

# THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



## March 2010

Congratulations to St. Charles Country Club's **Josh Therrien**, who was appointed to the Class C Advisory Committee chair, to **Nick Baker** of Chicagoland Turf, who has been appointed to the Class E Advisor's position on the MAGCS board of directors; and to **Dan Charlton** of Evanston Golf Club who was appointed to fill out the remainder of **Harry Lovero's** term on the board. Best of luck, and thank you to the three of you for volunteering your time and effort. And why not—congrats to President Witte for surviving the ordeal of having to fill 3 vacancies at once!



L-R: Josh Therrien, Nick Baker, Dan Charlton and Harry Lovero

Congratulations to Medinah Country Club (**Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS**) and Olympia Fields Country Club (**Sam MacKenzie, CGCS**) on making *GolfWorld* magazine's 100 Best Golf Shops list, both in the Private category. Slow news month.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 4 – Emerald Ash Borer Action Plans free seminar at Aquascapes Designs in St. Charles, IL.  
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- March 6 – CDGA's Club Leadership Conference at Medinah Country Club, **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** host.  
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- March 10 – Chicagoland Forum 2010 at Naperville Country Club, **Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG**, Club Manager and Chief Bottle Washer host.  
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- March 6-14 – Chicago Flower & Garden Show at Navy Pier in Chicago, IL.  
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- March 12 – Reinders Open House at the Franklin Park facility, 3816 Carnation St., Franklin Park, IL  
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- March 16 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.  
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- March 18-20 – International Golf Course Equipment Manufacturers Association's Virtual Trade Show on your internet-connected computer.  
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- April 11-14 – International Conference on Turfgrass in Angers, France (in case you're in the neighborhood).  
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- April 27 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Joliet Country Club, **Mark Kowaliczko** host.  
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- May 2 — JW Turf's Annual Equipment Auction and Consignment Sale at the JW Turf headquarters in Hampshire, IL.  
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Need a USGA Handicap for 2010? Please let Luke know (luke@magcs.org) and he will set you up with one through the CDGA - one of the many member benefits of MAGCS.  
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Also kudos to past MAGCS president (1984) Roger Stewart, CGCS on winning the GCSAA/*Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders in Golf Award for 2009. Roger is superintendent at TPC Twin Cities just outside Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN, and accepted the award in the National Private category.  
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(continued on page 18)

And congratulations to **Paul Schaefer, CGCS** of Prairie Isle Golf Club on achieving his recertification with GCSAA in January.

**Roger Johnson** has a new business card—ROJ Turf Equipment is Roger's new company, which handles T.I.P. Inc. products as well as Buffalo Turbine, LLC offerings. Congratulations and best of luck to Roger.

A belated welcome to the mainland goes to **Dan Mosblack, CGCS** who made the move from Janesville Country Club up there in the hinterland to Klein Creek Golf Club.

This just in: Billy Casper Golf last month took over operations of Water's Edge Golf Course (**Jason Lemanski** superintendent), replacing the previous management team of Kemper Golf.

Sadly, Midwest Irrigation lost a true friend last month. Ken Holthaus, who was an integral part of growing the irrigation industry and developing the techniques used today in design and installation of irrigation systems passed away on February 1st. Ken began his career with Midwest in 1965, and worked there until shortly before Christmas of 2009, and truly enjoyed his associations with all the golf course superintendents with whom he worked. Condolences to Ken's family and friends, and to the folks at Midwest Irrigation.

In happier irrigation news, Rain Bird Golf has announced that Rain Bird Services Corporation of Illinois/Wisconsin is the new distributor for their golf product line. RBSC has a sales team of talented individuals (and familiar faces) in **Scott Pace**—District Golf Sales Manager, and **Kevin West**—Golf Senior Sales Specialist, who have a combined 35 years of irrigation experience. Congratulations to Scott and Kevin, who might finally be nearing the end of answering the question, "What's going on with you guys?"

Sometimes all the schooling in the world still can't make a person smart. Case in point, **Rusty Stachlewitz**, noted MSU alum and scholar extraordinaire recently decided that it would be a good idea to go swimming. Outdoors. In Michigan. In February. Alright, there was motivation for this craziness—the Stanton Polar Plunge, which took place on a brisk 20-something-degree day last month, was a fundraising event that benefited Special Olympics Michigan, a cause Rusty is near and dear to. He survived, with the only battle scar being some expected shrinkage (which he fears may be permanent), and he thanks all his MAGCS friends for their donations.



