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St. Charles Country Club #1 Quarry Hole this Spring. It is this year's site of our first nine hole walking event. Mark your calendar for June 10th and plan to join us.

Photo credit: Luke Cella

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The wettest April on record proved to be one of the most trying for local area superintendents. (Morris Country Club, photo credit: Andy Weadge)

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### 2013 MIDWEST EVENTS

- 5/13 Midwest / ITF May Meeting, Beverly Country Club
- 6/10 Midwest Nine Holer, St. Charles Country Club
- 7/20 Midwest Family Night Picnic, Cougar Baseball Game
- 7/22 Midwest July Meeting, Edgewood Valley Country Club
- 8/26 Midwest August Meeting, Crystal Lake Country Club
- 11/14 61<sup>st</sup> Midwest Turf Clinic, Medinah Country Club

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# Time to Move



Dave Groelle, CGCS  
Royal Melbourne Country  
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What a difference a year makes! We went from the warmest spring ever to the coldest spring in 20 years. I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say that we can't wait to get back to "normal." Whatever that is!

How are we doing? My first message as President I spoke of accountability. Our first goal was to improve the timeliness of our publication *On Course*. To accomplish this several changes were made. The first was to hire a new printer. The second was to create an editorial calendar. This essentially sets up each publication in advance. We began asking for articles now instead of later. Some have asked, "Why do you need my article now if it is not going to be published until July?" The reason is very simple. Most of our content is not time sensitive. In other words, the articles we receive can be read and are pertinent at any time of the year. Second, the offseason provides most of us ample time to write. We have seen that if allowed to wait until summer, work seems to get in the way. By having as much of the content available earlier, we can set up each month in advance. This helps us get the finished product to the printer in a more timely fashion.

The other change that was made is the Luke Cella is now in charge of the layout of the magazine. Essentially we are completing everything in house now, with the exception of publishing. This allows for much more efficiency. By the way did you notice the new layout and design? What do you think?

You may have also noticed a digital version of *On Course* is now available. It is available to all members via the website. If you have a chance, check it out! It is great. For those not ready for a digital version don't worry, we'll still be sending a hard copy in the mail. The digital version however is available much sooner. We anticipate that you will have access to a digital copy on the website the first week of each month. The hard copy will usually arrive a week or two later. That explains some of the delay in getting the magazine delivered. Printing and postage can take about two weeks. So, to get you an issue on time in the mail we need to submit a finished product to the printer two weeks prior to first of the month. This is why we need the articles sooner. Make sense? I am very pleased with what we have accomplished so far. With your help it can only get better. Thanks to all of those who have contributed to *On Course* by writing an article. As always, we continue to need more, so think about writing an article soon.

To close, I recently had the opportunity to attend the 2013 Chapter Leaders/Executives Symposium that was held in Lawrence, KS at GCSAA Headquarters. I traveled with Luke Cella and it was my first time to the home of the GCSAA. There were 50 people in attendance from different 30 chapters all around the country. I took many things away from the event. What I was most proud of was the strength of MAGCS. It was very clear to me how blessed we are to have the membership we have; members who are willing to participate and contribute to the growth of our chapter as well as the game of golf. We are in a great place professionally and only getting better. So I encourage you to take advantage of all that MAGCS has to offer. Come out to a meeting, participate on a committee, write an article, volunteer to be a Board Member. It is our members that make us great and will continue to move us forward. Here's to a great season. @



Dave poses with Old Tom outside GCSAA HQ.

# The Urban Forest

PHOTO CREDITS: CHRIS SCHNEIDER

Chris Schneider, *Horigan Urban Forest Products*

In 1862 Henry David Thoreau spoke on behalf of nature in his essay, “Walking.” Thoreau implies that nature is a deity. He describes it having “absolute freedom and wildness.” He suggests that nature is an autonomous force functioning unpredictably.

If we accept Thoreau’s interpretation of nature, people are inconsequential in nature’s wild path.

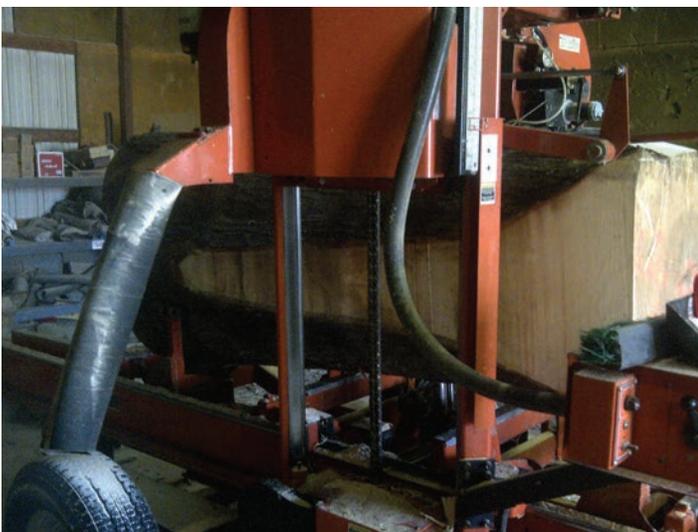
Today, human beings live on a densely populated planet with limited resources. With our growing needs and limited resources, we are obligated to maintain not only our built environment, but nature’s wild world as well. With oceans, trees, air, soil, and any other resource, our relationship with nature depends on how well we use and respect it. Think about our forests, not just large stands of trees in remote areas, not just the wild side of nature and our role within it, but our urban forests as well, the trees that stand within our built environment.

