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front cover

Josh Therrien gives some insight through his experience at Black Sheep Golf Club when tackling a project using both their staff and outside contractors. The newly renovated 27th green at Black Sheep Golf Club. PHOTO: Luke Cella

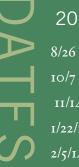
FEATURE Teaming up with Outside Contractors

FEATURE II Anticipating Acidovorax Dr. Rick Latin



Did the growing season of 2013 create the perfect storm for a bacterial related turfgrass problem? Dr. Rick Latin shares his point of view in Anticipating Acidovorax on page 11.

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2013-14 MIDWEST EVENTS

8/26 Midwest August Meeting, Crystal Lake Country Club
10/7 Midwest October Meeting, Chicago Highlands CC
11/14 61st Midwest Turf Clinic, Medinah Country Club
1/22/14 January Meeting & Wee One Fundraiser, Seven Bridges
2/5/14 Midwest Hospitality Reception, Orlando Fl

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Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS) exists to promote professionalism and integrity, to provide networking, education and career

enhancement opportunities to all members who facilitate the growth and enjoyment of golf.

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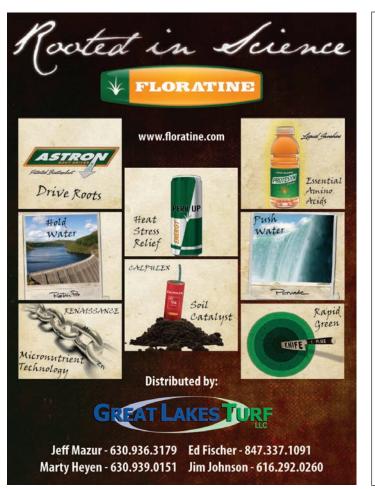
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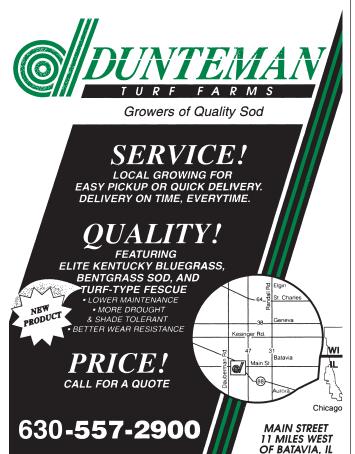
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Luke Cella MAGCS

List of Lists

As I get older, I find it more imperative that I write things down, or record them (Siri is great for reminders on my phone, especially when I'm holding on to the steering wheel of the car and I need to remember something later.) Most golf course superintendents are list makers, I'm not certain why, but believe it has to do with being organized and getting the job done. I do know that simple action of placing a line through an item, or a check mark next to it, may, at times offer enough satisfaction as finishing the task at hand. Can it be what motivates you? Why not?

ne of the latest things that I crossed off my list was MAGCS new website. Appearance wise and functionality from a user standpoint, it is similar to the old site. However, there are some improvements. First, the online directory is more robust; it offers more search capabilities and better results.

You'll also notice it is easier to print off invoices, and I think, pay online with a credit card. We switched credit card processors to PayPal. This allows us to accept all credit and debit cards through one credit card merchant and if you have a PayPal account, you can pay that way too. In addition, when you log in, you'll be able to see if you have any open invoices with MAGCS – not a problem for most of you, but sometimes, especially with dues renewals, you'll be able to tell when payment was received by MAGCS and processed.

We have created a members only section to the site, it hosts the directory - so your information is protected. In addition to the directory, we've placed Golf Course Superintendent Postings, On Course Archives, access to Turfgrass Information File, and a Membership Forum behind a firewall. We opted to set up the Forum for our members as a place to openly discuss or ask questions of the membership. It could be a great place to query the membership on a specific topic or practice in the privacy (not Facebook) that we can offer our members. One of the items we are working on updating is the Midwest Family Tree. Brad Anderson, CGCS did such a great job compiling all the records and histories, however it didn't take long to get out of date. Next time you are looking for an excuse to not balance your checkbook take a peek at the Family Tree (under the resources tab) and let us know if there are any updates or corrections to make.

The new site offers the ability to host a blog, something that the board is working through. This may be a nice place to share pictures of our members and meetings and courses, at least the ones that are appropriate and don't always make the magazine.

Please log in and check your information. (Your username is your email address. Enter that in the Email field and click Forgot Password, the system will then email you instructions to log in.) While you are at it, upload a picture of yourself for the online directory. One of the comments I used to hear by the old guys at meetings and now I hear from my age group is that they don't know half of the faces they see each month....help us out and put up a pic of yourself.

Next on my list – a MAGCS App. We want to be with you at all times, and make it easy to register for meetings, check the directory, new job posts and keep in touch.

Teaming up with outside

Josh Therrien, Black Sheep Golf Club

PHOTO CREDITS: JOSH THERRIEN

Many questions need to be asked when it comes to moving forward in capital projects and course improvements. A priority to know is "who will be doing a majority of the work?"

