



THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



September 2011

The iTurfExpo is right around the corner, and the new improved format is sure to offer great value to all who attend. This year's version will feature several highlights, including research updates from some of the top turf gurus in the industry, including Drs. Lee Miller (Missouri), **Bruce Branham** (Illinois), Aaron Patton (Purdue), **Derek Settle** (Duh), Jim Kerns (Wisconsin), and **Ken Diesburg** (SIU); along with some new twists. You won't see the traditional vendor booths this year—just personal interaction between vendors and customers as you take in the day's events. Take the day away from work to reconnect with your vendors and /or customers in a relaxed atmosphere while observing the latest in turf research at Sunshine Course. See you there.

There's more unique education on tap in October, starting with the GCCMA/MAGCS education event at Stonebridge Country Club (**Dan Sterr** and **Aaron Hearn**) titled "Course Conditions and Golf Course Master Plans." On the agenda for the day are USGA agronomist **Ty McClellan**, Mike Vogt of the McMahon Group, and Frank Vain, also of the McMahon Group. Ty's talk is "Tips for Success—Surviving a Difficult Economy & Challenging Summers," and Mike Vogt will discuss "Job Mapping," while Frank will present his thoughts on "Planning for the Future," which will focus on the long-range planning process. You can reserve your place by emailing kindschinto@msn.com, or register online at www.greaterchicagocmaa.org.

GCSAA has announced that multiple PGA Tour winner and renowned golf course designer—and a truly funny guy in

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DATES TO REMEMBER

September 12 – CAGCS Annual Founders Cup event at Onwentsia Club in Lake Forest, IL, **Scott Vincent** host.

September 14 – MAGCS Class C Golf Outing at Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge, IL, **Don Ferreri** and **Dave Gelino** hosts

September 14 – Midwest Regional Turf Foundation (MRTF) Golf Day at The Fort Golf Resort in Indianapolis, IN. Go to www.mrtf.org for information.

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

September 16 – Third Annual Lawn Care Education Day presented by the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, IL. Check out www.ilca.net for details.

September 19 – Annual Wee One Foundation Golf Outing at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI, Rod Johnson host.

September 22 – iTurfExpo 2011 at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.

October 3 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual College Championship at the Merit Club in Libertyville, IL, **John Nelson** and **Arne Nordenson** hosts.

October 4-December 16 – Fall session of Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station on the campus of Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. Not sure why I keep posting this.

October 11 – MAGCS and GCCMA (Greater Chicago Club Managers Association) Education event at Stonebridge Country Club in Aurora, IL, **Dan Sterr** and **Aaron Hearn** hosts.

October 21 – Illinois Golf Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies at The Glen Club in Glencoe, IL. MAGCS' own **Paul Voykin** will be the fifth-ever golf course superintendent to receive this honor at this event.

my own humble opinion—Peter Jacobsen has been selected to receive the 2012 Old Tom Morris Award, which will be presented during the 2012 GCSAA Education Conference at Celebrate GCSAA! presented by Syngenta on February 28th in Las Vegas. GCSAA's most prestigious honor, the Old Tom is presented each year to an individual who "through a continuing lifetime commitment to the game of golf has helped to mold the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris."

MAGCS lost one of its longtime members on July 28th when **Hans Hopphan** passed away peacefully in his home in Aurora. Hans was my predecessor at Aurora Country Club, and also served as superintendent at The Bourne and at Blackberry Oaks Golf Course before hanging up his work boots—and he was the epitome of the working superintendent—to pursue his favorite pastimes of woodworking and gardening. Condolences to the family of Hans, including son-in-law **Steve Holich** and brother **Carl Hopphan**.



Hans Hopphan

When thinking about the many wonderful aspects of being a golf course superintendent, few compare to the feeling one gets when taking that early morning drive around the course with faithful dog in tow, checking out the beauty and splendor of a sunrise over a dewy expanse of green with a hint of autumn in the air. Then you get to the 13th green and reality hits you in the face like a bitch-slap.



Reality in this case meant a skid-steer, a chain, and a few gallons of diesel fuel and hydraulic oil to get this ship righted.



On a positive note, it DID happen in a bunker, which is nice.

Congratulations to **Alan Hill**, former first assistant superintendent at Ruth Lake Country Club on being named the new superintendent of Klein Creek Golf Club in Winfield, IL. Alan spent 8 years as part of the Ruth Lake family under **Dan Marco, CGCS**, and is replaced by new first assistant Jeff Sievert. Best of luck in your exciting new position, Alan!



Kyle Jacobsen of Twin Orchard Country Club had some very special visitors recently when the guys from Orange County Choppers dropped in with one of their latest creations.



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I must admit I'm not into choppers much unless one breaks while chewing my dinner, and I haven't ever seen an episode of the show; but doesn't this just psych you up for Hawks hockey? Wait for the whistle—it's right around the corner...

