

THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



OCTOBER 2012

First and foremost, HUGE congratulations to **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS MG**, course superintendents **Ross Laubscher, Jake Mendoza** and **Jim Wallace**, the grounds maintenance staff at Medinah, and all of the many volunteers from around the globe who teamed together to produce the masterpiece that we witnessed during the 39th Ryder Cup matches. There are no superlatives that could do justice to what they accomplished. Thank you for showing the world what golf course conditioning and tournament preparation in Chicagoland are truly about. You can read all about the preparations in September's *GCM* magazine, the cover story of which featured Curtis and Course No. 3. And don't miss November's *On Course*, which will feature much more about the big event.

Big congratulations to Nick Kukla with Billy Casper Golf on completing the Golf Course Management Certificate with distinction from The Ohio State University. Nick started at George Dunne National Golf Course as a cart attendant in 2005, and is now the assistant superintendent. Nice work Nick!



Nick Kukla

DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 15 – Deadline for nominations for GCSAA's 2013 Excellence in Government Relations Award.
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- October 19 – Deadline for nominations for the 2012 GCSAA/*Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards.
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- October 19 – Golf course equipment auction at Graystone Golf Links. Information follows.
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- October 22 – MAGCS Annual College Championship at Calumet Country Club, **Matt Harstad** and **Dave Sievers** hosts.
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- October 24 – Deadline to volunteer for 2013 GCSAA committee service.
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- October 24-26 – PLANET 2012 Green Industry Conference in Louisville (pronounced Loo-uh-vull), KY.
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- October 25-26 – GIE + EXPO in Louisville (pronounced Loovl), KY. Go to www.gie-expo.com for information.
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- October 29-30 – Symposium on Affordable Golf at Southern Pines, NC.
Check out www.symposiumonaffordablegolf.com.
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- November 14 – 60th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club, *Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS, Ross Laubscher, Jake Mendoza* and **Jim Wallace** hosts.
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- November 27-30 – Second Annual *Golfdom* Summit at the Reunion Resort in Orlando, FL.
Register at www.golfdom-summit.com.
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- November 30 – Deadline for nominations for the 2012 TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta.

And speaking of Billy Casper Golf and George Dunne National, on September 13th the inaugural Conservation Cup Golf Outing, co-sponsored by BCG was held at the course, raising \$100,000 for Children's Programming in the Cook County Forest Preserves. Billy Casper himself was on hand to hit the ceremonial first tee shot, talk with golfers, pose for photos, sign autographs,

(continued on page 21)

and generally schmooze. He then showed up in town a couple weeks later during Ryder Cup week to sign copies of his autobiography The Big Three and Me at two venues the Clocktower Café at the Sidney Marovitz Golf Course on Chicago's lakefront and Whisper Creek Golf Club in Huntley, IL.

Our industry bid farewell to another of its legends on August 28th when Stan Zontek, a USGA Green Section Agronomist for 40 years passed away unexpectedly after suffering a heart attack. Mr. Zontek was one of golf's most respected personalities, having been a frequent speaker at national and regional events and winning the 2006 GCSAA Distinguished Service Award. He will be missed.



While on the subject of legends, **Paul Voykin** is still making headlines with his efforts to promote his beloved native plants and wildflowers. Mr. Voykin, who is retired after serving as golf course superintendent at Briarwood Country Club for 46 years, was recently recognized by a resolution adopted by the City Council of Chicago on July 25th. With the help of Aldermen Patrick O'Connor and Matt O'Shea (I think they're Italian), the resolution was approved by mayor Rahm Emanuel, and it reads in part: "Whereas, one of Paul Voykin's wishes is to have this body set aside a few days at the end of July in order to highlight, extol, and reflect upon the beauty of the native flowers and grasses indigenous to this area. According to Illinois wildflower expert Dr. John A. Hilty, there are over 3,500 vascular plants that are native to or have naturalized in Illinois. In the United States, only California, Texas, and Florida have more; Now, therefore, whereas the environment of the thousands of wildflowers and varieties of grasses growing throughout our communities is one of the most remarkable experiences that can be encountered in nature. It behooves this august body to celebrate their noteworthy beauty; Now, therefore, Be it resolved, that we, the Mayor and members of the City Council gathered together this twenty-fifth day of July, 2012, do hereby declare July 25th through July 31st, 2012 to be "Native Flower and Grass Days" throughout Chicago and express our heartfelt thanks to Paul Voykin for bringing their pulchritude to our attention and that of the citizens of our city." In a recent conversation with Paul, he encouraged all MAGCS members to contact their local legislatures to have similar declarations enacted and celebrate our native plants. Paul is willing to help anyone with this endeavor—he can be reached at 847-234-9314 or at voykin@aol.com. Great work, Paul!

