

THE BULL SHEET
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

June 2011

Here goes—the last reminder of 2011 about the deadline for submissions for the TurfNet Superintendent’s Best Friend Calendar presented by BASF. July 30th is that deadline, so get those great photos of your dog off to Laura Salinas (lsalinas@turfnet.com) quickly. Oh, and they kinda frown on pics of your dog killing something cute. We here at Bull Sheet do not.

In case you can’t make that July 30th deadline, you have a reprieve: August 1st is the deadline for the “2011 Dogs of Golf” calendar presented by Lebanon Turf. To submit your entry for 2012 Dog of the Year, send your high-resolution images (at least 4 megapixels) to lebturfdogcalendar@gcsaa.org. Check gcsaa.org for more information.

If you fancy yourself a filmmaker, and want to raise awareness to the need for effective, efficient, and responsible water use, you should enter the Rain Bird 2011 Intelligent Use of Water Film Competition. Entries will be accepted until August 1st. A panel of film and water experts will review films submitted via the competition’s website, www.iuowfilm.com, and finalists will win a trip to Los Angeles where they will be guests at a formal screening event hosted by wildlife expert and frequent Letterman foil Jack Hanna. Following the screening, two winners will be announced and awarded cash prizes of \$6,000 for the Jury Award and \$3,000 for the Audience Choice Award. Can’t hurt to try.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

June 21 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Prairie Bluff Golf Club in Lockport, IL, **Luke Strojny, CGCS** host. The Dom Grotti Championship and the Class C Championship will be contested at this event.

July 5 – Deadline for the call for nominations for the 2012 GCSAA Board of Directors.

July 12 – 11th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing and Scholarship Fundraiser at Marengo Ridge Golf & Country Club, **Luke Roth** host.

July 13 – ITF/NWILGCSA Summer Golf Day at Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa in Galena, IL, **Tom Tully, CGCS** host.

July 18-23 – U.S. Girls Junior Championship at Olympia Fields Country Club, **Sam MacKenzie, CGCS** host.

July 19 – Midwest Regional Turf Field Day at the Daniel Turf Center in West LaFayette, IN. Go to www.mrtf.org for details.

July 30 – Deadline for submissions to TurfNet for its “2012 Superintendent’s Best Friend Calendar.”

August 1 – Deadline for entries in Rain Bird’s 2011 Intelligent Use of Water Film Competition. Details to follow.

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

August 21 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Bowes Creek Golf Club in Elgin, IL, **Brad Legnaioli, CGCS** host.

September 15-18 – 2011 BMW Championship (the 3rd FedEx Cup Playoff event) at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club in Lemont, IL, **Ken Lapp** and **Scott Pavalko** hosts.

September 22 – ITF’s 3rd Annual iTurfExpo at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL, with Doc Settle and the Crew hosting.

The Second Annual Medinah Patriot Day will take place on July 7th at Medinah Country Club, the site of the 2012 Ryder Cup matches (**Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** host). The event benefits the Illinois Patriot Education Fund, whose mission is to provide educational scholarships for Illinois military service men and women and their families. A great cause that recently got even better—on May 25th the IPEF announced that it will donate a portion of all donations received through Memorial Day to assist the victims of the tornado that devastated Joplin, Missouri in mid-May. You can contribute to the cause by visiting www.illinoispatrioteducationfund.org.

MAGCS member sighting in print—**Dustin Huguen** of The Bridges of Poplar Creek Country Club was featured in an article in the March issue of *Club & Resort Business* titled “Standing Up to the Test.” The article stressed the need for soil and water testing to “dial in” inputs while reducing unnecessary applications of nutrients. Dustin related that he performs his soil tests in late July to early August, allowing the season’s maintenance program to have taken full effect, and also that he takes numerous samples from each area tested at a time when there have been no recent fertilizer or pesticide applications and the soil is dry.

