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Ron McCarthy will host the Midwest July meeting at Edgewood Valley Country Club. The Dom Grotti Championship will be conducted during the event on July 22. Image of the sixth hole courtesy of Pirello Digital Imaging.

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The ultimate cleaner Cathartes aura, common name Turkey Vulture. It means "purifier bird" in Latin and gets it common name from its resemblance to the male Wild Turkey. Check out Midwest Breezes on page 24.

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Midwest Nine Holer, St. Charles Country Club

Midwest Family Night Picnic, Cougar Baseball Game

7/22 Midwest July Meeting, Edgewood Valley Country Club

Midwest August Meeting, Crystal Lake Country Club

11/14 61st Midwest Turf Clinic, Medinah Country Club

1/22/14 January Meeting & Wee One Fundraiser, Seven Bridges

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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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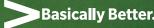
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Luke Cella, CGCS MAGCS

A Time to Read

The written word has been at the heart of capturing and disseminating human knowledge. Funny enough, that word "disseminating" is aptly found in the purpose statement of the Midwest.

The statement is a long, wordy sentence that captures the intent of our founding members to band together as an Association. It is preserved in Article 1 of the Bylaws and each time I read through it, I take away another meaning behind each carefully depicted phrase and sentence. That is what the written word allows you to do, it gives you the freedom and time, to digest and ponder, thoughts of the author(s), and how they apply to your state of mind and to your place in the world with those around you.

As we progress with e-readers, tablets, and other digital devices it is makes me wonder if the value of the written word will decrease. As the quantity of content goes up will the quality of content become diminished? It is hard to think this won't happen. However, some surveys suggest people that read, now read more because of access to the written word through their tablets, phones and other devices. The results from just a few quick online searches reveal that 15-25% of book sales will shift to digital format by 2015 – this doesn't seem to be a huge problem for publishers because people will still pay for a book, whether it is printed or downloaded. It is the newspaper and magazine sectors that continue to regress and scuffle with the challenge of free/subscription based content. Some people are willing to pay for this content, but it has to be really good (valuable, original and only found in one place) – such as financial information, investigative journalism, or sometimes local news. For now, in these structures, the digital format is an additional distribution channel, much like the digital version of On Course. The digital version of On Course is just that, a version of the printed copy so many of you enjoy thumbing through each month.

True evolution to digital formats for newspapers and magazines will impact the way we write. Think about it. Creating long term value will not come from simply formatting magazines into a flipbook type format but will come from thinking in digital words and terminology. The way I was trained to write was to be succinct and descriptive, creating a framework for a picture in my reader's mind from the words I chose to use together. By using a common language I am able to express my thoughts and link them to my reader's thoughts to create a shared reference point. Unseemly limitless, the combination of written words that one could place on a page will pale in comparison to the new way of writing that the digitized word is evolving into with the formats currently being offered and ones to be invented.

There are a few different digital formats that are being defined today:

- Hybrid. Written content that is cross-bred with other media. This format is most popular in digital versions of magazines where a story may be enhanced by a linked video.
- Nonlinear. Do you use a blog or news complier that through an algorithm will select articles from among hundreds and be fed to your reader? This format offers very diverse content and a new reading experience.
- Interactive. This formats needs your input to reach a conclusion. Based upon your involvement (and not the ideas of the author) a conclusion will be drawn through a collaborative effort between the author and you, the reader.
- Social. The ability of a reader to immediately comment and provide feedback to an author and readers can communicate with one another has created a whole new ecosystem in which works will be produced.

I know there is hesitation that our imaginations will be weakened and eventually disappear from our cognitive makeup if every written word has some type of descriptive medium interlaced to it. However, the only thing that offers some respite is that the recording of our history as a race began with pictures on walls of caves and we still have our imaginations. I hope you enjoy your printed version of On Course.



Chuck Barber, St. Charles Country Club

PHOTO CREDITS: LUKE CELLA

Choosing a career in golf course management (at any level) does not provide an easy lifestyle. It could be safely assumed when the general public inquires about the career of a golf course management professional one of the initial questions would be "Do you get to play a lot of golf?"

If you're reading this article you've probably provided a much different answer than the person asking the guestion was expecting. As superintendents we choose a lifestyle that involves long hours, physical labor, exposure to the elements and work related stress that can come from multiple (and often unseen) angles. "The Godfather Part II" eloquently describes our decision

Relationships are very important to Dave Blomquist and his superintendent experience is invaluable to him and his customers in his role with Knox Fertizlier.

to begin or maintain a career in golf course management: "This is the life we've chosen".

Many of the individuals in our profession's support network frequently come from this same background. It is not necessary to have spent years as a superintendent or assistant to be in our industry's support network. However, several Class A, SM and C members have found their career paths have taken a turn in that direction. The reasons behind the change in career paths vary a great deal and On Course reached out to a small sample of these members to discover more about the change they made from the field to sales.