By considering our urban forests as a resource, we can better understand our place amid nature’s wild and free enterprise.

How well do we encourage the growth of our urban trees, and how well do we utilize their material? Rooted within our built infrastructure are proud stands of urban trees. These trees use the same air that we breathe. They experience the same weather and feel the same temperature as the humans who walk under their branches. Just as we maintain and restore our buildings or homes, we must care for urban trees in a way that ensures their longevity and their maximum potential for growth. We can act as stewards for our urban trees, rather than as bystanders existing among them. As stewards, we will improve the quality of our trees and reinforce our relationship with the environment.

Fortunately, there are companies already making great strides in developing the quality of our urban forests. They have established themselves as inspiring specialists, caring for and encouraging the growth of urban trees. These master arborists prune, trim, and treat to maintain a vital, high quality resource. Their trade focuses on growth and not removal. For a sustainable environment, the objective is to encourage the growth of urban trees unless nature gives us no alternative. From Thoreau’s perspective, nature is inevitably unpredictable, and as the result of harsh weather or infestation, urban trees do succumb. However, when these trees come to rest on the urban surface, they need not die in vain.

If we are stewards, then we must utilize what wild nature provides. Despite every effort to ensure the welfare of an urban tree, some fall by nature’s hand. In drastic winds, heavy rains, lightning, or infestation urban trees can meet their demise. Then begins the long and perilous journey of decomposition, or even worse, mulching, and urban trees are all but lost. However, as stewards, we can extend the life of an urban tree by using its wood. Rather than cutting lumber exclusively from remote forests, we can use lumber from urban trees. By utilizing the resources that nature provided, our actions are more in harmony.



*A portable band saw mill can hew some large logs.*

Today, in addition to skilled arborists, there is a select group of urban sawyers. They harvest the many species of fallen urban trees like ash, birch, beech, catalpa, cherry, elm, ginkgo, hackberry, hickory, black locust, honey locust, soft maple, hard maple, white oak, red oak, pine, spruce, sycamore, and black walnut. With modern sawmills and dehumidification kilns, companies with urban sawyers work diligently to cut and dry the material from fallen trees. For every urban tree utilized in the lumber market, one less healthy tree from a remote, stable forest is needed for our day-to-day lumber use. And with growing national interest in green energy and sustainability, people begin to understand that urban lumber is a necessity and not a luxury. As the demand for urban lumber rises, more sawyers are then able to distribute it.

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## Today, in addition to skilled arborists, there is a select group of urban sawyers.

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With milling systems designed around bandsaws, sawyers are able to produce lumber at a high yield and an efficient rate.

From thin and narrow dimensional planks to thick and wide wooden slabs, the goal in producing urban lumber is to extract the maximum amount of serviceable yield. This yield goes into wood products like beams, benches, cabinets, chairs, cladding, desks, doors, framing, flooring, headboards,



*Urban trees become very unique and original pieces of lumber*

molding, tables, trim, shelving, and more. By becoming such wood products, urban trees extend their lives and communities are sustained. Sawyers seize the opportunity to produce the most unique and original pieces of urban lumber.

Like snowflakes, there are no two trees alike. There are no limits to what we can achieve when we respect our environment and use fully what nature has given us. @

*Below: What is the value of timber on your golf course?*





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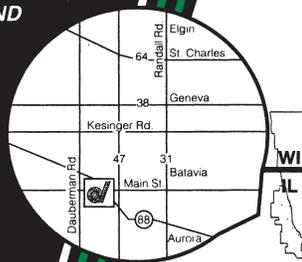
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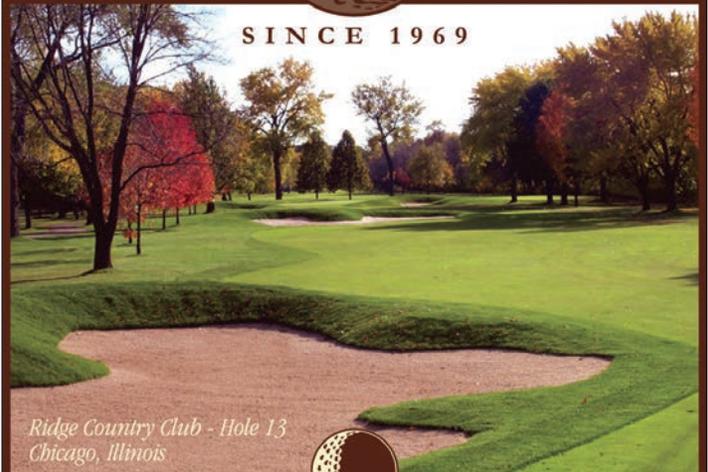
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# Finding Value in Social Media

Todd Quitno, *Lohmann Companies*

PHOTO CREDITS: TODD QUITNO, LUKE CELLA

For a group of course designers, builders and shapers who didn't even know what social media was 5 years ago, we certainly spend a lot of time thinking about it these days. Maybe you're like we were 18 months ago — determined to do something in that realm (to better communicate with your customers) but not at all sure how to go about it.

Well, there are dozens of “valuable” ways to do it, and we keep developing new strategies as we go along. We wanted to share a couple of those with you here.

