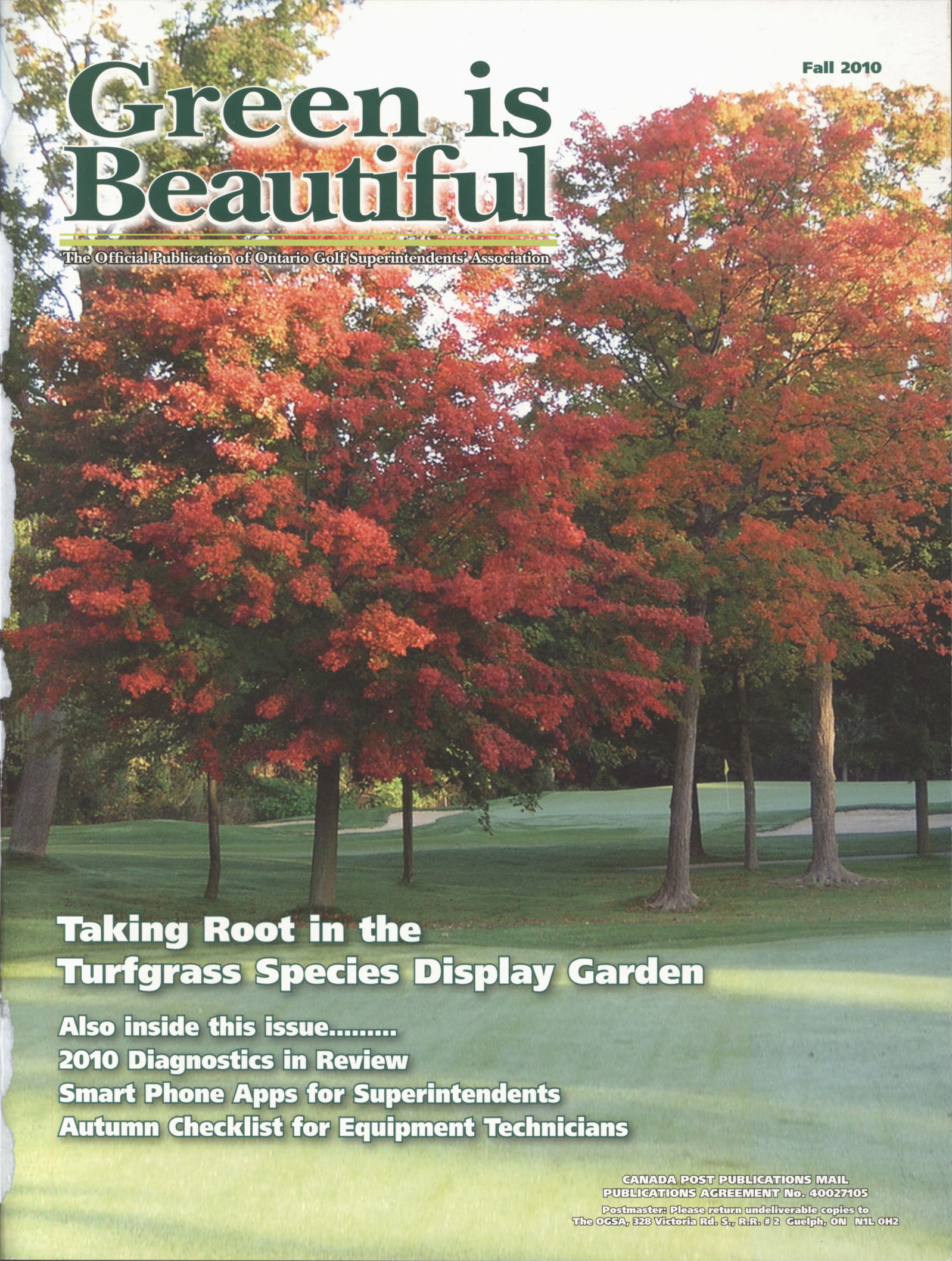




Green is Beautiful

Fall 2010

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

Taking Root in the Turfgrass Species Display Garden

Also inside this issue.....

2010 Diagnostics in Review

Smart Phone Apps for Superintendents

Autumn Checklist for Equipment Technicians

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President's message

As the golf season passes and we move closer to winter, hopefully your fall programs were completed and executed as planned. Fall is such an important and busy time of year for the health of our golf clubs. With so much to be completed this time of year and the jump start of the 2010 season, I believe I speak for all golf superintendents, when I say, we are looking forward to slowing it down and enjoying a well deserved break from the fast pace of our Ontario golf year. The off season is a great time to look back and evaluate what worked, what didn't, what changes are needed and how to incorporate them into your departments.

To ensure you stay current with our ever changing industry, Doug Breen has worked very hard with his committee, OGSA staff and management company to create three days of education opportunities at our 2011 Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show at Caesars Windsor, January 12-14, 2011. Along with these top-notch educational sessions, we have planned some great social gatherings you will not want to miss! Gerry Dee, Canadian Stand-up Comedian, will kick off the conference on Wednesday morning at the Opening Ceremonies. This venue is like no other! For complete conference information visit www.golfsupers.on.ca and click on the conference link.

A special thank you to golf superintendents who have hosted an event for their regional associations this season: Dan Dingman, Gross Ile G&CC; Randy Booker, Otter Creek GC; Martin Kopp, Brampton GC; Ray Dlugokecki, Springfield G&CC; Dan Magrin BraeBen GC and Bill Fach, Black Bear Ridge GC for hosting successful OGSA events. I would like to thank Pat Thomas and Deborah Badger for all the support they give the directors and making our association wonderful. For those wondering about the executive manager position advertised on our website recently, it's because Dorothy Hills will be retiring from her post April 29th, 2011. Dorothy has been employed with us since 1998 and she is the backbone of our association. Dorothy, we appreciate your hard work and dedication in making the OGSA successful. I would also like to thank all my directors for their commitment to helping make the OGSA strong.

At this time I would like to mention with great sorrow the sudden passing of Mark Elliott, on Wednesday, October 6th. Mark was only 39 years old and managing partner of Tangle Creek Golf Club in Barrie. He held a diploma from Guelph University and the Cornell short course. He worked at National Pines under Chris Goodman and went on to be the golf course superintendent at Maples of Ballantrae before constructing Tangle Creek. Mark leaves behind his wife, Susan and four young children. Our deepest sympathy and condolences go out to the entire family. Mark will be missed by all.

Please take time to enjoy family and friends and have a happy holiday season!



by Jeff Alexander
Parry Sound Golf &
Country Club

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

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Contents

TURFGRASS SPECIES DISPLAY GARDEN	18
Above the hole	21
Alex McClumpha memorial golf tournament	15
Assistants Tournament	15
Chainsaw maintenance	28
Editorial message	5
From roots to shoots	8
Golf course highlight – BraeBen Golf Course	17
Health & safety	10
Looking back	33
Member profile – Justin Parsons	12
Off the fairway	30
OGSA summer scramble	14
On the REEL side of things	29
President's message	3
Second to one	20
Superintendents recognition program 2010	13
Super-smart phones	22
Turf or consequences	34
University of Guelph update	24
What's new	6

Advertisers

Agrium Advanced Technologies	25,35
Almack Agronomic Services Inc.	31
Aquatrols	5
ArborTurf Solutions	29
Bayer Environmental Science - Rovral Green GT	7
Braemar Building Systems	11
Burnside Golf	27
DCS Agronomic Services	31
Douglas Wood Large Tree Service	27
Fast Forest	31
Green Horizons Group of Farms	11
H & M Turf Ltd.	3
Innovative Agronomics Inc.	33
Maple Turf Supply	26
Master's Turf Supply Ltd.	31
Ontario Seed Company	27
Plant Products - Thinking Super	2
Turf Care Products Canada - Irrigation	21
Turf Care Products Canada	36
United Agri Products Inc. - Rhapsody	11
United Agri Products Inc. - Respond 3	27
Vanden Bussche Irrigation	14
Zander Sod Co. Limited	27

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



COVER PICTURE

Westmount Golf and CC
Autumnal Equinox

From the 5th fairway looking
towards the green.

*Photo by Jeremy Krueger, Assistant
Superintendent*

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Scott Horsburgh
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Green is Beautiful 2010

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**OGSA is committed to
serving its members,
advancing their
profession, and
enriching the quality
of golf and
its environment.**

Editorial message



by Dorothy Hills

As the 2010 golf season draws to a close I hope you are enjoying some leisure time and will be able to benefit from the articles in this Fall issue of *Green is Beautiful*.

Peter Purvis, Station Manager and Rob Witherspoon, Director of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute bring you an account of the planning and development of the Turfgrass Species Display Garden, at the GTI, which began in August of 2009. Scott Morrison, from Out On A Limb, offers some information on how golf course superintendents can utilize smart phones to aid them in being effective communicators and time managers. Since now is the time to start thinking about chainsaw maintenance, Darryl James, from Arborturf Solutions has some valuable tips for you. Our regular contributors, as always, offer timely articles ranging from turfgrass diagnostics to health and safety in the workplace.

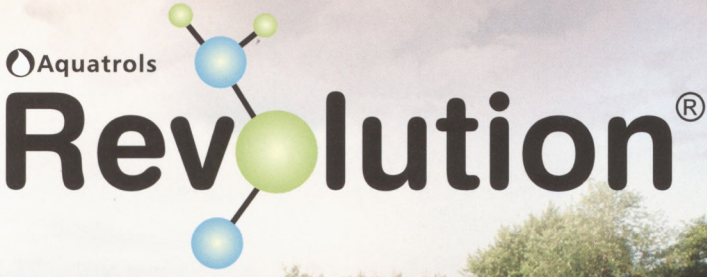
I would like to take this opportunity to thank Daisy Moore for the many years she has contributed to the regular column "Off the fairway". Daisy is a professional horticulturist and owner of a garden design and consulting business in Elora. With a busy family and professional agenda, she always took the time to write a column geared to tips and guidance on implementing low maintenance and environmentally friendly plantings for the golf course. Daisy has decided to pass the

torch along, and we wish her well in all her future endeavours, both on and "Off the fairway". And so, it is my pleasure to welcome Brenda Noble, Head Gardener at Donald Club. Brenda has picked up the torch from Daisy and has authored the article on winter gardens, "Never Say Die". Brenda will be a regular contributor to the magazine.

Please take time to read this issues' member profile on Justin Parsons, Assistant Superintendent at Trafalgar Golf and Country Club. Justin has been a part of the editorial committee for several years and has authored and co-authored many an article. I am happy to announce Justin will officially be taking over the position of *Green is Beautiful* Editor, commencing with the 2011 Winter Issue. I will be retiring in the spring of 2011 and am proud to have been a part of OGSA's official magazine. Thank you to the editorial committee, the directors, staff members Pat Thomas and Deborah Badger, and all of OGSA's membership for their support over the past 13 years. *Thanks for the memories*

Due to career and family obligations Greig Barker has decided to resign from the Editorial Committee. Greig has volunteered his services for the past 6 years and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his contributions and support of *Green is Beautiful*. Good luck Greig in all your future endeavours.

