



THE BULL SHEET
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



AUGUST 2012

Great news! **Dan Murray** is the new golf course superintendent at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL. Dan takes over for the retiring **Peter Mirkes**. BIG congratulations to both Dan and Peter on their new paths in life.



Dan Murray

Also congrats to **Jeff Plasschaert**, assistant superintendent at Bryn Mawr Country Club on carding a hole-in-one on a long par 3 at the Rock Island Arsenal golf course last month.

And more good news—**Brett Gutekunst**, superintendent at Sydney Morvitz, Robert Black, and the Diversey Driving Range (Chicago Park District facilities under the management of Billy Casper Golf) earned his Masters of Business Administration degree from Northern Illinois University. Brett, who has been with Billy Casper since 2008, graduated with a 3.6 GPA. Congratulations Brett!

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 20 – Annual CAGCS Founders Cup golf event at Lake Shore Country Club, **Jeff Frentz, CGCS** host.

September 17 – Annual Wee One Outing and Fundraiser at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI, Rod Johnson host.

September 24 – MAGCS Golf Championship at Big Foot Country Club in Fontana, WI, **Jim Knulty** host.

September 25-30 – The Ryder Cup Matches at Medinah Country Club in Medinah, IL, **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS, Ross Laubscher, Jacob Mendoza, and Jim Wallace** hosts.

October 3-December 14 – Fall Session of the Professional Golf Turf Management School Two-Year Certificate Program at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ.

October 22 – MAGCS Annual College Championship at Calumet Country Club, **Matt Harstad** host.

October 24-26 – PLANET 2012 Green Industry Conference in Louisville, KY. Information to follow.

October 25-26 – GIE + EXPO in Louisville, KY. Info can be found at www.gie-expo.com.

October 29-30 – Symposium on Affordable Golf at Southern Pines, NC. Go to www.symposiumonaffordablegolf.com for information.

November 14 – 60th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic, Medinah Country Club



Brett Gutekunst

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Important Public Service Announcement: Drought makes golf courses dry. Dry golf courses need water and wetting agents. Water and wetting agents are sometimes best applied through a hose-end applicator. Hose-end applicators can become dangerous hand grenades if their structural integrity has been compromised. Don't let your hose-end applicator become a hand grenade—check it thoroughly before turning that quick coupler on.



When pressure reached this applicator, the jar broke just under the threads, hurtling it 63 yards from its operator, with an accompanying pop heard over 400 yards away. The nozzle

also blew off, sending it in another direction. Had the jar been directed toward the operator, it would have been really ugly. I know this—it was me, and it scared the poopie outta me.

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 The PLANET 2012 Green Industry Conference, which is hosted by the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET), is held in conjunction with the GIE+EXPO and Hardscape North America trade shows from October 24th through the 26th in Louisville, KY. Attendees will learn practical formulas for business success, as well as solutions for dealing with technology, sustainable practices, generation Y, and the changing landscape of the green industry. Information on this conference can be found at www.landcarenetwork.org/GreenIndustryConf.

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 The Turfgrass Information File (TGIF), produced at the Turfgrass Information Center of the Michigan State University Libraries, passed a significant milestone recently. As of June, 50% of all TGIF records link to full-text of the item. This is a huge deal, especially for researchers who spend countless hours searching for full-text documents in research libraries. Today, TGIF has around 204,000 total records (including this magazine), with over 102,000 being full-text accessible. Neat, huh?

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 The July 15th Sunday Tribune ran a story about this season's drought and its effects on local courses called "No Lie: Golf Courses Enduring Drought." In it, MAGCS members **Kevin Carlson** of the Naperville Park District, **Brad Helms** of Palatine Hills and **Bryan Stromme** from Billy Casper Golf were asked how their respective golf courses were handling

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the drought, and what measures were being taken to keep them in top condition. Then the July 23rd Aurora Beacon News ran a similar story featuring quotes from **Jim Pedersen** of Hughes Creek Golf Club. The common theme amongst them all was that they'd rather deal with a lack of water than too much, as we've experienced the last two years. Well done guys.

Our condolences go out to **Fred Behnke, CGCS** and his family on the loss of his father on July 4th. Those who knew him know he loved his family and his country, and he was a true patriot whose passing on Independence Day was sadly appropriate.

Q: What do you call a member at **Brian Thomson's** club who never repairs his ballmarks?

A: A Biltmoron.