Troy Tietjens (try spelling that without asking twice) served as an assistant superintendent to MAGCS member Steve Cook CGCS, MG at Oakland Hills Country Club near Detroit from 2001 to 2005. Troy then started as the assistant superintendent at Skokie Country Club for Don Cross, CGCS until 2006. Troy found a home with Liebold Irrigation in 2006. He first started as an irrigation service technician in the Chicagoland area and has evolved into the sales manager for JW Turf in Hampshire. "My transition out of the assistant superintendent role was largely due to curiosity to try something different. I had always had an interest in irrigation and I also had a decent background and interest in electrical work. The opportunity with Leibold offered me a different direction but fell within the industry that I enjoyed so much. It also provided me opportunities to grow within the business and develop some truly great relationships with superintendents, and other industry professionals throughout the country. "

Jeff Leuzinger of Pearl Valley Organix grew up working for dear old dad, Peter Leuzinger, CGCS Retired, at St. Charles Country Club sweeping the shop floor and filling divots when he was but a lad. Jeff then went on to intern, be assistant superintendent and ultimately superintendent at Glen View Club from

1991 to 2003. The General Manager at Glen View Club at the time encouraged Jeff to strike out on his own as a small business owner and he did just that. He operated a landscape company and a small distribution company from 2003 to 2011. Jeff began with Pearl Valley in January of 2012. When asked, Jeff will tell you what he draws from the most from his years in the field in his new role in the industry. "Relationships: I want to treat people the way some of the best in the business treated me as a superintendent. The work ethic: being willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done and being willing and able to start over. Attitude: Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it."

Dave Blomquist, CGCS, spent more than twenty years as a superintendent at Naperville Country Club and Twin Orchard Country Club. Now working for Knox Fertilizer, Blomquist acknowledges there have been myriad changes. The most unexpected consequence for him has been the support he has received from different corners of the industry. "The generosity and support of friends always amazes me. People you don't really know, or thought you didn't know, show tremendous support."

It's not necessarily easier than being a superintendent but



There's a lot of windshield and travel time that often comes with sales postions.

there can be positive changes at home. "Life at home is so much better. I don't go home and worry about the heat, drought, rainfall and other stress related issues. I can actually relax and spend time with loved ones", says Joe Baert of Burris Equipment. Joe was an assistant superintendent at Merit Club in Libertyville for 3 years. Joe indicated stress played a factor in his switch to equipment sales. "I realized I was just too young to have that amount of stress in my life."

The switch to sales might seem like you'll get a great deal of your life back (weekends, holidays, etc) but that isn't necessarily the case. Dave Blomquist goes on to say, "There is more time to be with your family on the weekends but there is a great deal more out of town travel, which balances out the equation."

Jeff Leuzinger agrees. "With children, the time gained on the weekend is taken during the week at the dinner table or at the basketball game." Travel is just one consideration when pursuing a career in the sales or support component of the golf industry.



Travel and late nights can impact free-time and watching your kids events during the work week.

Troy Tietjens has this advice to anyone considering a move into a different industry role. "Good Luck! It is a big decision to make and every individual will have their own circumstances and reasons to make a transition like this. Take the time to really evaluate your decision and talk with other individuals that have made the change to the specific area you are looking into. Be prepared to evaluate achievements differently. There tends to be a more visual sense of achievement when in an assistant superintendent role, such as green speeds, course details and all those visual things that you can be proud of. Sales achievements and service achievements are a lot different and a person thinking of making that change needs to be aware of that. The achievements are just as rewarding but vastly different."

Expectations are also something to be aware of when considering a sales or support position. Joe Baert explains, "Be sure



Achievements in sales are tied to moving products out the door. It is a measurement that not everyone likes or can handle.

exactly what the expectations are for that position and go for it."

With any new venture comes surprises and this new, undiscovered country is no different. For some, the amount of travel



Troy volunteering at the Ryder Cup last September.

and the new found intimacy of airport concourses were unanticipated. For others, the amount of experience that is required in multiple financing avenues for equipment purchases has been difficult to overcome. Finally, one of the most unexpected outcomes is the change in how an individual lives their life at the most fundamental level.

Dave Blomquist explains this challenge. "The biggest hurdle is accepting the fact that you no longer manage a golf course. Everything you've trained for and lived for is gone. Your life rhythms change. You are no longer enjoying all of the challenges that makes green keeping magical."

Experience in the field can translate into success in sales and these individuals call on their training from working on golf courses every day. Joe Baert explains that "being able to relate to what a

superintendent or assistant is going through in the heat of the season. Utilizing past experiences to point out different approaches to problems has proven invaluable."

Dave Blomquist relies on positivity and a 'customer is always right' attitude to make the sale. "Dealing with end users is like dealing with members: they are always right. I never would have been able to deal with this philosophy had I not dealt with it as a superintendent."

