



THE BULL SHEET
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



November 2011

Big congrats (and well-deserved) to JT **John Turner** on being awarded Purdue University's 2011 Agronomy Achievement Award on September 17th. Department head Dr. Joe Anderson recognized JT as an alumnus (class of 1980) who has made a significant contribution to his profession and to our industry. John and his wife Pam attended the ceremony, and toured the campus, including a stop at the Daniel Turf Research Center (named after the renowned Dr. Bill Daniel). Past GCSAA president Dave Fearis and Knox Fertilizer president Bob Shaw are former winners of this coveted award. Congratulations JT!



Johnn Turner

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DATES TO REMEMBER

November 1 – Member registration opens for GCSAA's Education Conference in Las Vegas, NV.
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November 2 – Golf Course Superintendents of Asia Summit at the Royal Cliff Beach Resort in Pattaya, Thailand. Or do you still say Siam?
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November 15-16 – 2011 Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium at the American Club in Kohler, WI.
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November 16 – 59th Midwest Turf Clinic & Annual Meeting at Medinah Country Club, **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** host.
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November 30 – Deadline for nominations for the 11th Annual TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta.
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December 1 – Non-member registration opens for GCSAA's Education Conference in Las Vegas, NV
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December 5 – Annual South Side Superintendents Holiday Party at Die Bier Stube in Frankfort, IL, German restaurateurs hosts.
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December 5-8 – Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Conference and Show at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, OH.
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December 9 – Annual West Side Superintendents Holiday Party at Seven Bridges Golf Club, **Don Ferreri** and **Dave Gelino** hosts.
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December 12-16 – OSHA 30-hour Outreach Training Compliance Course at the Butterfield Office Plaza Building in Oak Brook, IL. Go to www.skillpath.com for info and to enroll.
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December 14-15 – ITF 2-Day Winter Education Program at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.
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December 15 – Application deadline for the 2012 USGA Green Section Summer Internship Program. More info to follow.
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Congratulations also go out to MAGCS ex-patriot **Tom Lively, CGCS** on the kudos he received from the players in the AT&T Championship held at his TPC San Antonio Canyons Course in October. You might have heard that Tom's neck of the woods has been experiencing a little old drought this year (one of epic proportions), yet the players were effusive in their praise of the conditions he and his staff provided them for the tournament. Phil Blackmar said, "They're absolutely spectacular, as good as Bermuda greens can be." Winner Fred Couples hopped on board as well, offering that "The greens are by far among the top two or three we've putted on all year. They were perfect." High praise indeed for a really nice guy.



Tom Lively

It's November, and that means it's time again for the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium. This year's rendition is being held on the 15th and 16th in its usual place—the American Club in Kohler, WI—and will feature its usual high-quality education program that it has come to be famous for. As a bonus, any funds in excess of expenses are contributed by the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association to the O. J. Noer Research Foundation, which is nice. For information, contact Shelley Mazurek at (414) 221-6810.

October 21st was a big night for MAGCS, for golf course superintendents, and especially for **Paul Voykin**, as it was the evening of his induction into the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame. The ceremony was held at the Glen Club in Glenview, IL (home of the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame), and honored four very deserving inductees. Joining fellow inductees Steve Benson, Sherm Finger, and Robert Gardner (posthumously), Paul received his plaque with the grace and humor we'd all expect. He started his acceptance speech with a bang—"I'm a little hard of hearing, so if you feel you need to applaud, please do it very loudly"—and never really looked back. Paul mentioned a chance meeting with golf legend Ben Hogan while he was working with his brother Peter in Canada that proved to be a huge influence in their career paths thereafter, as well as a quote by Walter Hagen reminding folks to "stop and smell the flowers," a theme that Paul has espoused ever since. So well-delivered and eloquent (and downright funny) was Paul's speech that the evening's emcee, Tim Cronin remarked afterward that "now we know who SHOULD have been

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emcee tonight!" If you ever find yourself in the neighborhood of the Glen Club, stop in—the names on those plaques are truly legendary. And now WE have our own legend to boast about. Well done, Mr. Voykin.



While on the subject of Halls of Fame, the Western Golf Association has formally taken over administration of the Caddie Hall of Fame, an exhibit that highlights the tradition and importance of caddying by recognizing notable junior caddies, caddie administrators, and career caddies. The exhibit will be housed at WGA headquarters in Golf, IL.

This just in—a company called Play With Trust LLC has just launched its new product called Swing Trust Oil, an aromatherapy product targeted at avid golfers looking to improve their game. Now I may not be the sharpest tool in the shed, but hasn't this been done already? I think it's called Budweiser.

Jake Gyllenhaal plays a cowboy in Brokeback Mountain. **Thom Irvin** is at Indian Hill Club and breaks his back for his evil boss every day. Cowboy. Indian. Hill. Mountain. Back. It all makes sense—they're the same guy.



Jake Gyllenhaal and Thom Irvin

If you are looking for a way to justify your attendance at the Golf Industry Show in February in Las Vegas, GCSAA has just the ticket. Their cleverly-named "Attendee Justification Kit" is a tool that walks you through the process, and is available at gcsaa.org. Good luck with that.

If you DO happen to attend, whether justified or otherwise, the list of education seminars that will be offered is now online at the conference website (golfindustryshow.org). The site is pretty much your one-stop go-to guide for all things Conference. Good frost-morning surfing.

