



THE BULL SHEET
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

August 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 2-7 – 108th Western Amateur Championship at Skokie Country Club in Glencoe, IL, **Don Cross, CGCS, Steve Jump** and **Chuck Totten** hosts.

August 9-15 – PGA Championship at Whistling Straits in Kohler, WI.

August 11 – Ohio State University Turfgrass Research Field Day in Columbus, OH. Go to www.ohioturfgrass.org for details.

August 15 – Deadline for nominations for the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation's Distinguished Service Award.

August 21 – The BigPar3 contest. Hope you're one of the hosts.

August 31 – Deadline for the call for presentations at the 2011 GCSAA Education Conference in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FL.

September 1 – CAGCS Founder's Cup Invitational at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove, IL, **Jeff VerCautren, Brian Christopher, Aaron Harvey,** and **Scott Resetich** hosts.

September 6-12 – The BMW Championship at Cog Hill golf & Country Club in Lemont, IL, **Ken Lapp, Frank Jemsek,** and **Frank Latzko** hosts.

September 8 – Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Golf Day at Brickyard Crossing in Indianapolis, IN. Go to www.mrtf.org for info.

September 16 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Naperville Country Club, **Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG** and **Steven Biehl** hosts.

September 22 – Second Annual iTurf Expo at Midwest Golf House and Sunshine Course in Lemont, IL. All the important info can be found at www.iturfexpo.com

September 29-October 1 – Green Start Academy 2010 presented by John Deere Golf and Bayer Environmental Science in Clayton and Fuquay-Varna, NC.

October 4 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Cantigny Golf Club, with **Scott Witte, CGCS, Jeremy Duncan, Mark Kosbab, Steve Kuretsky, John Maksymiu, Tom Weigand,** and **Mike Nass** hosts.

"We have all lost a good friend." **Dennis Wilson**, longtime superintendent at Sunset Ridge Country Club, lost his battle with cancer on July 22nd. His wife Pat was gracious enough to provide us with periodic updates on Dennis' condition, and had this to say: "We were all with him at the time. His passing was very peaceful as compared to how this illness was. He is now at peace—God blessed us." I consider it a blessing to have known the man, and I'll miss him.

The big story locally (and practically worldwide) at the time this is being written is the extreme weather we have been experiencing. The crazy rains of June gave way to crazy heat and humidity in July, culminating in a calamitous and crazy cascade of biblical proportions, with many in the area getting over 6 inches of rain causing some crazy things to happen to turf. That being said, I hope everyone is surviving as best as they can, and I would be remiss if I didn't send out our thanks to the good doctor **Derek Settle** and the boys at Golf House for keeping superintendents, the people they answer to, their golfers, and their product suppliers informed of what is happening through the weekly scouting reports they all receive. And let's not forget **Ty McClellan**, our USGA agronomist who has also published informative articles on the Regional Updates section of usga.org. These guys tend to be forgotten in summers like 2008 and 2009, but when the defecation contacts the rotary oscillator as it has this summer, their assistance and expertise are invaluable in keeping our industry and its customers abreast of the situation. Thanks, guys!

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Good segue here—turf issues. Have you ever seen so much ridiculous press about goofy-looking turf as you did in the aftermath of the U. S. Open at Pebble Beach? There was even a survey—“Pebble’s Greens: Awesome or Awful?”—on one of our industry publication’s web site. In case you were wondering, Awful was the winner. A poll of superintendents showed that 38% thought they were awful, 35.5% felt they looked great, and 26.5% were indifferent, saying the look of the *Poa annua* greens at Pebble Beach during the U. S. Open didn’t bother them. Silly. The whole thing just seems silly.

Another survey—and one which actually was useful—was conducted by the USGA, asking golf course professionals in light of the present economy where they would (or already have) reduce(d) spending first. Ten typical budget areas were listed, and superintendents rated them in order from most likely to cut funding to least. The ten areas were: Tree care, Tees, Fairways, Roughs, Approaches, Turf areas surrounding the green (excluding approaches), Club grounds, Ornamentals, Bunkers, and Greens. Survey SAID: Obviously, greens were the LAST place where cuts were planned or made, and ornamentals and tree care were the big losers. The results were expected, with in-play GOLF areas not being cut and out-of-play areas, ornamentals, and trees getting whacked first. If nothing else, the survey served to reinforce the decision already made by many of us at our own courses.



