

ON COURSE

THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

May 2012

Twin Orchard Country Club

Kyle Jacobsen

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents
11855 Archer Ave.
Lemont, IL 60439

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We Are Golf - Travels to DC

Paving the Way

Hazardous Weather
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A view from the tee in spring. This picture highlights the 9th hole on the white course as seen from the adjacent teeing ground through oaks at Twin Orchard Country Club.

FRONT COVER

The 18th of the White Course at Twin Orchard Country Club, site of the 2012 ITF/MAGCS combined meeting. 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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How Big are Your Marbles?

A few weeks ago I went to the Hazardous Weather Spotter Training class to become a trained spotter. Actually, I took the Cella clan and headed out to NIU for the training session. My youngest is dreadfully afraid of storms and I thought this might help him quell some of his fears when the sirens go off in our neighborhood. He fell asleep toward the end of the session, so time will tell as storm season approaches.

The class was hosted by Gilbert Sebenste, Meteorologist at Northern Illinois University (check out his weather reports –he'll email them to you: <http://weather.admin.niu.edu/subscribe.html>), and conducted by Jim Allsopp of the National Weather Service NWS. Some of you may remember Jim. He spoke to our group several years ago at White Pines Golf Course and his name is all over NWS reports in our area.

As we approach the coming months, hazardous weather may hit our area. The United States is the most severe weather prone country in the world. Each year, people in this country cope with an average of 10,000 thunderstorms, 5,000 floods, 1,200 tornadoes and two landfalling hurricanes. Approximately 90% of all presidentially declared disasters are weather related, causing around 500 deaths each year and nearly \$14B in damage.

Why a Spotter?

The National Weather Service has access to data from Doppler radar, satellite, and surface weather stations, technology cannot detect every instance of hazardous weather. Spotters help fill in the gaps by reporting hail, wind damage, flooding, heavy snow, tornadoes and waterspouts. Radar is an excellent tool, but it is just that, one tool among many that the NWS uses. Spotters are needed to report how storms and other hydrometeorological phenomena are impacting a given area.

Spotter reports provide vital "ground truth" to the NWS. They act as eyes and ears in the field, confirming what is seen or depicted on the radar and help to meteorologists issue timely, accurate and detailed warnings.



What do Spotters Report?

Trained spotters are asked to report:

- **Tornadoes**, citing the damage that has occurred, how long it was on the ground, when it started, when it ended, its width and how far it traveled.
- **Flash Flooding**, including rivers, streams, and roadways reporting approximate water depth. Spotters are asked to report whether the water is moving or still, if still rising and if the area is prone to flooding.
- The presence of **Wall Clouds** and whether or not they are rotating and how long they have existed.
- **Funnel Clouds** and their organization, persistence and rotation.
- **Lightning** – oddly enough, NWS only wants to know about lightning when damage or injuries occur from it.
- **Winter Weather** not important now, but the occurrence of freezing rain, ice accumulation, snow accumulation and blizzard conditions.
- **Wind** is a factor that the NWS wants to know about, specifically wind speed and damage. Without the aid of an anemometer, wind speed estimation is difficult that is why description of moving objects or damage is useful.
- The discussion on **Hail** provided the most notable line of the presentation. "I'm not sure how big your marbles are, so when defining the size of hail, please use the following scale":
 - » BB >1/4"
 - » Pea = 1/4"
 - » Dime = 7/10"

(continued on next page)

- » Penny = 3/4"
 - » Nickel = 7/8"
 - » Quarter = 1"
 - » Half Dollar = 1 1/4"
 - » Ping Pong Ball = 1 1/2"
 - » Golf Ball = 1 3/4" (actually not greater than 1.680, but I didn't correct him)
 - » Lime = 2"
 - » Tennis Ball = 2 1/2"
 - » Baseball = 2 3/4"
 - » Large Apple = 3"
 - » Softball = 4"
 - » Grapefruit = 4 1/2"
- **Marine Hazards** - items such as waterspouts, squall lines, heavy freezing spray, wave heights, high surf and lakeshore flooding are noted by spotters.
 - **Other Environmental Hazards** can be relayed to the NWS such as dense fog, dust storms, volcanic ash accumulation and when there are injuries or death as a direct result of weather.

Allsopp did a nice job of going through thunderstorm basics, explaining their development and life cycle. He defined the different types of thunderstorms; Single Cell Storm, Pulse Storm, Multicell Cluster Storm, Multicell Line Storm, and the Supercell. The Supercell was further classified into Low Precipitation Supercell, Classic Supercell, and the High Precipitation Supercell. He explained what makes a thunderstorm severe and trained us to look for specific features as storms begin

Lightning Safety

Lightning takes nearly as many lives as tornadoes annually, but because it only hits one or two people at time, fatalities due to lightning receive less publicity. Lightning occurs with every thunderstorm. It is the most common weather hazard people on golf courses face. About 5% of all US lightning deaths occur on golf courses every year. Remember: "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!"

to develop. There was a lot of information that was covered in the class. A part was a good review while more than half was information that was new to me. It was a good reminder that every storm is different and no matter how well we think we know something, we don't. Maybe the education committee can work with the NWS and train our members to become Hazardous Weather Spotters. **-OC**

For more information, please visit:

weather.gov/chicago
nws.noaa.gov/os/brochures/SGJune6-11.pdf

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FEATURE I

Dan Dinelli, CGCS, North Shore Country Club

We Are Golf

April 18th, National Golf Day 2012 occurred in Washington D.C. Yes there is a "day" for golf, and GCSAA along with several allied groups took full advantage to share the positive impacts golf has on communities around the country. This was the fifth such meeting in Washington D.C. with an agenda that grows each year. Collectively, 80 meetings were organized to share golf's story with various Senators and Representatives. The message was clear, "Golf is much more than a game." At 76 billion dollars, golf is bigger than the motion picture industry with a total economic impact on the United States economy of 195 billion dollars, as it provides nearly two million jobs. In Illinois, where 683 golf facilities call home, 50,466 jobs were directly related to golf, with an economic output of \$4.8 billion in 2007. In today's economy and the concern with unemployment, tax revenue and economic health, clearly the business of golf has a powerful statement.

Golf gives back to the people.

