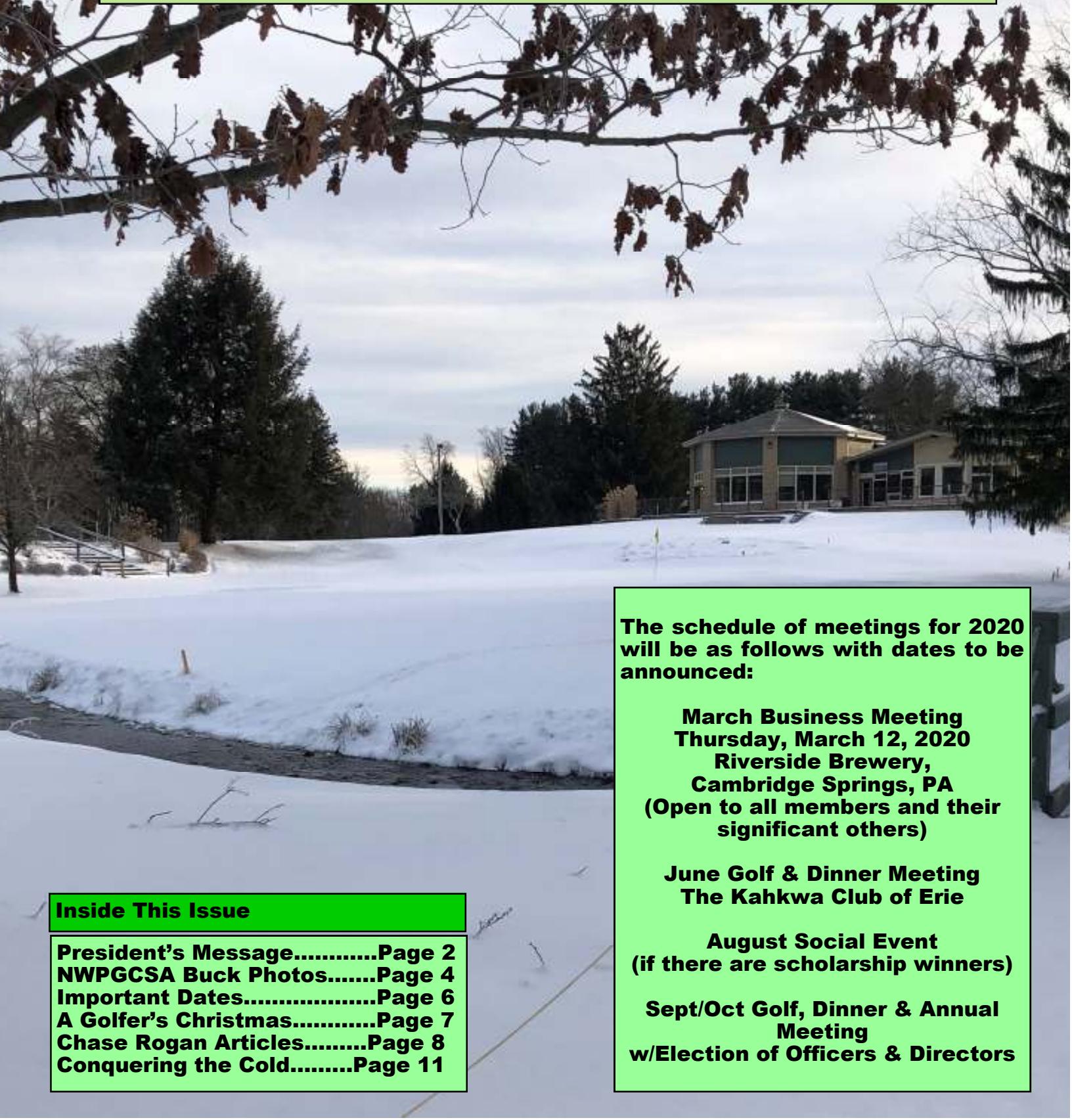


Front Nine News

A publication of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Golf Course
Superintendents Association, Inc.
Volume 23, Issue 1 - January 2020
(Cover photo of clubhouse at Grove City Country Club)



