

THE BULL SHEET
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

July 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

- July 5-11 – 2010 John Deere Classic at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, IL.
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- July 8 – J. W. Turf/John Deere Field Day at Bryn Mawr Country Club in Lincolnwood, IL, **Brian Bossert, CGCS** host.
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- July 17 – Annual MAGCS Kane County Cougars Game and Family Picnic at Elfstrom Field in Geneva, IL.
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- July 22-24 – Illinois Women's Open State Championship at Mistwood Golf Club in Romeoville, IL, **Ben Kelnhofer** and **Tony Smith** hosts.
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- July 26 – ITF Outing at Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Club in Rockford, IL, **Scott White** and **Gordon Watson** hosts.
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- July 26 – Deadline for nominations for the GCSAA Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award.
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- July 27 – Wisconsin Turfgrass Association's Summer Field Day at the O. J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education facility in Verona, WI. Go to www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org for more info.
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- July 30 – Deadline for submissions for TurfNet's 2011 "Superintendent's Best Friend Calendar" presented by BASF.
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- July 31 – Deadline for applications for the fifth annual Green Start Academy presented by John Deere and Bayer Environmental Science. More on this only if you read on. So read on.
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- August 2 – Deadline to submit entries to the "Dog Days of Golf" calendar sponsored by Lebanon Turf.
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- August 2-7 – 108th Western Amateur Championship at Skokie Country Club in Glencoe, IL, **Don Cross, CGCS**, **Steve Jump**, and **Chuck Totten** hosts.
.....
- August 11 – Ohio State University Turfgrass Research Field Day in Columbus, OH. Information is available at www.ohioturfgrass.org.
.....
- August 21 – The bigpar3 contest at as many courses in the Chicagoland area as possible.

Let's us just get this out of the way right now. The Stanley Cup is alive and well and residing in Chicago! Congratulations to the Chicago Blackhawks on winning the most difficult trophy to win in all of sport.



Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane show off Lord Stanley's Cup during the victory rally

Recent moves (aside from Patrick Kane's head fakes before scoring that Cup winner): **Andrew Cross**, former assistant at Exmoor CC is now assistant superintendent at Lake Shore CC. **Nick Hillyard**, former assistant at Lake Shore CC is now superintendent at Hawthorn Woods CC. **Valerie Lawrence**, former superintendent at Marquette Park GC is now superintendent at Columbus Park GC. **Ben Taylor**, former assistant at Chicago Highlands Club is now super-

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intendent at Country Lakes Village GC. Congratulations and best of luck to all of these folks in their new endeavors. And I promise—no more Blackhawks references. But they DID win the Stanley Cup.

Hey! Get online now and sign your facility up for the **bigpar3** to be held on August 21st. This thing can be really huge if you take the ten seconds to go to www.bigpar3.com and check it all out.

Mark Woodward, we hardly knew ya. After a quick cup of coffee as GCSAA's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Woodward announced he was stepping down on June 22nd effective immediately to pursue other interests. By the time you read this I'm sure there will be a story. In the meantime, Chief Operating officer Rhett Evans will serve as interim CEO.

The fifth annual Green Start Academy will take place from September 29th through October 1st at the Bayer Development and Training Center in Clayton, NC and John Deere's Turf Care manufacturing facility in Fuquay-Varina, NC. What is it? It's an opportunity for 50 select assistant superintendents to gather and have access to lectures, round table discussions, tours of manufacturing facilities, and networking opportunities. John Deere Golf and Bayer Environmental Science have tapped some of the industry's most accomplished superintendents and academic experts to conduct the event this year, and all assistants are welcome to apply. To do so, go to (wow—five 2-letter words in a row) www.BackedbyBayer.com/GreenStartAcademy and answer one of the two essay questions. But act quickly—the deadline for applications is July 31st. Good luck!

Oopsy daisy—in May I incorrectly identified the new arrival on the Interactive Turf scene as Tom Sibicky. I was WAY wrong! Please welcome TIM Sibicky to the dedicated team of professionals at Golf House. Sorry Tim. Tim SibOcky. Kidding—it really is Tim Sibicky.

