



THE BULL SHEET  
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

# November 2008

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 5 – 56th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club, **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** host.  
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- November 13 – CAGCS Annual Meeting and budget exchange at Oak Park Country Club, **Al Fierst** host.  
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- November 15 – Annual MAGCS Fall Dinner Dance at White Pines Golf Course in Bensenville, IL, Dawn and **Steve Partyka** hosts.  
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- November 18-19 – 2008 Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium at the American Club in Kohler, WI.  
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- November 21 – “Stomp Out Stress” seminar presented by Bayer Environmental Science at Ruth Lake Country Club in Hinsdale, IL, **Dan Marco, CGCS** host.  
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- December 1 – Annual South Side Holiday Party at the Bier Stube in Frankfort, IL.  
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- December 10-12 – 2008 Illinois Professional Turfgrass Conference at the Schaumburg Convention Center in Schaumburg, IL. **DON'T SHOW UP IN ST. CHARLES.**  
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- December 12 – Deadline to guarantee conference hotel rates for the 2009 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in New Orleans, LA.  
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- December 17 – Annual West Side Holiday Party at Salt Creek Golf Course in Wood Dale, IL, **Gary Hearn** host.  
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- February 2-7, 2009 – GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in New Orleans, LA.  
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- February 5, 2009 – MAGCS Hospitality Reception at the Loews New Orleans Hotel at 300 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130.  
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Welcome to the following new MAGCS member:  
**Randy Lusher**, Class E – BASF Corporation.  
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It is very possible that while you read this, the event described has already happened. If so, enjoy the recap. The 56th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic takes place on November 5th at Medinah Country Club, with new host **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** donning the greeter's jacket. The day's theme is “Going Green,” and the lineup of presenters is impressive. We are privileged this year to have keynote speaker Pat Hughes, Chicago Cubs radio announcer to entertain us and perhaps provide some much-needed closure to the abrupt and ugly end to the 2008 season. Also on tap is the annual election, with board candidates **Mark Thibault** (The Links at Carillon) and **Tim White** (Prestwick Country Club) on the slate. See you there.  
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The holiday season is just around the corner, and that means the parties are soon upon us. On December 1st, the South Side party at the Bier Stube in Frankfort will kick things off at 11:30 AM, and go until 4:00 PM. Call Keith Peterson for details at 708-636-4095. Later, December 17th marks another West Side Holiday Party—another event that has become a staple in the holiday season. This year's rendition will be held at Salt Creek Golf Course, with **Gary Hearn** hosting. After lunch, target golf will be offered at Top Golf USA next door. Cost for the day is \$35.00—call Gary Hearn (630-773-4790) or **Don Ferreri** (630-852-1746) for info or to sign up.  
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The MAGCS family sends its deepest sympathies to the family of Dave Mahoney who passed away suddenly on September 27th. Dave was the superintendent of Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville, New York since leaving the same post at Naperville Country Club that he held from 1884 to 1988.

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Many of us remember Dave for his generosity, kindness, and sense of humor, and we will miss him greatly.

On November 21, Bayer Environmental Science will present its "Stomp Out Stress" seminar at Ruth Lake Country Club with **Dan Marco, CGCS** hosting. The main gist will be controlling stress in both our turfgrass as well as our personal lives. Dr. Joe Vargas of Michigan State University will speak on the management of biotic and abiotic stresses that impact cool-season grasses, while Dr. Wes Sime, a health and sports psychologist from the University of Nebraska will discuss personal stress management and how to be a better superintendent by controlling stress. Contact **John Turner** for more information at 630-215-6110 or at [john.turner@bayercropscience.com](mailto:john.turner@bayercropscience.com).

You gotta love TurfNet. If you are unfamiliar, it is a subscription-based internet forum connecting superintendents and commercial reps from around the world featuring, among other things, the TurfNet.com Forum where industry folks discuss problems and solutions. The hot topic in September? Foxes digging up greens. The solutions offered? One guy put several hundred of those glue traps for mice around the problem green, finding several missing the next day and several others chewed up. If you've ever seen your dog get involved with one of those things, you can understand why it would work as a deterrent—first the paw gets stuck, then the other paw, followed by the whiskers, and so on. Another guy suggested personally "marking" the area,

stating that he had complete success after a bout with stage fright and a few cups of coffee to break the seal. Imagine a golfer enjoying a beverage in the 19th hole, looking out on the course and taking in that scene.

