

THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



August 2011

.....
Congratulations to **Kurt Sams, CGCS** of Idlewild Country Club, and **Tom Tully, CGCS** of Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa on recently achieving re-certification through GCSAA.
.....

Great news from the **John Ekstrom** family—it got bigger last month. On July 18th, baby Emma joined the crew, arriving at a healthy 7 lbs., 12 ozs., and 18.5" long (or is it tall?). Congratulations Ekstroms!



.....
This headline was recently seen in print. "Hunter Adds Rotor for Synthetic Turf Use." Anybody else besides me confused?
.....

(continued on next page)

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 1-6 – 109th Western Amateur at North Shore Country Club in Glenview, IL, **Dan Dinelli, CGCS, Jerry Dinelli** hosts.
.....

August 6 – MAGCS Family Night Picnic and Kane Country Cougars game at Elfstrom Field in Geneva, IL.
.....

August 7 – Deadline for nominations for GCSAA's John Morley Distinguished Service Award.
.....

August 17 – Deadline for applications to attend the 3rd annual Syngenta Business Institute being held December 5-8 at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC.
.....

August 22 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Golf Championship at Bowes Creek Country Club, **Brad Legnaioli, CGCS** host.
.....

September 12 – CAGCS Annual Founders Cup at Onwentsia Club in Lake Forest, IL, **Scott Vincent** host.
.....

September 19 – Annual Wee One Foundation Golf Outing at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI.
.....

September 22 – iTurfExpo 2011 at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.
.....

October 3 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual College Championship at Merit Club in Libertyville, IL, **John Nelson** and **Arne Nordenson** hosts.
.....

October 4-December 16 – Fall session of Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station on the campus of Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ.
.....

October 21 – Illinois Golf Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies at The Glen Club in Glencoe, IL. MAGCS' own **Paul Voykin** will be the 5th-ever golf course superintendent to receive the honor of induction at this event.
.....

The Four Sandbaggers of the Apocalypse—the most successful team to represent MAGCS at the GCSAA Championship and Golf Classic over the past MANY (shall I go so far as to say countless?) years was caught on spy camera at a recent CAGCS meeting. Team 4, featuring **Al Fierst, Don Cross, Bob Maibusch,** and **Tommy Witt** have really raked in the pewter plates, and REALLY wanted to flash the “Vee for Victory” sign to gloat about it, but arthritis is such a cruel mistress.



.....
 Congratulations to **Steve Schendel**, who is the new Vice President/Agronomist in the Midwest for Golf Maintenance Solutions, who oversees the maintenance of over 120 golf courses throughout the country. Steve will be based locally, but will also assist in other regions as needed. Good luck to you, Steve.

GCSAA is looking for help. The position of Managing Director of Marketing & Business Development has been created to grow and develop revenue opportunities while enhancing and improving the positioning and image of the GCSAA brand, and is open for qualified candidates to apply. More information about the position and qualifications can be had by contacting Katey Tryon or Mary Heideman at (816)822-1976, and resumes can be sent in confidence to gcsaa@tryonheideman.com.

It seems more and more golf facilities are hosting July 4th fireworks shows, doesn't it? And really, what more perfect setting could you ask for? Guests can plop their blankets down on finely-manicured turf, watch the spectacle from a much closer vantage point than the typical city or municipality show, and IF there is a mishap at the launch site, high-pressure water from a 1-inch hose is always close at hand. Those are the nights we pray for the wind to blow in the direction that will carry the shrapnel off property, for the no-vandalism gods to smile upon us, for our crew's alarm clocks to work the following morning, and for the dang parents of all those dang kids to tell them that those are NOT beaches!



But even with all the work and cleanup required, it's still worth it isn't it?



.....
 Have you heard about the \$500 million golf course that's going to be built? Dutch Docklands, a player in the world of floating technologies has announced plans to build a golf course on the ocean in the Maldives, an island group in the Indian Ocean. There are lots of courses on the ocean, right? So why is this one so expensive? I'll tell you why—the concept is a series of manmade islands each with one or more holes on it, linked by transparent underwater tunnels through which golfers walk or ride to the next island. If you've been to the Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans you get the picture. The course is expected to open in 2015, and Troon Golf has already been signed on to manage it. By my estimates, it will become profitable in the year 3214.

BIG superintendents should have BIG trucks. **Andy Weadge** satisfies both criteria.