As always, don't hesitate to contact any of the editorial committee listed on page 4, with your comments and suggestions.



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What's new

OGSA MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues invoices were mailed out September 1st and were due October 1st. If you have not already received your dues invoice would you please contact the office to ensure that your invoice was sent to your current address and that your information on file is up to date. If you have not yet paid your membership dues would you please contact the office immediately to ensure that your member services continue without interruption.

For Membership Services including database information contact:

Pat Thomas
ogsa2@gti.uoguelph.ca

For Accounts Receivable/Payable contact:

Deb Badger
ogsa3@gti.uoguelph.ca

ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION 2009-2010 YEAR END REPORTS

The following is a list of the OGSA reports, required for the Annual General Meeting to be held Thursday, January 13th, 2011 at 7:45 AM., at Caesars Windsor, during the Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show. These reports will be available on our website by December 1st, 2010.

- Director Election Notice.
- End of Year Audited Financial Statements for period October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010.
- End of Year Director Portfolio Reports.
- Minutes from 2010 Annual General Meeting.

According to our bi-law these reports can be accessed, as soon as they are available, on our web site

www.golfsupers.on.ca.

Log into the Members Only section and go to "Member News". They will be posted by December 1st. If you have a problem accessing them, please call the office for assistance. You will also be advised in our e-bulletin *Clippings* when these reports are available for viewing.

The package can also be viewed at our offices at: 328 Victoria Road South, Guelph, Ontario, N1L 0H2

If you require a hard copy of these reports please notify Dorothy Hills at the office: Toll Free (877) 824-6472 or (519) 767-3341 and a package will be mailed to you.

GCSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Any one wishing to have input or opinions expressed regarding the 2011 GCSAA Board of Directors election in Orlando must notify the OGSA Board by midnight December 31st. After such time, the decision of the Board regarding candidate support shall be final.

VOTE FOR BRONSON!



Congratulations to Superintendent, Aldo Bortolon and his golf course dog Bronson, at Lookout Point Country Club in Fonthill. The Lebanon Turf Dog Days Golf Calendar committee has chosen Bronson to appear in their 2011 calendar. It is quite the prestigious contest to win. Bronson is the only dog that made it in from Canada. The photo will now go

into the final contest for "Dog of the Year" to be voted on at the GCSAA Orlando conference in February. If it wins, \$3,000 goes to a golf course superintendent association chosen by the winner. It would be great if all superintendents from Ontario who go down to the show in February vote for Bronson, the only Canadian entry!



Welcome!

OGSA Welcomes our newest members

Jeff Clark	Class A
Pineland Greens GC	
Stephen Gelencser	Class C
Lakeridge Links GC	
Carol-Ann Goering	Class D
Oakville Golf Club	
Derek Guest	Class F
Rattlesnake Point GC	
Francois Hebert	Class S
University of Guelph	
Brian Hughes	Class F
Fort McMurray GC	
Chad Hurrell	Class A
Beaverdale Golf Club	
Ryan Milani	Class A
Thunder Bay CC	
Kerri Mulder	Class S
Scenic Woods GC	
Drew Peddie	Class F
Caves Valley GC	
Mikael Pehkonen	Class S
University of Guelph	
Darren Wiggins	Class Supt
Burlington Springs G & CC	
Clean Light Inc.	Class E
Harry Shea	

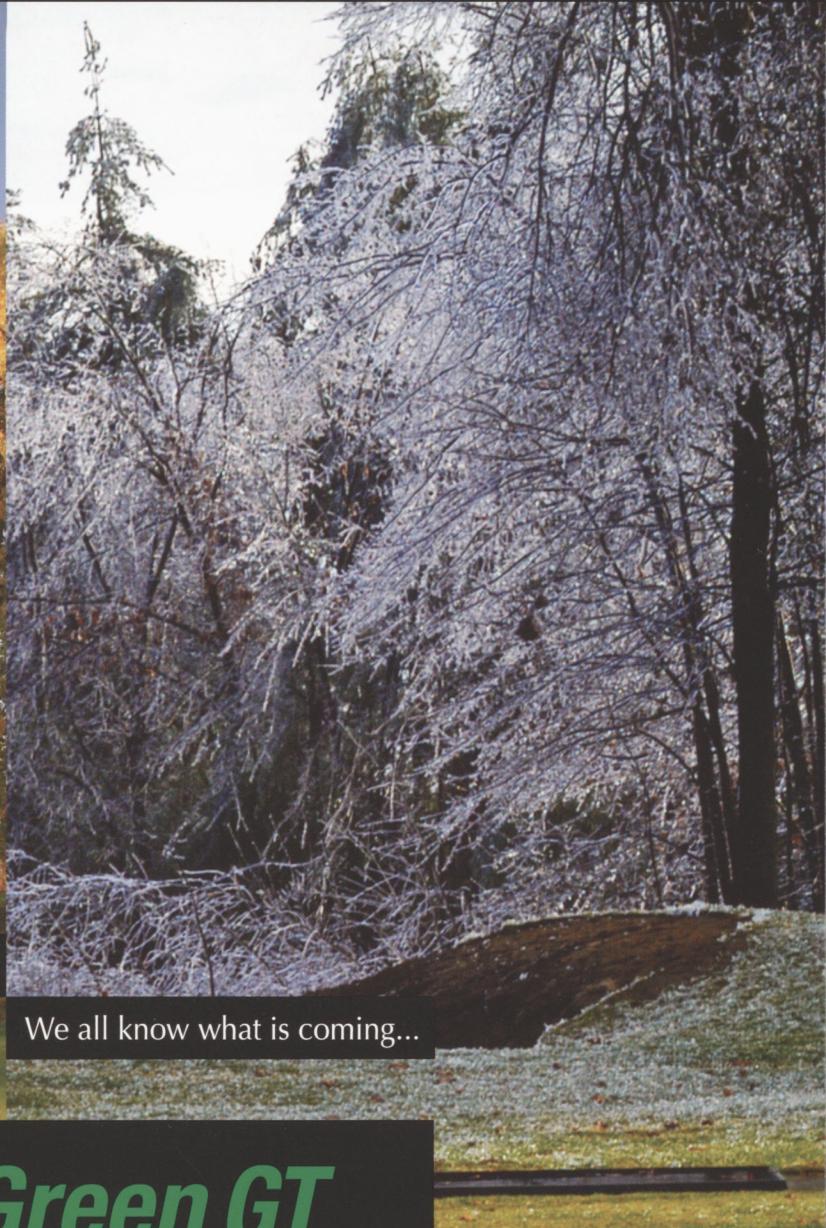


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From roots to shoots



by Pam Charbonneau
OMAF Turfgrass Specialist

Kocide 2000 URMULE accepted for moss control on golf and lawn bowling greens

In July 2010, a User Requested Minor Use Label Expansion was accepted for Kocide 2000 (active ingredient copper hydroxide) for the control of silvery thread moss on golf course and lawn bowling greens in Canada. DuPont Canada has submitted the proposed label in August 2010 which will complete the registration process and is awaiting the registration. It is anticipated that the registration will be complete for 2011 season. The proposed label states a minimum of four applications are necessary and

a maximum of five applications can be applied per season. For areas that do not have permanent snow cover in the winter, the applications can be made from late fall to early spring. In areas that have permanent snow cover in the winter, the recommended time of application is from mid-September to permanent snow cover. This URMULE application was sponsored by Caroline Bédard, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Lands with data generated in British Columbia on golf courses on Vancouver Island, the lower mainland as well as the Guelph Turfgrass Institute and a local golf course in Guelph, Ontario. This is the first product ever registered for

use to control silvery thread moss on golf and bowling greens in Canada.

Arrest Status

Arrest was another popular preventative snow mould control option. Just a reminder that as of Dec. 31, 2009 the registration of Arrest lapsed. The product can be sold by distributors until Dec. 31, 2010 and can be used up until Dec. 31, 2013.

Quintozene status and replacements

As you are probably well aware of by now, on June 24, 2010 Health Canada published a decision document (RVD2010-06) regarding quintozene

Table 1. List of Active Ingredients registered for control of snow moulds in Ontario

Active Ingredient	Chemical Family	Mode of Action	Notes
azoxystrobin	strobilurin	Acropetal* penetrant	Are potent but efficacy may be shorter than quintozene *moves upward in the plant
pyraclostrobin	strobilurin	Localized penetrant	
trifloxystrobin	strobilurin	Localized penetrant	
propiconazole	DMI	Acropetal penetrant	Have good efficacy but may be even shorter residual than the strobilurins
triticonazole	DMI	Acropetal penetrant	
myclobutanil	triazole	Acropetal penetrant	
thiophanate-methyl	benzimidazole	Acropetal penetrant	Good against pink but not gray snow moulds
irpodione	dicarboximide	Localized penetrant	Good against pink snow mould but needs to be combined with other actives for control of the gray snow moulds (either a DMI or a strobilurin)
chlorothalonil	nitrile	contact	Good when used in combination and better than each fungicide on its own. Sometimes incompatibilities have been observed in the combinations
thiram	carbamate	contact	Only available as part of Arrest™. Has long duration, but not always highly effective. Better against gray snow moulds than pink.
carbathiin	anilide	systemic	
oxycarboxin	carboxamide	systemic	
fludioxinil	phenylpyrrole	contact	Only registered as part of Intrata™. Intrata™ give good results on pink and gray snow moulds

use in Canada. As of December 31, 2010, all turf uses of quintozone fungicide will be cancelled. After that date, no products for turf will be allowed to be imported, sold or used in Canada. As far as granular products containing quintozone fungicide and fertilizers, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has not yet released information on how long these combination products can continue to be used on golf courses in Canada. Some distributors are proactively halting the sales of the granular combination products as of Dec. 31, 2010.

The word on the street is that supply of the wettable powder is limited and already spoken for. The supply of the flowable products is good and courses

will be able to purchase it for use before Dec. 31, 2010. So for many golf course superintendents that relied on quintozone as their backbone for snow mould control, it may be the *status quo* for this year. Next season will be an entirely different situation.

