

# THE BULL SHEET

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## November 2009

The golf course rating games continue, with *GolfWorld* magazine the latest entity to rank the nation's courses in its Readers' Choice Awards. Included are ratings for the top 50 public, private, and resort courses, and several MAGCS member clubs were recognized. In the Public arena, Bolingbrook Golf Club (**Jeff Gerdes**) grabbed the 28th spot, while in the Private category Oakland Hills Country Club South course (**Steve Cook, CGCS, MG**) placed 27th, Medinah Country Club's #3 course and **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** was 35th, and The Glen Club (**Steve Daurer**) snuck in at 50th. In the Resort Course slot, The Wilderness at Fortune Bay in Tower, MN with MAGCS member (he remains a member just to receive this magazine and keep in touch with civilization) **Vince Dodge, CGCS** overseeing its care took the 23rd position in the rankings. *Golf* magazine's 2009 rankings include these local gems: Chicago Golf Club (**Jon Jennings, CGCS**) at 15th, Oakland Hills South 18th, Medinah #3 at 36th, Shoreacres and **Tim Davis** #43, Olympia Fields North course (**Sam MacKenzie, CGCS**) at #86, newcomer Cog Hill #4 (**Ken Lapp**) at the 87th spot, and Butler National Golf Club (**Mike Sauls**) at #93. Finally, *Golf Digest* magazine's Top 100 for 2009 featured Chicago GC at 12th, Medinah #3 at 20th, Oakland Hills South was #23, Butler National 37th, Canyata (designed and built by **Bob Lohmann** and **Mike Benkusky**) was #42, Olympia Fields North 43rd, Rich Harvest Farms (**Jeff VerCautren**) 46th, and Shoreacres at the 74th ranking. Congratulations to these MAGCS members.

On September 24th, 24 members of MAGCS' finest Class C members held their annual golf outing at Aurora Country Club (**Virgil Range** host). It was a glorious autumn day for golf (as evidenced by the number of guys in shorts), and the

(continued on page 20)

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 4 – 57th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club, **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** host.
- November 9-10 – Midwest Regional Turf Foundation's Turf & Ornamental Seminar at the Daniel Center in West LaFayette, IN. Go to [www.mrtf.org](http://www.mrtf.org) for information.
- November 10-12 – Penn State Golf Turf Conference at the Nitany Lion Inn in University Park, PA.
- November 11 – Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents Annual Meeting and Budget Exchange at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove, IL, **Jeff VerCautren** host.
- November 16-17 – Burriss Equipment's Fall Service Schools at their Waukegan (16th) and Frankfort (17th) locations. Call your representative for details.
- December 2 – Annual South Side Superintendents Holiday Party at the Bier Stube in Frankfort, IL.
- December 3 – Iowa GCSA December Seminar at Willow Creek Golf Course in West DesMoines, IA.
- December 7-10 – Ohio Turfgrass Conference & Show at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, OH.
- December 14, 15, 16 **MAGCS/ITF Education Seminar at Midwest Golf House**, Dr. Frank Rossi, Mr. Len Conley, and many more will speak. GCSAA credits available.
- December 18 – Deadline to receive conference hotel rates for the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show.
- 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.
- February 5-7 – GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic in Palm Springs, CA.
- February 10 – Midwest Hospitality Reception – San Diego, CA – Exact locale TBD.

food, drink, and fellowship throughout the entire event were thoroughly enjoyed. Many thanks to everyone who participated, with a special nod to **Jan Jarvis** (Master of the Links) for his important contribution of adult beverages. Also thanks to Virgil and Aurora CC for hosting this always fun event.



Also held in late September, on the 28th, the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents held its annual Founder's Cup Invitational golf event at the very pristine Ruth Lake Country Club, with **Dan Marco, CGCS** and **Alan Hill** hosting. This event traditionally pairs CAGCS member superintendents with their invited guests, whether they be green chairmen, club presidents, or municipal officials in a two-man best ball format. It once again provided a great forum for employee and employer to interact away from work on a world-class golf course in a fun yet competitive environment. Many thanks to Dan and Alan and the fine folks at Ruth Lake for hosting, and to all the participants for making it a grand day.



