Impacting the Game
An Interview with Roger Null
Submitted By – Paul Hurst
Merry Christmas to everyone in Mississippi Valley Land. Hope you are having a relaxing December while looking forward to spending time with family and friends. Usually this time of year is fairly slow but unfortunately for me, I have plenty to keep me busy. The Metropolitan Sewer District is installing a 48” sewer line down the middle of my 15th hole on the West Course. It will impact three other holes so we are taking the opportunity to make some adjustments to those holes as well. So, my level of relaxation is not quite what it normally would be. Still, I am looking forward to my oldest daughter Nichole coming in from Denver, my son Mitch being home from Ames and my daughter Allie who has stayed in Saint Louis to take care of her mom and dad being together for our Christmas Eve extravaganza. There is nothing like family, especially in this business where you often need just a hug from someone who cares to keep you going.

I am excited to get my term as your President underway. We have many positive things happening in the MVGCSA right now. We have the best support from the University of Missouri I have seen in my 30 years in the Saint Louis area. We are financially strong and able to support research and programs. We have good people leading our transition into the digital age with our web site. We have a large list of vendors who support the Mississippi Valley way more than they should. Finally, we have a great bunch of guys who are members of the MVGCSA. We really are a big extended family. Like fighting brothers, we don’t agree on everything. Yet, anytime someone asks, needs help, or is having trouble, there is always a brother to step in and help. I think it just the nature of the people who get into this business. We are generally honest, hardworking, caring people and I am honored to be leading you the next two years. Hopefully I will exceed your expectations.

This current Board is on the ball. Many of next year’s events are booked or in the process of being finalized. A Calendar of Events should be out soon. The Green Cup will be at Greenbriar Hills and thank you Dave for the legwork to make that happen. The web site is awesome and keeps getting better as we learn what members want. The Assistants program keeps expanding and improving. Talking to Superintendents from other chapters we have found that the “Shop Tour”, which just took place, is one of the best educational seminars put on by any chapter, and is being copied by several. The fact that we do it for free is worth the cost of membership alone.

While there are a lot of good things happening in the Valley, not all is rosy. We had 81 members and a guest at our Annual Meeting in November. Attendance to that event is up, and
Control like this has always been out of reach. Until now.

Coming soon: The New A Model Mowers from John Deere.

Now your presence can be felt on every part of your course. That’s the control you get with the new A Model mowers from John Deere. Thanks to our TechControl display, no matter who is operating the mower, you can easily program these mowers to mow and turn at exact speeds, to transport at safe speeds, and to lock in fuel savings. You can also plug in service reminders and get diagnostic feedback quickly and accurately. And all of your operators can now mow in a more consistent fashion.

The power to control your course is now in your hands. To find out more about our new A Models, contact your local John Deere Golf distributor today.

Trusted by the best courses on Earth.

ERB TURF EQUIPMENT, INC.
BELLEVILLE, IL.
800-836-0088 SALES
877-269-7427 PARTS AND SERVICE
www.erb turf.com
Yin and Yang. Don’t judge the source, according to Wikipedia Yin and Yang means, “Describes how opposite or contrary forces are actually complementary, interconnected and interdependent in the natural world, and how they give rise to each other as they interrelate to one another.” That is a mouthful and my Editor brain has to think somewhere in that quote there is a dangling participle, run on sentence or rogue comma. Irregardless, for our purposes today, the Yin and the Yang are Roger Null and Jonathan Prange. Despite my frequent complaints about steering this battle axe to your mailbox three times a year the Gateway Green has given me moments and memories. Making this sausage can be tedious, ugly, repetitive and downright stressful at times. This particular edition required some legwork for which I am grateful and regretful. I am grateful that I had the chance to relay the story of two of your peers but regretful for the fact that I did not take the time to get to know either of them better. You see the Yin is Roger Null approaching retirement and possibly anonymity with a heart full of gratitude, memories and accomplishment. The Yang is Jonathan Prange taking his first Super job while leaving the comfort of everything he knows with a heart yearning to create memories, earn recognition and savor accomplishment. Two guys that could not be at more different stages of their life but so absolutely on the same page despite the opposite or contrary forces they are experiencing. Cool to witness and absorb. It was my pleasure Roger and Jonathan, Godspeed.

Anywho, our merry band of Gateway Green writers have delivered a solid issue as we close out 2015. I would like to thank Rob Kick, Chuck Gast, Don Humphrey and Mike Null for turning in quality articles and being punctual about doing so. I feel really good about the content of this issue and I hope our membership enjoys. Thank you Mike Carron for all of your work with our advertisers who’s funding solely allows this publication to happen. Finally, thank you Larry Torno for your work as our Art Director.

