

Green is Beautiful

Spring 2010

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

St. George's Readies For Open

Also inside this issue.....
A Dyeabolical Internship
Back to Basics
Winter Rules

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President's message

What a start to the 2010 golf season! I would have to say that the month of April was the best I have seen in the 22 years in the golf industry. Being a couple hours north of Toronto, Parry Sound Golf and Country Club typically opens at the end of April. This season I opened our teaching facility on the 2nd of April and the golf course on the 10th of April. Just to give you an idea of our weather in Parry Sound I have given you our 2010 and 2009 weather data.

	2010	2009
Average Temp.	8.3	5.3
Highest Temp.	26.2	23.6
Lowest Temp	- 3.0	- 7.4
Rainfall	38mm	108mm
Dominate Wind Dir.	SW	NE
Average Wind Speed	5.1 km	5.2 km

I really find the dominate wind direction interesting. Are times changing; well, who knows? All I know is that it has been a great start for the golf club and for me personally, due to the warmer dryer conditions.

With golf now in the air, make sure you are able to attend some of your OGSA and regional association events this year. By attending events you have a chance to meet new people, discuss topics, compare courses, possibly see new ideas and enjoy a day of golf with your colleagues. Organizing and running events take time, so make sure you support them as much as you can and use them as a professional development tool.

By now your golf course should be registered for the IPM Accreditation Program. Phil Scully has just started working with some industry leaders on creating a template for superintendents and their respective clubs to use for the required, open public meetings. This template will hopefully keep everyone on the same page when dealing with the public during these meetings.

Doug Breen and his committee have been working hard planning for the 2011 Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show. If you have any suggestions for speakers or seminar topics please email Doug Breen, Jennifer Pendrith, Rob Gatto, Chris Andrejicka or the OGSA office.

The OGSA will be advertising and marketing our association in the 2010 Canadian Open Program, at St Georges Golf and Country Club with a full page advertisement. Thanks to Stu Leachman for making that happen.

There is something way more important to say in this message than any turf related issue or OGSA matter. For those who are not aware, our colleague, good friend and long time St. Andrews Valley Golf Course Superintendent, John Trelford was diagnosed with Leukemia two years ago. He has taken several medications over this time and experienced only side effects and no help to his illness. The only remaining course of action is a bone marrow transplant. On July 15th John will undergo this life saving operation. John will face financial challenges because of the operation, which will require him to rent a residence close to the hospital and be off work for at least a year. To get more information on John's condition and how you can help, please check out his website www.friendsofjohnntrelford.com. Our best wishes go out to John and his family.

Don't hesitate to contact me should you have any concerns, comments or suggestions about your association. Enjoy the season!



by Jeff Alexander
Parry Sound Golf &
Country Club



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Green is Beautiful 2010

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Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



COVER PICTURE

St. Georges Golf & Country Club, Hole #1

photo by Clive Barber

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Editorial message



by Dorothy Hills

With the IPM seminars and conferences behind you and the golf season well underway I hope you have settled into a routine that affords you some leisure time to check out some of the articles, photos and advertisements that this Spring issue offers.

Our feature article, *St. George's Readies for Open*, by Justin Parsons, provides some insight into the steps Keith Bartlett and his maintenance crew are taking to prepare the club to host the country's biggest golf event for the first time in over forty years. For those who did not get the Toronto Star Golf magazine, this past April, we have reprinted Glenn Goodwin's tribute, *Winter Rules...Credit Valley to host Toronto Star Amateur after going 15 rounds with Mother Nature*. Graeme Calder gives an account of his student intern experience at Whistling Straits and Dr. Katerina Jordan offers some tips on working with IPM and getting back to the basics.

Sean May is our new author of "Above the hole". Sean will also be making submissions to the next three issues, relaying his experiences as a second year turfgrass management student at the University of Guelph and intern at Bigwin Island Golf Club. Welcome aboard Sean!

With this issue, we have enclosed a copy of the new 2010/2011 Roster. Although this was current at the time of publication, there are always many changes throughout the year. It's a handy resource to keep on your desk or in your vehicle however, if you are looking for changes since time of print, keep an eye on the weekly *Clippings* email bulletins, or go to the Member Roster in the Member's Only section of www.golfsupers.on.ca. Just type in a single name of a person, club or company and if they are a member it will bring up their current contact information.

We are currently planning for our Summer issue to be released August 15th, and look forward to receiving any comments or suggestions you might have for improving *Green is Beautiful*.

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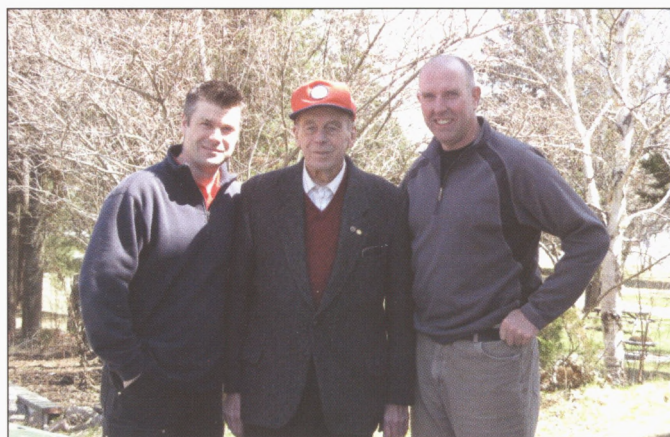


Mark Your Calendars...

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Golf Course</u>	<u>Host Supt.</u>
Pro/Super Challenge	June 10 th	OtterCreek Golf Club	Randy Booker
Presidents' Day	July 12 th	Brampton Golf & CC	Martin Kopp
Assistants Tournament	Sept. 22 nd	Braeben Golf Course	Dan Magrin
Alex McClumpha	Oct. 4 th	Black Bear Ridge GC	Bill Fach
*OTRF Fundraiser	Sept. 20 th	Bayview G&CC	Thom Charters

Details of the above OGSA events will appear on our website under both "Events" and "Calendar of Events," as they are confirmed and further details are available. All events will be announced in our e-bulletin Clippings when registration is open.

*Note The OTRF tournament is not an OGSA event. Details can be accessed on their website at www.otrf.ca.



OGSA 50 YEAR MEMBER

by Stu Leachman, Superintendent
Diamond "In The Ruff" Golf Course

This past April, Jeff Alexander and I had the opportunity to meet the OGSA's newest 50 year member, Mr. John Grightmire. Mr. Grightmire was recognized at the 2010 Turfgrass Conference for his 50 years of membership but at the time was unable to attend the conference in person. Because of this, Jeff and I traveled to Mr. Grightmire's hometown of Sundridge, where we met him for lunch and presented him with an OGSA watch to commemorate his 50 years of membership.

We had a great conversation with John talking about his days as superintendent at Dundas Valley, Beverly, and Rosedale golf clubs, his time as president of the OGSA in 1970, and how much the role of the superintendent has evolved over the years.

It was truly a pleasure to meet John and we thank him for his continued support of the OGSA over the past 50 years.

For anyone who might be curious, that is a Rosedale Golf Club hat that John is wearing, the last course he was superintendent at prior to his retirement.



Randy Booker presents OGSA's annual donation to David Kuypers, OTRF President

25 YEAR MEMBERS

Greg O'Heron
Daniel Walton
Patrick Hebert
John Hughes
Paul Barnes
Paul Romahn



Greg O'Heron and Paul Barnes

2010 OGSA Board of Directors



L-R Back Row John McLinden, Phil Scully, Stu Leachman, Jarrod Barakett, Mark Prieur, Chad Vibert
L-R Front Row Rob Gatto, Chris Andrejicka, Jeff Alexander, Randy Booker, Doug Breen



It's with regret we announce the resignation of Jarrod Barakett from the OGSA Board, after 6 years of dedicated service. During Jarrod's tenure he has demonstrated profound love and respect for the OGSA, making a positive impression.

Amongst other association accomplishments he has successfully represented Ontario superintendents during the lobbying of golf's right to retain the use of pest control products.

We take this opportunity Jarrod, to say thank you for your knowledge, guidance and commitment to serving our members. We wish you much happiness and success in all your future endeavours!

Vanden Bussche Irrigation Award Donation

A special thank you to Vanden Bussche Irrigation Equipment Limited. Again this year, they have generously donated a total of \$500.00 to the OGSA Turf Research Fund, in recognition of our *Green is Beautiful* Article and Photo of the year winners. These funds will go towards furthering research in the golf industry in Ontario.



VANDEN BUSSCHE
IRRIGATION



Warwick Fynn
Article of the year



Scott Heron
Photo of the year

CONGRADULATIONS 2009 OGSA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

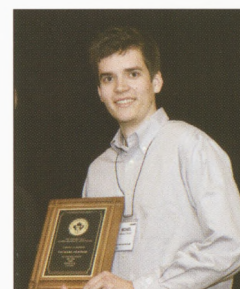
HUGH KIRKPATRICK BURSARY

Tyler Windfeld
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Black Diamond Golf Club



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TURF MANAGERS SHORT COURSE EDUCATION AWARD

Alex Barratt
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Short Course



...continued on page 8

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(\$3,092.00) October 31st



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Pat Moier, CGSA & Randy Book, OGSA at the CGSA/OGSA Joint Conference.



