how far a frog can jump. (Yes, probably funded by the government). The class puts the frog on the floor, and shouts, "Jump frog, jump!" The frog proceeds to jump 12 feet, and they record the data; frog with four legs jumps 12 feet. To continue their research they remove one of the frog's legs, place it on the floor and shout, "Jump frog, jump!" The frog jumps about eight feet, so they record the data; frog with three legs jumps eight feet. Furthering their research, they remove one more of the frog's legs, place it on the floor, and again shout, "Jump frog, jump!" The frog jumps about three feet, and they record the data; frog with two legs jumps three feet. Continuing, they remove yet another of the frog's legs and again place it on the floor with the familiar shout, "Jump frog, jump!" The frog, now with only one leg, jumps about one foot to the side and they record the data; frog with one leg jumps one foot. In their effort to be thorough, they remove the final leg, place the legless frog on the floor, and shout yet again, "Jump frog, jump! Jump frog, jump!! Jump frog, jump!!!" The frog goes nowhere, and the data are recorded; frog with no legs can't hear.

Ok, as silly as that sounds, I think that it does illustrate a problem with some of the research that shows up in golf. A colleague who knew I was writing this said, "Sometimes we rely too much on science."

Now, to qualify this and so I don't end up with a bunch of unwanted emails and pen pals, I am not bashing science, scientists, or research per se. In fact as an agronomist I make my living relying on soil and fertility science and much of the research that has advanced our field. No...the point, to paraphrase a quote that I believe came from Dr. Carey Reams, 'we must see what we're looking at.'

This quote has two implications when it comes to research. The first is that not everything in nature is as simple and quantifiable as research would like it to be. The second is that when we look at research findings we have to look beyond the conclusion and deeper into the method.



Both of these implications come together in the barrage of rants we have heard about the use, or the insinuated overuse, of potassium. For some reason, researchers have spent the last decade trying to get superintendents to lessen their dependence on potash. I can't imagine how much money has been spent on this, let alone the ink and paper to print the findings. Now, again, I am not a researcher. I, like most of you, am an observer. We analyze plant and soil chemistries, the visual/physical condition of the turf, and then make educated decisions for improvement. Once applications and cultural practices are initiated we observe the results, check the science, and file the results in our memory banks. This to me is research at its best.

Each spring as client visits begin, we hear the same questions, "What did you think of _____'s talk on potassium or phosphorus, or calcium?" "What did you think of _____'s

(continued on next page)

talk on aerification and profile modification?" Answering these questions is difficult. It requires seeing past the hype and picking out the pieces that are applicable. As I continue to remind clients, if you abort proven practices based on incomplete studies and you fail, then who will lose their job, you or the presenter? Pretty simple isn't it?

OK, examples. Back several years ago a speaker came to the area and spent two hours presenting research about the overuse of potassium. At the conclusion of a two-hour rant a client showed the speaker his water report, which revealed all the sodium he was pumping on his course. The client then asked if he would need higher levels of potassium. The speaker agreed that our bent/poa greens would require more potassium to compete with that much sodium. Now, wouldn't it have been more appropriate for the speaker to have qualified his comments during the presentation? What about the superintendent who listened, went back to work, cut his potassium use, and lost his wear tolerance? Who would be hurt?

Again, sometimes we need to 'see what we're looking at' and not take everything at face value. Ten years ago I had a new client. As we reviewed his past practices he informed me he was using about 12# of actual potassium/1000sf per year. When I asked why, he simply replied, "I like the way my greens respond." After his lab reports came back, it was obvious why. He had a high sodium water source at a club with a higher than average round count. On top of that, many of his greens had minimal air movement, which resulted in wet greens where flushing the sodium was difficult. This superintendent, this researcher, had found that as he increased his use of potassium, his wear tolerance increased and the playing conditions improved. This superintendent 'observed what he was looking at' and responded to it.

In another case a client had 8-10 year old greens that were covered with algae and moss. When we met in the fall, I suggested he would probably want to gas them off and reseed at some point, since they were just so bad. That fall, after studying his chemistries, he applied 1# of P and 2# of K/m and covered for the winter. He called first thing in the spring and said his turf was amazing. Ten years later he continues to manage his phosphorus and potassium, has cut out much of his nitrogen, and we no longer discuss renewing

his turf. Through increased plant density and wear tolerance this client 'saw what he was looking at,' responded, and improved. Is the moss completely gone? No...but it is tolerable and regressing. Did P and K stop it? I doubt it. Did a better turf environment make a difference? Of course it did.

In yet another case, a client worked to improve his potassium levels throughout the year. In the fall he was playing golf with a salesman and a couple of colleagues. He called me to report that the day's conversation was all about the extreme amounts of dollar spot everyone was seeing and that he had no need to spray. Is there any research to suggest that potassium has an effect on dollar spot? None that I'm aware of, and I certainly wouldn't suggest that there is. I would however suggest that this client, just like the previous one, had improved his soil and plant nutrition, was saving on fungicide budget, and enjoying improved turf as a result.

Potassium is not the only target; humates, calcium, and phosphorus have also caught the ire of researchers. Even silicon has gotten some attention lately. A few years ago there was a study that suggested that the use of silicon did not improve wear tolerance on greens, yet client after client who uses it sees improved turf and wear response. Several clients have even seen less anthracnose after beginning to use potassium silicate. Tissue analysis reveals higher levels of potassium and silicon after the products were applied than before, which confirms that the turf is absorbing the silicon. Is this enough to help the turf compete with disease? Again, I wouldn't say, other than to say that we know that the strong survive much longer than the weak.