There are many fungicides that give as good or better control of the snow moulds than quintozone, but not at the same cost as quintozone. In the future, you are no longer going to rely on one chemistry for the control of snow mould. Most likely you will be moving to a tank mix of a contact and a systemic or a combination product such as Instrata™. You will also need to be more aware of which of the three species of snow mould you have (*Microdochium nivale*,

Typhula incarnata or *T. ishihariensis*). *Microdochium nivale* can occur without any snow and can be found on all golf courses in Ontario regardless of location. *Typhula incarnata* requires 60 plus days of snow cover to develop and *T. ishihariensis* requires 90 plus days of snow cover to develop, so depending on the year and your location you could experience *T. incarnata* only or *Typhula incarnata* and *T. ishihariensis*. Control strategies will also rely on budgets. Timing is also important. If you are using a systemic (propiconazole, triticonazole, mycobutanil or thiophanate methyl) you will need to apply these products 2-3 weeks before snow fall.

Table 1 lists are active ingredients registered for control of pink and gray snow moulds and Table 2 lists some of the tank mixes and combination products that are being promoted by the various manufacturers and distributors. The notes section in Table 1 incorporates comments from Dr. Tom Hsiang on their strengths or weaknesses in regards to controlling snow moulds. For more information on life after quintozone, Dr. Tom Hsiang is going to be giving a talk on that subject at the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium on Wed. Feb. 23, 2011.

Table 2. List of tank mixes and combination products for use against snow moulds in Ontario

Active Ingredients	Tank Mix or Combination Product
thiophanate-methyl + chlorothalonil	Tank mix
iprodione + chlorothalonil	Tank mix
iprodione + trifloxystrobin	Tank mix
iprodione + triticonazole	Tank mix
iprodione + chlorothalonil + propiconazole	Tank mix
pyraclostrobin + triticonazole	Tank mix
carbithiin/oxycarboxin/thiram	Combination product
chlorothalonil/propiconazole /fludioxonil	Combination product

Integrated Pest Management Accreditation Program (IPMAP) Deadline Reminders

IPM agents that successfully completed their IPM agent exam during the 2009 calendar year or in previous years, must submit their annual IPM CEC's for Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2010 calendar year by Dec. 31, 2010. The other deadline to remember is the deadline for submitting the 2010 desk audit is Jan. 31st, 2011. For more information go to the IPMAP web site at: www.ontarioipm.com

Health & safety



by Doug Johnson
SAFETAID and Health
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Safety things to do to avoid trouble

The Ontario Ministry of Labour has been in the news a fair amount these past few months so I really believe that it is time to provide some sage advice to you to consider prior to having a visit from an inspector.

I have sent out many notes and articles talking about blitzes by the Ministry and I have tried to reinforce the need to be prepared with your health and safety initiatives. The Ministry has a

recent mandate to search out organizations that are not in compliance. One simple injury may be the trigger that activates your file.

Every day brings new stories of orders and fines with much higher penalties. The Ministry is looking for "wilful" and "repeated" violations.

There are steps employers should take to avoid safety violations, such as compliance reviews or audits that may be completed by doing a walk around each week or month to spot violations before the inspector does. It may be difficult for even the most diligent employer to pass an inspector's white-glove test but if you haven't done the basics you haven't got a chance.

Some violations inevitably will be found, but you can avoid having them classified as "wilful" and "repeated" violations, which carry much higher penalties (up to \$50,000 per violation) and much greater consequences, such as civil liability and adverse press attention.

Don't argue with the standards

Among the worst things an employer can say to an inspector is that they did not comply with a standard because compliance was "unnecessary to keep my people safe." There are owners and managers who think that such a statement will help get them off the hook by showing that they were thinking about worker safety. They are wrong. Such a statement can indicate the violation was wilful and can result in fines and, if an employee dies, may result in criminal prosecution.

A careful employer will learn the rules and train managers to ensure no one will try to invent a response. Stating that complying with the standard is "unnecessary" gets the employer and manager into more trouble, not less. *Remember: the law requires all employers and managers to do everything reasonable for the safety of the worker.*

Know your safety history

It is important to know the history of incidents and safety management in your organization. Don't allow

the inspector to catch you guessing when asking you questions concerning your safety program. If you have not yet developed your health and safety program and if it is not written down, then don't try to fake it. Tell the truth and you will probably be better off in the long run. The inspector may issue an order to comply but will probably not fine you and the organization for non compliance. You may need to scramble a bit to get up to speed but you may also be able to buy yourselves some breathing room.

Remember: the greater the number of violations at a facility, the more likely it is that the Ministry will scrutinize the company's safety record.

Don't ignore employee complaints or incident reports

A "wilful" violation may occur if the employer knew that a standard had been violated or that an employee complained of danger, or worse, incident reports had been ignored.

A careful employer will review employee complaints, incident reports and minutes of safety meetings. Making sure every item is properly evaluated and if found to be a problem, either fixed or scheduled for fixing with alternative protective measures implemented in the interim. Employers should not allow unaddressed items in such documents to smolder in their files, ready to be fanned into wilfulness by an inspector.

Remember: the inspector has every right to read all your documentation and ask questions of anyone in your facility.

Don't argue with the inspector

When an inspector comes into your workplace you may be tempted to argue with the individual. Don't. It will not get you anywhere.

Listen, ask for clarifications if you do not understand. Always ask the inspector to explain where the requirements are in the Act and regulations. Don't be afraid to ask questions, but ask with the intention of learning. No inspector can take you to task for trying to improve the safe working conditions of the workplace.

If you need assistance I am here to help. Prepare ahead of time and you will relieve a great amount of stress.

Have a great autumn! The weather is beautiful.

SAFETAID

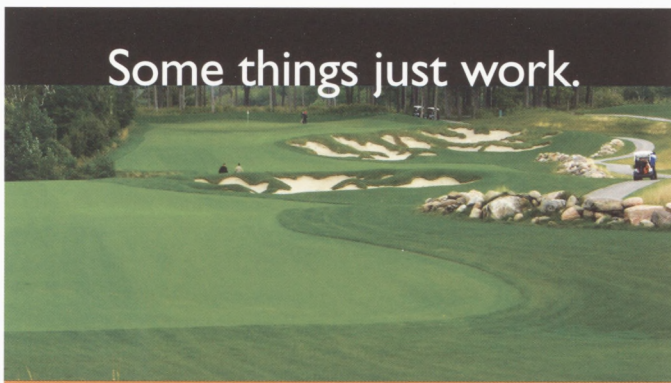
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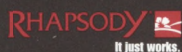
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Member profile

Justin Parsons

by Lucky Wilbury

acoustic guitar, harmonica, lead & backing vocals

Parsons' career in the golf industry began in the spring of 2000 at Markland Wood Country Club in Etobicoke. After surviving the very rational and realistic Y2K threat, he decided to apply at the golf club for summer employment. Even though numerous professors at Ryerson University encouraged him to pursue a position that may actually advance his career in his chosen field of study, journalism, he still opted for work in a completely unrelated field. The club hired him on the spot and, for some inexplicable reason, assigned him the role of beverage cart operator for the season.

Despite numerous pleas to be removed from a position which requires long hair, a curvaceous figure and overall feminine sex appeal, the club would not relent. It was during contract negotiations the following year when Parsons finally took a stand. His blatant refusal to conform to the sleeker more revealing wardrobe changes landed him on the outs with upper management. Fortunately, when talks broke down Parsons was able to find gainful employment with the golf courses maintenance department.

It was here that he was ultimately accepted for the modest, shy, loose-fitting pant-wearer that he is. It was not long before a keen interest in turf operations developed. The management team nurtured this interest and encouraged him to apply at Seneca College for the GCT program.

After interning at Trafalgar Golf and Country Club during the summer of 2005, he was hired on as the assistant superintendent the following year. Not much has changed



since. Several attempts to grow his side business of horse whispering have been thwarted by severe allergies to barn animals and an overall lack of knowledge in the field.

In his spare time Parsons likes to log on to the internet and he enjoys eating meals at regularly spaced intervals. He one day hopes to discover a healthier alternative to both butter and margarine and secretly longs to meet Linda Carter circa 1985.

"In the Hot Seat"

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Favourite major: | The Masters |
| • Favourite non-major: | Waste Management Phoenix Open |
| • Favourite piece of turf equipment: | Our Barn Cat |
| • Favourite golf course: | Pebble Beach Golf Links |
| • Ultimate foursome: | Just me and Linda Carter circa 1985 |
| • Lowest round ever and where: | 79 at Trafalgar Golf and Country Club |
| • Favourite movie: | Raiders of the Lost Ark |
| • Favourite meal: | Too hard to narrow it down, so, let me just say cauliflower is pointless |
| • What's in your CD right now: | Blood on the Tracks, Bob Dylan |
| • What would you be if not a golf course superintendent: | Involved in finance in some way |

SUPERINTENDENTS' RECOGNITION PROGRAM 2010

The Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association Board of Directors, in Spring of 2003 instituted a recognition program for superintendents, who host provincially significant tournaments at their respective courses. Historically, our profession has been overlooked for the hard work and dedication in preparing for and managing successful tournaments.

This year is our seventh year in the program, which has been very well received by both competitors and the Golf Association of Ontario. It is imperative we continue with this program, which helps to promote the profession of the golf course superintendent and their professionalism within the golf industry.

We thank the host superintendents as well as the presenters. If any member has any input they would like to contribute toward the continued success of this program please speak to any OGSA director.



James White and Scott White



Jim Burlington and Brent Hamilton



Jay Sisko and Stu Leachman



Chad Adamson and Doug Breen



Doug Breen and Jim Moore



Chris Andrejicka and Dave Cours



Bill Fach and Scott Fraser

Tournament	Host Supt.	Golf Course	Presenter
Ontario Men's Mid-Amateur Championship	Scott White	Donalda Club	James White
Ontario Jr. & Juvenile Girls' Championship	Brent Hamilton	Rivendell Golf Club	Jim Burlington
Ontario Men's Amateur Championship	Jay Sisko	Idylwylde Golf & CC	Stu Leachman
Ontario Women's Amateur Championship	Jay Honeyball*	OslerBrook Golf & CC	Chad Vibert
Ontario Jr. & Juvenile Boys' Championship	Chad Adamson	Listowel Golf & CC	Doug Breen
Bantam Boys' & Girls' Championship	Jim Moore	Puslinch Lake Golf & CC	Doug Breen
Senior Women's Amateur Championship	Dean Baker*	Club at North Halton	Mark Prieur
Senior Men's Amateur Championship	Dave Cours	Ambassador Golf Club	Chris Andrejicka
Ontario Women's Mid-Amateur Championship	Scott Fraser	Loyalist Country Club	Bill Fach

**Photos of Dean Baker and Jay Honeyball not available.*

OGSA SUMMER SCRAMBLE

By all reviews, a great time was had at Springfield's 18 hole semi private, beautiful Florida style golf course located just south of Guelph. This past August, 71 golfers gathered to participate in a 4 person scramble, followed by a steak dinner in the club house. With such a successful event, we are looking forward to making this an annual tournament. In addition to the bountiful prize table, \$180.00 was raised during a raffle to help support the OGSA Member's Benevolent fund.