The schedule of meetings for 2020 will be as follows with dates to be announced:

March Business Meeting
Thursday, March 12, 2020
Riverside Brewery,
Cambridge Springs, PA
(Open to all members and their significant others)

June Golf & Dinner Meeting
The Kahkwa Club of Erie

August Social Event
(if there are scholarship winners)

Sept/Oct Golf, Dinner & Annual Meeting
w/Election of Officers & Directors

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2020 Officers & Directors

President

Kyle J. Woodfield
Whispering Woods Golf Club



Kyle J. Woodfield
NWPGCSA President
Supt., Whispering Woods GC

Secretary/Treasurer

Michael Masterson
Grove City Country Club

Directors

Justin V. Sudo
The Kahkwa Club of Erie

Guy H. "Buddy" Stallone
Cross Creek Resort

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Sleepy Hollow Golf Club

Commercial Director

Robert F. Goring, III
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Past President

Michael L. Bochert
Venango Valley Inn & Golf
Course

Executive Secretary/ Newsletter Editor

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President's Message

I hope everyone has had a good fall and early winter. The fall meeting at Cross Creek Resort hosted by Guy H. "Buddy" Stallone was great! Thanks again to Buddy for hosting. I think those in attendance would agree a good time was had by all. I encourage all of our members to attend our meetings whenever possible. Our fall meeting, in particular, featured Dr. Ben McGraw from PSU speaking on white grub research, annual bluegrass weevil, crane flies, and earthworms. The PA Dept. of Agriculture approved the following credits for the meeting: 2 credits PC (Private Category), 2 credits 07 (Lawn & Turf), 2 credits 18 (Demo & Research), and 2 credits 23 (Park/School Pest Control). GCSAA also approved .10 Education Credit for Dr.

McGraw's talk. A huge thank you goes out to Jeff Fowler, Venango County PSU Cooperative Extension Agent for arranging the entire education portion of the meeting. Jeff took care of getting all the credits approved by both the Dept. of Ag. and the GCSAA, and he made sure all the pesticide credits were recorded. With Jeff's help we hope to have another meeting with pesticide and GCSAA credits available in 2020 so please stay tuned for a location and date.

Speaking of 2020 meetings, the Meetings and Education Committee of Buddy Stallone and Rob Goring has been working on the upcoming schedule of events. The March Business Meeting will be held at the new Riverside Brewery and is open to all members and their significant others. There is a tentative plan to have a golf outing in the beginning of June at The Kahkwa Club of Erie. A location for the fall Annual Meeting is still being sought so if you were thinking about hosting an outing, please contact Buddy or Rob, and they will be glad to get the process started. For those of you who have not attended a meeting in some time, please make it a goal for 2020 to increase your participation.

2020 is an election year for the entire board of directors, and I would like to encourage our members (especially Class A and B) to come and serve on our board. The terms are for two years, but we try to keep the meetings to a minimum with most communication and input given via email. If interested, feel free to contact any board member.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors and our membership of NWPGCSA for your support. You are the reason it is an honor to serve on the board as a way of giving back to what has given me so much.

Respectfully,

Kyle Woodfield

NWPGCSA News

Raffle Tickets

Included in each dues notice are five NWPGCSA Scholarship Fundraiser raffle tickets for you to either sell or purchase yourself. Since the drawing isn't until June 1, 2020, you have plenty of time to sell those five tickets, and you are encouraged to sell more. Just email or call Julie with the number of additional tickets you would like to sell, and she will get them to you. A big thank you goes out to all the courses who donate rounds of golf with carts as prizes for this fundraiser. Sadly, with the passing of Van Smith, his annual scholarship tournament will no longer be held. That means this raffle ticket sale is currently our only fundraiser for our scholarship fund which is why the board decided to increase the number of tickets included in your dues notice from two to five. This is such a great prize for a \$10 chance, and the board would like to see more tickets being sold. Ask Julie for some extra tickets to sell to your golf league members, if you belong to one, or have them on display at the sales counter of your golf course. If you sell the tickets to friends, neighbors, or golfers, it's a great way to get support for our scholarship fund from outside our membership.