A further look into the trials themselves reveals that after treating the turf with silicon products, a rotating wear wheel was used to test the wear tolerance of the turf. I suggest that if the research had actually been performed on a golf course with typical golf wear, and in conjunction with a qualified super-intendent, the results would have been more applicable. Indeed, if one looked more closely at the amount of wear created by the wheel, one could apply the jumping frog findings and conclude simply that 'grass dies where there is wear,' since the untreated turf plots also wore to nothing. When we look at research processes, it is important to 'see what we're looking at.'

My opinion: superintendents need to remember that they are the experts. They are the ones in the trenches doing the





job day in and day out. Add to that the budget concerns of the last 6-8 years and research can rest assured that clubs are not applying products that don't yield a response, measured or not.

Again, I need to qualify my perspective. No, not all research is frog ridiculous, and the majority is very good. I have always applauded the work of our CDGA staff and their work with area courses and clubs so that their findings can be published with authority. The same is true of my trips through the research farm at the University of Illinois. This is hard core information that is often repeated on area courses, which makes it applicable for the superintendent. I love to walk onto courses and see Bruce Branham's velocity trials in active fairways, or Derek Settle's Fairy Ring or Dollar Spot trials on in-play greens. This is research that superintendents can hang their hats on with confidence and risk their jobs on.

I encourage superintendents to look deep into research studies and see just how the work has been performed. Often, it's important to know who paid for it and what the purpose is. I further encourage that caution be taken before making wholesale changes to programs that have proven successful. If you question silicon, use it on the front nine and not the back, and judge for yourself. (Don't just pick your worst and best greens since there may be other issues at play that skew your results.) The same is true for potassium or some of the new information regarding phosphorus. Cut back on nine holes and monitor your results. 'See what you're looking at' and then implement the best management practices that fit your course, your water and soil chemistries, your play level, and your expectations.

And finally, for those who fund research: it's high time that Golf Course Superintendents be included in the evaluation of proposals and that they and their clubs are compensated for their

involvement. I could spend all day writing about the innovative nature of these experts, the products they use and get results from, and the methods they use to continue cutting budgets without sacrificing the quality of the turf. As we know, research funds have become more and more restricted. By including the superintendent we would assure that research studies would provide 'real time' data that would solve 'real time' problems and save 'real time' budget dollars. **-OC**



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FEATURE II

Matt Kregel, *The Club at Strawberry Creek*



On Course with Hilgy, #63

It is hard to believe that I have been the superintendent with The Club at Strawberry Creek for seven years now. I remember the 2005 MAGCS hospitality room at the Golf Industry Show, in Orlando, when I first heard about the job opening. Tom Prichard and I were drinking a few cold ones with Rick Jacobson, who had designed the course. I had heard the rumors like everyone else. Former Chicago Bear, All-Pro Center, Jay Hilgenberg, was building a golf course just across the cheese curtain in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Rumors that Michael Jordan was involved were running wild, but those proved to be false. Who knows how those ever started? Jay and partner, Barry Shiffman, spearheaded the development along with two other silent partners.

It was incredible to meet Jay at my first interview. I must have done alright with the first interview and not have been too star-struck, because I was asked back for a second one. When the job was offered to me, I felt like I was on cloud nine. Not only had I landed my first superintendent's position, but my boss was a Super Bowl Champion Chicago Bear. Could it get any better than this? Do you remember 2005? It was a cool, wet spring followed by a hot, dry summer. Not the best of conditions for trying to grow in a brand new golf course as a rookie superintendent. I could write a book about that project, but we'll save it for another day. [ed note: I will hold him to that.]

The most common question that I get asked about my job is, "How it is working for Jay Hilgenberg?" I can honestly say that it has been a very humbling and rewarding experience. The golf course is set on what was once a strawberry farm. A number of years passed from the time Barry and Jay acquired the land until construction began. During that time Jay walked the land and enjoyed the property that would eventually turn into his baby.

Once construction began, Jay was on the property every day. He checked on progress and watched the course that Rick Jacobson had laid out on paper take shape. He took the time to talk with everyone involved in the construction process. He enjoyed being out and getting dirty. Jay even operated some equipment early on helping to stay on top of the mowing. Once I hired my seasonal crew I had to relieve him of his duties. No, I didn't fire the owner, I cut him.



Jay Hilgenberg and his dog Ed take a break after walking The Club at Strawberry Creek.

I have had many opportunities to showcase my golfing skills, or lack thereof, with Jay. He is a pretty good stick, maintaining a five handicap. It's never good to beat the boss, but I'll never have a problem with that. As he can see from my game, I am a good superintendent because I lack the skills it takes to be a golfer.

Like many superintendents, Jay possesses a very keen eye that the average golfer doesn't have. He notices the little things such as changes in mowing patterns, triplex lines on the greens when we walk mow, new flags that were recently put out. It makes it very difficult to slip something by him. He appreciates every effort that my crew makes on the course. He hates seeing divots. This is why he wouldn't allow

Richard Dent on the course for the longest time. Dent takes a small rug with every swing.

Many of you have met Hilgy, if you have been to Strawberry Creek. He also gave the keynote address at a Turf Clinic a few years back. He is a very personable and approachable. He loves talking turf with superintendents.