Let me say first that as superintendents and club/course managers, you have a leg up on us course designers and contractors. We at Lohmann Golf Designs and our sister construction firm, Golf Creations, are doing all the basic things we should:

- Creating a central, “branded” portal— the blog at our website — where colleagues and customers can read our news, be engaged, respond and generally interact;
- Regularly supplying that blog with new content (so visitors always have something new to read);
- Providing via Facebook further, image-centric content that is informational, not sales-driven; and

- Using Facebook and Twitter (along with our traditional e-mailing list) to drive colleagues and customers to our blog/website.

But while we really do avoid “selling” our services via all this content, we are continually seeking out and trying to engage with a disparate community of potential customers. Private golf clubs and daily-fee facilities are lucky — they have their communities ready made. It's just a matter of how to best engage them via social media.

Here's an approach we stumbled upon with some of our recent clients:

To start, we've reoriented the way we work with golf properties overall. Today we basically dice up a traditional master renovation plan into smaller chunks that can be tackled annually, if the money is there. In this economy, we've found that clubs are better able to swallow these smaller bites in an orderly, productive, cost-effective fashion. We call this an Asset Management Plan, or AMP.

We're formulating an AMP for a semi-private club client in Wisconsin and we're going to use social media to communicate the scope of that AMP. It makes sense if you think about it. First, it's easy to get members or regular golfing patrons to like a club's Facebook page or visit the blog — they're already interacting with the club online. So instead of asking members and golfers to digest the contents of a multi-faceted, multi-year master plan or AMP all at once, we're planning to dole the information out to them bit by bit via the club's blog, and then drive traffic to the blog with Facebook posts.



Would you follow your local gas station on Facebook?

For example, one week we might discuss tree removal happening on one hole, and use that to discuss the overarching tree removal plans we have for the entire course. The next week we might address the club's investment in a more aggressive top-dressing program, its effect on every day playing conditions like firmness and ball roll. That post might evolve into a further discussion on why a couple of greens still aren't satisfactory, or aren't responding to the program, and may need to be rebuilt or re-grassed.

This approach serves a bunch of really practical purposes:

- It keeps the membership and golfing customer base apprised of what's happening at their course, in an informational way.
- It provides an avenue for promoting common maintenance activities, like top-dressing, in a way that golfers can understand, like better ball roll.
- It demonstrates that investment in the course has been planned out and staged in a logical, cost-efficient way.
- It provides them the opportunity for feedback, because all these social media portals allow for and inherently encourage that feedback.
- And it gets members in the habit of visiting the website and Facebook page, where there's lots of other information the club wants to communicate.



*This local course resident might be worthy of a FB post.*

I had to laugh the other day when I visited my local gas station, which, like many do, has a convenience store attached. It's all part of a big chain of gas/convenience stores. There was a sign on the door that urged me "Follow us on Facebook!" For what, I thought? I'm not going to follow them on Facebook — I don't care enough about where I buy gas and soda.

But golf courses are different. If you make an effort to stock your blog and Facebook page with meaningful information about your course, the people who play that course will continually come back for more. Most courses have been collecting the email information on members and greens-fee-paying golfers for a long time. Use that list to drive them to your Facebook page. Then tell them what you're doing, like why you've rebuilt or moved a bunker, and how that change will improve play for seniors or ladies, for example.

Here's the important bit: It's our view here at LGD and Golf Creations that the superintendent can and should be the point person for generating that meaningful social media content. He

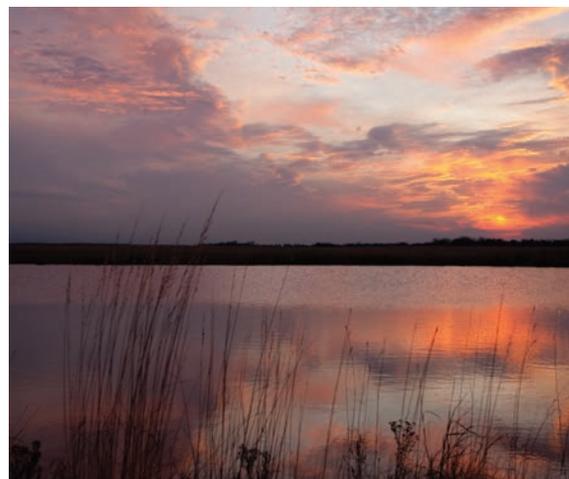
or she is the person who knows the most about what's happening on the property's most important asset: the golf course. He or she is also on the course every day, meaning he or she can deliver timely info and pictures for your social media portals, every day.

When there's wildlife captured on film (okay, digitally), that's a picture and a FB post.

When you re-edge the bunkers surrounding a particular green, that's a picture, FB post and maybe a blog entry.

When you've drawn up a schedule to punch the greens, that's something golfers will want to know.

We've seen some great "Sunrise Series", where each week the super features a different hole at sunrise—a beautiful time of day that most golfers don't experience.



Even quite technical green-keeping can be featured and explained in this sort of context. We know of supers who have applied plant growth regulator to really lush rough areas in front of ladies tees prior to an invitational — to increase roll in those areas and lessen the chances of lost balls there. That's something most supers don't broadcast (cause they don't want to have to do it on a regular basis!), but tell those ladies via social media you've made special efforts to keep the grass down, they'll appreciate the attention.

Here's another fun and interesting social-media worthy experiment: One of our superintendent friends purposely didn't put any tee markers out the first two weeks of the season — he wanted to see where people would play the holes from, on their own. He reported that almost always golfers played more forward than he would have traditionally "marked" them. That's good info for a superintendent to have, and interesting information to share with golfers, especially in the vain of Tee It Forward.

