



THE BULL SHEET
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

October 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

October 13 – Annual University of Illinois Turf Alumni Golf Outing at Inverness Golf Club, **Brian Mores** host.

October 15 – Deadline for nominations for GCSAA's 2011 Excellence in Government Relations Award.

October 24 – Deadline for applications for the 2010 GCSAA/ *Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders in Golf Award (ELGA).

October 28-30 – GIE+EXPO 2010—Hardscape North America at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, KY. Go to www.gie-expo.com for info.

November 3 – 58th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club, **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** host.

November 9-11 – Turf & Ornamental Seminar at the Daniel Turf Center in West LaFayette, IN. Go to www.mrtf.org for all the juicy details.

November 15 – Deadline for nominations for the 11th Annual TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta.

November 16-17 – The 2010 Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium at the American Club in Kohler, WI. More info as you read on.

November 16-18 – 2010 Penn State Golf Turf Conference at the Nitany Lion Inn in University Park, PA. For more information, visit www.paturf.org (or would JoePaTurf be more appropriate?).

November 30 – Deadline for entries in GCSAA's first-ever Turf Wars Video Contest. More about this in the following pages.

December 6-9 – Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, OH. Check out www.ohioturfgrass.org for the dirt.

Congrats to **Scott White** of Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Golf Club in Rockford and his Boston terrier Fenway on making the final cut in the 2011 BASF/TurfNet "Superintendents Best Friends" calendar. Fenway is the featured dog for February.



Hey, there's still a little time left to nominate yourself for the 11th Annual TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta. November 15th is the deadline, and nominations can be done by going to TurfNet.com. After a year like this, I think everyone is a potential candidate.

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Condolences go out to the family of MAGCS AA member **Rick Hahn** who passed away on September 17th at the much-too-young age of 58 years old. Rick had served as Director of Golf and Grounds Maintenance at the Marriott Lincolnshire Resort for 25 years until his retirement a few years back.

So, when golfers make such comments to you as "Boy, things are really looking a lot better," or "I can't imagine how it would have looked if you hadn't been here," are they being complimentary? Or are they just politely telling you that you suck?

A stressful summer such as the one we've experienced this year would not have been survivable without the ability to get away from work and spend quality time with friends doing something totally non-golf-related. Aside from the usual attractions that the City of Chicago has to offer such as its professional baseball teams (if I may use the word professional), its lakefront, its eclectic dining options, its theater and live music, etc., this summer brought the return of the Tall Ships to beautiful Navy Pier. If you haven't experienced it and have any interest in the history and majesty of these huge sailing ships, a trip downtown should be on your agenda the next time they are here. Just a suggestion.



The reason they're called tall ships.



Krause confirming that the tall pirate ball-juggling chick had a bean burrito for lunch.

Next month marks the 45th time that the Annual Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium will take place, and for the 45th consecutive year it will be held in Wisconsin. This year's rendition, "Golf in the Year 2010—Did We Predict the Future?" will take place at the American Club in Kohler on the 16th and 17th of November. To register online or just to learn more about the event, check out wgcsa.com and go to the calendar tab.

It is that time of year again, when we reacquaint ourselves with our long pants and wind shirts and enjoy the beautiful bounties the fall season has to offer. It's also the time of year when we reacquaint ourselves with our golf clubs and take advantage of the many opportunities to play at our disposal. One such opportunity that took place recently was the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGSC) Founders Cup, which was held on September 1st at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove. The event brings superintendents and key officials at their clubs together in a best-ball format, promoting the building of relationships and good will. Congratulations to **Dave Behrman, CGCS** and his guest Bob O'Neill from Midlothian Country Club on winning the Net competition with a 61, and to **Chuck Barber** and his entourage/posse from Indian Lakes Resort on winning the Gross category. Host superintendent **Jeff VerCautren** and owner Jerry Rich welcomed everyone to the site of the 2009 Solheim Cup with open arms, and there could not have been a more gorgeous day for a game of golf on a pristine golf course. Many thanks to Jeff and Mr. Rich, as well as to all the people involved in putting together another great Founders Cup at another very nice venue.



Jeff VerCautren

Next on the menu of autumn golf extravaganzas was the September MAGCS meeting at Fox Run Golf Course with host superintendent **Greg Thalmann, CGCS**. The event was the annual College Team Championship, and it was held on a day that waffled weatherwise between chilly downpours to gorgeous sun and warmth. Whatever the combination, it favored the team from Penn State University, who battled its way to victory over some strong competition. Many thanks to Greg Thalmann for stepping up and providing a great venue on very short notice, and to all the staff at

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Fox Run; as well as a big thanks to the generous sponsors for the day, who were: **BASF, Bayer Environmental Science, Burris Equipment Company, Chicagoland Turf, E-Z-GO, Great Lakes Turf, J.W. Turf, Inc./John Deere Golf, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Palatine Oil Co., Inc., Quali-Pro, Reinders, Inc., Syngenta, and XGD Systems.**



Some very cool fungi...



...and a very cool fun guy with the cool fungi.



Greg Thalmann and MAGCS golf committee chair, Jim Keith.



A beautiful day for golf (if you're dressed properly)



Jeff Smith practicing his matador moves.



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Greg Mark and Jay Druhan dried out and shared a few laughs throughout the day.



The course took the early rain and fun was had by all who didn't take the golf too seriously.