Here are two of many stories that Jay has shared with me:

When we went up to Lambeau and played the Packers, that was during the time where the quarterback didn't have to run a play if the crowd was too loud. We were on the one-yard line going in, and McMahon was taunting the Packer fans, being really brutal. They were too loud so he wasn't going to run the play. He was just taunting the Packer fans up.

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Now this is after the Monday night game, and they all know Fridge is going to get the ball. But this was the one where they faked the run to Fridge, and he went into the end zone and caught the pass for a touchdown. Just to hear Lambeau Field being so loud and McMahon being difficult, and then hearing the quiet after Fridge caught a touchdown pass, we were just laughing so hard out there.

Walter was the greatest. I remember the first play I was ever in on. We were going against a 3-4 defense. The nose guard threw me off, and Walter was running through the right tackle hole. I started getting back up on my feet, and I looked behind me. Remember watching as a kid the high step that Walter would do? It was just like I was a little kid watching him high-step right at me. I tried to get out of his way, but I just caught his knee with my shoulder, and he goes down. I thought, Man, my first play in the NFL, and I tackle Walter Payton. Walter says to me, "Next time, just lay on the ground."

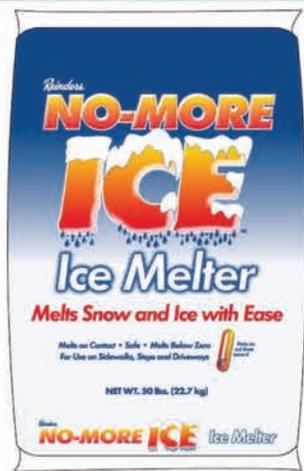
Many of the former and current Bears players and coaches have played the Creek. We even got some to join instead of mooching rounds. I have had the privilege of meeting and getting to know many of them. And, yes, Jim McMahon is as crazy as the stories that you hear about him. He does golf barefoot and drinks plenty of cold beers during his multiple times around the course.

Some of the other former and current players that have tested the links of Strawberry Creek are Dan Hampton, Richard Dent, Otis Wilson, Tom Thayer, Keith Van Horne, Ron Rivera, Emery Moorehead, Mike Tomczak, Jim 'Robo' Thorton, Roberto Garza, Olin Kreutz, Robbie Gould, Patrick Mannelly, Chris Williams, Frank Omiyale, Coach Lovie Smith, Special Teams Coach Dave Toub, many position coaches, trainers, and scouts.

Jay is a very active owner. Most days you can find him on the grounds of the club. He enjoys inspecting the turf conditions as well as inspecting the numerous ponds on the course – golfing and fishing, in other words. Ed, a bull terrier dog, is Jay's longtime companion. Ed may very well know the property better than Jay. He is as much of a face of the club as good ol' #63. **-OC**



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Michael Mumper -N- Arrowhead Golf Club

Mike Mumper is known as MUMPS or maybe just as the big guy with the happy grin on his face. Either way, golf course superintendents and assistants want to be around his contagious enthusiasm, happiness, and passion for the golf industry. Most superintendents know his background but some of us younger guys don't. We might not realize the dedication and eagerness it takes to become a golf course superintendent. Mike Mumper has these attributes a hundredfold.

Mike started his career on the other side of the ball as an operations manager at Links of Monarch Beach, in California. He found himself hanging out with the golf course superintendent, Brian Sullivan, and in his free time helping out the grounds crew. Mike thought that Brian had his life figured out as they were sailing on his boat, drinking margaritas, and listening to Jimmy Buffet. Mike said, "Brian, I want to do what you do." Brian thought about it for a minute then responded, "If you're serious, then you need to get a degree and work in Chicago, because if you can grow grass there you can grow grass anywhere."

Mike didn't hesitate. He sold everything that didn't fit in his car and drove to Chicago in hopes of finding a golf course grounds position to get him started. Brian had suggested that he talk to Dave Ward, Bruce Williams, Brian Bossert, and Danny Quast to steer him in the right direction. Their advice, along with their crystal ball, pointed him north.

He focused on Skokie Country Club and demanded the tutelage of Don Cross. Come to find out, maybe Don wasn't interested in some kid from California. Mike continued to pursue a grounds crew position with Don. Eventually Don took the inexperienced soul in and gave him the test of filling divots and edging drainage covers. Mike fell in love with the detail of the task, and still claims he was the best divot filler Skokie CC has ever had.

Don, in his first year as superintendent at Skokie, valued Mike's passion and allowed him to stay in the dorms at Skokie



Mike and Lilly

CC during the winter. Once he became a grounds crew member it was too late to register for the turf program at Michigan State University. Mike only made \$5.50 at Skokie, and winter was approaching. He had to find other work to make it through the winter. His dedication would be tested again when he found himself loading UPS trucks to keep food on the table.

Finally arriving at MSU, Mike met his partner in crime, Dave Radaj. Dave and Mike ruled the campus of MSU as kings in their own world. They even figured out how to manipulate the MSU housing system. They were granted married housing together to save money for "Labatt Blue." In their short time spent at MSU, they built a friendship that would last forever.

Mike graduated from MSU with the highest honors that Crunches and Roadhouse Pub could offer. Then he headed back to be the Assistant Superintendent at Skokie CC. While the assistant at Skokie, Mike focused on gaining all the knowledge he could get from Don. Don figured a good learning experience would be for the crew to gang up on Mike and throw him in the pond. When asking Mike if this story was true, he chuckled and said, "I remember that day, and I also remember taking Don down into the pond as well."