Did I mention the Hawks won the Stanley Cup? They did, and it was all because of the great ice at the UC.

Congratulations to **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** who recently achieved recertification through GCSAA. Another little something Dan has been keeping busy with—as if the guy needs more to keep him busy—is assisting with the Environmental Institute for Golf’s new IPM Planning Guide now available to all in the industry at www.eifg.org/ipmguide. Dan and Chicago Golf Club’s **Jon Jennings, CGCS** were two of five superintendents to serve on the panel which included many top industry scientists that developed this resource. The idea behind the IPM Planning Guide is to provide golf facilities with a template to guide them toward the development and implementation of IPM plans that meet their environmental, agronomic, and budgetary goals. Superintendents are encouraged to print off the instructions, forms, and references and then maintain a notebook where adjustments and updates can be added to their facilities’ personal IPM Planning Guide documents. All you need to do to start using this valuable tool is to go to the above address and begin by completing the signup

information to access the Guide. Great work Dan, Jon and all others who made this a reality.

Illinois Turfgrass Foundation has two big events on the horizon, and your participation in both would be a true benefit to turfgrass research in Illinois. First, the BigPar3—a closest-to-the-flag contest to be held simultaneously on courses across Chicagoland—takes place this month on the 21st, with alternate dates on the weekend before (the 14th) or after (the 28th). Created to inspire camaraderie amongst courses/clubs, create a fun and challenging competition, and raise money to help support the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, the event asks nothing more than a \$10 donation from all golfers wishing to participate during their normal round on the designated date. Host course responsibilities are very minor—collect donation money, record participant information, and measure and record the distance from where the ball lands to the hole. It’s a great opportunity for superintendents and assistants to spend a portion of their Saturday with their golfers, spreading the good word about the ITF and the value of the turfgrass research it conducts. Next on the agenda, the 2nd Annual iTurf Expo will take place at a Midwest Golf House and the Sunshine Course in Lemont. This year will be a one-day event with vendors and distributors on hand to answer questions and demonstrate their latest and greatest products, access to the most recent research being conducted at Golf House, and a few new twists to make it a day well worth attending. Check out www.iturfexpo.com for information and registration.

Our industry lost a true friend and legend last month when George Ware, the ultimate tree guru and 40-year Morton Arboretum expert passed away at 86 years of age. Mr. Ware was a champion in selecting and developing trees with superior hardiness and other positive characteristics for our area. His most important contributions revolved around the development of resistant elm trees to replace the American elms lost to Dutch Elm Disease, such as the Accolade, the Triumph, and the Commendation elms. Rest in peace.

Congratulations are due to MAGCS’ own **Tommy Robinson** of Ravinia Green Country Club who qualified for his second U.S. Senior Open Championship when he sank a birdie putt to win a sudden death playoff for third place in a sectional qualifier held at Inverness Golf Club on June 28th. Tommy played in the Open in 2008 as well, and was headed to Sahalee Country Club in Sammamish, Washington for the July 29-August 1 championship. Enjoy the wild west, Tommy!



This year’s version of Tommy Robinson. Sahalee is out west. Cowboys are from out west. Get it?

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A big friend of the Chicagoland golf scene is retiring. *Chicago Sun Times* writer Len Ziehm is calling it a career after 40 years on the daily beat. Although he is leaving the *Sun Times*, Len can still be found in the pages of Chicago Area Golf magazine, contributing his unique insights into the world of golf in Chicago.



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Anyone else have a mechanic with imagination?

An old acquaintance of MAGCS is being honored this month in Milwaukee. Rick Elyea, the one-time Scott's representative who currently works for JacklinGolf will receive the Perry Dye Service Award from the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBAA) on the 12th at its summer meeting and annual awards dinner. Elyea has served as vice president and secretary on the board of directors for GCBAA and secretary/treasurer of the GCBAA Foundation, as well as serving on numerous committees for the board over the past 20 years. Congratulations to Rick.

