

on 09/2013

THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

# COURSE

GOLFER'S VASCULITIS

TEN YEARS IN COUNTRY - EAB UPDATE

A CURE FOR POA?

Michael Heustis

## Chicago Highlands Club





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# toc

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## front cover

Chicago Highlands, the newest golf course in the area is the site of our October meeting. No leaf rule needed.

PHOTO: Luke Cella

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**Golfer's Vasculitis**  
 R. Brian Green, CGCS



I count nineteen mower stripes at the widest part of this tee on the 4th hole at Chicago Highlands. The hole from the tips is 250 yards with the berming on each side creating a chute that is only 30 feet wide at the narrowest point.

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## DATES

### 2013-14 MIDWEST EVENTS

- 10/7 Midwest October Meeting, Chicago Highlands Club
- 11/14 61<sup>st</sup> Midwest Turf Clinic, Medinah Country Club
- 1/22/14 January Meeting & Wee One Fundraiser, Seven Bridges
- 2/5/14 Midwest Hospitality Reception, Orlando Fl

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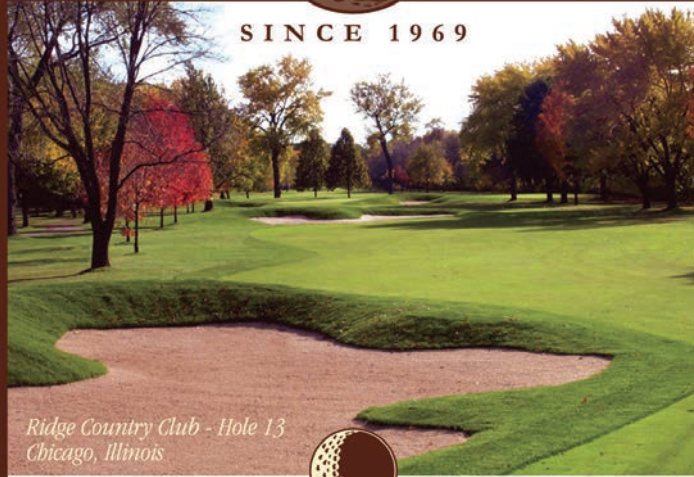
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# Changes Arriving Soon



Matt Harstad  
*Calument Country Club*


My wife Lauren and I are approaching the biggest change we will ever face in our life. At least that is what everyone keeps telling us. We dated for four years before we got married, so getting married didn't seem to be that much of a change. Getting a dog was a big change in our lives. We never had a dog before, and now we had to be home at a certain time or find a "baby sitter" if we knew we would be gone too long to watch the pooch.

Now, we await the arrival of our first child in January (yes, we sort of planned it that way). And from what everyone tells us, our lives will never be the same, in a mostly good way. Thinking about this change excites me and terrifies me.

This coming change is full of unknowns and questions I keep asking. What kind of father am I going to be? How bad can the lack of sleep really be? (I'm told that it's pretty bad.) How am I going to juggle work and family time? Is the baby's head going to fall off if I don't hold it right? Am I going to puke the first few times I change a diaper? What if I pass out in the delivery room? This list goes on forever; each time I think I have no more questions, a new one pops into my head.

I know some of these questions will be answered in our class before the baby arrives, but most of them won't really be answered until I actually experience them. The more I think about it, the more comparisons I relate from becoming a father to becoming a superintendent. Little bits of the knowledge that I use on a regular basis are the concepts that I was taught during turf school. However, the majority of my knowledge of our profession are the items that I have learned through the experience of doing things and absorbing from what other people have done. I foresee that this is how it is going to go with the baby. There's only so much you can learn from a book, but the education that you get from actually doing it and learning from others is limitless.

I will never be able to answer all the questions, but I know I can find the answers to a lot of problems by talking to other superintendents. Something that has been talked about countless times before is the camaraderie that we have in our business. It is something that I believe is unrivaled in any other industry. Before and after we have the baby, there will always be someone to talk to about this life-changing event. Someone at a MAGCS meeting, at golf league, or even on Twitter, will always have had the same experience, or is even going through the same exact thing as Lauren and I and will have some input on ways to solve the problem. Or perhaps, if there is no solution, they'll just say, "yup, that's the way it is, you're going to have to deal with it."

Although I know there will be times that it will be tough to juggle being a new father and a superintendent, it has been done countless times before, so I know it can be accomplished. I'm sure that there will be times that I feel like it's impossible to get it all done, but I'm thankful that I will always have people in the industry to turn to for help. 

# Ten Years in Country

# EAB Update

Luke Cella, MAGCS

PHOTO CREDITS: LUKE CELLA

It has been ten years since the Emerald Ash Borer was discovered in the United States (Detroit) and a lot of work has been done from a research standpoint, but what does it all mean to golf course superintendents and other ash tree owners and managers?

On June 9, 2006, two ash trees in “The Windings” subdivision, near Lilly Lake in Kane county were positively identified as being infested with the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), starting our battle with the bug in Illinois.

EAB, *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire (Coleoptera: Buprestidae), is identified as the causative agent in ash tree mortality and decline. No bigger than a penny, this green menace has wreaked havoc on millions of ash trees in the Midwest and if not controlled it could wipe out the ash tree species in North America. The adult beetles nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage. The larvae (the immature stage) feed on the inner bark or cambium layer,

which is the crucial layer between the bark and wood of ash trees, disrupting the tree’s ability to transport water and nutrients. Emerald ash borer probably arrived in the United States on solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes originating in its native Asia.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture, and its Emerald Ash Borer Program, believe systemic insecticidal treatments of ash trees, in response to or in preparation for Emerald Ash Borer infestation(s), can be a very useful component of a management plan. Insecticidal treatments can be an effective management strategy for high numbers of ash trees when integrated with the removal of known infested trees and continued monitoring of ash health, as a measure to potentially preserve and/or prolong the life of apparently yet unaffected ash trees. The department believes that by focusing treatment efforts on ash trees that are not showing signs and symptoms of EAB infestation, and are in overall good condition, and are desirable trees to preserve, there will be a better chance of successfully preserving those trees through a treatment program. The Illinois Department of Agriculture does not and will not endorse any specific treatment method, insecticide, company, or applicator.