Do we outsource the job to a contractor or complete the project in house? As Dave Biery's Assistant at Black Sheep Golf Club, I have had the experience of simutaniously doing both. Black Sheep has partnered up with a single contractor to complete a number of projects utilizing the experience of that contractor and our own staff.

When the Club needs excavation work to be done for particular projects, Black Sheep calls on Mike Riordan of Riordan Renovation Company. Mike is an excavator who does work on his own specializing in course restorations, designs and grading projects. In the past sixteen months Mike, our grounds staff, and myself have restored/built twenty bunkers, added drainage, expanded a tee, and resituated an entire green complex. When major amounts of dirt need to be moved Mike solely preforms most of the excavation work. He also lends a hand in the trenching and installation of drainage. When excavation is finished, our staff completes the rest of the project. However, when projects are on the smaller side and little excavation is required, our staff is able to take on the whole project in house. Knowing our abilities while having trust in an outside contractor has proven to be an efficient and affordable way to make desired improvements. Sometimes courses are too quick to act and immediately hire someone else to do the work that they may be capable of completing in house. This can get costly very fast. However contractors can provide equipment, ideas and experience that can get the job done in a smooth manner. There are many factors a golf course superintendent must look at when deciding what can be done in-house, when to hire an outside contractor, or in some cases a combination of both.

Know Your Contractor

It is vital that you become familiar with an outside contractor in order for you and your staff to work with them efficiently. Besides the general prerequisites, there are a number of things you should know about a contractor. Don't be afraid to ask questions, specifically about and to your intended contractor. Some questions to ask beyond the common maybe:

- What exactly is included in the service fee?
- How is the work billed; by the hour, or by the job?
- What equipment will be provided? How will they get it to the work site without damaging surrounding turf?
- Will additional equipment have to be rented? Who is responsible for renting it?
- Will the contractor be using fuel that you have on property? If so, who will record and pay for fuel usage?

"Sometimes courses are too quick to act and immediately hire someone else to do the work that they may be capable of completing in house" Before the financial negotiations are settled, it is smart to know exactly what elements of the project the contractor is responsible for and what components staff will provide. A simple list of the work to be done out of house and in house is crucial for all parties to understand. This is also a good time to attach a timeline within the course calendar of general estimates for each phase to be completed. without an outside contractor?

- Is the staff going to be organized enough to work with and around a contractor so both parties do not get in each other's way?
- Does staff have the skill and expertise to tackle the project without too much on the job training?
- Are we truly able to dedicate enough time to the project



If the contractor is charging by the hour, it is also a good time to calculate tasks your staff can execute and complete in house. However, be careful not to over involve your staff and take them away from the daily maintenance of the course. A creative and resourceful manager excels in being able to schedule and balance course maintenance and projects. He or she will often utilize slower times of seasonal turf growth to ramp up projects with staff. It can be tough especially when wrapping up projects in spring and sometimes contractors are in high demand during the shoulder seasons that the Midwest provides. Planning ahead is always the key to getting the job done and dealing with our weather.

Know Your Staff

When taking part in any project, we want our crews to preform like a well-oiled machine. This happens though our organization of materials, personnel and timing. We must be ready to problem solve and adapt on the fly – a trait all successful people in our industry posses. As managers, we need to stay well ahead of progress in planning daily tasks and having the correct supplies, materials, and equipment ready. It is nice to be able to tackle improvements out of the golfing season so that project can take priority and the attention instead of general course maintenance.

Elements of knowing your staff at project time may include:

• What are we capable of doing as an entire team? With or

Mike Reardon begins to cut drainage trenches to tie the new part of the green into the existing drain lines.

to complete our portion of the work?

Case Study

Problem: The 24th green at Black Sheep has a severe breaking slope on west half, reducing the amount of pin placements that can be fair to play.

Solution: Reconfigure the green, taking it from its original oval design to a kidney shaped green and reduce its slope.

Additional work to complete: Remove large and hard to maintain waste bunker near approach and replace with three smaller bunkers; contour approach around the green. In addition, one bunker will be added behind the green. The completed projected will enhance the players perspective and playability of the golf hole by making it more of a risk/reward par five.

Responsibilities

David Esler (Black Sheep Course Architect):

• Redesign hole with influence from Club President and management staff.

Mike Riordan (Outside Contractor):

Perform all excavation including rough and finish grading



to the addition of the green complex

- Trench and tie in drainage for green and new bunker complexes.
- Grade new approach where waste bunker was while excavating in new bunker complexes
- Will provide heavy equipment and survey tools to preform work to be done.
- Utility carts and hand tools that he may need will be provided by Black Sheep

Black Sheep Staff

- Provide root zone mix for new section of green to be built. Old sand from existing green will be used in a future tee expansion project..
- Assist Mike Riordan in laying drainage and provide materials.
- Trench, lay out and install irrigation to contour around new section of green and approach.
- Cut and remove sod from old section of green then lay it on new section of green
- Utilize bentgrass sod from a section of fairway that is to be shortened and lay it on new approach.
- Lay fescue sod in rough and bunker surrounds from fescue section of driving range that will be seeded at a later date.
- Add liner and sand to bunkers.