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 GCSAA is asking for your help in a new undertaking that was launched in the July issue of *GCM*, their monthly publication. "The Final Shot," which is found fittingly on the final page of each issue, will serve as a showplace for the photographic talents of GCSAA superintendents. Based on the fact that every superintendent's cart has a digital camera tucked away somewhere, this new feature hopes to discover our brethren's hidden artistic sides through their cameras. What kind of photos are they looking for? That's up to you, but they do ask that you don't submit one of the kid's birthday party or the winter trip to Vail. Ideally, they are looking for shots that depict the day-to-day work of the superintendent in the most artistic manner possible, blending the beauty of the game with the dedication of the profession. Vague, but you get the idea. Send low-resolution pics to thefinalshot@gcsaa.org or to Editor Scott Hollister at shollister@gcsaa.org.

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 Some local boys got famous in TurfNet recently, and mugged for the camera.



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Allen Parkes and crew from The Traditions at Chevy Chase in Wheeling were featured in last month's "Where's TurfNet?"

Another MAGCS member that made the "papers" was **Valerie Lawrence**, the superintendent of Columbus Park, Marquette Park, and Douglas Park Golf Courses for Billy Casper Golf and the Chicago Park District. Valerie's story—which made mention of her uniqueness in our industry as a female superintendent, estimated to be less than one percent of superintendents nationwide—was told in the July edition of *Chicago District Golfer*, in an article titled "Golf in the City" by Amy Parker.



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Valerie Lawrence

Congratulations to **Brian Kimbrough** of River Forest Country Club on being part of the second place team at the John Deere Pro-Am at TPC Deere Run last month. Brian and 2 other superintendents teamed with John Deere's Rob Wasser and PGA Tour pro Ted Purdy to card a net 57. Nice.



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Brian Kimbrough

This is what NASCAR does to otherwise normal people. OK, I use the word "normal" liberally (and certainly NOT literally).



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Yup. Nascar. Ya git all kinds.

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Casting call for the part of Warren in "There's Something About Mary". Neither got the gig.

The 10th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing—already 10!—was held at Crystal Woods Golf Club in Woodstock on the 29th of June. The outing is all about two things—having fun and raising money for scholarships. Beneficiaries of the day's fun and games, besides the participants, are the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation, the Northwest Illinois GCSA Scholarship Fund and the MAGCS Scholarship Fund. This year's rendition featured everything we've become accustomed to—a great venue, some great people, great food, and great times for everyone. Thank you to everyone involved in making the day grand!



The lovely roving photographers Amanda (Angela) Keaty, her younger sister Julianna (Steffanie) Keaty, and the original Celina Gomez—Kayce DeRoo.



VERY good hula hoop work.



The circle of hula hooping friends.





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Simple Solutions at Ruth Lake Country Club
(continued from page 15)

Grass clippings, autumn leaves, and other small plant debris also piles up over the course of the year. We try to minimize the clippings and leaves that we collect by using mulching decks on all of our mowers. We also throw as many clippings as we can into our rough areas. However, they still pile up because we don't have enough out-of-the-way areas. We have to get this sort of debris hauled away periodically. It would be great to be able to store small plant debris in a compost pile, but we just don't have the room and our neighbors probably wouldn't appreciate the sight or smell of it. So we try to find companies that will take this material and recycle it into compost instead of sending it to the landfill. Because this small plant debris is the only type of material we have hauled away, it lowers our overall cost for hauling. We are recycling and reusing the materials that we can.

Recycling is just one of the ways we are striving to become a greener facility. We still have a lot of work to do in becoming "more green," but that's what keeps pushing us to come up with new ideas and to refine the practices that we've started. Recycling is not always an easy thing to do. It takes a little more time and in some cases a little more money. It is worth it in the long run. It's worth knowing that we are doing what is right for our environment and keeping up with the demands of society.

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