Members of the Midwest have taken many different approaches to managing or not managing this bug.

**John Gurke, CGCS and Aurora Country Club**

We are not treating ash trees for emerald ash borer. We removed 27 ash trees last winter, 9 this season, with another 15 to 20 scheduled for removal this winter. We have initiated a reforestation program here at ACC whereby we solicit donations from members. They commit \$250, we purchase and plant a tree complete with donor plaque, if desired. This spring we had



33 donated and planted, with 6 commitments thus far for fall planting. To avoid the inevitable, we produced a list of desirable trees that we will plant, so we don't get the requests for 'Crimson King' Norway maples or other undesirable varieties. Of the 33 planted, 25 were oaks, with a mix of hackberry, ginkgo, and horse chestnut filling out the list. We also retain the right to plant where we feel is necessary, and not where the donor would like (unless the two agree).

#### Bob Lively and Flossmoor Country Club

"We treat them with chainsaws."

#### Chuck Barber and St. Charles Country Club

Here at St. Charles Country Club we have removed approximately 200 ash trees of various varieties. Many of these were large, specimen trees in very strategic locations. We removed the bulk of the dead or dying trees in 2011 and 2012. We transplanted a variety of trees from around the property from less strategic to more strategic locations to overcome the loss of those trees. The cost to remove the trees, debris, grind stumps, soil, seed, tree transplanting and labor was approximately \$30,000. One hundred percent of tree removals were done in-house and the stump grinding, tub grinding and debris hauling was contracted through various local companies. There are approximately two dozen ash trees that remain on property and all are infected to various degrees and will be removed in the Autumn of 2013 and the following winter.



*Tree removal companies are popping up all over as the EAB devastates neighborhoods. I fearfully watched as a neighbor had a large ash removed from their backyard this summer. It was a good reminder to hire responsible and reputable companies like the ones found in your membership directory.*

#### Steve Van Acker and Crystal Lake Country Club

Here at Crystal Lake we have a 150 ash trees. 100% are infected. 60 have been cut down in the past year, the 90 remaining will be cut down in the near future. The trees that looked the worst were cut down first.

#### Dan Dinelli, CGCS and North Shore Country Club

Chris Williamson, PhD, U of Wisconsin conducted a several year research project here at NSCC. Several chemistries proved effective as did various application strategies. The issue is that treatments will need to be on-going, at best every three years and up to annual applications depending on chemistry and application method. Like many locations, all our ash trees, Green, Blue, and White comprised 10% of our tree species on the property. We had the golf course architect review these trees and generated a priority of those that would impact playability. It ended up that very few did. We also have near 300 American Elms on the property, (susceptible to Dutch Elm Disease) requiring treatments every three years. With limited resources it was decided to keep treating elms and remove the ash, which we did last winter. I will miss the fall color of the white ash...but the green ash, not so much.

#### Justin Kirtland, Arrowhead Golf Club

We are treating 20 high profile, hole changing ash trees with Tree-age. We'll be cutting down 97 that are in bad shape over the next two years and re-planting about 30. The remaining 109 trees will be evaluated over the next 3-5 years and cut down as needed.

#### Dave Radaj, CGCS and Green Acres Country Club

We have ten high profile trees that we are treating at the Club. We've used Safari on an every other year treatment plan along with a Merit drench. The rest of our ash trees are only 25 years old or so and we've decided not to treat them at all.

#### Andy Dauksas, Glen Oak Country Club

We started doing Merit drenches around ash trees 3 years ago. Unfortunately, these trees are heavily infested right now and most will be removed. Several weeks ago, Nels Johnson treated with Tree-age injections to the remaining trees that show less damage. When looking at our ash population as a whole we found, surprisingly the white ash group shows no wood pecker damage or the tree suckering associated with the infection. Dr. Kris Bachtell explained that the EAB prefer the green ash because of the rougher bark (easier to overwinter) compared to the smoother barked white ash. However, he thinks EAB will eventually destroy the white ash once the green ash are gone.

#### Many Options Available

There are many different treatments options available to the professional land manager, if you choose to go that way. There is a great booklet on insecticide option that can be found at [emeraldashborer.info](http://emeraldashborer.info) It is written by scientists from our local colleges and universities and covers the growing number of effective chemical options, based on research and practical applications.

One of the largest questions or unknowns, if you choose a

treatment option for those highly valued trees, is how long will I have to treat? We know, as the pest moves into an area, the population of the bug will increase. After it has devastated a community of trees and the food source is in decline, the population of the bug will also diminish. If the pest moves out, because a shortage of food, some believe treatments could stop at some point in the future. However, scientists believe the pest will never go away – it may decrease but native ash seedlings and saplings found in forests, rights of ways and woodlots could be enough to nourish the pest for many years after the initial devastating wave is over. Because of this, treatments may have to continue, although application rates and frequencies may be lessened.

### Math Made Easy

If you are wondering whether to treat or remove your ash trees, there is very simple and clear-cut (ha-ha) cost calculator put out by Purdue University. It is designed for land managers, especially cities and urban areas, but works well for those managing smaller forests as well. To use it, you'll need:

The inventory of ash trees (including the general size and number).