My warmest wishes to you and your families as you celebrate Christmas and the New Year. Celebrate opposites and contrarians but search deeply for interconnectedness and interdependence. Find your own Yin and discover your own Yang…..maybe over bourbon.

Merry Christmas!
Paul Hurst, Editor
Merry Christmas

FROM

GREENSPRO
**Impacting the Game**  
**An Interview with Roger Null**  
Submitted By – Paul Hurst

Where did you grow up?
“I grew up in Le Mars which is in Northwest Iowa. My junior year of high school we moved to Early, Iowa and I graduated there with a class of 24 boys and four girls. We had a hell of a football team with that small amount of people. Dad was a football coach and my brother was a football coach. Throughout high school I worked at the 9 hole local course selling golf balls, shagging range balls, changing cups, etc. Whatever they needed done. I actually had a football scholarship my freshman year of college. It was a very strict and religious college and lost my scholarship there because there were a few of us that got caught drinking beer one night. When I lost my football scholarship I was working at Sioux City Country Club and the Superintendent there talked me into going to Iowa State for Turf. Kind of a means to an end, gave me a reason to stay close to the game of golf. Hell, I did not know anything about growing grass at that point. “

What lead to you becoming a Golf Course Superintendent?
“Fate really, I thought I would end up being a football coach because that is all we did. My family watched football and played football. I went to Iowa State for two years and actually ran out of money. My professor, Dr. Elliot Roberts, got me a job as an Assistant Superintendent at The Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in Rock Island, Illinois. Dr. Elliot was one of the pioneers of bringing turf into the Universities. My first summer the Superintendent, Hank Hennings, had his wife pass away and decided that he did not want to do the job anymore and quit. The Greens Chairman came to me and told me that I was now in charge. I had no idea what I was doing. The first day on the job I learned my biggest lesson on the golf course. It was our Member Guest and the club champion Whitey Barnes told me the golf course was the worst he had ever seen it. I felt like crawling in a locker. A few minutes later another member chimed in and said the golf course was as good as he has ever seen it. Turns out the guy that complimented me played well and the guy that ripped me played poorly. Taught me to just shake my head and go about my business.”

Where did you go from Rock Island?
“Tom Van De Walle was at Short Hills CC in Moline, Illinois and Jack Litvay was at Crow Valley Golf Club in Davenport, Iowa and the three of us became close friends. I was at the Arsenal Golf Club for about 7 years and then went to Cedar Rapids Country Club for another seven years after that. In 1980 I came to Old Warson. Jack Litvay had left Crow Valley and was working at St. Louis Country Club. He told me about the job opening at Old Warson so I sent in a resume. I got an interview and got the job. In 1987 I went to Norwood on the premise that I could do a renovation. I did a Master Plan for the West and East course and almost finished but got an offer from Boone...”

(continued on page eight)
PUT A PROVEN CHAMPION ON YOUR GREENS.

Introducing the Multi Pro® 1750. The advanced spray system design of the extremely successful Multi Pro® 5800 is now available in a 175 gallon size. From aggressive agitation, faster response, consistent and accurate application rate set up to precise vehicle control, this sprayer has it all. The leader in golf.

Contact your MTI Distributing sales representative today for all of your golf course maintenance equipment and irrigation needs.

Eastern Missouri Area: Ed Eschbacher 314-506-4137 / Kyle Nieuwsma 800-760-2112
Central Illinois: Pete Tebbe 888-538-3608 / Kyle Nieuwsma 800-760-2112

MTI Distributing, Inc.
8901 Springdale Avenue
Berkeley, MO 63134-2400

TORO. Count on it.
Winning three GCSAA championships meant as much as anything to me. I think I am the only one that has won three.
I do have 15 holes in one but I think that is merely a reflection of how much golf I get to play.

What do you consider your biggest golf accomplishment?
“Winning three GCSAA championships meant as much as anything to me. I think I am the only one that has won three. I do have 15 holes in one but I think that is merely a reflection of how much golf I get to play.”

Biggest piece of advice for young Superintendents?
“Pauses….the one thing that I told all my guys is always think about what you do and how it impacts the game. The biggest difference between here and Europe is in Europe the game is the number one priority, the golf course is two and the golfer is three. Here we are just the opposite the golfer is first, the course is second and then the game. If you think how your work is going to affect the game than everything else will fall into place. We are way too worried about the golfer in the United States.”

What's the biggest change you have seen in Golf Course Maintenance since you have retired?
“Equipment by far is the biggest change. Research has done a lot but equipment has been the biggest change. Hell I was at my first job when the first riding greens mower came out.”