Q: Where does a plane go if it overshoots the runway at the DuPage Airport adjacent to **Tony Kalina's** course?

A: A Prairie Landing strip.

Another month has passed, and the hazards have not gotten any easier:

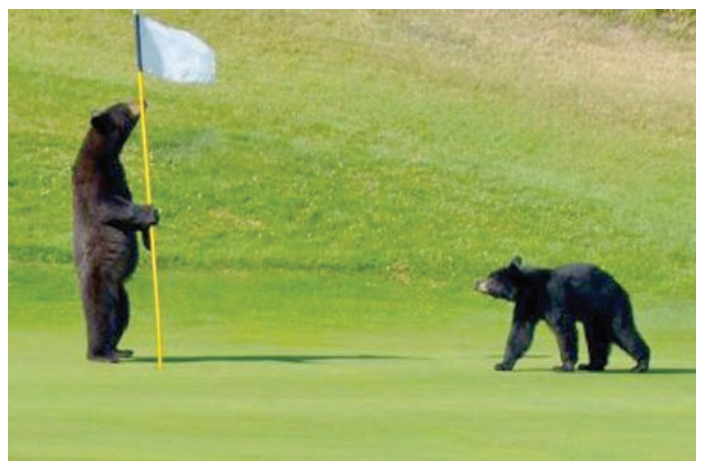


Oopsy daisy



Double oopsy daisy

Pat Jones of GCI magazine may have found the ultimate golf course hazard with this photo:



Pat included the following tidbit as a comforting thought: "Remember—you don't have to be faster than the bears, just faster than one guy in your foursome."

It's list time again, and in GOLF magazine's 2012 "Top 100 Courses You Can Play" list, three local courses were included.

(continued on page 22)

Number 21 was Cog Hill's #4 Dubsdread course (**Scott Pavalko** superintendent), followed by The Glen Club at #72 (**Scott Goniwiecha** superintendent) and The General at Eagle Ridge at #98 (**Kurt Strothers** superintendent).

On September 17th, the Annual Wee One Golf Outing was held at the always-perfect Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI (Rod Johnson host superintendent). The weather cooperated, and the traditions of the event were all in place, from the crazy-fast and undulatory greens to the famous taco and brat stands to the par three hole-in-one contests. History was made on the ninth hole, when not only one but TWO MAGCS members made aces for the \$10,000 cash prize. **Brian Racette** was the first to card a 1, knocking a 9-iron just past the hole and spinning it back into the cup. Just three groups later, **Don Cross, CGCS** punched his 6-iron into the jar for his ace. Drama ensued as it was originally assumed that only the first hole in one would be paid out, but after a call to the insurance company the following day by Danny Quast, it was learned that any and all aces during the day are eligible for the prize money—definitely music to Don's ears! After the excitement on the course, the next tradition was enjoyed—the grand buffet and awards presentations. Another great day was had by all—even greater if you were Cross or Racette! Many thanks to everyone involved in arranging the event and to the volunteers who helped run it. Special shout-out to Wives of Turf representatives Tina Barber and Jennifer Zugel for their help (including Tina driving a Truckasaurus-full of post-Brat Stop revelers safely to Sheboygan

and back). More on the Wee One follows in the November issue. Also, check out the GCSAA TV video about the Foundation and the great things it does featuring MAGCS member **Kerry Anderson** at www.gcsaa.org or at www.weeone.org.



Scott Verdun gets the low down from Craig Lewis prior to teeing off.

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Ace!



Ace maker Brian Racette



My favorite golf course sign



I wonder where they wanted us to walk?