Welcome!

OGSA Welcomes our newest members

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Quarry Lakes G & RC	
Richard Bertram	Class D
Couchiching Golf & CC	
Ian Boyd	Class F
Whitevale Golf Club	
Todd Doig	Class A
Seaforth Golf Course	
Rob Elliott	Class C
Greenhills Golf Club	
David J Farr	Class Supt
Dunnville Golf & CC	
Hartley Gibb	Class C
Legend on the Niagara GC	
Jason Harris	Class A
Orr Lake Golf Club	
Brian Haum	Class Supt
The Bridges at Tillsonburg	
Simon Hines	Class D
Eastbourne Golf Club	
Stephen M Holmes	Class A
Bowmanville Golf Club	
Derek Johnson	Class F
Indian Hills Golf Club	
Graham McDowell	Class F
Islington Golf Club	
William R Matthews	Class A
International CC of Niagara	
Brian McLeod	Class F
Lake St George GC	
Craig Moody	Class A
Osprey Links GC	
Mike Mumford	Class F
Greystone Golf Club	
Cheryl Renaud	Class C
Huron Oaks GC	
Miranda Robinson	Class F
Oliver's Nest G & CC	
Bill Rose	Class C
Bayview Golf & CC	
Gord Rowland	Class Supt
North Granite GC	
Blake Sicard	Class F
Piper's Heath Golf Course	
Kevin Stock	Class D
Pleasant Valley G & CC	
Doug Wilson	Class D
BlackHorse G & CC	
Thomas Zicari	Class C
Seven Lakes Golf Course	
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SJM Arboricultural Consulting Ltd.	Class E
Steven Mann	



by Doug Johnson
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Upgrading Your Safety Program

Some really interesting things are happening in occupational health and safety these days. I am sure that most folks are aware of the new violence and harassment legislation.

As of June 15, 2010 Bill 168 has changed the Occupational Health and Safety Act (the Act) to strengthen protections for workers from violence and harassment in the workplace. The Act now defines workplace violence and harassment and describes employer duties, and will apply to all workplaces covered by the OHSA. The Act significantly impacts workplaces in the province of Ontario by requiring workplaces to have policies, programs and procedures in place to address the issues identified in Bill 168.

It is important for everyone to understand that violence means:

- The exercise of physical force by a person against a worker, in a workplace, that causes or could cause physical injury to the worker
- An attempt to exercise physical force against a worker, in a workplace, that could cause physical injury to the worker
- A statement or behaviour that it is reasonable for a worker to interpret as a threat to exercise physical force against the worker, in a workplace, that could cause physical injury to the worker.

And workplace harassment means:

- Engaging in a course of vexatious comment or conduct against a worker in a workplace that is known or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome.

Workplace harassment may include bullying, teasing, intimidating or offensive jokes or innuendos, displaying or circulating offensive pictures or materials, or offensive or intimidating phone calls.

To ensure that you are meeting the minimum requirements of this legislation it is important that you prepare policies with respect to workplace violence and workplace harassment, develop and maintain programs to implement the policies, and provide information and instruction to workers on the contents of the policies and programs.

The programs must include measures and procedures for summoning immediate assistance when workplace violence occurs or is likely to occur, and controlling risks identified in the risk assessment.

Both workplace violence and workplace harassment programs must include measures and procedures for workers to report incidents of workplace violence/harassment and set out how the employer will investigate and deal with incidents or complaints.

Employers must proactively assess the risks of workplace

violence that may arise from the nature of the workplace, the type or work or the conditions of work. Measures and procedures to control these risks must be included in the workplace violence program.

Employers who are aware, or ought reasonably to be aware, that domestic violence may occur in the workplace must take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances to protect a worker at risk of physical injury.

Employers and supervisors must provide information to a worker about a risk of workplace violence from a person with a history of violent behaviour if the worker can expect to encounter that person in the course of work, and if the worker may be at risk of physical injury. Personal information may be disclosed, but only what is reasonably necessary to protect the worker from physical injury.

Workers have the right to refuse work if they have a reason to believe they are in danger from workplace violence. Reprisals by the employer continue to be prohibited.

Ministry of Labour inspectors will enforce the provisions for workplace violence and workplace harassment and determine if employers are complying with their duties. Employers and workers should always contact police first in emergency situations, if threats or actual violence occurs at a workplace.

Resource material is being developed by the occupational health and safety system partners – Health and Safety Associations (HSAs), the Ministry of Labour and the Workplace Safety HYPERLINK

["http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/sawo/pubs/%20http://www.wsib.on.ca/wsib/wsibsite.nsf/public/Homee"&HYPERLINK](http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/sawo/pubs/%20http://www.wsib.on.ca/wsib/wsibsite.nsf/public/Home%20e)

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(WSIB) – to help employers assess workplace violence risks and develop workplace violence and workplace harassment policies and programs.

The ministry is preparing a compliance guideline entitled A Guide to Requirements in the Occupational Health and Safety Act Regarding Workplace Violence and Harassment. The guideline will help workplace parties comply with the changes to the OHSA. This publication will be available in March 2010.

Have a great spring.

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Above the hole

by Sean May
Student and Intern

The days are starting to get warmer and longer, and most courses have opened. My first year as a student at the University of Guelph has come to an end. It seems like the program started only a few weeks ago. The things I have learned in my first two semesters will be carried on throughout the rest of the program and into my future career.

As a student this year I was able to learn a large amount of information and develop skills that I never had before. In our communications class we learned how to write a blog and communicate to turfgrass professionals. As part of the class we also organized and presented an industry event that took place in the fall. Informative weekly field trips gave a new perspective on the opportunities for advancement in the turfgrass industry. The winter semester included arboriculture walks, preparation for the landscape exterminator's license, elections for class executive and most crucial, finalizing our internship plans.

The most asked question among first year students has been "Where are you going for your internship?" I believe that the internship is an opportunity to practice what you have learned in the classroom and apply this knowledge to the golf course environment. In our internship we are able to advance ourselves professionally and show our employers what we would

like to learn and the skills we would like to develop or improve. While some students are returning to their home courses, others have decided to venture off and try new opportunities at courses like St. George's Golf & Country Club, Capilano Golf & Country Club and Öviinbyrd Golf Club. I was offered the opportunity to work at Fenway Park for the Boston Red Sox, but it was not meant to be. I based my decision on where I was going to be best able to learn and apply the knowledge I learned in the classroom as well as improve upon my current skill set.

I will be doing my internship at Bigwin Island Golf Club in Muskoka. The interview experience I had in February was one I won't forget. It was where I started to feel like it was the right fit for me and I could see myself living and working on the island for the summer. Bigwin Island Golf Club is going to provide me with the opportunity to improve my skills and knowledge and further develop as a turfgrass professional.

I am looking forward to moving to Muskoka after final exams are finished, but also returning to Guelph at the end of the summer. This fall I will serve as the diploma representative on the Student Federation of the Ontario Agricultural College executive and finish up my final year. I also look forward to welcoming the new class of up and coming turfgrass professionals.

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Photo by Robert Wright, Assistant Superintendent



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GETTING BACK TO BASICS...

Some simple tips for dealing with IPM regulations and reduced pesticides.

by Dr. Katerina Jordan,
Assistant Professor
Department of Plant
Agriculture, U of G
kjordan@uoguelph.ca

With the passing of the Cosmetic Pesticide Ban last April and the accompanying compulsory IPM Accreditation for golf courses, I am sure that most of you have been inundated with seminars and workshops and are likely tired of hearing about integrated pest management. Unfortunately,

however, it looks like this regulation is here to stay, so the best way to face it is to make a few changes about how your turf is managed in an attempt to reduce pesticide use while maintaining a high quality playing surface. The purpose of this article is to outline some simple cultural practices and alternative pest control options to increase turf health and reduce pest presence without the use of conventional pesticides.

Using IPM to your advantage:

As many of you likely already know, the first line of defense to reduce the effects of pests on your golf course is maintaining a healthy stand of turf. Pests such as weeds do not cause any direct damage to turfgrass, but rather are well designed to take advantage of bare space or weakened plants. Insects will likely be present regardless of the health of your turf, but whether or not symptoms become visible is very much dependent on how healthy your turf is to begin with. With some pathogens, host susceptibility is definitely a predisposing condition to disease development, but more often than not, the environmental conditions play a greater role in whether or not symptoms develop to the point of affecting playing conditions. In most cases, you have control over whether conditions are right for pests to thrive and whether or not your plants show symptoms or recover quickly when damage does occur. Remembering this important fact – that in many cases, you are in control – is very helpful in keeping a healthy stand of turf.