Explain your involvement with Golf Course Architecture and Design?
“Let’s see, prior to 1983 I was always intrigued with golf course design but did not put much thought into it. 1983 is when I first visited Scotland and I really became interested. While there I bought Allister Mackenzie's book called Golf Course Architecture. Once I read that I could not get enough of reading about architecture. The GCSAA put on some regional studies and I went to one in Chicago with Jeffry Cornish who was the most noted historian of golf course architecture at the time. He was a huge influence on me and actually came to Norwood to help me validate my Master Plan. From the early 80's through the 90's I went to as many places as I could to visit great designs from Long Island, to California and Europe.”

Norwood was really the first place I did a lot of design work and I am very proud of that. Before I semi-retired at Boone Valley I did some work at Westwood Hills CC in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. That was really my second chance at design work. In 2005 I rebuilt 12 green complexes at Westwood Country Club followed by some work at Old Warson in 2007. The following year I did some bunker work at Westborough and
then some small projects again at Old Warson and Westwood. The project here at Bogey/Log Cabin started with rebuilding one green, went to some zoysia conversion and then blossomed to a total renovation over the past three years.

**Favorite Tour Player?**
“Arnie is really the one that got me started. Saw him chip in at the Masters one year. But my favorite one of all time was Ben Hogan, I have read every book about him.”

**Favorite Golf Course Architect?**
“Allister Makenzie, no question. I love his designs, style, strategy, use of deception and his bunkering. His statement that there is no blind hole after you play it once is my favorite.”

**What’s makes a Golf Course Superintendent great?**
“I would say his respect of the game and attention to detail. Detail gets lost the most in the big picture and is seen by the golfer the most. The details are what are seen by the golfer while the big picture is often lost.”

**How much Golf are you playing these days?**
“As much as I possibly can, I am a golfaholic and addicted to the game. I will hit balls or play some holes every day if I can. If I take on a project on I will drop the game and play only on weekends. That is the only way I know how to do it.”

**From Mike Null of Norwood Hills**

**Who was the best golfer…you, your brother or your Mom?**
“Laughs..I was young when my mom played but I would have to give it to her because Mike would think that I would say me.”

**From Tim Schwierjohn of Pomme Creek**

**What is the one thing now, (equipment, fungicide, technology…etc) that you wished you could have had while you were a Superintendent?**
“I think it has to be equipment. We did not have the technology in my era but we still had good playing surfaces. Today’s equipment has made aerification and topdressing so much easier.”

**From Robert Shaft of The Falls Golf Course**

**What is your favorite golf course?**
“My favorite course is The Old Course at St. Andrews which I have played five times. I played it twice in a small competition with some Scottish Supers with Tip Anderson as my caddy. Tip was Arnolds Palmers caddy in every British open he played in. It cost me a lot of beers after the round to listen to Tips stories but it was a hell of an experience. ”

**From Robert Shaft of The Falls Golf Course**

**Proudest Moment?**
“It is this right here, the Bogey/Log Cabin Club renovation. The only total renovation I have done on a piece of property. To see what it was and what it could be and then pull it off has been incredible. Also, the other night when the MVGCSA gave me the Honorary Membership. I feel like between my work here Bogey/Log Cabin and the MVGCSA recognition everything culminated and made me feel like I left something behind that made the game better.”

**From Kris Rickman of the Quarry Golf Club**

**How many individual golf clubs do you have in your house right now?**
“I used to collect vintage clubs so I have maybe 700 golf clubs in my attic. When I was in Iowa I would spend winters in the pro shop refinishing persimmon shafts and did a lot of club repair. Who knows what I will do with them, probably give them to Mike Null.”

**From Kris Rickman of the Quarry Golf Club**

**Who is the most interesting person in golf right now?**
“Hard question, in my opinion its Tiger Woods and what is happening to him and where does he go from here.”
A Message from
Your Director of Operations
By Chuck Gast, Director of Operations, MVGCSA

It was a successful 2015 campaign at MVGCSA this year that was fittingly capped off at our Annual Meeting in November. A big thanks to our host Dave Pini and the rest of the staff at Highlands Golf and Tennis in Forest Park for their gracious hospitality. What a perfect venue for our season ending event!

With nearly 80 in attendance, we more than established our required quorum that allowed all elections and bylaw amendments to proceed as scheduled.