- An estimate for removing the trees based on size.
- An estimate for treating the trees based on size.
- An estimate of replacing each tree that is removed if so desired.

The calculator creates a cost estimate using three options that are available (or a combination of these options):

- Treat ash trees with insecticides
- Remove ash trees
- Replace ash trees with resistant species

The calculator has a tutorial to go through, however it is pretty self-explanatory.

The tree inventory data is simply the number of ash trees on property based upon their trunk diameter as below:

Size Span (inches)	Number of Trees
1 - 3	<input type="text"/>
3 - 6	<input type="text"/>
6 - 12	<input type="text"/>
12 - 18	<input type="text"/>

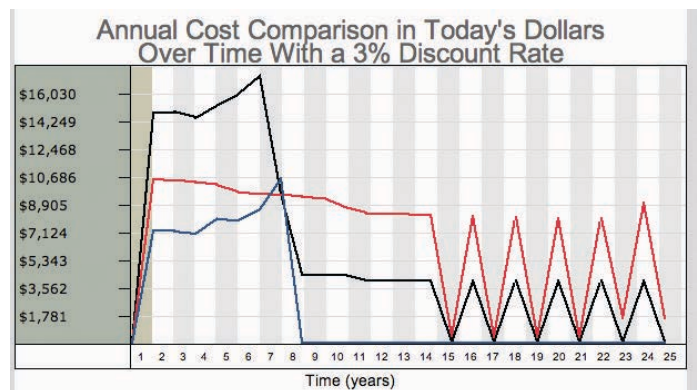
Next you'll answer a few questions based upon the extent of current infestation and how long it will take to remove those trees not planned for treatment (all trees will die or become too hazardous if not treated). After that, you'll enter information based upon treatments costs per tree and tree replacement cost and total removal cost.

The last set of data you will enter describes your management plan. You can select to remove all your trees, treat all or some, and build your own management plan by exploring the implications of removing, replacing or treating any combination of trees.

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Remove All	Remove All	Remove All
Replace All	Replace All	Replace All
Treat All	Treat All	Treat All
Remove Unsafe Ash	Remove Unsafe Ash	Remove Unsafe Ash
Replace Unsafe Ash	Replace Unsafe Ash	Replace Unsafe Ash
Replace >12	Replace >12	Replace >12
Replace <12	Replace <12	Replace <12
Replace <24	Replace <24	Replace <24
Save 50%	Save 50%	Save 50%
Treat 30% More to Buy Time	Treat 30% More to Buy Time	Treat 30% More to Buy Time
URBAN SLAM	URBAN SLAM	URBAN SLAM

*This is where the comparison occurs. You can select three different management options for your ash population. This criteria will be used to compare costs based on your selections.*

Once the data is entered you can select up to three options of action and the calculations will take place. Graphs will be spit out that compare your strategies and the costs associated with each. For a few minutes of work it creates a nice presentation that can be made to your membership or committee when deciding what steps to take.



*Treating 50% and removing the other 50% (black line) is the most costly option during the first 8 years. Removing all ash species (blue line) is cheapest way to go in the long run.*

In the ten years since the borer was discovered in the United States, much has been done to learn about the insect through studying its biology, insecticide treatments, cold temperature hardiness, developing traps and monitoring procedures, and studying transport and quarantine issues. Work continues looking at the cost and economics of the pest, possible biological controls, and ways to save and preserve the ash species. Unfortunately, most have given into this pest and have begun planting alternatives. ©



## Recommended Ash Replacements\*

Common Name	Botanical Name
'Autumn blaze' Freeman maple	<i>Acer x freemanii</i>
Trident maple	<i>Acer buergeranum</i>
Hedge maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Miyabe maple	<i>Acer miyabei</i>
Norway maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
Sugar maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
Shantung maple	<i>Acer truncatum</i>
Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanea</i>
Upright European hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata'</i>
American hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>
Katsura tree	<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>
Yellowwood	<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>
Turkish filbert	<i>Corylus colurna</i>
Hardy rubber tree	<i>Eucommia ulmoides</i>
Gingko	<i>Gingko biloba</i>
Thornless honeylocust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i>
Kentucky coffee tree	<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>
Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
Tulip tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>
Amur maackia	<i>Maackia amurensis</i>
Dawn redwood	<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>
Tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>
American hophornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>
Amur corktree	<i>Phellodendron amurense</i>
London planetree	<i>Platanus acerifolia</i>
Common chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Callery pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>
Sawtooth oak	<i>Quercus acutissima</i>
Swamp white oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>
Northern pin oak	<i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i>
Shingle oak	<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>
Bur oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
Chinkapin oak	<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>
Japanese pagodatree	<i>Sophora japonica</i>
Linden or Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>
Little-leaf linden	<i>Tilia cordata</i>
Silver linden	<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>
Elm hybrids	<i>Ulmus spp.</i>
Japanese zelkova	<i>Zelkova serrata</i>

\* Suggestions from Michigan State University Extension Bulletin E2925

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# SUPER-N-site

## Michael Heustis & Chicago Highlands Club

Billy Sharp, Chicago Highlands Club

PHOTOS: LUKE CELLA

Only a handful of Superintendents in the present day are able to watch their future course come together from beginning to end.

Michael Heustis, Superintendent of The Chicago Highlands Club in Westchester, IL, was fortunate enough to be brought in just as ground was being broken and soil was beginning to be moved and shaped into what would make up this undulated, challenging "Scottish-Links" style course.

