



Couple quick reminders from GCSAA. First, you already should have received an email (or several) regarding the Member Needs Assessment survey currently being conducted. It contains a link to a survey that doesn't take very long at all to complete, and could help the association plan for the future in many important areas. Plus you get .25 service points for participating. Second, the biennial Compensation and Benefits survey is on its way to your PC if not already there. This survey generates valuable demographic information that in the end gets you laughed at when using it to try for a raise, but it's still fun to see the results, and you only get to see them if you take part. Oh, and you get another .25 Service Points for this one, too, which is nice.

While we're here, GCSAA President James R. Fitzroy, CGCS recently announced a reorganization of the association's programs and services, along with some significant staff cuts. Among those leaving are Bonnie Stephenson, a 36-year employee who held a variety of positions with the association, most recently serving as director of conference events and meeting planning. Teri Harris, the Director of Development for the Environmental Institute for Golf departs after 20 years, as does 14-year Editor-in-Chief of GCM Ed Hiscock and 9-year director of research Clark Throssel, Ph.D.

Surely you are familiar with the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation and the wonderful work they do for people with mental and physical challenges as well as disabled veterans.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

December 3 – Annual West Side Holiday Party at Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge, IL, **Don Ferreri** and **Dave Gelino** hosts.

December 6 – Annual South Side Superintendents Holiday Party at Chef Klaus Bier Stube in Frankfort, IL. **Eddie Esgar** and **Keith Peterson** are once again hosting the event.

December 6-9 – Ohio Turf Conference and Show at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, OH. Go to www.ohioturfgrass.org for info.

December 14-15 – ITF Winter Education Days at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL. www.illinoisturfgrassfoundation.org

January 5-7 – Northern Green Expo at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, MN. For info, go to www.northerngreenexpo.org.

January 10-12 – Great Lakes Trade Exposition at the DeVos Center in Grand Rapids, MI. Visit www.glte.org for details.

January 14 – Deadline for submissions to *Golf, Inc.*'s Annual Clubhouse of the Year competition. Yes, there is actually a "clubhouse of the year" competition, but it only applies to clubhouses opened between January 1, 2009 and December 1, 2010. Whole buncha those around here, huh?

January 18-20 – 2011 Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show at the Polk Convention Complex & Marriott Hotel in Des Moines, IA. Try www.iowaturfgrass.org for more info.

January 19 – MAGCS January Meeting and Wee One Fundraiser – Seven Bridges Golf Club, Don Ferreri and Dave Gelino hosts.

January 19-20, – Mid-Am Expo in Chicago, IL. Visit www.midam.org to learn more.

February 4-6 – The 61st GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic presented in partnership with The Toro Co. in Palm Beach, FL.

February 7-11 – GCSAA Education Conference in Orlando, FL.

The foundation has announced a new way to become involved—the Commemorative Brick Program at the Midwest Golf House. This program allows people to purchase personalized bricks in two different sizes (4x8 and 8x8 inches) to be installed adjacent to the front entrance of Golf House. To learn more about this tax-deductible program, go to www.sunshinethroughgolf.org, or you can contact Alex Nolly at 630-685-2351 or anolly@cdga.org.

Congratulations to Tina and **Chuck Barber**, whose family just got a lot bigger after the birth of their second child on November 22nd. The Barbers were blessed with a daughter, Molly Michelle, who popped into the world at 7 lbs., 12 ozs., and 21 inches long. And then came the inlaws, and thus the MUCH bigger family.



Molly Michelle Barber

The MAGCS 2011 dues renewal is underway, and anything you can do to expedite your membership renewal will allow your association to continue to offer you the finest in association thingies. It will also allow us to pay bills and Bull Sheet writers, so please either follow the link on one of those emails you get, or go to magcs.org and figure it out. I thank you. My family thanks you. Our creditors thank you. You get the picture.

Oh, and ditto for ITF—please renew your membership ASAP.