Of course, in all these cases where you are generating fun imagery, Instagram and PinInterest are two more social media options that are very photo-centric.

The possibilities are pretty much endless, and that's a good thing because implementing this sort of social media campaign is a bit like holding a tiger by the tail. Once you start, you've really got to stay with it or interest will fall away (this is especially true for Twitter). But this is the new best way to communicate with your golfers, and there are dozens of ways to customize it, you just need to find your way. @



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# #BullSheet

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



MAY 2013

## Dates to Remember

**May 13** – MAGCS/ITF combined golf day at Beverly Country Club in Chicago, **Kirk Spieth** host.

**May 18** – Sunshine Through Golf Foundation's 100-Hole Golf Marathon at the Zigfield Troy Golf Course in Woodridge, IL, **Dennis Troy** host.

**June 1** – Deadline for MAGCS Scholarship applications. Application forms can be found at our website. Our website can be found at the bottom of this page. This page can be found in front of you.

**June 1** – Deadline for GCSAA Scholars Competition. Details and forms are available at [gcsaa.org](http://gcsaa.org) by clicking on the Education tab and then the Scholarships tab.

**June 7** – TETA (Turf Equipment Technicians Association) meeting and open house at Burris Equipment's new Joliet facility on 2001 Cherry Hill Rd. Details to follow.

**June 10** – Crazy new MAGCS event at St. Charles Country Club, **Chuck Barber** and **Jason Kahlstorf** hosts. More to follow.

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

MAGCS welcomes the following new members to the fold:

- **Dr. Rick Latin**, Class E, Turfmetrics, LLC
- **Erik Spong**, Petro Canada, Class E
- **John Lamb**, River Forest Country Club, Class C
- **Doug Suttor**, Engage Agro, Class E
- **Barry Larson**, Jacobsen Textron, Class E

My this find you with dry golf courses and basements. April's flooding had a far-reaching impact on most every golf course and business in our area, as well as hitting many of us at the home front as well. Hopefully we've recovered and are moving on to better things for the season ahead, and with no more of this!



On a related note, **Steven Biehl** posted a video on his blog of his tour of Naperville Country Club just after the flood (with CCR's "Have You Ever Seen the Rain?" synced to it—nice touch). Besides the standing water everywhere, the damage to cart paths was amazing. Unfortunately he lost me at the very beginning of the footage, which shows him exiting a perfectly dry maintenance building to begin his tour. My video would have included the floating dookie and a few unfortunate fish that had made their way into my shop.

Congratulations to **John Ekstrom** on his new position as golf course superintendent at Mill Creek Golf Club and Academy in Geneva, IL.

Also on the move recently was **Jason Kahlstorf**, formerly with Leibold Irrigation and now the assistant golf course superintendent at St. Charles Country Club. Best of luck to Jason!

**Darryl Burkett** of Riverwalls Ltd. would like you to know that he has another service to offer MAGCS members. Having been involved with Global Bureau of Investigation for the past two years, Darryl will perform Felony Background Checks and Workman's Compensation Claim Investigations for those of you hiring new employees. The fee is very reasonable, and all the information can be found at [www.globalbureauofinvestigationinc.com](http://www.globalbureauofinvestigationinc.com).

New MAGCS member **Dr. Rick Latin** of Purdue University has a new service to offer MAGCS members as well. Rick has started a company called Turfmetrics, an on-site consulting firm to help area superintendents especially in terms of developing fungicide programs tailored to their individual courses, and with general disease identification and control. All particulars are outlined on the website, [www.turfmetrics.com](http://www.turfmetrics.com). Good luck and welcome to Chicago, Rick.



On June 7th, TETA (Turf Equipment Technicians Association) will be holding a meeting and open house at the new home of Burris Equipment in Joliet, IL (2001 Cherry Hill Rd.). The topic of the education will be Tier 4 emissions regulations presented by Eric Side34s, the Executive Director of the Equipment and Engine Training Council (EETC). Come for the information and stay for lunch and a tour of the new digs.

Q: What movie did Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep film on **Don Ferreri's** course?

A: The Seven Bridges of Madison County.

Weird and macabre things have been happening on golf courses lately. To wit, in Hopewell, New Jersey, a severed head that was found on a golf course was recently identified as that of Heidi Balch, a woman who had gone missing in 1989. Locally, the body of a goat with its head cut off was found last month on the grounds of Indian Boundary Golf Course in Chicago. Superintendent **Ryan Gilmore** said the headless goat had its front and hind legs bound, and that "It was a clean cut." This was the third dead goat found on Cook County Forest Preserve property in the last year, but the first without a head (who'da thunk it?). The finding came only a week after someone had sent the severed head of a goat to Wrigley Field and Cubs owner Tom Ricketts, fueling speculation that the two incidents were related.

A group of bird conservation organizations throughout the Chicago region is undertaking a search for red-headed woodpeckers this spring and summer, and they are asking for

your help. These savanna birds are declining in our region, and they would like to get a sense of how many pairs are left and where. Judy Pollock, the Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Chicago Region says, "Red-headed woodpeckers have gone from a common backyard bird to a rare species in our lifetimes, and one big reason is that the open savanna habitat they need has been invaded by non-native shrub species. Golf courses, with their large canopy trees and open understory mimic the savanna habitat and are great places for these birds to nest." We all can help out by looking around our golf courses for these birds and reporting our findings. All the information is available at [www.habitatproject.org/birds/birdblitz2013.html](http://www.habitatproject.org/birds/birdblitz2013.html).



