



THE BULL SHEET  
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



# February 2012

We welcome our newest MAGCS members, and wish the best of luck to all of them:  
**Andrew Decker**, Class C, Oakland Hills Country Club  
**Michael Donovan**, Class C, Chicago Golf Club  
**Brian Smith**, Class E, BJS Sales/Fore-Par Golf  
**Justin Apel**, Class C, Ruffled Feather Golf Club

Oh, and while we're in the welcoming mood, any time WINTER wants to show its face, I'd welcome THAT too! (Editor's note: At press time, winter was still in hiding and had no comment).

Correction: Winter DID make a brief appearance after all—note the date stamps at the lower right of each photo. From a sunny 54-degree day on the 11<sup>th</sup> (a mower demo in January?!?) to something a little more seasonal on the 12<sup>th</sup>, this has surely been one whacky winter.



(continued on next page)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 15 – Annual MAGCS Class C Winter Workshop at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.  
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- February 17-19 – Tinley Park Golf Expo at the Tinley Park Convention Center in Tinley Park, IL.  
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- February 24-26 – Chicago Golf Show at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, IL.  
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- February 24-26 – GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic in Palm Springs, CA.  
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- February 27-March 2 – GCSAA Education Conference in Las Vegas, NV.  
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- February 29 – MAGCS Hospitality Reception at the Hard Rock Café at 4475 Paradise Road in Las Vegas, NV from 7 to 10 PM.  
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- February 29-March 1 – Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas, NV.  
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- March 2 – “Celebrating Certification!” luncheon at the Las Vegas Hilton ballroom EFG from 12:30 to 2:00 PM.  
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- March 5-9 – Rain Bird Academy Irrigation Training Classes in Elgin, IL. Go to [www.rainbirdservicescorporation.com/training](http://www.rainbirdservicescorporation.com/training) for information or to register.  
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- March 10-18 – Chicago Flower and Garden Show at Navy Pier in Chicago, IL. Info at [www.chicagoflower.com](http://www.chicagoflower.com).  
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- March 21 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton, IL, **Mike Mumper** host.  
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- April 1 – Deadline for nominations for TurfNet’s Technician of the Year Award.  
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- April 25 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Spring Scramble at Naperville Country Club, **Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG** and **Steven Biehl** hosts.  
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- July 14 - MAGCS Family Night Picnic, Kane County Cougars. Elfstrom Stadium, Geneva  
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- The Inaugural Tinley Park Golf Expo on the 17<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> provides the golf community with a fresh, new option for a winter golf show, featuring golf instruction options, info on golf courses and destinations, golf equipment, and apparel. One lucky attendee will win “Free Golf for Life” courtesy of one of the many vendors on hand.
- On the 24<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>, the Chicago Golf Show returns for its 29<sup>th</sup> year to the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, IL. This is the local granddaddy of them all, being the nation’s oldest and second-largest consumer golf show. And in keeping with the giving spirit, GolfVisions Management, operator of 12 Chicago-area golf courses is giving away a coupon for a free round of golf to every attendee.

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 This month seems to be the traditional kick-off to the golf season, with quite a number of events taking place in the world of golf:

- This month on the 15<sup>th</sup>, the Annual Class C Winter Workshop was held at Golf House (and by the way, don’t be fooled by its title—it is open to all classifications, and is well worth the trip to Lemont). MAGCS members **David Marquardt**, **Greg Martin** and **David Esler** highlighted the day of education, a recap of which will be featured in the March issue of *On Course*.
- The MAGCS Hospitality Reception in Vegas on the 29<sup>th</sup> is always a great way to usher in the coming season by reconnecting with long-lost friends and colleagues in a relaxed and at times drinky atmosphere. This year’s event is at the Hard Rock Café, and promises not to disappoint.

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 The MAGCS monthly meeting for next month will be held at its traditional venue—Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton, IL (**Mike Mumper**, **Justin Kirtland**, **Josh Therrien**, and **Tim Johnson** ALL hosting). Education will be provided by our old friend Dr. Lee Miller from the University of Missouri, and our new old North Central Region USGA Agronomist Bob Vavrek, so don’t miss it.