Orchard Valley Golf Club and Superintendent **Matt Senatra** were hosts to a very special guest on June 28th. Legendary golfer Billy Casper, owner of 51 PGA victories dropped by for the 16th Annual Golf for Kids Benefit Outing, meeting and greeting golfers and giving out autographed photos while recounting a few of his favorite memories including his 1966 U. S. Open victory over Arnold Palmer. Now 79, Casper is a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame, the PGA Hall of Fame, and is Golf Digest's 15th greatest golfer of all time, and still remains involved in growing the game through charitable causes benefiting young golfers.

Our industry lost one of its more renowned figures when **Dr. Malcolm Shurtleff** passed away on May 29th at his home in Pearland, Texas at the age of 87. Dr. Shurtleff began his career in academia as an assistant extension professor of plant pathology at the University of Rhode Island in 1950, and continued to in the capacity of extension professor at Iowa State University from 1954 to 1961 and then at the University of Illinois from then until his retirement in 1992. He was a prolific writer and a great resource for folks in our

profession to call upon with our plant problems. He is survived by his wife Freda and 3 children.

On a more local note, MAGCS lost one of its past members who has remained closely tied to the association in his second career. Craig Marfia, past superintendent at Ridge Country Club and Crystal Lake Country Club died accidentally on his boat "The Fisherman" in Waukegan Harbor in May. Craig changed careers and started a charter fishing service on Lake Michigan which many MAGCS members enjoyed over the past many years. Our sympathies to the family and friends of Craig Marfia.

Our heartfelt sympathies to the families of **Wally Fuchs** and **Trent Bradford**, who lost Wally's grand son and Trent's nephew Matthew Anderson to cancer in May. Matthew was just 16 years old.

As I write this we have just experienced one hell of a week of weather, with copious rains—3 storms on one particular Friday that pelted us with nearly two inches of rain and winds topping 70 mph—and hot, sticky conditions that made for some long days at work for crews across the region. That being said, Boo Hoo Hoo! Whenever I think we have it bad, I can always be thankful that it isn't worse. How about a little hail to ruin your day like they had in Oklahoma City last month? My glass went from half empty to half full when I saw these photos...



A neighbor to the north has been awarded a most coveted honor. Erin Hills Golf Course in Erin, WI—about 40 miles northwest of Milwaukee—was named the host of the 2017 U. S. Open by the USGA during last month's Open at Pebble Beach Golf Links, beating out Cog Hill Golf & Country Club in Lemont (**Ken Lapp**).

If you are a seasoned Facebooker, or if you've not yet taken the plunge, you can still access the MAGCS Facebook page as long as you have an account on the social network site. Once you add the MAGCS page as a friend, you will have access to posted updates, events, pictures, and other important information.

The 17th of this month marks our return to Elfstrom Field in Geneva for the annual MAGCS Kane County Cougars Game

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and Family Picnic. This year will include a new twist, as MAGCS has reserved one of the new rooftop decks for the game. The evening is a great opportunity to entertain the entire family, offering up snacks and soft drinks, kids' games, barbecue buffet, beer, and baseball, all followed up with a spectacular fireworks display and the "running of the bases" to get the kids all tuckered out for the trip home. Come on out!

.....
 The inaugural International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association Virtual Trade Show is history, having taken place from May 11th through the 13th. The event had 875 attendees who were able to view and download product information, attend educational seminars and interact in real time with company reps from 10 exhibiting vendors. Comments from attendees have been very positive, promising a second annual version of the event in 2011. Look for it.

.....
 On May 17th Idlewild Country Club and **Kurt Sams, CGCS, Dion Pearce, and Enrique Shahagun** hosted the ITF/MAGCS Spring Golf Day on their beautiful golf course. Although the day was a tad dreary and damp, golf was played and the excellent conditions and hospitality were thoroughly enjoyed. The event, as has become customary, was a two-person best ball in match play format with scoring based on 75% of each competitor's established handicap index. A big thank you to Kurt and all the staff at Idlewild, and to the day's sponsors without whom the event could not have taken place: **Arthur Clesen, Inc., BASF, Bayer Environmental Science, Burris Equipment, D&K Turf Products, Dow Agrosciences, Great Lakes Turf, LLC,**

Pendleton Turf Supply, Premier Greens & Turf, Syngenta, and The Andersons. Thank you all!



How did Kurt Sams get those greens so fast with all the rain?