*Rusty and friends prepare for the plunge...*



*There are no words for this. None.*

Your association's president took a plunge of a different kind recently. **Scott Witte, CGCS** and his wife Sue were one of two competing couples in a pilot for a potential television series called "Kitchen Rivals," where the competitors enjoy a dish prepared by a professional chef, are then given all the ingredients that went into the dish, and then must recreate the dish using their culinary skills. And there's a catch—one extra ingredient that was not in the original recipe is added to the cart, and they must also figure out which it was and not use it. But don't trust me for the details—go to [www.kitchenrivals.com](http://www.kitchenrivals.com) and click on About the Show in the bottom left corner and have a look. By the way, the Wittes won, and Scott claims his chili cookoff victory from last year was the impetus that drove him down this road to culinary success.

The 16th of this month brings Dr. Peter Dernoeden of Colorado State University to Midwest Golf House for the MAGCS March monthly meeting. Dr. Dernoeden's topics will cover "The Nature of Dollar Spot and its Management: Research Meets Reality" (1.5 hours), "Managing Greens Under Summer Stress" (1.5 hours), and "Tenacity: A New Herbicide for Golf Courses" (45 minutes). Following his presentation and lunch, CDGA's **Keith Rincker, MS** and **Dr. Derek Settle** will present the results of their various research plots on Sunshine Course. GCSAA Education Points have been applied for, so make plans to attend.

The February issue of GCM had a nice article by **Dr. Tom Voigt** and Dr. Zac Reicher called "When Ornamental Grasses Aren't," about the tendency of many ornamental grasses to

aggressively grow beyond their intended sites, and the control measures available to curb them. Check out pages 84 through 90 to find out the exciting results.



Dr. Tom Voigt

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If you're gearing up for another season of golf and all the anxiety that chasing that little white ball around inspires, Srixon may have just the tonic for that bubbly-gurgly feeling you get while standing over a 5-foot putt (no reference to **Tim Scott** intended here). The company's new yellow-green Z-Star golf ball "has a slight green hue to it, and studies of color have shown that the color green tends to produce a more relaxed state of mind," according to media and public relations manager Keith Patterson. This would explain my 2-handicap on the range tee versus my 22 on the course, no doubt.

Don't forget the International Golf Course Equipment Manufacturers Association's Virtual Trade Show on the 18th through the 20th taking place on your desktop, laptop, net-book, smart phone, or any other thing you can connect to the internet. Event partners Jacobsen, John Deere, and Toro along with many other exhibitors will take part in this three-dimensional trade show floor with booths that will have links to expanded, downloadable information on products and services. Likewise, each exhibitor will have a live representative available for chat and Q and A sessions 24 hours per day throughout the duration of the show. This sounds pretty cool. And inexpensive!

As March transitions us back to our real world, and the winter's snow gives way to the green grass of spring (hopefully), we look back upon winter with fondness for the opportunities it afforded us, whether to recharge our batteries, take that vacation, check out the show in San Diego, or whatever diversions we were able to enjoy. We are constantly finding ourselves answering the age-old question, "What do you do in winter?" with the stock "Plan for next season, assess last season's programs and tweak them for this coming year, catch up on continuing education, evaluate personnel performance, etc. etc. etc." as a reply. While these are all perfectly true, it is also true that we are able to do the things that we cannot find the time to do during the golf season. With that, let's pay homage to winter's blessings—and the great things it allows us to do... Some of us don't have to stray very far from home to find things to do in

winter, like the group of MAGCS members who formed a hockey team aptly named the Grassholes. Although the games were late at night, and the scores were typically not in their favor, they had more fun than the other guys and looked better doing it.



The beginnings of Grassholes go way back, with the original goalie being rock-solid, except for a weak five-hole.



But then **Harry Lovero** took over between the pipes and goaltending for the Grassholes was never the same again.



(continued on page 20)

Some guys found their winter diversion right in their own back yard, like **Dr. Derek Settle** at Sunshine Course.



or in this case the trees.



Hard to imagine what these helmets are protecting in this group!