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**Dr. Lee Miller**

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Congratulations to William Meyer, former first assistant superintendent at Ridgeway Country Club in Neenah, WI on his move to the assistant superintendent's position at Park Ridge Country Club (**Joel Purpur, CGCS** and **Shane Conroy**).  
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Time is running out to nominate your equipment technician for TurfNet's Technician of the Year Award. Presented by the Toro Company, the award recognizes the equipment manager who best demonstrates excellence in such areas as crisis management, budgeting, environmental awareness, promoting the careers of colleagues and employees, interpersonal communications, inventory management and cost control, condition of equipment, safety, and work ethic. If your technician has these qualities, nomination forms can be found at [www.turfnet.com](http://www.turfnet.com) by clicking on the "Worth His Weight in Gold" headline. Go on—get your guy a Golden Wrench for his tool box! Deadline for nominations is April 1, so hurry.  
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While on the subject of technicians, the Turf Equipment Technicians Association (TETA) recently announced the results of its election for the 2012-2013 Board of Directors: President, Don Briggs (Merit Club); Vice President, Matt Passantino (Twin Orchard CC); Secretary, Glenn Peters (North Shore CC); Directors, Chuck Totten (Westmoreland CC), Brian Eilrich (Glen View Park District), Kevin Bauer (Lockport Township Park District), and Steven Vasquez (Glenview Club). Congratulations gentlemen.  
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And in further technician news, GCSAA announced it supports the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association's (ICGEMA) certificate program. GCSAA President Robert Randquist, CGCS noted the importance of professional development and teamwork that the program will foster.  
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The MAGCS family received some tragic news late last month when it was learned that Aaron Easter, former assistant superintendent at Bartlett Hills Golf Course, had died at the age of 31 while snowboarding in Steamboat Springs, CO. Aaron's father, Robert Easter, is the interim Provost and Chancellor at the University of Illinois and former Dean of the College of Aces. Our sympathies go out to the family and friends of Aaron.



**Aaron Easter**

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This is traditionally the time of year when some movement in our ranks takes place, and 2012 is no exception. To wit: **Mike Hatton** has left EZ-GO as of January 13<sup>th</sup> to pursue a career in sales of composites such as resin, gel coats, fiberglass, etc. Also, **Al Pondel, CGCS** is back to doing what he does best—Al, who was a sales rep for Harrell's after leaving Rockford Country Club last year, started his new position as golf course superintendent at Crystal Woods Golf Club in Woodstock, IL on February 1<sup>st</sup>, the same course that he grew up on both caddying for his dad and playing. Do you know what this means with Mike and Al off the Class E roster? It means the Class E Championship is now officially up for grabs again! Congratulations to both men, and best of luck!  
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Seems like only yesterday when that guy from Connecticut with the orange hair came to town and worked his magic at Chicago Golf Club. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, that guy—**Jon Jennings, CGCS**—will be taking the reins as golf course superintendent at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club in Southampton, NY. During his time here, Jon has been a frequent contributor to this association and to this magazine, serving on various committees including Editorial (for which I personally am grateful). Having tested the waters of major tournament preparation by hosting the 2005 Walker Cup, Jon will face the challenge of hosting the 2018 U. S. Open Championship at Shinnecock. Hard to imagine a better choice for the job. Good luck to Jon!



**Jon Jennings**

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(continued on page 17)

After serving 5 years as agronomist with the USGA Green Section's Mid-Continent Region, **Ty McClellan** will be leaving Illinois to take over his new duties as Manager of the Green Section's Education Program. His new role with the USGA will focus on expanding its multimedia educational products and outreach designed to help communicate the principles of turfgrass science, golf course management practices and golf sustainability issues to multiple audiences such as turf management professionals, course officials, golfers, and the general public. Ty will continue to travel extensively, frequently making presentations, writing articles, and assisting in coordinating the Green Section website content and producing the Green Section Record. As part of this change, Illinois will be moving into the North Central Region where agronomic support from the USGA will now be provided by Director Bob Brame and Senior Agronomist Bob Vavrek. Both Bobs have been part of the Green Section for more than 20 years and offer a wealth of experience to golf facilities that subscribe to the Turf Advisory Service. We wish Ty the very best in his exciting new position which will take him to Pennsylvania, and thank him for his 5 years of exceptional service to our region.



**Ty McClellan**

Also on the move is **Andrew Perry**, former assistant superintendent at Black Sheep Golf Club who has accepted the superintendent's position at Blackstone Golf Club in Marengo, IL. Andy takes over for **Nick Leu** who has taken a superintendent's job at a private club in Nebraska. Congratulations to both of these young gentlemen!



**Andrew Perry**

Due to the previous item, Black Sheep Golf Club is looking for an assistant superintendent. Interested parties should contact **Dave Biery** at 630-761-0379. It would really make Dave's life simpler if your name is Andy.