Golf is a life-long activity that offers countless benefits to overall wellness. In addition to the social benefits, golf offers an outdoor activity that burns up to 2,000 calories, equivalent to walking five miles during a typical 18 hole round.

Golf also gives back to people in ways beyond the golfer themselves. In 2005 golf gave \$3.5 billion to many national charitable causes. Approximately 16,000 golf facilities throughout the country hosted fundraising events for various charities and causes.

Golf Gives back to the planet.

The importance of open green space is becoming more and more critical. Golf courses around the country represent 2,020,060 acres. These are acres that: provide habitat for wildlife, release oxygen and utilize CO₂, prevent soil erosion, filter and store storm water and cool the atmosphere.

Sustainability – the three "P's."

People, planet, profit... golf carries a strong position in all three areas. In life we feel pleased when a "win-win" situation can be obtained. With golf, a win-win-win situation exists within the sustainability model government and communities thrive for in their existence. And the real

(continued on next page)



The 2012 GCSAA Government Relations Committee convened in Washington and met with legislators in the We Are Golf campaign.

bonus is the win-win holds true for golfers and non-golfers in communities where golf facilities exist. The economic (profit), environmental (planet) and social (people) contributions golf gives reach far beyond the golfer themselves. Wow! How many businesses can claim that? Clearly golf has a lot to be proud of and a powerful story to share... and that's what We Are Golf is all about.

The Coalition.

The GCSAA along with the PGA of America, World Golf Foundation, Club Managers Association, and National Golf Course Owners Association participated in We Are Golf as founding members. Many other companies and organizations also support the coalition such as the USGA, National Golf Foundation, Golf Channel, American Society of Golf Course Architects, Golf Course Builders Association and many suppliers who service the golf community. Collectively, events were organized by the Podesta Group to tell golf's story on sustainability within communities and draw attention to a few specific pieces of legislation in Acts within Congress.

We Are Golf supports HR 2718 and S 1456, the Disaster Tax Relief Act, an important inclusion for situations when

businesses get "relief" in areas declared as Federal Disaster Zones. Severe weather patterns seem more and more common around the country leaving devastation in its path. At present time, golf course facilities are excluded from disaster relief funds. It is critical that golf courses have access to these funds so they can rebuild from disasters in the same manner as other business within their communities.

We Are Golf supports HR 9, the small business Tax Cut Act of 2012. An incentive for small businesses (fewer than 500 employees) to help grow the economy by offering tax deductions up to twenty percent of the profits and up to fifty percent of their W-2 wages.

We Are Golf supports HR 1964, the Conservation Easement Incentive Act. Again, golf was excluded from this legislation. We believe golf courses should be allowed to take advantage of this tax relief as an incentive to secure important green space into long-term conservation easements.

At the end of the day We Are Golf did not ask for any "special treatment or exceptions." The only true "ask" was to be considered like any other business that contributes to sustainable communities.

*Kevin Breen, CGCS, Peter McDonough, CGCS. Dan Dinelli, CGCS,
US Congressman Robert Dold representing Illinois and Greg Lyman, GCSAA Director of Environmental Programs*





Budget cuts around the capital are apparent in their turf quality or lack thereof. It could be time to donate some time and materials to grow some quality turf around the place.

Making sense of it all

It is in situations like We Are Golf at National Golf Day in Washington DC that drives home the importance of it all. What I mean by "all" is *all* the efforts of so many on so many fronts that work at improving our profession and keeping golf healthy. The efforts of the GCSAA staff, past and present GCSAA Boards, Committees and work groups, collectively show critical value. The question often asked at the meetings in DC was "do you have data, standards or best management practices, case studies or examples you can share to help us better understand the outcomes and nature of your business?" When the response was... "you bet", their heads and ears perked up and they listened. Specifically efforts in:

- Conducting surveys within the Golf Course Environmental Profile that generated data in Property Profiles and Environmental Stewardship; Water Use and Conservation Practices; Nutrient Use and Management; Energy Use and Management and Pest Management
- The IPM Template to help the superintendent through the thought process in developing a written IPM Plan
- The many case studies (and other resources) in the Environmental Resources area on GCSAA's newly designed web site supported by the Environmental Institute for Golf
- The support from the USGA, Environmental Institute for Golf and local Chapters and Turf Foundations, who contribute ten's of thousands of dollars towards scientific research to further our understanding in improving soil, plant and environmental health. Much of this information leads to best management practices and continuing education on how to effectively and efficiently utilize inputs and cultural practices safely.
- Best Management Grants, supported by the Environmental Institute for Golf, to help chapters fund efforts to further local needs towards sustainability.

These plus many other programs and services help superintendents be better stewards of the land, help manage costs with increased expectations and tell a story with a goal to lesson the burden of the increasing regulatory pressure. In many ways We Are Golf is just the beginning. It is clear that more and more people will be interested in what we are doing as stewards of the land. In some ways that is good for it demonstrates the importance of the environment that makes up golf courses. However, burdensome, ineffective regulation is costly and needs to be avoided. National Golf Day reached out to policy makers on a National level. The reality is, most concerning policy and regulations start at the local level. Local Governments have the freedom to restrict, regulate and control policy that can cause the most concern for those within the community. For example, Highland Park a northern suburb of Chicago, responded to public pressure by banning pesticide use on public parks with a desire to include local golf courses. What is happening in Highland Park can happen anywhere. But the point is reaching out, getting involved and education is important. A proactive approach is typically more productive and efficient then a reactive approach. There is more to do, but there is a lot to be proud of...we just need to stay active and tell the story. **-OC**

Dinelli stopped his taxi on the way to his hotel to capture this shot of the space shuttle Discovery on its way to DC to its final resting place the Smithsonian.



SUPER -N- SITE

Shane Conroy, *Park Ridge Country Club*



Kyle Jacobsen -N- Twin Orchard Country Club

Twin Orchard Country Club (TOCC) and its Manager of Grounds & Greens, Kyle Jacobsen, are hosting this year's ITF/MAGCS Spring Golf Day. Twin Orchard features two 18-hole courses, the Red Course and the White Course. The two courses are spread over 242 acres, featuring 11.5 acres of ponds and 11 acres of native areas. After a recent trip to TOCC, it's easy to see why Kyle is proud to show it off.