And to the victors go, the Dudley Smith Trophy - Congratulations Team Penn State, Joel Purpur, Ed Fischer, Mike Bavier, (not pictured, Dave Blomquist).

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The College Championship trophy is carried off by winning Penn State grad Joel Purpur and probable state pen alum Colin White.



Team Michigan State was represented well in the chow line.



Just a few days later the 7th Annual Wee One Foundation Golf Outing and Fundraiser took place at the typically-perfect Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI with Rod Johnson hosting. This is always a great event that involves two-person teams playing a selective drive and alternate shot format while enjoying one of the most beautiful and well-conditioned courses one can possibly find, while periodically stuffing one's face with tacos from the now-famous taco bar and brats from the already-was-famous brat bar. A great day for a great cause—honoring the late Wayne Otto by raising funds to give to families of golf industry professionals who have suffered financial hardships through an accident or illness. Thus far over \$300,000 has been dispersed to families across the country, and on this day another \$40 to \$50,000 was raised for the cause. Thanks to Rod Johnson, Pine Hills, the folks who arranged and ran the event, and the participants who showed up to contribute to this great cause. Oh, and congrats to the day's winning team of **Brian Baker** and **Mark Petitgoue** who wrapped up things at the registration table and proceeded to shoot a cool 75 to take the top prize.



Slight taco bar mishap.

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This tells the story of Pine Hills—many pines and even more hills.

Please say a prayer for the **Huber** family, including Jim, John, and Ann Miller for the loss of their father Bill Huber on August 31st.

Another MAGCS member, **Paul Burger** lost a loved one just a few days later on September 3rd when his father William Burger passed away. Please keep these folks in your thoughts.

On the 10th of this month, Glenn Galecki, the brother of recently-departed **Gary Galecki** of Ridge CC will run in the Chicago Marathon as part of Team LUNGevity, raising money for cancer research. The LUNGevity Foundation matches all money raised by Team Gary Galecki, and this money goes to research for early detection of lung cancer so that treatment options may be provided before it is too late. Glenn will be running with Gary's son Josh and Josh's girlfriend Kate. You can contribute by going to www.lungevity.org.

Congratulations to **Rick Jacobson** and Jacobson Golf Course Design, Inc. on having his Moon Lake Course at Lion Lake Country Club in China named the country's "Best Golf Course Design" for 2009 by China Golf magazine.

Is everyone ready for winter without PCNB?

RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment), the Washington, D.C.-based national trade association representing manufacturers, formulators, distributors, and others in the specialty pesticide and fertilizer industry, has named its successor to 20-year president Allen James who retired in August. Taking the wheel is Aaron Hobbs, who has been serving as president-elect from June 1 to August 31, and has been the RISE director of legislative affairs and grassroots outreach since March, 2009. Go get our PCNB back, Aaron!

As promised, some info on GCSAA's TURF WARS VIDEO CONTEST. If you fancy yourself another Roman Polanski (bad example) or Steven Spielberg, grab your video camera and capture the strategies and tactics you used to fight back against the extreme weather and economic challenges. Turf paint comes to mind. Anyhoodles, submit your video to GCSAA TV by November 30th for a chance to win a free trip to the 2011 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Orlando. And...ACTION!

MAGCS and GCSAA both lost a past president last month when **Ted Woehrle** passed away on the 8th. Ted had

served as our MAGCS president in 1961 while serving as superintendent of Beverly Country Club (where he hosted 2 Western opens), as the president of the Michigan and Border Cities GCSA in 1972, as president of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation—an organization he helped form—in 1964 and 1965, and as GCSAA's president in 1977. Our condolences to the family and many friends of Ted Woehrle, and our thanks for his grand contributions to our industry.

What's new at GCSAA:

The next step has been taken in the quest for GCSAA's next chief executive officer with the selection of professional executive search firm Tryon and Heideman, LLC of Kansas City, MO. The search for Mark Woodward's replacement will be a process that, as yet, has no timeline, and is more concerned with finding the right candidate than filling the position that was so suddenly vacated by Mr. Woodward in June.

In Conference and Show news, the official GCSAA web site is open for business. You can check out everything you ever wanted to know but forgot to ask about the Show by going to www.gcsaa.org/conference. In related news, GCSAA has partnered with Travel Planners Inc. and MacNair Travel Management/American Express to provide services through Golf Industry Travel. And keep in mind that this service is available year-round to help with all your travel needs. Visit gcsaa.org and use the link.

September 22nd found MAGCS and ITF members on the grounds of the Midwest Golf House and on Sunshine Course for the 2nd Annual iTurfExpo. Presented by ITF in partnership with the CDGA, University of Illinois, and Southern Illinois University, the Expo combined the best features of a trade show with hands-on education in an outdoor venue that provided an excellent opportunity for commercial members and customers to share face time with one another. It also allowed for attendees to see the results of the many research programs that are currently being conducted on Sunshine Course. Bonuses abounded, including a great complimentary lunch of pulled pork sammiches and a Golf Skills Challenge complete with professional caddies and a real big scoreboard. It was a great one-day event packed with energy and opportunity. Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of the event.





So this fish was like THIS big I tell ya



Team BTSI models the black and blue over khaki ensemble—very subtle yet tasteful.



Scot Spier, winner of the Golf Skills Challenge, holding the only trophy available—the Cheryl.



And the winner of the crow's feet contest is...

-OC