Payment Processing

Our association will continue to use the Square Reader to accept all major credit cards for dues, meeting fees, etc. A percentage of each amount charged (from 2.75% to 3.50%) is deducted from each transaction for the use of these services. The association will continue to absorb these costs when small amounts such as meeting fees are charged, but if you use a credit card to pay for your dues or larger amounts, we will need to add enough to cover the deducted percentage.

Of course, cash and check payments are always welcome.



NWPGCSA Dues for 2020

(All dues notices will be mailed to each individual member this month) Dues must be paid by February 29, 2020. A late fee of \$25 will be charged for dues received after the due date.)

Class A - Superintendent with 3 or more years experience - \$100/year

Class B - Superintendent with less than 3 years experience - \$100/year

Class E - Associate member (typically an owner/manager where the superintendent is already a Class A or B member) - \$100/year

Class C - Assistant superintendent - \$65/year

Dues are waived for Class L (life member), Class H (honorary member), and Class R (retired with 15 years or more as a Class A)

Commercial Members:

Gold Patrons - \$680/year

Silver Patrons - \$460/year

Bronze Patrons - \$350/year

(A description of all the patron levels and corresponding benefits will be included with each dues notice)

NWPGCSA BUCK PHOTOS

Editor's note: I decided to revive Mike Bochert's suggestion from two years ago to include this season's buck photos from our members and their families. I realize not all of you hunt, but those of us who do appreciate seeing the results of all those hours spent out in the woods. Thanks to those of you who responded to my email and submitted your photos!



Mike Masterson's 6-point taken on his property in New York state



Adam Schultz with his son, Ronan's first buck
Congratulations Ronan!



Rusty Tracy's 8-point taken with a rifle

Left: Alan Zielinski's beautiful mule deer taken in Wyoming on public land on a self-hunt



Rusty Tracy's son, Louie, with his wallhanger 10-point taken in archery season



Rusty Tracy's granddaughter and Louie's daughter, CeCe, with her first deer/buck



This is my 5-point taken with my trusty crossbow. I challenge anyone to shoot a less legal buck than this one! Believe me, it was not easy to determine if this buck was legal and still have time to make a good shot! The antler restrictions in my area are 3 up (with or without brow tines) and each tine has to be at least one inch in length. Well, I measured that middle tine on the right side, and it is 1 1/2 inches! I've always said if any legal buck gives me a good shot in archery season, I'm going to take it. I love having my buck all processed and in the freezer so I don't have to go out in all the craziness of firearms season.



Okay! Nobody turned this photo in. It was posted on Facebook, and I included it because it's a great photo of a very unusual buck.

Upcoming Educational Opportunities



**2020 Golf Industry Show
Orange County Convention Center
Orlando, Florida
January 25-30, 2020**



**2020 Western Pennsylvania Turf Conference & Trade Show
Wednesday, February 26, 2020 (one day only)
Doubletree by Hilton, Pittsburgh-Cranberry, PA
Go to www.paturf.org for registration information**



PennState Extension

**2020 Turf and Ornamental Conference of
Northwest Pennsylvania
was already held on
Tuesday, January 7, 2020
at Allegheny College Campus Center
(Sorry if you missed it. Had to be moved to January due to conflicting engagement at the campus center in March)**



**January 14, 2020 - GCSAA Seminar
January 15, 2020 - Integrated Pest Management Symposium
DoubleTree by Hilton, Mars, PA
REGISTRATION DEADLINE - JANUARY 7, 2020**

Even though it is past the registration deadline, if you are interested in attending, contact GPGCSA directly at (412) 838-7920 or gpgcsa@comcast.net to see if they are accepting late registrations.

The GCSAA Seminar on Tuesday, January 14th runs from 8:00 AM—5:00 PM and features Dr. Max Scholssberg from PSU and Albrecht Koppenhoffer from Rutgers w/PA Dept of Ag credits offered in Categories 7, 18, and 23 and a GCSAA Education Credit of .70.