Time Line

The project started in late November of 2012 after the course closed for the season. It was still in progress in spring of 2013. A temporary green was placed 100 yards short of the approach making the hole a par 4 during construction and grow-in. Utilizing the expertise of our outside contractor and knowing exactly what we had to do, we were able to open the putting surface for play in early June. The approach needed a couple of weeks more to mature. After a heavy topdressing and solid growth offered by favorable conditions and a well-planned and executed project, the whole complex was complete.



Staff carefully moves sod from existing section of the green to the new portion. Green was constructed using the California method of putting green construction.



Black Sheep staff topdressing seams on new sod and preparing new bunkers for liner installation during the early spring of the year.

After measuring proper irrigation head spacing, the staff reroutes lines and places piping for each head.

Common Questions to Ask When Contracting Work

Get a few estimates that lists products, materials, labor costs and a timetable. Choose from the professionals you know or have gualified references and are



established.

Request proper licensing (not many contractors need a professional license in Illinois).

Request proof of insurance (general liability, property damage, and workman's compensation).

Find out if they plan to sub contract out any portion of the project.

Obtain a contract as agreed upon by both parties. It should include:

- Names and addresses of both parties
- Estimated start and completion date
- Payment schedule for contractor, sub-contractors and suppliers
- Obligations for all necessary permits
- How change orders will be handled and approved
- Detailed list of materials
- Any warranties offered or extended
- Oral promises should be added to the written contract
- Cancellation clause
- If permits are needed for the project, let the contractor get them.

Make final payments when work is completed to your satisfaction.

- This should include:
- All work meets the standards spelled out in the contract
- You have written warranties for materials and workmanship
- You have proof that all subcontractors and suppliers have been paid
- Job site is clean to your satisfaction

•

You have inspected and approved the completed work

The successful project as pictured this June was a combination of outsourcing and utilizing the staff at Black Sheep Golf Club for a portion of the work. Three new bunkers replaced a large, difficult to maintain waste bunker, and the green was reshaped and softened to open up more cupping locations for all to enjoy.

The new area of putting green offers a more gentle cupping location that can be used throughout the whole year. Fescue sod was taken from the area adjacent to the fairway (in background) to cover the old bunker cavity in foreground.



Last year we shared with our readers the dangers of blue-green algae in our surface waters. Though most of us know the dangers of drinking water directly from these bodies, some of our beloved course animals may like to take a nip or two throughout the day. Sadly, some have died from the ingestion of a specific toxin caused by some algae. The Illinois EPA has launched a new website (the outcome from a public meeting of allied groups and stakeholders this past winter) to help manage this problem that really became apparent during last year's drought and low lake and pond levels. The following is from a release from the Illinois EPA.

Whith summer in full swing, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Director Lisa Bonnett today announced a new effort to help protect the public against harmful algal blooms that are being found in lakes and streams across Illinois. IEPA has just launched a new website (http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/algal-bloom/ index.html) with information about how to spot blooms, who to contact with a problem and what can be done to protect yourself and others. "With so many people enjoying the summer on the water, everyone needs to know what to look for to avoid algal blooms," said Director Bonnett. "It's important to be cautious and report blooms and not risk exposure that could harm yourself or animal."

What are algal blooms?

Algal blooms are made of dense groups of blue-green algae which are naturally occurring microscopic organisms. They are frequently found in and grow well in shallow bodies of water like lakes and streams that get a lot of sunshine. Its strong color can often make it look like the water is painted pea-green or blue-green, or a reddish-brown. It may also appear with scum or foam on the water surface.

How can they be harmful?

While not always a danger, blue-green algal blooms are

capable of producing toxins that could harm the health of humans and animals when they've been exposed to large enough quantities. Exposure can come from recreational pursuits like swimming, boating, tubing and other activities where you come into contact with or could swallow the water.

The most common kind of algal toxin found in Illinois is microcystin, which can cause rashes, asthma-like symptoms, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, liver damage or severe neurotoxicity depending on the length and level of exposure.

Water monitoring done by IEPA over the years has frequently shown detections of microcystin but concentrations were generally below levels of concern. However, monitoring during last year's drought has shown concentrations that can be harmful if not addressed. In 2012, one northern Illinois lake had a microcystin concentration more than 1,500 times greater than acceptable World Health Organization Guidance values. Other lakes and rivers are also showing concentrations significantly above acceptable levels.

What precautions should be taken?