Congratulations to Sara and **Keith Krause** on the birth of their daughter Delilah Sara Krause on May 26th. Delilah was born at 1:17 PM, weighing in at 8 lbs., 14 ozs., and 21” long, and joins sister Lucy and brother Max in filling out the Krause family. Nicely done, Krauses—might I recommend

Samson as a potential name for your next child (and may it be a masculine child)?



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So we have found another uncanny resemblance between a MAGCS member and a celebrity, and once again there is some karma involved. **Brian RACeTte** is a SUPERintendent. Dale Earnhart, Jr. is a RACer who is a SUPERstar. Coincidence? Again we ask you to be the judge...



in our business. He was never afraid to get a little dirt under his fingernails and he loved teaching young lads like myself as well as many others lessons in grass and in life. And although the grass paid the bills and put food in our mouths, he always made sure the family came before the grass. He made it a point every time he saw another guy in the industry to not only ask about the course, but to see how his family was doing. And that's how I think a lot of guys will remember Ken. So if you want to find him after July 1st, you probably have three options: he will organize Team Focus events (a mentoring program for young men who grew up without a father); kayaking with Jim McNair; or RV-ing with mom across Colorado. If you see him at Prairie Bluff, congratulate him and maybe even buy him an Arnold Palmer. And for all you guys who wanted to see another picture of him in short shorts, you got it.



Our April MAGCS meeting was held at Naperville Country Club on the 27th with **Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG** and **Steven Biehl** hosting. On paper, the plan was solid—wait until the end of the month to ensure good weather. The execution of the plan was thwarted by that same issue—weather. April decided it wanted to go out with a bang and not a whimper, and copious rain made the golf portion of the event impossible. Between Tim and his staff, and the excellent education session provided by **Larry Lennert** of Aquatrols, the day was a success regardless of the weather woes. Many thanks to Tim Anderson and Naperville Country Club (and a special shout-out to Oscar in the Men's Grille), and to our generous sponsors—**Arthur Clesen, Inc., Burris Equipment Company, J.W. Turf, Inc., Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Syngenta, BASF, Water Well Solutions, PHP, Layne-Western, and Pendleton Turf Supply**—for a great day.

I turn the pen over to **Craig Shepherd** (ProGro Solutions) for the following:

Roy and Trigger Ride Off Into the Sunset

In case you haven't heard the news yet, Ken Shepherd will be officially hanging up the work boots as of July 1st. After 35 years in the greens industry, he will pass the baton and ride off into the sunset...literally (he enjoys riding his road bike A LOT).

He started his greenkeeping career at Cog Hill Country Club working for the legendary Ken Lapp. Shortly thereafter he went on to receive his first head superintendent position at Woodruff Golf Course. After seven years he transferred within the Joliet Park District to Wedgewood Golf Course after Renny "Snake" Jacobson left for Carillon Golf Links. He then got the opportunity to build and grow in Prairie Bluff Golf Club in his hometown of Lockport, Illinois where the June MAGCS golf outing will be held (and dear old dad will be playing). If you have met Ken, you've realized he was one of the hardest working, funniest, most caring individuals

GREAT DES PLAINES ROAD RACE
August 21, 1983
Marathon Foto

The Short shorts—what everybody wanted to see, but the white socks and red shoes make the outfit complete.

(continued on next page)



The family guy—how bout that good lookin' kid on the right?



Dad with his bestest buddy Renny Jacobson.



Dad doing what he was born to do.

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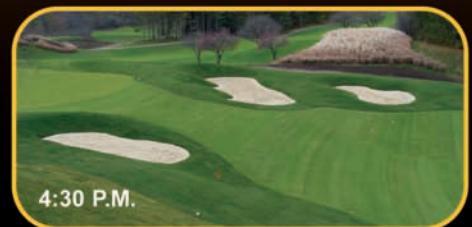
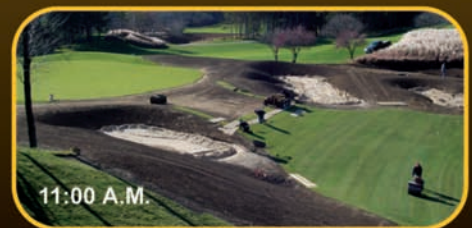
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Both the Dom Grotti (Superintendent/Assistant) and Class C Championships will be contested at this event, so come out to Lockport and win some hardware.