Troy Tietjens credits his experiences at Oakland Hills and Skokie Country Club with providing him a strong base to build upon. "I was allowed to be a big part of every aspect of those operations and I was given freedom to succeed. These opportunities provided a great base for me to continue my learning

process as a young assistant superintendent along with obtaining the knowledge of equipment and irrigation which I still call upon today. It also enhanced my idea of what "service" is, which I have tried to carry on throughout my career in this industry."

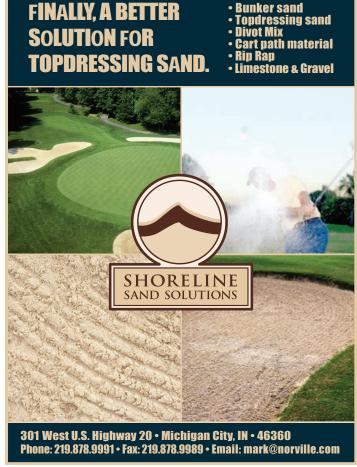
Regardless of how an individual comes to the support sector of the golf industry they have all called upon their training in the field to help them excel. Their new positions also allow them to still be a large part of the business that they grew up in. Superintendents all rely on their expertise as well to make the best decisions possible for each facility that they service. MAGCS is lucky to have industry veterans in a variety of support roles throughout the area.

"Dealing with end users is like dealing with members: they are always right. I never would have been able to deal with this philosophy had I not dealt with it as a superintendent."

Sunrises and sunsets are still appreciated but not from the same vantage point a golf course can offer.













lative Update

PHOTO CREDITS: LUKE CELLA

Luke Cella, MAGCS

One of the new quarterly updates coming from the Midwest will be our Legislative Update. By printing this column, we're hoping to keep our members informed of the local and national legislation that directs our actions both now and in the future.

Non Point Discharge Elimination System (NDPES) Permit Are you permitted?

As defined by the Illinois permit defines an operator as any person(s) associated with the application of a pesticide that results in a discharge to waters of the State that meets either or both the following two criteria:

- The person(s) with control over the hiring of a contract applicator, or making the decision to perform pesticide applications, including the ability to modify those decisions, or
- The person(s) who performs the application of pesticides

or who has day-to-day control of the pesticide application.

Remember, the General NDPES permit applies to operators (as defined above) who apply pesticides to or over waters of the State or at waters edge. These applications can be:

- Pesticide applications directly to or over waters of State, using products that are labeled for aquatic use.
- Applications of non-aquatic use pesticides to ditch banks or at waters edge.

In addition to the permit, a completed Notice of Intent must be filed with the State, either electronically or by mail. The NOI is due at least 14 days prior to commencement of discharge.

http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/permits/pesticide/coverage.

Each NOI that is received is posted online for 14 days, and after visiting the site, it looks like they are not taken down but accessible through the database.

Obtaining NPDES general permit coverage for pesticide application to waters of the State provides protection from being sued under the Clean Water Act. If you believe you may have any circumstance where you will be applying pesticides to waters of the State, you should apply for coverage under the general permit.

If a pesticide is applied to waters of the State, and no NPDES permit is obtained, both the landowner and the applicator may be held liable for a violation of the Clean Water Act.



FCC Narrowbanding Mandate

Are you Narrowbanded?

The FCC mandated that all licensees using 25kHz radio systems migrate to narrowband 12.5 kHz channels by January 1, 2013. Most older radio systems us the 25kHz-wide channels. The purpose of the change is to open up more channels by splitting the available frequencies in half. But this is only the half of it. Sometime in the future, this will happen again enabling and implementing equipment that will operate on the 6.25kHz channel bandwidth.

Many golf courses use hand held radios, although smart phones and texting are limiting some radio use, but not all. Handheld radios are one of the primary methods for golf course staffs to communicate not to mention irrigation systems, secu-

rity systems and the like that employ the use of radio to operate all need to be changed to narrowband. All equipment produced since 1997 should have narrowband mode and only requires reprogramming. Though the deadline has come an gone, the fines are not, up to \$16,000 per violation, or each day of continuation violation and up to \$112,500 for any single act or failure to act. If you have questions concerning your radios or your license, contact your dealer.

Obtaining NPDES general permit coverage for pesticide applications to the waters of the State provides protection from being sued under the Clean Water Act.

The section for preparer and translator certification is more prominent than in the old form, illustrating how important USCIS deems this information.

A line stating "Employer Completes Next Page" is placed on the bottom of the first page, with the intention to separate the responsibilities between the first page (for the employee) and second page (for the employer).

Section Two Changes (employer part to fill out)

- Additional and improved boxes have been added to the "List A" documents column. The new form allows for three documents, whereas the old form barely had room
- List B and List C columns added clearly distinguishable fields: Document Title, Issuing Authority, Document Number, and expiration date. These distinct fields
 - should help the employers complete the necessary information more effectively.
 - A line that very clearly asks the employer to provide the first day of employment information is added. The old form asks for this critical information as well but it was not as obvious.
 - Large boxes are added for employers to provide contact information about the company and the person who certifies the form. This helps employers avoid inadvertently missing any required contact information.