Leave it to MAGCS members to lead the way once again. We reported previously that GCSAA was holding the TurfWars: Battle of the Budgets Video Contest and that the deadline for submissions was November 30th. Turns out that two of the first three submissions came from our own **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** of North Shore Country Club and **John Ekstrom** of Hinsdale Golf Club. Their videos can be viewed at GCSAA TV (go to gcsaa.org and click on the link), but in a nutshell, Dan's "Keep Cart Revenue Rolling" described his efforts to pay extra attention to cart wear areas in order to allow carts to remain in use even if conditions are not favorable for it. John's video, titled "Visual Improvement Program," details HGC's program that standardizes 12 different maintenance areas to create expectations and improve maintenance practices through ratings, charts, and photos. Way to go, trendsetters!

Congratulations to Martin Implementation Sales, Inc. on celebrating their Grand Re-Opening and 65th Anniversary on November 4th and 5th at their South Elgin location.

If you are a smartphone user and are attending the Golf Industry Show in Orlando in February, there is an application that will streamline your experience. Golf Industry Show Connection has a whole bunch of cool tools to make your show experience the best it can be. It's available for iPhone, Android, Blackberry, and any smartphone that has web-browser capability. Ask your smartphone how to download the app. Not while you're driving, though.

The Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS) held its Annual Meeting on November 11th at its traditional location—The Oak Park Country Club with **Al Fierst** serving as host. At this meeting, the annual election of officers was held, and the board of directors for 2011 is made up of the following individuals: President—**Dan Marco, CGCS**; Vice President—**Dave Ward**; Treasurer—**Jeff VerCautren**; Secretary—**Jeff Frenz, CGCS**; Directors—**Don Cross, CGCS** and **Dave Radaj, CGCS**. Immediate Past President is **Tommy Witt, CGCS**. Congratulations to these gentlemen.

The November 3rd issue of GOLF WEEK magazine featured another of those lists we all aspire to be on (no, not the list of Jennifer Anniston's exes). The 2011 GOLF WEEK'S Best Resort Courses list included a few of MAGCS' own, with **Vinny Dodge, CGCS** and The Wilderness at Fortune Bay in Tower, MN coming in at #43; Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa's The General course (**Tom Tully, CGCS**) ranked 91st; and The Glen Club and **Scott Goniwiecha** edging in at 98th. Congrats, guys!

Making another one of those lists was The Chicago Highlands Club and **Michael Heustis**, whose 344-yard ninth hole made *Golf Digest's* 2010 Golf Hole of the Year as part of the magazine's list of Best New Courses. The hole is shaped like a volcano, up a steady rise from the tee to a hilltop green surrounded by slopes of tightly-mowed turf. So basically it's like hitting a ball onto the top of a Hershey's Kiss, where if you miss the mark, your ball rolls 60 yards down, either toward you or away from you. Ouch!

Also caught in print was an article in the October issue of *Club & Resort Business* magazine titled "Putting Down—and Bringing Up—Proper Roots" featuring Naperville Country Club's **Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG** and **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** of North Shore Country Club. The article detailed the turf varieties Tim used in his recent renovation at NCC, along with Dan's work with the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) at North Shore. Definitely worth a read—nice work, Tim and Dan.

This item was "stolen" from *Verdure*—the official publication of CAGCS. It seems that earlier this season at Coyote Run Golf Course, a part-time employee named Dave had a little "brain-fart" much like we've all seen on our own courses, forgetting to set the parking brake on a sand rake. Here is the result...

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Again, nothing new and different, except for the post-booboo treatment this guy's boss **Dave Ward** inflicted upon him. Not only did he ask the employee to go back in the pond and pose for this photo, he also held a caption contest

among all the Homewood-Flossmoor full-time employees, with judging being done by a couple ladies who work in the Park District's main office. Lesson here: If you screw up while working for Dave, just leave the machine where it ended up and run away, never to return. Oh, and the winning caption? A beauty: "Trying to impress a foursome of female golfers who were putting out on the 16th green, Dave flexes his biceps, sucks in his gut and drives the bunker rake into the pond."