Don't swim, water ski, or boat in areas where the water is discolored or if there is foam, scum or mats of algae on the water. If you come in contact with water that might have a harmful algal bloom, rinse off with fresh water as soon as possible. Don't



Long strands of green algae, duckweed, and filamentous macro-algae are sometimes confused with blue-green algal blooms as duckweed pictured above.

let pets or livestock swim in or drink from areas where water is discolored, or if there is foam, scum or mats of algae on the water. Don't let pets (especially dogs) lick the algae off their fur after swimming in water with an algal scum. Don't irrigate lawns or golf courses with pond water that looks or has a bad odor.

Don't drink the water. Boiling the water will not make it safe to drink.

The presence or non-presence of algal toxins can only be determined by lab tests. If you believe a body of water is showing signs (strong discoloration or odor) of a harmful algal bloom, cease recreational activities on the water and visit the IEPA's website (http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/algal-bloom/index.html). You can report the bloom to IEPA by taking photographs of the bloom, filling out a Bloom Report form (available on the website), and emailing both to IEPA at EPA.HAB@illinois.gov. IEPA will work with local authorities on a case by case basis to appropriately handle the situation. One potential remedy is the closing of the lake to the public until the algae concentrations go down.

IEPA will be working with other state agencies to address harmful algae blooms.

For more information and more pictures of what algae blooms can look like, visit (http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/algalbloom/index.html) or contact Barb Lieberoff in IEPA's Office of Community Relations at 217-524-3038.

Identifying Blue-Green Algal Blooms

When blue-green algae reproduce quickly and bloom, there are physical signs. The blooms can look like blue or green paint spilled into the water, thick puffy blue or green foams on the surface of the water (scums), or swirling colors beneath the surface of the water. A blue-green algal bloom will coat an object when it is dipped into the water. Long strands of green algae, duckweed, and filamentous macro-algae are sometimes confused with blue-green algal blooms. Blue-green algae blooms can also have distinct smells. They can smell grassy or septic, and in some cases the smell can cause nausea. These algal blooms can accumulate near the shoreline of lakes and can move based on wind and wave action in the lake.



The presence of algal toxins can only really be determined by lab tests. However, if you see algae that looks like blue and or green paint spilled on the water, or one that has a strong swampy odor, don't hesitate to contact the IEPA. As pictured to the left, a bloom of blue green algae, notice the swirling colors and foam.





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AUGUST 2013

Dates to Remember

August 13 - 7th Annual Sunshine Through Golf Foundation White Sox Fundraiser at U.S. Cellular Field in Chicago, IL.

August 19 - University of Illinois Turfgrass Field Day in Urbana, IL.

August 20 - Deadline for applications to attend the fifth Syngenta Business Institute on the campus of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

August 26 - MAGCS monthly meeting at Crystal Lake Country Club, Steve VanAcker host.

September 16 – 10th Annual Wee One Foundation Outing at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI

September 16 - Deadline to apply for Green Site status through the Groundwater Foundation.

September 9-15 - PGA Tour's BMW

Championship at Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake

Forest, IL, Chad Ball, CGCS and Connor Healy hosts.

October 7 - MAGCS monthly meeting at Chicago Highlands Club in Westchester, IL, Michael Heustis and William Sharp hosts.

October 15 – Deadline for GCSAA's Excellence in Government Relations Award nominations.

Welcome to the following new MAGCS members, and the best of luck to them!

Mr. Patrick Karnick, Wadsworth Golf Construction, Class A Mr. John Jensen, Reinders, Inc., Class E Mr. Paul Burger, Green Source, Inc., Class E



lines, and I think he might be

THE PLANET.

related to Zorro. But I'm straying from my point. This is what I want

to do to EVERY SINGLE GNAT ON

"I wanna pull a Dennis Farina -may he rest in peace - and blowtorch

'em."

You know what? I'm still not satisfied—I want complete

annihilation of the species. I

demand nothing less than this.

Please forgive this vent. This is a gnat. This is how my guy Hector keeps gnats from going in his mouth. And nose. And eyes. And ears. Hector doesn't mow very straight



Come to think of it, that isn't quite severe enough



I want to do the ol' Al Pacino thing and take a FLAMETHROWER to 'em.

Ok. I'm better now.



Congratulations to Ed Greve of Highland Woods Golf Club, who was named runner-up in TurfNet's 2013 Technician of the Year contest presented by Toro.

This month on the 12th, Billy Casper Golf will host the 3rd Annual World's Largest Golf Outing benefitting the Wounded Warrior Project. One hundred percent of donations and five percent of every entry fee will be donated to WWP. Last year over \$400,000 was raised, and this year's goal is to exceed the half-million mark. The Chicago-area courses participating are Chick Evans (**Daniel Lopez** supt.), George Dunne (**Jeremy Turton** supt.), Highland Woods (**Dan Stahl** supt.), Indian Boundary (Ryan Gilmore supt.), Orchard Valley (**Matt Senatra** supt.), River Oaks (**Jerry Cotton** supt.), Waters Edge (**Jay Lemanski** supt.), and Whisper Creek (**Brian Broman** supt.). Nice work for a great cause, guys!