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And to show just how lazy a Bull Sheet writer can be, I now turn this space over to **Chuck Barber** (Indian lakes Resort) for his description of some recent festivities at Butler National Golf Club:

The following is a short speech I gave about Mike Sauls and the time I spent working at Butler National Golf Club from 1999 to 2006. Butler National chose to recognize Mike as their "Man of the Year" for 2011. This was due in no small part to recovering from floods, tornados and whatever else the weather wrought on the Oak Brook layout in 2010. I believe it had more to do with his achievements throughout his career at Butler and the conditions he brought to the course since his arrival in 1990.

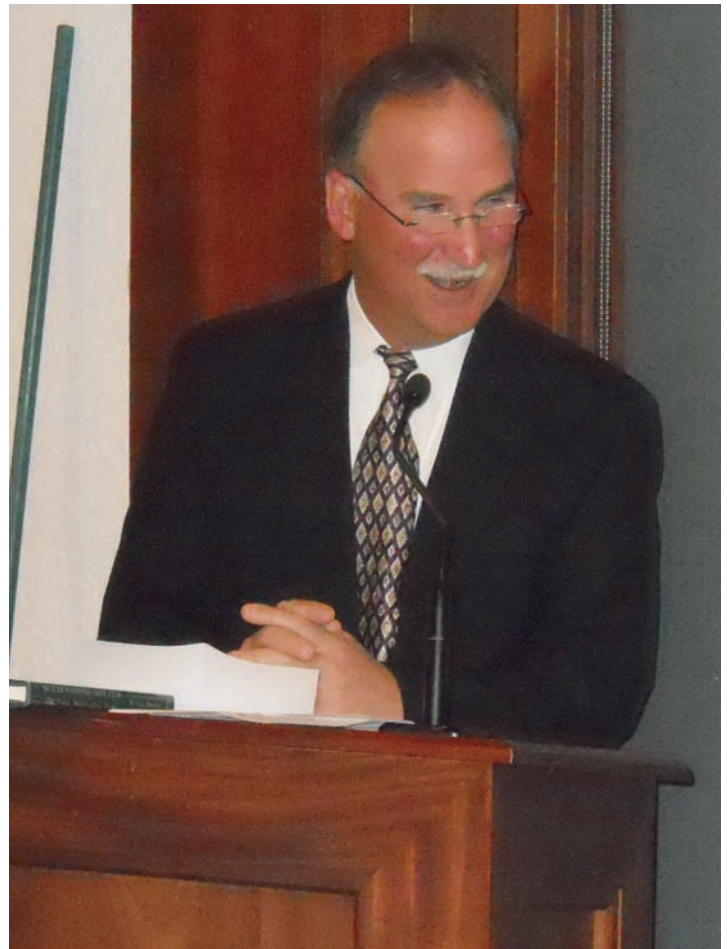
Golf Course Superintendents are sometimes the 'unsung' heroes of golf operations. The membership of Butler National sang loud and clear in praise of Mike, the grounds staff, and the golf course they are able to enjoy as a result of their work. All of Mike's former assistant superintendents attended the lunch, golf, and dinner event at the invitation of the membership. They came from as far as California and Colorado to be there for Mike and it was a very special experience for all of us. I wanted to share this experience with MAGCS as a reminder that employers do notice our efforts, they do take the time to say 'thank you' and they appreciate the value we as superintendents add to each facility.