Matt Harstad and Charlie Brugler partook in the fun at Idlewild.

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Kurt Sams and Asst. Dion Pearce both won closest to the flagstick events at the ITF event, awful peculiar.



Rick Wilson won something and John Anderson walked away with a new camera.



Kurt receives On Course from ITF President and founder of the BigPar3, Erwin McKone.

MAGCS is looking for a few good men (and women). Elections for Board of Directors service are right around the corner, and anyone who wishes to contribute in the running our storied association should contact President **Scott Witte** or **Luke Cella**.

While on the subject of Luke, last month he took part in the Second Annual Sunshine Through Golf Foundation Golf Marathon at the Zigfield Troy Golf Course in Woodridge (**Dennis Troy**). The event features golfers who have volunteered to play 100 holes of golf in one day for pledges. Last year's event raised over \$100,000 to assist in bringing joy to those with special needs through the game of golf. Luke improved on last year's score by seven shots, carding a 23-over 323. He also says he ripped something in his shoulder

that he still isn't fully recovered from, and that—and I quote—“Getting old sucks.” It beats the alternative, though. Congrats, Luke!

.....
 Condolences from MAGCS to Molly and **Mike Hatton** and their family on the recent loss of Molly's father in May.

.....
 With the deadlines for the big golf course dog calendars imminent, and with the popularity of having our dogs accompany us to work being at its zenith, there is an article that was written by MAGCS member **Dan O'Brien** of Newburg Village GC that appeared in the December 2009/January 2010 issue of *Turfgrass Times*, the publication of the Northwest Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association that is a MUST READ for all of us dog lovers. The article, titled “**Pythium – Not Just a Turf Disease**” details Dan and his Llewelin Setter Gunner's experience with Pythium's insidious effect on our beloved canine companions. As Dan learned after a grueling experience with Gunner, Pythiosis is a disease that kills 80% of the dogs it infects. It is contracted when dogs act like dogs—when they frolick in water that is tainted with the Pythium oomycete, especially stagnant water. Dan's healthy 4-year old hunting dog began inexplicably losing weight, followed by bouts of diarrhea. After a battery of tests and visits to veterinarians, culminating in Gunner's admission into the University of Wisconsin's Veterinary School, Gunner succumbed to the disease. The moral of the story? This disease is very difficult to diagnose, but if you know the symptoms early there is hope for recovery. Seriously—if you have a dog, read this article. Go to www.nwigcsa.org, click on the link *Turfgrass Times* at the left, and click on the December 2009/January 2010 issue. It's on page 8. Thank you Dan from a fellow dog guy.



Gunner

The June MAGCS meeting was held at the awesome Elgin Country Club, with **Phil Zeinert**, **CGCS**, **Mike Joerns**, and **Roberto Canedo** hosting. The weather looked ominous, but an almost rain-free day on the course was enjoyed by all participants. **Randy Lusher** of BASF started the day off with an informative talk on identifying Illinois' most noxious and invasive plants, along with best management practices and controls for these pests. Immediately following Randy's presentation, it was time to hit the very hilly, tree-y and un-Illinois-like layout to contest the Senior Championship, the Class C Championship, and the Dom Grotti Championship.

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After all the rain our area had received prior to the event, it was amazing to see how well Elgin drains—even the low areas were high and dry. The course was in spectacular condition, and those who managed to hit the ball straight were rewarded with excellent lies and great scoring opportunities. With all the undulations on the course, it was certainly beneficial to have a yardage device of some kind to dial in on those diabolical greens. My own foursome was fortunate enough to have all three helpers: the Sky Caddie, the Bushnell and the Laser Link to ensure exact yardages (example: “How far is it, Todd? 169 to Fred Behnke’s ass”) (Bushnells require large targets for accurate measurements). Those accurate measurements obviously worked, as the Dom Grotti championship was won by the team from Aurora Country Club (**Virgil Range** and yours truly) with a net 169, a comfortable 10 shots ahead of the 2nd place team of **Steve Bychowski** and **Paul Rathnau** of Rob Roy Golf Course and 26 better than **Scott Witte** and **Steve Kuretsky** of Cantigny Golf Club. My friend Peter Leuzinger was kind enough to share with me the history of the Dom Grotti award, as I am sure many of you have never even heard of the man whose namesake trophy has been contested for lo these many years. Turns out Domenic Grotti was a longtime superintendent at Sunset Ridge Country Club before Dennis Wilson took over. In the early to mid ‘80’s—probably 1984 just after Peter’s tenure as MAGCS president, he and Dennis Wilson were discussing the poor attendance at meetings, especially by assistants. The idea was to have a tournament for assistants and their super-