In April of 2008, Michael was selected to become the



*Mike Heustis, Superintendent of Chicago Highlands and ever present Molly, his faithful Yellow Labrador, enjoy a cool morning this August.*

Superintendent of the future club by the trio of club owners which includes Tom Healy, John Baxter, and Joe Hills. Not only was this giant task because of the size of the property, but also this was the time in which the recession hit the economy hard. But after two years of hard work, cautious spending, as well as countless tweaks and changes, the 270 acre property was ready to be opened. What made this a unique project was the fact that the property was situated

*A bulldozer is one of the only sounds you'll hear on the property every once in awhile as the landfill is still accepting spoils from construction sites around the area. Eventually, it will close and trees will be planted secluding the property even more so (left).*





on a landfill which closed in the 1980's. As far as the course, the first year was a huge success for Michael and the staff, being awarded such honors as "Top 5 Best New Course of the Year" and the 9th hole was awarded "Hole of the Year" by Golf Digest.



The mission statement that Michael and the staff try to implement is for "Fast and Firm" conditions that make for a round of golf which is challenging, fun and unforgettable. Views of the Chicago skyline, sweeping fescue hills, and top-notch putting surfaces have helped the Arthur Hills designed course earn a great reputation in the Chicagoland area as an up-and-coming club that is regarded highly with the other prestigious courses in the area.

Michael is an Illinois native, having grown up in the Saybrook, IL area and has been involved with golf course maintenance since the age of 14. He started his career at Indian Springs Golf Club and worked there until 1997. From



*The flagstick for the 13<sup>th</sup> is extra long because of the hills that protect the green. There are a couple of cupping spots on the green that make it very tough to even see the flagstick from the teeing area.*




there, he attended Parkland College for two years and then transferred to The University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana to complete his degree in Agronomy. Shortly after college, Michael took an Assistant Superintendent position at Lake of the Woods Golf Course, which is a forest preserve course located in Mahomet, IL. After spending nearly 3 years there, he moved on to Peach Tree Golf Club in Atlanta, GA. In 2005, Michael volunteered for the Walker Cup which was being held at Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton, IL. Shortly after the event, he was offered the Assistant's position there at Chicago Golf, which he accepted and started in December 2005. After 2 years under the tutelage of Jon Jennings and a few interviews with the trio of owners at Chicago Highlands, Michael landed where he presently resides

Outside of the daily grind at the course, Michael is an active member of GCSAA, MAGCS, and the CAGCS. He has also volunteered at the 2012 Ryder Cup at Medinah, 2006 PGA Championship at Medinah and the 2007 Women's British Open at St. Andrews Old Course. Being a U of I alumni, he is also a huge fan of the Fighting Illini sports, and also attends many Chicago Cubs games as well. Most of Michael's family is located in central Illinois, which makes for a great get away as well as being able to visit relatives. He has one older sister, two nieces and one nephew who enjoy when Uncle Michael comes to visit. But they enjoy it even more when he brings his ten year old Yellow Lab "Molly." She has been with Michael since she was six weeks old and loves a good run on the course, but nowadays enjoys a spot next to his desk in the





office.

Michael and I both look forward to seeing everyone at this month's meeting and hope you have a great time out on the course. 

*Image Above: The first tee that will be seen from the clubhouse once it is built. At present only a pool house exists. As the membership grows, a clubhouse will be constructed on 31<sup>st</sup> Street.*

*Image right: One of the most recognizable skylines in the world can be seen from several points on the property.*

*Image Below: The third hole in the foreground and the 8th in the background uses native plantings to separate playing areas and keep the vistas open and spacious.*



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# #BullSheet



SEPTEMBER 2013

## Dates to Remember

**September 9-15** – PGA Tour's BMW Championship at Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake Forest, IL, Chad Ball, CGCS and Connor Healy hosts.

**September 16** – 10th Annual Wee One Foundation Outing at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI, Rod Johnson host.

**September 18** – Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS) Annual Founders Cup event at Coyote Run Golf Course in Flossmoor, IL, Dave Ward host.

**September 30** – The 2nd Annual CDGA Par 3 Championship benefitting the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation at Lost Dunes Golf Club in Bridgman, MI.

**October 4** – Deadline for applications for the "Healthy Turf, Healthy Tomorrow" Plant Health Scholarship sponsored by Bayer. More to follow.

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

**October 7-9** – Chicago Open at Cantigny Golf Club in Wheaton, IL, Scott Witte, CGCS, Jeremy Duncan, Steve Kuretsky, John Maksymiu, and Phillip Reed hosts. (are these guys all still there?)

**October 9** – 2013 University of Illinois Turf Alumni Golf Outing at Sunset Ridge Country Club, Greg Rounds and Ben Larsen hosts.

**October 18** – Deadline for applications for the GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards.

**November 14** – 61st Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club in Medinah, IL, Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS, MG, Ryan Cummins, Jacob Mendoza, Jim Wallace, and Dane Wilson hosts.

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

Mr. David Rutz, Class E, ezLocator  
Mr. Paul Burger, Class E, Green Source Inc.  
Mr Ron Freund, Class E, Wadsworth Golf Construction

Congratulations to **Mike Murphy** on his new position with Blu Petroleum—best wishes Mike!

A slightly belated Happy Birthday to Orchard Valley Golf Course, which turned The Big 2 – 0 last month. One more year and it can legally drink. While on the subject, Orchard Valley will host a unique event this month on the 28th—the second round of the BIG Tournament, the world's biggest invitational amateur charity golf tournament. Here's how it works: Winning 2-person teams from round 1 advance to various regional venues like Orchard Valley for round 2. It's a scramble format, and the winning team wins \$1,000 for its charity of choice as well as free entry and hotel stay in Las Vegas for the National Championship in November. The grand prize is \$10,000, while second and third place finishers will win \$5,000 and \$2,500 respectively for their charities. Nice event and a nice cause.