And if foxes aren't getting your goat, how 'bout them coyotes? Talk about your precision dumpage...



*A coyote with uncanny aim, or just a golfer's way of telling you how he feels about your signage?*

And while on the subject of marking one's territory, **Joe Hustler** recently celebrated his 30th year of service with JW Turf in Hampshire, IL. Heck, when Joe started working on John Deere equipment, it took both a mechanic AND a veterinarian to keep it in the field. Cuz there were no engines back then. So they used horses. Ba-doom-boom.

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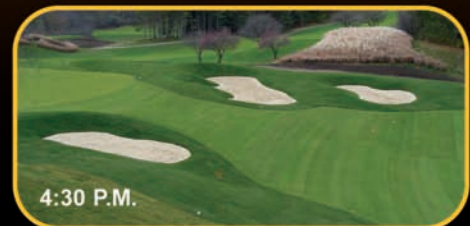
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Joe Hustler



That's Joe on the left.



The Old guys...



The Young guys...



And the confused guy—Whoever told Paul there was beer in the periscope was one funny old dude.

It wouldn't be a Bull Sheet without a **Dan Dinelli** item, would it? Dan's environmental efforts have been well-documented in these pages and in lots of other pages in lots of other magazines for lots of years, and now he has finally been noticed for those efforts. The GCSAA Board of Directors has selected Dan to receive the 2009 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship, which will be presented during the Opening Session of the 2009 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in New Orleans on Feb. 5th. Congratulations, Dan!

This month, on the 18th and 19th, the 2008 Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium will take place at the American Club in Kohler. The topic for this year's symposium is "Not All Water is Created Equal," and the event will feature 2 days of educational presentations relating to this extremely important subject. Also taking place will be a Monroe Miller retirement celebration on Wednesday the 19th, honoring the long-time superintendent of Blackhawk Country Club in Madison. Contact Shelley Brio at Milorganite at 414-221-6810 for more information.

There's no keeping the old retired guys down. Recently, we featured the many diversions that MAGCS member **Hans Hoppman** pursues while enjoying his retirement, mentioning an occasional game of golf with his buddies as one of them. **Lynn Wesson**, also retired and old, was happy to oblige by hosting his 3rd (perhaps more?) annual "Golf, drink, and burn your own steak" event at the Indian Oaks Country Club in beautiful Shabbona, IL in September. A lucky few young-uns were invited along (to remind the old guys when to take their medications), and the day couldn't have been nicer.

Our industry lost a true "superintendent's friend" when on August 24th Bob Labbanca passed away due to ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). If you ever read ANY of the golf publications that reach your mailbox, you've more than likely read Bob's work. Always the champion of the "keeper of the green," Bob traveled the world in pursuit of stories relating to our profession. Bob served as editor of *Turf* magazine, and was a monthly contributor to *Superintendent*, to name but a few of his credits. He will be missed.

Recently GCSAA awarded \$1,500 scholarships to 20 deserving recipients across the country as part of its Legacy Awards program. Three talented sons and daughters of MAGCS members were among those chosen to receive the awards:

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Taylor Behrman, University of Illinois (Chris and **Dave Behrman, CGCS**, Midlothian CC); Samantha Sprouse, Monmouth College (Nancy and **Mike Sprouse**, Randall Oaks GC); and Lauren Witt, University of South Carolina (Lorrie and **Tommy Witt, CGCS**, Northmoor CC). Any child or grandchild of a GCSAA member that is enrolled full time in an accredited institution of higher learning (or be a high school senior accepted at such an institution) is eligible, and the awards are given based on academic achievement, community involvement, extracurricular activities, and leadership skills. The program is funded by the Environmental Institute for Golf, and supported by Syngenta Professional Products. Congratulations to these students and their parents!