This is not your grandfather's TOCC. If we go back just four years, you would think you were on an entirely different golf course. In 2008, Kyle's first season at Twin, the country club underwent a massive green and fairway regrassing project, drainage renovation, berm enhancement, tee addition, and pond enlargement. They also established native areas and redesigned several holes. I think it is safe to say that Kyle and his assistants, Carl McPherson, Ryan Morrison and Todd Carroll, have been busy over the past few years.

What started as a standard 'grass and grass' project on fairways and greens of the Red Course snowballed. The members realized they needed to address other issues at the same time. Since the course was going to be closed during the regrassing, the members decided to address flooding and drainage on the course as well.

There was a drainage issue across the entire property, after even a light rain. To correct it they installed 6.1 miles of drain tile (4-24"). Since the completion of the original project, TOCC has added over another mile in house. Also for flood relief new ponds were added, and the size of existing ponds was increased. The water level of the ponds can be quickly raised, or in the case of a period of heavy rain, quickly lowered. Another great feature of the ponds is the 'spill over' areas. These are located in the rough, adjacent to the ponds. If the ponds ever flood, the water will first move into the rough and not the fairways. The ponds are all interlinked by



The Jacobsen clan, Kyle and wife Stephanie, Adam (4) and Erin (21 months).

the seven miles of drain tile that were installed. All ponds drain to the two lowest points on the property, where it just so happens that the two pump stations for irrigation are located.

Also assisting in flood prevention are the new retention basins. These areas were dug out during the renovation and equipped with a 12-inch overflow pipe, which connects them with the course's existing drainage tile system, which runs to the main pond. The 12-inch pipe is equipped with a six-inch restrictor plate on the inlet. In high flow times, this restricts flow, holding the water back at higher elevations before it reaches the floodplain in the low-lying areas. The retention basins are aesthetically

appealing and built in areas that will not impede play when they do hold water.

All the soil removed in pond renovation and retention basin construction also plays a part in reducing flood problems. All 73,000 cubic yards of soil dug during the renovation stayed on site. It was used to construct a berm along the property line that runs along IL-83. It raises the overall elevation of fairways that were located in the floodplain and helps to distinguish between holes. The berm along IL-83 is where the majority of the soil went. The second hole, which runs adjacent to the berm, was completely redesigned, along with others, by MAGCS member Dave Esler. The new hole is a night and day difference from what was there before. In my opinion it's one of the nicest areas of the course.

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Once the majority of the dirt work was completed, the regrassing was addressed. The fairways on the Red Course were seeded using a three-way mix consisting of L-93, Seaside II, and Alpha. The greens are A-1/A-4 and all have XGD drainage in place, except for the three USGA regulation greens on the Red Course. An aggressive PGR program is in place on fairways to fight against *Poa annua*. A more moderate program is in place on greens to retain as much bentgrass as possible. It's working quite well, because I didn't find any *poa* on the greens while I was there.

Not only did the membership support the aggressive renovation, but they have also implemented an equipment plan that will replace an aging fleet with one able to maintain modern course conditions. One example is the two fairway sprayers retrofitted last year with Capstan's Sharpshooter GPS technology. Using the GPS system has decreased the spray volume by 6.7 acres per fairway application (from 55 acres to 48.3 acres). They are also able to spray at a lightning quick pace of nine mph. Previously spraying was done with three rigs at five mph, now two operators complete the task in the same amount of time. The reduction in applied area saved enough in materials to pay for the system in less than two years. A large portion of the fleet has been modernized



The clock starts ticking. The crew takes advantage of the dry spring to strip a low area in a fairway. The ground will be re-contoured to increase surface drainage and the sod replaced within a few days before the sod expires.

over the last two years. Like the efficiencies gained by the sprayers, new machines increase productivity by improving both the speed and quality of each completed task.

The new equipment is being put to good use. The courses look phenomenal. Kyle first credits his assistants as the main reason for the great results. He is quick to point out there were a lot of big picture plans that went into the renovation. Ryan has been at Twin since 2006, and Carl arrived in 2008. Both were critical in making those plans come together as they have. Todd joined the team in 2010, and the newest member of the team, Robin Jasper, started this spring. These four put in a tremendous amount of work. They are accountable for the day-to-day operations, the presentation of the courses, and for coordination of equipment and labor between the two courses. Kyle assured me that without their help the renovation and improvements would not be as successful as they are today.

It really was a pleasure touring the course with Kyle. It's a fantastic layout, and he did a great job explaining the renovation (unlike this article). If you are planning to attend the ITF/MAGCS Spring Golf Day, I encourage you to do so. You will not be disappointed in the venue. **-OC**

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FEATURE II
Shane Conroy, *Park Ridge Country Club*

Paving the Way

Park Ridge Country Club's Cart Path Beautification Process has been ongoing for over three seasons. Under the direction of Green Committee Chairman Jim Harmon and Course Superintendent Joel Purpur, CGCS, the club has renovated four teeing areas. There is another area currently under construction and two more brick projects planned for later this season.

Park Ridge Country Club (PRCC) faced a similar situation on a handful of holes on the course: dated cart paths and tired landscapes located near the teeing ground. The green committee addressed these issues and implemented a plan that was cost effective, and could be completed in-house. The goal was to give the areas a modern feel and to tie the design and feel with the overall theme of the golf course.

The green committee first decided to focus on one of the weaker teeing areas on the course, the thirteenth hole. The old layout featured a large asphalt cart path turn-around that was bordered on one side with large planter pots. These pots were a temporary solution that became semi-permanent. The new plan made use of a brick paver turn-around with a perennial bed cut out of the center that features a variety of plants and color. Along the exterior of the path are additional perennial beds that work well the new design. Without having a lot of supplementary space to work with, the new path

was constructed roughly in the same footprint as the original. The new path was very well received by the membership and the tenth hole was quickly targeted to receive the next makeover.

The tenth hole teeing area also featured an existing turn around, however the path was composed of crushed red brick instead of asphalt. Already there was an area cut out of the center that carts circled as they drove to get to the tee box. We did not veer very much from this design for the new brick-paver path. The end result of this path is comparable to the tee turn-around on hole 13. There is a perennial bed in the center and perennial beds encompassing much of the path. The members dedicated the planters to longtime PRCC PGA Professional Ken Weiler.

