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Count on it.

(continued from page 8)

grounds or working on his game. Jay is newly married to his beautiful bride, Carol, and has inherited two children and three grandchildren. He has been an invaluable asset to Hidden Greens over the years. Imagine that for 20 years, you have had someone at your facility that you could trust completely on any weekend that you are away. I have had the great fortune to be able to take that precious short break, and know that the guy in charge when I am away will always be there for the course. That alone says more about him than my detailing his disease identification skills, or his ability to “sense” a hydraulic leak (both of which come in pretty handy).

As for myself, I am married now for 16 years to my wonderful bride, Lisa, and we have two great boys. Trey (nine), and Ryan (six), are the center of our world. We spend all winter chasing around the metro area playing basketball. The boys are also big into football in the fall. Thankfully, hockey is a four letter word in our house. The boys currently look at my job as “work” and have yet to realize how great it is going to be to actually grow up on the golf course. I look forward to all of the fun that we will have as a family for years to come. It might help if I would play more golf with them instead of trying to convince them that picking sticks with dad is the most fun EVER!

I should probably mention something about the course here. We are on a 2 square mile State Game refuge just south of Hastings. We share a fence line with Bellwood Oaks,

which as most of you know is managed by Bill Gullicks. It is rather unique that there are two independent, privately owned, 18 hole public courses side by side. We have taken advantage of each other over the years in the form of borrowing equipment, ideas, and the occasional emergency irrigation repair coupler.

Hidden Greens was cut completely out of the oak and pine woods that originally was my grandfather’s farm and hunting grounds. We were one of Joel Goldstrand’s early designs, and he was no stranger to tight, wooded, shot-maker tracks. We play only 6,300 from the tips and are a course where position off the tee is more important than blasting away. I still haven’t learned that lesson, and the driver is still in my bag (actually, I now have 2 drivers). Who doesn’t love a good 120 yard punch out through dozens of trees to 15 feet? I recently conceded that we have predominantly poa/bent greens with blue/rye fairways. I always put the bent first, and that is becoming something of an obvious case of denial.

Jay and I would like to welcome any of you in the industry to come play Hidden Greens this spring for the kick off of the playing season for the MGCSA. The golf events are a great way to enjoy the game and each other. Our entire profession spends way too much time working for the game we love and not nearly enough time playing it. I try to play in as many events as possible every year, and am very happy to be able to host one at my home course.

On Board: Q & A with a member of your BOD

An amazing and early spring...a blessing or a curse for golf courses?
Dave Kazmierczak CGCS, Superintendent at Prestwick Golf Club



The early spring of 2012 will be both a blessing and a curse for us at Prestwick Golf Club. We typically do not get a flood of play early spring and this one is no exception. We also tend to open later than most public courses, so we do not see an overabundance of revenue in a situation like this year. If the weather holds out, and it continues to be above average after the Masters, we then tend to see a real spike in play. (continued on page 20)

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On Board: **continued.**

However, in a conversation I had with our head pro, he stated that the real benefit of an early, warm start to the year is not necessarily up front. He indicated that studies have proved out that a good initial start sets the tone for the entire year. That is what we are all hoping for. We will need it because of the downside of a prolonged season.

The first of which is rather obvious—more time in the field means an expansion of expenses. These expenses were not counted on when the budget was made in early December. Degree-day modeling aside, I estimate we are anywhere from four to six weeks ahead of pace. That means four to six weeks extra of mowing and general care if the season concludes at the normal time in the fall. That means more labor time, more mower care time, more fertilizer and a few more pesticide applications. I am roughly estimating an extra \$18,000 to \$23,000 to our expense ledger, and that estimate is on the conservative side.

That is fine and dandy if we are full and making solid money while we are open, but as I stated, we probably are not. If the weather is in the 50's and there is any forecast for rain, Prestwick resembles a ghost town. One or two nice days gets the grass growing, but won't fill the tee sheet consistently. That, coupled with the fact that every public golfer is bargain hunting at this time of the year, leaves mid to high end public courses left out of the early season revenue bonanza.

For the private course superintendent, it has to be even worse. There is no extra revenue realized for an early season. If they are lucky, they do not have to open early but there still has to be extra expenses for maintenance. It can't be avoided. I would encourage every superintendent to have a good conversation with whoever oversees their finances and alert

them to the reality that this season may cost more than any previous season, and especially the private side guys.

The next thing to address is the wear and tear on the course. This is where the high-volume public guys are going to feel the most pain in my opinion. The added rounds in the early season when the turf is not growing at full capacity will cause eyebrows to raise come June and July when there simply isn't enough tee space to handle the play. Greens will feel the pressure too, along with fairways and rough that will have taken maybe three, to as much as five or six thousand extra rounds of punishment. Once again, full disclosure to whatever supervisors or co-workers early on may be able to curb some unwanted questions and accusations later on this season.