Congratulations to Laura and **Craig Shepherd** on the birth of their baby boy Holden Alexander Shepherd on July 6th. Holden was a healthy, happy 8 lbs. and 21" long, and has already begun running with daddy.



"Poopy diaper! change me dammit!"

Wanna win a million bucks the hard way? All you need to do is make a hole in one. From the edge of a cliff where you hit down to a green a mere 1,410 feet below. To try, you need to get yourself to South Africa. Next, you have to go to the Legends Golf and Safari Resort (two things that go together like chocolate and peanut butter) and plop down \$1,060 which includes the helicopter ride to the tee, a souvenir cap, glove and DVD of you playing the hole. After that, it's pretty simple—walk to the edge of the cliff, tee up and hit your ball, and wait the 30 seconds it takes for it to land, and hope it

goes in (they'll radio up with the results). FYI, nobody has done it, but Padraig Harrington HAS made par on the hole.



John Deere Golf and the First Tee have launched a "Careers in Golf" program, whereby teen-aged participants at three First Tee chapters (locally held this month at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club in Lemont) get the chance to explore several aspects of a career in golf course management and the science of agronomy. The other two locations are TPC Boston (held in June), TPC Sugarloaf near Atlanta in July. Two participants from each chapter get to shadow a superintendent preparing for a PGA Tour event, meaning Chad Ball at Conway Farms will have a couple of extra helpers next month. This program is part of Deere's \$1 million commitment to the First Tee. If you'd like to help out, please contact Luke Cella.

This story makes no sense, since it is blatantly obvious that smart people do not play golf. The headline—"Mensa Members Share Their Top Ten Favorite Golf Courses"—says it all. I thought **Chuck Barber** was the only Mensa member who golfed, but I was wrong. Their favorite? Augusta National. Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton (**Scott Bordner** supt.) was 7th on the list, so our area has that feather in its cap.

Another group of smart folks has come out with its top courses list, too. The American Society of Golf Course Architects posted its Top 100 Golf Courses in the latest issue of Golf Course Architecture magazine, and it included a couple of tracks from our area. Chicago Golf was ranked 42nd, while Shoreacres (Brian Palmer supt.) was 74th. Dave Groelle, CGCS, Tim White, and Brian York should also be proud, as their courses NAMES were also included in the list; however, I'm going to go out on a limb and guess that the Royal Melbourne, Prestwick, and St. Andrews cited were not the ones in our neck of the woods.

We've found it! Something as old as **Eddie Braunsky, CGCS** that still works on the golf course.



- Q: What is **Vince Dodge's** favorite band?
- A: The Wilderness at Fortune Bay City Rollers.

Ever wonder why **Eric Reed** doesn't make deliveries on Sundays in the fall? I've heard through the grapevine he's been moonlighting with the Stillers (aka Pittsburgh Steelers) delivering the spheroid to receivers and tight ends.

You wouldn't use a race car to measure green speed.

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MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Here's a really cool story from **Scott Witte, CGCS**—"The Cantigny Golf Bee Barometer Project" has gone global. What began as a modest gift of three bee suits and two smokers (me either) to an ambitious school in Ghana, Africa, has become the start of an exciting relationship with student beekeepers intent on self-sustaining practices for their school. The Awutu-



Winton Bee Club, though under-resourced, is passionate about honeybees and their ability to provide a profit center for sustenance. The kids have written very eloquent thank you letters to Cantigny, and the project is a complete and far-



reaching success.

Our monthly Dan Dinelli, CGCS item features his latest hobby. We all know that Dan has many passions outside of the turf industry,

from snowmobiling to falconry. Now Dan can proudly call himself a Walrus Whisperer as well.

Actually, Dan got to chat with Craig Stadler after his victory at the Encompass Championship about the 18-footer the



Walrus made on the final hole to get the win at North Shore Country Club on June 23rd. By the way, great work by Dan, J.D. Dinelli, the NSCC staff and all the MAGCS volunteers for putting on one heckuva show for that event—the tournament was fantastic, and the course received nothing but raves from all the players.

These two guys met in 1958 at Bob O'Link Golf Club. **Bruce Williams** was 8 years old and "Speedy" Lipari was a sales rep with Upjohn. They are still enjoying golf together 55 years later at Saticoy Country Club in California where Kurt Desiderio was their host.



Speaking of a group getting together, the ITF and Northwest Illinois Golf Course Superintendents held a meeting at Short Hills Country Club in Moline this past month. A few of our members reunited apparently on the feeder course from the quad cities to the MAGCS. Pictured below: Mike and **Matt**



Senatra, Jeff VerCautren, and Shane Ritchie. Not pictured, but made the leap from Short Hills: Mike Vercautren, Jeff Scott, Dave Behm, Jeff Plasschaert, and Jake Mendoza, anyone else work at this gateway club?