An essential part of developing a successful IPM program is conducting frequent monitoring or scouting of your golf course. Regulation requires that scouting sheets are filled in a minimum of one time per week, but in reality, to get a feel for everything that is happening on site, more frequent monitoring will likely be required to ensure that you catch any potential issues early on. Of course, doing counts and recording every detail even on your greens on a daily basis can be quite time-consuming, but there are ways to make your monitoring program run smoothly and efficiently while still being an effective part of your program. First, there is a difference between monitoring and scouting. Monitoring is defined as “the act of observing something” and is done to determine whether or not an issue exists. This involves more visual observation and is somewhat subjective. However, it

can easily be done daily and often by any member of your team who is out on the course every day. You should train your employees the day they start to be on the lookout for changes in turf health, or for the presence of weeds, insects or symptoms that might indicate the presence of a disease. According to the new regulations, you are required to train your staff at least once per year anyway, so including basic IPM training as part of your orientation of new and current staff helps you with your paperwork as well. Try to have some photos of common weeds, insects or diseases for your training session and let your staff know the most likely areas where these might occur. Daily monitoring of your high-end areas allows you to find potential problems when they are still mild and gives you the best chance of remediating any issues using alternative methods. Make sure that you come up with a system to record the results of your monitoring – something as simple as carrying around a score card and a highlighter can help with marking or identifying areas that are potentially problematic. Scouting is defined as “the act of exploring in order to gain information” and is a bit more detailed than monitoring. Scouting frequency will vary based on your monitoring results and the potential threat of specific pests, and should be targeted to areas identified through your daily monitoring. If you notice areas that have some weed invasion, or if you see symptomatic turf and have been able to pin it down to a specific pest, you should now do more detailed assessments where you take counts and record those results (Fig. 1).



Examples of counting results could include number of weeds in a specific area, number of insects in a specific area, number of spots or patches in an area, or size of a specific symptom (such as a patch). Whichever method you choose, be sure to keep it consistent from one scouting date to another because this will allow you to make comparisons – either from site to site or from one scouting date to another. Scouting is a great way to determine if a problem is getting better or worse or to determine if a management method for a specific problem was effective or not. In addition, you are required to include counts both pre-treatment and post-treatment for your scouting reports, so the more detail you include the better for you at the end of the season.

The nuts and bolts:

Monitoring and scouting are extremely important but only serve to alert you to any issues that might exist on your course. In order to make the most out of scouting you need to interpret the data you collect and then make changes accordingly to reduce the potential for pests to invade. There are numerous cultural practices that you can do to increase your turf health in general and subsequently decrease the presence or effect of pests. These include thatch removal through vertical mowing, decreasing compaction through annual core aeration, adjusting your height of cut to alleviate stress and adjusting your irrigation schedule to promote deep rooting. However, there are also specific techniques that can be attempted to reduce each of the pests we deal with in turf management. The next part of this article will discuss the three groups of pests (weeds, insects and diseases) and some simple ways that you can reduce either their presence or the effect they have on your turf.

Weed prevention:

Weeds are just plants that take advantage of bare space and essentially fill voids. Some weeds are more competitive than others and some we even learn to live with (e.g. *Poa annua* on your greens). But no matter what weed you are dealing with, the best way to keep them out of your turf stand is to avoid having those voids. This means keeping divot mix on your tees and in your carts for fairways. It also means using some of your labour force to get out and actively repair damaged areas with seed mix – tees, fairways, etc. This is especially important on greens, where *Poa annua* does a lovely job of filling in ball marks that were never repaired. Work with the pro in your golf shop to hold instructional sessions for clientele on the importance and proper repair of ball marks. Keep detailed instructions (with photographs) in your golf carts and keep them in an obvious place where golfers can't miss them. You can also give out free ball mark tools in the pro shop. I used to play at a course where I grew up where you were not allowed on the course unless you could produce a ball mark repair tool, and if you didn't have one, you had to purchase it. That might sound a bit extreme, but they were very serious about keeping annual bluegrass out of their greens and found that this method worked pretty well. Repairing damaged areas quickly is a good idea, but sometimes you may have to make some changes with respect to your turf choices to really keep weeds out. Do a survey of your turfgrass species (this requires some knowledge of turfgrass identification – an important topic for another time) and make sure that you have the right species or cultivars in the right places. You might wonder why you always have weeds in your shaded areas, yet you deal with it by treating the weeds and then overseeding with your usual species – perhaps Kentucky bluegrass. Part of a successful IPM program is knowing the limitations of your turf and responding accordingly. Kentucky bluegrass needs a very high amount of sunlight each day, so if you are set on using this species, you might want to consider cutting down on the shade. However, you could also survey where the issues are and consider if using a more shade-tolerant species of grass, such as one of the fescues, would be practical and appropriate. Finally, remember that weeds are often a sign that something is not right with your growing conditions. Different weeds can be used as indicator species to let you know about drainage issues, shade, fertility, etc. There is an

excellent chart in OMAFRA Pub. 816 – Turf IPM Manual – that outlines the conditions that favor weed invasion.

Insect prevention:

Insects become a bit more difficult because 1) they are often rather unpredictable as to where they will strike and 2) they do damage turf so knowing they are present before they can cause serious symptoms is extremely important. In some cases, environmental conditions are not as important for insect presence, but most of the time, you can prevent major infestations with a few cultural practices and by keeping your turf happy and healthy. The most important part of preventing insect damage is learning your insect identification and understanding their life cycles. You should be able to differentiate between insects that are harmful to turf vs. those that are beneficial and possibly even antagonistic to the insect pests. You should also be aware of when insects are in each stage of their lives – when they are feeding, resting as pupae or active as adults. One of the best ways to determine where an insect is in its life cycle is through the use of plant phenology. Phenology in its simplest sense is the relation between biological events, such as animal and plant life cycles, and climate (particularly temperature). Plants and certain animals will go through different stages of their life cycles based on cumulative temperature. In many cases, researchers have been able to connect life stages of specific plants with those of certain insects and these plants are then considered phenological indicators. A well known example of this is the cycle of the annual bluegrass weevil (*Listronotus maculicollis*). Adults become active around the time that forsythia plants are in bloom and eggs are laid around the time of flowering dogwood bloom. This is very useful information because it narrows down the time range for scouting as well as for treatment if deemed necessary. There are numerous phenological indicators that have been established for other common turfgrass pests as well. Once you are aware of these, you can either look for these plants on your site or, if they fit in with the landscape, make the decision to plant them to give you more information. The next step is knowing the conditions under which many insects will reproduce. Some insects are sensitive to low soil moisture and prefer wet soils in which to lay their eggs (this is especially the case with white grub species and crane flies). Knowing this information and knowing when adults are active can allow you to monitor your soil moisture to reduce the chances of insects laying their eggs in your turf areas. There are numerous other examples of cultural practices that can be employed to reduce insect pest activity. To be effective, however, you need to be aware of the potential pests on your site, monitor or scout often enough to know when they are likely to be problematic and know enough about their life cycle to know what practices are best to combat them if they are present on your site.

Disease prevention:

When it comes to using alternative methods for weeds and insects, there are a number of options on the Class 11 pesticides or bio-control lists. However, with diseases, it gets a little trickier. In addition, weeds take a while to really come in and disrupt a playing surface and rarely are insects a major problem on the greens (black cutworm excepted, of course). With diseases, however, the greens are where they are usually problematic and unfortunately, you rarely know they are an issue until you see the symptoms. In addition, there are some

...continued on page 14

diseases that once they get started, can spread very quickly and under the right conditions lead to a good bit of turf loss. This makes using true IPM practices for management of diseases very challenging. However, if you think about turfgrass systems other than golf course greens, diseases are rarely a problem. Lawns, athletic fields and even sod farms don't usually have any issues with pathogens, but rather with the first two pests I have discussed. This would suggest that there is something about how golf course turf is managed that might create conditions for diseases to thrive. That being said, it also means that there are certainly practices that you can employ to reduce the threat and severity of a number of turfgrass diseases. Earlier I discussed some very general methods for increasing your turf health and this is very important in disease management. Research has shown that the severity of certain diseases such as anthracnose (*Colletotrichum cereale*) are significantly increased when greens are kept at below 3mm (1/8" or 0.125"). Anecdotal data suggests the same with roots disease such as summer patch (*Magnaporthe poae*). Finding alternative methods of keeping up ball roll distance can go a long way in improving turfgrass health and reducing the effects of stress-related diseases. Two such methods would be rolling your greens and frequent topdressing. A healthy plant is only one part of the solution, however. I imagine most if not all of you are quite familiar with the concept of the disease triangle – the fact that in order for disease to occur, you need a virulent pathogen, a susceptible host and appropriate environmental conditions all present simultaneously. The pathogen is almost always present – even if you treat with a fungicide, it finds its way into the environment. Improving the health of your turf decreases the susceptibility of the host but with some pathogens, they can infect a strong host almost as easily as they can a weakened one. The environmental conditions, therefore, are often the deciding factor as to whether or not disease will occur and in some cases, these conditions are under the control of the superintendent. Not weather patterns, mind you, but definitely in areas where conducive micro-climates create “hot spots” of activity. I'm sure each of you has an indicator green or hole of sorts – the area that always gets dollar spot first, or your Microdochium patch (aka Fusarium patch) green, etc. These are areas that have some environmental condition that exists allowing that pathogen to thrive and infect your plants more easily than anywhere else on the course. The first step to reducing disease pressure is knowing about these areas – something that periodic and frequent monitoring/scouting will help you determine. The second step is understanding why they exist. Perhaps the shading patterns are different, or the leaves stay wetter longer (especially if you always mow in the same order), or the drainage is not as good or as uniform. Whatever the condition(s) that led to this hot spot, the third step is to alter the environment and remove whatever conditions are making those areas more susceptible to infection. This might mean taking down or pruning trees, improving drainage, increasing wind flow, changing mowing order or altering traffic patterns. All of these options may help to reduce the number of hot spots you have on your course and also reduce the severity of numerous diseases.