In case you were wondering, actually, this was just booked: The **Midwest Hospitality Reception** is planned for **Wednesday, February 29, 2012** at the Hard Rock Café on Paradise Road in Las Vegas. We are taking the place over from 7 to 10 pm, buying out the venue for the timeframe. Don't miss it.

October 15th was a big day for the University of Illinois Turf Alumni, as they gathered in Champaign to witness history with their beloved (and e-mascot-ulated) Fighting Illini looking to go 7 and 0 against the hated Ohio State Buckeyes. The atmosphere at the pre-game tailgate was festive, and the stadium was striped in Illini orange and blue. But this is Illinois, and as such, they laid a big ol' egg and lost in ugly fashion. Thanks to **Bruce Branham** for arranging a great day despite the outcome of the game, and to all the alums who attended and contributed. Editor's note—at press time, the Illini had not yet won another game.



Nice seats, huh buddy?

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Reinders, Inc. recently announced the addition of Jerry Kershasky as Territory Manager for their Soft Goods Business Group in the Chicago market. Jerry will be responsible for sales and product support. Welcome to Chicago, Jerry.

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Monday, October 3rd found MAGCS members converging on the Merit Club for the October meeting and Annual College Championship. **John Nelson** and **Arne Nordenson** and their crew had the course in just crazy good shape. Greens confounded even the savviest of savvy putters, and the fairway lies were so tight and perfect I found myself topping everything just so I wouldn't make a divot. Kudos to John and Arne on a terrific product, and to the staff at Merit Club for their great service. Oh yes, about the golf part. There was a LOT of orange and blue on that golf course, and perhaps due to sheer numbers alone (or possibly talent had a part in it), the team from the University of Illinois with **Jeff Pozen** and **Craig Shepherd** (72) and **Greg Rounds** and **Justin VanLanduit** (73) took the first place honors with a scorching 145, besting the 153 turned in by the team from Michigan State University of **Jeff Frenz** and **Scott Vincent** (77) and **Mike Mumper** and **Dave Radaj** (76). In the Independent Division, Arne Nordenson and **Pete Kiraly** won with a net 51, followed by **Brett Ziegler** and **Darin Douglas** with 54, and **Scott Witte** and **Mark Karczewski** with a 55. Congratulations to the Illini who found something they CAN win at, and thanks to everyone at the Merit Club and to our most benevolent sponsors, who were: **Arthur Clesen, Inc., JW Turf, Inc., Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Burris Equipment Company, Syngenta, Chicagoland Turf, Harris Golf Cars, Reinders, Inc., Lemont Paving and Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc.**





Oh @#%*! Why couldn't I have been a flying squirrel?

MAGCS member **Brian Widmer, CGCS** was one of TurfNet's featured bloggers recently in its Turf Blog Aggregator. The Hilldale Golf Club superintendent used his blog to inform his golfers about the "Half and Half" greens aerification program they've been employing for the past four years, whereby they punch half of each green to leave the other half pristine for cup locations, and then punch the other half after the first half has healed.

The Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents held a really cool meeting on October 26th at the Morton Arboretum, with Dr. Kris Bachtel providing the day's education. Kris talked of Emerald Ash Borer, structural pruning and training of young trees, along with a wide variety of related topics while guiding a tour of the arboretum grounds and maintenance facilities on a blustery October day. Among the highlights of the day was learning that our own northern Illinois tree nurseries are among the BEST at producing quality stock due to their diligence with pruning during the trees' crucial developmental stages. A few fun facts: The Arboretum has 1,700 acres of property, and it IS the same Morton family that got a little famous for their salt. Thanks to Kris and the Morton Arboretum for a great day, and the the brain trust at CAGCS to think of going there.



Fall golf course fun—feel free to send me some of your images as well. We owe our goose-free courses (and in many instances our sanity) to our four-legged friends, so let's do them some justice for their efforts.



La la la la eating my nuts la la la la on this safe golf course la la la la...

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As mentioned in Dates to Remember, the deadline to apply for the 2012 USGA Green Section Summer Internship Program is December 15th. Each year the USGA provides the opportunity for 14 to 17 students to travel with members of the Green Section staff on Turf Advisory Service visits for one week between May and August. The goal is to provide students with a broader view of the golf course industry and help them learn about golf course maintenance through the perspective of the Green Section agronomists. If you know of a college student who'd be interested, contact Kimberly Erusha, Ph.D., Senior Director, USGA Green Section at 908-234-2300 or at kerusha@usga.org.

GCSAA has its new Chief Operating Officer! Richard Konzem, who has more than 30 years of management experience, primarily in college athletics, has been named to the position, and started his tenure on October 17th.

Apparently even with our economy going to **pot** and development **stonewalled**, there's still value to be found in golf course closings—at least in Cheltenham, PA. Charlie Patterson, a local farmer, was caught growing over 250 marijuana plants on the grounds of the former Cedarbrook Hill Country Club, currently nothing more than a **weed** patch. He had elaborate alarms and even an irrigation system installed; but alas, some nosy neighbors took the **high** road and notified police of their suspicions, landing old Charlie in the **joint**.

The Musser International Turfgrass Foundation has launched a website—www.musserfoundation.org—to make information about the group's mission and graduate student award program easily available to all interested parties. Check it out.


Retired MAGCS member Dick Trevarthan, CGCS has something you might be interested in: He is selling his 1979 Cushman Haulster, which has been in storage since his retirement in 1996. The truckster is in excellent condition, with a great engine and no body damage. The asking price is \$1,350. Give Dick a call at 815-919-2487 or shoot him an email at rtrevartha@aol.com.




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