Save the afternoon of June 10th for a new, slightly less formal than normal MAGCS event. **Chuck Barber** and company will host a 12-hole event on the Quarry Course at St. Charles Country Club (a 6-hole course that will be played twice with walking encouraged). Following golf will be a barbeque at the maintenance shop where hoodies and work boots are strongly recommended attire (hey, we said less formal didn't we?). Sounds like a hoot—save the date!

They kinda sound alike—JC and KC. They kinda look alike too. And although he doesn't dance with wolves, word on the street is that **Jim Canning** has some pretty sweet moves.

## MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Syngenta is excited to announce for the fifth year, it is inviting golf course superintendents across the country to apply for the Syngenta Business Institute, an innovative professional business development program developed specifically for the industry in partnership with Wake Forest University Schools of Business. The four-day program, held on Dec. 9-12 in Winston-Salem, N.C. focuses on financial and human resource management, delegation skills, effective communications and negotiation skills,

*Continued on page 15*



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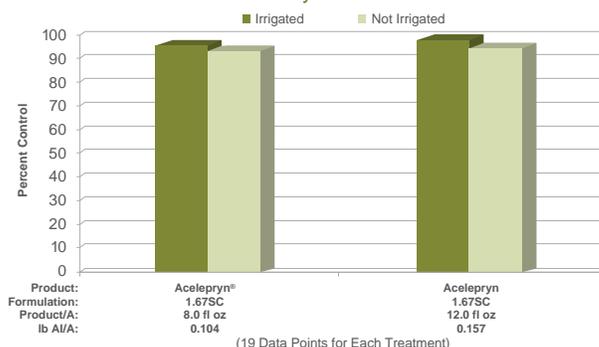
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Acelepryn is a critical component of an effective, long-term strategy to control ABW. Not only does Acelepryn offer best-in-class control of ABW, it is an important component for resistance management as it offers a new mode of action for insect control. Acelepryn controls ABW small larvae that feed inside grass stems, while Provaunt® insecticide controls larger or older larvae feeding on the crown of grass plants. Visit [WeevilTrak.com](http://WeevilTrak.com) for detailed information and up-to-the-minute timing in your area.

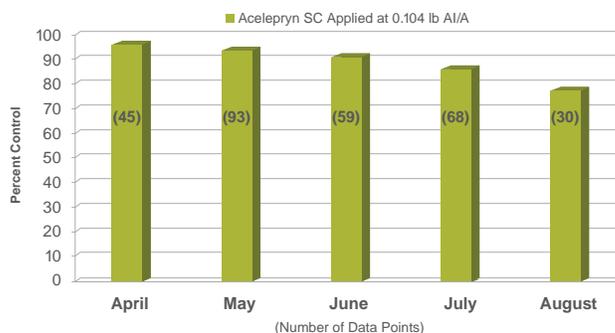
A single application of Acelepryn at 12 fl oz/acre during May provides:

- Effective ABW larval control
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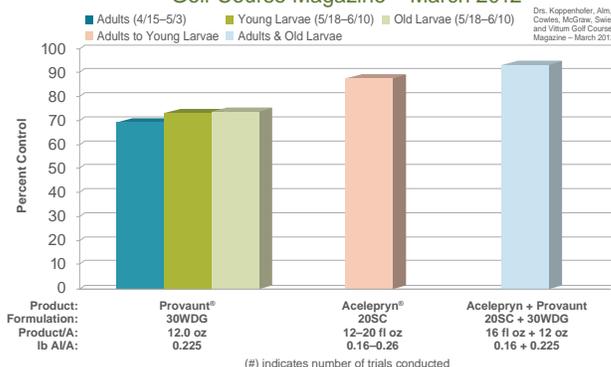
### White Grub Irrigation Trial Summary Summary of 9 Field Trials



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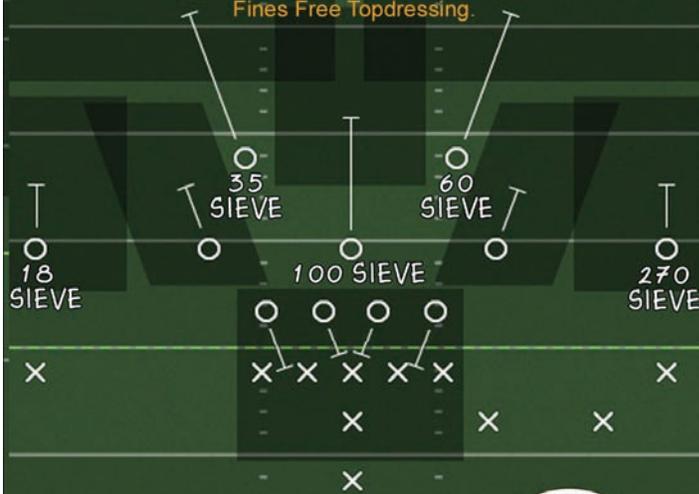
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Continued from page 12

and more. For much more information and the application form, go to [www.greencastonline.com/SBI](http://www.greencastonline.com/SBI). Deadline for applications is August 20th.