In the end...

The above were just a small percentage of possible tips for dealing with turfgrass pests, as there are many more practices that you can adopt on your specific sites. These suggestions may seem obvious to most of you and perhaps many of you are already implementing a number of the practices that I have listed. However, I still see situations where irrigation practices are done based on time rather than soil moisture, fertility is decided based on historical schedules rather than soil and tissue tests, mowing height is used as the primary practice to increase ball roll distance, and important cultivation practices such as vertical mowing and aeration are just not performed because they are too disruptive to play. If that is the case, one thing that the new IPM regulations definitely call for is a re-assessment of routine practices. Use this regulation to educate your members and clientele and to take some chances by trying new methods. It will be a slow process at first – perhaps one green at a time – but as you really try to reduce your pesticide use, you will likely find that you can re-allocate resources – labour to monitoring and scouting instead of spraying, funds towards seed instead of pesticides. Finally, think about whether or not pests are really affecting playability or just aesthetics. You might find you have a higher threshold for some of these pests than you think. In the end, it is all about effective communication – with your crew, with the pro shop and of course, with your clientele.

With that, I wish you all the best of luck this season – implementing some new practices, dealing with additional paperwork and getting through the season with a very different outlook on how we manage turf. And if you are ever unsure of what to do or where to go, there are plenty of inexpensive or free resources at your fingertips: the University of Guelph and GTI, OMAFRA, and your regional and national associations. Take advantage of the information around you and always stay current.

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Figure 1: Monitoring (left) and scouting (right) with counts for grub damage. The first photo is a result of noticing symptoms and pulling back turf to determine causation. The photo on the right is a result of going back to that area and doing specific counts of pests. Photos courtesy S. Jordan.

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The 13th hole at Credit Valley had to be rebuilt (below) after a nasty winter storm in February 2009.

Winter rules

Credit Valley to host Toronto Star Amateur after going 15 rounds with Mother Nature

By Glenn Goodwin (this article is a reprint from The Toronto Star - Golf 2010)

Photos by Credit Valley Members and Staff

*I*t was almost unthinkable a year ago. Credit Valley was scheduled to host the 2010 Toronto Star Amateur, where players will vie for the John Honderich Trophy for the 12th time. But after a disastrous storm on Feb. 12, 2009, no one believed it would happen.

No one except Jeff Stauffer that is, the highly respected course superintendent at Credit Valley. When Stauffer issued the SOS, 185 Credit Valley members responded — Stauffer likes to call them his “golf angels” — helping to clean up the effects of the wild winter storm that wiped out two bridges, 100 trees and left nine holes closed until mid-August of last year.

Just imagine — an entire kilometre of fairway completely re-sodded, requiring six acres of bent grass and 11 acres of bluegrass. Not to mention

reworking and refilling 45 bunkers with new sand, repairing 400 trees damaged by ice and greens that had to be resurfaced.

It took four major contractors doing “exceptional” work to get it done, Stauffer said.

“I learned the importance of setting daily goals which led to monthly goals then to longer term goals,” said Stauffer. “I was supported by great staff and members.”

Turning a negative into a positive is what the men and women in Stauffer’s profession do every day. But on that dreadful winter afternoon in Mississauga, even Stauffer felt “overwhelmed,” not only with what he could see from a distance but with what he couldn’t see.

So concerned were Stauffer and his crew that less than 24 hours after the



storm they ventured into the valley in dangerous conditions to assess the damage. They quickly set out a plan that eventually would make one of the GTA's top golf courses even more challenging.

More than 200 clubs represented in Toronto Star Amateur

The home of the late Al Balding, Credit Valley is where world No. 2 Steve Stricker won the 1993 CPGA Championship over runner-up Mike Weir. They have also hosted a Canadian Junior Girls (1990), Canadian Amateur (2001) and the 2008 Canadian PGA Women's Championship.

So, in the end, everyone came together to maintain Credit Valley's great tradition and build on its wonderful future, especially the golf angels who make Credit Valley unique and who, in turn, probably had something to do with the 38 new members that recently joined the family. Speaking of great tradition, this year's Toronto Star Women's Amateur for the Ruth Atkinson Hindmarsh Trophy will be contested at historic Weston, where Arnold Palmer won his very first PGA event, the 1955 Canadian Open. Also featured will be Dundas Valley, where professional Jessica Shepley, the 2002 Toronto Star Women's Amateur champion, won the 2009 Canadian PGA Women's Championship.

Our events have grown year after year, and this year there will be competitors from more than 200 clubs from Windsor to Ottawa to North Bay entering North America's premier city championships. Would-be competitors should hurry fast as every year our events have been



Credit Valley suffered extensive damage on that winter's day in 2009, but course superintendent Jeff Stauffer led the successful rescue operation.

over subscribed.

You can register for both tournaments online. Go to www.thestar.com/sports/golf or visit the GTAGA at www.gtaga.com or phone 416-239-0708. The entry closing is Wednesday, June 2 for the men and Friday, June 11 for the women.

The Star Amateurs are presented by the founding Buick Dealers of Ontario in association with Taylormade-adidas Golf. The GTAGA takes great pride in conducting both championships on an equal basis. *Glenn Goodwin is president and founder of the Greater Toronto Area Golf Association.*

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July 5 BraeBen, Mississauga

WOMEN'S AMATEUR

June 22-23 Weston, Toronto

June 24-25 Dundas Valley, Dundas, ON

MEN'S

John Honderich Trophy

Year	Name/Home Club/Championship Site
1999	David Hemstad/Summit/St. George's
2000	David Lea/Westmount/Islington
2001	Timothy Ash/Lambton/The National
2002	Charlie Woo/York Downs/Lambton
2003	Charlie Woo/York Downs/Brampton
2004	Nick Kenney/Islington/Devil's Pulpit
2005	Tommy Ursa/Glen Eagle/Weston
2006	David Markle/Shelburne/Scarboro
2007	Dave Bunker/Don Valley/Cedar Brae
2008	Jeffrey Clarridge/National Pines/Mississauga
2009	Jace Walker/St. Thomas/St. George's

WOMEN'S

Ruth Atkinson Hindmarsh Trophy

Year	Name/Home Club/Championship Site
2000	Alena Sharp/Brantford/Ladies' GC of Toronto
2001	Mary Ann Lapointe/North Halton/Thornhill
2002	Jessica Shepley/Trafalgar/Scarboro
2003	Alena Sharp/Brantford/Donalda
2004	Terrill Samuel/Weston/St. George's
2005	Katie Williams/Galt/Islington
2006	Mary Ann Lapointe/North Halton/Whitevale
2007	Karly Pinder/Highland/Meadowbrook
2008	Ashley Scholer/Glen Abbey/Thornhill
2009	Jennifer Kirby/Brantford/Ladies' GC of Toronto

St. George's Readies For Open

Article by: Justin Parsons, Assistant Superintendent Trafalgar Golf & Country Club
Photos by Clive Barber



Hole # 18

If your golf club was preparing to host the country's biggest golf event for the first time in over forty years, you would probably expect a multitude of major capital changes. Mainly to accommodate the tour professionals, corporate structures and large galleries that will be on site for an entire week. However, for Superintendent Keith Bartlett and his maintenance crew at St. George's Golf and Country Club, it's more a matter of perfecting a sustainable maintenance plan that was already being implemented.



Hole # 4

In July 2008, when the decision was made for St. George's to host the 2010 RBC Canadian Open, the club was putting the finishing touches on their golf course improvement plan. Interestingly enough, the news of the PGA Tour making its first trip back to the private west-end golf course since 1968, really didn't change that plan much at all.



