



THE BULL SHEET
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



November 2007

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 7 – 55th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club, **Tom Lively, CGCS** host.

November 13-14 – Midwest Regional Turf Foundation's Turf and Ornamental Seminar at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. Contact MRTF at www.mrtf.org for details.

November 13-15 – Penn State Golf Turf Conference at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College, PA. Go to www.paturf.org for information.

November 17 – MAGCS Annual Fall Dinner Dance at Eaglewood Resort in Itasca, IL, **Kristi and Ben Exline** hosts.

December 5-7 – Illinois Professional Turfgrass Conference (IPTC) at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL. Visit illinoisurfgrassfoundation.org to register.

December 9-11 – 28th International Irrigation Show at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, CA.

January 28-February 2 – GCSAA Education Conference, which is somewhat simultaneous with the National Golf Course Owners Association Conference held January 29-February 2 and the World Conference on Club Management (CMAA) on January 31-February 5, all during the Golf Industry Show which is from January 31-February 2. A visit to www.gcsaa.org will help clear things up (relaunched on October 29th by the way).

A brisk autumn welcome to the newest members of the MAGCS family:

- Kirk Carls**—Spring Lake CC, Class A.
- Andrew Cross**—Exmoor CC, Class C.
- Travis Dykstra**—Prairie Landing GC, Class C.
- Corey Heasley**—Olympia Fields CC, Class C.
- John Kirtland**—Davey Golf, Class E.
- Gerald Morris**—Country Club of Peoria, Class A.
- Arne Nordenson**—Glenview Park District, Class C.
- Patrick Ryan**—Bethpage State Park, Class C.
- Kenny Schwark**—Watertronics, Class E.

This month the Annual Midwest Turf Clinic will be held at Medinah Country Club once again—the outstanding venue we have enjoyed for many years thanks to our friends there. The theme for this year's rendition is "Balance." Your Education Committee has put together a compelling list of presenters and the day promises to be fulfilling. Also on the agenda for the busy day will be the annual elections for the MAGCS Board of Directors, as well as the various presentations including the Ray Gerber and Fred Opperman Editorial Awards, the President's Award for Meritorious Service, and the JW Turf scholarship donation. We ask that all MAGCS members in attendance please take the 5 minutes necessary and have their photograph taken by the professional photographer who will be present throughout the day. Also, if you have done this in the past, go ahead and get a new one shot—you probably have improved with age like a fine wine.

Luke promises not to Photo Shop your head onto the body of an animal or anything unless you request it.

Any MAGCS member interested in being a moderator for the upcoming IPTC at Pheasant Run Resort should contact **Scott Verdun** at Merit Club. Scott can be reached at (847) 899-1019 or at scott1019@hotmail.com.

The Class C Advisory Committee is seeking interested individuals who wish to make a difference by volunteering their time and efforts to this important committee. Scott White,

(continued on page 22)

now golf course superintendent at Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Country Club has stepped down, and John Ekstrom's tenure as chairman is officially over this month, leaving at the very least 2 vacancies. If you are a Class C member and wish to lend your support, give Scott Verdun a call or shoot him an email—again, (847) 899-1019 or scott1019@hotmail.com.

Old news, but for posterity's sake, we report that GCSAA CEO Steve Mona, CAE is STILL leaving our national association to take on the newly-created position of CEO of the World Golf Foundation. We all wish him the best, and thank him for his 14 years of dedicated service to our profession.

On another stellar unseasonably mild October day—the 16th to be precise—the University of Illinois Turf Alumni group held its annual golf outing at The Club at Strawberry Creek in lovely Kenosha, WI. Host superintendent **Matt Kregel** and his staff had the course fast and firm despite the rain that fell the day before. What a nice golf course! Designed by **Rick Jacobson** (Jacobson Golf Course Design, Inc.), it is a links-style track meandering through the Wisconsin hills and wetlands, with plenty of trouble in the form of fescue areas to be found if you are not a straight shooter (like the U of I turf alums proved to be—or not to be. That is the question). The group gets together yearly for this event (thus the "annual golf outing" thing) to bring together alumni in the business and students in the turf program for a day of golf and camaraderie. After golf and prizes (many thanks to the vendors who ponied up the prizes), it was off to the famous Brat Stop for dinner and debauchery. The Brat Stop is a Wisconsin institution that greets its patrons at the door with a full-size stuffed brown bear hanging by its neck over the staircase (didn't seem to help the Packers up in Lambeau this time). It is also somewhat known for its pork products and large beer selection. Our thanks to Matt and the great people at Strawberry Creek, Dr. Tom Voigt, and everyone who participated in this event.



Some Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program news for those of you who are members: First, as of July 1, 2008 the annual fee for golf courses will go to \$200. This represents a 3 percent yearly increase since the last one 7 years ago, and covers increased postage costs, inflation, and expanded services. Second, the new ACSP Certification Handbook for Golf Courses is now available after many months of development. This handbook replaces the Resource Inventory and Environmental Plan and the Certification Workbook previously used for guiding environmental management efforts and completing certification. To obtain a copy, or for general information regarding certification, contact Joellen Zeh at (518) 767-9051 or email her at jzeh@auduboninternational.org.

The Golf Industry Show is around the corner, and GCSAA has several useful tools for members to take advantage of in order to make the most of their conference experience. The Attendee Tool Kit, available at www.gcsaa.org offers assistance in such topics as Get There!, Pre-Show Planning, Education Conference, Golf Industry Show, Networking Opportunities, Involve the Team, and Post Event Follow-Up. Take a look.