Condolences to **Dave Radaj II**, CGCS and his family on the passing of his father David John Radaj, Sr. on August 17th at the age of 81.

Welcome to Doug Veine, who is Bernhard's new Territory Manager for the Midwest and Northeastern USA regions, supporting Bernhard products through its local distributor J.W. Turf.

Congrats to **Thom Irvin**, former assistant superintendent at Indian Hill Club on his move out to San Francisco, CA where he joins GCSAA President Pat Finlen, CGCS at the Olympic Club.

Also on the move is **Arthur Clesen, Inc.**, whose headquarters are moving 3 miles down the road to 635 Margate Drive in Lincolnshire, IL.

BIG congrats to **Craig Shepherd** on his recent milestone performance at the Chicago Triathlon. After five years of trying, Sheppy finally medaled in the event, taking 11th place overall and 2nd in his age division (the



Doug Veine, Bernhard's new territory manager

depressingly young and in absurdly terrific shape division I believe it's called). Nice job Craig!

As July heated up (at least for one week anyhow), so did the golf game of **Jan** "The Wizard" **Jarvis**. Jan aced the 12th hole at Blackberry Oaks Golf Course during Fox Valley Golf League play. Details as to which wand he used were not made public, but Jan assures me that no sorcery that is disallowed in the Rules of Golf was used. Congratulations, Jan!



*Craig Shepherd finished the 2013 Chicago Triathlon Sprint Race in 1:11:45. Maybe next year MAGCS will sponsor you.*

a \$2,500 scholarship to advance their education in plant health. Winners may use the award to attend local, regional, or national education conferences, or to enroll in a continuing education program at an institution of higher learning. The requirements are that you must be employed as a golf course superintendent in the U.S., and you must be a Class A or superintendent member of GCSAA and the Bayer Accolades customer loyalty program. For an application form, go to [www.backedbybayer.com](http://www.backedbybayer.com). Deadline is October 4th. Who couldn't use \$2,500? By the way, did you know you can donate some of your Bayer Accolade points to the Wee One Foundation this year? Do it.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of this month the second annual CDGA Par 3 Championship benefitting the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation will take place at the Lost Dunes Club in Bridgman, MI. The 18-hole team championship will be contested in the morning, with each hole set up as a par 3. After lunch, contestants will be able to play a full regulation round, followed by dinner and an awards ceremony. If you're interested in playing, you need to get your two-person team together quickly and raise \$2,500 to bring with you to the event (maybe you could use the \$2,500 you won from Bayer?). For info, contact Alex Nolly at [anolly@cdga.org](mailto:anolly@cdga.org).

Q: What's it called if **Mike Vercautren** builds a baseball field on his golf course?  
A: A Butterfield of Dreams.

Congratulations to Kate and **Aaron Reinhart** on the birth of their first child Olivia on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Little Olivia showed her impatience by arriving a month early at 6 pounds, 3 ounces, and 19 inches long (or is it tall?).



The TurfNet Superintendent of the Year award presented by Syngenta has honored dozens of nominees annually since 2000 for their work in producing outstanding playing conditions often during times of great adversity. The nominees are judged on their ability to excel in one or more of the following criteria: labor management, maximizing budget limitations, educating and advancing the careers of colleagues and assistants, negotiating with government agencies, preparing



*Jan may have used the missing Stone of Zanzabar from prior to making his ace.*

You don't see this every day. The eighth green at the Matterhorn Golf Club in Taesch, Switzerland recently had a new feature added. A six-foot tall rock dislodged from a mountain about 1,000 feet above during a thunderstorm and tumbled down, landing on the green. And yes, it left a mark. The plan for its removal involved

dynamite, a crew of inmates with sledge hammers, and duct tape.

Bayer is happy to announce its inaugural "Healthy Turf, Healthy Tomorrow" Plant Health Scholarship, which will be awarded to two outstanding golf course superintendents. Those selected will each receive



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for tournaments under unusual circumstances, service to golf clientele, upgrading or renovating the course and dealing with extreme or emergency conditions. If you know someone who fits these requirements, it's time to nominate them for the 2013 award, to be presented at the GCSAA Education Conference in Orlando, FL. Two MAGCS members have won this prestigious award: **Paul Voykin** (Briarwood CC) in 2003 and **Sam MacKenzie** (Olympia Fields CC) in 2008. Nomination forms can be found at [www.turfnet.com](http://www.turfnet.com). Deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Conventional thinking has it that **Dave "Junior" Braasch** packed up the truck back in the day and headed up to Wisconsin to ply his trade at Glen Erin Golf Club. But sometimes conventional thinking is far from that. UNconventional thinkers have pointed out after seeing "Hurt Locker" and the more recent "Bourne Legacy" that maybe Junior took a left along the way and headed Hollywood way. Hmm...

## MIDWEST Doppelgänger



What do you do when you've accomplished just about everything you can in the golf business, including hosting a U.S. Open Championship? If you're **Dave Ward** at Coyote Run Golf Course, you grab a greens mower and a GPS tracking device and set out to cut a set of greens just for giggles. Dave selected the longest route—the one I would have avoided like the plague—which looked like this.



It must not have been a very dewy morning—note all the skips



Looks like he mowed a couple bunkers while he was at it

Afterward, Dave promptly turned off the tracking device and did what

any of us would—went to his favorite local watering hole to rehydrate. And if I know Dave, it was one that served some kind of fancy local kraft beer.

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, MAGCS members descended upon Edgewood Valley Country Club in LaGrange, IL for a day of education, golf, and most-importantly, fun.

