



# January 2011

Happy New Year, and here's to hoping 2011 takes us onward and upward to new heights (and new golfers).

Well, that's going to be MY outlook for 2011. Others may have differing opinions, including *Golfdom's* always-topical Joel Jackson, who summed up his outlook in the December issue with this wonderful revision of a classic poem titled "The Raving" by Duffy Allen Poe:

*Once upon an economy dreary  
As I pondered weak and weary  
Would the budget grow once more?  
Quoth the Green Chairman, "Nevermore."*

*Mowing fairways twice per week  
My budget gets another tweak  
Need to spray, turf looks poor  
Quoth the EPA, "Nevermore."*

*Member/Guest, cut and roll  
Staff reductions take their toll  
Need 40 hours, maybe more  
Quoth the Finance Committee, "Nevermore."*

*New programs I must improvise  
All resources maximize  
Now with less I must do more  
Quoth my inner voice, "Evermore."*

Congratulations to **Chuck Anfield** of Heritage Bluffs Golf Club, and to **Henry Michna** of Winnetka Golf Club on their recent recertification with GCSAA. Now they get to attend the Celebrating Certification luncheon in Orlando on the 11th—how awesome is that?



Henry Michna

## DATES TO REMEMBER

January 13 – CAGCS Shop Tour at Rich Harvest Farms, Black Sheep, and Aurora Country Club.

January 18-19 – 2011 Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show at the Polk Convention Complex & Marriott Hotel in Des Moines, IA. More info at [www.iowaturfgrass.org](http://www.iowaturfgrass.org).

January 19 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge, IL, **Don Ferreri** host.

January 19-21 – Mid-Am Expo at Navy Pier in Chicago, IL. Go to [www.midam.org](http://www.midam.org) for details.

January 27-29 – Annual PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando, FL.

February 4-6 – The 61st GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic presented in partnership with the Toro Company in Palm Beach, FL.

February 7-11 – GCSAA Education Conference in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FL.

February 9 – The 2011 MAGCS Hospitality Reception at the Lucky Leprechaun in Orlando, FL.

February 25 – Deadline for nominations for TurfNet's 2011 Technician of the Year Award presented by Toro.

March 9-10 – Reinders 20th Turf & Irrigation Conference at the Waukesha Expo Center in Waukesha, WI. Visit [www.reinders.com](http://www.reinders.com) for all the goods.

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The golf maintenance world lost a true legend last month with the passing of [Gordon Witteveen](#) on December 16th at the age of 76. Mr. Witteveen was not only an iconic superintendent, having served in the role from 1958 to 1999, but he was also a mentor to scores of young turf heads, prolific author (one of his books having been co-authored by his longtime friend **Mike Bavier, CGCS** titled *Practical Golf Course Maintenance*), world traveler and accomplished speaker, and overall good guy. His latest endeavor was with TurfNet, where he wrote "The Last Word" column in the monthly newsletter for six years, and his blog "The Way I See It...Opinions and Experiences from 50+ Years of Green-keeping." Condolences to the family and MANY friends of Mr. Gordon Witteveen—he will be missed.

While men like Gordon Witteveen were just getting started in the business 50 years ago, this very magazine was helping them locate all the supplies they needed through cutting-edge advertisements such as these, from the January, 1961 issue of *Bull Sheet*:

## MAGCS Comings and Goings...

Congratulations to **Keith Peterson** on his new position as golf course superintendent of the Burlington Golf Club in Burlington, Iowa. Great news for the New Year!



*Keith Peterson*

Also congrats—and my personal best wishes—to **Virgil Range**, who left Aurora Country Club and the title of assistant superintendent behind him at year's end to tackle the superintendent's position at Maryville Country Club in Maryville, Missouri.



*Virgil Range*

And finally, congratulations to **Kirk Spieth**, formerly of Olympia Fields Country Club, who has accepted the superintendent's position at Beverly Country Club. Happy New Year to you, and best of luck in your new places.

February 25th marks the deadline for you to submit your nomination to TurfNet for its 2011 Technician of the Year Award presented by Toro. Criteria used include crisis management, effective budgeting, environmental awareness, helping to further and promote the careers of colleagues and employees, interpersonal communications, inventory management and cost control, overall condition and reliability of rolling stock, shop safety, and work ethic. The winner will receive the Golden Wrench Award—a real gold-plated wrench—and a weeklong training session at Toro's Service Training University at the company's headquarters in Bloomington, MN. To submit a nomination, go to [turfnet.com](http://turfnet.com), click on the Features tab, then the Tech of the Year tab, and follow the instructions.

J. W. Turf has a new employee....sort of. On December 4th, **Danna Eberly** married her sweetheart Brad and became Mrs. Danna Curtis. Congratulations to the happy couple on this wonderful occasion!



Congratulations to Danna (formerly Eberly) Curtis and her husband Brad.

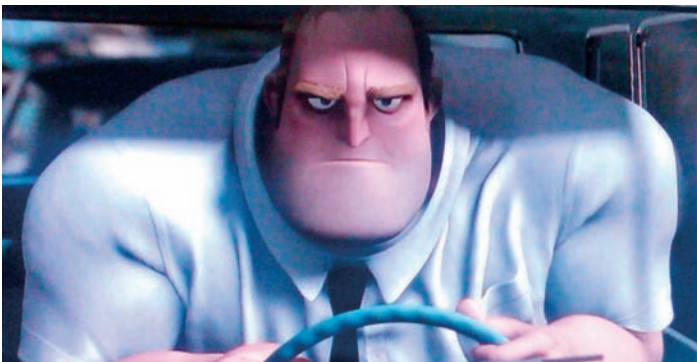
How about this news from the LPGA—in a slight update of a classic “Boy meets Girl” story, where “Boy becomes Girl,” the LPGA players voted at a meeting on November 28th to remove the “female at birth” requirement from the Tour’s constitution, bringing an end to the days of them banning transgender golfers from their tournaments. Next LPGA Player of the Year: John Bobbitt. Google it if you weren’t born yet.