Your 2015-16 Executive Committee and Board of Directors is as follows:

President - Mike Null, Norwood Hills Country Club
Vice President - Rob Schaff, The Falls Golf Club
Sec/Treasurer - Jim Buford, Sherwood Country Club
Past President - Tim Roethler, Old Warson Country Club
Director (1 yr) - Rob Kick, Algonquin Country Club
Director (1 yr) - Khris Rickman, Quarry Club at Crystal Springs
Director (1 yr) - Tim Schwierjohn, Pomme Creek Municipal GC
Director (2 yr) - Greg Parkinson, Tapawingo National Golf Club
Director (2 yr) - Justen Patterson, The Legends Country Club
Ass’t Liaison (1 yr) - Jimmy Bucher, Norwood Hills Country Club
Ass’t Liaison (2 yr) - Kolby Armbruster, Forest Hills Country Club
Assoc. Liaison (1 yr) - Ed Eschbacher, MTI
Assoc. Liaison (2 yr) - Dan Randant, Erb Turf Equipment

As reported by your Secretary/Treasurer Jim Buford at this Annual Meeting, the financial health of this Association has continued along a strong path. Credit goes to the solid membership base, participation at Association events and the generous support of our Associate members with their sponsorship throughout the year. Thank you!


As a result of our healthy financial status, the MVGCSA has continued its dedication and commitment to education and turf research with nearly $10,000 donated to these efforts during 2015. Specific research projects continue at the University of Missouri under the direction of the MVGCSA Research Committee and scholarships were recently awarded at the Annual Meeting to five deserving students. This year’s scholarship recipients were:

Mike Patterson – Turf – University of Missouri
Mitchell Null – Turf – Iowa State University
Luke Carron – Legacy – Rockhurst
Davis Roethler – Legacy – University of Missouri
Anne Carron – Legacy – Rockhurst

Congratulations are also in order for our most recently inducted Honorary member, Mr. Roger Null. Please see his full article within this issue of the Gateway Green.

This year’s attendance point’s winner in the Superintendents division was Mark Moriarty, Bridgeton Berry Hill Golf Course with Ken Morgan, Ruth Park Golf Course winning the Assistant’s division. Congratulations gentlemen and thank you for your excellent attendance at our 2015 events! This about raps up the year 2015. For additional specific information, summaries and pictures relative to all 2015 events as well as future events, please refer to the MVGCSA website at www.mvgcsa.com. Going forward into 2016, we will continue to heavily favor this electronic platform for efficient and timely distribution of current MVGCSA information. To begin your New Year’s resolutions, please add the MVGCSA quick connect icon to your homepage and refer to your Associations website on a regular basis.

Thank you and Happy New Year!
THIS ISN'T A GAME.

FOR YOU IT'S A MATTER OF PRIDE.

PBI-Gordon helps protect your course and your reputation.

A golfer might brag about a good day on your course, but make no mistake: that's your turf, your mission, and your business card. And PBI-Gordon is dedicated to helping you keep it looking great. For almost 50 years, PBI-Gordon has offered innovative, effective turf solutions for the golf industry, from original Trimec® Turf Herbicide to new Kabuto™ Fungicide SC.

For more information, visit GordonsProfessional.com or call Heath Schesser at 913.626.5463.
Time flies when you’re having fun, so I suppose it has been a very fun year, because it is already December and 2016 is less than a month away. What a great fall season for growing grass in the Valley, mild temperatures for October and November and timely rains.

It is time once again for a summary report on the 2015 GCSAA Delegate Conference that was held in Lawrence, Kansas in late October. The opening meeting was in Kansas City the same day as the first game of the World Series between the Mets and the Royals. I saw a little too much Royal blue for this Cardinal fan, C’est la vie!

The first day started with GCSAA President, John O’Keefe, giving the delegates a briefing of the two day conference; he focused his talk on the strategic direction of the association and the membership standards proposal that will be voted on by the members in San Diego at the Annual Meeting. Next up was GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans, with his report on the key initiatives of the Association and the 2015 financial report. Rhett is a class act and always manages to bring an interesting edge to his presentation. This year he started his talk with a story of his arm injury, incurred while parasailing, and how this mishap had limited the use of his left arm for about 4 months. He then brought to our attention the word, “ATROPHY”, and how that word relates to his arm injury and the GCSAA membership. To be honest I had never heard of the word, atrophy. Part of the definition is a decrease in size or wasting away due to lack of use. Rhett’s point is that he doesn’t want to see the GCSAA membership decrease or waste away due to not using all of the resources that are available to members. I agree with Rhett, so many of us just send our dues in every year and never take advantage of the great services that a GCSAA membership offers.