Our members are finding ways to get the word out, as evidenced by the various publications with their stories in them. From TurfNet's Blog Aggregator we heard from Steve Cook, CGCS, MG at Oakland Hills Country Club in Michigan about his hands-on green committee meetings where members learn to change cups, rake bunkers, mow and roll greens, and other procedures we do on a daily basis in our jobs. Shane **Conroy** at Park Ridge Country Club blogged about irrigation system leaks during wet periods (like we experienced the first six months of this year), while Tim Christians chimed in on his favorite new toy, the TDR moisture sensor. In Golf Range magazine, Mistwood Golf Club's (Ben Kelnhofer supt.) new Performance Center was featured on the cover, which is just one of the many improvements that have been recently made to the facility. Also, in GCM, Ed Nangle, Ph.D, the new Director of Turfgrass Program at Golf House was featured in the Insider section (pg. 38) of the July, 2013 issue.



The Melrose Leadership Academy offers the opportunity for any Class A member who has been so for at least 5 years and who hasn't attended the GCSAA Education Conference in the past 5 years to attend for free. Up to 20 scholarships will be awarded to qualified individuals provided they fill out the application and submit it by September 15th. They even throw in the hotel and some pocket money, so if you haven't gone to the Show in a while, this may be your ticket. Go to www.eifg. org and click on the Education tab or to www.gcsaa.org to find the Melrose Leadership Academy application tab.

It was recently announced that Richard Konzem, GCSAA's Chief Operating Officer since October, 2011 has resigned his position. Chief Executive Officer Rhett Evans made the announcement, stating, "I appreciate Richard's contributions to the association's operations and its members. We will miss him as a GCSAA team member, and wish him much success in his future endeavors."

There have been some schedule changes for the 2014 Education Conference and trade show set for February in Orlando. The Education Conference will be held Monday through Thursday, Feb. 3-6, while the trade show will take place on Wednesday and Thursday the 5th and 6th. The USGA Session—always a fan favorite—will become the General Session, taking place on Thursday the 6th at 8:00 a.m. The Golf Championship will begin one day earlier than last year, with no activities taking place on Friday. By the way, the Midwest Hospitality Reception will take place on Wednesday, February 5 at Miller's Ale House on International Drive.

Nominations are open until October 15th for GCSAA's Excellence in Government Relations Award. Forms can be accessed at www.gcsaa.org.

As part of GCSAA's Chapter Outreach Grant Program, MAGCS has received a \$1,500 grant to develop a non-member



golf industry show

digital version of On Course magazine. The idea is to communicate the value of our chapter and its members to other related organizations and interested individuals. There were a great many applicants--\$37,000 was requested from a pool of \$15,000—and MAGCS is very fortunate to have been selected.

On June 19th, Randall Oaks Golf Club and superintendent **Mike Sprouse** hosted the 13th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing. The event, which raises money for both the MAGCS and the Kane County Farm Bureau scholarship funds, honors its namesake John Buck, one of the greatest men ever to grace our association.



Randall Oaks Superintendent, Mike Sprouse

The day was beautiful, and the

golf course was in tremendous condition, and as usual, just about every hole had some type of side event for golfers to participate in, from bags to ball bazookas. Many thanks to Mike and his crew and the rest of the Randall Oaks staff, to all the lovely volunteers who ran the games, and to J.W. Turf for another great time. Pictures on next page.



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Anticipating Acidovorax

Dr. Rick Latin, Turfmetrics

Summer has arrived, and so far, our weather has been a welcome departure from the past 3 years. The cool wet April and mild month of May were just what the doctor ordered in terms of growing grass. That's not to say the weather could not turn hot and dry during the months ahead. Before we get too far into the season of disease, I thought it would be worthwhile to give some thought to the threat of Acidovorax for 2013.

will not review the history – especially because it was discussed in a GCM article in July 2012 and repeated in a GCI paper this past March. However, I am interested in reviewing some of the facts involved in this dilemma—with hopes that a solution will become obvious in terms of "doing more with less".

The discussion should focus on two questions. The first question involves the presence of bacteria on our golf courses - and the second question depends on the answer to the first.

Question 1. How did Acidovorax become established on my



A symptom of Acidovorax was reported to create etiolated tillers on creeping bentgrass. Photo credit: Derek Settle.

putting green?

Discussion 1. There are a limited number of ways that inoculum becomes established. It is either introduced (exotic) or it is local (endemic). A couple of the exotic explanations (bacteria introduced with thunderstorms or on golfers' shoes) are not vey plausible, given what we know about the transmission of bacterial pathogens. A third possibility is the introduction of Acidovorax on infested grass seed. Many bacterial pathogens causing crop diseases are introduced with contaminated seed - so this is a really interesting possibility. However, none of the empirical evidence points to contaminated seed as the source in this case. The overwhelming likelihood is that Acidovorax is a natural part of the microbial population that inhabits root zones of our putting greens (and tee boxes, and fairways, etc.). In fact, a paper published in the early 2000's demonstrated that Acidovorax was present in all golf course soil samples tested. It

"Since there are tens of thousands of species of microbes in every gram of soil, the likelihood that Acidovorax is among them is high and the evidence is strong." makes total sense. Since there are tens of thousands of species of microbes in every gram of soil, the likelihood that Acidovorax is among them is high - and the evidence is strong.

