



CHICAGOLAND ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

Verdure Newsletter

January/February 2007

Rick Bowden
Dan Dinelli, CGCS
Dan Charlton
Jon Jennings, CGCS
Tommy Witt, CGCS
Dan Marco, CGCS

President
Vice President / Forum
Treasurer
Secretary / Verdure
Director / Education
Director / Arrangements

Upcoming Events

Chicagoland Meetings:

February – No planned meeting

March 15– Annual Meeting & Elections, Northmor Country Club, Host, Tommy Witt, CGCS

Winter Shop Tour

The annual CAGCS Winter Shop Tour was held Thursday January 25. Dan Marco, CGCS arranged for a terrific day of facility tours. Each visit was different in the aspect of arrangement and structure. This is always one of our associations most popular events of the season and this was the case again as we had a record turn out for the day. The cold weather and cabin fever that inevitably has set in by that point assisted with the enthusiasm to break away from the routine for the day.

Our first stop was Riverside Golf Club with our host, Nick Baker. The facility at Riverside is an older building that consists of heated work and storage areas. It is laid out very well offering plenty of room for equipment mobility as well as workspace for winter refurbishing of equipment and supplies. A blend of older and new equipment made up the fleet that maintains Riverside. Having the ability to store your equipment in a heated area pays tremendous dividends. A study by John Deere performed a number of years ago showed that equipment lasts longer and has fewer problems over a period of time, specifically from oil leaks when it is stored at a constant temperature than when it sits for months on end in a very cold area. The facility at Riverside as mentioned is heated throughout.



The interior layout at Riverside Golf Club is spacious, well lit and well structured.

Following our stop at Riverside Golf Club, we traveled to Hinsdale Golf Club where our host Bob Maibusch, CGCS, MG greeted the group to his facility. Bob is coming off a highly successful golf course renovation. Hinsdale is an older facility with a mixture of cold storage, heated work area and offices. The building itself is very small and the inside work area is limited. Bob and his staff do a terrific job of keeping the building well organized. Tools are neatly hung in order. The true test of organization is to have a lot of items and a small storage area. Bob is truly one of the masters of organization based on what we saw. Two items that jump out and grab you at Hinsdale are the grounds staff's commitment to excellence in regard to maintenance and the old, (very old) equipment.

Instituted a couple of years ago in an effort to make sure that the maintenance of the golf course was meeting or at least striving to meet the members expectations, a complex survey is performed on a regular basis through the season. Information from the survey is then displayed and discussed with the staff in an effort to commend them for a job well done or for areas that could stand improvement. Many facilities come up with a list of maintenance standards, Hinsdale is the first to my knowledge that follows through with the standards and strives to achieve the set goals each day. The problematic areas as well as the successful accomplishments are prominently displayed in the maintenance facility for the staff to review. Areas that do require further improvement are assessed and fixed in order to achieve a high standard.

The equipment at Hinsdale is possibly the oldest fleet in the Chicago area. Cushman Truckster's with column shifts proliferate the utility vehicle area. A Turfco Red Ryder utility vehicle is used on a daily basis. Now this is an item I used when first working on a golf course in 1981. The Red Ryder is a three-wheel vehicle with the engine mounted directly over the front wheel. The belt driven single cylinder engine is a few inches from your hands on the steering bar. I am not sure when the last time Turfco manufactured one of these, but it has been a while. Do you remember the "Suicide shift GM-3"? Hinsdale has one of those as well. This is a Toro triplex that when the drive mechanism is engaged, it is not stopping until the operator pulls the lever back into neutral. There are two speeds, 1 and 2. 1 is used for mowing and 2 is for transport. However, the forward motion of the triplex will slow if you engage the mowing units, but it abruptly returns to transport upon pressing the lift peddle, usually resulting in a dual drive wheel burn-out on the green, collar or some other delicate area surrounding the green.

The age and fact that this equipment is not only operable, but also has the ability to contribute to the high level of playing expectations of the Hinsdale membership is a true testament to the care and detail oriented eye of Bob Maibusch.



Red Rider Utility Vehicle in foreground,

Results of quality control survey posted

The third and final stop for the day was at the "Why can't I have one of these?" maintenance facility at Ruth Lake Country Club hosted by CAGCS Director, Dan Marco, CGCS. The maintenance facility at Ruth Lake is everything you could possibly imagine. Large, organized, heated from equipment storage to work area, well lit and new. As we entered the facility, individuals drooled at the immense spaciousness designed to provide the agility of moving equipment in and out without banging into something else in the process. There is a paint booth, grinding room, ample office and crew space, parts storage, technician's office and all the amenities you would imagine to be designed into a new building. Ruth Lake also has a very good and structured equipment replacement program based upon what we saw. All of the equipment was up to date with the most recent models.

The day was completed at the conclusion of lunch, which was also arranged by Dan. Guests were treated to fried chicken, salads and Italian beef sandwiches. The Shop Tour is really one of the most educational days you can spend reviewing other facilities and taking notes on strategies to bring back to your facility in order to be more productive.