The National Alliance for Accessible Golf announced the update of its two signature resources, the Toolkit for Golfers and the Toolkit for Golf Course Owners/Operators. These toolkits further the mission of the Alliance to increase awareness of inclusion for individuals with disabilities into the game of golf. These resources provide guidance for golf courses, ranges and facilities and individuals interested in golf for people with disabilities. Both are available in PDF format at www.accessgolf.org/resources/index.cfm.

Congratulations to the Kirtland's. Justin and Elise were married the weekend after the Cougar Game back in Michigan. Justin is the golf course superintendent at Arrowhead Golf Course in Wheaton.



Big month for announcements, huh? The National Golf Foundation (NGF) announced it launched the 2012 American Golf Census Sweepstakes on July 4th. Now in its third year, the Census continues to count the country's estimated 26 million golfers and give away some pretty amazing golf prizes in the process. You can register with the Census by filling out a brief form at www.AmericanGolfCensus.org. For participating, every golfer is automatically entered into a sweepstakes to win one of more than 80 prizes. The Grand Prize is a trip to Orlando for the PGA Merchandise Show (yawn) and fulfilling

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The GCSAA Excellence in Government Relations Award recognizes and honors an individual, chapter, or coalition/alliance that demonstrates outstanding advocacy or compliance efforts in government relations. I'm guessing that's how it got its name. Nominees—and self-nominations are encouraged—will be judged on how their efforts best serve the interests of the golf course superintendent profession and the golf course management industry. The EGR Award may be given for the creation or successful use of tools, programs, or efforts to: Influence laws and regulations affecting golf courses, including but not limited to work with lawmakers, regulators, alliances, coalitions, and other entities; Encourage member compliance with laws and regulations, including but not limited to environmental laws, occupational safety and chemical applications. Nomination forms can be found at gcsaa.org by clicking on the Community tab, and then on Government Relations. Go get 'em, Dan.

In other GCSAA news, sixteen seminars have been added to the educational lineup for the 2013 GCSAA Education Conference to be held Feb. 4-8 in San Diego. To better reflect members' current educational needs and to keep offerings relevant to the profession, a number of seminars were deleted, rested, or restructured. For a list of the new seminars, go to gcsaa.org, click on the Education tab and then Conference Seminars. It's very exciting.

Next month should provide some compelling news from the United States Golf Association and its European counterpart, the R & A. At issue is the act of anchoring long putters to one's belly, which has gained more and more popularity (and notoriety) after major victories by Keegan Bradley and Webb Simpson spurred cries from traditionalists for banning the act. Regardless of the outcome of September's meeting, any rules change enacted would not go into effect until January 1, 2016, when the next rules changes are implemented. Could be a good thing for Adam Scott. Ouch.

Q: What do you call **Tom Wilson** if he just can't stop telling fibs?

A: A Deerpathological liar.

Once again this past month, MAGCS members were prominently featured in OPP's (other people's publications). **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** had a nice writeup on *TurfNet.com* about everything from how he came to land at Medinah Country Club; the renovations to Course #3, and the planned

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renovations to Courses #1 and 2; through the current preparations for next month's Ryder Cup matches. On *TurfNet's* Forum, **Chuck Barber** and **Tim Christians** posted on quite the variety of topics, from their favorite fertilizer to Quicksilver for moss control to the best sunglasses for the golf course. And of course, as usual **Dan Dinelli** was spotted in something or other. It was actually a great article in *Golf Course Industry* about dealing with poor water quality if memory serves.

I think it has finally been figured out. After years of research, and poring through old documents and photos, the question of PGA Tour golfer Ricky Fowler's parentage has been answered: Could **Eddie Braunsky** be Ricky's baby daddy? You decide...



Congratulations to Travis and Brooke Dykstra on the birth of their daughter Avery. Avery Grace was born on February 20 of this year.



For Sale: 19 (Nineteen) – NW8000 Satellite Controllers. \$750 each. Contact: Chad Papke, Rockford Country Club. (815) 988-5434

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The 12th Annual John Buck Golf Outing was held at Bartlett Hills Golf Course on the 10th of July with **Kevin DeRoo** serving as our host. This event is a must-do as all of its proceeds go to the John Buck Scholarship fund, which is divided up by the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation, the Northwest Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association, and MAGCS. The golf course was in perfect condition, and a great time was had by all who participated. Seemingly every hole had some kind of fun event on the side, including a big cup, three flags to choose from, the bags game, and the ring in the water chipping challenge (and all with pretty ladies running them). Following golf, a terrific dinner and awards ceremony were enjoyed by all. Many thanks to all the volunteers who ran the tee games, to Kevin and the entire staff at Bartlett Hills, to the folks at JW Turf, and to John Buck for being the man he was and the inspiration behind this great event.



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(more photos continued on page 19)