This past season we worked with the green committee and updated two teeing areas. The first one completed was

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A NEW TURFGRASS CHEMISTRY FOR POA ANNUA ELIMINATION



Every golf course superintendent battles his particular problem weed that impairs playability. For most, it's *Poa annua*.

Poa annua survives as a weed due to its high genetic variability, rapid germination, short life cycle, and tolerance of compacted soil. *Poa annua* quickly dies in warm weather, leaving areas bare until permanent turf has had time to fill in. Bentgrass provides conditions that are ideal for *Poa annua* growth, including high moisture, nitrogen, high-traffic levels and routine fungicide use.¹

A New Turfgrass Chemistry

XONERATE™ (Amicarbazone), an entirely new turfgrass chemistry, is a post-emergent herbicide for the control of *Poa annua* on golf course fairways, roughs and tees. XONERATE is available in an easy-to-use water-dispersible granule formulation.

Studies have shown XONERATE to be 90 percent effective, more than any other product on the market for the control of *Poa annua*.

The XONERATE Difference

XONERATE offers selective removal of *Poa annua* in many cool- and warm-season turfgrasses, including creeping bentgrass and Bermuda grass. The mode of action in XONERATE eliminates *Poa annua* with little to no disruption to the growth of bentgrass.

With XONERATE, golf course superintendents will be able to re-seed creeping bentgrass at seven or more days after the last application in roughs, fairways and tees. The first application can be scheduled in the spring as early as six months after seeding creeping bentgrass in the fall months of the previous year.

"XONERATE does what it says it does. It will eliminate your *Poa annua*," says Cory Troyer, golf course superintendent at Otter Creek Golf Course in Columbus, Indiana. "If you plan it out properly—use XONERATE in a program—I think it will be a fantastic way to re-establish bentgrass in a high *Poa annua* population."

How XONERATE Works:

- XONERATE is absorbed by plant leaves and roots for quick, residual, post-emergent activity.
- Inhibits photosynthesis in sensitive plants by interfering with normal electron transport resulting in subsequent cell membrane and chlorophyll loss.
- *Poa annua* control occurs over a three- to four-week time period²
- *Poa annua* initially becomes chlorotic (loss of green color), followed by necrosis (browning of plant tissue)
- Temporary yellowing of the turf may occur after application. This effect is temporary and the turf will recover in 14-21 days.

Meeting Your Goal of Improved Golfer Playability

Improving playability and aesthetics is every golf course superintendent's goal. The elimination of *Poa annua* from existing turf will increase the consistency of the playing surface and decrease color variation.

Poa annua grows in a different direction and at different growth rates than bentgrass so the greens tend to be bumpy, says Shawn Emerson, director of agronomy at Desert Mountain Golf Course in Carefree, Arizona. "They [members] want to play in the best conditions possible so we have to come up with a system and a strategy that meets their expectation and works in the environment to kill this *Poa annua*."

XONERATE offers a new way of approaching the age-old problem of *Poa annua* to help golf course superintendents meet their goals.

¹ Grounds Maintenance, Controlling *Poa annua* in bent grass greens by Bert McCarty, Clemson University, December 22, 2011

² Rates and application will vary by turf type and geography.

BEFORE



AFTER



on the sixth hole, which did not feature a center perennial bed, but one solid circular turn-around. The layout of this path was very similar to the original asphalt path, again due to lack of space. The current path however features a larger turn-around area making it easier for carts to access the back portion of the tee. The path on the twelfth hole was the second upgrade completed in 2011. It was originally a red gravel path that made a turn behind the men's tee. Due to the carts turning while on the path, it would frequently rut. Like previous path renovations, the layout of the old path is very similar to the new path.

This year the work has been focused on the cart path around hole 14. The majority of the brick laying began late last season and was finished up this spring. We mainly left the perimeter cuts to finish as the winter we never had moved into the summer month of March, 2012. This is the first path renovation that saw the actual teeing ground receive a renovation as well. The green committee wanted to give the hole more teeing space to break up divot patterns on the short par 3. As a result, the men's tee was expanded. The hole gained more teeing options and allows play from a new angle.

Installing these paths has been a great learning experience for everyone on the crew, including myself. We are lucky enough to have a staff who, after working on the first couple of path renovations can undertake most of the prep-work as well as a majority of the brick laying on their own. The real fun begins however, after the border and middle bricks are all laid and in place. Cut bricks obviously are required to fill in the missing space along the perimeter. I can't say enough what a good wet-saw and few replacement blades will do for the brick-cutting process. Unfortunately, we haven't had either of those...

By installing most of the current paths in the same area as the original paths we are able to use the existing sub-bases for the new paths. Not only has this kept material expenses down, but has reduced the amount of hauling and time it takes to properly compact the subsurface prior to brick installation. The green committee did a great job addressing these teeing areas and the membership has taken notice of the completed projects. The upgraded paths really do make a statement and were a great way to aesthetically improve the course without altering the playing surface. **-OC**

BEFORE



AFTER



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Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



"2012 Golf Season.....Really?"

To coin one of my favorite contemporary expressions that seems to convey the confusion, recognition and sarcasm of unanswerable questions, statements or events is the word... **really?** One of the great things about this statement is you can add inflections as you see fit to change the meaning. Fun stuff, try it.

