

THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



October 2009

Welcome to fall!

Also welcome to our newest MAGCS members:

Brad Garrett, Class C—Cleary Chemical Company

Keith Kaat, Class E—Champion Greens

Dan Koops, Class C—Country Club of Detroit

Eric Willey, Class C—Butler National Golf Club

Best of luck to you all!

Welcome to **Scott Stumm**, who is the new representative for Dow AgroSciences in our area.

Don't expect to receive GCSAA's Membership Directory and Source Book in its usual print version any time soon. The print version of the handy resource has been discontinued, and is replaced by an online digital version which will save a ton of money while reflecting our association's commitment to the environment. It will also feature live updates, so those pesky email changes throughout the year will be pesky no longer while you search for your long lost colleagues. Go to gcsaa.org to check your own information for accuracy, and to begin using this new resource.

While on the subject, GCSAA has announced its slate of candidates for the 2010 Board of Directors, and they are as follows (please note that ALL candidates are CGCS's, so I will conserve all the extra ink): President—James R. Fitzroy; Vice-President—Robert M. Randquist; Secretary/Treasurer—Patrick R. Finlen. For the two open Director seats: Robert O. Farren; Todd A. Lupkes; Bill H. Maynard; and Mike B. Wooten. Remaining for one more year: Peter J. Grass; Keith A. Ihms; and John J. O'Keefe. Mark D. Kuhns will be immediate past president, and David S. Downing II will retire from the board.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 5 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual College Team Championship at Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton, IL, **Mike Mumper** host.

October 14 – Annual University of Illinois Turf Alumni Golf Outing at Coyote Run Golf Course in Flossmoor, IL, **Dave Ward** host.

October 15 – Deadline for nominations for GCSAA's 2010 Excellence in Government Relations Awards. Go to gcsaa.org for an online nomination form.

October 18 – Deadline for nominations for GCSAA's and *Golf Digest's* Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards. Go to gcsaa.org for an online nomination form.

October 19 – Deadline for applications for the Bayer Environmental Science and Environmental Institute For Golf Superintendent Grant Program, which provides 5 superintendents who have not attended the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in the last two years a free trip to the 2010 show in San Diego, CA. Applications are available online at eifg.org.

October 26-27 – Midwest Golf Course Owners Association's 13th Annual Conference & Trade Show at the Prom Center in Oakdale, MN.

November 1 – Deadline for nominations for TurfNet's Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta.

November 4 – 57th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club, **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** host.

In a 2009 survey of Class A superintendents, GCSAA received a phenomenal 51.7 response rate which showed that Class A member salaries increased by 6.9% since 2007, that the average age of a golf course superintendent is 44 (uh oh), average years of experience is 13.5, average tenure is 8.5 years, and average staff size is 24. GCSAA sincerely hopes that this information will help to make you feel...average.

If you're not receiving all this information from GCSAA, you're probably not a member. Maybe you've figured it was just too complicated to fill out all that paperwork, or that it

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wasn't worth the stamp to send in your application. Whatever your reason, it just doesn't matter anymore—you can join GCSAA online and begin enjoying all the benefits of membership immediately. Guess where you can find it? Try gcsaa.org and I think you'll find what you are looking for.

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 Myth debunking 101: The popular myth I refer to is that purple martins eat half their body weight in mosquitoes each day (I've also heard 2,000 per day cited). During a gathering of the DuPage Birding Club at Cantigny Golf Club in July, purple martin expert Ray Feld shed some light on this complete fabrication. To wit (and to **Witte**—host superintendent **Scott** that is), the myth was originally perpetuated by the author of a book about martins who also happened to sell purple martin houses, making the book a great sales tool. In fact martins do eat mosquitoes, but they comprise only .03% of their diet. Truth is they eat dragonflies and other flying insects that offer larger doses of protein. Don't let this stop you from keeping martin houses on your courses, though—they're still fun to watch as they divebomb and circle your cart while making your rounds.

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 Great news for the MAGCS scholarship Fund—the 9th Annual John Buck Scholarship Outing held in July at Pinecrest Golf Club in Huntley netted \$3,892.39 for our future scholars. Great job by everyone who had a part in this event.

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 Be on the lookout for MAGCS podcasts which will be coming soon to a PC (or Mac) near you.