And another of our old friends has left us as of the end of 2011. Rubigan AS fungicide is officially no longer being sold by the Gowan Co. due to the increase in regulations outside the U.S. and rising regulatory costs within the U.S. according to the manufacturer.

Assistant superintendent columnist needed: If you an assistant and would like your voice to be heard, *Golfdom* magazine wants to hear from you. For 2012, *Golfdom* is making some changes, one of which is the addition of a column written by an assistant that will run three to four times per year. If you are interested, YOU SHOULD BE WRITING ARTICLES FOR ON COURSE!! And after you do that, you can email your resume along with a sample of your writing and two ideas for columns you'd like to write to *Golfdom*. Details at [www.golfdom.com](http://www.golfdom.com) by clicking on the "Assistant Superintendent Columnist Needed" headline.

How about those kooky researchers at the University of Maine? It seems they have developed a way to turn lobster shells into golf balls. After nine months of development and research, they think they have got it, by Jove. And that isn't the best part—the balls are biodegradable to boot. The University is currently taking steps to patent the process. This just has **Randy Kane's** name ALL over it.

Last month, on the 10<sup>th</sup>, the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents held its Annual Shop Tour. The three-stop junket began at Makray Memorial Golf Club in Barrington with **Tim Christians** hosting the large group for donuts and coffee and a look around his shop. From there the caravan moved a bit south and east to **Brian Mores'** maintenance facility at Inverness Golf Club, which featured some very ingenious ways of storing equipment in limited space. The final stop of the day was at the host club for the 2013 Ryder Cup—Medinah Country Club. Host **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** and his very helpful and courteous staff members led the attendees on a tour of their revamped facilities, after which a great lunch provided by a Chicago legend—Portillo's—was enjoyed by all who came out. It was a January day that found shop overhead doors open and attendees jacketless due to the odd winter weather, and it was enjoyed by all. Thanks to everyone involved for a really great day away from our own work environs.



**Tim Christians**

(continued on page 18)





Brian Mores chats with Kurt Galisdorfer.



Jeff Frenz and Curtis Tyrrell share a few words.



01/10/2012

Easy one—they both talk for a living. One talks about baseball. The other just talks. And talks. And TALKS... About anything and everything. Whether he knows what he's talking about or not. Could Fox baseball analyst and talking head Thom Brennaman and **Erwin McKone** be one and the same?



Thom Brennaman and Erwin McKone

North Carolina State University's loss is Syngenta's gain. Dr. Lane Tredway, head of the Turf Pathology Program at NC State has accepted a position with Syngenta as a Senior Technical Field Representative for Turf and Landscape which commenced on the first of this month.

As you read this, **Fred Behnke, CGCS** of Mt. Prospect Golf Club is already back at work. Why, you ask, was Fred NOT at work? According to a source close to the story, Fred had hip replacement surgery on December 29<sup>th</sup>. The unnamed source goes on to say that Fred is willing to share the name of the very gifted surgeon who so deftly performed the procedure on him with anyone who finds themselves in the similar predicament of waking up one morning to find their hip missing, and thus requiring a replacement. Hope to see you out and about this Spring, Fred!



Fred Behnke

Finally! The secret to why **Randy Lusher** is always smiling has been unlocked. BASF, Randy's employer, was ranked the fifth happiest company in CareerBliss' Top 50, with only Hilton Worldwide, Fluor Corp., Johnson & Johnson, and Nordstrom having smilier employees.

MAGCS members were certainly well-represented in December's *Golf Course Industry* magazine. The issue featured articles written by **Bruce Williams, CGCS** and **Bob Lohmann**, as well as an article titled "Beyond the Turf" which addressed the many non-golf responsibilities our maintenance crews have. In the article, **Bob Maibusch, CGCS, MG** at Hinsdale Golf Club describes the intensive amount of labor involved in his club's skeet shooting range and heated platform tennis courts. Good reading from some good fellas.

Want a free Harley? Who doesn't? The Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA) is raffling off a 2012 Harley-Davidson motorcycle at the Golf Industry Show from its booth #1774. The drawing will be held on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 PM (Pacific time).

Billy Casper Golf (BCG) has launched a comprehensive agronomy internship program designed to identify and further educate future leaders in turfgrass management. Applicants must be



currently enrolled in an accredited associate, bachelor or graduate turfgrass management or agronomy degree program with career aspirations in golf course management. Positions will be offered at select BCG-managed courses nationwide for the 2012 golf season. Application deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup>—go to [www.billycaspergolf.com/agronomyinternship](http://www.billycaspergolf.com/agronomyinternship) to download and submit an application.