The new form is actually more user friendly and is an

improvement over the older form. Make sure you are now using it for all new hires and re-verifications.

New I-9 Employment Verification Form

On May 7, 2013 the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) sent out a notice to let all employers know that they must now use the revised Employment Eligibility Verification I-9 Form for all new hires and re-verifications. All employers are required to complete and retain a Form I-9 for each employee hired to work in the United States.

Employers should not complete a new Form I-9 for existing employees, however, if a properly completed Form I-9 is already on file. The new form can be found at uscis.gov/i-9

There are some differences, most notably; the new one is now two pages.

Other changes include:

- Employees may provide email addresses and telephone numbers. If the employee chooses not to provide such information, he/she may mark "N/A" on the form. However, the form itself does not indicate that these fields are optional; only the instructions do.
- A new line asking for the I-94 number has been added, making it easier for individuals with temporary work status to provide that information.
- Individuals providing an I-94 number also need to provide their passport number and country of issuance information.



The new I-9 Employment Verification Form has to be used for all new employees. It should be easier to use for everyone.

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The new Toro® Reelmaster® 3550-D floats effortlessly over contours in fairways and green surrounds. Featuring a productive 82" cutting width, turf friendly tires, a Tier 4 compliant engine, the superior traction of a Series/Parallel 3-wheel drive system, and a weight of less than 2,000 pounds*, the Reelmaster® 3550-D is the new lightweight fairway champion.

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^{*}Gross vehicle weight for standard configuration, including five 18 inch cutting units with no optional accessories.



JUNE 2013

Dates to Remember

June 19 – 13th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing at Randall Oaks Golf Club, Mike Sprouse host.

June 17-23 – Champions Tour's Encompass
Championship at North Shore Country Club, Dan
Dinelli, CGCS and J.D. Dinelli hosts.

July 8 -- GCSAA 2014 board nominations due.

July 15 -- GCSAA Distinguished Service Award nominations due.

July 22 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Edgewood Valley Country Club, **Ron McCarthy** host.

August 1 -- Lebanon Turf and GCSAA's Dog Days of Golf Calendar submissions due.

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.

One new member of MAGCS is **Dr. Ed Nangle**, the new Director of Turfgrass Programs at the CDGA. Ed arrived recently from the University of Florida where he worked with a range of products including fungicides,

pigments and herbicides as part of his post-doctoral research. He earned his PhD at the Ohio State University, and is interested in plant physiological responses to environmental stresses (something many of us can relate to). Let's help welcome Dr. Nangle to our neighborhood—he is here to help us.

Unfortunately for Dr.
Nangle, Tim Sibicky will
not be at Golf House
to help out. As of May
15th, Tim left the CDGA
and headed to Purdue
University to pursue his
PhD under Dr. Rick Latin's
quidance. We thank Tim

Sibicky for his fine work here, and wish him the best in his future.

Do you ever wonder just how they name all the different cultivars of plant material? I sure do. This one for example—why in the world would they call it a 'Spring Snow' crabapple?



Good news from the U.S. government (or the "guvmint" as some like to say). The latest report on the mysterious disappearance of honeybees points to a parasitic mite as the biggest factor behind colony collapse disorder—and downplays the role of pesticides that European officials are planning to ban. The EPA and USDA say there should be further research into the effects of neonicotinoids, but that studies so far have not shown them to be the biggest hazard facing the bees.

On the 13th of this month, 156 golfers will tee it up at Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, PA for a shot at winning the United States Open. The USGA reported that it received a record number of entries this year—over 9,800 attempted to qualify for the 113th Championship! Of the 9,860 entrants, only 52 players including 11 past champions are exempt in the field. Local qualifying rounds took place at 111 sites across the country in early to mid-May; Sectional qualifying took place at two international sites—Japan and England—and 11 US facilities. Just though I'd share that.

Oh, and this too: During one of those qualifying events--at The Club at Emerald Hills in Hollywood. FL--a woman drove her car onto the 11th hole during play. Nobody was hurt, but the USGA is now considering banning all drivers from its competitions henceforth. Ba-doom-boom.

Congratulations to **Elliott Dowling**, formerly golf course superintendent at Cress Creek Country Club, who is the new Director of Agronomy for USGA's Mid-Atlantic section. Elliott has very big shoes to fill—those of Stan Zontek, the man who was the longest-tenured USGA employee and the previous director of the mid-Atlantic region from 1985 until his death last August. We will miss you, Elliott, and wish you great success in

Philadelphia!



members were prominently featured in the April issue of Golfdom magazine. Tom Lively, CGCS had his mug in the Golfdom

for his new position.