*The wind proved to be the toughest opponent at the CAGCS' Founders Cup Invite.*



*Host Dan Marco, CGCS presented the course at its finest.*

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 Several months ago an item about a course somewhere in North Carolina using llamas as caddies appeared in Bull Sheet. Now we hear news from Silver Creek Valley Country Club in San Jose, CA that the trend toward using livestock to perform typical human employee tasks is gaining in acceptance. Superintendent Nick Checklenis hires a company

called California Grazing to keep several acres of hard-to-reach golf course rough "mowed." The livestock of choice? Goats. Checklenis says using goats is environmentally friendly (no fuel used or emissions other than some occasional flatulence), and they are fire-proof (no potential sparks igniting the dried grasses during drought periods). Right. Next thing you know we'll be hearing about people fertilizing their turf with chicken poop or something. Whatever.

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 On October 5th the MAGCS membership converged upon the Arrowhead Golf Club for its monthly meeting and Annual College Championship. Host **Mike Mumper** provided a perfect day (he was responsible for every facet including the weather) and a great golf course for the day's activities. The University of Illinois' **Dr. Bruce Branham** gave a quick "State of the Industry" address focusing on the declining number of turf students in college programs, citing the lack of new superintendent positions and the increased difficulty to either gain admission or afford college as key culprits. The talk then took a much more comical turn when Bruce brought up the completely LAME Fighting Illini football program and its current-season's struggles, citing the economic downturn as the key reason for the University's inability to afford good players. On the golf course things were a bit more upbeat for the Illini, as the orange and blue team of Tom Healy (Layne-Western), **Greg Rounds** (Sunset Ridge CC), **Justin VanLanduit** (Briarwood CC), and **Rick Wilson** (Glenview Park District) were crowned the 2009 MAGCS College Champions after their scintillating rounds of I don't know. By the way, if you found a pocket knife, it belongs to **Mark Gilmour** (JW Turf) and has great sentimental value, so give it back to him will ya? Thanks ever so to our host club and its superintendent Mike Mumper, to the combatants who waged war on Arrowhead's fine battlefield, and to the generous sponsors for the day for their support: **Bayer Environmental Science, Burris Equipment, John Deere Golf and JW Turf, Inc., Nadler Golf Car Sales/Authorized Club Car Distributorship, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., Palatine Oil Company, Quali-Pro, Reinders, Inc., and Syngenta Turf & Ornamental.**



*(L) Mike Mumper gets framed by Jim Keith, CGCS after hosting the MAGCS College Scramble.*

*(continued on page 23)*



*Dr. Bruce Branham gave MAGCS members an update on the University of Illinois turf program. He stayed away from the football team.*



*The University of Illinois celebrates one victory this year, the MAGCS College Champions.*

*(l to r) Tom Healy, Rick Wilson, Greg Rounds and Justin VanLanduit.*



*Mild Jim McNair traveled north (l) to knock it around Arrowhead GC. (r) MAGCS incoming VP, Dan Sterr.*



*Greg Coyne on the first tee has that look in his eye that it is going to be a long day.*



*Perennial partner of our host Dave Radaj sporting MSU green and white, or is it white and green?*



*Brian Bossert's CGCS, Danville Area Community College team(s) and 2008 MAGCS College Champions just couldn't get it going this year. Maybe it was bad luck to forget the trophy.*

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*Assistants Ryan Gilmore and Brian DiGise enjoy the day at Arrowhead.*



*Brian Winkel got half his school's color right. What happened to the dark blue Wink?*



*Penn State's Dave Blomquist (foreground) and Joel Purpur spent a lot of time looking for their balls in the rough.*



*VanLanduit puts one close, hoping his partner Rounds can sink the putt.*

coined event included training on sharpening reels with the Express Dual grinder and the Foley 670 grinder, comparing and contrasting both spin grinding and spin/relief grinding, with discussion and debate about the pros and cons of both methods. Thank you to the hosts and to all who participated in this interesting day.

Need some more education? The ITF is delivering to you. Mark your calendars for December 14-16, 2009 for high quality turf education, the kind you might find at IPTC. With the iTurfExpo this past summer, the ITF has planned three days of straight education for the turf pro. Mark your calendars today and look for info to come.