The IPM Symposium on Wednesday, January 15th runs from 8:00 AM—3:30 PM features Albrecht Koppenhoffer, Tom Buzler from PSU Cooperative Extension, Dr. Peter Landschoot from PSU and Susan Boser from PSU w/PA Dept of Ag credits offered in Categories 6, 7, 9, and Core and a GCSAA Education Credit of .60.

Thank You to Our Commercial Members!

Our Gold Patrons



Our Silver Patrons

BASF
Nutrien Solutions
SynaTek Solutions
Walker Supply, Inc.

Our Bronze Patrons

E-Z-GO, Cushman Utility Vehicles
Harrell's
Hodges Rash Company, Inc.
Select Source
Syngenta
Weaver Golf & Turf Solutions

A Golfer's Night Before Christmas

Twas the night before Christmas. With things running fine, Old Santa decided to play a quick nine. He packed up his sleigh, his clubs well within reach; then flew to a good public course near the beach.

On the back nine, a threesome called out, "Come and play. There's no one behind us. We're last here today." Santa smiled, then teed up, set his shoulder blades square, and took a deep breath from the grass-scented air.

But he swung much too hard and in spite of himself, he took up a divot the size of an elf. If that pitiful drive wasn't lousy enough, his fairway shot found a spot deep in the rough.

Muttered he, "Oh perhaps, it's the wrong eve to play. I've more meaningful deeds to accomplish today. "Oh no!", they protested. "That isn't the thing. You just, ever so slightly, must alter your swing."

The first man stepped up. "Change your grip. Look alive. Swing faster, but softer. Now drive, old man, drive!" Santa swung at the ball with an air-splitting THWACK! But it popped up and gave him a smack on the back.

The woman said, "Santa, now here's what you do—Stand this way, squint hard, then scream and swing through." Spoke the first guy, "That tactic went out with the Edsels. You've got him all twisted like soft, salted pretzels." Santa swung, nonetheless; then he cried out in pain. "My back," he lamented, "has gone out again!"

Then a grizzled old gent who'd a wisdom like Snead did give Santa, too late, the advice he had needed. "You're out here for fun, and as you grow calmer, you'll find yourself hitting like young Arnold Palmer."

"But I can't even move now!" The thought made him shiver. "I have all these presents I have to deliver. Please help me save Christmas. Please give out these toys." Soon the foursome flew off to the good girls and boys.

It was Santa who now gave out tips to his crew, as up in the air past the rooftops they flew. At each home, the golfers found just the right packs and with magic Yule dust scooted down chimney stacks. They twisted and stretched and got scorched by Yule logs, ate cookies and milk and got nipped by some dogs. But they said as they passed the last fireplace screen, "This is almost as rousing as playing eighteen!"

Santa said, "You've done well and reward you, I shall. We'll start at St. Andrews, Augusta, Doral. We'll do lunch in Scottsdale, try Pebble Beach, then Riviera and Sawgrass. You just tell me when. Then eleven more holes—what a dream round we'll play!" Then he took the three home, and he soon flew away.

Soon they heard him exclaim from a sky dark as slate, "Merry Christmas to all! May your drives all fly straight!"



Nutrient Management Plans in PA?



For years, the Chesapeake Bay watershed has been undergoing a major cleanup initiative. As part of this initiative, golf has been engaged on varying levels from state to state. In Virginia, the VGCSA worked with the Virginia Department of Conservation to create a model that would require every golf course to

have a nutrient management plan written by a certified nutrient management planner. In Maryland, the state enacted a nutrient applicator certification, not dissimilar from a pesticide applicator's license, which requires continuing education to keep the license current.

However, in Pennsylvania, the state has been slow to mandate any type of specific program, as they have relied more heavily on voluntary programs to achieve the same goal – reducing nutrients that enter the bay through runoff, erosion, and leaching. What type of programs? Mostly education, funding for programs such as stream bank restoration, and programs centering on Best Management Practices.

But that could change soon. Recently, state legislation was proposed in PA that would require some type of combination for a nutrient applicator certification and/or written nutrient management plans. We don't have specifics of the legislation yet, but sources say that without certification or a written plan, the applicator would be subject to restricted application rates. But again, we don't yet have those details.