Every year I attend the Chapter Delegate Conference I am so impressed with the talented, dedicated and capable staff that work at GCSAA Headquarters. The GCSAA website is a great tool for Superintendents to use with all sorts of services offered like webcasts, education, Superintendent Blogs, resume writing, online courses and more. The last item on the agenda for day one was a report on the EIFG (Environmental Institute for Golf) and the Rounds for Research initiative that raises money for the philanthropic arm of the GCSAA.

The second day of the conference started with 45 minute bus ride to GCSAA Headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas. The first order of business was a presentation of the GCSAA Member Standards Classification Proposal that will be voted on in San Diego at the GIS Conference. The member standards “ReDo” has been in the works for about 3 years and the GCSAA Board of Directors have brought forth a proposal that changes the Class A Superintendent definition and the “Superintendent Member”, classification will now become a “Class B Superintendent”. The board has looked at every aspect of the Member Standards Proposal and this proposal will most likely pass and become the new standards that will take effect in 2016. There was a discussion about a number of by-law changes that will be voted on in San Diego at the GIS. If you want to get more information on the member standards and by-law changes that you can find that information on the GCSAA website. The final agenda item that morning was a discussion on the Equipment Manager Classification and the ideas pertaining to meet the educational needs and a certificate program for new members.

The best part of the day comes after lunch with a town hall session format with the GCSAA Board and the delegates. The town hall session is an open forum where all issues concerning the association are brought up and we kind of spithall

(continued on page eighteen)
Supreme
Turf Products, Inc.

THE ULTIMATE IN PERSONAL SERVICE & PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

Serving Illinois, Missouri, and Kansas for Over 25 Years

CHEMICALS:
• Syngenta
• Bayer
• Monsanto
• Dow
• B.A.S.F.
• NuFarm
• PBI Gordon
• Regal

FERTILIZER:
• Anderson's Golf Products
• ReDox Turf
• Milorganite
• Nature Safe
• Emerald Isle
• Grigg Brothers
• Earth Works

SEED:
• Jacklin Seed Company
• Tee-2-Green
• Seed Research of Oregon
• Pick Seed

ACCESSORIES:
• Standard Golf
• Par Aide
• Bayco Golf

AMENDMENTS:
• Profile
• Sand-Aide

SERVICES:
• Spyder Delivery Service
• Soil Testing & Recommendations
• Irrigation Water Suitability

5 Cassens Court • Fenton, MO 63026 • 636-349-8900

Dave Shields 636-448-3841  Ben Scanio 314-713-8599  Randy Riddle 573-220-0475  Todd Thomas 618-513-9055

supremeturfproducts.com
Thoughtful, reflective, appreciative, insightful, grateful and anxious to carve his own path is how I would describe Jonathan Prange from Bellerive Country Club. Some individuals are easy to interview as their life story effortlessly sweats from their memories. Others are not as pensive and summarizing where they have been in life and where they are going is agonizingly painful to do. Prange is the former as his story easily leaps from his person.

Growing up in Bridgeton, Jonathan played as much golf as possible at Berry Hill and also for his high school, Lutheran North. He remembers, “I worked some landscape jobs growing up and took some Environmental Technology classes at West County Tech my junior and senior year. My dad actually suggested becoming a Golf Course Superintendent so after senior year I headed to Linn Tech to pursue an Associate’s Degree in Commercial Turf and Grounds Management.”

In March of 2001 the former Superintendent at Bellerive CC, Tony Mancuso, attended a Career Fair at Linn Tech looking for interns to help work the WGC Championship. Prange took the bait and smiled remembering that internship, “They only allowed me to mow the target greens on the range and work with the bunker crew…I begged to no avail to water greens or mow greens on the golf course.” Despite the limited job assignments, Prange must have made an impact as he was brought back the spring of 2002 as a full time member of the Bellerive Country Club Maintenance Staff.

Prange spent the next three years working as a laborer and spray technician through the end of the 2004 U.S. Senior Open. Just before that tournament the golf course had been extremely dry and the old drain lines were showing up on the greens. Prange explains, “To help mask those drain lines I was asked to spray the greens with a liquid fertilizer. Tony Mancuso and USGA Agronomist Paul Vermeulen were eyeballing me the whole time. This was the day before the start of the event and despite some nerves, I nailed it.”

Just after the tournament and with Mancuso’s blessing Jonathon took a chance and ran with an internship at the Metropolitan Club in Melbourne, Australia. He states, “While working at Bellerive we had all these guys coming over seas to work American golf courses. I wanted to do what they were doing and work a golf course in another country as well.”

(continued on page twenty)
Punish Pythium down to the root.