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 Congratulations to former MAGCS member Tom Brodeur on his beautiful TPC Boston golf course during his hosting of the PGA Tour's second event of the FedExCup Playoffs (Deutsche Bank Championship) in early September.

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 Not to be outdone, **Ken Lapp** and his staff unveiled the new Rees Jones-renovated Dubsdread course at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club to the world for the BMW Championship in mid-September to huge accolades. That course was simply spectacular during the tournament (as it was a couple weeks before when Chicagoland Turf's iTurf Classic was held in conjunction with the iTurf Expo—more on that later), and it really did us all proud. Renovations or no, the result of the tournament was eerily familiar, with Tiger lapping the field enroute to victory. I think that guy is no flash in the pan. Congratulations to Ken, **Frank Jemsek** and everyone at Cog Hill for hosting a great international event.



Ken's crew works in the divot mix in the landing areas to create a smooth and clean look.



O'Hair finds himself waist deep in one of the new fairway bunkers on the 10th at Dubs.



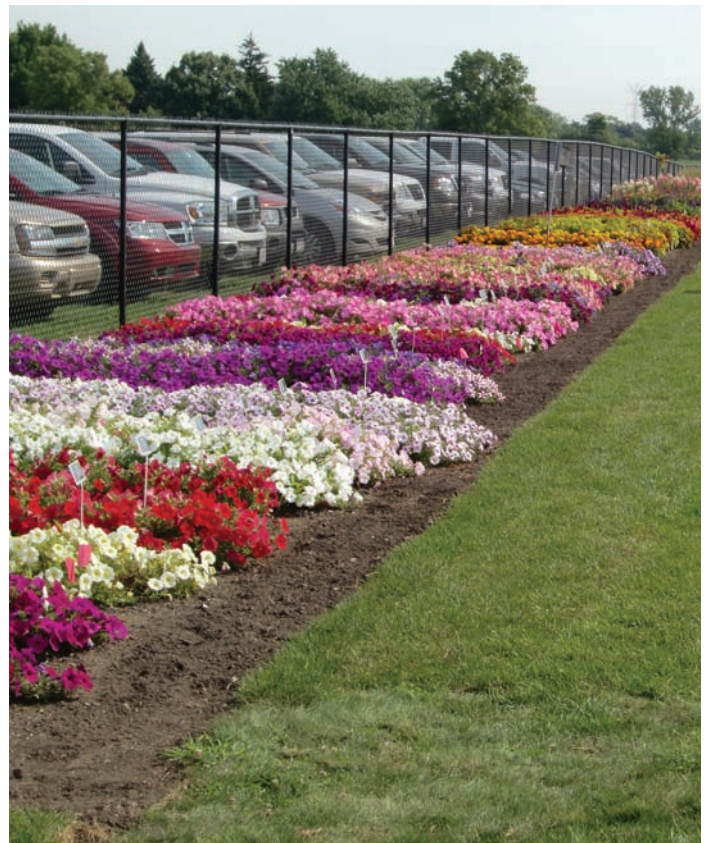
Tiger was sweating on day one. By the end of day three, not so much.



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On August 25th and 26th the inaugural iTurf Expo was held at Midwest Golf House and Sunshine Course in Lemont. This event—a first-ever combination of the IPTC and the Midwest Field Day into one unified entity—featured over 50 companies displaying their wares in the outdoor trade show, turf research updates direct from the plots, product and equipment demos, hands-on training and instruction for a variety of topics, annual flower trials, and the iTurf Golf Classic on Dubsdread, to name a few things. The price was right (at \$50 per member), the weather was mostly cooperative, and the first rendition of this promising event got off the ground running. Thanks to everyone involved for their tireless work in putting this event together!



The annual flower trials provided some color.



Padraig finishes his first hole of the tournament ready to tackle the rest of Dubsdread.



Dr. Settle gets down and dirty with his research plots.

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Kevin DeRoo demos the latest in greens mowers.



Mike Mumper sends his approach shot into the 18th green on Dubsdread.



President Tony Kalina receives one big check from the "Friends of Phoenix" (Rick Grant and Rick Bowden) for the MAGCS Scholarship Fund.