Hole # 13

"The only thing the PGA commented on with regard to improvements was fairway landing zones", Bartlett says. Otherwise, the club's long term focus on enhancing the natural beauty and challenging layout of the world renowned golf club would proceed as scheduled.

The focus over the last two years hasn't been on changing what is there, rather improving what is there. When your golf club ranks among the top 100 in the world, this makes complete sense. After all, the venerable and historic nature of this Stanley Thompson classic is such a big part of its appeal in hosting the event.

In September 2008, the club began implementing its long term improvement plan. This included resodding green and fairway surrounds, rebuilding several tee complexes, paving service roads and adding bunker misting heads. In total, the club has added 25 acres of bluegrass sod, over an acre of bentgrass on tees, and 1500 linear meters of paving to service roads and cart paths.

In terms of structural changes to the property, a bridge was moved on the 7th hole from the right side to the left to help remove it from the sightline. In addition to that, a bunker was added on the tenth hole to accommodate the original design by restoring balance to the hole.



Fall 2009 Improvements

The club's new strategic tree management program has also comprised a large amount of the work that has been done over the past two seasons. The focus has been on removal, general pruning and safety issues. The maintenance crew, along with local contractors, has focused on enhancing green and tee sites, as well as pathway corridors for spectators.

To address the PGA's concern about landing zones, six fairways were narrowed. "We stripped it, brought in bluegrass and made the line work", says Bartlett. The most dramatic of which was the 14th hole. The 480 yard Par 4 was 44 yards wide. That would likely mean a pitching wedge into the green for most tour players. Bartlett and the handful of members that will be affected by the changes certainly recognize the importance of these measures.

When you are preparing to host the world's best golfers, a great deal of the work comes from just touring your

golf course with a critical eye for detail. "We've really gone through this property with a fine tooth comb." For Bartlett and his crew, this has meant an extra emphasis on things such as sand depths in bunkers, consistency in the rough, leveling sprinkler heads and, of course, ensuring that all areas of the property drain sufficiently.



Hole # 14

Weather has been a major factor at The Open the last two years when the tournament was hosted by Glen Abbey Golf Club in Oakville. Prolonged rain events halted play several times and made it very difficult for tournament officials and the maintenance staff alike. Since this is an internationally televised event, the tournament's ability to adhere to stringent broadcast schedules is of the utmost importance.

That is why one of the main aspects of tournament preparation for Bartlett has been drainage. With an already strong drainage system in place and additional improvements over the last few months, he isn't too concerned about the course's ability to handle water. "This property drains so well that after the stop of a thunderstorm I think we'd be in play within an hour."

This is no doubt pleasing news to the PGA Tour officials whose demands for the event are relatively simple. "At the end of the day, they want to finish at ten to six on Sunday (evening) because of TV and they want to be down to 72 (golfers) by Saturday and those are the big things for them", Bartlett says.

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But simple doesn't necessarily mean easy. Although the golf club has hosted the event four times, this time, is much different from a logistical standpoint. It's not just that the golf club occupies only 160 acres of land. It's that those 160 acres of land are now situated in the middle of a busy residential area in the west end of the city. This has meant hammering out details on road closures (Islington Avenue will be closed from Princess Margaret north to Eglinton Ave. for three weeks to accommodate the television compound), altering bus routes, and establishing no parking zones in the community.

Moreover, the event itself has grown a great deal in the last forty years and so too have the expectations of the host golf club. Tournament officials are expecting roughly 22,000 patrons per day, which will directly impact how the golf course is setup.

The lack of space for such a premiere event has meant that the practice facilities will be held a couple of kilometers down the road at the Islington Golf Club. A full driving range will be set up there as well as a putting green managed to replicate the conditions the pro's will face at St. George's. Despite all the logistical hurdles however, Bartlett is pleased organizers have been able to garner approval. "The city has really come to the table... It's very much a community involved Open and I'm impressed."

This involvement has also extended to local schools. Through the 'Live Green' program, the club has partnered with the city to help children at neighbouring schools learn about the environment and help with the replanting program for the club. With over 300 trees being planted, this project has allowed St. George's to meet the city's 3-1 replanting initiative.



Hopefully the community will continue to be supportive during tournament week. There is no doubt that patience will be tested since this is very much a 24-hour event. Between restocking concessions, fuel trucks, servicing portable toilets and, of course, golf course maintenance, the work basically never stops. With prohibitive noise by-laws in place, residents need to be understanding. It will be hard enough for Bartlett and his staff since they can't even park on-site.

Again, with space being an issue and spectator traffic flow designed a certain way, all those involved with working at The Open will be bused in from an outside location. He hopes to have up to 80 staff total in for the event with four assistants helping him manage the crew. This means he hopes there are over 40 volunteers from golf courses in the GTA and other parts of Ontario.

With the PGA's very specific requirements for green speeds, bunker grooming and course conditioning in general, the large maintenance crew comes as no surprise. But when the PGA first visited the site back in 2007, their first concern had nothing to do with the playability of the golf course at all. The focus was solely on logistics. They were strictly looking at spectator flow, servicing amenities, and the safety of the players. When all that passed green lights, attention then turned to the golf course itself.



An agronomist and rules official from the PGA came up to tour the property. Between the two, they look at details such as plant health and the movement of players on and off the course. They also examine playability in terms of protecting divot areas and tee decks and possible impediments of play such as tree branches. "It's a lot of fun to drive around with the rules official because they see the golf course in a much different way than regular players."



'Live Green' Program Participants

With these site visits in mind, the club enlarged some of their tee complexes with particular emphasis on the black tees. In the past, a few of these decks were only 300 square feet in size. Now, these decks are 1,200 to 1,500 square feet which should be much more viable for a full weeks worth of tour play. Bartlett is also focused on protecting key divot areas right up until the Thursday of tournament week.



New Tee Deck

Although there will be no formal playing restrictions for the members leading up to The Open, Bartlett insists, "it won't be a very fun place to play in the last few weeks." This, of course, will be a result of the many distractions in terms of grandstand construction, the setup of television and concession areas, the longer rough and the numerous areas

that will be roped off. This should help reduce rounds and protect the turf in preparation for the event.

However Bartlett and his crew have been hard at work for months on basic, yet essential cultural practices that will allow the turf to handle the rigors of PGA Tour preparation. Just this past fall, the crew performed two verti-drain applications back to back, followed by a three quarter inch hollow tine aeration. After which topdressing with dried bag sand was applied. For Bartlett, the blueprint is simple, "A lot of holes, a lot of sand. I basically wanted to squeeze five years of aeration into two years".

In many ways, this philosophy is reflective of the work that has been done at St. George's the past couple of seasons. It hasn't been about changing what is there through major renovations. Rather the push has been toward focusing on the fundamentals and enhancing what is there. It has been about getting back to the basics. Hiding cart paths to enhance the natural landscape, reclaiming areas that have been overgrown by trees, reestablishing tee complexes and fairway lines to flow with the original design. And, certainly, a strong focus on a golf course maintenance plan that brings it all together.

For Bartlett and his staff, the drive to sustain a premiere golfing experience is something that will endure long after the last PGA Tour Pro putts out on that Sunday in July. "The thing is, knowing that there is life after The Open. It's fun now. We'll enjoy the experience. But this big push of improvements doesn't mean we are finished."

Second to one

by Justin Parsons, Assistant Superintendent
Trafalgar Golf & Country Club

"My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, 'You're tearing up the grass'; 'We're not raising grass,' Dad would reply. 'We're raising boys.'"
Harmon Killebrew

Raising grass is what we do. It's pretty simple. On a daily basis we endeavour to present the best possible playing conditions to those who tee it up. But in order to achieve our agronomic goals, we rely so heavily on the ability of those around us to succeed. Of course, as managers, it is our job to ensure that this happens.

The path to productive and valuable relationships with staff begins and ends with earning their respect. This is never easy, but the formula is simple: lead by example. You need to work as hard as you expect those around you to work. You need to be open, honest, fair and firm. Although the circumstances and issues that we manage can often be complex, it's important to find a way to let these ideals govern the decisions that you make. Ultimately, the staff will internalize the values that they see displayed by those at the top.

Because a large percentage of our staff is often compromised by young adults, we are presented with a unique opportunity, one that can be equally beneficial for both the teacher and the student. Many of our employees are preparing to enter the workforce on a full-time basis as they strive to complete their scholastic careers. During this time, we can help shape both their expectations of what lies ahead and the assets that they will bring to the table for future employers. In doing so, we can not only realize our goals on a professional level, but on a personal level as well.

To be sure, creating a work environment that is successful

and dynamic is infectious. When people see why the results of their hard work are beneficial, they begin to feel worthy. There may not be a more satisfying or important internal recognition than a strong sense of self-worth. Though there may be some resistance at first to an arduous task or a tiring project, in the end, I think everyone benefits from an individual accomplishing something to the best of their ability.

The onus is on us to make sure that this happens. As superintendents and assistants, we provide employees with the knowledge and the expectations needed to complete tasks properly. If they fall short, we have fallen short first. Our ability to follow through is a direct reflection of our own personal resolve.