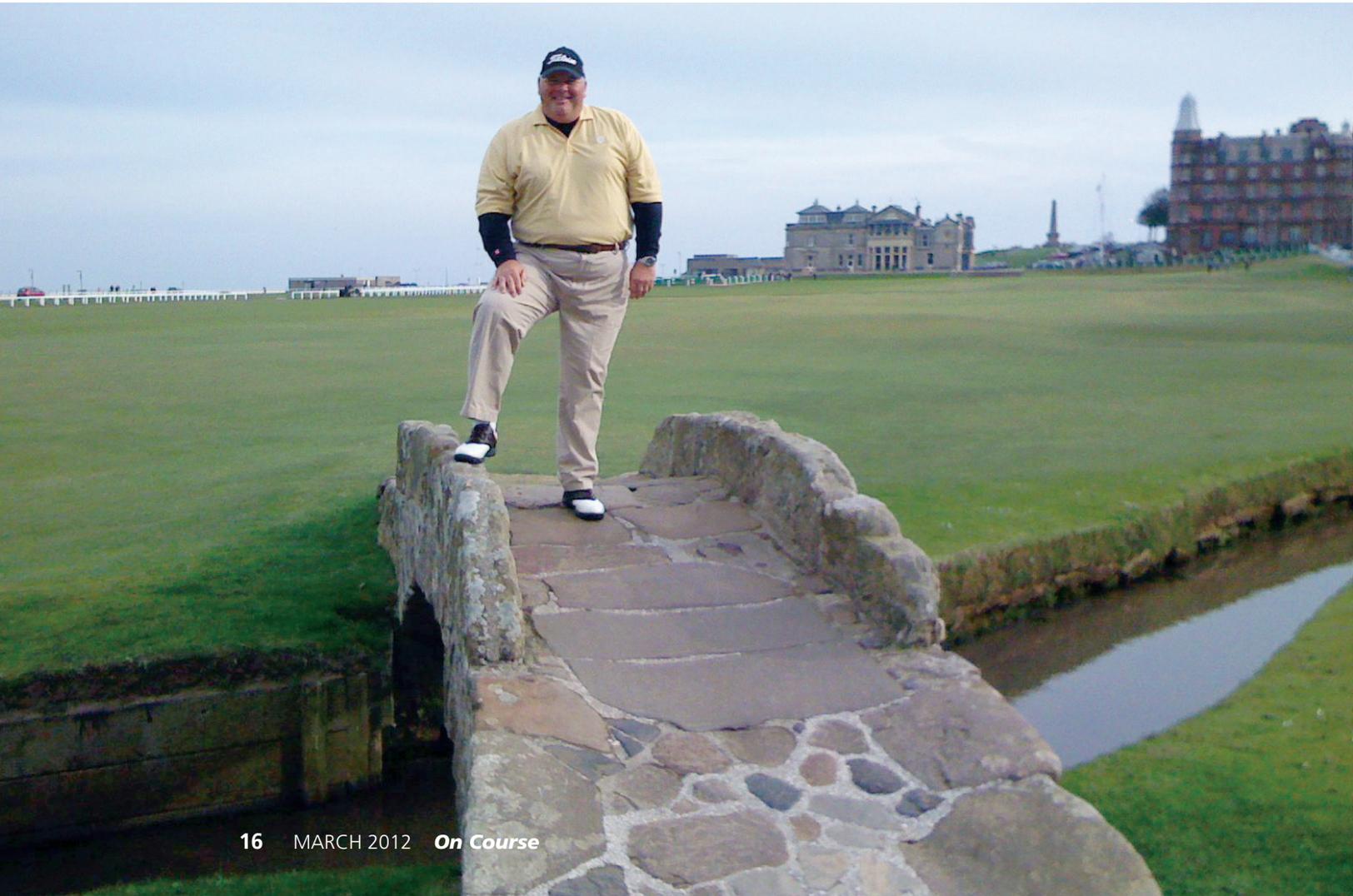
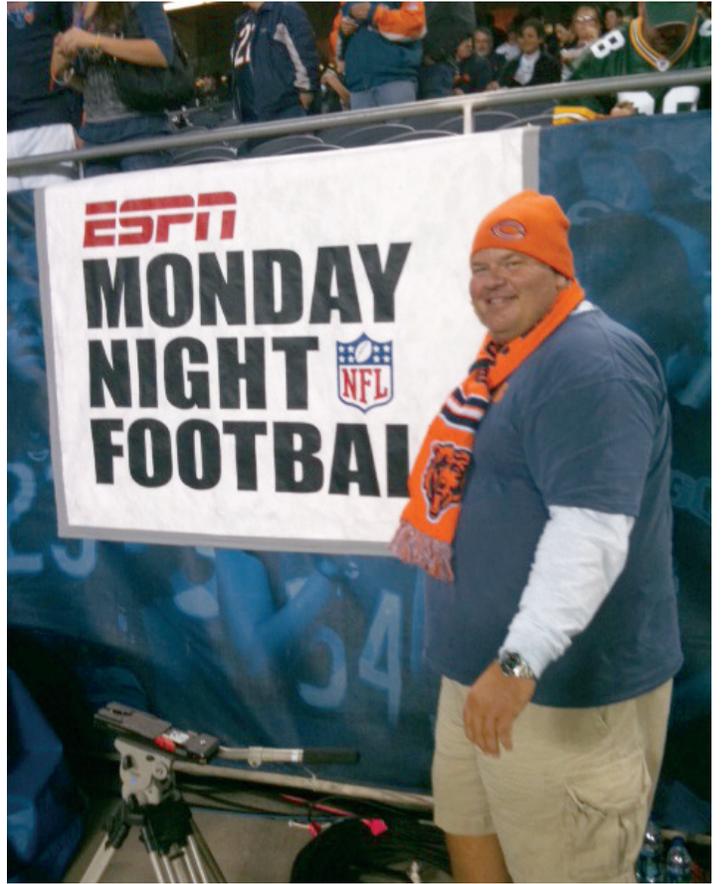
Mike quickly found himself in a position to become a golf course superintendent. He accepted his first superintendent position at Ravisloe Country Club, which then led him to Park Ridge Country Club, Lake Shore Country Club, and now Arrowhead Golf Club. Mike's golf course superintendent career has been an adventure. With his knowledge and personable

