



April 2011

Also on the move is **Justin Kirtland**. Justin has accepted the assistant superintendent's position at Arrowhead Golf Club. Best of luck to you, Justin.



Justin Kirtland

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Moving north from Arrowhead Golf Club was **Brad Chamra**, who headed up the interstate to Lake Shore Country Club as its new assistant superintendent. Belated congrats to Brad.
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And conversely, moving south to accept the assistant superintendent's position at Cress Creek Country Club is **Ryan Dunbar**, the former second assistant at Green Acres Country Club. Best wishes to you, Ryan!



Ryan Dunbar

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And finally, **Larry Flament** reports that he has hired Heather Hennings as his assistant superintendent at Stonewall Orchard Golf Club, while **Bill Humphres** at McHenry Country Club welcomed Tim Valicka to his staff.
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(continued on page 22)

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 27 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Naperville Country Club, **Tim Anderson CGCS, MG, GM** and **Steven Biehl** hosts.

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May 24 – ITF/MAGCS Spring Golf Day at Briar Ridge Country Club, **Erwin McKone** and **David Miloshoff** hosts.

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June 21 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Prairie Bluff Golf Club, **Luke Strojny, CGCS** host.
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There's more movement in the ranks to report: Congratulations to **Joe Schneider**, formerly at Beverly Country Club who has joined the team at Old Elm Club.



Joe Schneider

Jeff Hollembeak is pleased to announce that Hollembeak Construction is the Illinois contact for sales and installation of PC Drainage™, a revolutionary new drainage system that removes water from your greens by both capillary suction and gravity pull at up to 1/3 the cost and less disruption than conventional existing greens drainage. Contact Jeff Hollembeak for more details. 630-675-5000

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In advance of our first golf meeting—the traditional 4-person scramble event to be held at Naperville Country Club and hosted by Tim Anderson and Steven Biehl—we offer our sincere thanks to the sponsors whose generosity make it all possible. The sponsors for the April 27 event are:

Arthur Clesen, Inc., Burris Equipment Company, J.W. Turf, Inc., Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Syngenta, BASF, Water Well Solutions, PHP, Layne-Western, and Pendelton Turf Supply. If you bump into any of these folks, please remember to thank them for their support.

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This Just In: This is pretty important stuff, so please read it even though there are no pictures. GCSAA is urging its members to take action and push for passage of recently introduced legislation (HR 872) to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) to clarify that additional Clean Water Act (CWA) permits are not required for pesticide applications made in accordance with FIFRA. You can write your US Representative (without even knowing who your US Representative IS) by following the prompts at gcsaa.org. By doing so, you will be encouraging your Representative to re-establish the legal primacy of FIFRA over all

pesticide uses, as well as inform the EPA and the courts that Congress did not intend for other environmental laws to overtake FIFRA by creating duplicative regulatory burdens. The letter is already written—all you have to do is click on it and type in your name and hit “Send.” Here’s how to access the letter: Go to gcsaa.org and log on. At the bottom of the main page is a tab called “Advocacy.” Click on it, then “GCSAA Legislative Action Center,” then “Legislative Alerts and Updates.” Once there, click on “Take Action Now!” at the bottom and fill in the required boxes. It sounds like it’s complicated—and I probably made it much more so than it really is—but it’s really quite simple and takes like a minute to do. The form letter is even editable so you can add your own personal touches. Again, this has the potential to affect your operation, so take the minute to do something about it. Now! You can read the rest of the magazine afterward.

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Did you do the aforementioned thing? Yes? OK, then read on. And for your reward, here’s a picture. **Jan Jarvis** deserves all the credit for finding this in the Tribune. Not really sure what it is, but it sure bears a striking resemblance to **Rusty Stachlewitz** in some kinda drag-type get-up, no? Or maybe he’s just really excited about the new tulip bulb varieties fresh outta Amsterdam.

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Rusty Stachlewitz



Attention Rain Bird users: You can now purchase Rain Bird products directly from the factory by utilizing the new Golf Online Store. This direct-to-golf course pilot program was launched in our area last month, and can be accessed by going to <http://golfstore.rainbird.com/>.