Regardless, it doesn't sound like this legislation should be too overbearing for golf course superintendents. Maybe there is even a chance that golf would be exempt from this bill. But one thing is for sure, this certainly further emphasizes our need to update our BMP manual and publish it on the GCSAA website so that we can begin facility adoption. BMPs are by far the best advocacy tool we can use to show the state legislator that we are being responsible with our nutrient application.

We are moving much closer to publication of our BMPs and will even have a separate website similar to Delaware (delawaregolfbmp.org), that will be very useful for sharing and promoting our responsible practices with the greater community, including our state legislator.

As we learn more about this matter, I will keep you updated. For now, continue to use your nutrients responsibly and look to adopt a facility BMP as soon as our state model is published, hopefully no later than early 2020. And as always, continue to promote our responsible environmental stewardship to the local and greater community at large!

Pennsylvania BMP Document Timetable

Editor's Note: Chase Rogan has been working tirelessly on establishing a Best Management Practices document for the state of Pennsylvania. GCSAA's goal is to have BMPs in place in all 50 states by 2020, and Chase is going to make sure that happens in our state. It's mind boggling to think about all the work that's gone into this endeavor, and I will leave it to Chase to thank all those who have helped in this process. On the following pages, you will find Chase's timetable for the BMP document becoming a reality in the state of Pennsylvania:

PA BMP Project Plan

1. Project Initiation: November
 - a. Create project plan
 - b. Review progress to date.
 - c. Update GCSAA BMP on-line tool with committee information.
2. Draft Final Development: December 1 – January 17
 - a. Make revisions as received by email.
 - b. Streamline sections as needed.
 - c. Incorporate PA regulatory information.
 - d. Create references.
 - e. Incorporate photos, if received.
 - f. Generate cover.
 - g. Review by professional copyeditor.
3. Draft Final Review: January 20 – March 6 (7 weeks)
 - a. Send to regulatory reviewers, any other official reviewers (conservation groups, etc.)
 - b. BMP committee members / PA GCSAA chapters help to get draft final out to superintendents across state for review.
 - c. BMP committee members conduct their own review.
4. Draft Final Document Review: week of March 9th
 - a. BMP Committee conference call to review draft final comments.
5. Final Document and GCSAA tool updates: development: March 16th – March 27th. Incorporate final revisions.

- b. Create Final PDF of document in print ready and web download versions.
 - c. Put final version on GCSAA on-line tool.
6. BMP Website Development:
- a. Create website framework (home page, navigation, etc): mid-February
 - b. Populate website with final text – March 16^h – April 3rd.
 - c. Launch on or around April 3rd

Following is a draft of the cover page for the PA BMP. The photo was submitted by Chris Pasant from Lords Valley Country Club, and to quote Chase, it shows “great buffers around the water feature—a classic BMP.”





Conquering the Cold

By Steve Loomis

From the December 12, 2019 edition of **Golf Course Trades Weekly**



If your golf course is located in a cold-weather climate, you know that the winter months can bring major changes. The goals shift from serving up a great round of golf to things like attracting guests to programming in the clubhouse or winter sports, as well as protecting the greens and equipment during the offseason. The teams at KemperSports-managed

golf course properties that thrive during the winter weighed in on this question, sharing some of their most successful strategies for conquering the cold weather. From winterizing and storing course equipment to hosting community programming that gets the whole family involved, here's a look at some of their best-performing ideas:

- Adhering to critical practices to survive a long winter. For Golf Course Superintendent Steve Archibald at Thornberry Creek Golf Course in Green Bay, Wisconsin, a perfect winter would "start by having a nice blanket of snow by early December to help insulate the turf from the arctic cold, followed by freezing temperatures that would last until spring. Once spring arrives, all the snow would melt in a week." Unfortunately for Steve, he's never seen a perfect winter so he has to adhere to many critical practices to help reduce the potential damage that could come from severe winter weather in Wisconsin. Steve and his team begin preparing in late fall through the aerification of fairways, tees, and greens, which enables adequate drainage of any excess moisture that may occur during late fall rains and throughout the winter months. "It's not uncommon, especially in the early winter months, to have snowfall followed by a rain event," Steve said. "By aerifying, we help provide a space for the moisture to go instead of sitting on the surface, increasing the pressure of snow molds."