The 2012 golf season got started for many operations in January with unusually warm, record setting temperatures. This trend continued into February as the warm weather and lack of snowfall continued. The turf remained unfrozen and the golfers continued to play well past the usual thaw that allows Christmas presents to be unleashed for the first time in our Northern climate. For many operations the economic windfall of collecting green fees and cart revenue during the winter was a much needed boost...**really?**

March temperatures peaked in the 80's. Golfers were coming out in droves. Soil temperatures were increasing to the point where the turf began a premature growth flush. The players seemed to think that just because the temperatures were "like" June, the course conditions should also be like June. Unfortunately for many maintenance operations, many of the staff were still out of town and courses were still trying to wrap up winter projects. Superintendents found themselves short manned and a whole lot of work to do...**really?**

The early warm spring soil temperatures threw any calendar based spray scheduling out the window. Monitoring growing-degree days became the only accurate way to figure out product timing. Attempting to time pre-emergents for crabgrass control and seed-head suppression products became a challenge to make it work...**really?**

The early warm up also "stoked" the broadleaf weeds to begin to make their "charge" (As if we didn't have enough to do). High wind conditions for most of the spring made it a difficult challenge to get out and spray weeds...**really?**

The early spring has also seemed to also disrupt the turf industry chemical/fertilizer supply chains. Everyone needed everything NOW and distributors are playing "catch up."...**really?**

We just recently got a much needed shot of rainfall. Prior to that courses were "firing up" irrigation systems early, running full irrigation watering cycles, applying wetting agents and hand watering hot spots on greens with hoses. This is supposed to be our rainy season...**really?**

Some savvy Superintendents were able to get out extra early and complete their spring green core aerifications with one course I know, completing the process in February!...**really?**

Without question this 2012 year has been one unusual season so far, (massive understatement...**really?**) There are not many weather forecasters who are willing to go out on a limb and predict what the 2012 summer will be like. It would be nice to have a crystal ball or be all knowing like the great and powerful Wizard of Oz. Such is not the case, so we will do what we usually do. Prepare for the worst and hope for the best. Ladies and Gentlemen, good luck and play well. **-OC**

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THE BULL SHEET
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

MAY 2012

.....
A hearty welcome to the newest members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents:
Steven Kellerman, Willow Hill Golf Course - Class C
Justin Olmstead, Glen Flora Country Club - Regular
Scott Bordner, Chicago Golf Club - Regular
Tim Valicka, Stonewall Orchard Golf Club - Class C
.....



The following MAGCS members are hereby and officially reminded by GCSAA that they are getting older. GCSAA membership milestones this year include: **Quarter Century Club**: Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG, Don Ferreri, John Gurke, CGCS, Henry Michna, CGCS, and Scott Witte, CGCS. In the **26- to 29-Year Club**: Don Altman, CGCS, Dan Anderson, Fred Behnke, CGCS, John Berarducci, Glenn Bereiter, CGCS, Dave Blomquist, CGCS, Brian Bossert, CGCS, Rick Bowden, Eddie Braunsky, CGCS, Steve Cook, CGCS, MG, Ernie Corsi, Greg Coyne, Steve Cummins, Kevin DeRoo, Dan Dinelli, CGCS, Dave Fisher, CGCS, Mike Handrich, CGCS, Gary Hearn, Rennie Jacobson, Tom Jauch, CGCS, Jon Jennings, CGCS, Ed Joerns II, Nels J. Johnson, Jr., Tony Kalina, Randy Kane, Kevin Knudson, CGCS, Craig Lewis, Sam MacKenzie, CGCS, John Otis, George Ott, CGCS, Chris Pekarek, Al Pondel, CGCS, Tom Prichard, Joe Reents, Kerry Satterwhite, CGCS,

DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 19 – CDGA's 4th Annual Golf Marathon at Zigfield Troy Golf Course in Woodridge, IL.
.....
- May 21 – ITF Golf Day at Twin Orchard Country Club in Long Grove, IL, **Kyle Jacobsen** host.
.....
- May 22-27 – 73rd Annual Senior PGA Championship at Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor, MI.
.....
- May 25 – Deadline for applications for the 2012 MAGCS Scholarships.
.....
- June 19 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Blackstone Golf Club in Marengo, IL, **Andrew Perry** host.
.....
- June 25 – Wisconsin GCSA Golf Tournament at Oshkosh Country Club in Oshkosh, WI.
.....
- July 10 – 12th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing and Scholarship Fundraiser at Bartlett Hills Golf Course in Bartlett, IL, **Kevin DeRoo** host.
.....
- July 14 – MAGCS Family Night Picnic and Kane County Cougars baseball game at Elfstrom Field in Geneva, IL.
.....
- July 17 – NWIGCSA/ITF Golf Day at Timber Pointe Golf Course in Poplar Grove, IL.
.....
- July 30 – Deadline for photograph submissions for the Superintendent's Best Friend 2013 Calendar presented by TurfNet and sponsored by BASF.
.....
- July 31 – Wisconsin GCSA Summer Field Day at the O.J. Noer Center in Verona, WI.
.....

Luke Strojny, Greg Thalmann, CGCS, Brian Thomson, CGCS, Gilberto Velazquez, Paul Wagner, and Lynn Wesson.
30-Year Members: Sandra Bemis, Tim Davis, Kurt Galisdorfer, Pete Lieponis, Tom Lively, CGCS, Dan Murray, CGCS, Joel Purpur, CGCS, Dan Sterr, and Tommy Witt, CGCS.
In the **31- to 34-Year Club** are: Jerry Arden, Chad Ball, CGCS, Paul Bastron, CGCS, Brian Chalifoux, Brian Comiskey,

(continued on next page)

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Don Cross, CGCS, Ron Doruff, Jim Evans, Al Fierst, Brian Green, CGCS, Craig Joscelyn, CGCS, Tim Kelly, Jim Knulty, Mark Kowaliczko, Harry Lovero, Bob Maibusch, CGCS, Bob McCallum, CGCS, Mike Nass, Mike Sauls, Tom Savage, Jeff Smith, Steve VanAcker, CGCS, and Randy Wahler, CGCS. **35-Year Members:** Dave Behrman, Arthur Clessen, Brad Johnsen, Butch Peuvion, CGCS, Tommy Robinson, Les Rutan, and Bruce Williams, CGCS. The **36- to 39-Year Members:** Ron Dohman, CGCS, Peter Leuzinger, CGCS, Jerry Mach, Mike Matchen, Ted Mochel, Dale Nissen, Roger Stewart, CGCS, and Dave Ward. The **41- to 44-Year Club** includes: Julius Albaugh, CGCS, Tom Byrne, Ed Fischer, CGCS, Keith Fuchs, Wally Fuchs, Leon Hartogh, John Krutilla, CGCS, Dick Lamkey, John Lapp, and James Meyer. The **45-Year Club** includes: John Kiraly, Ray Schmitz, CGCS, Tom Van DeWalle, and James Watson. In the **46- to 49-Year Club** are: Mike Bavier, CGCS, Art Benson, Ken Lapp, Bill Leith, Fred Opperman, and Danny Quast, CGCS. Joining the **50-Year Club** are Oscar Miles, CGCS and Dick Trevarthan. And in the grandest club of them all—the **51-Plus Club**—we honor the following REALLY old MAGCS members: Tom DeGuido, Joe Dinelli, Sr., Harold Fredrickson, Jr., Carl Hopphan, and Paul Voykin. Congratulations to all on this important milestone in your careers.