This event afforded OGSA the opportunity to invite industry guests, thank Regional Association Presidents and Green is Beautiful volunteers.

Thank you to Ray Dlugokecki, his staff and all the staff at Springfield for supporting this event and helping to make it the success it was.

Looking forward to seeing you all next year!



Photo by Dorothy Hills



Ray Duke accepts the Host Superintendent plaque from OGSA director John McLinden

Some of the prize winners were:

Flight A 1st place team	Flight B 1st place 3 man team
Jamie Spencer, Westminster Trails Mark Durand, Ontario Seed Mark Trudell, Maple Ridge Golf Club Scott Gardner, Echo Valley Golf Club	Matt Dodson, Pres., Lake Simcoe GSA Gary Morris, Pres., EOGSA John Taylor, Pres., WOGSA
Proximity prizes went to:	
Flight A Longest Drive – Doug Davidson, Glencairn GC	
Flight A Closest to the Pin – Mark Durand, Ontario Seed	
Flight B Longest Drive – Dr. Katerina Jordan, UofG	
Flight B Closest to the Pin – John McLinden, Ladies GC of Toronto	



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ASSISTANTS' TOURNAMENT

This year's edition of the Assistants Tournament was played at the beautiful BreaBen Golf Club in Mississauga. The weather held out and everyone in attendance had a great time, both on and off the course. Our thanks goes out to all of the service staff at BreaBen for a great experience and special recognition to Superintendent, Dan Magrin and Assistant Superintendent, Blake Sicard for the wonderful playing conditions enjoyed by everyone that participated.

In addition to a great day of golf the participants were treated to

Bob Martin and Ron Lampman's Golf Unleashed Show. The demonstration took place on the driving range. Below, Ron Lampman demonstrates some of his trick shots. One shot was hit from a pipe held by a brave participant. The other probably outshot any drive on the course that day, with a flexible pipe driver. The shots were incredible and executed with ease.

This event would not have been possible if it had not been for our wonderful sponsors.

As well as our key sponsors, the OGSA would like to thank all of the wonderful companies that donated

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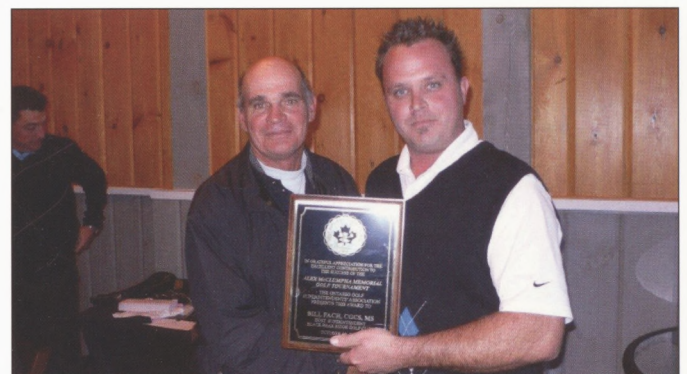


prizes to make our tournament a success. We are pleased to announce from the proceeds we were able to donate \$1200 to the Ontario Turf Research Foundation to further turf research in the golf industry.

Everyone went home a winner from the Assistants tournament, but special congratulations go to Greg Brown, Assistant Superintendent at Essex Golf & Country Club, who won the all inclusive trip to Farmlinks, donated by Agrium Advanced Technologies and presented by Agrium representative, Craig McCutcheon.

ALEX McCLUMPHA MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Despite a few showers and cool winds, everyone had a wonderful time at the beautiful Black Bear Ridge Golf Club just outside of Belleville. In addition to the usual competition Bill Fach organized a Par 3 tournament prior to the noon shotgun, with prizes and \$250.00 from the proceeds being donated to the Ontario Turf Research Foundation to be used to further turf research in the golf industry.



Bill Fach is presented with the Host Superintendent plaque by OGSA Director, Phil Scully.

...continued on page 16



Ron Craig with David Stevens, who was the recipient of the George Darou Trophy and winner of a Toro snowblower.

Some of the prize winners were:

Low Gross and Low Flight winners:

Low Gross Flight A – Bill Gilkes, Scarboro GC

Low Gross Flight B – Darryl Lewis, Oshawa G&CC

Low Net Flight A – Robert Wright, Devil's Pulpit

Low Net Flight B – Dennis Kim, Scarboro GC

Proximity prizes went to:

Flight A Longest Drive – Martin Kopp, Brampton GC

Flight A Closest to the Pin – Jason Cooper, Angus Glen GC

Closest to the Pin Any Player – Mike Brabender, guest

Flight B Longest Drive – Kyle Heyburn, Lakeridge Links

Flight B Closest to the Pin – Greg O'Heron, Peterborough G&CC

David Stevens, Superintendent at Beaverbrook Golf Course in Minden, Ontario won't need to worry about the snow this year. David was the recipient of the George Darou Trophy which goes to the OGSA superintendent over 50 years old with the best low gross score. Winners

from the past 5 years are not eligible. The prize, donated by Turf Care Products was a 210-R Toro Power Clear Snowblower. Ron Craig, President of Turf Care was on hand to share in the year-end celebration and present David with the prize. Congratulations David!



Golf course highlight

BraeBen Golf Course

5700 Terry Fox Way
Mississauga ON L5B 1T2
Phone: (905) 615-4653
Email: dan.magrin@mississauga.ca
Website: www.braeben.ca
Golf Course Superintendent: Dan Magrin



Photo by Peter Sellars, Courtesy of BraeBen Golf Course

COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in?
Peel Region

Is your club private, semi private, public, resort or municipal?
Municipal

Typical number of rounds
18 holes: 27,500 rounds
9 holes: 10,000 rounds

Typical opening and closing dates?
Mid-April open
with mid-November closing

How long have you been a superintendent?
5 years

How long have you been an OGSA member?
12 years

How many staff?
5 year round, 20 seasonal staff

How many assistants and mechanics?
Assistant: Mark Holloway
Mechanic: Brad Kurtz

How many gardening staff?
1

COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?
18 regulation and 9 hole par 3

What is the yardage from back and forward tees?
18 hole: 6,400 yards from the back tees
and 4,860 yards from the front tees
9 hole: 1,371 from the back tees and 891
yards from the front tees

What is the size of driving range and range tee?
Range is 280 yards long with a total area
of 8 acres (includes 1 acre of tees, 1.5
acres of fairway and 1 practice green)

How many bunkers?
94

How many times does water come into play?
1 pond on 1 hole

Who was the original architect?
Ted Baker

What was the year of original construction?
1999

What major tournaments have been held?
Qualifier for the Jane Rogers
Championship (Canadian Tour)

What is the size of your maintenance shop?
12,800 square feet with
8,000 square feet heated

What type of irrigation system?
Rainbird

What is the size of greens, tees & fairways?
5 acres of greens
7 acres of tees
28 acres of fairways

What is your predominant grass?
Bentgrass

Type of greens?
17 Modified USGA
13 Modified California

What is the predominant soil type?
Heavy topsoil/clay

What equipment do you have in inventory?
2 triplex greens mowers
6 triplex tee mowers
2 5-plex fairway mowers
2 sidewinders
2 zero turn rough mowers (96")
1 all terrain (slope) mower
1 out front rotary mower
1 tractor
1 loader/backhoe
4 trucksters
10 utility vehicles
2 golf carts
1 300 gallon dedicated sprayer
3 walking greens mowers
1 48" walking aerifier
1 24" walking aerifier
1 sweeper vac
1 greens roller
2 bunker rakes

2 truckster mount topdressers
(1 drop/1 spinner)
1 fairway topdresser (drop)
1 truckster mount core harvester
1 PTO Blower
1 tow behind turbine blower
Misc. line trimmers, lawn boys, blowers,
spreaders, implements etc.

COURSE PROJECTS & PLANS

What projects have you recently completed?
Reconstructed 12th green in fall of 2008
in response to failed drainage resulting
from settlement.
Due to thin cap (cover over landfill),
we were experiencing gas pressure and
poor turf conditions around 2 bunkers
on our 9th hole. To correct this problem,
we added 2-3 feet of clay and rebuilt
bunkers in fall, 2009.
Practice bunkers expanded and fairway
added to range practice green in spring,
2010.

LONG RANGE PLANS

What long range plans for renovation do you
have in the next five years?
Leveling tees that have been impacted
by settlement.
Removal of non-essential bunkers on
par 3 course.

CHALLENGES

Are there any particular challenges you face with
your property?
Maintaining consistency with a combina-
tion of modified California style greens
and modified USGA style greens.
Poor soil conditions.
Settlement.

SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have any success stories?
Transforming former landfill into full
service golf facility that hosts 37,000 +
rounds (both courses) as well as several
weddings/banquets annually.

Common & Uncommon Grasses Take Root in the Turfgrass Species Display Garden

by Peter Purvis, Station Manager and Rob Witherspoon, Director
Guelph Turfgrass Institute, University of Guelph

Over a beer at “Shakies” (the Shakespeare Arms, a local turf student and staff watering hole), Rob Witherspoon confided in me an idea of his that had been brewing for a long time: “What if there was a site at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute that would include representative plantings of many cool and warm season turf grasses that we could use for teaching and research – and what about a putting green with different grasses that people could practice on?” And so the Turfgrass Species Display Garden was born.

We know that Kentucky bluegrass, creeping bentgrass, perennial ryegrass and the fine fescues are the four main species of grasses used in Ontario. Unfortunately, there has been limited investigation into the suitability of alternative turfgrass species for use in golf courses, sports fields, sod production, parks, roadsides, landscape sites or other turf areas. Fortunately, new turfgrass cultivars are constantly being developed and tested, but often an existing species may be all that a superintendent or turf manager requires for a specific application. Are there existing turfgrass species that can withstand drought or wet conditions, harsh winters, low fertility, disease pressures and many other extreme conditions yet retain good quality and recuperative potential? The answer to this question is critical given the challenges of climate change, watering and nutrient restrictions and pesticide bans.

The objective of the Turfgrass Species Display Garden



Planting the putting green. Note the temporary plastic edging used to separate the grass species.

is to establish a long-term research and teaching site that includes side-by-side representative plantings of a wide range of cool and warm season turf grasses. The garden will provide several benefits, including:

- A site where golf course superintendents, sports field, park and turfgrass managers have access to a comparison of a wide range of cool and warm season turf grasses, both in their natural and maintained forms;
- An educational resource for faculty, extension specialists, students, industry professionals and the general public;
- A source of mature and established plant material for greenhouse and student research projects;
- A means of informal annual evaluation of the short and long term performance of various common and uncommon turfgrass species grown under southern Ontario conditions.