It's that time again—the time to snap photos of your golf course dog(s) and submit them to TurfNet for its “2012 Superintendent’s Best Friend Calendar” presented by BASF. Fourteen photos will be used for the calendar, but even if yours doesn’t make the final cut, all owners submitting photos for consideration will receive a Tuff Balls pull toy courtesy of BASF. Also, all dogs will be included in the online slide show which is cool. To nominate your dog, email high-resolution photos to Laura Salinas (lsalinas@turfnet.com) and include the dog’s name, age and breed, photographer’s name, owner’s name, phone number, email address, and the name of the golf course where the owner and dog work. And your mother’s maiden name. Deadline is July 30th. Good luck.

Thank you to **Mike Mumper** and Arrowhead Golf Club for hosting last month’s MAGCS meeting on the 1st. Dr. Mike Fianza and Dr. Derek Settle provided the day’s education, and the AGC staff provided the great lunch. Also thanks to the day’s sponsors, who were: **Arthur Clesen, Inc., Burris Equipment Company, J.W. Turf, Inc., Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, and Syngenta.**

CAGCS Forum Review by Chuck Barber:
The annual Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents Forum was held on March 9th at Naperville Country Club. Many thanks to our host Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG, NCAA, ASPCA, CPA, CMAA, AARP, WKRP and Naperville Country Club. The day’s education began with John Miller, CGCS, of the GCSAA’s Great Lakes Region Field Staff.

- John discussed much of what GCSAA is doing for you these days which includes:
- Member engagement through the field staff
 - A new job board for improved employment assistance
 - Faster flow of information for stakeholders (members)
 - Streamlining and improving the GIS
 - New education opportunities

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Billy Casper Golf, which has over 120 golf facilities in its portfolio recently held its annual corporate conference at the World Golf Village in St. Augustine, FL, and some of our MAGCS members and courses stood out at the 2010 awards ceremony. Taking top honors, **Jeremy Turton** of George Dunne National Golf Course was named Superintendent of the Year, and in the “Top Performer of the Year,” Highland Woods Golf Course in Hoffman Estates (**Jason McIntyre, CGCS**) took the cake. In the coveted “ACE the Guest Experience Award,” Chick Evans Golf Course (**Beau Breunig**) was the winner for superior guest service. Also walking to the podium was Orchard Valley Golf Course (**Matt Senatra**) for the “Food and Beverage Operation of the Year” award. Congratulations to all of you on your success.

Is it just me, or does anyone else wonder when watching “The Wizard of Oz” if a certain Executive Director/Editor for this very association may have had a previous life as a scary flying monkey? Anybody else? Anybody?



Still not convinced? I wasn’t either until we unearthed this long-lost photo of him at his desk working on an old issue of Bull Sheet.

Ed note: There is no way I would ever wear a hat like that, the jacket maybe - the hat, no chance.

Of particular note is the amount of revenue the GIS draws for GCSAA. Without that particular source of income dues for a SM and Class A member would be around \$3000. \$330 doesn't sound so bad anymore. John also drew some attention to some government and public policy issues including the waterway pesticide application permits we all need to have, immigration reform issues and some ADA compliance updates. Mr. Miller was knowledgeable and is eager to be active within the Great Lakes region's chapters so long as they're not in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan which doesn't really exist in his estimation (the UP wasn't on his map of the region, and actually still isn't: <http://www.gcsaa.org/chapters/default.asp>).

Next up was Dr. Frank Rossi of Cornell University. His beginning topic started out as a discussion of 'sustainability' which is used incorrectly much of the time. It means different things to different people. Dr. Rossi will certainly make you think about the nature of much of what we, as superintendents, do. Some of the touch points included:

Emissions – We have a dramatic impact on CO2 and Nitrous Oxide emissions. The goal should be to emit less! Apparently it IS possible to get 18 pounds of carbon out of 8 pounds of gasoline. Bob Maibusch, CGCS MG has the math.