Q: Where do the birds live on **Brian Mores'** course?
A: Invernessts.

GCSAA and the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association have announced their intention to share and de-

velop resources that will benefit both organizations, their members, and the golf course management profession. The agreement was inked on March 1 at the 2012 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas.

Also from GCSAA, you can now avail yourself of "Applied Turfgrass Science," a journal of the Plant Management Network, and now a publishing partner of GCSAA. This peer-reviewed, applied journal for turf professionals is dedicated to growing the body of science-based turf knowledge for the turfgrass industry, and includes as its partners the USGA Green Section, 76% of America's land-grant universities, and Division C-5 of the Crop Science Society of America (why not C-1, 2, 3, or 4 is anyone's guess). To subscribe, go to plantmanagementnetwork.org.

And even more from GCSAA—the 2013 golf championship and education conference schedules are being condensed due to member feedback. For next year, the four-ball competition will take place on Sunday, Feb. 3, with the golf classic and national championship being conducted on Monday and Tuesday the 4th and 5th. For those not participating in the classic or championship, a new event likely featuring a scramble or shamble format will be conducted on Monday the 4th. The education conference will conclude on Friday the 8th. So there ya go.

Thanks to the Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation, the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG) has a million reasons to smile. Ken Melrose, former CEO and chairman of the Toro

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Co., has donated \$1 million to GCSAA's philanthropic organization on behalf of his family's foundation due to his profound respect for golf course superintendents and their role in the game of golf. Which is nice.

Remember, the 19th is the day the 100-Hole Golf Marathon takes place at Zigfield Troy Golf Course in Woodridge, IL. The event is hosted by the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation—the charitable arm of the CDGA—and is played to raise funds to help people with special needs. Over the last three years the event has raised over \$250,000! To participate or sponsor a player, contact Alex Nolly at anolly@cdga.org or call (630) 685-2351.

Thank you to **Mike Mumper** and the people at Arrowhead Golf Club for hosting the MAGCS March meeting on the 21st. It was a day that should have seen the attendees out on the course, thanks to some outstanding early spring weather, but instead found us indoors getting smarter listening to Dr. Lee Miller and Bob Vavrek. Also many thanks to the day's generous sponsors, who were: **Arthur Clesen, Inc., Burris Equipment Company, Nels J Johnson Tree Experts, Reinders Inc., and Syngenta Professional Products**



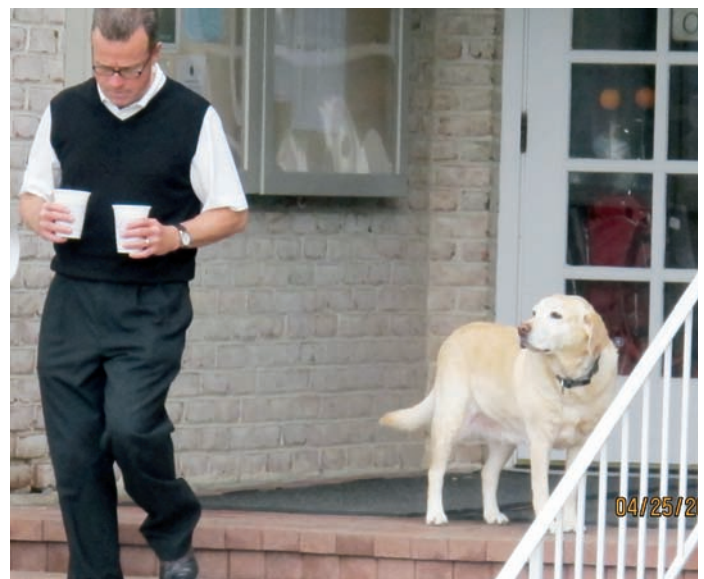
Mike Mumper and Tim Anderson our March and April meeting hosts.

Next on the MAGCS agenda was the April meeting, held on the 25th at Naperville Country Club. Hosts **Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG and Steven Biehl** were FINALLY able to prove that yes, there actually IS a golf course out there behind the clubhouse, thanks to the rare cooperation from Mother Nature. The day began with a solid education presentation from **Brad Marks** of SePRO on strategies for using growth regulators.



Steve Van Acker (r) will have to explain the Van Acker rules of winning raffle prizes to Harrell's new sales representative, Kevin Montgomery.

From there it was time to mount up and hit the course. And WHAT A COURSE! Conditions were outstanding, with fast and firm being the theme of the day. I think I spotted Steven Biehl stimping a tee! The traditional April scramble format was a great way to ring in the golf season without worrying about an occasional snap hook, flub, two-jack, or wicked slice. When the dust had settled, it was the team of **Don Altman, Dave Groelle, Bruce Schweiger, and Scott White** who took top honors with a net 51.1, just squeaking past Tim Anderson, **Dave Blomquist, Jim Canning, and Keith Krause** and their 51.4. The post-golf reception featured some great eats and quite a few laughs as participants recalled their heroics on the course. Thanks to Tim and Steven and everyone at Naperville Country Club for hosting us, and to our sponsors without whom the day would not have been possible: **Arthur Clesen, Inc., Aquatrols, Aerial Images Photography, Burris Equipment Company, Great Lakes Turf, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, ProGro Solutions, Reinders, Inc., and Syngenta Professional Products.**



(continued on page 23)



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Congratulations and the best of luck to Mike Mumper in his new position as golf course superintendent of Riverside Golf Club in North Riverside, IL.



And the reason Riverside Golf Club needed a new superintendent? Because its former superintendent **Josh Langell** has accepted the same position at Ridgemoor Country Club, taking the reins from longtime supe **Peter Hahn**, who is retiring.



Q: What happens to **Greg Thalmann** after he judges his course's chili cookoff?

A: He gets the Fox Runs.