Construction of the Turfgrass Species Display Garden began in August, 2009 with much of the work being done by student interns from the University of Guelph Turfgrass Management program. The area was first sprayed with glyphosate, then the sod was stripped off and garden areas rototilled. Twenty species of cool season grasses (Table 1) were planted in September. Grasses were planted in 1-metre wide, side-by-side rows with a divider in-between



Preparation of the Turfgrass Species Display Garden



Turfgrass species several weeks after planting.

each row to reduce spreading of the grasses. Two-thirds of each species was mowed and the remainder left un-mown so the grasses could be viewed in their cultivated and natural forms. A series of paths and benches were constructed throughout the garden for easy access to the grasses and all species were well labeled.

A push-up putting green was also planted in five separate sections, each containing a different species of fine-type turf (Table 2). Putters and golf balls are left on site so that visitors can practice putt as they evaluate the different grass putting surfaces. A selection of warm season grasses was planted in June, 2010 (Table 3). It will be interesting to see how these warm season grasses handle our southern Ontario winter. The official dedication of the Garden took place at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute's Research Field Day in August, 2010. Please come and view the new Garden and see if you can incorporate any of these grasses into your golf course or turf areas. You are always welcome.

We thank the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation, Ontario Horticultural Trades Foundation, the Georgian Bay Golf Superintendent's Association and Pickseed for generously supporting this project.



The completed garden at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

Table 1.
Cool season grass species planted in the Turfgrass Species Display Garden.

Fairway Wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron cristatum</i>
Crested Wheatgrass	<i>Agropyrum desertorum</i>
Redtop	<i>Agrostis gigantea</i>
Creeping Bentgrass	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
Smooth Bromegrass	<i>Bromus inermis</i>
Orchardgrass	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Sheep Fescue	<i>Festuca ovina</i>
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>
Chewings Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra var. commutata</i>
Hard Fescue	<i>Festuca trachyphylla</i>
Tall Fescue	<i>Lolium arundinaceum</i>
Perennial Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Annual Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne ssp. multiflorum</i>
Western Wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>
Canada Bluegrass	<i>Poa compressa</i>
Kentucky Bluegrass	<i>Poa pratensis</i>
Texas Bluegrass Hybrids	<i>Poa pratensis</i> × <i>Poa arachnifera</i>
Rough Bluegrass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>
Weeping Alkaligrass	<i>Puccinellia distans</i>

Table 2.
Grass species planted in the Turfgrass Species Display Garden putting green.

Annual Bluegrass	<i>Poa annua</i>
Colonial Bentgrass	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
Creeping Bentgrass	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
Fine Fescue Mix	<i>Festuca trachyphylla</i> ; <i>Festuca ovina</i> ; <i>Festuca rubra</i> ; and <i>Festuca rubra var. commutata</i>
Velvet Bentgrass	<i>Agrostis canina</i>

Table 3.
Warm season grass species planted in the Turfgrass Species Display Garden.

Sideoats Grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>
Blue Grama	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>
Buffalograss	<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i>
Bermudagrass	<i>Cynodon Dactylon</i>
Zoysia Grass	<i>Zoysia japonica</i>

Second to one

by Alan Dolick, Assistant Superintendent
Dundas Valley Golf & Curling Club

Fostering Mutual Respect in the Workplace

Today I fired my first employee. To be honest, I think I may have taken it harder than he did. As I drove, I thought about how this person has to go home and tell their significant other, and potentially his children, that he no longer has a means of supporting them. All too often in this world, we as humans only worry about our own little bubbles. Many of us never stop to think about how our actions or words affect those around us. Sure we may reflect about events or conversations we have had with those close to us, but rarely do we stop and think about those on the periphery of our lives.

Up to this point in my career, much has been on the labour end, rather than the management side of the business. I have had good bosses, and some not so great. As I have moved up through the ranks, I have watched those above me very carefully in hopes of picking up on not only their great character traits, but trying to avoid the not so desirable ones.

This being my first full season as a true supervisor I wanted to make sure that I fostered mutual respect with my staff. Somewhere I heard the question "As a boss, would you rather be loved or feared?" the answer being "neither, I want to be respected". But how do you get to the point that people respect you? The only way to get respect is to give some back. It is this mutual respect that is a trait I have found in all of the exceptional leaders I have worked with in my life.

Respect can come in many forms and is recognized differently by everyone. As the assistant superintendent, you are leading many different types of people: summer students, adults and retirees. Somehow, you have to find a way to identify with all of these different types of people.

I think the most important thing to remember when fostering mutual respect is to remember that when the work day is done, no matter how old we are or what our background, we are all people. We all have thoughts and feelings, and the need to feel appreciated. Merely asking ones opinion or taking a suggestion will help make someone feel needed, and when you feel needed you tend to put in that extra effort.

If you treat your staff more like people and less like staff, they are more likely to treat you less like their boss and more like their leader. A leader is someone that people look up to; a boss gives out orders that breed resentment.

So next time you get the chance, ask someone how their weekend went, how their kids are doing, or what they think about the new greens routes. If you open up a little about yourself you will be amazed with the change in your relationship with your staff. After all, it is our staff that we count on every day to make the course the best it can be. Without them all of our experience, knowledge and expertise would be worthless.

SENIORS MOMENT 2010

4th Annual Seniors Tournament held at Mono Hills GC



Above the hole

by Sean May
Student and Intern

The leaves are changing and are beginning to fall and the season is beginning to come to an end. Many courses are starting to prepare for the winter season with many cultural practices being focused on programs such as aeration. September came by very fast and it was time for me to pack up my belongings and say my goodbyes. The internship experience I had at Bigwin was one that was right for me and a life changing experience. I would like to say thank you to all who were involved.

Fortunately for myself I have been able to continue working this fall at Credit Valley Golf Club. This has allowed me to work part-time while being at school and continue learning. I have taken part in some special projects including tee deck work and bunker repairs. At the end of September I had the opportunity to take part in the GBGSA closing event at Cobble Beach Golf Links in Owen Sound where I was presented with the Jay Lavis Memorial Scholarship.

Although sometimes I would much rather be out working, I have made the commitment to school and I know this year will fly by. The semester has started now

and there is no looking back as we are going in-depth into diseases, insects, turf management II and presenting our internship experiences. There are about 25-30 new turf students entering the program this year and all seem to be energetic about the program.

Many events are taking place throughout the semester including turf club every Thursday, weekly ice hockey and soon we will be sodding the cannon. On September 24th we hosted our annual golf tournament at Wildwinds Golf Links in Guelph. This included over 50 participants and was a tremendous success. Thank you to all who attended and to our sponsors for their generous donations.

One event coming up for the program is the first-year students will be putting on a symposium and networking event on Friday, November 26th, 2010. Please feel free to contact Tim O'Connor at tim@oconnorgolf.ca or (519) 341-4778 for more information.

I'm looking forward to taking part in some conferences and shows this coming winter as well as closing up the course at Credit Valley Golf Club. All the best and good luck to everyone preparing for the winter season.



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SUPER-SMART PHONES

By Scott J. Morrison

Environmental Consultant with Out on a Limb

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It wasn't long ago when Blackberries and Apples were fruits, and the only Android's around were R2D2 and C-3PO on your bed sheets. Times have changed, technology is allowing us to do previously unimaginable things.

Superintendents must be effective communicators, time managers, and be in five places at the same time. Smartphone's can help with that, however with so many devices on the market it's hard to know what long-term advantages any one product may continue to have over their competition. Users must know what functionality is needed to fulfill their needs. The users preference of keyboard vs. touch-screen, and how "Apps" (applications) will be used will help determine the best-suited device.

Most touch screens are surprisingly durable, made of glass with a protective coating or to help defend against grit while working in the field. Keyboards and trackballs can increase productivity for some, however if they get up-close and personal with bunker sand they can become useless and you're confined to your desktop and landlines. Apps can use any combination of GPS, accelerometer, compass, touch screen, internet access and cellular capability. Keep in mind these features or Apps will likely be imitated and improved upon by each major competitor, App-developer, or by "jail-breaking" your device to by-pass restrictions set by carriers and manufacturers.

Lets take a look at the major smartphone and tablet producers and see what advantages and disadvantages these products have for supers.

Apple – iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

While many criticize Apple's products for their limited keyboard options, iJunkies reply "just turn it in to landscape mode". Other points of criticism include lack of customizable themes, basic camera and Apps are only available through iTunes. Despite what hang-ups you have over Apple's products, you can't argue against their durability and light weight making them not get in the way, and sometimes that's the best feature of all. Apple has done a great job promoting its App's as they do have the largest collection of all the smart-phones – for now. Some of the "not yet Android" Apps for supers include:

- Right now, go to iTunes, download **Sun Seeker** for \$2.99 and go to your shadiest green with your grumpiest Greens Committee member. Developed



Note: Simulated images, may not be exactly as shown.

for Solar Panel installers, this App uses the iPhones camera, GPS and Azimuth tool to illustrate (in flat mode and augmented reality camera mode) the solar path and its obstructions from where you stand and creates yearly charts. Pretty cool.

- **iStimp**, the \$0.99 digital Stimp meter, provides accurate green speed readings by using the iPhones accelerometer and complex algorithms.
- **iGIS**, the *Geographic Information System* in the palm of your hand, allows supers to layer customized info onto aerial images from Google Maps. Custom colors, shapes, importing/exporting, and even measuring tools make the \$22 cost well worth it for your iPhone or iPad. Keep in mind, although this App is only available with Apple, much of this can be done within the regular online Google My Maps.
- **PinPoint** receives data from the National Lightning Detection Network and Environment Canada for all cloud-to-ground lightning strikes within 30 Miles (48 Km) of the user's geo-located position and layers it on an aerial image from Google Maps. Not bad for \$5.99, available on iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad.
- **Toro NSN** enables Supers to login to their desktop and access and control the whole irrigation system.
- For \$4.99 **Golf Ball Finder** may help golfers get out of those natural areas and back on the course, or it may cause a line up of golfers staring at their phones instead of hurrying up.
- The \$1.99 **Fertilizer Calculator** helps users calculate lbs/kg of N, P, and K from a bag, the area it will cover, records dates and notes of the application.

RIM – BlackBerry (BB)

You know you're a BB'er when you can open the back, take out the battery, reinstall, close it back up and press ON with one hand. Ignoring the "PC-like" need to reboot often, BB'ers are quick to point out the ease of emailing, great Camera options, no need to look while typing as you can actually feel the buttons and the newer touch-screen models have glass that vibrates and makes a "click" sound to give a sensation of typing on a real keyboard.

BB is quickly losing its share of the U.S. Smartphone market – down to 37% from last quarter's 42%. Reasons? Poor standard web browser, App options are low and Android is grabbing market share while iPhone has generally stayed the same. RIM is attempting to regain market loss by providing a wider selection of products like their PlayBook tablet in 2011, and hopes to change their "business only" reputation and snap up some of Apple's users.