I came to Butler National Golf Club in January 3rd of 1999 and I stayed through the blizzard that came that day, the floods and projects that ensued over the next 7 years until I left in 2006.

I moved to Chicago in the hopes of finishing my degree at the University of Illinois beginning in the fall of 1999 and Mike was the only golf course employer willing to hire me for a January start. It also helped that I was living with my parents four miles away in Western Springs and Mike felt it a benefit he didn't have to pay for housing me as he did the other interns. He also didn't see fit to pay me more than minimum wage either. His frugality is legendary.

When I joined the staff as the second assistant in 2001 upon graduating I thought I knew it all. I was hot stuff and I was proud to share that with everyone. I came to learn quickly, in the Mike Sauls, not-so-delicate sort of way, that I was wrong. I learned many lessons over the ensuing years that I draw upon daily in my current position as Director of Grounds at Indian Lakes Resort. I would like to take a few moments and share some of these lessons with you:

One of my first Sundays by myself as a manager (Jason Kahlstorf ALWAYS scheduled the most capable, veteran staff on his Sunday. I was left with the rookies and the questionably sober) one of the staff members forgot to rake the bunker behind the fourth green. In a confusing radio conversation I communicated poorly that we were raking



Butler National's Man of the Year, Mike Sauls.

bunkers in fairways while Mike was inquiring about green-side bunkers. I was requested to be present, immediately, behind the 4th green near the halfway house. I was dressed down quickly about my inability to be an effective manager, a good communicator, a turf manager, a Steelers fan, a democrat and a litany of other things. Mike was wielding a putter over his shoulder and many of you in the room were present during this conversation and for that I am glad. I truly felt Mike was going to hurt me.

The Lesson: Safety first

On July 30th of 1999 the mercury tipped out at 103 degrees with accompanying humidity. We observed actively growing disease well into the afternoon and Mike decided to spray fungicide in fairways around 5 pm. Jason Kahlstorf, Jason Tresemer, Tony Bisbee and I spent the next 6 hours spraying fairways. I remember the date for two reasons: 1.) it was my birthday and 2.) I was supposed to go to the Cubs game that day with the Mets front office staff in town for the game with a friend from college. I didn't ask to go to the game if you must know. If you already know the answer it is best to not ask the question. Mike left somewhere around dark and presented the 4 of us with a handsome prize: a 6 pack of Budweiser, 12 oz cans. I'll do the math for you: 1.5 beers per man. Jason Tresemer and I both forwent our halves for Tony and Jason to enjoy.

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The Lesson: Budget awareness is important

During greens aerification before the Salt Creek project was completed one of the staff members torpedoed an expensive Cushman turf truckster into the Salt Creek in front of #10 green. We lifted the operator and the equipment to safety as Mike was breathlessly running to the site. Mike inquired quickly: "IS THE CUSHMAN OK"! The reply was that yes, Hestor was fine and the Cushman would live to fight another day.

The Lesson: It is crucial to have priorities

The best time I had during my years at Butler National Golf Club was during the golf course renovation of 2004/2005. My responsibilities included establishing all the turf on greens, tees, and fairways, and coordinating all the activities with the irrigation contractor with our department. Jason Kahlstorf handled the bulk of the construction responsibilities as well as the staff's involvement in golf course maintenance and the construction work we performed in-house. Mike handled material ordering, logistics and coordinated all the work with Tom Marzolf, David Hunt and Tom Fazio. This involved loads of gravel, sand, topsoil, irrigation components, seed, fertilizer, etc and was really a Herculean task. On one particular day a truck driver delivering topsoil mistakenly dumped his load into a pile of bunker sand. I don't have to tell you how mad Mike was, but I will. His face became as red as I have ever seen, he folded his arms so tight around his chest I felt he might break his ribs and his strides were nearly double their normal speed and length. As he cursed and screamed in English and



Dan Sterr took part in the Saul festivities at Butler to honor Mike.

broken Spanish, the Estonian or Latvian truck driver calmly grabbed a shovel and scooped the contaminated soil and sand out of the pile over the next few hours and then went busily about his life. Some of those curse words are still hanging in space somewhere over Jorie Blvd.