(continued on page 16)



attitude, he has become the mentor that he sought out years ago and has been influential in many lives.

Along with all the dedication and passion that Mike has put into the golf industry, he has received some of the highest honors. None is higher than the friendship of so many superintendents, members, owners, salespeople and staff. He is an accomplished superintendent. Any assistant superintendent that crosses paths with him sees that we work hard to be part of this Family, the golf industry. It's the people within it that make it great. **-OC**



MIDWEST BREEZES

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



Telling the Story

One of the challenges of our position as Golf Course Superintendents is to be able to communicate effectively with our players, members, committees, boards and supervisors. Being located “down in the barn”, maintenance shop, or turf care facility, presents a big challenge to be part of the golfer culture that is based and located in the Clubhouse. As the saying goes, “out of sight, out of mind”.

The ITF Winter Workshops addressed many of the “high tech” communication tools available such as blogs, social networking, websites, twitter, and texting. These presentations were made mostly by Superintendents for Superintendents and were very good. The members came away with a better awareness of just how these new tools work and how others are using them effectively.

Of course, many of the “old” forms of communication still work. Newsletters and signs posted in the locker room or on 1st tee bulletin board are still effective forms of communication. Sometimes an old-fashioned “sit down” meeting with a person works very well. This interaction may still be the most personal and direct form of communication we know. My friends in the high school teaching business tell me this form of communication is becoming a “lost art” as more and more of the younger generation prefer to communicate via text. People still need to communicate with other people. By nature (in most cases) we are social creatures and seek out other people to communicate and bond with as part of life. We have so many more methods now, sometimes it is difficult to choose how to do it.

Every little bit of reaching out helps tell the story.

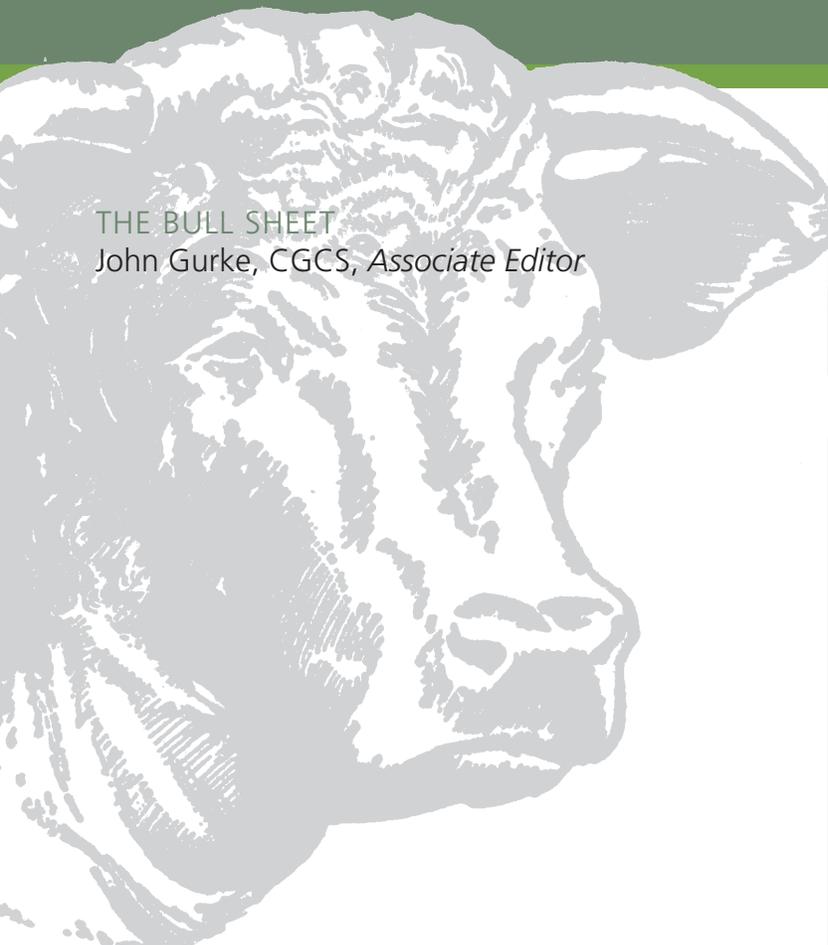
People are busy in their daily lives. People are busy at work and home, always multi-tasking, always plugged in. Who isn't these days? The danger of not effectively communicating for yourself or your department is that people will

extrapolate their own conclusions, based on their perceptions, no matter their level of accuracy. Rumors, false statements, miscommunication and lack of communication can totally undermine all of the positive things that are going on.

