

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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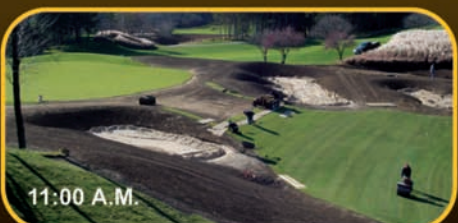


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Both the Dom Grotti (Superintendent/Assistant) and Class C Championships will be contested at this event, so come out to Lockport and win some hardware.

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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.

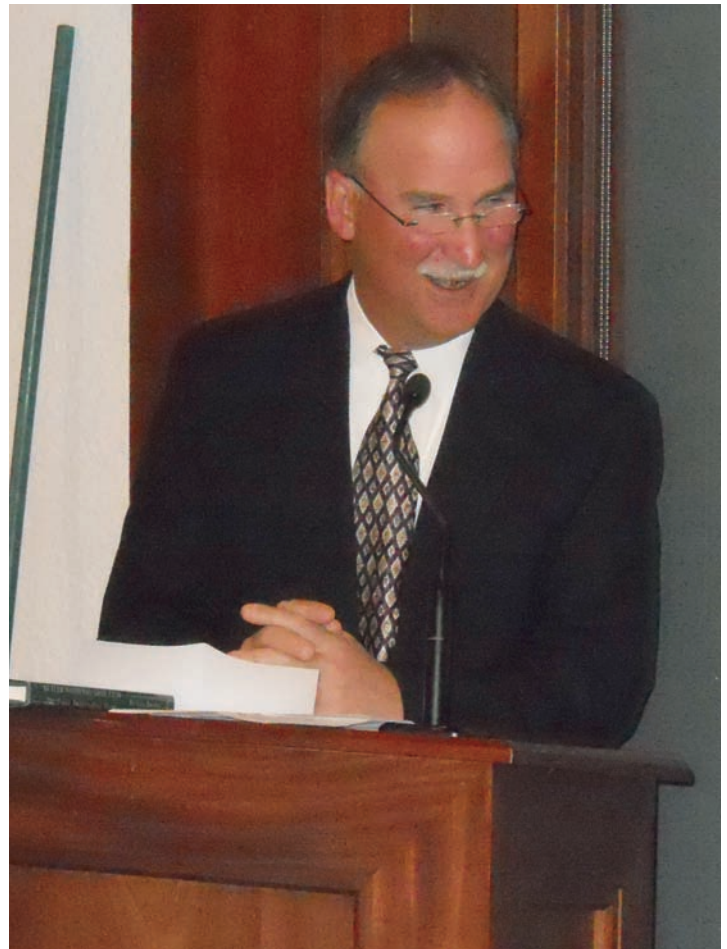
Golf Course Superintendents are sometimes the 'unsung' heroes of golf operations. The membership of Butler National sang loud and clear in praise of Mike, the grounds staff, and the golf course they are able to enjoy as a result of their work. All of Mike's former assistant superintendents attended the 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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