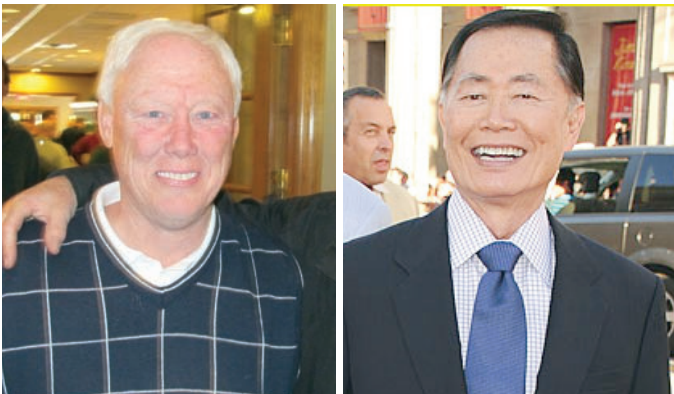
I've heard of a duck blind before, but how about a blind duck?



Congrats to **Greg Martin**, whose Martin Design Partnership has been selected by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County to prepare a master plan for and then renovate the Oak Meadows Golf Course in Addison, IL.

More photos on pages 29 and 31.

I can't figure out why every time I cross paths with **Brad Johnsen**, I get the uncontrollable urge to raise the shields on the Enterprise and say "Aye Captain." What could be causing that?



Greg Martin

(continued on page 25)



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Condolences to the family of **Todd Zimmerman**, golf course superintendent at Aspen Ridge Golf Course in Bourbonnais on the passing of Todd's mother Barbara Zimmerman last month.

If you fancy yourself a budding filmmaker, Syngenta has something you might be interested in—the Daconil Action TOUGH TURF Video Contest. The grand prize is a trip for two to San Francisco, CA, including airfare, three nights' stay at a four-star hotel and spending money AND an automatic seat at the 2012 Syngenta Business Institute. Honorable Mentions will receive \$300 Visa gift cards. Get busy—deadline for entries is August 1. To learn all about it, email Contest@ToughTurfVideoContest.com.

If you don't win the automatic seat at the Syngenta Business Institute, you can still go. For the fourth consecutive year they are inviting golf course superintendents from across the country to apply to attend the event on December 3rd through the 6th in North Carolina. Syngenta teamed with the Wake Forest University School of Business to provide this unique four-day experience focusing on financial and human resource management, delegation skills, effective communications and negotiating skills and more. To be considered, you must fill out a 250-word essay on why you believe you should be selected, along with filling out the application found at greencastonline.com. Deadline for is August 21.

One of our members was recently featured in TurfNet's Turf Blog Aggregator, a periodic collection of different superintendents' blogs from their own courses. **Joel Purpur, CGCS** at Park Ridge Country Club got famous by showing his membership the benefits of their purchase of a Hydro-Jet drain jetter after a tile collapse under a path near the 7th tee. I want to borrow it, Joel—call me?

I found this news kinda funny—Metedeconk National Golf Club in Jackson, NJ is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. OK, that's not really too funny, but the press release, stating "...is gearing up for its 25th anniversary this year by publishing a book detailing the club's rich history, ..." definitely is. Can anything have a rich history in 25 years? Heck, **Kevin DeRoo** has socks older than that. Just sayin'.

The world of golf lost a great man recently. George (Tony) Poillo, one of the original founders of the Central Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association and the longtime superintendent at Decatur Country Club passed away in March at the age of 97. Condolences to the family and many friends of Tony.

Q: What is it called if you play **Brad Anderson's** course and really hit it off with the bar cart girl?

A: A Bittersweet romance.

The ITF/MAGCS Spring Golf day is just around the corner, and this year's venue will not disappoint. **Kyle Jacobsen** and Twin Orchard Country Club are our gracious hosts, and the format will be a 2-Man Best Ball with Match Play scoring based on 75% of each competitors established handicap index. Each winning team will be awarded one point for a victory and ½ point to each team in the event of a tie. Teams will be chosen by the two captains the ITF president and the MAGCS president. Sounds fun hope to see you there.

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(continued on page 27)



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The MAGCS Charles Bartlett Award

by Dan Dinelli, CGCS

Throughout his career Charles Bartlett served as an ambassador for the game of golf. He spent 36 years chronicling the major golf events of his time. He was a confidant to the great players of his era, and earned a wide spread reputation for his devotion to the game. Upon his death, then MAGCS president, Dudley Smith, established the MAGCS Charles Bartlett Award. This award is completely separate from the Bartlett Award given out by the Golf Writers Association of America. The GWAA Bartlett Award did not come into existence until 1970. The MAGCS Charles Bartlett Award was first presented in 1967 (the year of Bartlett's death). The award is presented to an individual who, through his or her devotion to the game of golf, exemplifies the spirit of Charles Bartlett – a true ambassador of the game. The Charles Bartlett Award is unique in that it is not given out annually, and the recipient is not selected by the MAGCS Board of Directors. Instead, past award recipients decide when a deserving candidate is to be acknowledged. During its 45 year history the award has only been presented 16 times. The past recipients are:

CHARLES BARTLETT AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Paul Voykin 1967	Mike Bavier 1990
Oscar Miles 1968	Pete Leuzinger 1994
Norman Kramer 1970	Tim Kelly 1996
Ray Gerber 1971	Fred Opperman 1999
Robert Williams 1975	Mike Bavier 2000
Julius Albaugh 1983	Carl Hopphan 2003
Ken Zanzig 1986	Dan Dinelli 2008
Oscar Miles 1987	

This distinguished list includes: innovators, visionaries, authors, poets, mentors, activists, environmentalists, instructors, public speakers, GCSAA Past Presidents, CAGCS Past Presidents, MAGCS Past Presidents, recipient of the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award, Recipient of the GCSAA Leo Feser Award, recipient of the GCSAA Presidents Award and inductees into the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame.