GCSAA’s 2011 Compensation and Benefits survey is now available at gcsaa.org, and all Class A and SM members are urged to participate. For your VERY miniscule efforts (no, you don’t need to dig through piles of budget and personnel information to complete it—it’s really quite painless) you will receive free access to the results—a \$145 value according to GCSAA—as well as .25 Service Points.

Also, did you know that if you are currently taking college courses in addition to (or outside of) your degree, those classes may count as education points on your GCSAA transcript? College courses that are related to golf course management are worth 1.5 points per semester hour, which can add up fast and help you on your way to renewing or applying for your Class A membership or certification. Just thought I’d pass that on.

Also from GCSAA, award-winning journalist of 22 years Scott Hollister has been promoted to Editor-in-Chief of *Golf Course Management* (GCM) magazine.

Recently caught on a Naperville traffic camera: **Tim Anderson** driving home after a really bad day at the office.



This month on the 19th is the MAGCS monthly meeting at Seven Bridges Golf Club, with **Don Ferreri** hosting. The morning’s education for the event is a presentation by **Tommy Witt, CGCS** called “Negotiating for Success.” Tommy will highlight the key points from his half-day seminar covering the basic negotiating skills, working with boards, getting products for the right price, compensation and benefits packages, employees, and new hires. This meeting is also the annual Wee One Fundraiser which will take place after lunch. This will feature a raffle and auction of products and services, the proceeds from which will support a great cause—the Wee One Foundation. See you there.

Last month saw MAGCS members converging on two traditional spots for the annual holiday parties that have become such a part of the season. On Friday, December 3rd the West Side Superintendents Party was held at Seven Bridges Golf Club, where a large crowd of revelers enjoyed a great lunch buffet, an amply-stocked bar, and a friendly game of cards to boot. Stories of after-hour highjinx, including the mandatory Tilted Kilt stop have been leaking slowly, but names are being withheld to protect the innocent.



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*Tim Anderson, caught at a Midwest Meeting, having a really good day - away from the office.*



*Which one of the above doesn't really need glasses?*



Just 3 days later, on Monday the 6th, the annual South Side Superintendents Holiday Party was held at Chef Klaus Bier Stube in Frankfort—a tradition unlike any other as Jim Nance would say. As usual, **Eddie Esger** and **Keith Peterson** put the event together (and gladly took the money from the many attendees), and it was another great gathering. Schnitzels, sausages und bier were the order of the day as ol' Chef Klaus outdid himself once again.



*"Get this. Now Mumper thinks he's being stalked by a damn bear. What a freak!"*



*Ancient cave drawing of Vence Zolman found on the dining room wall of Die Bier Stube.*

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*Blomquist patiently waiting for anyone underneath the mistletoe reindeer thingy.*



*What's with all the winking?*



*These party crashers skipped the meat platters at the Bier Stube claiming their diets wouldn't allow them to eat the fare.*



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In a heady move to balance out all the partying with some serious stuff, ITF held its Winter Education Days at Golf House on the 14th and 15th. The two-day event featured presentations from respected industry experts as well as **Erwin McKone**, who, when he wasn't yelling at the packed house about BigPar3 this and Sustainability that, kept everyone engaged and on their toes. Kicking off the event was Dr. Jim Kerns, Assistant Professor at University of Wisconsin-Madison who began his presentation, "Everything and Anything About Snow Mold" by saying "I'm not going to talk about snow mold." Things got better from there, though, and Dr. Kerns did eventually get to snow mold after his discussions on pythium, fairy ring, rust, and bacterial wilt (which included "bacterial brown striping"—a malady once thought to only attack underwear, but recently found in crops such as oats, wheat and corn). Seriously, though, the event filled Golf House's auditorium both days, and was a great 2 days of education. And I echo Erwin's plea for everyone to sign a BigPar3 letter of intent, and host one on your course next season—it requires minimal effort and will reap maximum benefit, both to ITF and turf research AND to you personally at your club.

Next month brings the world of golf course management to Orlando for the Golf Industry Show and GCSAA's Education Conference. The latest news is that joining the show for the first time is the Society of Golf Appraisers, which, if one were to lean toward the macabre, is like inviting the Society of Dog Food Producers to a Sick Horse convention. On the plus side, MAGCS will once again be holding its world-famous Hospitality Reception, thanks to the generosity of our great commercial members and volunteers. This year's rendition will be held on Wednesday, February 9th at the Lucky Leprechaun at 7032 International Drive, which boasts the finest collection of blue-eyed, redheaded, freckled, pasty-skinned exotic dancers this side of Dublin. But I jest—it has all kinds of strippers. I jest again—no adult entertainment other than good food, drink, and company. For the Illini contingent, the following evening will feature the Illinois Turfgrass Alumni gathering at the Rosen Plaza Hotel from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. And of course there's that whole trade show thing and all those education seminars if you're into that sort of thing. Hope to see you all there. Hope to see myself there come to think of it.

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-OC