A true icon of golf in Chicagoland celebrated a huge milestone last month when Samuel Henry "Errie" Ball was guest of honor at his 100th birthday party. Errie Ball left his native Wales over 75 years ago at the behest of his friend Bobby Jones to come to Georgia to play in the first Augusta National invitation tournament. He is now the lone survivor of the 72 men who played in the first of what would be known for the rest of history as The Masters. Throughout his impressive career, Mr. Ball played in over 50 Majors, including 20 U.S. Opens, 18 PGA Championships, and he dominated the Illinois PGA Section during his long tenure at several Chicagoland clubs including 30 years as teaching pro at Oak Park Country Club followed by 27 years at Butler National. Amazingly, when this guy shoots his age these days, he considers it a bad round. Happy Birthday from MAGCS to Errie Ball—a legend and an inspiration.

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Samuel Henry "Errie" Ball

So. Is the Big Boy nothing more than a classic American fast food icon, or is it really **Mark Petitgoue** in funny pants schlepping lunch? You be the judge...



Buy your fertilizer now. The USDA's corn forecast—recently adjusted downward 3.6 percent—caused a ripple effect that could be felt in our business and others that rely on nitrogen-based fertilizers. The thinking is this—the forecast sent corn futures soaring to near \$6 per bushel, a price that encourages farmers to plant more corn, which in turn requires increased nutrients. That means the jump in worldwide demand for nitrogen increases costs to fertilizer producers. Just thought I'd give you a little holiday cheer.

Speaking of fertilizer producers, the Lebanon Turf 2011 Dog Days of Golf Calendar is out, and we are more than well-represented. The stars of December, 2010 are **Erwin McKone's** Barney and Ralphie, and July, 2011's poster-child is **Dan Dinelli's** Chesapeake Bay retriever Coco. Cast your ballot for the 8th Annual Dog of the Year Contest at the Lebanon Turf booth (#953) at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando and you might just help get Lebanon to donate \$3,000 to MAGCS, along with \$500 to the winner's local Humane Society. Let's get it done!



Coco, North Shore Country Club's entry into the dog calendar.



Barney and Ralphie
Briar Ridge Country Club
Owner: Erwin McKone

Barney and Ralphie from Briar Ridge Country Club made the 2011 calendar too.

Guest writer and new dad Chuck Barber has the following synopsis of the day at Medinah for our 58th Midwest Turf Clinic and Annual Meeting:

Wednesday November 3rd was the 58th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic and Annual Meeting. My favorite part is the food and the breakfast and lunch didn't disappoint. **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** of Medinah Country Club was our host and it was a great day. MAGCS Past President **Scott Witte, CGCS**, started off the day wrapping up 2010's MAGCS events as well as a brief talk about the state of the association: "We're doing OK". Couldn't have put it better myself.

Andy Perry, non-CGCS assistant superintendent from Black Sheep Golf Club, was the A.M. moderator and led the discussion with first year superintendents **Scott Verdun** of Kenosha Country Club, **Ben McGargill** of Wynstone Golf Club and **Nick Leu** of Blackstone Golf Club. I for one found it very comforting that although 2010 was a difficult year for a variety of reasons all three rookie superintendents relied on their past experiences and were prepared as best they could be for tough situations. All three panelists shared a variety of thoughts on how they were able to manage their golf facilities in 2010.

OK, all these guys are certified so I'm skipping with the acronym, got it? **Jeff Frentz** of Lake Shore Country Club, **Henry Michna** of Winnetka Golf Club and **Dave Ward** of Coyote

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Run Golf Club spoke about the variety of ways they communicate electronically for their jobs. Henry's blog (<http://wgcsuperintendent.blogspot.com/>) combined golf course and wildlife information, some course care tips and tidbits about the goings-on at Winnetka Golf Club. Dave Ward shared his page on the Flossmoor Park District's web site (<http://www.coyoterungolf.com/courseconditions.html>) and he incorporates course conditioning with Dave's signature wit, wisdom and some other thing that begins with "W". Jeff Frenz didn't share anything cool like pictures or web sites but he did key us in to the most important part of the discussion that overwhelming anyone with emails or electronic communications too frequently dilutes the message: "I have something to say and I just say it". Well done, Jeff.