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**Items For Sale:**

- Five Jacobsen 522A Greens King mowers with groomers—in great condition.
- John Deere Sweeper used only 4 fall seasons for fairway plugs. Machine has new brushes and new hydraulic motor for brushes.
- 2004 Jacobsen 628 Turf Cat with mulching kit—in great condition with 650 hours.

Contact Justin VanLanduit at Briarwood Country Club for more info at 847-945-3350 or [justinv@briarwoodcountryclub.com](mailto:justinv@briarwoodcountryclub.com).

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On January 17<sup>th</sup> the MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Wee One Fundraiser was held at Seven Bridges Golf Club with **Don Ferreri** and **Dave Gelino** serving as hosts. The morning's education program featured Paul Koch from the University of Wisconsin whose presentation was "Know Your Fungicides; Using ELISA to Measure Fungicide Degradation in the Field," as well as Leslie Lowry of the Illinois EPA who spoke on the new NDPES permit process as it relates to the golf industry. Following education and lunch, the afternoon kicked off with the Wee One Fundraiser, which included a silent auction for countless goods and services donated by MAGCS members, a Texas Hold 'Em tournament, and raffles for prizes. It was a great day for the Wee One Foundation, and a great time for everyone in attendance. Thanks to Seven Bridges for their hospitality, to everyone for participating, and to the day's sponsors, who were: **Arthur Clesen, Inc.** **Burris Equipment Company, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Syngenta.**

Going once... going twice... going nowhere? Guess we should have done a little more audience research before dangling our 'Greens Slope Analysis Study' out at the Wee One auction last month. No bidders... how embarrassing! Oh well, but all should not be lost for the true cause, right? So in an effort to show our commitment to the Wee One Foundation and what it represents, and also a bit of our own humility, we would like to donate the \$500 that *should* have been bid on this great product. And please, send us some suggestions for next year's auction, cause we *will* be back! Best regards, Bob Lohmann **-OC**

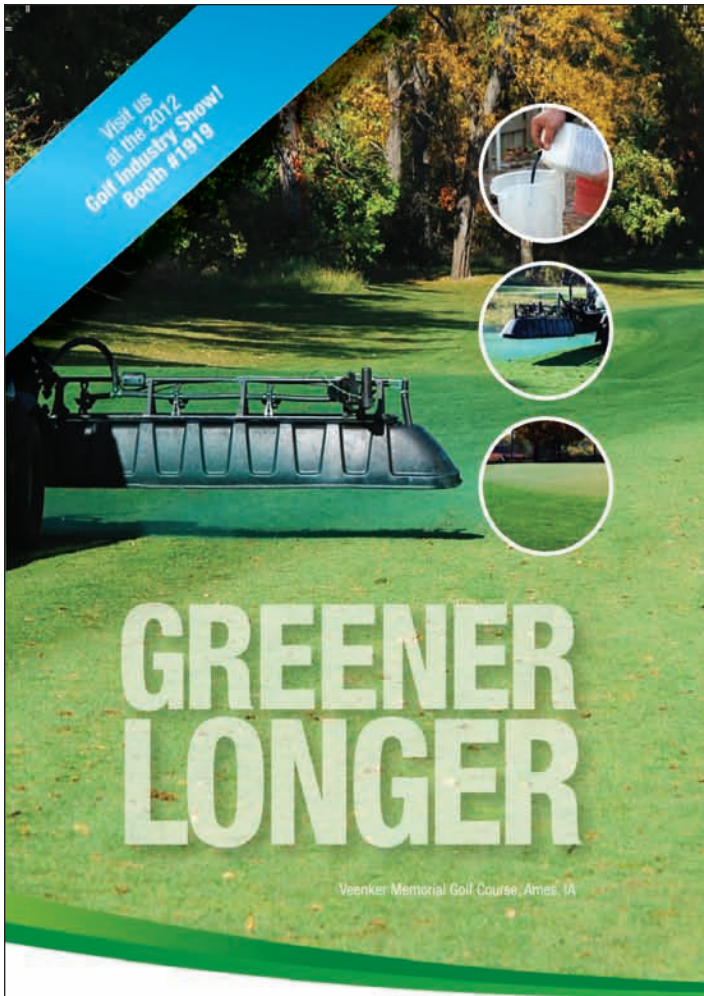
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(more photos on page 20)







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