The Ruth Lake facility is cavernous, well lit, organized and brand new.

Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents Annual Meeting March 15, 2007

The upcoming annual meeting and elections will be hosted by CAGCS Board Member, Tommy Witt, CGCS at Northmoor Country Club. The 2007 slate for elections is:

Dan Dinelli, CGCS, Northshore Country Club	President
Dan Charlton, Evanston Golf Club	Vice President / Forum
Dan Marco, CGCS, Ruth Lake Country Club	Treasurer
Jon Jennings, CGCS, Chicago Golf Club	Secretary / Verdure
Tommy Witt, CGCS, Northmoor Country Club	Director / Arrangements
Brian Bossert, CGCS, Bryn Mawr Country Club	Director / Education
Rick Bowden, Bob O'Link Golf Club	Immediate Past President

Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents Annual Meeting

Date: March 15, 2007

Where: Northmoor Country Club
820 Edgewood Road
Highland Park, IL 60035

Host: Tommy Witt, CGCS
RSVP to Tommy @ (847)926-5540 by Tuesday March 13

Time: 11:30 reception, 12:00pm lunch

Election of Officers:

For Director:
Brian Bossert, CGCS, Bryn Mawr Country Club

CAGCS Members only, jacket and tie required

Directions:

From I-294, take Lake Cook Road east to Green Bay Road. Proceed North on Green Bay Road 1.1 miles, turn left on Edgewood Road. 820 Edgewood Road.

The Annual Meeting and Election is a member's only event. Let's start the year off with a strong showing for the Chicagoland Association.

Ty McClellan, United States Golf Association Mid Continent Agronomist

We would like to welcome our new USGA Agronomist to the Mid Continent Region. Ty officially started February 1, replacing Paul Vermeulen who left the staff in November 2006. We also wish Paul all the best in his new position with the PGA Tour. His devotion, leadership and experience will be greatly missed.

Ty holds a M.S. degree in horticulture specializing in turfgrass science from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and a B.S. degree in agriculture with an emphasis in golf course management from Kansas State University. Most recently he worked at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America as a chapter liaison for organizational development, (i.e. field staff) in their Member/Chapter Services Department.

Ty will make Turf Advisory Service visits in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois. He may be reached via email at tmcclellan@usga.org or by phone at (815)222-9834

I had the opportunity to speak with Ty at the Golf Industry Show in Anaheim last week. He is very excited about the upcoming season and having the opportunity to visit with the professionals in the Chicagoland area.

Sang-Kook, (SK) Lee Joins the CDGA Turf Team

Dr. Derek Settle has been with us for a little over one year. Talk about baptism by fire. During his first few months on the job, Lee Miller announces that he is going to attain his PhD and will be going back to school in June and Dr. Randy Kane retires, limiting the amount of visits for the 2006 season and moves out of the area, Derek is tasked with making course visits, conducting research and keeping the Interactive Turf website up to date. Derek met the challenge head on and was very successful in managing all of the aforementioned areas.

Realizing that this workload was far too much, an assistant was needed. The problem was we were well into the season and looking for prospects would be much better served by waiting until the fall. Derek announced early last month to the CDGA Green Committee that he has hired SK Lee to be the web-based Interactive Turf Program Coordinator. SK begins work today, March 1. He has expertise in areas of web programming and digital photography. SK brings fertility/agronomic expertise that will compliment the strong plant pathology base at the CDGA. SK has an MS degree from Yonsei University (2000), where he worked on the comparison of construction methods with Zoysiagrass at the New Incheon International Airport. He also holds a MS in turfgrass science from Iowa State University (2003), under Dr. Nick Christians and is presently a PhD student at Michigan State University in the turfgrass program

SK is a very talented individual and we look forward to working with him this season. His work will really round out the expertise of the Turf Team headed by Derek.



Part of the golfing “Dream Team” pictured here last week in California. CAGCS Board Member Tommy Witt, CGCS and Al Fierst. Not available were the other two team members, Don Cross, CGCS and Bob Maibusch, CGCS, MG. This was Tommy’s first year as part of the team and we have yet to hear if he made the cut for next year. I was informed that he played well and met his quota for the tournament.

Host a CAGCS Meeting

Planning for the 2007 season is well under way and we are looking for venues to host monthly meetings. We have been fortunate to be 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 Tommy Witt, CGCS either by telephone, (847) 926-5540 or via email tommywitt@hotmail.com .

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.

Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents Shirts

The new edition CAGCS golf shirts are in and available now. Be sure to pick up at least one of these handsome short-sleeved shirts pictured below. The CAGCS logo is embroidered on the left chest. The price of these good-looking shirts is \$45.00. You have the option of being billed for the shirt(s) or paying upon receipt. They are available in red, black, blue, yellow and white. You may obtain one at a monthly meeting or contact Dan Charlton. These high quality shirts by Peter Miller as pictured below are available in all sizes and an array of colors. Stock up for your spring golf trip!!