**Ron McCarthy** was our gracious host, and he and his staff provided a wonderful venue for our day. Before hitting the course, **Dr. Bruce Branham** gave an informative presentation on Poa Cure, along with some other turf updates. It looks like we have a winner in our battle with *Poa annua*, according to Bruce. The golf course was in excellent condition, and proved a difficult test for all (except perhaps **Keith Copersmet**, who potted an ace during his round. Congrats, Keith!

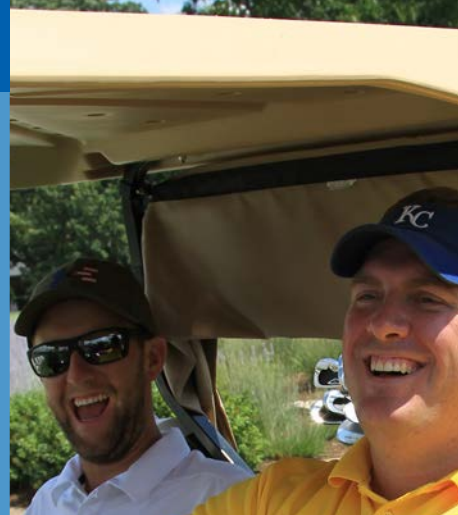


*Keith was starting to get mad when he couldn't find his tee shot. He forgot to look in the hole as he walked past.*

More MAGCS members have been spotted in the pages of other golf industry pubs recently. In July's Golf Chicago, **Greg Martin** had a neat feature called "Golf With a Smaller Footprint," describing the market correction the industry is making through the development of various new and different concepts such as short courses including par three courses and executive nines. Golf Course Industry featured **Bruce Williams**, CGCS warning of "The Worst-Case Scenario," an article about the strange and unexpected things that can happen on a golf course, and how superintendents can prepare

## MAGCS July Meeting Edgewood Valley Country Club

Several special events were contested on the course that day, including the Class C Championship and the Dom Grotti Superintendent/Assistant Championship. Taking home the hardware in the Class C event was Jeff Sievert of Ruth Lake Country Club with a 79. Jeff Plasschert of Bryn Mawr Country Club took second with an 81, and Brian Kalal used his home course knowledge to take third place with an 88. In the Grotti, it was the team from Ruth Lake who drank from the cup, as Dan Marco and Jeff Sievert netted a 148 to beat team Bryn Mawr's Brian Bossert and Jeff Plasschert who shot a 157 and third place finishers Jason Lemanski and Greg Van Weelde from Waters Edge Golf Course. Congratulations to all winners! Thanks to Ron and everyone at Edgewood Valley for a great day, and to the day's sponsors who made it all possible: [Arthur Clesen, Inc.](#), [BASF](#), [Burris Equipment Company](#), [Layne-Christensen](#), [Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts](#), [Reinders, Inc.](#), [Syngenta Professional Products](#), and [UMAXX](#).



*Marco and Sievert set a new standard: All future Grotti teams must wear matching outfits on the day of competition.*



for them. Such scenarios mentioned in Bruce's article were a maintenance building fire, a 100-year storm, and yes, even the old overturned-circus-transport-releasing-wild-animals-on-the-course scenario (Sooo predictable!) July's Golfdom had **Dr. Bruce Branham's** *Poa* talk in ink and paper format, and **Shane Conroy** of Park Ridge Country Club lit up the TurfNet Blog Aggregator with several posts, including one on spiking and topdressing greens, and one about a pond bank facelift, where an eroding bluegrass bank was restored to 'Black Beauty' turf-type tall fescue. Nice work everyone!



The deadline for the GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards is fast approaching—October 18<sup>th</sup> is the day applications are due. In partnership with Syngenta and Rain Bird, the Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses around the world for their commitment to environmental stewardship. You can either apply for yourself, or nominate someone you feel is deserving of the honor by going to [gcsaa.org](http://gcsaa.org) and clicking on the ELGA tab.

Annika Sorenstam, a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame and one of the most decorated golfers of all time has been selected to receive the 2014 Old Tom Morris Award from GCSAA. The presentation will take place on Feb. 5, 2014 at the Opening Session of the Education Conference in Orlando, FL.

GCSAA has joined the USGA Pace of Play Initiative that was launched during the U.S. Open held in June at Merion Golf Club. Also on board for this important initiative are the PGA of America, the R & A, Club Managers Association of America, National Golf Course Owners Association, and the American Society of Golf Course Architects. @

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# Golfer's Vasculitis

R. Brian Green, CGCS, Sunset Valley Golf Course

Naming a rash after golf isn't going to do much to grow the game, but the purpose is to get the rash recognized, not golf.

"It's awful, look what it is doing to my legs!" says a veteran golfer. "It must be something you're spraying out here," she adds. I have heard that statement or a similar one many times over the years.

I would then suggest seeing a dermatologist and taking all of our Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) along to the doctor to find out which chemical we are spraying is causing the rash on our clientele's legs. The strangest part of these encounters is that I never learned what was actually causing the rash.

Confronted by this situation again this season, I came across a study out of Australia that has connected the issue to being mostly heat related. The report took a look at many different patients in Australia, all suffering from similar symptoms and most attributing the issues to severe allergic reactions after golfing, hiking, or walking outside for extended periods. Those in the study believed the allergen to be grass or pesticide related but with none confirmed through sometimes extensive allergy testing. Furthermore, those afflicted could never pinpoint anything new they had used that would have caused the reaction like lotion, fabric softener, or soap.