We live in the Age of Communication. People want to/ need to know what's going on. Be pro-active. Get the message out with your “spin”. If you don't, you will have nobody to blame but yourself. Think about it, why do relationships fail? I always think of the movie “Cool Hand Luke” starring Paul Newman. As he is captured escaping from prison for the umpteenth time the Warden says, “What we have here, is a failure to communicate”. It did not end well for Luke.

Whatever your communication format, keep it short and simple. Avoid technical or scientific jargon. Be accurate, be transparent. “Reaching out” demonstrates a strong commitment. Know your audience. Does the person you are telling the story to prefer texts or like to sit down over a cup of coffee? What is most comfortable for them? What is the age, gender, profession of the person you want to receive the message? In most cases a multi-pronged approach will connect with the most people. Try to maximize your number of “hits”.

At one of the MAGCS meetings I overheard a “rookie” Superintendent complain that he was tired of repeating the same message to the same people over and over. I thought to myself, get used to it, this is what we do, and this is what teachers do. Telling the same or similar story is a big part of the nature of our jobs. Just do it and do it well. “Be the ball Danny.” **-OC**



THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



March 2012

Welcome to the new members of MAGCS, who are:

- Stephen Hope**, Class C, Ivanhoe Club
- Mike Mausolf**, Class SM, Oakland Hills Country Club
- Ryan Ochs**, Class C, Wysntone Golf Club
- Patrick Holubetz**, Class E, Profile Products
- Brent Miles**, Class A, Nettle Creek Country Club
- Brian Milam**, Class E, Calcium Products

.....

First off I would like to right a couple of wrongs from the January issue. In my article about MAGCS' 85 year history, I TOTALLY dropped the ball when I failed to mention one of our very own being President of GCSAA in 1981. That person was **Mike Bavier, CGCS**, whose year at the helm of our national association featured the first Old Tom Morris Award as well as the hiring of Jim McLoughlin as Executive Director (who brought the first computer to the GCSAA offices).



Mike Bavier

(continued on next page)

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 17 – CDGA Club Leadership Conference (formerly the Officers and Directors Workshop) at Medinah Country Club, **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** host.

.....

March 21 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton, IL, **Mike Mumper, Justin Kirtland, Josh Therrien**, and **Tim Johnson** hosts.

.....

March 26 – Deadline for nominations for *Golf Course Management's* (GCM's) Most Valuable Technician Award (MVT). Details will follow.

.....

April 1 – Deadline for nominations for TurfNet's Technician of the Year Award.

.....

April 19 – Northwest Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association (NWIGCSA) monthly meeting at Swan Hills Golf Club in Belvedere, IL.

.....

April 23 – Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association (WGCSA) monthly meeting at Geneva National Golf Club in Lake Geneva, WI.

.....

April 25 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Spring Scramble at Naperville Country Club, **Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG**, and **Steven Biehl** hosts.

.....

May 6 – J.W. Turf's Annual Equipment Auction in beautiful Hampshire.

.....

May 14 – WGCSA monthly meeting at Trappers Turn Golf Club in Wisconsin Dells, WI.

.....

May 15 – NWIGCSA monthly meeting at Mendota Golf Club in Mendota, IL.

.....

May 21 – ITF Golf Day at Twin Orchard Country Club in Long Grove, IL, **Kyle Jacobsen** host.

.....

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Also, in Bull Sheet I inadvertently ran an incorrect photo of **Keith Copersmet** alongside an item about his new employment. For that I apologize and offer this more recent and much more becoming photo of Keith for you.



Keith Copersmet

Oops, wrong one again—THIS is the right one...



Keith Copermet

Congratulations to **Jeff Leuzinger** who is the General Manager of Pearl Valley Organix.

.....
This must be Technician Month—nominations for both the *GCM* magazine MVT Award (most valuable technician) AND the TurfNet Technician of the Year Award are due at month's end (more specifically the 26th for the MVT Award and April 1st for Technician of the Year Award). If your guy is Golden Wrench-worthy, get on the ball quick and nominate him. You can find the forms online at gcsaa.org and turfnet.com.

.....
MAGCS Scholarship Applications are online. College kid home for Spring Break? Get them to download and fill out an application. High school seniors with a letter of intent are eligible too. Completed applications are due in May, but it is never too early to start reminding them.

.....
Speaking of TurfNet, if you are a member and missed any of their TurfNet University Webinars from the past year, you can find recordings of all 2011 webinars for free at turfnet.com. And even if you're NOT a member, you can gain access to all 2008, 2009, and 2010 webinars for free at the same address.

.....
We had a couple of our more famous MAGCS members get even famouser last month. In February's *GCM* magazine, page 97 had this ad featuring **Dr. Bruce Branham** from the University of Crappy Basketball,



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Teach for GCSAA

Dr. Bruce Branham

and page 115 was graced with this Hallmark moment from **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** of North Shore Country Club.



Dan Dinelli

Another reason MAGCS rocks! And I understand famouser isn't a word, so no calls please.

So...Global Warming. Is it real or just something that sells books? If you believe the U.S. Department of Agriculture, you'd vote for real. In the first time since 1990, they have revised the official plant hardiness zone guide for the nation's 80 million gardeners, reflecting the new reality that the coldest day of the year isn't as cold as it used to be. Translation: Go ahead and plant that palm tree on your course if you are so inclined. Or not.

