

some gorp and cigars settled us in for a round of guy talk to include the injustices of relationships.

Patient and empathetic, as I had worn a similar pair of shoes on more than one occasion, my attention was his as the story unfolded. “Out of no-where, complete surprise, taken aback, hurt, sad, alone and so very lonely,” he poured his soul out over the next couple of hours. With great appreciation for the trial he was putting himself through, I shared some insight as one who had travelled that self-sabotaged road several times before.

My divorce, my broken engagement, my battle to subdue the bottle and my sample of insanity, had all weighed in balance upon my ability to rely upon myself and my perception of a Higher Power to carry my banner when I felt alone and bordering upon defeat. When there appeared to be no hope, a tear in my mental fabric, utter confusion and incomprehensible ache, I had learned through experience what I

needed most was to take a step back and live my life one second at a time then one minute, followed by five or more. Focus on healing myself by myself, and stop playing the “what if” game. Learn to live with my idiosyncrasies one moment at a time and realize that truly I am a pretty decent guy and worthy of happiness.

“Soon, with practice, the pain will subside. New dreams will grow and replace the old ones. Above all be kind to yourself and develop a relationship with who you are so you will never again be alone and lonely,” I consoled.



A lull in the rain, we ventured

back on the water for an afternoon of less intense discussion, a lucky walleye hole and even a few laughs. Calmer, still moist, we had slayed some dragons and were at peace when we went our separate ways. Him back to his bachelor bunkhouse on the great lake, and me, a paddle of length, and a tent, which I hoped, was still dry.



Prestwick Golf Club Home of the 2013 Championship

Pristine Prestwick Golf Club played long and fair for a field of 48 contenders for four different flights of competition. Superintendent Dave Kazmierczak, CGCS, and his staff had been busy preparing their track for some time to bring it to peak condition for the August 13th event. Blue skies, temperatures in the mid- 70's and immaculate conditioning placed the course at the top of the pack going into and through the tournament. Although a winner of it's own "course" flight, the track itself generated several good scores and a number of Champions. A regular to the MGCSA Circuit, Jeff Pint, once again took home the Silver Challis with a score of 75 followed closely by Ben Walker.

Other winners included:

1st Flight Gross

1st place Rob Adams and 2nd place Greg Paulus

1st Flight Net

1st Place Will Onnka and 2nd place Rob Adams

2nd Flight

Low Gross Liza Chmielewski and Low Net Jeremy Stafne

Senior Flight Low Gross

1st place Jim O'Neill and 2nd place John Steiner

Senior Flight Low Net

1st place John Meyer and 2nd place Jim O'Neill





2013 Wee One Event Recipient Selected Eric Peters, Superintendent at North Links

Once again, ‘one of our own’ has been visited by hardship through a life threatening medical event. Superintendent at North Links Golf Course, Eric Peters, was recently diagnosed with cancer.

Here is an excerpt from a note sent by his family in May as posted on Caring Bridge:

“A few months ago, Eric’s back really began to bother him. He fell on the ice a couple times over the winter so we were sure he had pulled a muscle or bruised a rib. He visited a chiropractor

a few times and even tried getting a professional massage but nothing seemed to bring relief so he finally decided it was time to see a doctor. Upon the first visit, the doctor took an x-ray and determined that he had pneumonia but also saw something on the x-ray that she wanted to recheck after he had finished up with his antibiotics. She also ordered a CT scan to rule out blood clots in the lung. This was negative.

10 days after his initial x-ray, he returned for a second and the “suspicious” area in his right lung was still there. Eric returned the following day

for a PET scan. On May 3rd, the results of the PET scan came in and the initial diagnoses was that Eric has cancer. The areas it was found are: right lung, 2 vertebrae, 2 ribs, a spot near his pelvis, and possibly lymph nodes. Our family was totally shocked and feels like the rug has been pulled out from under our feet. “

Thank goodness for the Wee One Foundation and their support of Eric during his time of need. Shortly after hearing of his challenges, the Wee One Foundation sent him a check to help ease some of the burden he and his family were facing. ‘Industry peers helping their peers’, is exactly the intent when the Wee One Foundation was initiated in 2004.

For the last three years the MGC-SA has been supporting a local event to raise funds for this cause. And unfortunately each year there has been a request for access to these reserves as one of our fellow partners in the golf course industry has fallen victim to a medical crisis.



The Peters, Eric’s number one support team!

Eric shares in June:

“Some days are good and some days are bad but how is that different from life without cancer right? Most days are pretty good. I have more energy with every week so I’ve been able to get out and enjoy life more and more. Every day I set my own personal record for most consecutive days lived, so that’s cool.

I haven’t had a Doctor’s appointment in quite a while so it will be interesting when I do finally go in on August 9th. On the 9th, I will have blood drawn to check liver functions among other things, a brain scan, and chest and abdomen scan. I’m so curious to see what this pill is doing to the cancer. I’ve had some odd headaches when I stand up or bend over so pray that they are a result of the cancer going away instead of the

opposite. Another side effect that I hope gets better is my appetite. I used to LOVE food. I enjoyed cooking and eating and now I dread it. I know I have to eat and



On a good day with Wee One Committee Members John Meyer, Tom Proshek and good friend Andy Keyes.

eat healthy but nothing looks or tastes good. Even my favorite foods taste disgusting. I really miss eating and feeling healthy.

Thanks to everyone that has been so encouraging through this. It has been overwhelming to see the support and it makes me wonder if I would be as thoughtful or compassionate if the rolls were reversed.

Not much more to report until after my appointment on the 9th.”