I suppose that is why seeing the more inexperienced and challenged employees succeed is the most gratifying. It's because they have come the furthest. They have grown the most. Knowing that we helped get them there is a good feeling.

Though work relationships should be kept professional, I don't think this necessarily precludes them from becoming personal from time to time. Watching an individual develop into a young man or woman with a bright future and knowing that you may have provided some guidance along the way is one of the most rewarding sides of our business. That is why I believe we have an opportunity to raise a lot more than just grass.



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A DYEABOLICAL INTERNSHIP

by Graeme Calder, Technical Sales Rep
Plant Products



Dyeabolical is the name that Pete Dye gave to the 18th hole on the Straits course at Whistling Straits, where I had the opportunity to work as a student intern when the course hosted the PGA Championship in 2004. With a major tournament returning there again this year, I thought that I would share some of my experiences from my internship, focusing mainly on the special tournament preparation.

Course History

Whistling Straits is a golf resort destination owned by Herb Kohler, CEO of the family run Kohler Company, a multi-billion dollar enterprise known worldwide for its plumbing products. In 1995 Mr. Kohler bought some property in the small town of Haven, Wisconsin with a vision of creating an Irish style links course. Located several miles north of the city of Sheboygan and an hour north of Milwaukee, the property was located on two miles of Lake Michigan shoreline that was originally used as an Army base in WW II. Kohler brought in Pete Dye who transformed the previously shapeless land into two courses: the Irish course, and the walking only, links inspired, Straits course with its magnificent views and undulating terrain.

Greens

The greens on the Straits course were built using USGA specifications and were seeded to providence bentgrass. Preserving a pure bentgrass putting surface has been a top priority since the course opened, and this year was no exception. Several methods were used to remove the annual bluegrass, from cutting small plants out with a knife or a soil probe, to replacing infected areas with plugs from the nursery. Some problems arose during the season when the plugs from the younger nursery were not matching up well when placed on the course greens. Plugging was halted for over a month before the tournament to allow

the plugs to heal and blend in properly. A total of 815 hours were devoted to keeping the putting surfaces pure bentgrass during the tournament year alone.

Aeration occurred once while I was there in the early spring using 0.5 inch diameter hollow tines at 1 inch by 1 inch spacing. Once the green was complete, the cores were removed by hand and sand was applied liberally to allow all of the holes to be filled; the sand was then blown in using several buffalo blowers. When the aerators finished the course once, they went back to the shop and got fitted with new tines, and immediately went back and started the exact same process over. By completing the process twice, it increased the surface area affected and by using relatively small tines, the smaller holes were able to heal faster. Management also figured that this would give them the biggest bang for their buck, since they would not be opening up the greens again until after the tournament.

Fairways

During the construction of the course, thousands of truckloads of soil were brought in to make the previously shapeless land come to life. As a result, the native sandy loam soils were buried with anywhere from four to twelve inches and more of a clay loam, a material that was abundant, local, and inexpensive. In true links style, the Straits course has fine fescue fairways having been seeded to a mix of several chewings fescue varieties. Fine fescue will not survive well in wet conditions and it is noted for its intolerance of a lot of traffic. With this situation in mind, an aggressive sand topdressing program has been in place for many years to try and modify the soil structure on the fairways which will only pay off for them in time.

With a wet, cool spring and early summer, black layer resulted in many areas since the moisture could not percolate through the soil; the roots and the soil were drowning and receiving no oxygen. To combat this problem we tried to open up these areas numerous times with pitchforks and deep tine aeration to allow air to enter the soil. We also topdressed the areas with sand to help modify the soil structure to allow for better drainage and re-seeded the areas with perennial ryegrass which is much more tolerant of wet conditions.

Mowing was also a big issue in the early spring and summer as the fairways could not tolerate the weight of a fairway unit, let alone a triplex. Rotary push mowers had to be used to mow five fairways for several weeks due to the wet conditions and the fine fescues inability to withstand a great deal of traffic. They were set at a height of 1 inch, and then dropped to .75 inches before riding mowers were able to be used.

As a side note, the fifth fairway on the Straits course is

the only fairway which has the native sandy loam soil. It was built around a wetland so construction to the area was limited. This soil and turf performed very well all year even when we received excessive moisture. The fescue thrived to its full potential and was the main reason why this fairway required much less maintenance than the rest.

Roughs

Keeping with the links feel of the course the 184 acres of rough was seeded to a Scottish Links mixture of red, hard and sheep varieties of fine fescue. The rough was allowed to grow for the whole year except for a two-yard intermediate cut surrounding the fairways and several yards around the green which were maintained at three inches. In June, the U.S. Open at Shinnecock put an end to that. After that brutal test of golf the PGA officials decided that the rough would need to be cut back along most landing areas of the fairways to make the course more playable and fair for the professionals. The rough was cut down to four or five inches and extended anywhere from five yards to twenty-five yards off of some fairways.

Due to the terrain, fertilizing roughs posed an interesting challenge: neither a walking rotary spreader, nor a tractor mounted spreader could get the job done. The management team decided to tackle this problem by overwhelming it with manpower, and armed them with "monkey grinders". These are back pack rotary spreaders that are driven by a hand powered crank that have a 20 pound capacity of fertilizer. 12 staff lined up in a row in the rough and the first person would begin to walk while cranking. The next person would then follow in line and make sure that their throw was hitting the feet of the person in front. When the lead person was out of fertilizer he would stop until everyone was in a line and we would then refill; one of our assistants would walk alongside the last person in line and mark with irrigation flags where the fertilizer spread had stopped. This was a very maintenance intense process as



keeping ones footing on the hilly terrain while keeping pace and cranking was difficult. The process took us the good part of five days to complete the entire course.

Bunkers

It is hard to imagine, but there are over 1000 bunkers on the Straits course alone. The bunkers range in shape, size and depth but due to the undulating terrain most have to be raked by hand. Over 9000 hours were devoted to raking bunkers by hand this year; compare that to just over 4000 for mowing greens. This number does not even include all of the hours spent mechanically raking, weeding, picking rocks, adding sand, or screening sand.

It was decided that all of the focus would be on the bunkers, or parts of bunkers, that would be inside the ropes. So, from late April until the weekend before the tournament, the sand screener was in constant use with four lucky employees shouldering the task the whole season. Although it was a very slow and labour intensive process (at least it looked that way from a distance), they did an incredible job of removing rocks and debris, leaving the bunkers in championship condition.

I Still Can't Believe This Happened

On June 29, six weeks before the tournament, the greens were being verticut when the triplex sprung a hydraulic



leak on the back portion of the third green near the end of a pass. The leak covered an area roughly ten feet long by four feet wide on the green, and also extended into the collar and rough about five feet.

The biggest concern we had was time: we had six weeks to get the area to heal and blend in with the rest of the green as this portion of the green was expected to be the site of a Sunday hole location. It was decided that the practical solution would be to plug the affected area so that the new turf would already have established roots and then the only concern would be to take care of the surface. As I mentioned earlier, the plugs from the nursery were not matching up well when placed in the on course greens so a decision was made that we would take plugs from the nursery, transfer them to the Irish course green, and then place those plugs in the third green.

At our request, myself and another intern were given the responsibility of completing this task. Our goal when we began was to do the best job we possibly could, as fast as we possibly could. The faster the plugs were in the ground, the more time they would have to heal and blend in with the rest of the green.

We began plugging on June 30 and completed the green at 11:30 a.m. on July 1 with 660 plugs, less than two days after the hydraulic leak. The damage on the collar

The advertisement features a background image of a lush green golf course with a flag on a green in the foreground and a line of trees in the background. The Aquatrols logo is in the top left, and the word "Revolution" with a registered trademark symbol is in the top center, with a molecular structure graphic behind it. The text "The superintendent's choice for superior turf performance." is in the bottom right of the image area. A white banner at the bottom contains the Aquatrols logo, the phone number 800-257-7797, and the website www.aquatrols.com.

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and rough were replaced the next day, with 340 plugs needed for the collar, and 225 needed for the rough. Keep in mind that these numbers can be doubled with the removal of the plugs from the nursery for their replacement on the Irish course.

For the next five weeks we took care of those plugs on a daily basis. We topdressed and watered them when needed, and occasionally gave them a light weight rolling. The plugs healed nicely and blended in faster than we expected. The biggest sense of accomplishment came on Sunday of the tournament when the PGA officials decided to place the hole location a mere inch away from our hydraulic leak fix. On a personal note, I was rewarded for leading the plugging efforts by receiving the flag that flew on the third green during the tournament.

Summary

The 2004 PGA Championship was the culmination of many years of hard work. There were a total of 150 staff working during tournament week with 50 volunteers, and all of them came together as a team to make the Championship a resounding success. The tournament year provided us with many challenging moments, but a great staff led by Superintendent David Swift was able to overcome each and every one of them. I look forward to watching this year.