November 1st is the deadline for TurfNet's Superintendent of the Year Award nominations. Presented by Syngenta, this award recognizes superintendents who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to provide excellent playing conditions under trying circumstances. In the past 10 years, MAGCS has had two members achieve this honor—**Paul Voykin** of Briarwood Country Club in 2003 and **Sam MacKenzie, CGCS** of Olympia Fields Country Club in 2008. The award will be presented at the Golf Industry Show in San Diego in February.

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 You hear about it every day. You're either into it or you're out of it. It's Twitter, and you can now follow *Golfdom* on it. After you've finished deleting your unwanted emails and responding to the ones you need to, and after you've checked your Facebook page and your MySpace stuff, and after you've connected with all your Linked In buddies, and after you've spent some time on your bookmarked web sites (whatever that may entail), you can now tweet on Twitter and follow Larry Aylward and the crew at *Golfdom* magazine. Wasn't this internet thing supposed to SAVE time? I'm showing my age, aren't I?

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Congratulations to MAGCS member **Rick Jacobson** (Jacobson Golf Course Design Inc.) on the recent opening of his newest course. Bowes Creek Country Club was christened in late September in Elgin, IL. It is a rustic, prairie-style design featuring fescue eyebrows on bunkers which will act as an extension of the naturalistic look of the adjacent landscape, rather than a manufactured look. Future MAGCS meeting site?



MAGCS sends its sincerest condolences to **Ken Shepherd** and **Craig Shepherd** on the loss of Ken's father and Craig's grandfather Donald "Shep" in September.

On September 8th, Kemper Lakes Golf Club and **Dan Tully** hosted the MAGCS Golf Championship. On a perfect day for golf and on a perfectly manicured course the battle was contested on a field that surely befitted its name—there were MANY lakes and I believe that just the balls that I hit into them must have raised the water level an inch or more. My own game aside, there was some very good golf played that day, and at its end the champions had been crowned. Congratulations to **Brian Racette** of Lincolnshire Country Club on being this year's MAGCS Golf Champion and new possessor of the famed chair. Also congratulations to Bob Kronn of Woodstock Country Club on winning the Senior Championship and to **Mike Hatton** of E Z Go/Textron on winning the Commercial Championship. Thank you to Dan Tully and his crew, to the participants, and to the generous sponsors for the day who were Irrigation Rx, **JW Turf/ John Deere Golf, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc./Authorized Club Car Distributor, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc.,** and **Quali-Pro**.



Our generous sponsors.



Luke Cella tries out a hazard of another kind.



Luke indicates his score on that last hole.



Scott Witte attempts to hit over one of those consarned lakes.



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Kurt Sams and MAGCS 2009 Golf Champion, Brian Racette.



Host Dan Tully (l) accepts his framed cover of "On Course" after happily hosting the MAGCS 2009 Championship.

pated taco stand and brat stand and of course those crazy greens that are absolutely impossible to read. I am convinced that if you can confidently putt Rod Johnson's greens, you can putt anywhere in the world. Conditions were the usual perfect, and another great day on a great course was enjoyed by everyone in attendance. And of course, the real winners were those whose families benefit from the great cause—to remember Wayne Otto (the Wee One) by helping others in our industry with overwhelming medical bills. The Wee One Foundation currently has over 350 members in 17 states, and has gifted more than \$250,000 to families in Arizona, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, and North Carolina. You can become a member by going to weeone.org. Thanks to Rod and the staff at Pine Hills, to the volunteers who ran the registration table and the 9th hole event, to everyone who contributed to the cause by attending, and to the day's wonderful sponsors for their undying support of a truly great cause.



Pine Hills clubhouse over looks the course.



The pines and hills of Pinehills.

Later in September, on the 21st, the 6th Annual Wee One Golf Outing was held at a very piney and hilly Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, Wisconsin with Rod Johnson hosting on a day that started just plain bad for Wisconsin folks what with the Pack losing to the Bengals the day before while the Bears prevailed over the Steelers. This event has become like a visit to an old friend with the anti-



Host Rod Johnson, CGCS addresses the group and thanks members of the Wee One Foundation.



Jason Lemanski coils up.



Chad Papke shares a laugh after the golf.



MAGCS member Mike Mumper shows off his fine form. Go Bears!



Andy Weadge travelled by air to Sheboygan courtesy of his green chair Jim Thrope (r).



What taco stand is complete with a pair of maracas?

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