Breaking news: Bayer CropScience has filed suit against Syngenta for patent infringement in regard to Syngenta's Apear fungicide, and false superiority claims over Bayer's Chipco Signature fungicide. Pending the outcome, the item above may become the Bayer Business Institute. Just kidding there.

Q: What happens to **Bob Kohlstedt** when he surfaces too fast while scuba diving?

A: He gets the Fox Bends.

What would YOU do? In Miami, FL a woman named Rachel Castillo, a bar cart operator for the Miami Beach Golf Club, found a bag left on a tee bench while doing her rounds. In that bag was \$36,000 in cash. She called police who were able to locate the owner of the bag, a 76-year-old man who was believed to be suffering from declining mental health. She might have been doing him a favor by keeping it, but we will never know.

Did you happen to catch **Dan Dinelli**, CGCS on Golf Channel's Earth Day telecast of "Golf Central?" How cool is that--to be the go-to guy on environmental issues as they pertain to golf courses--and to be shown across the country! In case



you didn't see it, rest assured Dan was his usual calm, composed and learned self. In fact, I thought at times a little TOO calm...



*Nodding off*



*Napping*



*Sawing logs*



*Sorry, what was the question again?*

Joking aside, great job by Dan in a high-profile situation--his musings on how golf benefits so much more than just the people who participate in the game were spot-on, and delivered in a truly professional manner.

Here's a cool related item--the USGA is working with allied turfgrass associations and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop an outdoor turfgrass exhibit at the U.S. National Arboretum. The arboretum is a 446-acre USDA Research Service public gardens facility two miles from Washington, D.C. The four-year focus on turfgrass entitled "Grass Roots" will include a series of workshops, symposia, and demonstrations, with the centerpiece of the program being the outdoor turfgrass exhibit. It is a unique

opportunity for our industry to inform and educate visitors about turfgrass and the turfgrass industry. With over 500,000 visitors annually including members of Congress, the National Arboretum is the perfect setting for this Grass Roots Initiative. Check out [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org) for more on this developing story.

What's with beetle orgies? I thought only Japanese beetles did this, but apparently boxelder beetles do it too. If a genie ever grants me three wishes, one of mine will be to become a beetle for a day.



If you are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of your club's golf car fleet, Club Car has a nifty new tool for you. They have produced a golf car maintenance guide to help courses keep their fleets performing at their best in order to maximize their value both during operation as well as at the end of the lease or at sale time. For a complimentary copy of the guide, email [info@clubcar.com](mailto:info@clubcar.com).

**Oscar Miles** and the PGA of America have some great news for us. In partnership with Oscar Miles and the Illinois PGA Foundation Scholarship Committee, \$1,000 has been donated to MAGCS in support of its Scholarship Fund, and \$4,000 has been earmarked for ITF supporting **Dr. Bruce Branham's** research at the University of Illinois. Thank you Oscar!

Besides Dan Dinelli being on Golf Channel, look for GCSAA to be featured on the network in a number of different platforms this year. A commercial package includes two spots promoting



GCSAA members' expertise and their enjoyment of the great outdoors. You shouldn't miss

them--they will run 400 times between now and August.

CEO Rhett Evans recently celebrated quite a feat--the climbing of the largest free-standing mountain in the world. GCSAA's head honcho reached the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa in March, a trek of 19,341 feet. It was a six-day climb that passed through five eco-climates, with the temperature on day one being 92 degrees, and a wind-chill of minus four degrees at the summit six days later.

GCSAA reminds you to record your points before you get too busy to remember. All those education seminars and MAGCS events you've attended over the winter are worth points toward certification and renewal, so don't let them expire. Go online at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org) and record them!

Continued on page 16

Keep an eye on your inbox for the new Turf Weekly, a GCSAA industry newsletter featuring the latest turfgrass and golf course management news from around the world. Each week, Turf Weekly delivers a collection of the most recent articles covering turf management, golf business, research, products, superintendents making news and more.



April 17th was the sixth annual National Golf Day, and members of WE ARE GOLF--a coalition of the game's leading associations and industry partners--were in Washington, DC to meet with members of Congress to share stories and new data about golf's diverse businesses, employees, tax revenue creation, tourism, charitable benefits, and environmental leadership. Organizations participating included the Club Managers Association of America, GCSAA, LPGA, National Golf Course Owners Association, PGA of America, PGA Tour, and the World Golf Federation.

The Midwest was represented by **Luke Cella** who is on the GCSAA Government Relations Committee this year. He met with several of our local area legislators and/or their staffs to talk about golf. He'll be writing up a report for *On Course* and the Midwest soon.

Mulligan: Our apologies to **Michael VanDeVelde** the Superintendent at Villa Olivia in Elgin. Last month we mistakenly published someone else at this post. Thanks for understanding Michael.



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# SUPER-N-site

Luke Cella, MAGCS

## Chuck Barber & St. Charles Country Club

Chuck Barber has one growing season at St. Charles Country Club under his belt. It was one of the hottest, driest, and certainly longest on record. Chuck survived the season as most by paying attention to the fundamentals of growing quality turf and communicating with his membership.

When the Midwest Board held a planning meeting in December they brought up the idea of trying to host a less formal, shorter and more networking centric nine hole event. Chuck stepped up and offered St. Charles Country Club's Quarry Course, or just the "Q" if you are in the know.