Big kudos to **Scott White** and Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Golf Club on achieving certification through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses this summer. Scott's next challenge? Write an essay where in 500 words or less he describes the origin of the name of his club.



Also congrats to **Chad Kempf**, formerly with EPIC Creative, who is now with Rain Bird Services Corporation. Chad will be handling sales and service for the Western Michigan territory.



Chad Kempf

The MAGCS Scholarship Committee would like to extend its heartiest congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients. Aaron Altman—University of Illinois (**Don Altman**, Forest Hills Country Club), Carrie Dinelli—University of Wisconsin (**Dan Dinelli**, North Shore Country Club, and Emily Kimbrough—Saint Mary of the Woods (**Brian Kimbrough**, River Forest Country Club) are the three recipients from a group of 15 applicants. Congratulations to these young men and women (and to their parents!).

With Congress contemplating federal tax relief for businesses devastated by this summer's natural disasters, the golf industry is launching a grass-roots campaign to ensure that it receives a share. We Are Golf, the game's lobbying initiative, is urging golf supporters and industry professionals to contact their congressional leaders to support legislation introduced by Rep. Spencer Bachus and Rep. Richard Shelby, both republicans from Alabama. Most importantly, We Are Golf is seeking golf's inclusion in the bill which calls for providing

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temporary tax relief for businesses ravaged by various storms. The golf industry organized We Are Golf after a similar relief bill, passed in the aftermath of 2005's Hurricane Katrina, excluded golf—along with massage parlors, tanning salons, and liquor stores—from receiving aid. The latest bill mirrors existing legislation, which, without revision, would exclude golf again from federal aid. This summer has seen courses in the Southeast and Midwest get hit hard with natural disasters including flooding, drought, and tornadoes. Just thought you'd like to know.

Best wishes to **Nick Marfise**, former assistant superintendent at Park Ridge Country Club, who has accepted the position of assistant of the Dubsread course at Cog Hill Country Club under new superintendent Scott Pavalko. Congrats Nick!



Nick Marfise

Brian Dennehy is an actor who has, among his many accomplishments on stage and screen, had numerous parts in the plays of Eugene O'Neill. Eugene O'Neill was a prolific

American playwright who had a daughter named Oona O'Neill. Oona, at the very young age of 18, met and married a man named Charlie Chaplin, who was famous for his portrayal of "The Tramp" and the "Great Dictator." Stay with me here. Chaplin is also the name of a lake. In Georgia. Are you seeing where this is going yet? Georgia is where Augusta is. Which is where Club Cars are manufactured. Which is what MAGCS member **Dave Nadler** sells. Could they be one and the same? All logical evidence points to yes.



After a thorough search process, Kemper Lakes Golf Club in Kildeer, IL (**Dan Tully**) has selected golf course architect **Rick Jacobson** to renovate its prestigious layout, which was site of the 1989 PGA Championship. The Jacobson team will develop a Master Plan aimed at preserving the stature and overall aesthetic appeal of the 32-year old course, with long-term improvements to be made to many aspects of the course, including the highly-prioritized bunkers. Congratulations to Rick and the Jacobson team.

Champions of the environment now have their chance to shine. GCSAA is now accepting applications for the 2011 GCSAA/*Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards. The ELGAs, presented in conjunction with Syngenta and Rain Bird, recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses
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for their commitments to environmental stewardship. The deadline for applications is October 21st.

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August 22nd was a big day for MAGCS—its Annual Golf Championship was contested at the new gem of Elgin, Bowes Creek Country Club. Host superintendent **Brad Legnaioli, CGCS** provided a great golf course (and also had a hand in the glorious weather I'm sure) to test this year's contestants. The results of the tightly-fought battles were as follows: Your 2011 MAGCS Champion is **Dave Kohley**, who shot a scorching 73 to best **Bob Kronn Sr.** by one stroke. A Flight winner was **Bill Ahlstedt** with a net 63. B Flight went to **Matt Harstad** with a net 60. Class E Gross saw **Al Pondel** and **Mike Hatton** tie with 76's, while Class E Net saw **Jason Funderburg** win with a 59. Bob Kronn won Senior A Gross with his 74, and **Steve VanAcker** took the Net with a 66. **Randy Wahler** won the Super Senior A Flight and **Tom Byrne** took the honors in B Flight. Congratulations to all winners. And with a perfect day like that, on a beautiful and challenging new layout, everyone in attendance was a winner, right? We thank Brad and everyone at Bowes Creek, as well as the day's sponsors who made it all possible, who were: **Arthur Clesen, Inc., Burris Equipment Company, JW Turf, Inc., Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Syngenta, Chicagoland Turf, BASF, John Deere Golf, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Pearl Valley Organix, and Water Well Solutions.** Great day!



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