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 Having trouble keeping up with all the education offerings out there? Need those points to achieve or retain certification, but don't have the time to get around to the seminars? GCSAA reminds us that it offers live webcasts that you can participate in from your office (or anywhere you have access to that crazy interweb thing). Coming up this and next month, for example, are the following webcasts:

- November 13: "Herbicide-Resistant *Poa annua*—Real or Imaginary?" with Scott McElroy, PhD.
- November 18: "Everything You Wanted to Know About Nitrogen" with Kevin Frank, PhD and Brian Horgan, PhD.
- November 20: "Top Notch Communication Skills" with Mike Jousan.
- December 3: "Environmental Management Systems" with Debbie Swartz.
- December 11: "Managing Nutrient Budgets in the Face of Rising Prices" with Jason Dettman-Kruse, PhD.
- December 16: "Bringing More Golf to Your Community" with Dwayne Dillinger, CGCS.

All webcasts are presented in partnership with Syngenta Professional Products and are funded by the Environmental Institute for Golf—visit [gcsaa.org](http://gcsaa.org) for more details, or call 800-472-7878.

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 If you have a spare golf cart lying around that you don't know what to do with, consider donating it to Camp Shaw-waw-nas-see in Manteno, IL. The institution has been providing environmental education and experiential recreation to children and adults from all over Illinois and the U.S. for the past 61 years. In return for your donation, you will be featured on the camp's website, as well as in all print, radio, and TV ad spots as a major sponsor of the camp. Call Susan Crisp at 815-933-3011.

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 The fall golf season was in full swing recently, with various organizations and associations holding events throughout the Chicagoland area. Starting off the season on September 22nd was the Fifth Annual Wee One Golf Outing at the stunning Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI with Rod Johnson the host superintendent. The biggest participation yet—180+ golfers—made the day a true success in providing great golf, food, and friendship while supporting the Wee One Foundation with valuable funding for its important cause. The golf course was in its usual perfect condition (damn that Rod Johnson!), the Brat Stand and Taco Stand were right where they always are (in a place where they

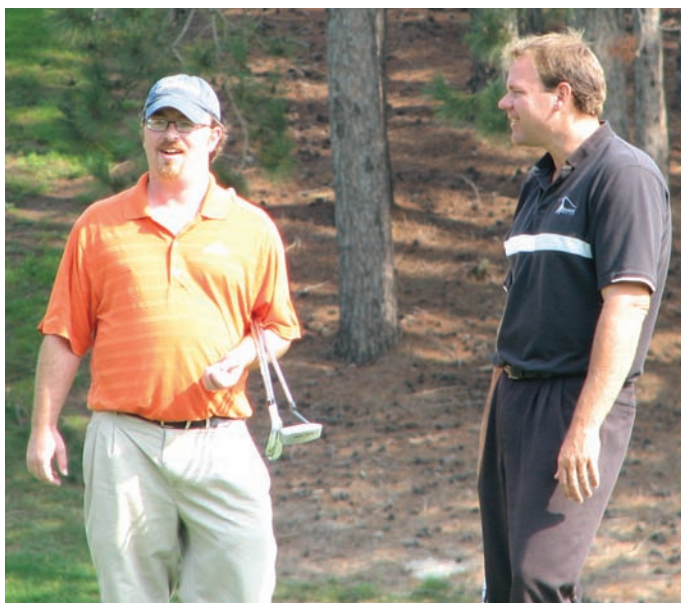
could be visited and revisited often), and a really great time was had by all. Congratulations to all who participated and went home with prizes, and thanks to everyone who had a part in putting the day together.



*Scott's starts the day off in fine fashion.*



*Kruse and Lemanski share a high-five for finding the elusive Brat stand (which was actually difficult to miss).*



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*Tough par 3, but a chance to meet folks while waiting.*



*What terrible luck to have not only landed in the footprint but to have plugged as well...*