Lively, CGCS had mug in the Golfdo Gallery section just prior to the Valero Texas Open held at his facility, TPC San Antonio. The turn of a few more pages to the section of the turn of tu

Elliott Dowling sports the USGA look

facility, TPC San Antonio. The turn of a few more pages to the feature article titled "Early to Rise," **Brian Palmer** of Shoreacres was one of six superintendents 30 years of age or younger to be highlighted.

Fred Behnke (right) is all laughs at the MAGCS April Meeting. Now we know why. Good luck Fred.



Mow...Plow...Both end in OW... The superintendent of this course reminds us all to MAKE SURE YOUR NEW EMPLOYEES CAN READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE JOB BOARD BEFORE SENDING THEM OUT TO WORK!!

Congratulations to **Fred Behnke**, **CGCS** on his official retirement after 31 years at Mt. Prospect Golf Club. Fred has long been an active MAGCS member, serving on its Board and ultimately as our President in 2004, and we hope he will use all his newly-acquired free time to join us at a few monthly meetings and keep us up to date on his retirement adventures. As Fred heads off into the sunset, **Darin Douglas** takes the reins for the next 31 or so years. Congratulations, and the best of luck to both men!

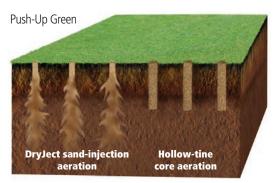


There is nothing else like DryJect[™] for improving greens and fairways.

The research backs it up.

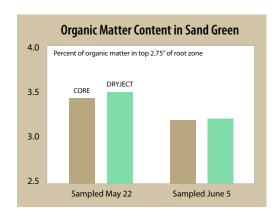
Study #1 Key Findings

- No significant difference in organic matter control between DryJect and core aeration
- Firmer surface with less root zone compaction below 2" depth



3" x 2.5" spacing

2.5" x 2.5" spacing with standard .5" hollow tines



Organic Matter (report quote)

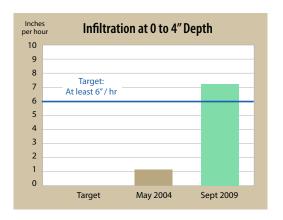
"There was no significant difference in organic matter control between DryJect and core aeration."

Research performed at North Olmsted Golf Club, North Olmsted, Ohio, Matt Welch Superintendent.

Research conducted by Dr. Ed McCoy, Ohio State University.

Study #2 Key Findings

- After a 5-year program, the DryJect-treated green shows greatly improved infiltration, air porosity and water retention
- A key variable in the improvements is the lower percentage of organic matter in the top 4"



Infiltration Rate (report quote)

"Green #3's current infiltration rate at 7.04 in/hr, which has improved dramatically since 2004, is very good for a 1st tier (0-4 in.) of an older sand-based or push-up green."

Research performed from May 2004 to September 2009, at Philadelphia Country Club, Mike McNulty Superintendent. Research conducted by ISTRC.

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MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Dan Dinelli or is it Leo Rossi? (No relation to Frank, although that is Dan's first name?)

Since he's already going to kill me for the unflattering photos of him in the May issue, why not just pile on? I can't help but wonder how Dan finds the time to do all he does at North Shore Country Club, enjoy his many and varied hobbies, AND act in just about every mob movie ever made. There truly is no end to his talents.

Golf Digest, with support from the USGA and the PGA of America, is launching an initiative to support more nine-hole rounds. The new "Time for Nine" campaign is a fun and creative way to start promoting the nine-hole round of golf as a complete and enjoyable experience that is consistent with the traditions of playing the game. According to the USGA, nine-hole rounds are fully compatible with both the Rules of Golf and the USGA Handicap System. I'm a big fan--nine holes is plenty enough abuse for any given day.

Hopefully you did the "Chicago thing" and voted early and often for GCSAA Most Valuable Technician award finalist Tim Johnson of Arrowhead Golf Club and Geneva Golf Club. TJ was one of three finalists amongst scores of candidates to be considered for the prestigious MVT award. Voting closed on the 31st of May, and the results will soon be announced. Good luck Tim--you certainly deserve it!

July 8th marks the deadline for nominations for the 2014 Board of Directors. If you or someone you know are



interested in serving on the mother ship, give Luke Cella a call and let him know so MAGCS can submit the nomination.

Do you know someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the superintendent profession? Nominate them for GCSAA's Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award by the 15th of July--individuals must be nominated by a GCSAA member, an affiliated chapter, or a qualified golf association.

South Side Party

MAGCS members and ITF members alike were fortunate to have had the opportunity to experience two of the South Side's true gems in a two-week span. The MAGCS May meeting was held at Calumet Country Club on May 30th, with Matt Harstad and company hosting--and THIS time the weather was terrific! Jeff Leuzinger of Pearl Valley Organix kicked the day off with an education session about Organics and Composting and Their Role in Soil Health. Following Jeff's presentation, MAGCS members hit the links with lunches in hand for a beautiful day on a beautiful golf course. The traditional Spring Scramble format is always a great way to work the kinks out after a long winter away from golf. Afterward, a nice spread of food and beverages was available to the hungry and thirsty competitors, topping off the great day. Thanks to Matt and his staff, to the F & B staff and the Pro Shop folks at Calumet, and to the day's sponsors—Bayer, Burris Equipment Company, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Reinders, Inc., and Syngenta Professional Products.