After lunch (I remember mentioning the lunch) The Fred Opperman Award given to the best article written by someone who ISN'T a golf course superintendent was presented. Congratulations to Naperville Country Club's **Steven Biehl** on winning the award for his article "The Superintendent's Five-Foot Shelf." The Ray Gerber Editorial Award—given to the best superintendent-written article—is typically presented at the Clinic; however, there was not a sufficient number of entries this year. Hello! Start writing, guys! **Donald Ferreri** gave a chapter delegate update that basically said the GCSAA was going to raise dues \$20, the CEO search continues, and Donald LOVES going to Kansas. After Don's riveting update **Vence Zolman** received his 25 year recognition pin. Congratulations and thanks for the support all these years, Vence.

Scott Witte then awarded not one but TWO Meritorious Service Awards to **Tony Kalina** of Prairie Landing Golf Club and MAGCS Executive Director, **Luke Cella**. Tony served the MAGCS board for 8 years and the association itself for much longer and we all owe Tony and Luke a debt of gratitude for their hard work on our behalf. Thank you for your service.

Luke Cella then dove straight into the world of social networking and how we as an association, we as members of the association, and we as individuals network together. The number of people involved in Facebook, Twitter, Classmates, etc is truly staggering and it illustrates how fast the way we interact with one another is changing (www.facebook.com/pages/magcs/381056766906). Gary Campbell and Russ Blogg (not BLOG, blog, but Blogg) of AgriEnergy Resources, followed up Luke's presentation with some interesting thoughts on soil microbiology, beneficial fungi and bacteria and ways to improve organic matter content. Most interesting in their presentation was a minor increase in organic matter can provide dramatic increases in soil nutrients that could potentially save fertilizer inputs as OM increases. Got all that?

Dan Roan, WGN-TV's sports director and anchor shared some of his experiences with the group for the Keynote Address. In Dan's words he owes his career in sports casting and much of his personal life to golf. Growing up in Keokuk, Iowa Dan competed against future PGA Tour star D.A. Weibring and was good enough to receive a golf scholarship to Illinois State. He fell into broadcasting on accident on a Christmas break at ISU and it's been full steam ahead ever since. He shared some

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stories about playing golf in Iceland.....all day and all night, memories of Walter Payton and the Jordan Bulls and a life in golf. It was a great wrap-up to a terrific day. Thanks to one and all for contributing, hosting and attending.

The annual election also took place at the Clinic, and your Board of Directors for 2011 is comprised of the following dedicated (and crazy) individuals: **Dan Sterr**, President; **Bob Kohlstedt**, Vice President; **Jim Keith**, CGCS Secretary/Treasurer; Directors **Mike Mumper**, **Dave Groelle**, **CGCS**, **John Nelson**, **Dave Kohley**, and **Chuck Barber** (big Chuck Barber month, no?), and **Scott Witte**, CGCS who now takes the much-coveted title of "Immediate Past President." Congratulations/condolences and most importantly, thanks to all of these guys. Also, thank you to outgoing Directors **Dan Charlton**, **Mark Thibault**, and **Mike Siefken** for their valued service to our association.



Jan Jarvis started the day singing the Star Spangled Banner, a new tradition at the Midwest Turf Clinic.



Vence Zolman is awarded with his 25-year membership pin. Congratulations Vence.



Scott Witte awards Tony Kalina with the 2010 Presidential Award for Service to the Association.



Bob Kohlstedt awards Steven Biehl with the 2010 Fred Opperman Editorial Award.



Newest board member Chuck Barber has no idea what is ahead of him.

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