BlackBerry Messenger (BBM) is a free chat/text program that allows users to chat with other BB users with no charge (technically you need a data package, so there is a charge). This was a strong point for the brand, but due to savvy App-developers, free text programs can be found for pretty much every device now (Apple and Android devices can use "Whatsapp" for "free" messaging). Here are a few Apps I feel supers using BB's would enjoy:

- **Turfgrass Management**, free download with an annual subscription of \$19.99 per year (also available on iPhones, iPod Touch and iPad) contains pics, info and recommendations for managing turf weeds, diseases, insects and an American pesticide database. Developed by the good folks at U of Georgia.
- **Evernote** is available on BB's, Apple Products and the Android OS for free, with some premium upgrades. Capture images, voice notes, emails, typed notes and organize them to help you be more productive. Perfect for Supers doing five things at once.
- **Log-Me-In** allows users to use any mobile device to log in to their desktop computers remotely. This is essentially the App that **Toro's NSN** iPhone App uses.
- **Bolt** helps make the standard BB Browser faster, allowing for quicker response times through the web. This is perfect if you use RainBirds MI website to access and control your irrigation system.

Android OS – Motorola, HTC, Samsung, LG

Not limited by design features meant to preserve brand identity, Android is an Operating System (OS) adopted by major smartphone manufacturers. Created by Google, the Android OS can be found in phones and tablets that resemble iconic BB's and Apple designs, mash-up designs

(i.e. flat-screen with slide-out keyboard), and new concepts altogether like dashboard computers in cars. Imagine what a stock Android OS could do for a mower or sprayer; fuel conservation and the IPM reporting process would be made effortless.

Apple has trademarked "There's an App for that!", but Android is expected to surpass with number of Apps due to Google's "open source" policy. Basically, App-developers are able to create Apps, and sell as they please, with no approval process like Apple and BB. Critics say this will result in buggy Apps, while users believe this will result in tools to help destroy the competition. Currently, some of the best Apps for supers on Androids include:

- **My Maps Editor for Google Maps** is a great free App that I've seen a few supers use on their desktops throughout the years but with very little hype and coverage in the industry. This App allows you to place "pins", draw shapes, measure distance and area on an aerial image of your course. Is there a better way to communicate scouting info or plan a construction or renovation project than a photograph/diagram tagged to a geo-location?
- **Weather Reality** is unlike any other weather App. For \$1.99 you can point your phone at the sky and see local weather reports in the form of radar clouds.
- **Landscape and Garden Calculator** provides calculators and tables for Plantings, Lawn Fertilizer, Lawn Seed, Aggregate, Pavers, Weight Conversion, Fraction to Decimal, Decimal to Fraction, Fraction Calculator and Frost Tables. Includes more complex parameters for predicting materials needed - \$4.99
- **WeatherBug Elite** gives you a widget and live, local weather. There is also radar animation to follow weather developments and additional map layers for highly detailed information. For \$1.99, **WeatherBug** also comes with a widget to place on your Android home screen for quick and interactive access.
- The free **Google Goggles** is a simple idea - point your device at something, take a pic and Google will find all sorts of background info on your subject. In time, this App will be able to identify insects and find and order replacement parts, but for now you're limited to translating text, immediately indexing business card photos to your contact list and identifying major tourist attractions.

Scott J Morrison is an Environmental Consultant with Out on a Limb (www.oal.ca), Editor of Turfhugger.com and the first Certified Sustainability Advisor for the Golf Environment Organisation in Canada.

University of Guelph update



What a Summer for Diagnostics

Well, it's that time of year again when we try to summarize the disease and disorder activity from this past season. I have a feeling that most of you are very happy to have this growing season behind you and based on the activity in the GTI Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab, I can't say that I blame you. This was by far the most brutal summer that I have experienced since I moved to Ontario (five years now) and from what I could tell, it was one of the more difficult seasons for a number of you as well.

The season started out somewhat similar to last year in that there was a good bit of winter injury on a number of golf courses (Fig.1). It did not seem to matter if greens were covered or not, it was almost random as to who saw dead turf and who came out clean. Then, also similar to last year, April started out with abnormally high temperatures which caught many of you, who did not have your irrigation systems ready, by surprise. Then, things calmed down a bit and it seemed as though we would have a normal spring. But even though May was relatively cool overall, the beginning of the month and particularly the last week had days in the GTA where temperatures rose above 30°C. In June, we had a bit of a cool down period and everyone started to breathe a sigh of relief; then the real summer started. Toward the end of the month, we were experiencing August-like temperatures and by mid-July it seemed as though we should

have been finished with summer and on to fall. The heat and humidity were relentless and continued on into August and even stayed with us until early September. What all of this created was a prolonged period where conditions were ideal for disease development and for *Poa annua* to be stressed beyond belief. Below is a summary of what we saw come through the lab during this very long season:

As I mentioned above, we first noted that there was a great deal of winter injury this season. This is not completely surprising – we had a below-average amount of snowfall and a number of freeze-thaw events and these always lead to a good bit of injury come spring. Unfortunately, this also meant that many of you had weak annual bluegrass heading into the growing season and rather than having some reprieve with a nice, cool spring, the rapidly rising

temperatures in April and May did not allow the damaged turf much chance to recover.

The spring season brought the usual suspects, including yellow patch (*Rhizoctonia cerealis*), *Pythium* root dysfunction, a relatively high number of *Microdochium* patch samples (aka *Fusarium* patch caused by *Microdochium nivale*) as well as a high number of Waitea patch samples (*Waitea circinata* var. *circinata*). Dollar spot (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*) also came on strong and persisted with rather high disease pressure throughout the season. As temperatures increased going into summer, most of these diseases faded away but one shoulder season disease that stuck with us through the summer was take-all patch (*Gaeumannomyces graminis* var. *avenae*).

For those who had primarily creeping bentgrass, it was a big year for take-all patch here in Ontario.



Figure 1. Winter damage as a result of ice cover from 2009. (Photo by S. Jordan).



Figure 2. Symptoms of mild take-all patch during the summer months.
(Photo by S. Jordan)



Figure 3. Summer patch symptoms on a golf course green.
(Photo by S. Jordan)

We saw the usual number of samples with this disease in the spring but with the stressful conditions that ensued through June and July, we saw a high number of take-all patch cases in the summertime. Symptoms were difficult to diagnose at first as they were subtle and not at all patch-like (Fig. 2). However, as the summer wore on, symptoms became more pronounced and some superintendents lost turf. This was primarily due to the extended heat increasing stress on the turf and leading to development of symptoms from root diseases in general. In more moderate seasons, creeping bentgrass plants are able to withstand a certain amount of infection from *G. graminis* without showing too many symptoms. However, this year the stress was prolonged and we saw patch symptoms on even what appeared to be the healthiest of greens. For the summer occurrences of this disease, no fungicides were recommended as the symptoms are typically the result of infections that occurred earlier in the season. The best management methods included increasing heights of cut, reducing thatch and soil compaction (during spells of cooler weather), using acidifying fertilizers and also the addition of manganese to reduce symptoms.

Toward the end of June we had an extreme warm spell followed by some heavy and extended rainfall. I recall turning to my two assistants in the lab and saying "next week is summer patch week." Sure enough, within a couple of days, the summer patch (*Magnaporthe poae*) samples started coming in (Fig. 3). We no doubt had a record number of samples that were diagnosed with summer patch and this was no surprise as the conditions for this disease were ideal. Annual bluegrass was starting to die out – quickly in some cases – and even superintendents who had taken the appropriate preventative measures ended up with lost turf. In most cases, we were able to confirm the presence of runner hyphae (one of the diagnostic signs for this disease) but in a number of samples, there were no diagnostic signs at all. For these cases, the diagnosis was *Poa* summer decline (Fig. 4) often compounded by additional abiotic stress such as excess thatch, compaction, drought stress, etc. In some cases where abiotic disorders did not fit, we performed nematode extractions and saw large populations of plant-parasitic nematodes present in the soils. We also saw a few other diseases and disorders including brown patch

(*Rhizoctonia solani*), black layer, algae, fairy ring, anthracnose (both foliar and basal rot caused by *Colletotrichum cereale*), leaf spot and melting out (*Bipolaris* or *Drechslera*) and even some *Pythium* blight.

All in all, for Ontario, this was the season for diseases. Temperatures were higher than average and host plants were stressed beyond normal.




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...continued from page 25



Figure 4. Extreme *Poa annua* decline on a mixed bentgrass/bluegrass approach
(Photo by S. Jordan)

In addition, there was usually just enough rainfall to keep the soil moist and keep the fungi thriving but not enough to keep the turfgrass happy for an extended period of time. What this season certainly showed us was that nobody is immune to losing some turf as I saw some of the most experienced and respected turf managers run into problems. Especially with summer patch, I think that many managers felt they had it under control because the disease had barely appeared over the past two seasons.

However, 2008 and 2009 were relatively cool and therefore not conducive to development of this disease. In addition, part of the issue with annual bluegrass this season was, summer extended far beyond what our ecotypes are evolved to handle. With higher than average temperatures beginning in May and extended heat and humidity all the way through August, much of the *Poa annua* was out of reserves to survive the extended summer by July. In the end, I think a number of people realized the importance of healthy turf going into the summer and also that you can do everything right but in the end, the relative

strength of your turf, your rootzone and the surrounding environment may often mean more in preventing (or exacerbating) disease than your practices.

With respect to our diagnostic lab, we were quite overwhelmed on our end as well having received more samples than we have ever dealt with before. We are working to streamline our operation to better meet the needs of our customers and to ensure that we don't end up with a report backlog in the future. For next season, I sincerely hope you will not be in need of our services and that your turf stays green and healthy throughout the year. However, should you come across issues you are unsure of or are having trouble dealing with, please feel free to call with questions or send us a sample. As always, you can reach me directly at 519-824-4120 x 56615 or e-mail kjordan@uoguelph.ca. You can also try to reach me at the diagnostic lab at 519-824-4120 x 58873 or e-mail diagnostics@guelphturfgrass.ca.

As always, good luck with your winter preparations this year and I hope that you get some rest this winter as you put the summer of 2010 behind you.

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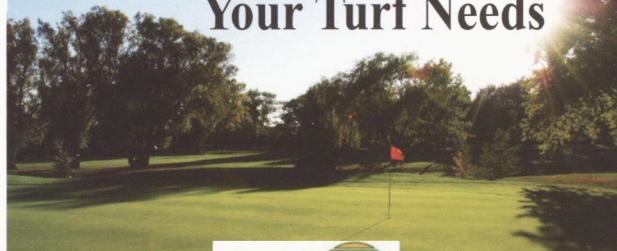
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NOW IS THE TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT YOUR CHAINSAW'S MAINTENANCE

by Darryl James CID, CGIA, ISA Certified Arborist, T. Ag
OSSWA accredited instructor, Arborturf Solutions
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My business is one that wears many hats. One of those hats is being an accredited chainsaw instructor with the Ontario Forestry Safe Workplace Association.