This year Eric will be the beneficiary of funds generated at the annual Minnesota Wee One Event. Please help the Wee One Foundation support Eric and others as they are challenged with these unanticipated events in their lives. Whether you choose to become a title or tee sign sponsor, join as an annual member of the Foundation, or come

out to play on October 7th at Brackett’s Crossing Country Club, your contributions will serve someone in our industry when they need the help most. Unfortunately next year at this time we will once again be holding a tournament to support somebody else. Isn’t it nice to know that our industry chooses to help themselves in times of crisis?

In early August Eric’s wife wrote on Caring Bridge:

“Yesterday we first met with the surgeons so that they could evaluate his back and check his rod/screws. They were very pleased with what they saw and gave Eric the “go-ahead” to pursue any physical activities that he feels comfortable with(biking, running, swimming, lifting). There are really no limitations as long as Eric is listening

to his body and taking it easy when necessary. For a very active guy, this was very good and encouraging news.

While we were meeting with the surgeons, Eric's file was pulled up on the computer and Dr. Rose stated that he didn't want to "let the cat out of the bag" for our oncologist later, but the file stated that the tumor in his lung had "marked improvement". This was obviously very good news, but Dr. Rose wanted to save the details for our oncologist to go over. We kinda feel like he knew more of the details, as he was smiling and clearly happy for us. A definite change in his demeanor from our previous visits with him when it was all serious and bad news.

After this appointment we went to grab something for lunch. Right outside of Mayo in downtown Rochester, every Thursday in the summer there is live music and all kinds of food tents. A real party atmosphere. We wandered around and found something to eat and sat down to people watch and listen to the music for a bit. It was a nice little break outside of the clinic

Back to the clinic to meet with the oncologist. She pulled up Eric's scans on her computer screen (with a scan from June and one from Wednesday side by side) and began going through them starting at about his neck and working

her way down. She pointed out an area that I had not realized was so infected before. Surrounding his esophagus was a cluster of infected lymph nodes. When we compared the June scan with this weeks, it was very obvious that a significant change had taken place.

She then scrolled the screen down so that we could look at this lungs. The scan from June showed a tumor about the size of an egg. The current scan..... the tumor is barely detectable! She stated that it seems like the cancer has practically melted away, disintegrated. We were speechless. I was thinking that if the tumor had shrunk 25%, maybe 50% then things would be looking good. But almost 100%?! I really don't know what else to say about that, no words can explain. Stunned. Awestruck".

Eric is not out of the woods. He and his family still face challenges none of us would like to fathom. Support from their peers, both financially and with well wishes, are important during the high and low points of the road they are traveling.

Save this date, October 7th and play golf with your friends at Brackett's Crossing. Join the Wee One Foundation. Sponsor or contribute a raffle prize. Send a card or email. Support, both large and small, is precious.

Irrigation Efficiency, Are We There Yet?

By E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS, Yamaha Golf and Utility



Having been a golf course superintendent for over 25 years, I felt that I had amassed a pretty good depth of knowledge when it came to irrigation systems. I had worked with designers, installers, pump stations, different manufacturers and done my fair share of repairs. All it took to dispel that myth in my mind was a change in career paths.

During the past three months I have participated in over two dozen training sessions in an attempt to attain a number of new certifications associated with my new position. During all of this training I have kept an open eye toward the real world applications of this knowledge and how it will be applied going forward into the future, faced with the environmental concerns we all will deal with on a

day to day basis.

What I have learned is that while I do indeed know a lot about irrigation, there are a lot of things that I never took the time to consider.

Sure, I was well versed in the inner operations of my system and was able to work the system to get the most out of it based on the limited design; however, the systems that exist in the real world are for the most part inadequate for the needs of the modern turf manager. This is not the fault of the designer, or the manufacturers, but rather a function of the changing needs of the turf based on the demands placed upon it. Additionally, the materials used to manufacture modern irrigation systems are perceived to have a limitless life span.

Indeed PVC pipe has been

shown to have a life span well in excess of 75 years, but, the performance characteristics of that pipe do change significantly during that time. Water flowing through the pipe will cause wear on the inside surface and increase friction which will therefore affect the performance of the system as a whole. Likewise the same type of wear will affect the irrigation head and all of the parts associated with it; valves, drives, o-rings, and most significantly nozzles.

When a new system is installed, how many, if any, of us has ever taken the time to do an initial irrigation audit of the system to check on the actual

real world performance of the design? How many of us took the time to go out with catch cans to see what the real precipitation rate was right after the system was installed to know what the real performance data was? Did it actually perform as the charts said it would? I would suspect that number is at or near zero. How then can a person go out now and look at an irrigation audit with catch cans and see if the system has degraded? Without initial data there is no real way.

Yes, you can do an audit and see if the data differs from the performance charts, but this only gives us part of the picture since we do

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not know if the initial performance matched the charts when installed. Your performance may not match the charts, but maybe they never did.

Please do not misunderstand, irrigation audits are a good idea. However, do not assume that changing out the nozzles will restore the system to original design specs. Wear and tear on all of the system parts will affect performance and just as a 20 year old car will require more maintenance than a new one, 20 year old systems also require more maintenance and upkeep than a new one. Even though the pipe will last, the heads and nozzles may not. Changes to the system over time, be it through additions of lines or heads or whatever, will also affect the performance. Additionally, system programming, which is much improved with the current computer automation, will seriously affect head

performance. As they say, garbage in, garbage out. If the time is not taken to properly program the system, coverage and distribution will be different than expected.

Part of the problem lies with the fact that irrigation audits and system evaluations take time. Time is money. Many turf professionals do not feel that the time invested produces a large enough positive result to make it worth the time. So the question becomes, what is the point that it becomes worth the effort? Without the evaluation of the system, the turf manager will never know how much water is actually being applied to the turf and thus how much is being wasted, both in actual water and the system operational cost associated with that application. Plus, there needs to be system adjustments after the evaluation to make the time spent worth it,

