



CHICAGOLAND ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

Verdure Newsletter

April 2006

Rick Bowden	President
Dan Dinelli, CGCS	Vice President / Forum
Dan Charlton	Treasurer
Jon Jennings, CGCS	Secretary / Verdure
Tommy Witt, CGCS	Director / Education
Dan Marco, CGCS	Director / Arrangements

Upcoming Events

Chicagoland Meetings:

May – Aurora Country Club, John Gurke CGCS

June – Exmoor Country Club, Kurt Galisdorfer

Annual Meeting:

The 2006 Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held March 15 at the Oak Park Country Club, hosted by Al Fierst. For those of you that have never attended an annual meeting at Oak Park, you have no idea what you are missing in regard to a great venue and a very memorable meal. Al personally meets with the Chef to plan and arrange the lunch. I am not sure how he does it, but he manages to out do himself every year. I rarely have witnessed a plate with anything left upon it following lunch. It is that good!! Desert will leave you in a euphoric frame of mind after consuming it. I looked around the table to see if any more were available, unfortunately the one or two people that abstained due to New Years resolutions or lent were out of my reach.



Pictured at CAGCS Annual Meeting, clockwise from left - Brian Bossert, CGCS Dave Schlagetter, CGCS, Joel Purper, CGCS, Dave Ward, CGCS, Ken Shepherd, Dan Marco, CGCS, Dan Charlton, Chuck Anfield CGCS, Rick Bowden, Jon Jennings, CGCS, Les Rutan, Mark Kowaliczko, Brian Green, CGCS Henry Michna, CGCS, Mike Matchen, Tommy Witt, CGCS, Bob Maibush, CGCS, MG

Chuck Anfield, CGCS completed his term as President of the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Rick Bowden presented Chuck with a plaque as a token of the Associations appreciation for a job well done over the last twelve months as president.

Mike Matchen, Immediate Past President stepped down from the Board. After filling the role more than once in this capacity, Mike tirelessly served the Association for a number of years.

2006 Chicagoland Election Results:

Based upon input from the Nominating Committee of Chuck Anfield, CGCS, Bruce Williams, CGCS, and Brad Anderson, CGCS the 2006 CAGCS election results are as follow;

Dan Marco, CGCS – Director, Arrangements

Tommy Witt, CGCS – Director, Education

Congratulations to Tommy and Dan. They are welcome additions to the Board.



Pictured from left to right: front row, Rick Bowden, President, Dan Dinelli, CGCS, Vice President. 2nd. row, left to right, Dan Marco, CGCS, Arrangements, Dan Charlton, Treasurer, Jon Jennings, CGCS, Secretary, Verdure, Tommy Witt, CGCS, Education

Seasonal Issues

The spring that was slow to get going is in full swing as the first full week of 70 degree weather has the growing degree numbers on the rise and the forsythia is beginning to bloom as well. As we all know, these are all triggers for poa seed head suppression and pre-emergent crabgrass control applications. Those that are spraying Proxy / Primo for seed head suppression this year, I received an email from Lee Miller of the CDGA earlier this week regarding the timing. *“According to Dr. Calhoun’s model, the best timing is at 200-300 base 32 GDD for the first P/P app. So, the timing for the first P.P application is definitely now for southern Chicagoland, and with the warm temperatures expected might be later this week for the rest of northern Illinois. He actually says that the absolute best control he saw was at 309 base 32 GDDs, and applications thereafter had reduced effectiveness. As of April 8th, (we’ll get the site updated in a few minutes) you were at 298 base 32 GDDs”*. Ron Calhoun at Michigan State University tracks growing degrees from around the State of Michigan. I know what you’re thinking, we don’t live in Michigan. The model he provides can give you a base indication of what is happening in our area as well. Lee utilizes Ron’s site to assist him with his model for the Chicago area. Lee states that the repeat interval of 3 to 4 weeks is fine if you applied the 5 oz. /m rate of Proxy with Primo.

Dr. Karl Danneberger of the Ohio State University has a great web site. It is called Superintendents Korner and he updates it frequently through the season. Chocked full of relevant information, Dr. Danneberger will send updates to your email box just about weekly through the growing season. I mention this because in his recent update, he discusses growing degree days for weed control. A direct link to the web site is http://hcs.osu.edu/sk/notes/index.lasso?-database=forums&-layout=forumposts&-response=display.lasso&forum_id=TurfNotes&-sortfield=date_posted&-sortorder=descending&-maxrecords=1&-search. If that is too much for you, go to www.osu.edu/sk and you can walk through the site to find what you may need.

