



CHICAGOLAND ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

Verdure Newsletter

October 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:

November 9, – Naperville Country Club, (Forum)	Tim Anderson, CGCS
December 7, – Bob O' Link Golf Club, (Budget Meeting)	Rick Bowden
January, Date TBA – Shop Tour	
February – No planned meeting	
March – Annual Meeting	

Founders Cup:

The fourth annual Founders Cup Golf Tournament was held Monday October 9 at The Park Ridge Country Club, in lovely Park Ridge, Illinois. Joel Purpur, CGCS hosted the event. The day was magnificent given the cold rainy stretch we have endured over the last two months. The golf course was perfect and exquisitely manicured under Joel's direction and his dedicated staff.



Joel Purpur, CGCS was our gracious host for the day at The Park Ridge Country Club. A total of 21 players competed for claim to be the fourth Annual Founders Cup champion.

A barbeque lunch was served with our Chef du Jour, Dan Marco, CGCS at the grille. Dan had huge pork chops and bratwurst that was absolutely delicious. He managed to have his wife Bridget make her famous macaroni salad. Dan arranged a fantastic day at a great venue and really put a lot of work into making sure that everyone enjoyed themselves. If you have not participated in the Founders Cup event in the past, you really should make the time to do so next year.



Chef du Jour, Dan Marco, CGCS arranged the venue, shopped for the food and prepared it for the event.



An assortment of prizes displayed near the practice green awaits the top players of the day.

The golf course presented some of the fastest greens many of us have seen this season with challenging hole locations to test even the best players. Approach shots that were not positioned correctly had a possibility of rolling off of the green into one of the treacherous bunkers situated nearby.

Immediate Past President, Chuck Anfield smoked the field with a net 68, firing a gross 73 with his 5 handicap. Low gross was won by Nick Baker, Golf Course Superintendent from Riverside Golf Club shooting an 81. Closest to the hole prizes were won by Bob Maibusch, Todd Deitz and Chuck Anfield. The inaugural Founders Cup was held at Wynstone Golf Club with Brian Bossert being the winner. The second year the event was won by Tommy Witt at the Ivanhoe Club. Last year, Joel Purpur won the Founders Cup at Bob O' Link



2005 Champion, Joel Purpur, CGCS reluctantly relinquishes the Founders Cup trophy to Chuck Anfield, CGCS the 2006 champion. Not only did Chuck take home the trophy, he won a handsome new watch as well.



CAGCS President Rick Bowden presents Nick Baker with his new watch for shooting a low gross score of 81.



Bob Maibusch, CGCS hit an unbelievably good shot to earn a hole proxy for the day.



Todd Deitz of Bob O' Link displays his winnings

22nd Annual Chicagoland Forum

Plan on attending the premier education event of the Chicagoland Association Thursday November 9. GCSAA recertification credit will be offered. Cost for the day is \$65.00. Bring your assistants to listen to some of the great speakers Dan Marco CGCS has assembled for us this year.

RSVP to Dan Marco, CGCS (630)986-4476 or email, ruthlakecc@aol.com **by November 6.**

“PLANNING”

The Road Map to Success! Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents 22nd Annual Forum Naperville Country Club

November 9, 2006

8:00-8:30	Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:30-8:45	Opening Remarks and Introductions
8:45-10:00	Mr. Bill McMahon, The McMahon Group How to organize and sell your plan
10:00-10:30	Mr. Kris Bachtel, Morton Arboretum Planning for the future of your trees
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-11:30	Doug Myslinski, Jacobson Golf Course Design Plan to improve the playability of the course
11:30-12:00	Ms. Colleen Schueneman, Mr. Richard Borek, and Mr. Scott Miller Plan for your future, Personal financial planning
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-2:00	Mr. Jon Jennings, CGCS & Mr. Tom Lively, CGCS Planning for the big event
2:00-2:30	Dr. Derek Settle, CDGA Turf Doctor Planning your disease control strategies
2:30-3:00	Mr. Paul Vermeulen, USGA Green Section Plan to improve the agronomics of your course
3:00-?	Round Table Questions and discussion

Chicagoland News around Town:

Although the players and all of the commotion has subsided, there is a lot to be shared from the experience of this past August's PGA Championship at Medinah

Dave Ward, Golf Course Superintendent at Coyote Run in Homewood is no stranger to Championships having most recently hosted the 2003 US Open at Olympia Fields Country Club. Dave is constantly seeking out anything to get an edge on course maintenance and has a number of great observations based upon his experience as a volunteer at Medinah.

This past August, I had the opportunity, along with 55 other volunteers, to work on the grounds staff for the 2006 PGA Championship at Medinah Country Club. Having been involved with other championship golf events both as the host superintendent and as a volunteer, I have found the experience extremely rewarding. Besides the break from summer routine, volunteering for a major event provides many benefits. First and foremost it is fun to be a small part of golf history. It is great to see a course in championship condition and watch the hordes of grounds staff scurrying around the course prepping it for play by the best golfers in the world. It also affords the opportunity to sit around and 'talk shop' with the other volunteer superintendents, assistants, interns, and staff. Other great perks are excellent free food and some neat uniform shirts.