The much ballyhooed renovation of Mistwood Golf Club (**Ben Kelnhofner** superintendent) has been completed, and the course will re-open in June according to owner Jim McWethy. The course's original designer, Michigan architect Raymond Hearn directed the renovation, the intent of which was to create a destination experience for golfers from Chicagoland and throughout the Midwest. Can't wait to play it—you reading this Ben?

Nick, we hardly knew ya! Nick DeVries has completed his third and final season with the CDGA Turf Program. From all of us who have benefited from Nick's work at Sunshine Course and Golf House, we thank him for his service to our profession.

Congrats to **Steve VanAcker, CGCS** on retaining those four letters after his name by completing the renewal process for Certified Golf Course Superintendent status. A 33-year GCSAA member, Steve has been superintendent at Crystal Lake Country Club since 1991, and has been a CGCS since 1987.



Steve VanAcker

You think WE'VE been having some strange weather? What about Texas? A recent report stated that at least 500 million trees—about 10% of the state's forest cover—have been lost to the late-season drought of 2011. That's more trees than Medinah cut down last year.

By the time you read this the outcome will already be known, but regardless of that here's a shout-out to Skokie Country Club's **Don Cross, CGCS** on being a finalist for TurfNet's Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta. Also congratulations to **Glenn Bereiter, CGCS** (Aldeen GC), **Scott Pavalko** (Cog Hill G&CC), and **Kirk Spieth** (Beverly CC) on being nominated for the prestigious award, which was previously won by MAGCS members **Paul Voykin** in 2003 and **Sam MacKenzie, CGCS** in 2008.



Don Cross

Another couple of MAGCS members (okay, one is a former MAGCS member) were honored recently by GCSAA and *Golf Digest* magazine as 2011 Environmental Leaders in Golf Award (ELGA) winners. Tom Brodeur of TPC Boston (and former superintendent of Crystal Tree Golf & Country Club) won the award in the National Private category, and **Tom Lively, CGCS** of TPC San Antonio took the honor in the National resort category. Congratulations guys!

(continued on page 23)

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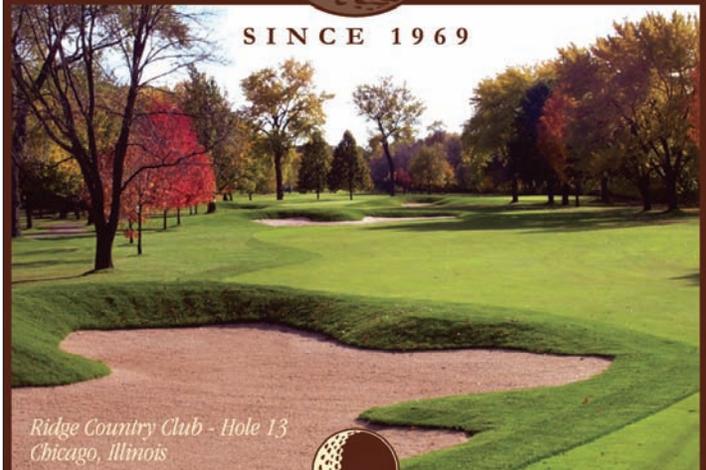
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Tome Lively and Tom Brodeur

The GCSAA Board of Directors has approved the 2012 GCSAA Priority Issues Agenda, which outlines the association's legislative and regulatory priorities. This year's agenda will focus on six areas: The Americans With Disabilities Act, fertilizers, labor and immigration, pesticides, value of golf, and water management. It was also updated to include GCSAA and member activities regarding the H-2B visa program, Clean Water Act NPDES pesticide general permit, and federal disaster tax relief. So there.

Last month once again was Education Central for the golf course industry in our neck of the woods. Kicking things off (and actually in January on the 30th) was Chicagoland Turf's (**Brian Baker, Nick Baker, Wally Fuchs, Jason Funderburg, Keith Krause, John Lebedevs, and Bruce Schweiger**) "Success Through Knowledge" seminar which featured presentations by Dr. Richard Latin of Purdue University who spoke on "All you wanted to know about fungicides but were afraid to ask," and Dr. Jim Kerns of the University of Wisconsin at Madison speaking about the "Fundamentals of disease management: What works and what doesn't."



Dr. Kerns

And isn't it odd that Dr. Latin, who does his work in The Office and gives educational talks so people can Get Smart, also bears a resemblance to Steve Carrell? Hmm...



On February 8th, the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS) held its Annual Forum at Naperville Country Club with **Tim Anderson** and **Steven Biehl** hosting. The day's program included presentations from **Dr. Bruce Branham** and **Dr. Tom Voigt** from the University of Lousy Football Too, along with **Dan Dinelli's** talk on hosting the Western Amateur last year, and topped off with a panel discussion on irrigation and drainage strategies to minimize turf stress featuring **Dan Marco** (Ruth Lake CC), **Ben McGargill** (Wynstone GC), **Henry Michna** (Winnetka GC), and **Scott Vincent** (Onwentsia Club).

(continued on next page)



Dave Ward moderates the afternoon session at the CAGCS Forum (l to r). Dan Marco, Scott Vincent, Henry Michna and Ben McGargill.

Then on the 15th the Class C Winter Workshop was held at Midwest Golf House, where **Greg Martin, David Esler,** and **David Marquardt** enlightened and entertained the large group of assistants (who left NOT A SCRAP of food for the famished MAGCS Board of Directors which had held its own meeting at the same venue).

