

the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS
Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 8 – Wee One Foundation's Fundraising Golf Event at Golf Club of Illinois in Algonquin, IL, to benefit **Dan Nielsen** and family. More information follows.

August 13-14 – 2005 Walker Cup Matches at Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton, IL, **Jon Jennings**, CGCS host.

August 15 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Water's Edge Golf Club in Worth, IL, **Jason Lemanski** host.

August 17 – Ohio State University/Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Turfgrass Field Day at the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Research and Education Center in Columbus, OH.

August 22 – John Deere Team Championship at Glen Oak Country Club in Glen Ellyn, IL, **Andy Dauksas** host.

September 19 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Idlewild Country Club in Flossmoor, IL, **Kurt Sams**, CGCS host.

September 26 – Wee One Foundation's Annual Golf Outing at Pine Hills Country Club in Wisconsin. More info follows.

October 14-16 – EXPO 2005 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, KY. More info to follow.

October 3-December 9 – The Rutgers University Professional Golf Turf Management School's Two-Year Certificate Program Fall Session at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ.

For starters, a word about the weather we have been experiencing this summer (as of mid-July): Enough! Hopefully by the time this reaches you, our drought has been broken, your rough is green once again, and you are wearing a wind shirt in the mornings to stave off the cool breezes. Right. As this is being written, hurricane Dennis veered away to the east and left us high and dry, and my patience—especially with the Weather Channel—has been stretched to the brink. Here's hoping for better days, raging rivers and recharged aquifers.



A typical irrigation pond this past July.

At least someone in our industry has figured out a way to stay cool this summer. Dr. Frank Rossi of Cornell University—a frequent visitor and speaker at our educational programs—was spied recently at the University's Field Day “taking one for the team,” so to speak. I'm guessing the stunt was a huge success—who wouldn't want to dunk the doc?



Dr. Rossi shows how low he'll go to raise a few bucks.

Every April our golfers come down with the dreaded “Augusta Syndrome” whereby they watch the Masters on television and immediately wonder why their course can't look like that. That being said, why can't there be a “St. Andrews Syndrome” in July? Or a “Shinnecock Syndrome” in June? If this were the case, I'd be a hero. Just a thought . . .

Congratulations to **Jim Pedersen**, former assistant superintendent of Stonebridge Country Club, who is now the superintendent of Hughes Creek Golf Club. Jim replaces **Darin Ayres**, who has left to pursue his burgeoning landscape-lighting business full-time. Best of luck, Jim!



Jim Pedersen, superintendent of Hughes Creek G.C.

If you've caught up with everything by October 14th, why not take a trip to Louisville, Kentucky and check out EXPO 2005? Presented by *Golfdom*, it is a three-day showcase for the green industry that also features an all-star cast of educational speakers. On the docket are Robert Brame (USGA regional director), Paul B. Latshaw, Bobby Weed and Larry Aylward (*Golfdom* magazine), to name a few. They've even booked the Charlie Daniels Band hot off the state-fair circuit for a live show on Saturday the 15th! It's a can't-miss deal. To register, go to www.expo.mow.org.

Congratulations to Kara and **Nick Baker** (Riverside Golf Club) on the birth of their first child in June. Colin Charles Baker was a healthy, happy, 6 lb., 5 oz. and 20-inch bundle of joy. New job, new home, new baby—time to think about getting a puppy.

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You wanna know what really rocks? Having a bona fide, certified, classified and glorified arborist on staff to handle those pesky pruning issues that sometimes arise. Yep—who needs tree-care experts when you have this guy?



Years of training and thousands in equipment . . .



. . . Now that's money well spent!

As noted in Dates to Remember, the Wee One Foundation is very busy this summer. The organization was founded on behalf of Wayne Otto to assist golf-management professionals (or their dependents) who incur overwhelming expenses due to catastrophic illness without comprehensive insurance or adequate financial resources. The Board of Directors is comprised of the following dedicated and generous individuals:

- **Danny Quast, CGCS**—President
- **Rod Johnson, CGCS**—Vice President and Benevolence
- **Beverly Quast**—Secretary
- **Mike Handrich, CGCS**—Membership
- **Dave Radaj, CGCS; Mark Petitgoue; Paul Bastron, CGCS**—Fundraising
- **Pat Sisk, CGCS and Chad Ball, CGCS**—Publicity and Advertising

Most of you have received mailings from this organization and know of its current cause—to help the family of Dan Nielsen (Golf Club of Illinois) through Dan's bout with pancreatic carcinoma. On Monday, August 8, the Wee One Foundation and Golf Club of Illinois will hold a fundraising golf event to help Dan, his wife Kira, and their four boys Zachary, Tyler, Nick and Travis, get through this difficult time. The Foundation is also asking you to join them and help other families who need and deserve our assistance. Call Mike Handrich at Racine Country Club at 262-637-9050 for information on how you can help.