Now that a few months have elapsed since Tiger blew away the rest of the 'best golfers' in the world, I thought it would be interesting to get the '20/20 hindsight' perspective of Tom Lively, and Dave Kloss, Course Two Superintendent and my able supervisor during Championship week.

Tom and his staff started preparing for the PGA in July of 2002 with the onset of the Reese Jones renovation of Course Three. From that point in time until all three courses are put back together later this fall, everything has been about the Championship. Most of the major construction work consisted of new greens, re-grassing greens, new tees, new bunkers, re-grading some fairways, and a ton of tree removal and pruning. Tom's only regret with the reconstruction was that not all of the greens were rebuilt. Besides the need for two separate maintenance programs, it is difficult to get consistency between the old greens and new greens. Tom also embarked on a fairway sand-topdressing program that includes dry-jecting about 10 acres of re-graded fairways. Fairways are also routinely verticut every two weeks. This season prior to the PGA, the emphasis was on more tree work, sodding and seeding rough areas, and fertilizing the rough at about three times the normal rate. This year, almost all of the irrigation was applied to the playing surfaces by hand, with 7 interns responsible for watering fairways.

Except for 135 (55 volunteers and the Medinah staff of 80) crew members totally preparing one course for tournament play in an hour and 15 minutes and an extra fungicide application to the greens, tees, fairways, and roughs, Tom's maintenance routine did not significantly change from normal for the PGA. The greens were double-cut at the normal .115" and rolled. Tom never uses PGR's on his greens and he didn't make an exception for the Championship. PGA officials asked for green speeds of 12.5' to 13' that Tom easily obtains for club events. Tom and his staff were surprised when early in the practice rounds, the PGA requested that the speeds be kept at 11.5'. Tom felt that the greens never recovered the firmness and speed lost by backing-off. The lack of wind and an inch of rain on Friday night didn't help either.

During PGA week, Tom broke the course into three six-hole sections with each section supervised by one of the three course superintendents. I was assigned to Dave Kloss, Course Two Superintendent. Dave went to Coastal Carolina University on a baseball scholarship and, in 1999 received a degree in Marketing. During school, he worked at a course in Myrtle Beach. After a brief stint working in an office, he decided to pursue a career in golf maintenance and enrolled in the turf program at Joliet Community College. Dave Started working at Medinah as an intern in 2001, was involved in the renovation work on Course Three in 2002, and became Course Two Superintendent in 2003.

Dave was amazed by the scale of the event and all of the construction that goes into creating a small city for one week of televised golf. Particularly over the top, was the construction of a bus terminal on a fairway of the Course One. During the event, he was surprised by the PGA's decision to back off of the double cutting / rolling of the greens and the relatively benign hole-locations that he felt led to lower than expected scores. The best part of the week for Dave was the chance to meet and learn more than he expected from the volunteer superintendents. The biggest downer was the member's negative reaction to the low scores and the resultant lowering of crew moral. As for Dave's career future goals, at this point in time, he is not sure he wants to be a superintendent at a tournament course.

After Tiger rolled in the last putt and all of the fans and volunteers went home, Tom's crew was left to deal with the aftermath. It took about four weeks to get everything off of the courses. Course Three recuperated better than anticipated and only required a couple of semi-loads of sod around the putting green and a little seeding here and there. Course One and Two were a different story. Course Two, which was used as a parking lot needed a lot of aerification and seeding...but of course, not until after the ladies club championship held over Labor Day weekend. Course One, the site of the bus terminal, spectator entrance, merchandise tent, and endless corporate tents are still undergoing reconstruction. Tom is capping the fairways, burying all of the embedded gravel and debris with 1 1/2" of sand and re-sodding with a L93 and pencross mix, grown on sand by Central Sod. The contractor responsible for removing all of the gravel is still at work. The 13" of rain since the middle of September has not been helpful but, Tom is confident all of the restoration will be done by the end of the October.

Throughout the entire lead-up to the PGA and during the week of the Championship, Tom's calm, professional demeanor never seemed to change. His everyday course maintenance routine did not have to be changed much to ready the course for major championship golf. He did feel that the greens could have handled a more aggressive approach and he is still not sure why the PGA decided to back off of green speeds.

In 2012, the Ryder Cup will be coming to Medinah. Tom is not sure if any course changes will be needed for the event and he has heard that the corporate hospitality set-up is even larger for the Ryder Cup than for the PGA. He has plenty of time to prepare for that. In the mean time, I hope he gets a little time off to realize what he has accomplished and...if it is not too early, put my name on the volunteer list for 2012.

Host a CAGCS Meeting

The 2006 year is winding down and we would like to thank the individuals that made the year a success by graciously hosting a CAGCS meeting at their facility. Planning for the 2007 season has begun and we are looking for venues to host monthly meetings. 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.

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 2006 edition CAGCS golf shirts are in. Be sure to pick up 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 winter golf trip!!