Lastly, for the Prestwick maintenance crew anyway, is how to cope with the lack of labor. We rely on a mix of college kids, high school kids and retirees to get us through the season, with two "full-time seasonal" guys to help us in the shoulder months. It usually works out just fine as right about the time we need extra mowers, laborers, etc. the college kids are getting out and are hungry for work. (Well, hungry for money, really, but I digress.) Not this year. We will need them second week of April and they will be a month out. I guess I will have to get used to doing grunt work along with the rest of my staff a little longer this year. I could try to find a few temporary guys to fill in the month but that doesn't seem likely, and by the time we would have them trained in, I would have a labor issue of too many guys.

On the positive side, I like to think we will be ahead of the game when it comes to projects. If we are not bogged down with the routine stuff, we should be able to complete most of our project list before Memorial Day which will lend to a better quality course for our golfers and a smoother time for the heart of the season.



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The MGCSA wishes to thank sponsorship of the Turf Disease Solutions seminar held March Club and hosted by Superin-Three industry specialists, Kerns and Kyle Miller shared



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GCSAA Honors Certified Golf Course Superintendents

Jerry Webb CGCS hits twenty-five year milestone

Over “Twenty-five percent of GCSAA’s Class A members have achieved the highest level of recognition through the CGCS professional designation,” said GCSAA President Sandy G. Queen, who has also held the CGCS designation for 25-plus years. “This program requires their demonstration of a higher set of competencies in golf course management through testing and practical application. Employers can feel confident they employ a career professional who has made a strong commitment to professional development.”

To qualify for GCSAA’s competency-based certification program, a candidate must have at least three years of experience as a golf course superintendent, be employed in that capacity and meet post-secondary educational requirements and/or continuing education points. The candidate’s knowledge, skills and abilities are validated through the development of a portfolio consisting of their responses to skill statements, case-study scenarios and submission of work samples; an on-site inspection of their golf facility; and a rigorous six-hour examination covering competencies relating to agronomic, business, communication, environment and leadership domains.

Maintaining certified status requires renewal every five years after the initial date of certification. To fulfill certification renewal requirements, a candidate must

participate in 150 hours of continuing education and professional development. Two-hundred thirty-eight GCSAA certified superintendents renewed their certification in 2011.

Jerry Webb CGCS, at the Riverwood National Vintage Golf Club in Otsego MN was recognized at the Celebrate Certification! reception at the GCSAA Education Conference in Las Vegas last month as attaining 25 years as a Certified Superintendent.

GCSAA is a leading golf organization and has as its focus golf course management. Since 1926, GCSAA has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to 19,000 members in more than 72 countries. GCSAA’s mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf.

The EIFG is the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and has as its mission to foster sustainability through research, awareness, education, programs and scholarships for the benefit of golf course management professionals, golf facilities and the game.

Super - N- Site
Brandon Shindele, Edinburg



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Manners Matter

Former Edina Superintendent, Mike Kelly, introduced me to Brandon Schindele many years ago during one of my frequent sales calls on Mike. The ever professional Brandon would always go out of his way to catch up with me and say, “Hello, Mr. Meyer, how are you today?” I would look around the room and look for my dad. “Mr. Meyer,” I said, “That is my dad. Brandon, my name is John.” Brandon replied, “I know that Mr. Meyer. I just wanted to know how your day was.” Brandon continued that formal address for the years I called on Mike.



Brandon: always polite and professional. It dates back to his childhood and the discipline instilled in him by his father Mike. You see, when Brandon received his first set of golf clubs, his father did not allow him on the greens. Brandon

explained to me that his father had said that he was not allowed on the greens until he showed “respect for the golf course”. That respect did not take very long, as you can imagine, as Brandon and his younger brother Patrick grew up on the Oak Glen Golf Course in Stillwater.

Childhood memories, we all have them. Brandon’s favorite was when he was 10 or 11 years old and “the perch were jumping out of the holes.” Brandon and his grandpa, uncle and cousin were ice fishing on Devils Lake, and it was just one of those days when the fish were really looking for a frying pan.

Brandon not only lived on Oak Glen, he worked there too.

He worked there the summers of 1993 to 1997 during high school and college for long time superintendent Pete Mogren. The Stillwater native started his college career at the University of North Dakota. Yes, a “Fighting Sioux”, and “Once a Sioux fan always a Sioux fan,” Brandon noted. And he continued, “I might get a little grief over that.” But that grief should be short lived as Brandon did graduate in Turfgrass Science from The University of Minnesota. However, once a Sioux fan always a Sioux fan.

In 1998 Dave Simeon, Superintendent at Edina Country Club at the time, hired