

THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



December 2009



Welcome and best wishes for success to the following new MAGCS members:

- Eric Yount**, Class C, Westchester Country Club
- Brian Stout**, Class C, Edgewood Valley Country Club
- Al Van Alsborg**, Class E, Winfield Solutions (returning member)
- Sean Treece**, Class E, PHP

This month, on the 15th and 16th, Illinois Turfgrass Foundation (ITF) will hold its Winter Education program at Midwest Golf House in Lemont. Day one will feature a morning of the always-entertaining and informative Dr. Frank Rossi of Cornell University, and the afternoon will bring Todd Quitno of Lohmann Golf Construction, **Greg Martin** of Martin Design, and **Mike Sprouse** of Randall Oaks Golf Club together for a discussion of Construction Trends—The New Normal. You may have read about Mike's first-ever Links Across America project, which is a fully accessible short course and practice facility that was built at Randall Oaks this year, and is scheduled to open next year. This facility will provide access to the game of golf to many who would otherwise never have the opportunity to enjoy it. On day two, **Len Conley** of The Sanctuary will discuss Organic Fertilizer Benefits, **Dr. Tom Voigt** of the University of Illinois will conduct a weed identification short course, followed up by a presentation called the Reality Behind Artificial Turf. Make plans to attend—GCSAA points have been applied for.

Congratulations to the following members on their election to the board of directors of the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS): **Tommy Witt**, CGCS-President; **Dan Marco**, CGCS-Vice President; **Dave Ward**-Treasurer; **Jeff Frentz**, CGCS-Secretary; **Jeff VerCautren** and

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- December 4 – Annual West Side Superintendents Holiday Party at Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge, IL, **Don Ferreri** host.
- December 7 – Annual South Side Superintendents Holiday Party at the Bier Stube in Frankfort, IL.
- December 7-10 – Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, OH.
- December 8 – Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Winter Turfgrass & Greenscape Expo at the Boerner Botanical Gardens in Hales Corners, WI.
- December 15-16 – ITF Winter Education Program at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL. Details follow.
- December 18 – Deadline to receive conference hotel rates for the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in San Diego, CA.
- January 4-6 – Great Lakes Trade Exposition at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids, MI.
- January 6-March 19 – Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School's Two-Year Certificate Program Winter Session at Rutgers' New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station in New Brunswick, NJ.
- January 20-22 – Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show at McCormick Place in Chicago, IL.
- February 5-7 – GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic in Palm Springs, CA.
- February 8-12 – 2010 GCSAA Education Conference in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show in San Diego, CA.
- March 6-14 – Chicago Flower & Garden Show at Navy Pier in Chicago, IL.
- March 18-20 – International Golf Course Equipment Manufacturers Association's Virtual Trade Show at an internet-connected computer near you.

Don Cross, CGCS-Directors; and **Jon Jennings, CGCS-** Immediate Past President. Also, CAGCS thanks **Dan Charlton** as he completes his board service and rides off into the sunset.

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Congratulations to **Nick Leu**, former assistant superintendent at Eagle Brook Country Club who is the new golf course superintendent at Blackstone Golf Club in Marengo, IL. Best of luck, Nick!

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Also congrats to **Jim Canning** (formerly Jim Chisolm—I'll get to that in a minute) on being named the golf course superintendent at White Eagle Golf Club in Naperville, IL. Jim takes the reins from longtime superintendent and mariachi savant **Gilberto Velazquez** who has retired to pursue his true calling—taking my money in cards and dice. Jim and his wife Charlotte are also celebrating the birth of their first child, daughter, Colbie who was born on November 2, which leads to the explanation of the last name change. Jim's father's dad (his grandpa) died when his father was three years old, and his grandmother remarried Mr. Chisolm, changing his father's last name. Jim and Charlotte wanted to change back to what was Jim's original last name before the birth of their first child, so they did and that's that. Congratulations on all the great news, Jim!



Congratulations to the Cannings, Jim and Charlotte on the birth of their daughter Colbie on November 2.

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And finally, congratulations of another sort are in order for Cantigny's **Jeremy Duncan** on the recent successful completion of his Master Sailor's certificate, which he proudly achieved on the very grounds he cares for. Or MAYBE October's rains and fallen leaves combined to create some low flooded areas on the course that were MAYBE a little too deep to negotiate with a Carry-All and then MAYBE the belt on the clutch got too wet and MAYBE Jeremy got his feet a little wet escaping the scene and MAYBE Scott Witte just happened to be in the neighborhood with his camera at the right time. Maybe. I like the Master Sailor story myself.