.....
 (continued on page 18)

The July 13th edition of USGA's Regional Updates featured Mid-Continent Region Agronomist **Ty McClellan**'s observations on practice tee abuse and how we can avoid the typical lack of turf in mid-summer that is so typical in our area. Ty cited the practice facility at the Village Links of Glen Ellen and the data that superintendent **Chris Pekarek** has come up with. On their 1.25-acre tee, Chris estimates that 2 million practice shots are taken annually, with 1.5 million resulting in turf removal. The average size of a divot is 3" wide by 6.5" long, or 19.5 square inches. Therefore, 30 shots—a small bucket of balls—removes 4.1 square feet of the turf, so over an entire season, 205,000 square feet, or 4.6 ACRES of turf are removed from a 1.5-acre tee! It's no wonder we have trouble keeping turf on our practice tees, huh? Ty's article focuses on ways to mitigate the damage and one way he mentions is encouraging golfers to use the "linear method," by which each shot taken is from the spot directly behind the last divot, leaving a "line" of removed turf. By his calculations, this method removes only 2.1 square feet per 30 shots—around half the "scatter" or "leave a big hole" methods (I've taken the liberty to name these methods myself by the way). Not only does this method reduce the amount of turf removed, it also allows for quicker recovery by letting the surrounding turf creep into the void while the seed germinates (or tries to). As the guy who reseeds and resets his practice tee every day, I found this to be some very useful information—thanks Ty and Chris for putting it out there.

.....

This month's MAGCS member/celebrity look-alike features two guys with four first names. **Greg Martin** Luke Donald is all that's needed to be said. See it?



For the 2012 GCSAA Education Conference to be held February 27 through March 2 in Las Vegas, fifteen new seminars have been added to the lineup. Among the topics are some interesting titles such as "Environomics—Blending Environmental and Financial Stewardship for the Modern Superintendent," "Cool Season Putting Green Improvement—Changing Species or Cultivars, Interseeding, or Regrassing," "So You Want to be a General Manager?" and "Turning Your Greens Green Using Turf Colorants." It's in Vegas, so there'll be other stuff to do, too.

.....



LOHMANN COMPANIES

MARENGO, ILLINOIS □ 815.923.3400
PEORIA, ARIZONA □ 623.322.7189
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA □ 703.986.3417

www.lohmanncompanies.com

Distinctive. Innovative. Memorable.




**GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE
& PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

Building on Experience




**GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION,
RENOVATION & RESTORATION**

*Professional Construction for
Maximum Performance*




**SPORTS FIELD CONSTRUCTION
& RENOVATION**

Last month on the 12th, the 11th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing and Scholarship Fundraiser was held at Marengo Ridge Golf & Country Club in Marengo, IL. The day was perfect weather-wise, and the course, thanks to host superintendent Luke Roth was magnificent. One of the funnest events of our season, the "Buck" features a scramble format in the most relaxed atmosphere you can imagine. And there's a nice steak dinner after golf that tops the day off in high style. Special thanks to the folks at J.W. Turf for the awesome job they do every year with this great event, to the ladies who manned the tee games, and to Marengo Ridge for being such a gracious host.



(continued on page 21)

*Vision.
Experience.
Excellence.*

MARTIN DESIGN
Golf Course Architecture

335 N. River Ln. Suite 201, Batavia, Illinois 60510


630-482-2532

www.mdpltd.com

MARTIN
design

Nobody Cares More About Your Sand




Waupaca Sand & Solutions
 715-258-8566
www.WaupacaSand.com



-OC

S
O
D

Sod That Fits Your Course To A Tee

All varieties available as washed sod, traditionally cut sod or big roll sod.

Your Single Source for:

Bentgrass Varieties

- Penncross™ Bentgrass Sod
- Pennlinks™ Bentgrass Sod
- Penneagle™ Bentgrass Sod
- L-93™ Bentgrass Sod

Low Mow Varieties

- XL2000™ Bluegrass Blend
- Bluegrass Fescue Blend

Installation and turf stripping capabilities available. We can custom grow to your specifications. Please inquire.

H&E SOD NURSERY, inc.

3900 West 167th Street, Markham, IL 60428

708-596-7200

Member:

Midwest Sod Council

1-800-244-7200

WWW.HESOD.COM



Discover Phoenix Environmental Care. A new generation of quality products.

The complete line of advanced fungicides, herbicides, insecticides and plant growth regulators from Phoenix Environmental Care provides superintendents with superior quality, resistance management tools and guaranteed performance.

To learn how Phoenix's value-enhanced pesticides can benefit your golf course, contact 888.240.8856, or visit www.phoenixenvcare.com.

Rick Grant
 Director, Business Development
 317-501-2395



©2011 Phoenix Environmental Care, LLC. The Phoenix logo is a registered trademark of Phoenix Environmental Care, LLC. Always read and follow label directions.