Others found that getting away was their elixir, whether to head south to laze in a hammock on a tropical isle,



or to head north for a big ol' snowmobile trip, getting all psyched to hit the trails . . .



while some other guys stay at work and cut down trees that they planted 15 years earlier.



Hey, some guys use winter just to catch up on their sleep, dreaming strange dreams like Sumo wrestling with the Pillsbury Doughboy...



Some other guys get all artsy-fartsy and take pretty pictures of their golf courses that they hope will make them a million dollars getting published in a coffee table book ...



...while still others choose to defy death, doing nutty things like bungee jumping, polar plunging, or dogfighting over San Diego like **Mark Kosbab**, **Pat Maksymiu**, and **Joel Purpur**...



... and **Nick Marfise**, shown here in his Varga 21 before pulling 3 G's and becoming Nick Barf-ise.



Then some guys go all Hollywood, chasing their dream to be seen on the big screen, like **Doug Davis** did when he auditioned for and got a part in "Public Enemies" last year, and like **Andy Weadge** did, seen here auditioning for the lead role in the upcoming "The Hangover 2."



How can you not like winter?

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(continued on page 22)

Speaking of Andy Weadge, the following piece of equipment is for sale: Jacobsen Greens King, possibly gas, possibly diesel, many extras, some work required –make Andy an offer.



## CLASSIFIEDS

**Equipment For Sale:** Another way to ease your budgets is to take a look at these fabulous offerings from your fellow superintendents:

- Park Ridge Country Club has the following items on the block: 1 Jacobsen LF 3400 Fairway Mower, year 2000, 3916 hours, asking \$4,900 OBO; 1 Ryan GA-60 Aerifier, year 2000, 261 hours, asking \$2,500 OBO; 1 Ford 250C Diesel Tractor with torque converter transmission, 1650 hours, asking \$8,000 OBO; 1 Ford 231 Tractor, 7137 hours, asking \$3,500 OBO. Call **Nick Marfise** at 708-224-8829 for details.
- Lincolnshire Country Club is selling a Tycrop MH400 Material Handler with only 20 hours of use, in excellent condition, with conveyer belt attachment included. Give **Brian Racette** or Harry a call at 708-672-5709 for information.
- And last but not least, a first-time-ever for this magazine. White Pines Golf Course has a Package Sewage Treatment Plant for sale. This is a membrane bioreactor package treatment plant with ultraviolet disinfection system and a 10,000-gallon per day capacity. It is a compact alternative to septic systems and aeration/settlement ponds. Equipment is housed in a modular concrete building with a 30'x8' footprint, and is manufactured by Enviroquip of Austin, Texas. It was originally installed in the fall of 2005 at a cost of \$300,000. The asking price is \$150,000. Contact **Steve Partyka** at 630-768-0906 or email him at partykasteve@yahoo.com.

## The Golf Industry Show Recap

The GCSAA Education Conference in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show took place last month in San Diego, CA from the 8th through the 12th. A few days prior, some business was conducted out in Palm Springs where the National Championship & Golf Classic were held, and our MAGCS contingent represented us admirably! In the Championship itself, **Tim Scott, CGCS** of Stony Creek Golf Course was runner-up to victor Adam Hess, losing on the first hole of a playoff after making a rare bogey lipping out a 5-footer.



*Tim Scott begins to line up the fateful 5-footer.*



*Tim much more comfortable doing the things he gets paid for each day.*

**Justin VanLanduit** of Briarwood Country Club placed fourth, and **Dave Kohley** of Silver Lake Country Club finished 18th. In the Golf Classic, MAGCS had the following top ten finishers: Gross IV—**Brian Mores** 3rd; Net IV—**Brian Mores** 2nd; Gross V—**Steve VanAcker, CGCS** 8th; Net V—**Steve VanAcker, CGCS** 5th and **Paul Schaefer, CGCS** 9th; Gross VI—**Don Cross, CGCS** 6th; Net VI—**Don Cross, CGCS** 8th; Gross Senior—**Tommy Witt, CGCS** 1st; Net Senior **Bob Maibusch, CGCS**, MG 1st and **Tommy Witt, CGCS** 3rd; Gross Senior II—**Tim Davis** 2nd, **Ed Fischer, CGCS** 3rd, and **Tom Van De Walle** 7th; Senior II Net—**Tom Van De Walle** 6th and **Tim Davis** 7th; Super Senior Gross—**Bob Kronn** 1st; Super Senior Net—**Bob Kronn** 6th. The news was even better in the Chapter Competition, where two MAGCS teams took first place honors—Team Midwest 4 (**Al Fierst, Don Cross, Bob Maibusch, and Tommy Witt**) won the Net Division while Team Midwest 2 (**Tim Scott, Dave Kohley, Tommy Robinson, and Justin Van Landuit**) took the Gross Division. Congratulations to all of these competitors! But enough about that.