Soil testing – The good Doctor suggested soil tests overestimate demand and underestimate supply. Those in

attendance may recall the Potassium discussion which took a significant amount of our time that day.



Dr. Frank Rossi

Aerification – Making a hole, regardless of the method, is crucial. Pulling a core is messy and perhaps unnecessary.

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Irrigation – “Golf Course Superintendents suck at watering”. That’s a direct quote. The point being that auditing is important, monitoring is critical and supplies should be protected. BTW, the quote was later recanted once the gentlemen from Naperville Country Club spoke up about their watering habits.

Dr. Rossi talked about climate change, pathogenicity and pathogen’s response to climate change, and water and energy supplies in the future. The point being golf course superintendents need to begin learning to do the job while minimizing inputs of EVERY kind.

The food at Naperville Country Club is awesome. Those of you not in attendance missed a great lunch.

Dr. Rossi moderated an afternoon round table forum featuring some of Chicagoland’s finest superintendents.

- Dave Radaj, CGCS from Green Acres Country Club in Northbrook
- Michael Heustis of Chicago Highlands Club in Westchester
- Mike Sauls of Butler National Golf Club in Oak Brook
- Don Cross, CGCS from Skokie Country Club in Glencoe (figure that one out)
- Tim Anderson, CGCS/MG from Naperville Country Club in Naperville (that’s better)



Don Cross, CGCS shares the trials of 2010 at Skokie Country Club.

Topics in the moderated forum included ice damage, snow mold, flooding, Pythium injury, ‘brews’ of tank mixes and the like. The takeaway lesson was that we’re all trying to achieve the same goals and each superintendent has unique ways of achieving those goals. Don Cross has lots of problems at Skokie Country Club, by the way (He was the only one on the panel that has *Poa annua* on, in, and over his greens). That much was clear.

Thanks to Tim Anderson, Steve Biehl and Dan Marco for a terrific day.

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Congratulations to Jenny and **Brian Racette** (Lincolnshire Country Club) on the birth of their son Zac last month.



Zac Racette

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OK, it’s spring and all, and we are dying to get out and start the season and all, but sometimes you just gotta grab the reins and say “Whoa there big fella—step back and think this over first!” Maybe topdressing wasn’t the best idea for this particular course at this particular time. Of course, they can always topdress the ruts to smooth them out...



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Bruce Williams, CGCS has added another accomplishment to his long list of them. He is now International Correspondent Bruce Williams after having attended the China Golf Show last month. In its infinite wisdom, *Golf Course Industry* magazine made Bruce its foreign correspondent for the event, and he provided daily reports of the goings-on in Beijing, which many of you should have received electronically. Thanks for the insight, Bruce, and if you need a valet to schlep your bags or shine your shoes for any future foreign forays, I’m your fella.

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Another MAGCS member and past president of GCSAA was seen in the pages of one of our trade mags recently. *Golfdom's* January issue featured an article by John Walsh titled "A View of the Top" and included insights from four past presidents—one of whom was **Tommy Witt, CGCS**—about the benefits of serving their association. Tommy's reflections on his presidency included an important bit of knowledge that anyone considering a run on an association board should heed—have the full support of your employer before embarking on this venture. There are time and travel demands associated with board membership, and employers must have full knowledge of this and give full approval for it. Good stuff from Mr. Witt.

GCM magazine has long been at the social media forefront of the golf course management industry, with the longest-running blog (From the Desk of GCM) and the longest-running Twitter account around. Now they've taken the next logical step, and can be found on Facebook—look for it at www.facebook.com/GCM_Magazine.

Shane Ritchie at Schaumburg Golf Club is looking for an interim equipment technician to fill in for this season. Interested parties can contact Shane for more information at 847-534-3075.

Classifieds:

For Sale: 2 Halsey free-standing water coolers/drinking fountains (model #SCWT8AQ 1G) and one Elkay wall-mounted water cooler/drinking fountain with Flex Guard. All are in good working condition. Price for the set is \$100 OBO. Call Brendan at Bryn Mawr Country Club at 847-677-4112.



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