The purpose of this article is to inform and update golf course chainsaw operators on maintenance related issues which I've noticed while training golf staff over the past three seasons.

The safety of the chainsaw operator is directly linked to the maintenance of the chainsaw. Therefore, an improperly maintained chainsaw that does not meet the requirements under the Occupational Health and Safety Act can lead to fines and/or criminal charges, along with the increased chance of serious injury.

In the golf course industry, maintenance related issues are often caused by:

1. The chainsaw operator's dependence on the golf course mechanic to maintain all components of the chainsaw
2. Forgotten knowledge due to the periodic use of the chainsaw

Although the golf course mechanic can be a great asset to help maintain the engine on the chainsaw, they are **not responsible** for the maintenance of the chain, guide bar, or drive sprocket. **That is the responsibility of the chainsaw operator!** After each use, the chainsaw operator should have a systematic approach to maintain each component of the chainsaw.

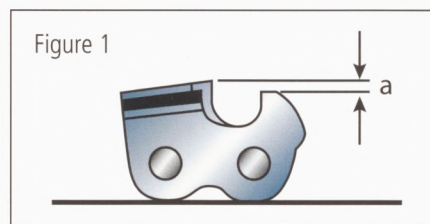
Proper training, refresher courses and effective resource materials associated with maintenance are ways to effectively deal with retaining

knowledge. The owner's manual, along with the internet, are two great resources to stay up-to-date.

With that said, here are a couple of important points from my perspective that you should know before you go for a refresher course or pick up that dusty owner's manual.

The Chain:

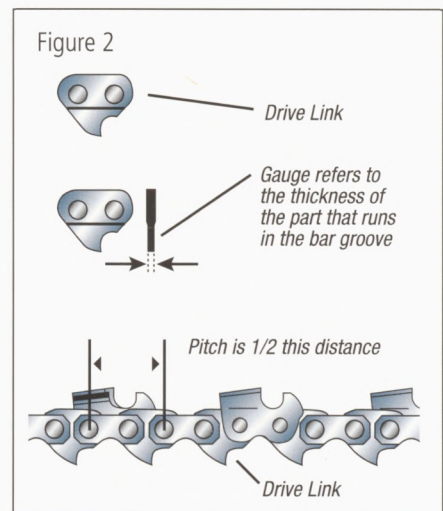
- Ensure the correct file size is being used. This is directly related to the pitch of the chain. A properly sharpened chainsaw will cut you out of trouble and reduce the chance of kickback.



- The depth gauge is the leading edge of the cutter and regulates how deep the cutter will dig into the wood (Fig. 1). If the proper depth gauge tool is not used and the cutter digs too deep, the chance of kickback, the most serious type of chainsaw accident, increases greatly.
- Last, the gauge is related to the width of the drive link (Fig. 2). Make sure the gauge matches the bar being used and check for wear on the bottom on the drive link for a worn out guide bar.

Drive Sprocket:

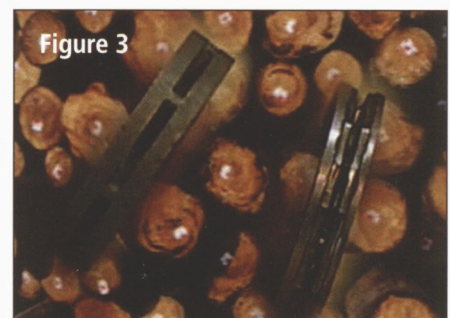
For the drive sprocket, it's important to note the wear (Fig. 3). It is normally recommended by most manufacturers to replace the drive sprocket following wearing out 3-6 chains. This obviously



depends on the operator and how they operate the chainsaw.

The Guide Bar:

- **The nose sprocket teeth:** As they wear, they become more pointed and sharp.
- **Discoloration:** An indication there is not enough oil getting to the bar.
- **Uneven wear of the guard rails:** Indicates improper sharpening.



Summary:

Proper maintenance of the chainsaw is the responsibility of the operator. Good maintenance increases productivity in the field, and most importantly, ensures the safety of the operator and those around them.

On the REEL side of things

by: Warren Wybenga, Equipment Manager,
Donalda Club, Toronto
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Things I Have Yet To Do Before Freeze-up

As I sit, marvelling at the majesty that accompanies the deepening hues of autumn, it occurs to me that as “time waits for no man”, several items remain on my seasonal “to-do” list.

Let’s see now...irrigation blow-out is coming soon and while I don’t have to book the compressor, I am responsible for refueling said beast and that means getting the old portable fuel trailer out of moth balls and finally fixing that slow leak in the one tire. I also picked up a 12V fuel pump that was on sale over the summer and it needs to be installed and wired up so I don’t have to pump a thousand liters, give or take, of diesel fuel by hand anymore. That will be nice.

I’ll also need the tractor to move the tank around which if memory serves, is now overdue for service. No time like the present, eh?

The late season applications of fertilizer will be going down shortly so I’d better get to checking the old tow-behind spreader. Tire pressures and grease fittings, drive dogs and metering gate all need to be checked. The last time I looked at it was a few days after somebody had left some damp granules in the hopper. After an hour or so of scraping, chiseling and scrubbing and a good dose of lube it was good as new – well, almost new, considering the circumstances. Now that I think of it, the pull rope used to open the hopper was looking a little ratty; might as well change that too before it breaks because you just know that it will break when the hopper is full and the gates are open. And that one grease zerk on the inside of the hub, it practically requires the alignment of the entire universe before it will accept any grease, that too.

The brush pile in our yard is getting unruly and needs to get cleaned up before the snow flies, after all, we do need somewhere to pile the snow that’s headed our way. We purchased a second-hand grapple for our skid steer this summer but the hose routing isn’t quite right and as a result, one hose keeps getting snagged. Time to call my “guy” at the hydraulic house and see if he’s come up with the odd-ball, swivel-type fittings that I need to make this thing work properly on our machine. Once I get that re-engineered, you can say good-bye to Brush Mountain.

There are a couple of outdoor lights on the equipment “barn” that have burned out and require changing. I’d better get to that before the ground freezes and for no

other reason than there is no point in being cold while I’m doing it right? The furnaces in the maintenance facility and chemical room should be serviced now before we find out they aren’t working and the sewage sump pump should be due for a “cleaning” to prevent a float from sticking, causing a nasty backup.

There are booking order opportunities on my desk and in my in-box just waiting for my attention. I have to be sure to get them in by the deadline so I can take advantage of the attractive pricing and terms. Our controller should like that.

The shop is still waiting for its spring cleaning. Honestly, the best time for that is during the weeks leading up to Christmas. Things seem to slow down considerably while attitudes and moods remain positive, that and nobody really feels much like working at their normal duties then anyway, right?

Our fuel tanks are due for replacing and if I want to make sure the funds are available I had better get some quotations for the job and look into any changes to the regulations. My friendly neighborhood TSSA Inspector should be able to help with that.

When all is said and done, autumn is the time of year to take a deep breath after a long golf season and to prepare not only your equipment, but your facility and yourself for the winter months ahead. Make no mistake, the cold is coming and depending on where you hang your hat, may already be upon you. So take a look outside of your box and get cracking on those things that either need to get done before freeze-up or are simply more pleasant to do while it’s warm out.



Darryl James

Certified Golf Irrigation Designer
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Off the fairway ...

Winter Gardens – Never Say Die

by Brenda Noble

Head Gardener, Donalda Club, Toronto.

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When people ask me what I do for a living, the next question is, inevitably, “So, what do you do in the winter?”. I’m sure most, if not all of you, have experienced the same scenario. Although I have had to break through a thick frost layer on occasion to finish Christmas displays or get the last of the bulbs into the ground, I think we all spend a lot more time inside than out once winter sets in. But just because we gardeners tend to hibernate a little in the winter, it doesn’t mean our gardens have to. For those clubs who serve members all year round, I’d like you to consider enhancing the winter beauty of your property.

Gone are the days when including a couple of junipers or a boxwood hedge in a landscape can sufficiently be called winter interest. Nor should we limit ourselves to the belief that a plant must be green or have brightly coloured flowers to be beautiful. There are so many plants available to us that offer a variety of different features, and there are many that shine when the temperature drops below freezing.

Individual plants will and do die, perennial top growth turns brown and wilts, but a garden designed with all four seasons in mind will be vibrant all year long: alive with coloured branches and textured bark, alive with birds and wildlife feeding on seed heads and berries, alive with ornamental grasses glowing in the afternoon light, alive with snowflakes resting on a sedum or black-eyed Susan.

Nature has made its’ own winter gardens since the beginning of time, and the concept of specifically designing a garden for winter has been infiltrating the horticultural world for several years. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work at the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens in the south of England shortly after the completion of their 3-acre Winter Garden. Even the Queen deemed it worthy of a visit. I have never seen, and probably never will again, so much work get done on a property as in the four weeks prior to her coming to town. Working in this garden and seeing it come alive on a frosty morning when most people are still warm in their beds really opened my eyes up to the beauty of winter and to pay more attention to the details that are often overlooked. Although I’ve had to accept the reality of Canadian winters and the fact that many of the wonderful plants grown in England simply won’t accomplish the same purpose here, it shouldn’t stop any of us from taking the concepts and applying them using plant material that will thrive in our climate.

A couple of years ago I had the opportunity to redesign the gardens in Donalda’s newly reconstructed patio. It was important to me from the beginning to create a garden that



Winter urn on the patio at Donalda Club, Toronto.

changed throughout the year and always had something interesting to look at. Not only is it a high traffic area, it can also be viewed from inside the clubhouse from many vantage points. Gardens can always use tweaking, but I think I accomplished what I set out to do. From spring flowering bulbs to viburnums, spirea and ornamental grasses to hydrangeas, blackberry lilies and dogwood, there is always something going on.

Last year I took over the task of creating the winter urns at the clubhouse entrance. In fear of running out of material I ordered too much and then had to figure out what to do with it all. So I pulled some pots out of storage, filled them up, and put them out on the patio. The patio? In December? I don’t think you would have found any members enjoying these pots while eating their grilled chicken salad out in the snow, but the huge picture windows surrounding the dining room afforded them the luxury of enjoying the display from the comfort of indoor heat.

