

A couple of new internet tools have surfaced recently which I hope everyone knows about—first, you should be receiving “ITF Turfgrass Tips” via e-mail featuring author Rusty Stachlewitz and editor Luke Cella. There is some excellent information for anyone involved in the growing of turfgrass—look for it in your inbox. Second, for all CDGA member courses, www.cdगतurf.com is now open for business. This site features a plethora of articles and links pertaining to our industry, as well as a new scouting report calendar, the SK Calculator for Turf, scouting reports, and photos from selected member clubs. You can access it directly, or from the interactiveturf.com site. Give them a look.

Last month, on July 14th, around 200 friends and family members met in Crystal Lake to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Caroline and **Ken Goodman** (Class AA, Bull Valley Golf Club). Quite a number of MAGCS members were in attendance, ranging from the young whipper-snappers to the old farts, and there was even a Wayne Trommeter sighting, all to show their respect and best wishes to their friends Ken and Caroline. The guest of honor barely made it their in time, as he had just recently gotten out of the hospital. Congratulations to Kenny and Caroline Goodman on this grand milestone!

Some GCSAA fodder:

This headline from GCSAA’s *News Weekly*—“Oral Contraception for Pigeons Registered by EPA.” NUMEROUS visuals come to mind here, not the least of which is how do they carry those little dispensers around? How do they know what day it is? Are the placebo pills just corn kernels? Ba-doom-boom.

The 2007 Compensation, Benefits and Operations Report is now available. Data from this latest survey (which reports a 7% increase in superintendents’ salaries since 2005) are available online at gcsaa.org for free if you participated in the survey, for \$100 if you are a member but did not take the survey, or for \$400 for non-members. That’s gonna be a tough sell.

GCSAA and the LPGA have announced the hiring of John Miller, CGCS to the position of full-time LPGA Tour Agronomist. A 24-year Class A member, Miller will assist the LPGA tournament operations in developing consistent course conditions and will serve as liaison between LPGA and the host facility golf course management team. He hails from the Golf Club at Yankee Trace where he served as superintendent for 14 years and hosted the Nationwide Tour’s Dayton Open from 1999 to 2003.

In other allied association news, it was recently announced that the USGA and their championship agronomist Tim Moraghan have parted ways. According to an internal memo, the official reason given is that the USGA has decided it no longer needs a full-time person to oversee those efforts. Regional agronomists will take over Tim’s former duties for the major events. There seems to be a lot going on behind closed doors at USGA, but this is a big shock coming from an organization which claims to put such tremendous emphasis on course conditioning for its major events.

“A funny thing happened on my hot-air balloon ride today” – you hear about all the interesting uses (other than golf) that golf courses serve. Our precious tracts of land serve as fireworks display grounds, picnic areas, concerts, fishing havens, late-night nooky venues, and, of course, landing areas for wayward balloonatics. This vessel recently made an unannounced “controlled” crash landing on the grounds of a local country club, proclaiming it “the best and most accommodating place to land ever!” Open space, soft grass, and a forklift were the 3 main reasons for this proclamation. Nobody was hurt, but it surely made for an interesting story to tell later. The folks involved (flying the PODS balloon from Lisle as part of a huge flotilla of big balloons to launch) were kind enough to share their photos of their exciting day.



Wrestling with the wind while filling the balloon



The calm part while still aloft



A disbelieving crew watches and waits for the landing

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No need to carry that 300-lb. Basket—have forklift will travel.

Recently a group of MAGCS members were treated to a fishing expedition on Lake Michigan with longtime friend and past member Captain Craig Marfia and his buddy Captain Bobby. Sponsored by BASF and Lesco/John Deere One Source, the day began at the Waukegan Harbor and headed out onto the beautiful blue waters for an afternoon of great action and a few fish stories. Captain Bobby's boat won the prize for most fish caught, bringing in 14 assorted salmon and trout while Marfia's Horsefly landed 11. A great time was had by all participants, each of whom highly recommend a mid-summer break such as this to recharge the batteries.



Craig Marfia's Horsefly.



Landing a whopper.



Shane Ritchie holds up his monster salmon.



Chillin' topside.



The winners' purse.

As most of you are aware (since many of you were there), Cantigny Golf Club was host to the 82nd U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship last month. **Scott Witte, CGCS, Mark Kosbab, John Patrick Maksymiu, Jeremy Duncan, and Steve Koretsky** led an all-star cast of volunteers from near and far in preparing the course for the big event which featured participants from 39 states and 6 foreign countries (including West Virginia). The crew of Cantigny staff and volunteers did a fantastic job throughout the week, battling adverse conditions from Mother Nature along the way, and we congratulate all of them for their success. More on the event and the "inside the ropes" stories will appear next month. **-OC**

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