So, let's stipulate that the pathogen is endemic. It is there today, as it was in 2010, and as it was in 1990 (for example) and always. Given that conclusion, the second question involves what has happened between, say 1990, and now that caused the damage associated with Acidovorax?

Question 2. If Acidovorax was always part of my putting green, then why did I only see over the past 3 years?

Discussion 2. There are three likely explanations. 1) damage did occur, but was masked by other problems, 2) the past three summers were unusually hot and/or dry, and 3) our management practices changed. The likelihood that we simply did not recognize the damage is possible—but given the severity of damage allegedly associated with Acidovorax, I think that

Perhaps the recent outbreaks of Acidovorax are associated with a "perfect storm" of stressful management practices coinciding with stressful environmental conditions?

What does that mean in terms of the Acidovorax threat for 2013? Of course we cannot change the weather, but we might be able to adjust management practices to relieve turf stress, and perhaps avoid a flare up if the weather does turn awful.

The discussion too often turns to what can be applied to prevent or mitigate damage associated with Acidovorax. Despite my contention that we should be doing less (raise HOC, perhaps reduce PGR, and generally avoid management related stress) the issue of remedial treatments must be addressed. There are few constants for our consideration. Conventional fungicides are not effective against bacterial pathogens. Antibiotics may reduce pathogen populations, but they are not legal and many trials show no effect. There is no evidence that biorationals (e.g.,



explanation is weak compared to the other two. Also, there are no confirmed outbreaks in the US prior to 2009. Heat and/or drought prevailed in the eastern half of the US during the summers of 2010, 2011, and 2012. We know that this is a "stress" pathogen. The heat/drought stress helped create conditions for this opportunistic bacterial pathogen to parasitize plants to such an extent that it caused serious damage to turf.

There is no argument here, but some of us can recall other summers when heat and drought may have been worse (consider 1988 and 1995). Therefore, the argument that weather alone predisposed turf to infection is not as strong as we need to draw valid conclusions. Perhaps our management practices contributed to that stress? How is creeping bentgrass managed today compared to 1990? In the search for firm and fast playing surfaces, putting greens are mowed much closer now than they were 25 years ago. We also use growth regulators to reduce clippings and help increase green speeds. We probably fertilize less, and, during the construction boom of the 1990s and beyond, we adopted new creeping bentgrass cultivars that possess the dense, upright growth habit that requires aggressive grooming to reduce thatch accumulation - keeping playing surfaces firm. Other stress inducers include fungal root pathogens, nematodes, and factors that result in compaction.

As the bacteria continues to infect, patches of etiolated/chlorotic bentgrass become apparent as pictured above.

Zerotol and Rhapsody) have any effect and biostimulants may actually aggravate the condition. Some evidence from attempts to control bacterial diseases of crops indicate that copper hydroxide will slow the spread of bacterial disease but can also be very phytotoxic to plants.

For courses where the disease was confirmed (by an appropriate lab) in years past, and where remedial treatments are part of the plan for 2013, I think products with "plant health benefits" are worth trying. Whatever you might apply, do not expect a miracle because research results have been inconsistent. Also, better results probably will be achieved if you make every effort to relieve turf stress from an agronomic perspective. Finally, I strongly urge you to create a "check plot" - an area (the larger the better) of untreated turf that can serve as a basis for comparison. The only way to truly learn the benefit you gain from any product is to compare it with untreated turf.

Dr. Rick Latin is a Professor of Plant Pathology, Purdue University and the Principal of Turfmetrics, a golf course consulting company and a member of the Midwest.



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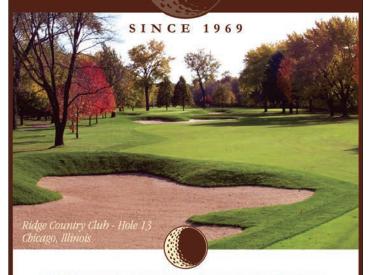
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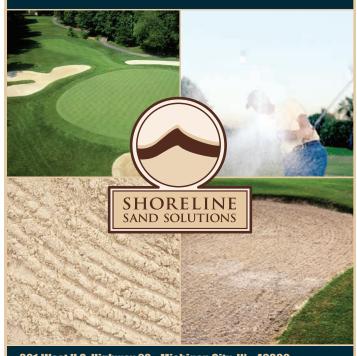


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Luke Cella, MAGCS

The Midwest was just awarded a grant through the GCSAA Chapter Relations Committee. We've always known that *On Course* was the best public relations tool that we have and now we are going to share it with the world....minus our member content. What does that mean?

ince we are offering *On Course* digitally, we thought it would be great to share each issue on our website. This entails creating an additional digital version of the magazine each month, posting it on the website and then getting the word out to all our allied associations (CDGA, IL PGA, GCCMA, Owners, and Players) that another issue has been published. We'll be able to track readership and see how it goes. With costs to create a dual version, posting and hosting covered by the grant and a match from MAGCS, we will be using our monthly magazine each month outside the bounds of our normal readership. As it stands now, we print and send out the magazine to over 750 individuals each month. Most recipients are members with some select industry people. Now we won't be limited by printing and annual rising postage costs to increase our readership and make more people aware of the Midwest, the members and the golf courses held in high esteem around the world. The really nice part of the digital format, is that we can track how many people look at each issue - something we'll follow up on in the future.