The grounds crew at Thornberry Creek also suggests ensuring that all drain basins are open and free of debris to provide good drainage of all water for when the grounds thaw out. "If water is not allowed to drain, ice can begin to form, which will kill the turf if it's undercover for extended periods of time," he said. From here, the team applies fungicides to the bentgrass tees, greens and fairways to prevent snow molds. The biggest key to success, however, is constantly monitoring conditions throughout the season. "If icing events occur, we'll go out and blow the snow off the greens down to the ice and apply milorganite, a fine, black, granular fertilizer that absorbs the sunlight and melts down the ice, creating airways," Steve said. "We're able to minimize our damage by staying on top of the situation throughout the entirety of the season."

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

- Capitalizing on the opportunities the offseason brings. For years, the universal impression of the offseason was that there were no opportunities to keep guests involved because the course was closed. However, in the mind of Vince Juarez, PGA Master Professional and general manager at Deerpath Golf Course in Lake Forest, Illinois, that thinking is a fatal mistake. “Clubs can build for a successful golf season, all while putting programs into place to prepare and continue to drive revenue throughout the winter,” Vince said. Deerpath Golf Course takes full advantage of the Chicago area’s snowy climate by offering cross-country skiing and snowshoeing along with indoor programmings like cooking classes, wine tastings, and holiday gift wrapping. “Winter activities that appeal to all people not only help bring in business but also build support and rapport with guests, setting the table for a successful golf season when the spring finally arrives,” Vince said.
- Tapping technology. Keeping up with and satisfying the needs of incoming generations, such as Millennials and Gen Zs, can be a major key to a golf club’s success – both on- and offseason. That’s why the team at Heron Glen Golf Course, located in Ringoes, New Jersey, jumped when they had the chance to purchase an indoor golf simulator. “New Jersey is typically snow-covered in January and February, so the golf simulator is a great way to keep guests engaged,” said Tim Ward, the course’s general manager. Heron Glen’s PGA golf professionals turn their club fitting launch monitors into a winter golf simulator experience that includes playing virtual courses, practicing on the range and taking golf lessons. While the simulator software and equipment can be expensive, the return on investment is worth the while. “In the past, Heron Glen has created a winter indoor golf simulator league running for two months and offering fun formats while the course was closed, resulting in large revenue gain that couldn’t have been achieved without new technology,” Tim said.
- Producing club programming that gets everyone involved. From a Thanksgiving feast to brunch with Santa, The Glen Club in Glenview, Illinois, has winter clubhouse programming down to a tee. “Our entire course staff comes together each year and decides what events we want to host, especially during the winter season, that will make everyone from a young child to a senior not only want to be at the club but be happy to be there,” said Christie Paich, general manager of The Glen Club. And that line up can include anything from a Super Bowl party to Valentine’s Day dinner with a prix fixe menu to an all-you-can-eat Friday night Fish Fries from February to April.

“Getting people involved, both members and non-members alike, on the big, happy days of the year is something the crew at The Glen Club loves,” Christie said. “We host around 450 people each year for our Easter and Thanksgiving events, making us proud and excited to bring people together.” On top of driving revenue through event-based programs, The Glen Club ensures people aren’t losing their good golf games throughout the offseason by hosting an indoor golf league twice per week in January and February, setting up the indoor hitting bay they dubbed “The Golf Shop.” “At the end of the day, people want to go to a clubhouse and feel good, loved and valued, and we recognize that and do everything we can to deliver,” Christie said.

Winter doesn’t have to be gloom and doom for golf properties – and it can even be a driving force in setting the stage for the warm weather months. When it comes to engaging members and guests during the offseason, the right creative thinking can go a long way. And, as evidenced by these examples, can be major successes in creating long-term member and guest relationships within a community.