And last but certainly not least, on the 16th Harrell's (**Chad Hauth, Kevin Fuchs, Pete Kiraly**) held their Winter Education Seminar at the very difficult to find (at least for my assistant) Glen Oak Country Club Gun Club with **Andy Dauksas** hosting. The day featured talks by **John Turner** of Bayer Environmental Science, **Brian Winkel** of Syngenta, Geoff Simril from Hocking International, and **Randy Lusher** of BASF Turf and Ornamental Products.



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-OC

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EDUCATION REVIEW

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



MAGCS Assistant Winter Work Shop

The MAGCS Class C Members met at the Golf House in Lemont for the Assistant Winter Workshop. This event was planned, organized and implemented by the Class C Members. Nick Marfise of Cog Hill Country Club is the Class C Representative for the MAGCS Board. After coffee, donuts and around-the-room-stand-up-introductions it was time to get down to business.

Dave Marquardt of Dirt-n-Turf Consulting was the first speaker of the day. His topic was "Managing Turf Maladies, Fixing the Problem at the Root." He challenged the Members to pick the best starting point for an agronomic program. Of course he was talking about soil, water and tissue testing data. Things like budgets, staff, equipment, logistics, and expectations will dictate how far a program can/will go. The physical conditions of the soil will dictate the agronomy. Soil chemistry is affected by inputs and the subsequent applications of programs. The turf and profile must work together. The importance of the interaction and balances of major and minor nutrients was discussed.

Dave Esler of Vintage Golf Designs presented "Chicago Architecture Primer". This was an overview of influential Golf Course Architects who have created or worked on courses in the Chicago metro area. From a historical perspective, Dave considers some of these courses as "national treasures."



Dave believes the economics of "over grooming" of courses is not sustainable for the future of golf. "The previous 25 years of golf course design, construction, maintenance and marketing have taken our industry down an unsustainable path. We have an economic and social responsibility make golf more affordable, less maintenance and more fun. Most guys are just looking for camaraderie and a few stiff drinks at the end of the round. Dave explained, "I have had a number of Jesus meetings with banks and Boards as to how to continue to do business. This current recession with Clubs closing and/or changing hands is a wake- up call. The sh#! has hit the fan."

Greg Martin of Martin Design Partnership presented on "Trends in Golf Course Design, Development and Renovation." Greg continued on the theme of the golf industry changing. Greg made a point of emphasizing that we are in the *golfer*

(continued on page 27)





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business. The players have increasing expectations and are looking for the best facilities that will engage them. There are more and more choices locally for golf. "Just like the skiing industry, we need to create bunny slope courses. We need right sizing for specific players to enhance their experience." Greg cited other trends in the industry that include: renovations, infrastructure improvements and cost benefit analysis. "At this time in the golf industry you need to be committed. The current trends in golf course architecture philosophy are fewer, smaller bunkers. As an organization you need to understand the benefits of improvements

and the potential loss of revenue of ongoing maintenance issues. It is important to do a cost analysis and record labor issues of high maintenance areas."

A lunch of pizza and pop was served and the speakers came back out to answer questions at length about a number of subjects and topics. The attendees then broke up into small groups to answer a trivia quiz for prizes. The event was a good opportunity to network, create new friendships and gain more knowledge of current trends within the industry.

-OC

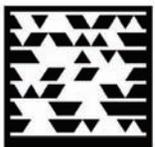
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Refresh My Memory

- _____ 1. A flagellate swimming spore that is produced by the oomycetes (Pythium)
- _____ 2. Name a gas that is produced when vegetation is rotting in storage
- _____ 3. Which grass in the spring produces seedheads regardless of mowing height
- _____ 4. The first cultivated grass
- _____ 5. The most important morphological part of the plant to protect in a traffic situation
- _____ 6. A frequency increased with lower mowing heights
- _____ 7. Utilized to decrease grain
- _____ 8. Known as a summer annual grassy weed
- _____ 9. Which cultural practice is the most time consuming and expensive
- _____ 10. Fertilizer dependent on temperature for release
- _____ 11. Nitrogen form most commonly taken up by the plant
- _____ 12. Fertilizer dependent of moisture for release
- _____ 13. What are three secondary macronutrients
- _____ 14. A nutrient important in carbohydrate synthesis
- _____ 15. Which element is not an essential plant nutrient

WORD BANK

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|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| A. Perennial Ryegrass | H. Ammonia | O. Crown | V. Crabgrass |
| B. Nitrogen | I. Vertical Mowing | P. Zoospore | W. Teliospore |
| C. Phosphorus | J. Silicon | Q. Mowing | X. Core Cultivation |
| D. Topdressing | K. Annual Bluegrass | R. Sulfur Coated Urea | Y. Calcium |
| E. Magnesium | L. Sulfur | S. Manganese | Z. Aluminum |
| F. Organic Fertilizer | M. Ammonium | T. Nitrate | 1. Nitrogen gas |
| G. Potassium | N. Quackgrass | U. Red Fescue | 2. Rolling |

- Answers
1. R. Zoospore
 2. H. Ammonia
 3. K. Annual Bluegrass
 4. A. Perennial Ryegrass
 5. O. Crown
 6. D. Topdressing
 7. I. Vertical Mowing
 8. V. Crabgrass
 9. Q. Mowing
 10. F. Organic Fertilizer
 11. T. Nitrate
 12. R. Sulfur Coated Urea
 13. Y. Calcium, L. Sulfur, E. Magnesium
 14. G. Potassium
 15. J. Silicon, Z. Aluminum



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