St. Charles Country Club has undergone a few changes since Tom Bendelow first designed the course in 1924. When Arthur Anderson Consulting purchased the western acres of the golf course (adjacent to the Fox River) in the mid 1980's the club hired architect and member David Gill to design seven new holes that opened for play in 1987. In 2002 David Esler was hired to design 6 additional holes (the Quarry Course) on undeveloped club property to the North. This was to be the first phase of a master plan for the whole golf facility that is now quiescent. You'll see from the pictures and if you come out visit, that these six holes don't fit within the rest of the gentle rolling-parkland Bendelow/Gill design. They stand on their own, with their own personality and feel. In fact, you don't even feel like you are in innocuous topography of post prairie Illinois.

*Tina and Chuck covered by Molly and Tom.*





Some of the elevation changes are quite dramatic and Esler used these transformations to frame some exciting golf vistas. Off the tee he used the property's expanse to pull you in, where there is a feeling of openness. Once in, par can be elusive with the practically revetted bunker faces, depth perception scrambling backdrops, and unsuspecting breaking greens. The pictures from this spring show the Quarry Course without the leaves, drawing your eye, even closer to the design features.

The Club encourages members to come out and play a quick six or nine (replaying holes one two and six). They even have a membership package called the Quarry that "gives today's busy families an option to play together and play in less than an hour." So just as St. CCC is trying something new, so will the Midwest as Chuck hosts our first twelve (we're going to play it twice) event on June 10. One more new thing, which is not really novel, we're going to encourage everyone to walk. It'll be a good reason to lighten your bag and clean it out, but leave a few balls in there, you'll probably need more than one. @

PHOTO CREDITS: LUKE CELLA



Kris Kvelland, *Rdige Country Club*

# Confessions of a Wandering Mind

As with most of us who are employed in the golf industry, I can honestly say that I spend way too much time thinking about all things golf related.

I spend long days on the course; I can recall shots from random rounds back in high school; and I set my alarm early to watch the British Open, for God's sake. And yet, much as I try, I still struggle to focus on everyday events without images of golf. (At press time, I have not been diagnosed with any attention disorders). A year ago, I never would have expected that such an important event in my personal life would take place on a golf course. Somehow, the golf gods aligned and placed me on the 1st tee, in the south of Florida, in a light tan suit, front and center at my own wedding ceremony.

What a beautiful day. I'm looking at a gathering of all my closest friends and family who made the trip to join us on this special day....

I bet I could carry that water hazard on the right. We're probably looking at a short par 5. Although, I typically tend to block my shots and I would likely over-compensate and pull it in to those residences. Or does this Florida humidity cause the ball



*Kris Kvelland and his wife Amey wed last year in January. Kris was kind enough to share his thoughts of the day with the Midwest.*

to go longer or shorter? Maybe play it safe with an iron. Not a lot of divots in this section of the tee.

The cello and violin player are a nice touch. The groomsmen and bridesmaids look outstanding.....

This is probably the first time I have been on a golf tee without wearing work boots or golf shoes. I wonder if that patch of grass over there is Bermuda grass. What do I know? I haven't worked a day south of I-80. I guess it could be something like St. Augustine grass. I probably should know this.

Here comes the father and my new wife. Wow, I am a lucky guy.....

The priest looks amazingly like the priest from Caddyshack, the one who (spoiler alert) gets hit by lightning. He does have a great voice, though. Is that a hint of blue in his hair? Interesting. Probably normal down here.

I, Kris Kvelland, take.....

There should never be weddings on a golf course, and I can only imagine how this upsets the superintendent here. That reminds me of the time a few years ago when I noticed all of those tiny holes on our putting green. Kept scouting for worm activity, I told our staff, 'these birds are going after something.' Bizarre, I thought I had this under control. A week later, the clubhouse manager apologized to me for allowing a wedding party to take pictures on the green. The girls didn't want to take off their high heels. This Florida superintendent probably has a better IPM program than I.

As we board the golf cart and drive towards the clubhouse area, to take pictures as husband and wife, I carefully navigate a sharp turn, keeping all four tires on the cart path. Let's try and limit the wear from traffic. @



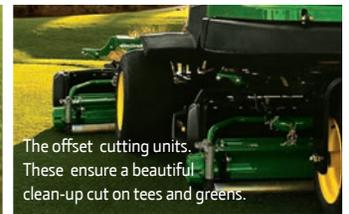
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## The Old Course Stirs Old Emotions

Every golfer dreams of playing St. Andrews as it is..... and as it was. If renovations were proposed to any other golf course, passionate opposition may exist, but as the birthplace of golf, change to St. Andrews is worthy of debate and reflection.

Golf evolved because St. Andrews is both arbitrary and capricious, simultaneously confounding and engaging, favoring no one and challenging everyone. St. Andrews is the result of God and nature, and as architects, we chase its genius. In fact, the golf industry is indebted to its existence.



The proposed changes to St. Andrews are an appropriate lightning rod that exposes the complexity of today's golf industry. Renovations to this iconic venue evoke passionate value judgments to the very issues we are confronted as architects. Length, maintenance, challenge, construction cost, the environment, history, and tournament capacity are but a few of the issues we must confront everyday, on a variety of projects, both large and small.

If St. Andrews were a building, it would be safeguarded in Historic Trust. But it is not a building: it is a living and breathing entity that provides recreation and enjoyment on a daily basis. This course belongs in historic trust, but not as a relic, but as a temple for participation, to be used and appreciated by average golfers and the professional alike.