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All former Assistants of Mike Saul's: (Clockwise from left) Ted White, Mike Carlson, Dan Sterr, Hugh Lynch.



The Lesson: You can NEVER over communicate

Mike used to talk about going to Board meetings and facing 'the music' for whatever was happening outside on the golf course that he felt was bothering the membership at that time. This was usually things like: green speed, green speed and green speed. I joked that he should wear his glasses (for those of you who haven't seen them, they are thick enough, I think, to see into the future) for surely no one would yell at someone wearing glasses. Mike's response was: "How about you go & yourself".

The Lesson: A sense of humor is a good thing

It might sound like a bad place to work from hearing these stories. At the time I might have agreed somewhat. Life can only be understood backwards but must be lived forward. Looking back I never learned more, I was never given the opportunity to do more, I was never given that much responsibility, I was never asked to be a leader before, I was never more aware of a larger picture. Many people ask me what it was like to work at Butler National and what it was like to work for Mike Sauls. My answer has been the same since the day I left. I tell people: "Mike Sauls is the best golf course superintendent I know. Working at Butler National is only as difficult as you make it on yourself". I use these lessons and many more in the way I do my job today and they will stay with me for the rest of my career. In my time at Butler National, Mike Sauls taught me a great deal about golf course management, working with memberships, peers, vendors, and the crew but to NEVER lose sight that family comes first. I try and emulate that today now that I have a family of my own. Thank you, Mike, for the chance to learn these things and I am glad the membership of Butler National Golf Club has recognized Mike today for the work he has done for the club for the last 22 years. It is my understanding that Mike and Errie Ball are the only employees to win this award. I don't imagine we'll see Mike mowing rough here at Butler when he's 99 years old! Thank you.



The other side of the ball had Mike's pic on it, not sure why anyone would want to strike that side of the ball.

OK, I'm back now. Don't forget to sign up for the 11th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing which takes place on July 12th at Marengo Ridge Golf & CC (Luke Roth host). This event is always a blast with its 4-person scramble format and its post-golf feast, and benefits not only the MAGCS Scholarship Fund, but also the NWIGCSA's and the Kane County Farm Bureau's funds. Call J.W.Turf at 847-683-4653 to sign your team up.

As a public service, we offer the following helpful hint so you may hopefully avoid this...



When you repeatedly haul a heavy piece of equipment around a bouncy, bumpy golf course, and are usually going too fast to try and stay ahead of play, you may want to check the tow hitch periodically for signs of stress or fatigue before a catastrophe occurs. Tow-behind turbine blowers are another susceptible item (not that I would have any personal experience with that—I'm just sayin')



Mike's known as a man of few words, apparently the two imprinted onto the outing balls are a favorite with the membership.

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The ITF /MAGCS Spring Golf Day was held at Briar Ridge Country Club in Schererville, IN on May 24th with **Erwin McKone, CGCS** hosting. This time Mother Nature cooperated with a glorious, albeit blustery day. The format was a two-person best ball with match play Ryder Cup scoring, pitting the evil black team against the virtuous white team. It came down to the last foursome and the White Team prevailed.

Many thanks to Erwin and the staff at Briar Ridge for a great golf course and a great food spread afterward. And of course, thank you to the day's sponsors who made it all possible: **Syngenta** (Driver Sponsor), **Dirt-n-Turf Consulting** (Iron Sponsor), **D&K Products, Arthur Clesen, Inc., BASF, Reinders, Inc., and Dow AgroSciences** (Wedge Sponsors), and **Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc., and The Andersons** (Putter Sponsors).



Dave Behrman and Dave Schingel.



Drs. Bruce Branham, Tom Voigt and Mr. Scott Witte share a laugh at the ITF/MAGCS Play day.