Each month, we'll create a digital non-member issue. This issue won't contain BullSheet and other privileged member content and will be offered on the homepage of our website. As a trial, we'll see where it goes. I think we'll be surprised with the outcome.



Scholars Awarded

One daughter, and two sons of MAGCS members were recognized as winners in the Midwest Scholarship Contest this year. There were 14 applicants, all who showed outstanding achievements and three who excelled a bit more than the rest. All applicants are judged by their completed applications; each broken down into the following categories:

School and Community – school achievements, positions of leadership, activities within the school, activities outside the school, volunteerism, awards and grades.

Essay – each applicant is required to write an essay. This year the question posed to the high school applicants was: What do you consider to be the single most societal problem? Why?

We asked college applicants to address the following for their essay topic: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." (Nelson Mandela) Discuss what this quotation means to you, and how you believe your education will help you and others in the future.

Quality and Completion- the overall application is judged for neatness, uniformity, clarity, and that directions are followed. The application must be complete (applicants must send in their current transcripts and in the case of high school seniors, a letter of acceptance to college). Because we award three scholars each year, the category with the majority of applicants receives two and other one. Of the 14 applicants this year, 10 are in college and 4 graduating high school seniors.

Ryan Hall, son of retired MAGCS AA member Phillip Hall is continuing his studies at Catholic University of America in Washington D.D. Ryan is pursuing a degree in Architecture and expects to graduate in the spring of 2016. Ryan feels: "Education is a gateway- and it is through that gateway that we are able to go out and change the world.....Education allows us to overcome just about anything, including racism, stereotypes, and poverty....Education is something we can all participate in...."

Bobby Dunteman, son of MAGCS E member Bob Dunteman is beginning his sophomore year at Iowa State University this fall. He is studying Mechanical Engineering which included an internship this summer at Kinze Manufacturing, an agricultural equipment manufacturer, in Williamsburg, IA. Bobby believes, "the most influential



MAGCS will visit Chicago Highlands in October, Chicago's newest golf course bordered by I-294 to the west. However, you don't even know it because of the extensive berms that block all views of the roadway and suprisingly most of the noise.

advancements in society have come from individuals and organizations that all obtained extensive knowledge through education or training....Mandela's quote has taught me that education is the method to obtain knowledge. Knowledge that is obtained and applied by a person has great potential to have monumental impacts on society as a whole."

Our high-school winner this year is the daughter of MAGCS A member Vince Dodge, Kelsey Dodge. Kelsey has been accepted to attend Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. Kelsey has been actively involved in the arts during her high-school career, notably the choir, theatre and editor of her yearbook. She hopes to use her artistically inclined skills to bring about creative change to society. Kelsey fears that gun violence is our largest societal problem and continues to worsen. "What makes gun violence an even more atrocious problem within our country is the fact that a lot of victims are young. In 2009, 2,811 Americans under the age of 19 were killed by gun violence. An average of nearly eight American youth are killed everyday by guns."

Congratulations to our 2013 Scholarship Winners and thank you to all those that help to fund these endeavors: The John Buck Memorial Golf Outing and the individuals who contribute at our monthly meetings through raffles and also the Hospitality Reception. It makes a difference.

Monthly Meetings

We've got two great golf courses coming up on our schedule of events on opposite ends of the design spectrum – well at least the tree spectrum. I was fortunate enough to visit both this year (without my clubs, but camera) and hope you will be able to experience one or both as well. Crystal Lake Country Club and Steve Van Acker will host the Aug/Sept Meeting on August 26. This tree lined parkland course will test your ability to keep the ball in the fairway or keep it low when punching out from beneath the surrounding canopies. Chicago Highlands and Michael Heustis will host the October meeting, with a new golf format, on our newest golf course in the area. You'll be delighted by the tranquility Chicago Highlands offers, and of course, challenged by its' design. Michael and Chicago Highlands will be the subject of next month's Super-n-Site, but don't wait till then to mark your calendar for October 7. The golf committee is arduously working on sites for 2014 and beyond for our monthly meetings. If you are interested in hosting an event, please contact Justin VanLanduit at Briarwood Country Club

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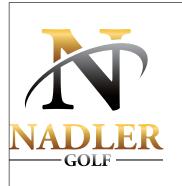
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