Keith Copersmet and Brian Trifilio



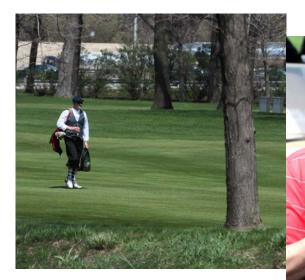
Our host Matt Harstad was all smiles as the sun shone for our April Scramble.



Lenke.



Chad Hauth, John Turner and "old man" Jeff Frentz sporting the bucket hat and white knee highs.



Can't tell what is out of place in this picture? It could be a number of things, but certainly not Nick Baker in the middle of the fairway.



Bordner gets DeRooed. Scott Bordner (I) can't believe Kevin DeRoo (r) ate his lunch while he was at the range and only left him the apple. Kevin may be looking for a new partner next event.



Craig Shephed lines up a putt while the rest of his team carefully helps him out.

Just two short weeks later, the ITF/MAGCS Combined Golf Day was held at historic Beverly Country Club, with Kirk Spieth hosting. This event was a two-man best ball format (requiring poor shlubs like me to hit their own ball all day long). Thankfully, forecaddies were provided, making for a surprisingly quick 18 holes on a gorgeous Donald Ross classic. The golf course was fantastic, with fairways about as tight and firm as can be possible. I'm told a whole bunch of trees were removed recently, but I'm skeptical—I still managed to find lumber at least once on every hole. Somewhere inside that massive clubhouse there were after-golf munchies and drinks, capping another spectacular day on another awesome golf course. Thanks to Kirk and his crew, the management team at Beverly, and again to our generous sponsors that made the day possible: Agrium-Direct Solutions, BASF, Bayer, Best Signature Sand, BTSI, Burris Equipment Company, Dow AgroSciences, Dunteman Turf Farms, Great Lakes Turf, Green Source, Inc., Profile Products, Rainbird Irrigation, Reinders, Inc., Shoreline Sand Solutions, Inc., Syngenta, and Waupaca Sand & Solutions.



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Edgewood Valley Country Club has a long and rich history. Since its inception in 1926 the course itself has remained relatively unchanged. The lack of changes made managing some aspects of the course difficult because many of the same problems plagued the course for decades.



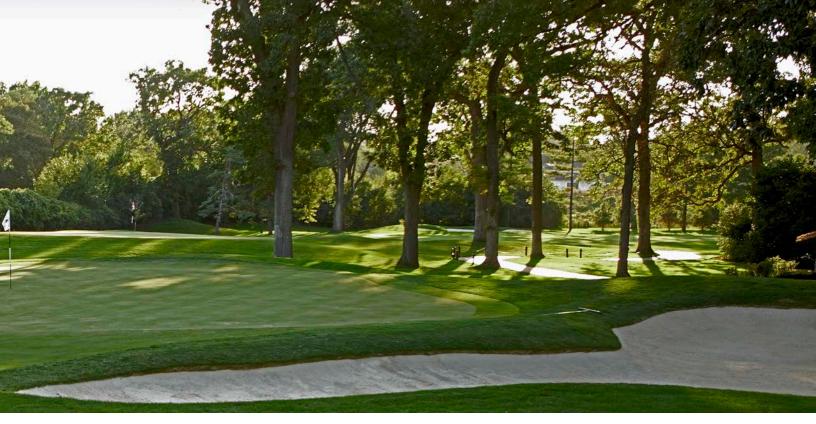
Ron McCarthy, a native of Wisconsin, takes part in last year's Wee One at Pine HIlls.

Ron McCarthy however, addressed these issues, and with proper planning and practices, brought the course up to modern-day standards without compromising the classic feel and layout of the course.

Upon arriving at Edgewood Valley Country Club 16 years ago, Ron Mc-Carthy immediately knew there were serious issues involving many, of what Ron called his problematic greens. There were trees literally growing

out of the collars on these greens, causing sunlight and airflow problems, not to mention competition from century old oak tree roots. Most of the greens on the course also did not have proper drainage installed, and in turn, had rough time shedding water.





ALL PHOTOS OF EVCC: PIRRELLO DIGITAL IMAGING

During his tenure at the club, Ron's main focus has been to alter the growing conditions of these problematic greens, and he knew the only way to do that would be to remove the competition from the existing trees. After bringing in tree specialists and getting the membership behind the idea, Ron was given the green light to remove trees surrounding one of the most problematic greens. This helped immensely with the growing conditions; however the greens still had issues with drainage. In 2000, to rectify the drainage problem, Ron had XGD drainage installed on his six worst greens. After improving drainage significantly on those six greens, the club decided over the next two years to go ahead and have XGD installed in the remaining greens as well. These greens still had issues due to shade and root competition from trees.