Wes Kleffner
Area Sales Manager T&O | 913-951-3435 | wes.kleffner@bayer.com

BackedByBayer.com | @BayerGolf | Available on iTunes and Google play: Backed By Bayer

Innovation you can apply.

Strobe™ 50WG
Broad Spectrum Fungicide
1 and 6 lb. bottles

ENCLAVE®
Flowable Fungicide
2.5 gal. bottle

2DQ Herbicide
1 gal. and 2.5 gal. bottles

Quinclorac 1.5 L
Liquid Herbicide

For more information,
Call Brad Garrett at 816-516-3952

www.quali-pro-com  www.controlsolutionsinc.com

Enclave, and Quali-Pro are registered trademarks of ADAMA Group Company, Strobe is trademark of Central Solutions Inc. For more information on our wide selection of turf and ornamental products, visit quali-pro.com or call 800-242-5542.
How do you celebrate the holidays?

Do you gather round the table and carve a Turkey on Thanksgiving. Do you spend the day after shopping? Do you open presents on Christmas Eve or do you wait for the man in red to come down the Chimney and unwrap Christmas morning? Do you light a Menorah? Do you spend the 31st of December eagerly anticipating the ball to drop in Times Square? Parades, football, food and drink, parties, music, Holiday lights, the list of things to do this time of year is almost as long as Santa’s. However you spend your time this Holiday Season here are a few completely useless factoids for you to enjoy.

The Season begins with Thanksgiving. This time honored tradition in America has come a long way since 1621 in Plymouth. The first recognized feast was shared by the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians following a brutal first year in the Americas for the colonists. Almost half of the original 102 souls aboard the Mayflower didn’t make it through the first winter (there’s some cheer for ya). Befriending their new neighbors, the Wampanoag, set out to teach the Pilgrims how to survive in the Northeast. Sharing in the bounty of their first harvest the group feasted. Okay, enough with the history lesson, here’s what you really need to know about Thanksgiving. Turkey was probably not on the menu… deer, lobster, duck and bald eagle were, however. Yes, that’s right, our national symbol of freedom was the bird of choice for the first Thanksgiving. Now, to be fair, it wasn’t our national bird until several hundred years following the first thanksgiving. Interestingly, Benjamin Franklin, a pretty smart guy, actually lobbied for the Turkey to be our national bird…he lost. A good choice though, Turkeys are smart, can fly up to 55 mph, run as fast as 20 mph, and quite honestly, are delicious!

Following our great day of thanks we celebrate our second, and possibly most popular holiday of the season, “Black Friday”. Quite a shift from the previous day. Leave it to us to give thanks for all we have only to give it all away the following day. “Black Friday” marks the day most retailers go “into the black” as most stores profits tend to skyrocket during the holiday shopping season. Of course now-a-days “Cyber Monday” is probably more popular. Most of us can’t move after our Thanksgiving feast so what better way to shed some holiday pounds than sitting on our couches and shopping in our PJ’s. Thanksgiving falls on the 4th Thursday in November for one singular reason, simply put, to lengthen the holiday shopping season. “Franksgiving”, as it was referred to for several years, was officially established by Franklin Delano Roosevelt as the fourth Thursday in November in 1939!

Obviously the most favorite of holidays for the kids both young and old is Christmas. I remember my parents using the old Santa is watching bit to keep me a well behaved young lad during the holidays. You certainly didn’t want to be on the naughty list for fear of getting coal in your stocking. Well Mom and Dad, you should have researched a little better, the Germans devised a much better strategy, Krampus. Krampus, for those of you who haven’t heard of him, is a giant horned anthropomorphic beast who attacks ill-behaved children around the holidays. Apparently, Jolly old Saint Nicholas and Krampus visit your house and the good children get presents while the bad children are given over to a huge dark beast for breakfast. Very effective indeed.
CARRYALL

Completely redesigned with more standard features while retaining the reliability you demand

Electronic Fuel Injection
Best-in-class Warranty
14 Horsepower
M & M Golf Cars, LLC
131 North Central
O'Fallon, MO 63366
636-379-8243
Russ Luedloff
C-573-721-5449
rluedloff@mmgolfcars.com
www.mmgolfcars.com
www.facebook.com/golfcars

BLACK & GOLD
Club Car

DON'T LET WINTER BEAT YOU

ALTOZ
PRECISION MOWERS

RTP
REDEXIM TURF PRODUCTS

Husqvarna

Redexim
www.RedeximTurfProducts.com
636-825-8300
427 West Outer Road Valley Park, MO 63088
President's Message
(continued from page two)