intendents, adding a potential 20 or so members to the list of attendees. Dennis got Sunset Ridge to purchase a nice silver cup with the name of their beloved retired superintendent Dom Grotti—as Dom always brought Dennis to meetings so he could learn the business—and the rest is history. By the way, Peter and his assistant Dan Mossblack are engraved on the cup, having won it in 1994. Grabbing the Class C Championship was Virgil Range with a net 71, narrowly defeating Paul Rathnau (75) and Travis Dykstra (89). For the Senior Championship, the competition was very tight, with **Al Pondel, CGCS** taking the cake with a 72, besting **Mark Kowaliczko** and **Rick Wilson, CGCS** who had 73’s. In the Super Senior flight, perennial front-runner **Bob Kronn, Sr.** took top honors with a 70, eking out the victory over **Mike Matchen** and his 83. There were some other winners, too, including **Steve VanAcker, CGCS** who won the Flip-Cam raffle, **Keith Krause** and **Rusty Stachlewitz** who took the closest-to-the-pin honors, and Grant Runblade who killed on the longest drive thingie. Once the course was vacated and everyone made it to the clubhouse, a phenomenal steak and assorted fixings were on tap. What a great day! Many thanks to Phil and the staff at Elgin, to all the participants who disregarded the forecast and came out and didn’t get rained on, and to the sponsors who made the day such a great success, who were: **BASF, Burris Equipment Company, Dow Agrosiences, E-Z Go, J. W. Turf, Inc./John Deere Golf, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Palatine Oil Co., Inc., Quali-Pro, Syngenta, and XGD Systems.** Awesome job everyone!


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Class C winner Virgil Range shows off his awesome new hair.



*The better half of MAGCS
(Beth Whitehouse, Sharon Riesenbeck, and Holly Gilmour)*



Coollest range ever



Holly Gilmour of JW Turf, and Tom Healy of Layne Western worked the registration table at Elgin CC.



The other adult was biting my leg while this was taken



Brothers?



Father and son. Zachary and Phil Zeinert.

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The golf car that will be raffled off at the Midwest Turf Clinic to benefit the Wee One Foundation was on hand, thanks to Nadler Golf Car Sales.



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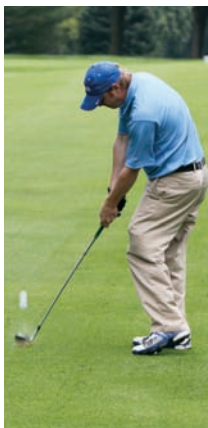
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 GC at 815-474-7155 for info.

For Sale: 1995 JD 2653 5 blade reel mower w/4082 hrs
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 \$500 obo. 1993 Metermatic ½ yd top dresser \$2000 obo.
 Landpride 3 pt hitch tractor grading blade \$500 obo. Ryan
 walk behind slit seeder \$600 obo. 2000 JD 1600 w/ 2341

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hrs, w/ spare front & rear wheel \$10,985 obo. 1995 JD F-935 with only 1303 hrs has solid tires on deck \$4100 obo. 1995 Hollrock ball picker, w/ 2 sets of plastic baskets and lots of spare parts \$400 obo. Electric hose reel w/ chemically rated hose \$500 obo. Any questions or inquiries please contact Steve Bychowski @ 847-253-2552 or sbychowski@rtpd.org.

For sale: Brand new Blackhawks home sweater, worn only to work, motivated seller who has been transferred. Call Blackhawks equipment manager for details—it turns out he has a bunch more with a lot of other names on them.



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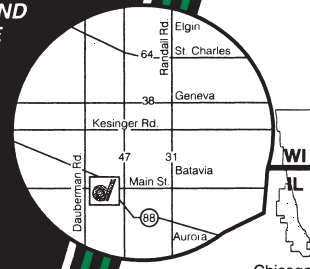
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