The study found there were two common denominators among all those inflicted; it occurred during the summer months under hot conditions and most patients were over 50 years old. The summary of the study states: "The findings would suggest that it occurs in healthy people and extensive investigation with

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**"Golfer's Vasculitis as named by the Australian Journal of Dermatology is caused by prolonged exercise under hot conditions."**

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*Golfer's Vasculitis starts above the sock line and appears on the lower leg when the afflicted walk a lot in hot temperatures.*

blood tests or allergy testing is inappropriate. We believe the condition should be termed 'golfer's vasculitis', as golf appears to be the most common precipitating event and such a term would enable the condition to become more widely recognized.

It seems the rash is more common than originally thought, and goes mis- or undiagnosed because the symptoms disappear before an appointment with a dermatologist or physician is made and subsequently completed. The rash commonly appears on legs of people who participate in walk-a-thons, and those who attend theme parks where a large amount of walking (usually in summer) is a given. In fact, the rash has been called the Disney Rash (the Disney Corporation may have been behind the name change) and has been attributed to the parks operated by Disney for many years.

"I have gotten the Disney Rash during my last several trips but I thought I was allergic to the landscaping since Disney is the only place I get it!"



*You don't have to play golf to get the rash. One of the more common places people get Golfer's Vasculitis is at theme parks, where they walk and stand for long periods throughout the day.*

Another park goer thought it had something to do with the paving at Epcot. "... our experiences have been only in Epcot. Back in 2001, I thought I read over on the parks board something about there being very small pieces of glass mixed in with the pavement ingredients and when mixed with the sun reflecting up from it the end result was this rash."

Golfer's Vasculitis as named by the Australian Journal of Dermatology is caused by prolonged exercise under hot conditions. It typically occurs in healthy people and usually starts above the sock line on the calves of those afflicted. The blood vessels in the leg become irritated, inflamed, and eruptions appear as red splotches or patches. In most cases the affected areas do not itch.

### Prevention and Treatment of Golfer's Vasculitis

The research offered no treatment or prevention recommendations. Thankfully, (from one who is in the golf industry) it should not be considered a health concern nor should anyone afflicted with it begin allergy or extensive medical testing. However, if one is unsure a diagnosis from a dermatologist or physician is recommended.

If one suffers from Golfer's Vasculitis, common sense would dictate, don't go for long walks when it is hot outside. The most common recommendations I found are to:

See your doctor or dermatologist and suggest Golfer's Vasculitis

- Take a golf car instead of walking on hotter days
- Pamper your legs following a round of golf – elevate and apply cool compresses
- Try compression socks or supportive leggings



The next time a member or golfer asks you what you've been applying to the turf and blaming you for the rash that has broken out on their lower legs, tell them about the Disney Rash. ©

## Points for a Purpose

*The Wee One Foundation is asking golf course superintendents nationwide to donate a portion of their Early Order Program points to the Wee One Foundation through participating turf care supply companies. All donated points will be matched as a cash donation from the participating organizations. Donations will help ease the financial burden of medical expenses for golf course superintendents.*

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**For a complete list of participating companies, visit [weeone.org](http://weeone.org)**

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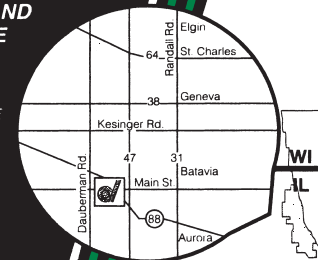
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## Another Poa Cure?



Edgewood Valley Country Club and Superintendent Ron McCarthy hosted the July Meeting in LaGrange, Illinois. Of course it was sunny, humid, and hot. A typical July day. The education for the day featured Dr. Bruce Branham from the University of Illinois.

He revealed some incredible breakthrough technology on the horizon for the elimination of *Poa annua* on greens. Really?? Research and technology has finally found an herbicide that can kill the “uber grass?” This is BIG NEWS. Grass growers and scientists have been searching for the “magic bullet” that will kill the *Poa* without hurting the bentgrass since the dawn of greenkeeping. Please tell us more.

The product is called Poa Cure. The active ingredient is methiozolin. The product was “discovered” in Korea by a scientist who was looking at herbicides for control of weeds in rice patties. The research using Poa Cure for *Poa annua* control has been conducted for the last three years. The product works. Dr. Branham believes it to have “a very good margin of safety” on cool season turf varieties. His trials began in 2011 and on course testing began in 2012 at North Shore Country Club.

Dr. Branham has tested the product on USGA and push up greens. He still has questions regarding different effectiveness on different soil types and if frost conditions have an impact.

The product works by inhibiting *Poa annua*'s root growth. Applications are made in the spring and fall. It will be marketed and sold as a two year program to minimize voids by slowly removing the unwanted *Poa* and allow the existing bentgrass to slowly fill in. “It just melts away.” Hmmm.

Dr. Branham has not seen any injuries on the 21 different bentgrass cultivars at the University of Illinois field turf plots. Dr. Branham's commented further:

- Control is gradual but very evident.
- Certain *Poa* biotypes appear to be more injured than others.

- Spring applications have shown to be “safer”, displaying less overall visual injury.

Dr. Branham cautions that resistance may be inevitable for any single use herbicide control product. This product may work well in conjunction with other *Poa* control products already on the market. Despite any potential injury this product is a “game changer.”

The program as you can guess will not be cheap. The projected cost for applications to cover 3 acres of putting green turf over the two year period is expected to around \$7,500.

Currently the product is only labeled in Korea. It is owned by a private owner and is labeled specifically for putting greens. At this time, this is the only intention for the product usage. As you know most of the previous *Poa* control products were never labeled for putting greens. The liability is too high. Expect to see the product released in the United States in 2015.

Dr. Branham concluded his day with a discussion on climate change. He cautioned for the skeptics that the data is proving the warming trend to be REAL. The planet is getting warmer. The ice in Antarctica and the Arctic is melting, just ask the Polar bears.