There is no getting out of this one with dry feet and a humble call to the shop for a tow.

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Condolences to longtime MAGCS member **Lynn Wesson** and his family on the loss of his mother. Gladys Pearl Cortright Wesson was born in Plano, IL on August 17, 1911 and passed away in Sandwich, IL on November 14th after a brief illness. Memorials in Gladys Wesson's name may be directed to Open Door or the Federated Church both in Sandwich, IL.

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Hey! The 18th of this month marks the deadline for members to receive the low low conference hotel rates for the GCSAA Education Conference in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show. If the tough times have you second-guessing whether you can afford to "Kick it West to Success" (who thinks of these things anyhow?), you may want to take advantage of a little-known member offer that GCSAA is floating out there to its members—complimentary registration. While this is always offered to GCSAA retired members, inactive members, student members, and educator members, it is also offered as a member benefit to all members on a one-time-only basis. The only prerequisite is that you must be a current member with your member dues fully paid at the time of registration. Member member member. That's a fun word.

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In related news, you probably have heard that the Club Managers Association of America (CMAA) has announced it will no longer participate in the Golf Industry Show after the 2010 event. On the same day, GCSAA informed its members that the 2012 Education Conference and GIS will take place in Las Vegas instead of New Orleans. Although the two announcements are seemingly unrelated, they were very much a part of CMAA's decision. After reading these announcements and the follow-up rhetoric, it is clear that these two organizations do NOT see eye to eye. The opposing viewpoints and "he said she said" nature of the releases from both associations was borderline embarrassing, with each party accusing the other of foul play. Play nice, kids.

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After nearly 10 years, GCSAA's first digital publication, *Newsweekly*, will cease production on the 17th of this month. This decision was made in an effort to reduce the amount of emails members receive while consolidating communication efforts and eliminating duplication of information.

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Big congrats and thanks to **Scott Speiden** for his efforts to help **Howie Shuck** on October 28th when he participated the World's Greatest Bartender event at Hawthorne's Backyard Bar & Grill in West Chicago. Although Scotty didn't win the contest, he and Howie were winners nonetheless, as \$4,500

was raised through the purchase of raffle tickets. Many MAGCS members were in attendance, and Scott and Howie would like to thank them all. Special thanks go out to guest bartender Diane Poliakoff, to **Sharon Riesenbeck**, Tracy Check, and Dawn Speiden for running the raffles, and to **Charlie Brugler** for collecting the money. Scotty says he had an amazing night, and only now can he fully appreciate how hard bartenders work! Great job everyone!



Dawn Speiden with her bodyguard Scott, who it appears is about 8 months preggers.



Howie Shuck at home in Carpentersville. After the January meeting at Seven Bridges, MAGCS will host a fund-raiser to benefit Howie through the Wee One Foundation.

Don't know if you read *Golfdom* or not, but the November issue had an interesting story about GCSAA's Old Tom Morris Award and how it ended up for sale on Ebay. Christopher Gray, who wrote the article, was surfing Ebay looking for an iPod when he decided (as we all would) to type in "GCSAA." There was one item under the heading—an Old Tom Morris Award that was presented to the late Byron Nelson in 1994. To make a long story short (that's what we do here at Bull

Sheet), Gray made sure he was the winning bidder, paying \$142.50, and once it arrived he set about trying to get it back into the hands of the Nelson family. He contacted Steve Mona who put him in contact with Mr. Nelson's widow Peggy, and one thing led to another and the Nelson family was once again in possession of the award. So how, you may ask, did the award end up on Ebay? Peggy Nelson's best guess is that when they sold their vacation home in Kerrville, Texas, the award somehow got included in the items that were sold to a local thrift shop. The award was purchased—for a dollar—by a person who then put it on Ebay. So everyone ended up happy—Chris Gray helped get the award back to the Nelson family and the guy who sold it made a cool \$141.50. Alright, I thought it was a cool story.

It appears that the efforts to slow the cancellation of methyl bromide have worked. The chemical's manufacturers asked for a deadline of 2014 to allow for suitable alternatives to be developed. This was nixed by EPA, but the hope is that the agency will agree to at least a 3-4 year phase-out schedule. The worst-case scenario now is that methyl bromide will be done at the earliest at the end of 2011.