I know I sound like a broken record every August, but it's always true—outstanding job once again by **Ken Lapp** and the staff at Cog Hill Country Club in providing another spectacular golf course for yet another Western Open. You guys make it look easy (and it's starting to tick me off!). Congratulations on a great event, guys! And special thanks to **Tracy Murphy** and Murphy's Lemont Paving for hosting their hospitality tent on Saturday the 9th during the tournament. Hopefully many of you were able to attend both.

Bits of wisdom from around MAGCS:

In its recent 50th-issue extravaganza, *Superintendent* magazine listed 50 tips from 50 golf pros, which included several from current and past MAGCS members. The following is an account of these tidbits of wisdom . . .

"Learn to see the whole picture, not just part."

—**Harry Lovero**
Orchard Valley G.C.

"If you can hold your tongue, you can hold your job."

—**Bruce Williams, CGCS**
Los Angeles C.C.

"For every action there is a reaction."

—**Dennis Wilson**
Sunset Ridge C.C.

"Come to work each day with the attitude 'what can I do for you today?'"

—**Doug Davis**
Flagg Creek G.C.

The Walker Cup Matches are coming to Chicago Golf Club (Jon Jennings, CGCS host) this month for the first time since 1928. Although the American team of amateurs led by Bobby Jones won handily then, and throughout the years the Americans have a distinct edge in the matches against the Great Britain and Ireland teams, the last three matches were won by the bad guys. Make sure to get out to Wheaton and catch some of the action and cheer on our team. If that isn't possible, look for it on Golf Channel on the 13th and 14th. Good luck to Jon, **Aaron Willing**, and all the staff and volunteers, and to Team USA!

The 5th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Fundraiser took place on June 29 at Hughes Creek Golf Club in Elburn, IL (Darin Ayres hosting his last event!) and was a complete success. The event is a four-person scramble format with a maximum score of bogey allowed on any given hole. The team from Blackberry Oaks Golf Club in Bristol took top honors as Chad Johansen rode the backs of ringers Jim Campbell, Gabe Salazar and **Steve Holich**. Numerous betting holes offered chances to win a slew of prizes as well as the coveted Grey Goose gift basket, compliments of Mike (**Sharon Riesenbeck**). The day was a hot one, but relief was only a beverage cart away (or an icy towel from Jen and Kelli). The golf course was in marvelous shape, and a full field of 144 enjoyed themselves both on the course and in the clubhouse afterward. Overall, it is estimated that this day raised over \$10,000 for the various scholarships—quite an impressive achievement! Highlights included several of Dave Meyer's and John Buck's family members and close friends being in attendance; the raffling of the 2005 John Deere CS Gator vehicle to lucky winner Bob Darnell (who proceeded to donate it back to the cause in an extremely generous gesture); the presentation of a plaque to Kelli Zopfi of J.W.

Turf in appreciation for all she does for the scholarship funds from MAGCS, Kane County Farm Bureau, NWIGCSA, Buck Brothers and J.W. Turf; and, of course, the pig roast. There are many thanks to pass around, and they include Hughes Creek G.C. and its great staff, Citizens Bank of Genoa, First Community Bank of Elgin, all raffle-ticket purchasers and sellers, Ken Kane of AFLAC, Dakota, Lastec, Kane County Farm Bureau, John Deere, Southern Green, Cress Creek C.C., and of course, all the golfers who made the day possible.



Dave Blomquist, John Gurke, Holly Gilmour, Luke Cella and Todd Schmitz.



J.W. Turf's Jen and Kelli with Kevin DeRoo—the iced towels were a GREAT idea!



Danna and Kelli with Bob Darnell, the winner of the Gator raffle.



Ed Braunsky, Tim Johnson, Ken Shepherd and Jim McNair.



Either Eddie Braunsky got too much sun, or this was dinner. You decide.



Greg Johnson, Brad Legnaioli, Paul Schaefer and Paul Wagner cool off after the round.



The winning team from Blackberry Oaks—Gabe Salazar, Chad Johansen, Jim Campbell and Steve Holich.



Bob Darnell, Holly, John Buck's daughter Shelley Seyllor, and his old friend Dan Thorpe (pictured just as they were seen by the Grey Goose-winning photographer).

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