On it was to San Diego for the Show. On first impression, the trade show was a bustling beehive of activity—booths were full of product reps and potential customers alike, the aisles were crowded with attendees, and things generally appeared positive. A nice new feature—the Happy Hour on Thursday afternoon—was a terrific way to wrap things up. The new format, whereby no competing sessions took place during the shortened 2-day trade show was a big hit with most all attendees, as there was really no “down time” compared to past shows (where exhibitors likened Saturdays to a “ghost town”). It didn’t hurt that the show floor was long and narrow, concentrating foot traffic through the main aisle and adding to the appearance of a packed room. Another factor contributing to this appearance was that many exhibitors rented smaller booth space than previous years, evidenced by the total booth space area of 204,300 square feet rented this year compared to 257,900 square feet in New Orleans (and over 300,000 in Orlando). The reality of it, though, told a slightly less optimistic story. Some preliminary numbers show that attendance was around 16,156 versus 17,151 in New Orleans last year (another “down” year), and the all-time high of 25,737 in Orlando in 2008. Around 7,000 “qualified buyers” attended this show—almost identical to last year, but down over 3,000 from 2008; and 665 exhibitors were on hand this year compared to 765 in 2008—a significant 13% drop off. But enough about that.

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The General Sessions and Special Events were a big hit, featuring such renowned presenters as Dr. Brian Little—part scholar, part stand-up comic, and Chris Gardner, best-selling author of *The Pursuit of Happyness* and the subject of the Will Smith film by the same title. At the Annual Meeting, held on the 12th, the elections were conducted, and James R. Fitzroy, CGCS was named our president for 2010. Filling out the executive committee were Robert Randquist, CGCS for vice president and Sanford G. Queen for secretary/treasurer. As for the educational portion of the conference, MAGCS was represented quite well, with **Chuck Anfield, CGCS, Dr. Bruce Branham, John Ekstrom, Jon Jennings, CGCS, Erwin McKone, Bruce Williams, CGCS** and **Tommy Witt, CGCS** sharing their expertise in an array of topics. But enough about that.

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The main event of the week—the can’t miss event—was the MAGCS Hospitality Reception held at the Solamar Hotel on Wednesday evening. This year’s rendition differed slightly from years past, with the event taking place on an outdoor terrace high above the streets of San Diego. Wow! HUGE kudos to **Luke Cella** and **Sharon Riesenbeck** on making all the arrangements (each of whom selflessly credits the other). The food, drink, and overall ambience were superior. And our members continued with their generous giving, adding over \$1,800 more dollars to the MAGCS Scholarship Fund through the raffle tickets sold at the door. We thank the volunteers who helped at check-in, Sharon and Luke, and our totally awesome sponsors for their part in the huge success of this year’s reception. When you have the opportunity, please thank the following 2010 Golden Tee Sponsors for their generosity:

- Ryder Cup Club: **Arthur Clesen, Inc., BASF, Bayer Environmental Science, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., and Syngenta.**
- Hole In One Club: **Central Sod Farms, Inc., J.W. Turf, Inc., Lohmann Companies, and Reinders, Inc.**
- Eagle Club: **Burris Equipment Company, Chicagoland Turf, and Lemont Paving.**
- Birdie Club: **Leibold Irrigation, Palatine Oil Company, Inc., Rain Bird, and Waupaca Sand & Solutions.**
- Par Club: **Aquatrols, BTSI, DuPont Professional Products, Great Lakes Turf, LLC, Growing Solutions, Harris Golf Cars, Hollembeak Construction, Inc., Jacobson Golf Course Design, Inc., Layne-Western, Pendleton Turf Supply, Phoenix Environmental Care, Prime Turf, Riverwalls Ltd., ROJ Turf Equipment, Tyler Enterprises, and XGD Systems.**



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