

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 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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](http://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 15<sup>th</sup> 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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