*Baker and Turner on Hooch.*



*Host Rod Johnson.*

The following Monday, September 29th had supers and assistants going in separate directions with the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS) Annual Founders Cup Invitational being held at Olympia Fields Country Club (**Sam MacKenzie, CGCS** host) while **Mike Nass, Scott Witte, CGCS, Jeremy Duncan** and **Pat Maksymiu** and Cantigny Golf Club hosted the Class C Golf Outing in Wheaton, IL. It was a dreary, rain-soaked day in Chicagoland, more so in Wheaton than in Olympia Fields, as the weather forced the Assistants outing to be shortened to 9 very wet holes. Many thanks to everyone at Cantigny for hosting the event. Things were a bit better down south for the Founders Cup, as rain fell early but backed off to a mist during the golf portion of the day. A 2-man best ball was the format, pairing superintendents with a course official of their choosing, and being contested on the North Course—site of both the US Senior and US Open championships in the last decade. Deep bunkers and thick rough made accuracy a huge factor, and the team of **Andy Dauksas** and Marc Raymond from Glen Oak Country Club kept it in the short stuff with the most consistency, taking the Cup home to Glen Ellyn at the end of the day (which also featured the Sox-Tigers make-up game that took the South Siders to the playoffs). Thank you to Sam and everyone at Olympia Fields, and to **Dan Marco, CGCS** and his angel of a wife Bridget for setting it all up and greeting everyone in the rain.



*Host superintendent Sam MacKenzie*



*Andy Dauksas will have his name added to the Cup for 2008.*

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A few days later, Chicagoland Turf and Midwest Turf Products held their 4th Annual Customer Appreciation Day at Geneva National Golf Club on a beautiful October 2nd afternoon (evening, night, next morning,...). Invitees were treated to a great day of food, golf, and refreshments on a great golf course, and it was surely a memorable day (for most). Thanks go out to **Wally Fuchs, Trent Bradford, Brian Baker, John Lebedevs, Keith Krause, Nick Baker, Luke Baker,** and everyone on the Chicagoland turf team for a great time.

Not to be forgotten, MAGCS had its own event the following week at Prestwick Country Club in Frankfort, IL with **Tim White** hosting. The event was the Annual College Team Championship pairing players from their alma maters in a 2-man scramble format. The day was somewhat "Jekyll and Hyde-like," with the first nine holes played in benign conditions and the second nine being doused by a persistent rain that ranged from light and annoying to heavy and bone-soaking. Those who played through the pain were rewarded by a really great gourmet food spread in the clubhouse afterward. In the College Championship, the team of **Brian Bossert, CGCS** (Bryn Mawr CC), **Dennis Buck** (Dwight CC), Brock Burton and **Ron Dohman, CGCS** (Pontiac Elks CC) from Danville Community College won for the second straight year. In a CLOSE second, the University of Illinois team of **John Gurke, CGCS** (Aurora CC), **Greg Rounds** (Sunset Ridge CC), **Justin VanLanduit** (Briarwood CC), and **Brian Winkel** (Syngenta Professional Products) outbattled third place Illini **John Anderson** (Arthur Clesen, Inc.), **Jeff Gerdes** (Bolingbrook GC), **Mark Kowaliczko** (Joliet CC), and **Scot Spier** (Arthur Clesen, Inc.). In the Low Net Individual competition, host Tim White and Chad Walk tied for honors. Congratulations to all winners, and thanks to Tim and the staff at Prestwick for a great course and great time. Special thanks to our generous sponsors, who were **Arthur Clesen, Inc., Burris Equipment Company, Chicagoland Turf, JW Turf, Inc., and John Deere Golf, Nadler Golf Car Sales/Authorized Club Car Distributor, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., Palatine Oil Company, Inc., and Reinders, Inc.** Finally, thanks to **Sharon Riesenbeck** (Waupaca Sand & Solutions) for running the Wee One donation hole in the rain, benefiting **Kerry Anderson** who has been battling esophageal cancer. Great job everyone!



*There was only one flag flying at this year's college scramble.*



*Participants in the college event scrambled to stay dry during the latter holes of play.*



*Dan - Gilligan- Sterr finished the round without wrecking his ship.*



*Lots of serious putters, putting around prior to the college scramble at Prestwick Country Club.*



*(continued on page 27)*

More photos from the MAGCS College Scramble.



*Danville Community College takes home or actually just keeps the trophy (it was in the car and no one wanted to go and get it) for another year.  
L to R - Ron Dohman, Dennis Buck, Brock Burton and Brian Bossert.*

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