BIO

Graeme Calder is the new Technical Sales Rep for Plant Products. He will service the Niagara region, Burlington, Hamilton and the London area. Graeme graduated from the two-year Golf Course Turfgrass Management program from Penn State in 2005. He has previously worked at the Cutten Club, Westmount Golf and Country Club, Whistling Straits and The Toronto Golf Club. You can contact Graeme at: 519-577-0010 or gcalder@plantprod.com.



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On the REEL side of things

by: Warren Wybenga, Equipment Manager,
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Did an early spring catch you off guard?

With such an early spring and the golf season already in full swing, there's no shame in admitting that there may be a few items in your fleet that didn't get the attention that they deserve. Hopefully, if they were put to bed properly at the end of last season, startup won't be as big a chore as if they were simply parked after their last use and not thought of until now. Let this unusually premature start to the season serve as a reminder for you this fall when things are wrapping up to spend a little time then to properly prepare your fleet for winter storage. A small investment in time when you have more of it will save a lot of scrambling around, trying to get things out the door because Mother Nature decided to pull a fast one on us.

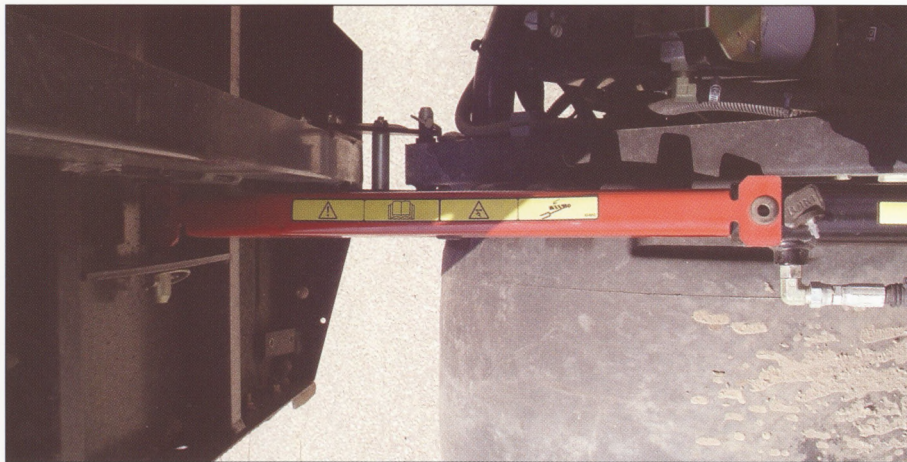
Due to circumstances beyond our control and despite some Herculean efforts by superintendents and their grounds crews this past winter, it is an unfortunate reality that some courses have come out of the winter in, shall we say, somewhat less than ideal condition. Now if you ask any experienced turf equipment technician, they should tell you that you should have everything ready to go for the start of the season because you never can be sure just what a superintendent might want to use or when they'll want to use it...but we all know that the reality is that this is not always possible.

We all know that these machines will be put to work whether they've been serviced or not...and speaking as a tech, I have to say that while it is not the ideal situation, it is also not the end of the world. I do however recommend that you don't send these things out the door with last years dust still on them. Start with a quick

wash then lube all fittings to remove any water and contaminated grease, check and top off all oil levels, have a quick look at belt tensions and make sure all chains are properly adjusted and lubed. Tire pressures should be set and make note of any bulges or sidewall nicks that will indicate that you should get a replacement on order. If you're getting ready to verti-cut or slit seed, have a look for bent blades or damage to discs that may have occurred while being shuffled around during the winter. Not everyone who may have had to move these items around during the off season may be aware of the sensitive parts that need to be protected. Look for any bent, broken or worn tines on aerators and if you suspect any timing issues, never try to make it work "just this one time". An aerator that is even slightly out of time can make it look like you took a roto-tiller across your green. Correct coring head timing can usually be verified fairly quickly and time spent on this is more than worth it and the procedure should be in your operator's manual.

Remember that turf groomers are for grooming and I recommend against using them as verti-cutters...unless of course you have no other option but be careful not to set them too deep, as it will put unnecessary stress on a system that is not designed for such use and could end up causing premature wear of cutting tips, belts, bushings, bearings and seals. Standard groomer setting should be one-half the height of cut (HOC) and over usage can be worse than not using them at all. As the saying goes, "everything in moderation."

Service Tip – I have always used the safety inserts that fit over hydraulic cylinders (like the ones that raise and lower the dump box on your utility vehicle for instance) especially when working on the hydraulic system. I do however seem to have a problem remembering to remove them when I'm finished the job. It never seems to fail that I find myself in the operator's seat with the engine running, my hand moving the hydraulic control lever only to hear the relief valve screaming as the cylinder tries to collapse against the safety device. After this many years in the business you'd think I would have learned by now but it just seems that no matter how many times I look at that safety feature and having placed it there mere moments before, as soon as it comes time to turn the key, I completely forget about it. Frustrating to say the least! No more however...but just what to do? I considered making up a tag to place on the key as a reminder when the safety is in use but decided instead to actually remove the key from the ignition (which should be common practice whenever working on any machine) and place it directly on the safety, thereby forcing me to a laying on of hands with the actual device before I can start the engine. A simple and inexpensive solution but so far, it seems to be working. I guess an old dog can learn new tricks after all.





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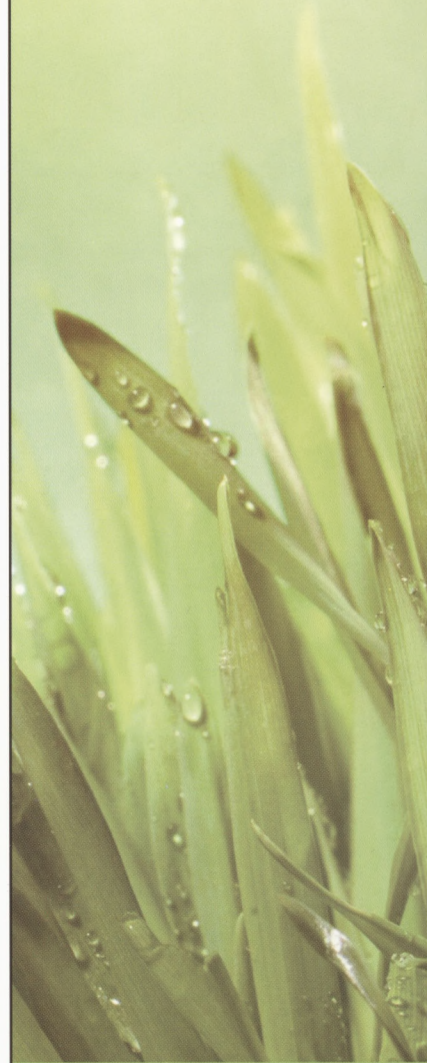


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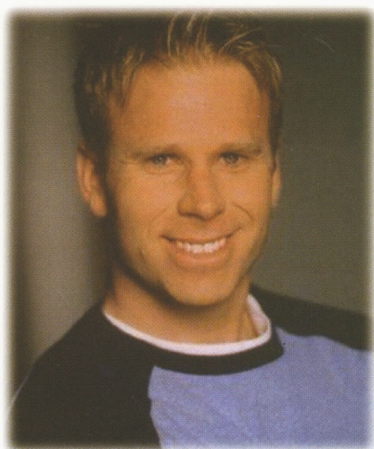
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Off the fairway ...



by Daisy Moore

Restoring Natural Areas

Spring came early and has been relentless ever since, leaving us little choice but to follow along with it and carry on as if it is summer in the tropics. Tulips and Lilacs were in flower at least three weeks earlier than usual. I remember it being a stretch to pick a bouquet of lilacs for the prom in early June and this year they were full out in early May. Flowering dates, leafy growth, seed germination and a multitude of other botanical events are ahead of schedule. Phenological indicators, if associated with a calendar date, can be thrown out the window. The Tulip Festival, in the Nation's capital, didn't occur during peak bloom this year. They'd be lucky if there were any flowers left at all with frequent gusty winds adding to the confusion. The animal kingdom is keeping pace with the plants where egg hatching, adult emergence and general activity of bugs doing what they do in the warmth, happening earlier than usual. We are unaccustomed to the order of things this year and wonder what will become of all of this with such a long road ahead?

Generally speaking things do tend to level off after awhile. Mother nature provides check valves so that everything isn't affected if there is a (temporary) shift in weather patterns. Some species will suffer while others will gain an advantage. By the time mid June comes around, our surroundings should appear a bit more familiar to us. In the meantime we need to find ways to orient ourselves and know what other important biological events are taking place, no matter what the calendar says, so we can plan for it. Phenological indicators can help us do this. Phenological indicators are reliable clues that associate biological

events. It is the science of appearance where when you see one thing it means that it coincides with a stage in the life cycle of another thing, probably many things. The best example is the Forsythia bloom which is used, almost instinctively by turfgrass managers, as a sign that conditions are right for seed germination. If you want to prevent or encourage seed then the Forsythia bloom is the trigger to act. Robins as a sign of spring is another familiar clue. Some associations are mythological in scope while others are backed up by science.