Chicagoland News around Town:

With the recent stretch of warm weather and lack of frost for at least a week, many are in full gear for the season now that staff is back in place and player's expectations are rising following a weekend of watching the Masters on television.

Dave Ward, Golf Course Superintendent at Coyote Run in Homewood contributed to our News around Town section by checking with three seasoned veterans about what special things they do on the golf course to get things up and running for the season. There are a number of different ways to prepare a golf course, and as we all know, none of them are incorrect. Here is what he found;

Spring Start-up Greens Maintenance Programs			
QUESTION	CHUCK ANFIELD HERITAGE BLUFFS G. C.	SCOTT WITTE CANTIGNY G. C.	TIM DAVIS SHORE ACRES
Greens construction / grass type:	USGA Spec. / Penn links - Poa	USGA Spec. / Penncross - Poa	push-up / old bents - Poa; over-seeded with Dominant Extreme and A-4
Timing of first mowing:	before mid-march opening to remove winter's duff (duff is a Tim Davis word, which means either steamed pudding with raisins or partly decayed organic matter on the forest floor)	late march when greens look shabby, course always opens second week of April	varies; close to opening to remove winter's duff ("duff" is a Tim Davis word which means either steamed pudding with raisins or the partly decayed organic matter on the forest floor) this year: March 30
First mowing: cutting height	starts at .150" now at .120"	starts at .135" goes to .125" by late May (.125" equates to .115" on Scott's Toro Flex mowers	Starts at .180" goes to .125 by mid May tries to keep as high as possible depending on speed of green
Early spring cultural practices	vertical mowing two times, a week apart before seed heads form rolling two times with vibratory rollers (Chuck aerified his greens Nov. 2 last year with 3/8" tines but is looking switch from aerifying to slicing.)	contracts out Dry-jecting in early April with Acme Material sand mixed with 17% Profile at 1.3 to 1.5 tons per green uses Broyhill sweeper to work in sand and stand up grass. (Scott never intends to pull cores again.)	rolls before mowing with a sidewinder-type roller hydrojects about April 15 topdresses as soon as greens start to grow
Early spring chemical practices	Proxy / Primo the first week in April manganese, iron, and zinc application	Proxy / Primo with CPR the first week in April, with second application three weeks later, followed by Primo every two weeks through the season	Proxy / Primo with CPR in early April, might make a second half rate application in three weeks Revolution in mid May
Early spring granular fertility	.5 lbs. Andersons 18-9-18 in mid May (Chuck is moving away from heavy 0-0-50 applications on bad advice from another Oregon State Beaver.)	.33 lbs. Lebanon 10-18-18 (quick release) in early April	0-0-50, 7 to 8 lbs. per year beginning in early April Calcium from White Gold and Kelly's (Tim is living off a dormant application of .5 lbs Nature Safe 8-3-5 and .5 lbs IBDU 12-3-32
Hypothetical question of the month: Does mowing low in the early spring cause a reduction in summer vigor?	Doesn't think so but doesn't know for sure.	Yes, that's why he starts his mowing a little higher...but every year he is starting less-high due to his successful summer programs which reduce stress.	It does have some effect...the more leaf tissue the more carbohydrates and roots.

Host a CAGCS Meeting

We have been fortunate to have been provided with some fantastic venues to hold our meetings the last couple of years. It does not take a lot of effort to host a meeting and is very rewarding. Please consider hosting a monthly meeting at your facility. The meetings consist of cocktails, dinner and valuable roundtable discussions. If you are interested in hosting a meeting or would like to obtain further information, please contact Dan Marco, CGCS either by telephone, (630)986-4476 or via email ruthlakecc@aol.com . Dan has a few remaining spots to fill for the year.

New Members

Over the last month we have three new members with the Chicagoland Association and reclassified a long time member and friend of ours. Please look for these new members at our monthly meetings. Introduce yourself and make them feel welcome to the association. If you are aware of someone that is not a member of CAGCS, please invite them to join you at a monthly meeting. The meetings are open to guests through the year with the exception of the annual meeting.