It is our pleasure to recognize John Gurke, CGCS with the Charles Bartlett Award in his efforts and support for our industry in golf. To name a few... John serves on the Illinois Turfgrass Foundations Board; has worked with researchers as a cooperater for on-site research; is a member of the Advocates' Circle for his support in the Environmental Institute for Golf; and is the Editor of the Bull Sheet in On Course. As editor, John keeps his readers up to date monthly with past, current and future events, any MAGCS Member life changes and fun facts he creatively squeezes in. John has a special talent for writing that keeps us informed while being entertained. As a hobby John is a meteorite hunter, leaving no stone un-turned. Congratulations John! **-OC**

*Dan Dinelli (L) presents
The MAGCS Charles Bartlett Award to John Gurke.*



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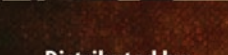
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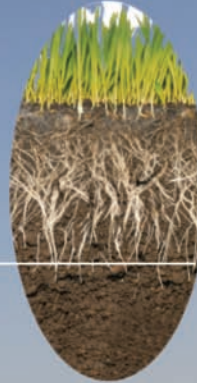
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M.A.G.C.S. 2012

Place #	TEAM	Score	Handicap	NET
1	Anderson - Bromauer - Krause - Canning	67	15.6	51.4
1B	Fereeri - Cella - Witte - K. Anderson	71	15.4	56.6
2	Murray - Hoxley - Randall - Scott	60	3.5	56.5
2B	Altman - White - Schweiger - Groelle	62	9.9	51.1
3	Powers - Lemmari - VanLever - Johnson	65	7.7	57.3
3B	DeRoo - Steer - Nadler - Rotert	64	8.1	55.8
4	Merna - Mores - Tully - Bobb	66	9.6	56.4
4B	Brwiler - Grimme - Lamurei - Turton	71	7.6	63.4
5	Muebel - Bourdeau - Corde - Zimmerman	64	10.0	54.0
5B	Hall - Shepherd - Jacobson - Kowalczko	69	13.4	55.6
6	Vukmir - Flameot - Eosko - Spindel	67	13.5	53.5
6B	Purpur - Comroy - Stewart - Schmitz	69	13.1	55.9
7	Schaeffer - Irvin - Baker - Hukko	62	8.9	53.1
7B	Rico - Senatra - Nere	69	8.6	60.4
8	Lisler - Hauri - Sams - Montgomery		10.5	
8B	Dowling - Shepherd - Krefel - Prichard	69	14.4	54.6
9	Gruke - Stachewitz - Bransky - Brasell	74	13.9	60.1
9B	Utne - Gilmore - Eggert - Davis	76	15.8	60.2
10	Johnson - Fischer - T. Davis - Berkman	68	7.2	60.8
10B	Knully - Wailer - Kronn Sr. - Kronn Jr.	62	5.5	56.5
11	Wertz - Marks - Witkowski - Zinner	72	7.6	64.4
11B	Heastis - Marco - Mumper - Brindgar	64	11.0	53.0
12	Cunnehan - Louman - Bemis - Cleese	72	4.2	57.8
12B	Adams - Leuzinger - Mozur - Kirtland	65	12.4	52.6 (1.0)
13	Daly - Ollara - Bryowski - Copersoy	72	16.6	55.4
13B	Yerkes - Anfield - Buck - Douman	65	5.0	60.0
14	Lemanski - Baum - Jarvis - Maravarti	64	11.2	52.8
14B	Kiraly - Nelson - Carlson - Poole	64	11.6	53.4
15	Norville - Robbins - Cross - Vollbeer	67	14.4	52.6 (1.0)
15B	Rounds - Vincent - Frenz - Tiersens		7.3	
16	Barber - Nealy - Ziemer - Biehl	68	9.9	58.1
16B	Kuelland - Holubetz - Radao - J. Anderson	67	9.1	57.9
18	Frels - Bremer - Harstad - Pavalco	72	12.0	60.0
18B	Kerry - Anderson - Johnson	82	17.0	65.0
C.T.P. #7 - John Kirtland		L.P. #18 - Tom Prichard		
C.T.P. #10 - Jack Randall				



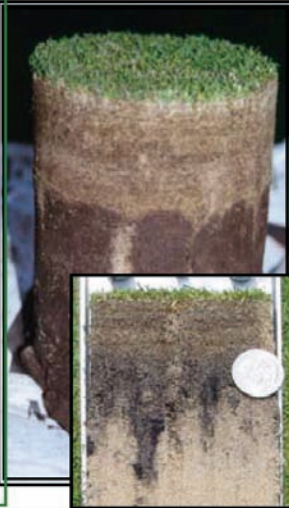


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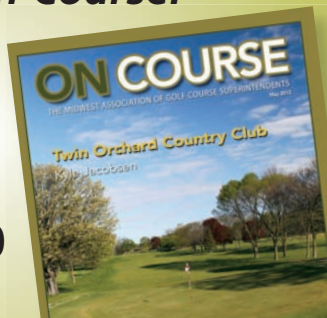
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EDUCATION REVIEW

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



April Meeting

The April MAGCS Meeting was held at (this time a dry) Naperville Country Club. Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG and Steven Biehl were the hosts. Brad Marks, Class E MAGCS Member of Sepro Corporation made his presentation "Plant Growth Regulators 101".

There are two kinds of type II growth regulators, Class A and Class B. An example of a Class A PGR (plant growth regulator) is trinexepac-ethyl. A common name or example of a product of trinexepac-ethyl is **Primo** PGR. Trinexepac-ethyl is foliar absorbed. Typical results of applications of trinexepac-ethyl to turf will result in: increased turf quality, reduced clipping yield over a mixed stand and no *Poa annua* suppression. The other class of PGR is Class B. Examples are: paclobutrazol (**Trimmit**) and flurprimidol (**Cutlass**). Typical results of applications of Class B PGR's are: reduced clipping yield, *Poa annua* suppression and bentgrass regulation. Caution must be used with Class B PGR applications because there may be phytotoxic results to bluegrass and ryegrass with higher rates. Class B PGR's have no effect on seed germination.

Some beneficial results have been achieved with combining Class A and B in tank mixes. A more level and consistent regulation can be achieved without phytotoxicity or turf injury. The best of both classes can be achieved when mixed. Half rates of each is a good place to start. Brad recommends you do your own trials to see what works best on the course you manage.

Brad concluded by showing some slides of *Poa annua* conversion trials conducted in Kentucky using Class B products. He fielded questions from the audience regarding details of PGRs use. **-OC**



Brad Marks



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