Ron again was given the go-ahead to remove trees around two more of his problematic greens. Combined with the XGD drainage and the lack of competition from trees, these two greens are performing great each and every season.

Ron says "From that day on, those two greens are now the best greens on the course." After seeing these two greens perform so well, Ron has, over the past 11 years been able to slowly remove trees around his problematic greens. The practice of reducing tree competition with the Poa annua greens, combined with proper cultural practices has seen these greens improve each year.

In 2006 the club went through a substantial renovation. The overall length of the course was increased, and the total amount of bunkers was brought up to 104. Along with increasing length and bunkers, the course also added additional drainage and constructed six new tee complexes. Nine

Image Left: The fourth hole at EVCC has a huge green guarded by well placed bunkers and a little water. It can make par elusive if not careful.



additional tee complexes are slated to be completed over the next three years.

Ron credits his success and the club's excellent playing conditions to his staff, especially his Assistant Superintendents, Brian Stout and Brian Kalal. When talking about Brian and Brian, Ron says "The membership is extremely proud and happy with the course, they are a big reason why." During the fall when not on the course Ron can be found cheering on the Wisconsin Badgers, and Chicago's second favorite sports team, the Green Bay Packers.



Charles Anfield, CGCS, Heritage Bluffs Golf Course

Organics, Composting, and Soil Health

The MAGCS returned to Calumet Country Club for the April Meeting after getting rained out in 2012. It was a glorious spring day that featured a wonderfully conditioned golf course and some excellent education.

Jeff Leuzinger, Sales Manager for Pearl Valley Organix, provided an informative overview on all things organic.

What is organic? The definition seems to be something different to everyone. By definition it is material that is comprised of both carbon and hydrogen. In the "organic food world" it has become synonymous with a very strict scrutiny of ingredients and processes that make up an organic product. In turf, the term has come to define a few different things: soil amendments, soil conditioners and fertilizers. These products are comprised of mainly: bio solids, animal products/proteins, yard waste, food waste, and animal manures.

Products that are OMRI (organic material review institute) listed have a very strict quality control approval process. This is a "stamp of approval" that designates the product as passing the test for organic food use.

Some organic turf products must be composted or broken down first before the product is ready for market.

The benefits of composting are:

- Reduces the weight to volume ratio
- Decreases carbon/nitrogen ratio (C:N)
- Kills weed seeds

The process of composting must maintain specific carbon and moisture parameters. This requires monitoring for specific temperatures and times to rotate compost. The process typically takes between 45 and 60 days for final product. Good compost is well decayed and stabilized. It has low soluble salts with a pH range between 5 and 8. The C: N ratio should be 15-25:1.

Jeff gave a brief overview of soils and the benefits of organic matter in the soil. The benefits of an organic soil are based around the food web within the soil. Good soil structure is a very dynamic system.



Jeff Leuzinger offered tours of the composting facility at Pearl Valley Organix to any MAGCS member. Just give him a call and he'd be happy to show you this interesting process.

The food web includes: bacteria, fungi, protozoa, arthropods and nematodes.

Bacteria: Decompose organic material. They convert energy into other forms. They assist in nutrient cycling, disease suppression, provide antibiotics and nitrogen fixation.

Fungi: These decomposers grow as long threads to stabilize soil structure.

Protozoa: Feed on bacteria and fungi. They regulate bacteria populations and assist in disease suppression.

Nematodes: Not much is known about these creatures and their role in the soil. They feed on plant parts, algae, bacteria, fungi and other nematodes. There are beneficial species. Not all nematodes are a problem for the turfgrass system.

Arthropods: These are "bugs" that feed on other life in the soil. They release nutrients as waste product.

Jeff ended his presentation by reminding us to pay attention to soil life. Balance is the key to healthy and productive soil and consequently healthy plants.





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Charles Anfield, CGCS, Heritage Bluffs Golf Course

The Cleaner

We know in golf course maintenance that if we didn't do the daily work like raking bunkers, mowing greens, string trimming, and more the golf course would be a mess. A finely manicured golf course is no "accident," it takes a lot of team work.

A good maintenance program is always best served in small consistent doses. That way you don't wind up with the "big cleaning over haul." It's kind of like cleaning the kitchen floor. If you sweep and mop regularly, it's not a big deal to keep clean. If you don't do the work, a thick gunk build up is created from spilled food and drink, tracked in dirt, and other stuff from the outside world. Then it's down on your knees, scrubbing it by hand. A shiny kitchen floor is a lot like a golf course; they are expected to be clean and neat. When it's done up right, it looks so "money." Often times maintenance is only noticed when it is not completed.

Cleaners come in many shapes and sizes. Often times cleaners work at odd hours like the dark of night or the crack of dawn when no one's around. No one wants to see the cleaner do their dirty work.