He recommends that all golf courses have a “plan.” We can become leaders in the environmental movement educating on the benefits of green grass and golf courses as beneficial assets. He recommends you think longer term. Think about how we can become more efficient as energy and water will become expensive in the future. Increase solar energy use, use recycled products, decrease our carbon foot print and decrease overall water usage. Thanks Dr. Branham for the update, always good stuff. ☺

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# Regional Roundup

Legislatively there is always a lot going on in the golf industry. GCSAA is watching out for you as well. Chava McKeel, our government relations expert is watching Washington very closely on matters that affect golf course superintendents. Immigration reform, NPDES (yes we are still battling that issue) and many other items are at the forefront of our fight.

Chava's plate is so full GCSAA has decided to give her an assistant to help her and also to better assist the membership. From time to time GCSAA will send out a legislative alert when we need our members help. These alerts are on the website and you can click on the alert, a prewritten letter will be there, you can read it, add your comments if you like, enter your zip code and it will be sent to your legislators on your behalf. It is a great way to tell your legislators how the decisions they make affect you and your golf course. They are definitely hearing it from the other side; they need to hear your side of the story too!

The first Round For Research auction ended June 16th with great results. There were 748 rounds donated for 2013. In the June auction we offered 669 rounds and 483 (72%) were sold raising \$106,000. \$79,256.80 went back to the chapters and \$26,889.20 went to the Environmental Institute for Golf. There were also cash donations by golf courses totaling \$1,450.00. It was a great auction for Rounds for Research and we are very excited about the upcoming August auction. We are looking for similar results.

The Environmental Institute for Golf needs your help too. The EIFG helps golf course superintendents by providing funds for research, education, scholarships and GCSAA programs. The money raised directly impacts GCSAA members. GCSAA is constantly soliciting industry partners and friends of golf to make a difference but it is a difficult sale when only about 12% of GCSAA members now donate to the EIFG. The amount of the donation is not at issue, it is the number of GCSAA members that donate to please take 5 minutes to donate \$5 to the EIFG today. Your donation is tax deductible and easy to do at [eifg.org](http://eifg.org). Thank you for your consideration in donating to the EIFG.

- John Miller, CGCS

## Chapter Delegates Meeting

The 2013 Chapter Delegates meeting will be held in Lawrence, KS. at The Oread Hotel and GCSAA Headquarters Oct. 1-3, 2013. Don Ferreri has agreed to represent the Midwest and will travel to Lawrence to do so.

The focus of this year's Chapter Delegates Meeting is the future. What will the golf industry and profession look like in the year 2020? What forces will be at play that affects our members and their ability to do their job? How will these things affect GCSAA? And what will the association need to be providing to its members in order to prepare them to meet these challenges.

The GCSAA Board of Directors held a Strategic Planning Session where it worked through these and other questions as it pertained to the future. GCSAA has asked the delegates to answer these questions prior to the meeting:

- Do you feel it would help GCSAA's marketing efforts to employers to simplify the membership classifications? Does Class A get lost in the marketplace due to the fact GCSAA has several different member classifications?
- Thinking about the needs of future superintendents, do you feel GCSAA should enhance Class A standards? What comes to mind?
- How quickly should GCSAA move on this initiative? 3, 5, or 10 years?
- As you think about your chapter members who are not Class A, what needs to happen to make him/her want to achieve Class A? Any thoughts on what would create that tipping point?

Please give Don a call 630-852-1746 or an email: [dsferreri@cs.com](mailto:dsferreri@cs.com) to share your thoughts with him so he may represent us well. @



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Luke Cella, CGCS, MAGCS


# Family Fun at the Ballpark & MAGCS Members Share with the First Tee

## Family Night Picnic

MAGCS hosted another Family Night Picnic on July 20th at the Kane County Cougar Baseball Stadium, now known as Fifth Third Bank Ballpark. 87 members and guests enjoyed the food, fellowship and the game – at least until the sixth inning when the sky opened up and the rain came. As the storm approached, most of the superintendents started to compare radar apps on their phones and the conversations started to center around whether or not the storm would bring any rain to “my” golf course. As the usher for our section urged us to take cover, I distinctly remember one of our members telling him we have at least six minutes before we got wet. If there was one group that was not upset the night ended a little early it was ours. Thanks to our sponsors: **Bayer, Burris Equipment Company, Nels J Johnson Tree Experts, Reinders, Inc. and Syngenta Professional Products** and all those who made it out.



**Midwest Members Teach Youth**

On August 16, several Midwest members aided the First Tee of Greater Chicago by educating 24 teenagers at our home, the Midwest Golf House and at Cog Hill Golf Club. In partnership with John Deere, The First Tee pilot program "Careers On Course" gave young people an opportunity to explore career paths in golf course management and science. The whole program places a particular focus on agronomy and golf course equipment and management related education. **Scott Pavalko, Nick Marfise, Dave Radaj II, CGCS, Ed Fischer, CGCS Retired, Pete Leuzinger CGCS Retired, Ed Nangle, PhD, Troy Tietjens,** and **Rick Uthe** shared their knowledge and experience. Each spoke on different topics giving the attendees an overview of the operations and the science behind golf course management. The kids were interested and engaged, listening and asking pertinent questions throughout the day. Two of the kids will be selected to spend the day with **Chad Ball, CGCS** as he prepares for the BMW Championship. The First Tee hopes to continue this program in the coming years, and was very thankful for the participation of our members. 



*Dave Radaj explains the use of the moisture meters as one of the youth probe a putting green at Cog Hill.*



*Troy Tietjens (r) awaits his turn to teach as Denver Caldwell, John Deere Marketing Manager, shares the story about John Deere and the company's commitment to our industry.*

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