I’m not suggesting we turn all our energy and attention to the slowest time of year for our business, but I am suggesting that we make it a consideration. Pinpoint the areas of your property and clubhouse that are prominent in the winter and think about what can be done to enhance



1: *The Winter Garden at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens: Cornus 'Midwinter Fire' (Dogwood), Betula utilis 'Ramdana River' (Birch), Miscanthus 'Malepartus' (Maiden Grass). 2: Miscanthus (Maiden Grass) seed heads in snow. 3: Sedum 'Autumn Joy'.*

them during the stereotypically 'dull' months of the year. Take a walk through your clubhouse – first ensuring your boots are clean so the maintenance department doesn't wring your neck – and observe where the windows are and see what the members see when they're enjoying the clubhouse in the winter. What do the gardens look like beyond those windows? And how can they be better?

My space is limited, but if you're looking for more ideas check out *'The Garden in Winter'* by Suzy Bales or *'The Winter Garden'* by Val Bourne.

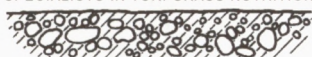
As this column is a new venture for me, I'd be very interested to hear any topic suggestions or questions you'd

like to see addressed. I'd also be interested in featuring garden projects or ideas from different clubs so if anyone would like to showcase their garden please get in touch.

Brenda has been the Head Gardener at Donalda Club in Toronto since the spring of 2006. Prior to discovering the world of golf course horticulture, she completed her degree in horticulture at the University of Guelph. This was followed by year long internships at both the Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia and Sir Harold Hillier Gardens in the south of England. When not in the garden she enjoys spending time with family, exploring the outdoors and experimenting in the kitchen.

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Looking back

Ten Years Ago Today

by Barry Endicott

The Board of Directors in 2000 were as follows: **Keith Bartlett** (pres.), Thornhill, **Ian Bowen** (past pres.), Oshawa, **John Gravett** (vice.), Granite Club, **Jim Flett**, Muskoka Lakes, **Mark Piccolo**, Galt, **Rob Ackermann**, Markland Wood, **Dean Baker**, Glen Abbey, **Jeff Burgess**, Weston, **Robert Burrows** (editor), Rosedale, **Dave Cours**, Erie Shores, **Robert Heron**, Beacon Hall and **Paul Scenna**, Donalda. **Dorothy Hills** was the Office Administrator.

Green Is Beautiful tied with Iowa's *The Reporter* for the Most Improved Publication at this year's Newsletter Editor Session at the CGSAA Convention held in New Orleans.

On the move: **John Taylor** went from Twenty Valley to Hunters Point. **Mark Sevesek**, Assistant at Nobleton Lakes moved to Rio Vista. **Chris Davies**, who worked at Glen Abbey and before that Deer Creek, made a career change and started working for Vanden Bussche Irrigation.

Alan Beeney retired from the Halton Hills Country Club after thirty six years. **Al** hosted the McClumpha Tournament and **Keith Bartlett** presented him with a watch inscribed with "Congratulations from your colleagues for your years of involvement in the association". First low gross was **Bruce Burger** 73 and first low net was **Kenneth Patterson** 64. The George Darou Trophy went to **Tom Murphy** for the best low gross for over 50 years old.

The CGSA Conference and Trade Show was held in Ottawa. **Jim Wyllie** was awarded the John B Steel Distinguished Service Award. **Paul Dermott**, property manager of Oakdale Golf and Country Club, was the winner of the 2000 Environmental Achievement Award which is co-sponsored by the CGSA and The Toro Company.

Bob Hutcheson, owner of Hutcheson Sand and Mixes, supplied the sand for the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney Australia to be used as the sand for the Beach Volley Ball competition.

Major rainfall events plagued the Toronto area golf courses from April to June. Extensive damage was reported from **Robert Cowan**, Royal Woodbine, **Don Crymble**, Markham Green and **Rob Ackermann**, Markland Wood. Courses were closed and major damage was reported from many other courses during three separate storms.

At the Ontario Turf Symposium, **Gary Gravett**, on behalf of the Georgian Bay Golf Superintendents Association, presented **Rob Witherspoon**, Director of Guelph Turfgrass Institute, with a \$1,500 cheque to be put towards GTI research. The OTRF tournament was held at Wooden Sticks on August 14th hosted by **Brian Haus**. Over \$40,000 was raised for turfgrass research. The GTI Summer Research Field Day was held at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. After lunch, **Jack Eggens**, **Pam**

Charbonneau and **Ken Carey** led the hands-on workshop.

The President/Greenschairman/Superintendent Event was held at the Donalda Golf Club hosted by **Paul Scenna**. This year's team champion, with a low score of 117, went to **John Taylor** from Hunters Point Golf Club, second place went to **Phil Brown** from Summit (123) and third place went to **Aldo Bortolon** from Lookout Point (127).

The Pro/Superintendent tournament was held at King Valley hosted by **Jason Honeyball**. The top team was led by **Ray Richards**, Mad River, second led by **Tom Murphy**, Lampton and third led by **Richard Butler**, St. Andrews East. Low scoring superintendent was **Jason Ireland** from Conestoga.

The Annual Baseball Tournament was held on July 15th. This tournament was started by **Dennis McCracken** 8 years earlier to provide a fun day for golf course superintendents and their staff. With the acquisition of McCracken Golf Supplies by Plant Products, it was decided that Plant Products would continue to host this popular event. The winning team was from Toronto Golf and runner up was from Mississauga.

Tiger mania came to the Canadian Open at Glen Abbey. It was the first time that tickets were sold out for the Canadian Open. To give you an idea of how successful the tournament was, consider these final numbers:

- Ticket sales on property \$100,000 (\$17,000 in 1999)
- Sunday crowds estimated at 60,000 (30,000 in 1999)
- 10,000 hats sold (4,000 in 1999)
- 180 Prime Rib Roasts (80 in 1999)
- 62 kegs = approx. 7000 glasses of beer (30 kegs in 1999)
- 8400 bottles of beer (3600 in 1999)

These figures were taken from an article written by **Dean Baker** who was the superintendent for many of those Canadian Opens held at Glen Abbey.



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Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Golf North Properties

King Tut, DNA, and the CIA

Last week I was sitting in a waiting room – waiting – which seems appropriate enough when you think about it. It's not like they call it the "We'll rush you right in" room. Yet everyone around me seemed to be increasingly agitated that they were using the room for the exact purpose it was designed. I generally hate waiting for anything, but if you put me in a room that's labelled "Waiting Room" I'm generally cognisant of the fact that waiting will most assuredly be involved. That's why God invented *National Geographic*. Every waiting room has a stack of trashy gossip magazines and lots of the soft-core anorexic porn that passes for fashion magazines; but way at the bottom of the pile, there is always a four-year-old *National Geographic*. It doesn't matter how old it is, they're still fantastic. My parents have issues from the 1920's and I still read them.

It's always been a mystery to me how they can churn out a publication, with the latest in research, the best writers, and the world's greatest photographers (a periodical that ought to cost \$40 a copy to produce) and sell it for two bucks a go. It will come as no shock, I have a conspiracy theory on this one. If you look at the masthead, you'll see that the headquarters of The National Geographic Society is in Washington DC, about a driver and a nine iron away from the capital building, and right next to the CIA headquarters. My theory is the magazine, the TV channel, and the whole magilla is a front for a spy ring. They travel all over the world, filming, interviewing and taking pictures, in places Americans would not otherwise be welcome. The whole magazine is nothing more than a travelogue for CIA agents, of countries the US hasn't bombed the crap out of yet.

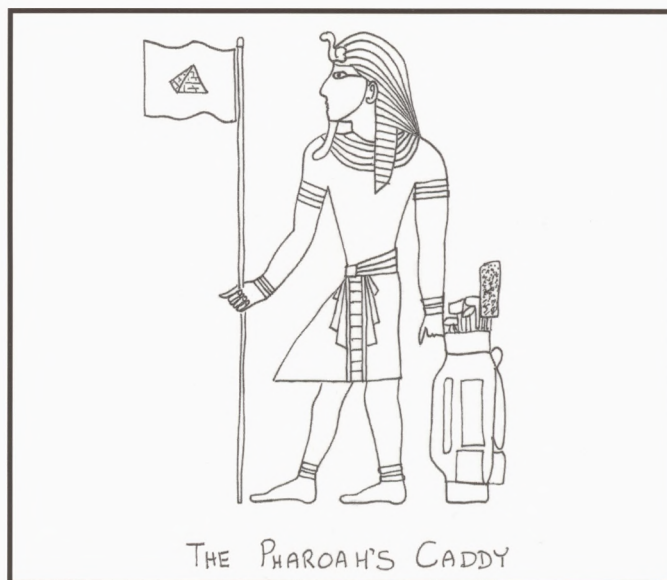
This particular issue had an article about how scientists had mapped the DNA of several Pharaohs' mummies, including King Tut. Turns out there was a fair bit of scepticism on the part of Egyptologists, who questioned the reliability of the data that would be produced – apparently O.J. Simpson jurors and Egyptologists have that in common. We can figure out the family tree of a guy who died 3000 years ago, but can't trust the blood stains on a glove from last month. But that's another conspiracy theory.

So it turns out, the Egyptian royal family was as inbred as a bunch of barn cats. DNA samples concluded Tut's parents were brother and sister. His own wife was his half sister, which I suppose is a bit better than what his father had done, but even his step-mother/mother-in-law was at best, a cousin. There were two infant mummies buried with him that turned out to be his own children, but were too line-bred to live. He also suffered from several genetic abnormalities, which led to him dying young and barely able to walk on his deformed foot. The aforementioned



Egyptologists were somehow surprised by this information, in spite of the fact he was nearly always pictured sitting down (even while doing things like archery), and was buried with over 300 walking sticks. They just thought he really liked walking sticks. King Tut should have been pictured sitting down and playing Foggy Mountain Breakdown on a banjo, because it sure sounds like the Ozarks to me. What I can't figure out is how a culture could be advanced enough to build pyramids, but not know that looking for dates at a family reunion is a recipe for creating NASCAR fans.

All this got me thinking about my own DNA. It's a remarkably complex thing, where one's entire set of assembly instructions, are written in a language of just four letters. It's shockingly long, yet ridiculously tiny and contained in every cell of your body. And there are great long gangly bits of it that no one's figured out what it does. One theory is the mystery code contains the entire experience of one's ancestors, in a form that our brain can't translate, but pops up every once in a while. My ancestors were from the highlands of Scotland, which explains why I look like the semi-domesticated spawn of a Viking and an Ox, and also explains why I bawl uncontrollably whenever I hear bagpipes. I know I'm never happier than when I'm standing on a tee at sunrise – as if that scenery is hard-wired into me somehow. It's a pretty romantic notion, that I might be genetically pre-disposed to be where I am. Genetic memory would also explain why my wife has the uncontrollable urge to plant beets, eat perogies, and constantly tell the children what a disappointment they are. And the obvious conclusion, is that I have no choice but to spend more time playing golf – it's in my genes.





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