It was 1991 when RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) was founded with a new director and 12 members and a \$40,000 budget. Since that time, Allen James, RISE's first and only to date executive director has presided over its growth from that seedling organization to its current status with 5 full-time staffers, 200 members that account for more than 90% of the nation's specialty pesticide production, and a \$3 million annual budget. Mr. James will retire as of August, 2010, moving back to his home state of North Carolina with his wife Ann. You may remember Allen James for the presentation he gave at the 54th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic on the first of November, 2006, when he addressed the importance of establishing a grass-roots movement for preventing and challenging local municipalities' attempts to restrict product choice, along with the overall need for those in our industry to be more involved with local, state and federal government officials when decisions on pesticides are being considered. Mr. James will leave some very big shoes to fill, and the RISE board vows to find the right person for this important job. We at MAGCS wish Allen James all the best in his retirement.

With apologies for the Illini-heavy content of this issue, I turn this space over to **Craig Shepherd** (ProGro Solutions) for his recap of the Annual University of Illinois Turfgrass Alumni Golf Outing:

I woke up to the prospect of a glorious day of golf. It was "a balmy 40 degrees with rain in the forecast all day. After arriving at Coyote Run Golf Course in Flossmoor (**Dave Ward** host superintendent) and enjoying a couple of swing-lubricating cocktails, the U of I crew was ready to tee it up. Despite the weather there was still a great turnout (26 golfers) and a lot of fun to be had. I really advocate any alumni of any university to participate in their respective alumni events to see familiar faces and meet new ones. The format was a 4-man 2-best ball team event, and the winning team of **Gary Hearn, Scot Spier, Rick Wilson, and Brian Winkel** came in with a blistering 154. The proximity events were nearly swept by **Dan Anderson**, with the exception of **Dan Tully's** one victory that earned him the coveted helmet of shame. Many thanks to these alumni for donating prizes: **John Anderson** and Scot Spier (Arthur Clesen), Brian Winkel (Syngenta), **Jay Hensley** (Burriss Equipment), **Eric Reed** (BTSI), Craig Shepherd (ProGro Solutions), and **Greg Rounds** (Sunset Ridge CC).

Just a week later, members of the Turf Equipment Technicians Association (TETA) and their guests gathered at the Skokie Country Club's maintenance facility (**Don Cross, CGCS** and **Shaun Hill** hosts) for a day of technical education titled "Reel Sharpening—The Best of Both Worlds". The aptly-

Also big thanks to **Matt Kregel** (The Club at Strawberry Creek) for his dedication in organizing the event, and of course Dave Ward for hosting and providing some of the nicest greens we've seen all season.



*Host Dave Ward holds all the proximity event markers that he didn't win.*



*Dan Tully won the helmet, which came with a mandatory "invitation" to suit up against the Illini's next opponent.*



*The winning team of an invisible Scot Spier, Rick Wilson, Gary Hearn, and Brian Winkel are joined by ACES Alumni Association president Greg Oltman.*

Congratulations to James B. Hyler of Raleigh, NC on his nomination for presidency of the United States Golf Association (USGA) for 2010. The election of officers and the 15-member Executive Committee will take place on February 6th at the USGA's Annual Meeting in the Village of Pinehurst, NC.

Looks like the end is finally here for Methyl Bromide—EPA has demanded an immediate cancellation of its use on golf courses and has rejected a registrant proposal for a cancellation timetable to allow sufficient time for golf facilities

to adjust operations or implement alternatives. GCSAA is urging superintendents to contact their Congressional representatives to encourage EPA to accept the registrants' proposal for orderly cancellation.

GCSAA reminds you that registration for its 2010 Education Conference held in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show and its National Championship and Golf Classic are both open now. You can also book your room(s) for both—the deadline for GIS room reservations under the special conference rate is December 18th. You can access the various sites for the "Kick It West to Success" extravaganza, including information on the new schedule in San Diego at [gcsaa.org](http://gcsaa.org). And if you're really just out of things to do, you can start planning your Conference activities at the [golfindustryshow.com](http://golfindustryshow.com) web site by launching the "My Planner" feature which allows you to plan your sessions in advance, map your route across the show floor (in theory a useful tool; in reality, useless the minute the first hottie in a booth not on your route waves you over), communicate with exhibitors to set in-booth appointments, search the show by exhibitor or product categories, and manage your entire week using the Event Calendar. Have fun with all that.



*Cella goes to new heights for October's On Course. The aerial shots of Arrowhead were taken 91 feet above the course by Luke on a crane that just happened to be on property.*



*Joel and Nick's pooches make the dog calendar from Park Ridge Country Club. Who are you going to vote for?*