As sacred and hallowed ground I personally believe it should be left untouched. St. Andrews golf course wants to change the golf course as a reaction to the ability of the

modern golfer and they have every right to do so. Therefore, I hope changes will be accomplished carefully and judiciously.

So the real issue is not if St. Andrews should be renovated, but why. The changes proposed are a direct reaction to the modern game, equipment advances and score relative to par. If technology has mitigated the strategic challenge at the St. Andrews, the birthplace of golf, then shouldn't we simultaneously examine the capacity and boundaries of modern equipment? If that can be accomplished, then reconstruction is unnecessary. That, I am afraid, will not occur soon.

The beauty of golf is bigger than 'protecting par'. Golf was invented and prospered because of match play. The uniqueness and charm of St. Andrews was fused in match play, not stroke play and the attraction of match play still thrives at St. Andrews. 





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# Something Completely Different

The television program “Monty Python’s Flying Circus” aired on the British Broadcasting Corporation from 1969 to 1973. They produced six movies for theatrical release, 18 albums, numerous TV specials, and stage musicals.

The television production popularized many innovations, now accepted as conventions, including an abrupt sequence disruption in which John Cleese, reporting from a news desk in mid-sketch, said, “and now for something completely different.”

As turf managers we sometimes become overwhelmed with our vocation. Superintendents and industry support staff work in a dynamic, fluid, ever-changing environment. It’s easy to be buried in work and not look up. John Turner of Bayer Environmental Science looks up. He looks up a lot,

as it turns out. “JT,” as he is affectionately called, has been flying Remote Control (RC) Airplanes since 1969!

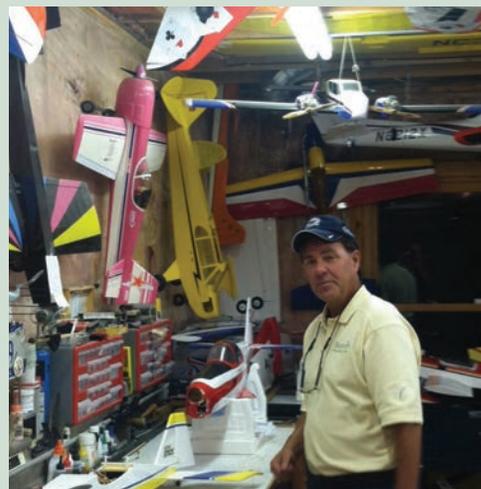


JT explains, “As a young model enthusiast, growing up in Indiana, I built stick models powered by rubber band and flew them near a golf course. I was introduced to a neighbor who built RC models and helped him build a larger plane that was operated by radio control. After saving up my yard money, I purchased my first RC plane for \$75 including the radio. Ironically, I still have it!”

JT elaborates a little, “My interest in flying started in the ‘60s with U-Control Planes, then progressed to model RC aircraft. Looks

like I have been in this for 40 years and still going strong!” It’s important to note, at this point, that the author of this article is only 36 years old.

JT’s habit (let’s call a spade a spade, shall we) has evolved over the years in to a variety of aircraft and modes of propulsion. “Gas has been the standard for many years, however electric is becoming the trend! No noise and exhaust residue from the motors. Battery sources (Lithium polymer) are providing longer flying time. Some of our members are flying RC aircraft with scale jet turbine engines that range from single to multi engine turbines. Each turbine engine is about \$6,000.” The enterprise, it seems, has changed a great deal over the years as new technologies developed.



JT’s wife supports his hobby, to a point. “Well she does not say too much about the monetary investment as long as I do not get too involved with her spending on shoes, clothes, house, etc. I’m only kidding! She does get upset when I go to field early Sat/Sun mornings every week for about 5 hours.”

It’s not dissimilar to having a tee time every weekend.



What about the dollar investment? JT says that while it's not cheap, it's also not the most expensive hobby, by a long shot. "Like any hobby one enjoys and has a passion for there is a cost. You can invest the minimal amount of \$100 for a small park model or spot \$20,000 for those quarter-scale or turbine jets. The question I always ask myself is, 'what is the dollar amount that I could afford to give up should a plane have a failure and crash in field?' The largest amount I have in one RC plane is about \$2,000, which is a 30% scale Extra 260 gas-powered engine."

JT's hobby keeps him busy most weekends in a field near his far west suburban home in Elburn, Illinois. "I belong to the Fox Valley Aero Club. I'm currently the Vice President of the organization. Our membership is 225 and growing. The average age of club members is probably 35-40."

JT and other club members aren't in it just for themselves but have extended into the community via charitable organizations. "Our club is very involved in local community activities such as Kids Day (teach a kid to fly), Festival of Flight, and the Salvation Army project, Toys for Tots. Our club also received an award from

the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) for outstanding newsletter and our contribution to the community." Way to go JT and Fox Valley Aero!



JT thinks the future is bright for model aircraft. "The RC future is promising with a variety of models including cars, boats, helicopters, and aircraft. You have seen our military using RC power drones (unmanned aircraft) for seeking out anything from a few hundred feet to almost outer space. The challenge with flying model aircraft is how far the technology

will allow one to fly from point of origin. There was some legislation that was presented to Congress on the height and distance allowed for model RC aircraft. The AMA lobbied in Washington and was able to meet some of the objections with favorable input on behalf of our hobby."



When asked about what he enjoys most about his hobby, JT told me, "Building an aircraft and watching it fly for the first time is what I enjoy most. Nailing a pin-point landing on land, water, and snow is such a thrill." @

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