Knowing what coincides with what will become increasingly important as we try to monitor and manage pests using IPM. For the timing of disease or insect control, it would be useful to have flowering plants guide us. Some reliable clues have already been recognized and noted with the bridlewreath spirea bloom indicating an important stage for a turfgrass beetle. More research needs to be done and everyone can participate in this one. If you google phenology, you won't find many sites but one I did find was an attempt to map when things were happening so that we can learn about more associations. You could select a species and then go to a map (of the US) and it would show you when this plant flowered and what other things were flowering with it. It would be a good idea to have those that are scouting and monitoring on the golf course make note of what is in flower while signs of disease or insects are present. Collectively we should be able to come up with a few more handy guides.

Daisy is a professional horticulturist. She operates a garden design and consulting business from her home in Elora.

Her website: www.daisymoore.com has samples of her work.

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Looking back

20 Years Ago Today

by Barry Endicott

The Board of Directors in 1990 was: **Gord Nimmo**, Sarnia (pres.); **Mark Hagen**, West Haven (vice); **Neil Acton**, Deer Creek (past pres.); **Rhod Trainor**, Hamilton (editor); **Mark Schneider**, Beech Grove; **Alex La Belle**, Carlton; **Wayne Wrath**, Islington; **John Taylor**, Twenty Valley; **Dave Gourlay**, Eagle Creek; **Ed Farnsworth**, Deerhurst; **Bruce Burger**, Galt and **Simon George**, Oakville. Simon took over as editor late in the year.

New members; **David Tascone** (F) Wyldewood, **George Wood** (E) Geogard Systems, **Jordan Lucas** (F) Galt, **Ron Legato** (D) Scenic Woods, **Tory Karlson** (E) TCG Materials, **Perry Beausoleil** (F) Carlton, **Bruce McDonald** (E) Albion Golf Cars, **Michael Patterson** (B) Saw-Whet, **Ray Patterson** (D) Saw-Whet, **Bruce Vollett** (B) Foxwood, **Dean Baker** (B) Glen Abbey, **Geoff Corlett** (E) Turf Drain and **Doug Cherry** (F) Cherry Downs.

On the move: **Ryan Beauchamp** took over the job at St. Thomas and **Rhod Trainor** left for Hamilton Golf Club. **John Cherry** moved from Cherry Downs and became superintendent of the National and **Ken Wright** moved to Devil's Pulpit. **Dave Gourlay Jr.** left Beacon Hall and went to Eagle Creek and **Bob Heron** took Dave's place at Beacon Hall. **Rick Sarrao** moved from Ingersoll to a new course in St. Catharines called Rockway Glen Golf Club and **Dan Lavis** left Kleinburg and took Rick's position. **John Gall** became the new superintendent at St. Georges and his


assistant **Gord Somerville** took over at Oshawa. **Bruce Burger** left Galt and moved to a new golf course in Milton. Another assistant, **Jordan Lucas** took over from Bruce at Galt. **Kimmo Salonen** left York Downs for a new golf course called Port Carling and **James Wyllie and Assoc.** took over York Downs with **Al Schwemler** as superintendent.

Green Care Ontario was formed to unite the green industry so we would have one strong voice to address the concerns about the recent changes in the pesticide posting laws brought about by the Ministry of the Environment. **Thom Charters** was instrumental in establishing this new association.

The President, Greenschairman, Superintendent, Club Manager Tournament was held at Westmount on July 23rd, hosted by **Hugh Kirkpatrick**. First place team was from Westmount, **Hugh Kirkpatrick**, second was from Hidden Lake, **Robbie Robinson** and third place team was from Oakdale, **Paul Dermott**.

The Pro/Superintendent tournament was held at Spring Lakes Golf Club. Winning teams were: Cedar Brae, **Warren Vout**; Beacon Hall, **Bob Heron** and Oshawa, **Gord Summerville**.

The OTRF tournament was held on September 17th at the National, Rosedale, St. Georges, Mississauga and Weston. Low gross winners were **Robbie Robinson** (74), **Wayne Rath** (78) and **Richard Downing** (81).




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by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Golf North Properties

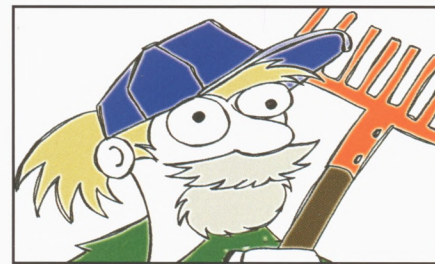
Winter Kill

Like many of you, I spent most of the month of April lying face down on a green. Not because I was overcome by the beer cart. Not because I'd missed a short putt. No, I was prostrate on the turf (weeping, praying, begging, and making deals with God) trying to make seed germinate, desiccated turf recover, and pull shoots out of the ground with the sheer force of my will. Like many Ontario courses, we experienced some "winter injury".

In the olden days, we used to call it "winterkill", which always struck me as an excellent name for an eighties heavy metal band – although they'd have spelled it Wynterkyll. But we now call it "winter injury", a euphemism designed to make the situation seem less dire. As if by not calling it dead, the turf might come back on its own, even though it's bleached white on the top, the roots are black, and the crowns smell like a six week old lunch bag in a grade nine boy's gym locker. You know, like how we call a dump "a sanitary landfill site", or a 1979 Pinto a "car". So call it what you want – we had a fair bit of it. Fortunately it was only on the greens, tees, fairways, rough, the front lawn, and a handful of spots on the parking lot.

I found out this spring, just how attached people are to the colour green. Through hours of hard work (not to mention significant expense) the program of topdressing, rolling, more topdressing, nutrition, still more topdressing, three different kinds of seeding, please stop with the topdressing already, and the endless march of covers on / covers off - the greens were actually a pretty fine putting surface. Arguably a better one than some courses I've been on in mid season. But they weren't completely green – so it didn't matter – they were crap.

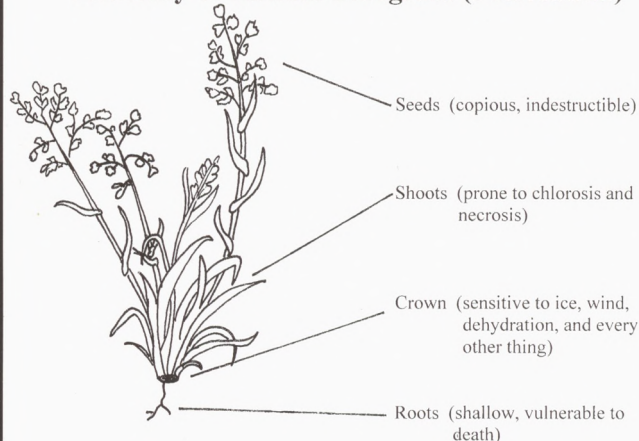
There was a significant week in early April, where the most damaged areas switched from being brown areas with green spots, to being green areas with brown spots. I was very excited about this. Giddy, in fact. Unfortunately, it would also be the week that the average "man on the street" would come to the realisation that he wasn't looking at turf that was dormant, but something else. Usually, they'd conclude that we'd let the course get too dry. Apparently, to the layman, dehydration is the only possible explanation for grass that isn't green. I had a drywall installer actually call me a liar. He insisted that there was no way that ice could do something like that, and we were trying to cover up for getting "caught off guard" by the hotter than average spring. I almost "caught him off guard" with a soil probe.



To their credit, the vast majority of our regular clientele were very supportive. Lots of questions mind you, but most of them had a story about how it was worse back in the spring of (insert year here), and talked about how the course was always in good shape and it would be shining soon. Ironically, the real criticism didn't come until the "weekend warrior" crowd started showing up. You know the bunch. Barely meet dress code - three hung over guys, and one girlfriend with an attitude - rent two carts and one bag of clubs, have an egg carton full of balls that they bought at a garage sale, and a case of Laker in their bags. Right after they write a dirty limerick on the roof of one of the carts (with illustrations), they'll write an angry email to the proshop complaining about course conditions. They're all the same – "used to love your course, play 800 rounds a year, me and my friends will never come back, the guy with the soil probe was rude to me....". I always want to correct the spelling mistakes and send them back.

I've read a fair bit about winter injury this spring, and the overwhelming opinion of researchers is that "sometimes in the winter – stuff dies" (I paraphrased that a bit). But the remedy is always the same – seed, moisture, heat, and time. Fortunately, in 2010 there was a fair bit of heat, seed was liberally distributed, and contrary to popular belief, there was copious irrigation, which made the time period relatively short. It all seems like a bad dream now, but I do have some promises I made while lying flat on the greens that I'm going to have to follow through on.

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