Joshua Langell, Golf Course Superintendent
Northmoor Country Club
Highland Park, IL

Harry Lovero, Golf Course Superintendent
Orchard Valley Golf Course
Aurora, IL

Bryan Widmer, Golf Course Superintendent
Hilldale Golf Club
Hoffman Estates, IL

Oscar Miles, CGCS, Retired
Quincy, IL

Congratulations to Oscar upon his retirement. We wish him a restful summer without having to worry about the weather and the effect it will have upon turf.

New Additions

Apparently, Dave Radaj is looking to bend the rules at many facilities by bringing a five-some out to play. There were a number of favorable invitations following the birth announcement with hosts willing to bend the rules for the Radaj family.

“Samuel Russell Radaj joined our family at 8:29 AM on March 29th. Sam is 10 pounds 4 ounce and 20.5 inches long. Mom and baby are doing well. Sister Kathryn and Brother Jack came by for a visit and were all over Sam. Looks like the Radaj's need permission to play as a five some. Happy as can be! Dave, Tracy, Kathryn, Jack and Sam”. Congratulations to the entire Radaj Clan!!

Web Site

The Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents has a new web site. Launched March 14, 2006, the web site is in its preliminary stage of introduction and growth. You will be able to check upcoming monthly meeting venues and see all the new information for the Association. Please visit www.cagcs.org . If you would like to add something to the web site or have a suggestion, please email Jon Jennings chicagogolfclub@aol.com . The web site was created to assist members obtain useful information.

e-Verdure

If you would like to contribute to the Verdure or have some information you feel others would gain benefit, please contact Jon Jennings, chicagogolfclub@aol.com .The Verdure is another great way to disseminate information to our membership. By sending it electronically, the information is very current. The deadline for submitting information for the upcoming issue is the second Monday of each month.

Golf Equipment Myths

1. Golfers with faster swing speeds get disproportionately greater distance benefits from new golf balls that have been introduced after 2000.

False. Physics, scientific tests, and actual results on the PGA Tour all confirm that faster swinging players have not gained a disproportionate amount of distance from modern golf balls. An example: Corey Pavin, the shortest hitter in 2000, gained about the same amount of distance from 2000 to 2005 (7.4 yards) as the longest (John Daly at 8.7 yards).

2. Golf ball distance is not currently limited.

False. Golf ball distance has been regulated since 1976 and golf ball rebound characteristics have been regulated since the 1940s. In 2004, the USGA updated its testing methodology to more closely reflect the athleticism and clubs of today's Tour pros. All golf balls played on Tour and the vast majority of golf balls sold have passed the USGA's distance limit test.

3. Driving distance on Tour is increasing rapidly

False. While average PGA Tour driving distance significantly increased over the past 10 years, it has leveled off during the past three. The average increase since the level of 2003 to the current level in 2006 is only about 1 yard per year.

4. The longest hitters on the PGA Tour finish higher on the money list.

False. While some long-driving professionals have been very successful, on average, the top 10 driving distance players have actually been falling down on the money list in recent years. From 1980-85 the average rank was 64.2; in 2000-2005 it was 77.1. The second worst single year average rank on the money list of the longest 10 drivers was in 2004 with an average rank of 103.3.

5. Most of the PGA Tour professionals swing at 120 mph or more.

False. The average swing speed on the PGA Tour is approximately 113 mph. There are some who swing at or higher than 120 mph, but they are clearly in the minority.

6. The USGA ball test doesn't control ball distance well enough because actual pro golfer swings are different than the test method.

False. The test method employed by the USGA, using a 120 mph swing speed, is representative of the swing conditions used by the longer PGA Tour professionals. The USGA tests balls like the PGA Tour pros hit balls.

7. The average distance for 5-irons on Tour is more than 200 yards.

False. The PGA Tour Shotlink system, which records virtually all shots throughout the season, shows that the average 5-iron shot from fairway to green is approximately 185 yards. From the tee on par threes, the average 5-iron distance is about 197 yards.

8. You get more distance when you put topspin on a drive.

False. Every normally struck drive has backspin. Backspin generates lift and keeps the ball in the air. You can put topspin on a ball – but only when you “top” the ball. It will go a very short distance and dive into the ground.

9. Accuracy off the tee isn't as important as it used to be on the PGA Tour.

That's no myth, it's true. During the '80s driving accuracy was almost as strong a predictor of money-winning as putting. Today it has fallen to the lowest level ever.

Courtesy of Dick Rugge, senior technical director at the USGA