Brian Racette and Kurt Sams crossed the boarder to enjoy the day.



Joel Purpur and Dave Milosoff readying to play Briar Ridge.



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Smooth swinging ITF Board member Brian Mores (l). Kevin DeRoo trying to start the wave by himself after Barber's tremendous golf shot. (R)



Shane Conroy and Nick Marfise of Park Ridge Country Club.

What do you know? Witte wins another raffle.

John Nelson is such a good superintendent/golfer he can replace his divot before he even completes his swing.





MAGCS current champion, Dave Kohley attempted to advance the ball as John Neslon explains to him the finer points of replacing your divot during your swing as they search for the ball again.



ITF's Past President Don Cross was able to pick up a Purdue memento at the Pro Shop at Briar Ridge. Dr. Voigt pretended to be amused.



Still hiding something, Erwin addresses the group as the current president of the ITF.

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If you have the urge to serve your industry, there is no better way than to serve it at the highest level. GCSAA is accepting nominations for the 2012 Board of Directors until July 5th. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting in Las Vegas next February. If you are interested, contact Luke Cella who will in turn submit your name to the nominating committee for its review.

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Erwin McKone shows off his coveted framed copy of On Course and is hiding something.

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So it's a shame that our winter sports teams have bowed out of the playoffs, and there will be no championships to celebrate this summer. There is an upside, though—since the Blackhawks made their premature exit from their defense of the Stanley Cup, it gave them the opportunity to get out on the links earlier than last year. This was a BIG upside for **Scott Witte, CGCS** at Cantigny Golf Club when he ran into Bryan Campbell and Jonathan Toews at his course recently. They REALLY look young next to Scott, don't they?



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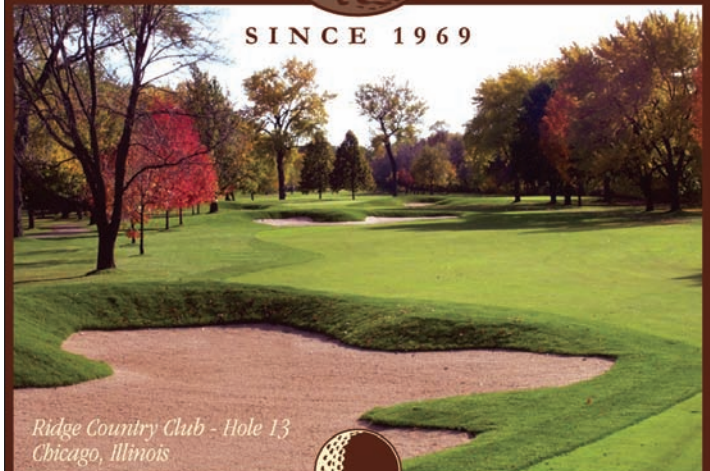
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WE ARE GOLF, a coalition led by five of the game's leading associations—including GCSAA—and supported by a wide range of industry partners, met with key members of Congress in April as part of the fourth annual National Golf Day. The five founding associations are GCSAA, the Club Managers Association of America, National Golf Course Owners Association, The PGA of America, and the World Golf Foundation. Among those in attendance was **John Ekstrom** of Hinsdale Golf Club who, in his role on GCSAA's government relations committee, and acting as *Golf Course Industry* magazine's correspondent on Capitol Hill prepared and sent his Daily Dispatches from Washington D.C. Great job by John on keeping us updated on the proceedings.

Did you catch the article in April's *Golfdom* magazine about the Reinvention of Mark Woodward? You will recall Woodward, the former CEO of GCSAA left his post under some cloudy circumstances. Well, after reading the article (which I had hoped would shed some light on the subject), the whole thing still seems cloudy doesn't it? I guess we file this whole episode along with Big Foot, the Loch Ness Monster, and Area 51—there's a story there and that story is that there is no story. Enough said on this.

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