We have these cleaners at Heritage Bluffs Public Golf Club, but I'm not talking about my crew.

Enter the ultimate cleaner Cathartes aura, common name Turkey Vulture. It means "purifier bird" in Latin and gets it common name from its resemblance to the male Wild Turkey. It is also known as a turkey buzzard or just plain buzzard. This bird has my respect. It's by no means a pretty bird. Some might say its down- right ugly. But as it has been said many times over, beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

We have this flock that hangs out on a ridge overlooking a gravel pit on property south of the golf course. It's not actively being mined anymore. Who knows how long it will remain a gravel pit? For now the land lays quiet.

I see these birds just about every morning. As a group they gather overlooking the pit, serene, quiet and unmolested. Just "chillin." They are good neighbors to have. They rise at dawn together and wander over to the golf course to and stretch their wings. They are big birds and they have a sizable wingspan. They hang out a while on the turf and in the trees overlooking the pond with the egrets, geese and ducks before "launch en mass" and separate to fly out to the far reaches of the county in search of food.

I was so enamored by this bird I did some quick research on my large neighbors via the internet. I feel like Cliff Clavin from the hit television show "Cheers" but here goes:

- It is the most widely spread of the new world vultures. It ranges from southern Canada to the tip of South America. It is not related to the Old World vultures of Europe, Africa and Asia. It looks almost identical because of convergent evolution, where natural selection similarly shapes unrelated animals adapting to the same conditions.
- Inhabits a variety of open and semi open areas including subtropical forests, shrub lands, pastures and deserts.
- It is a scavenger feeding almost exclusively on carrion.
- Finds food with its sharp eyesight and a keen sense of smell. It has the ability to fly low to detect gases produced from the decay of dead animals.
- In flight it maximizes the efficiency of its large wingspread (6 feet) by riding the thermal updrafts.
- Lacks a syrinx, the vocal cord of birds. The only vocalizations it makes are low hisses or grunts.
- They roost in large communities. Nesting sites include: caves, hollow trees and thickets.
- Each year it generally hatches a couple of eggs. The chicks are fed by regurgitation.
 - Has very few natural predators
 - Protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

I always enjoy seeing the birds glide back home when they arrive after a hard day of "cleaning the land of sorrow." Collectively, they gather and roost. Who knows what they might be discussing among themselves? I'm sure they would have some cool stories of nasty looking road kill they found or perhaps near misses with high speeding cars and trucks.

Thank you Cleaner. You are welcome on our golf course any day my wise old friend. Relax, refresh yourself with a drink and feel free to linger about on the lush green turf. For tomorrow, is another day.



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Eric Reed, BTSI

How well do you know Eric? Eric Reed of BTSI took a few minutes to fill out the Midwest Personality Form online and submitted these answers. If you are interested, please take a minute and do the same.

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Birthdate/Place 1982, Libertyville II

Current Residence Chicago (West Loop)

College/Degree University of Illinois - Horticulture with specialization in turf management

My Favorite Childhood Memory Going to work early with my dad and playing 36 holes before the first groups hit the back nine, and then whipping out the fish-

ing pole for the rest of the afternoon

My Personal Hero My Dad

My Professional Mentors Mike Bavier, Mike Sei-

fken, Roger Ogalla

Favorite Actor Brad Pitt

Favorite Musical Performer Led

Zeppelin (all-time) Current - Black

Favorite Restaurant Any good steak-

Favorite "Pig Out" Food Lou Malnati's

deep dish

Favorite TV Show Breaking Bad

Favorite Color As a turf guy, I should say green, but it's a close second to blue

Favorite Professional Sports Team Chi-

cago Cubs

Favorite Pro Athlete Greg Maddux

Favorite Pro Golfer Rory

My Handicap Index 9 something and climbing

My Favorite Place to Play Golf Eagle Ridge in late October

My Best/Most Memorable Round Tied for a hole in one in 2006 with a terrible other 17 holes, but probably most memorable was shooting par in a big meet for Mundelein High School at Countryside GC

The Most Interesting/Exotic Place I've Been Grand Cayman islands, Jamaica, Cozumel The Book I've Been Recommending Lately On Course magazine, naturally!

The Last Great Moive I Saw Moneyball

In my Spare Time I Enjoy Golf, watching a lot of sports, and taking in a few adult beverages with good company

Three Words that Best Describe Me Always be laughing

What I Enjoy Most about My Job Interacting with so many different kinds of people in the industry and learning more from those who paved the way and have years of experience than I could ever learn in a book or classroom.

What I Enjoy Least about My Job Driving and traffic mostly. And the occasional sleep deprived grumpy customer

I'm a MAGCS Member Because It's a great organization to work and meet like minded people who want to better themselves professionally and personally. (C)











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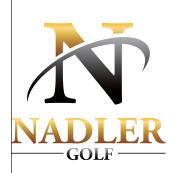
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