I hope it is a harbinger of things to come, but our monthly meetings and events haven’t had those kinds of numbers in recent years. Participation is the most important contribution you can make to the MVGCSA. Participation by Superintendents drives the success of the entire operation. Our associates for the most part generously fund our monthly meetings and events. They do this so they can spend time in a relaxed atmosphere talking with you the Superintendent. One event this past year was attended by 40 associates and 14 Superintendents/Assistants from only six facilities…. six out of what? Close to 200? That’s not cutting it fellas. We need better participation. Just one from each facility would fill an event. I know there are days when it is impossible to attend. Things happen. I am going through this right now with MSD as we are rushing to beat old man winter. We have areas getting close for sodding with MOGIC and The Shop Tour pending. I will have to make some tough decisions. Never the less we are signed up and will make the effort to attend. Like I said, 81 people at the Annual Meeting was good to see. Let’s keep it rolling.

If you would like to get involved, join a committee. We can use the help. I know there are members who think the Board is a clique. Sorry, it is just not true. When I came onto the Board I was close friends with Tim and Rob. I knew the other guys, but didn’t really know the other guys. Now there are many on the Board that I would call close friends, even though I barely knew them at first. Justin Patterson, our new director, I don’t know well but I am looking forward to working with him. Thanks to Dave Pini for running from the floor this year, and Dave, I would like to see you get your name on the ballot next year. That goes for anyone else too.

Finally, thanks to Chuck, who has taken over his task of running this thing like a “Honey Badger” on a giant Cobra. We’re going in the right direction. I hope I can keep it on the tracks. Thanks to Norwood’s course Superintendents, Assistants and crew. They make it easy for me to not worry about what’s happening in my absence, which allows me to take on task such as this. I am honored to be representing you. Hopefully I will do as well for you as you have done for me all these years. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mike Null, President

2015 Delegate Conference
(continued from page twelve)

the topics from all angles. The topics ranged from GCSAA name changes to growing the association and the member standards proposal.

Next on the agenda was a report of the changes to GCSAA Advocacy. The first change is the name; GCSAA Advocacy is now GCSAA Government Affairs. The Director of the Government Affairs is Chava McKeel and she does a great job in Washington D.C. and across the country. Another change in Government Affairs is Chava has gotten some help; the GCSAA has hired Robert Helland and Kaelyn Seymour to help Chava implement a new 5 year strategic plan for continuing to build relationships with lawmakers and to be a voice in D.C. for Golf Course Superintendents and the Golf industry.

The day wraps up with the delegates getting to meet the candidates running for the GCSAA Board and discuss the issues that confront the association and Superintendents. It is a very productive 2 days of meetings, discussions and networking that brings the GCSAA Board and Chapter Delegates and GCSAA staff together for improving our association. In closing I would like to encourage any MVGCSA member to contact me with any questions or concerns about any of these GCSAA issues.
THE REDOX DIFFERENCE
Plant-ready nutrients for all turfgrass varieties and growing conditions

Who is Redox?
Redox is a specialty nutrient company that focuses on innovative plant growth technology.

Key Benefits for Effective and Efficient Turf Nutrient Management
• Balanced plant nutrition
• Optimum root growth stimulation
• Promotes vibrant color
• Environmentally responsible
• Site-specific solutions to meet your unique needs

Contact Todd Scott:
314.602.5623 // todd@redoxchem.com
redoxchem.com

Apply early and the party’s over for pests.
A single application of Acelepryn® insecticide in April or May gives you season-long control of all key white grub species, plus excellent control of turf caterpillars, European crane fly, annual bluegrass weevil, billbugs and other key turf pests. To learn more about how to use Acelepryn for optimal control of annual bluegrass weevil, visit WeevilTrak.com.

For more information contact:
Paul Carlson
314.308.0330
paul.carlson@syngenta.com
He continues, “Going to Australia was much more about me growing as a person. I learned about growing conditions outside of the transition zone but I was also fortunate to backpack up the Australian Coast, scuba dive the Great Barrier Reef, surf and stay at $12 per night youth hostels.”

Upon returning to America in 2005 Prange was rehired by new Bellerive Superintendent Chuck Gast. Three years later in 2008 Prange was promoted to Assistant Superintendent as Rob Kick took the Superintendent’s job at Algonquin. He remembers, “My promotion was just before the BMW Championship and I will always be grateful to Chuck for the amount of trust he put in me while working a managerial role for that tournament.”