On the 4th of last month, 136 members attended the 57th Midwest Turf Clinic and Annual Meeting at beautiful Medinah Country Club (**Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** host). The day's education offerings were as diverse as they were enlightening, with morning moderator **Eric Mundt** (Prairie Landing GC) introducing MAGCS Class C members **Joe Schneider** (Beverly CC), **Steven Biehl** (Naperville CC), and **Josh Therrien** (St. Charles CC) for their unique perspectives; followed by **Jeff VerCautren's** talk about hosting the 2009 Solheim Cup at Rich Harvest Farms; and winding up with Stuart Lindsey's (Edgehill Consulting Group) controversial and eye-opening discussion on turf care in tough times. Before lunch the annual elections were conducted with the expert help of the **Eddies Fischer** and **Braunsky** as they always do. The new MAGCS Board of Directors consists of the following dedicated individuals: President **Scott Witte, CGCS**; Vice President **Dan Sterr**; Secretary/Treasurer **Harry Lovero**; Directors **Mike Siefken** and **Mark Thibault** (each with one year remaining in their terms), **Jim Keith, CGCS**, **Bob Kohlstedt**, and **Dave Groelle, CGCS** elected to two-year terms, and **Mike Mumper** elected to a one-year term, and **Tony Kalina** taking over as immediate past president. Congratulations and many thanks to these guys, and many thanks to **Dave Braasch** whose board duties are officially ended. After lunch the hardware was passed out, with the Ray Gerber Editorial Award going to Scott Witte, and the Fred D. Opperman Editorial Award going for a third time to **Greg Martin** (okay, the actual awards were not actually passed out to these guys since the person responsible for getting these awards made is getting older and more forgetful, and if I could remember his name I'd tell you) (okay, ME). Following the presentation of the invisible plaques, Tony Kalina presented his President's Award for Meritorious Service to **Mike Bavier**—a great choice for which a real plaque was actually presented to its recipient. Then there were the 25-year pins given to those who marked their 25th year as a

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member of MAGCS, who are **Ron Doruff, Al Pondel, CGCS, Tom Prichard, Joel Purpur, CGCS, Luke Strojny, Paul Wagner, and Vence Zolman**. Congratulations to these gents. Afternoon moderator Ed Braunsky took over and introduced Argonne's Doug Sisterton (the guy with the whip and something to do with sonic booms), followed by a panel discussion of MAGCS members who have taken on the dual role of superintendent/general manager of their respective facilities. These four panelists—**Tim Anderson, CGCS MG, Don Ferreri, Mike Matchen and Al Pondel, CGCS**—provided some truly interesting insight into what they do, what they didn't expect, and what they dislike most about their jobs. To wrap up the day, keynote speaker Jay Hilgenberg, all-pro center from the Bears 1985 Super Bowl team and owner of the Club at Strawberry Creek, shared his views on all things golf and football, taking many questions from the audience. In a nutshell, no, the Bears offensive line is not going to improve. Thanks go to Curtis Tyrrell and the staff at Medinah for their hospitality, to the day's speakers and moderators, and of course to the sponsors whose generosity made the day so great: **Arthur Clesen, Inc., Bayer Environmental Science, Great Lakes Turf, John Deere Golf & J. W. Turf, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc./Authorized Club Car Distributor, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., Palatine Oil Company, Quali-Pro, Reinders, Inc., and Syngenta Turf & Ornamental**. Thank you all!



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Medinah Country Club hosts the 57th Midwest Turf Clinic and the 82nd Annual Meeting of the Association.

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The Midwest's newest Board Members, Dave Grolle and Michael Mumper.



President Kalina (l to r) awards our 25 year members, Al Pondel, CGCS, Luke Strojny, CGCS and Joel Purpur, CGCS.



Scott Witte, CGCS captures the 2009 Ray Gerber Editorial Award for his work, "Something's Fishy at Cantigny". (Editorial Chariman, Harry Lovero, pictured right)



Dave Braasch is congratulated and thanked for his commitment to the Midwest. Thanks Dave for seeing it through even after your move to the North.



Author of "Golf's DNA", Greg Martin takes home the Fred Opperman Editorial Award for his contribution to On Course.



A smiling Mike Bavier, CGCS is awarded the Presidential Award from Tony Kalina for his generous contribution of time and talent to the Midwest.



Jay Hilgenberg laments over the Bears current struggles while sharing memorable stories of when the team had it.

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