On January 31st in Orlando, GCSAA will present Greg Norman with its 26th Old Tom Morris Award at the Opening Session of the Education Conference. Among his MANY accomplishments, Mr. Norman has won 91 professional tournaments, was ranked #1 in the world for 331 weeks in the '80's and '90's, was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2001, and is a highly successful businessman in several ventures including Great White Shark Enterprises, Greg Norman Golf Course Design, Medalist Development, Greg Norman Turf (they license proprietary turfgrasses for sports), Greg Norman Production Company, and he even makes a nice boytle of wine with his Greg Norman Estates in Australia. Most recently, Greg Norman is a trustee of the Environmental Institute for Golf and a huge supporter of GCSAA and golf course superintendents everywhere.

While I was clicking on some of the links provided on gcsaa.org, I happened across a really interesting article on the biggamidlandsection.com site (BIGGA is the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association). The article was written by two greenkeepers who had volunteered to work this summer's US Open at Oakmont. The perspective from an English greenkeeper on the preparations for the majorest of American majors was truly fascinating and fun

(continued on page 24)



to read. "Chris & Mike's US Open Adventure" began in Orlando in February of 2005 when they met and spoke with Dave Ward about his experience with the Open at Olympia Fields CC. Some fun items included their amazement at the scrutiny the sand bunkers received, noting that "...if a bird had walked through it (I'm only talking blackbird size) it had to be raked again." Also, when describing the greens watering procedure to their readers, they had the following to say, "Watering of the greens was one guy hooking up his hose to a gecka, starting at one end of the green and running with it turned on swishing it from side to side till he reached the other end then turn it off and that was it." Gecka? Good stuff from across the pond.

.....
Speaking of the US Open, did you know that the USGA tests over 20,000 golf balls annually to determine if they conform to the Rules of Golf as established by them and the Royal & Ancient? It's a fact.

.....
October's GCM magazine featured a Midwest flair, with 2 articles about MAGCS and TETA members. In "A Perfect Fit," Terry Ostmeyer introduced the world of golf course management professionals to technician **Wes Danielewicz** and superintendent **Mike Vukmir**, 15-year fixtures at Maple Meadows Golf Course. In the magazine's ongoing Unique Golf Hole feature, **Tony Kalina** and Prairie Landing Golf Club are highlighted in "Double Trouble," a look at architect Bruce Charlton's damned-if-you-do, damned-if-you-don't 5th hole.

.....
Congratulations to **Kerry Anderson**, who recently accepted the position of Turf Sales Manager for Valent Professional Products.

.....
All 2008 Golf Industry Show Attendees - MAGCS member, Dave Arden, well actually his dog Rayzee is in the 2008 Lebanon Turf Calendar. She could win dog of the year with your help. You need to vote for her at booth #3152 and what is best is that MAGCS can win too - to the tune of \$2000.00 for our scholarship fund. Let's show them who invented the slogan vote early and vote often. Good luck Dave (and Rayzee)

.....
The Wee One Foundation held its 4th Annual Golf Outing on September 24th at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI. Founded on behalf of Wayne Otto, Wee One provides financial assistance to superintendents and their families who have suffered through catastrophic illness and have incurred large medical bills. To date, over \$131,000 has been given to 11 families. The event is a fund-raiser for this endeavor, as well as a great way for Wayne's friends and family to get together for a fun day on an absolutely pristine golf course. Superintendent Rod Johnson and his staff are always at the top of their game when it comes to conditioning, and this year was no different. They also seem to have the course figured out, as evidenced by assistants Todd Martin and Brent Johnson's 1st place finish in the selective drive and alternate shot format. Great cause, great course, great food, great folks—GREAT day!



.....
Most recently, the MAGCS/ITF Fall Golf Day and Annual College Championship was held at Prairie Bluff Golf Course on the 2nd of October. **Kenny Shepherd** and the crew gave us a beautiful course on an unseasonably mild day which produced some challenging, windy conditions. Congratulations to this year's college champions from Danville Community College—**Brian Bossert, Brock Burton, Dennis Buck**, and **Ron Dohman** who shot a 138. In second place with 140 was the team from the University of Illinois (**Dan Anderson, John Anderson, John Gurke**, and **Brian Winkel**). In third was the Michigan State University team of **Chad Ball, Paul Bastron, Mike Mumper**, and **Dave Radaj**. In the 2-man scramble event, Kenny Shepherd and Whitey Anderson took honors with a net 62, followed by **Paul Yerkes** and **Jim Keith** (also 62). Sara Krause and Jodi Sterr raked in \$755 on the 13th tee for the scholarship fund, and **Darin Habenicht** donated \$1,650 for 7 of the 11 H & E Sod/Town & Country logo balls which were brought back from last fall's event and hit the green. The event wound up with a fine food spread and **Dan Sterr** then proceeded to raffle off every last prize item in the MAGCS closet. Thanks go out to everyone who volunteered their time and effort to make the day a success, as well as to our invaluable sponsors—**BASF, Bayer Environmental Science, Central Sod Farms, H & E Sod Nursery/Town & Country LDS Supply, Lesco, Inc., Nadler Golf Car Sales, Syngenta**, and **Turf Professionals Equipment Company.** -OC

.....
(photos on page 26 and 27)





*The Oaks Golf Course, Cottage Grove, Wisconsin
New Construction*

5th Best New Course - 2003 - 4 1/2 Stars Golf Digest Places to Play

Martin Design Partnership, Ltd.

Vision ~ Experience ~ Excellence

335 N. River St. St. 201 Batavia, Illinois 60510

630-482-2532 ~ 630-482-2536

www.mdpltd.com