Jonathan has held the Assistant role at Bellerive since 2008 and will be taking a Superintendent position at Holiday Island Country Club in Eureka Springs, Arkansas starting January 1st of 2016. I asked him about his most memorable moments over the last 15 years. He reminisces, “So many, being able to work with Tour Agronomists Paul Vermeulen and Kerry Hague was so impactful. They have been through so many events and just exuded calmness while managing high pressure situations.” He goes on, “Being part of operating a golf course at such a high level has been amazing. Communicating and managing people at Bellerive is so unique because our staff is so highly trained. We have all these interns that have had so much experience and talent.” He concluded, “Bellerive for the last 15 years has been my second home and my second family. Working for Tony Mancuso, Chuck Gast and John Cunningham has allowed me to learn so many things that I will adapt to the management style that I think will work for me.”

I wish I would have taken the time to get to know Jonathan Prange better. He is a good egg that did his time diligently and purposefully. Here is to him, leaving the roost and flying high.

---

**Shop Tour Summary**

**MVGCSA Winter Event 2015**

*Submitted By – Paul Hurst*

Well over 100 people attended the Shop Tour at St. Louis Country Club. Rob Kick from Algonquin Golf Club, Dan Lloyd from Meadowbrook and Tim Burch from St. Louis Country Club did a great job bringing in a diverse group of speakers with interesting topics. Highlights from the day were as follows:

**Dan Earlywine From Mizzou** – Dan spoke of the ongoing research at Mizzou on Large Patch in zoysia. The impact of timing of application of fertilizer and Nitrogen source on disease severity was discussed. South Farm is in the process of building a new storage facility and offices.

**Keith Hasenfratz** – Retired MVGCSA member Keith Hasenfratz was given an honorary membership for his 44 years in the Golf Course business. Keith was a former President of the MVGCSA and helped organize the first Green Cup to raise funds for turf research and scholarships.

**Bill Krueser From The University of Nebraska** – Bill gave two talks. The first was titled, “Stress Preconditioning to Maximize Plant Health.” The second talk was titled, “Does Turf Need Sunscreen?” Both interesting topics about the role some products play preparing your turf for stress and the role of pigments and dyes in turf maintenance.

**John Daniels From The USGA** – John is a Mizzou Alumni and also worked at St. Louis Country Club and Algonquin. John spoke twice as well, reviewing the agronomic year in golf and reviewing new gadgets being used in golf course maintenance.

**George Hobbs from E-Z-GO** – George brought along his buddy Ozzie Smith to announce that E-Z-GO will be donating $3,500 to the MVGCSA. The money was generated through E-Z-GO sales in the Valley this year.

**Scott Woodbury from Shaw Nature Reserve** – Scott spoke of the benefits of establishing warm season native areas on golf courses and business landscapes.

**Event Sponsors**

GreensPro, Erb, Scott’s Power Equipment, Keeven Brothers, Site One Landscape Supply, Supreme Turf, MTI and TurfWerks

---

**Godspeed John.**
Contrary to popular belief buying a real Christmas tree is a very green thing to do as two trees are planted for every tree cut. Furthermore, most fake trees are made with products like PVC which give off carcinogens during production. Not very Christmassy. Speaking of things not very Christmassy, and I’m sorry, but this is the only place I can say this where at least 3 people will read it. To all you people who were and are still bent out of shape over this year’s Starbucks holiday cups…YOU PEOPLE NEED HELP SOME SERIOUS HELP! (continued on page twenty-three)
Just in case you think I had forgotten that this was in fact for the Double G., here’s a little golf related bit for you. During the filming of “White Christmas” Bing Crosby was absent for the final shoot, as he had a tee time scheduled for the same day. There you have it!

Well, I’ve spent enough time this season robbing the internet of fun facts about the holidays. My plagiarism knows no bounds. I guess the important thing to remember while you’re watching Cousin Eddie drink from his moose mug this holiday season is we’re a pretty lucky group of people with lots to be thankful for. One thing is for sure, the fact that I get paid to write these articles is nothing short of a Christmas miracle. For my part, I hope you all enjoy a wonderful Holiday season full of peace and joy. Drink a Gin and Tonic for me and thanks for reading.

Happy Holidays!
Keeven Bros. Sod Co.

Kentucky Bluegrass Blend
Turf Type Fescue
Meyers Zoysia 1/2"

240-4900
HWY K & Laura Hill Rd., O'Fallon

“We’re Easy To Get A Lawn With”

The Golf Course Tree Experts
Gamma Tree Experts
Tim Gamma – B.S. Horticulture
Board Certified Master Arborist
314-725-6159
**Gateway Green Industry Conference and Trade Show**
**March 1 and 2, 2016**
**Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, Illinois**
University of Illinois Extension
(217) 333-5900

**Golf Industry Show**
**February 2-7, 2016**
**San Diego, California**
www.gcsaa.org