The Pine Hills clubhouse perched on a bluff overlooking the course



Host superintendent Rod Johnson



GCSAA President Sandy Queen

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(continued on page 24)

It's that time again—time for nominations to be prepared for the 2012 TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta. The November 30 deadline is fast approaching, and after a summer like we've had, I'm guessing there are many MAGCS members deserving of the honor, which will be presented at the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in San Diego, CA on February 4-8, 2013. For information or to submit a nomination, go to www.turfnet.com/super.

So I'm sitting here watching a really gorgeous-looking golf course on my flat screen, while the Ryder Cup matches are being contested at Medinah Country Club, and I can't help but notice another eerie resemblance between a MAGCS member and a PGA Tour golfer. Jason Dufner—one of the few bright spots on the American team—not only looks like **Erwin McKone**, his last name describes Erwin's most frequently played golf shot—the duff. Do we have a love connection?



Congratulations to **Corey Kuhl**, former assistant superintendent at Butler National Golf Club on his move to the golf course superintendent's position at Riverside Golf Club.

Q: Why do the members at **Mike Sauls'** club (and Corey Kuhl's former club) dislike the designated hitter rule in baseball?
A: They're in the Butler National League.

Condolences to the family of **John Leibold** on the passing of John's mother Carol on September 16th in East Dubuque.

Every fall, the turf students from Joliet Junior College under the tutelage of instructor Lisa Perkins, head to Golf House and Sunshine Course for a field day. This year, nearly 30 students made the trip to Lemont, and they were treated to a tour of the course by assistant superintendent Niki Munroe. Niki was the workhorse for the day, running the show while covering everything from how an irrigation head operates to changing a cup on a green (shown here)



A couple of big business deals have grabbed headlines recently, first with the news that Syngenta was acquiring the DuPont Professional Products insecticide business, and then more recently with the news that BASF plans to acquire Becker Underwood.

Many of us take the opportunity to get away for a breather after a grueling season on the course. Golf getaways, maybe some fishing, or just a little down time at home are great tonic for what ails us. For others, like **Steve Cook, CGCS, MG** of Oakland Hills Country Club, a little more excitement is needed. Steve recently returned—SAFELY—from a six-day trip to the Teton Mountains, where he passed the days climbing sheer faces and braving unthinkable heights, culminating in a successful summit of the Grand Teton on the last day. And I used to think sitting in a raft floating down a river was exhilarating!



GCSAA is looking for a few good men. And women. Anyone who is interested in volunteering for committee service, time is running out. The deadline to submit your volunteer form is October 24th, so get on it—you can find the form at www.gcsaa.org in the Dates and Events area on the right side of the main page.

Also making news recently was the announcement that GCSAA has awarded 17 college scholarships to students planning careers in golf course management who have excelled in areas such as academic achievement, potential to become an industry leader, employment history, extracurricular activities, and recommendations from a superintendent the student worked for and a current academic advisor. The scholarships were funded by GCSAA's philanthropic organization, the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG) and its Robert Trent Jones Endowment. Congratulations to the deserving students, and don't forget to apply for one if you have a student meeting the above criteria.

Our sympathies go out to the family and friends of Avery Harris, a longtime MAGCS member and supporter who passed away in September. Please remember him in your prayers.

MAGCS members are once again being found in all of the various media outlets in our industry. To name but a few, **Kyle Jacobsen** of Twin Orchard Country Club was highlighted in an August *Golfdom* article titled "Smart Spray," which delves into the new sprayer technology available to superintendents. An August Golf Course Industry article penned by **Bob Lohmann** titled "Short-changed Scenario" describes how a superintendent—in this case **Nick Leu** at Blackstone Golf Club—copes with the assumption that 40-50% of his irrigation water would come from the effluent produced from adjacent home lots, when only a fraction of those lots have been built. Keep it up guys.


The MAGCS Annual Golf Championship was contested at beautiful Big Foot Country Club in Fontana, WI with **Jim Knulty** hosting. Conditions were outstanding for the event, thanks to Jim and his crew, and attendees were treated to a great day of golf, food, and drink. As its name implies, the Annual Golf Championship produced some new champions for 2012. The winner of the Championship Gross event was **Dave Kohley**; the Senior Gross champ was **Randy Wahler**, while **Larry Flament** took the Senior Net honor. Regular Flight Net winner was **Larry Flament**; and the Super Senior (60 and over) Net winner was **Randy Wahler**. The Commercial Net winner was **Jason Funderburg**, and the Commercial Senior Net champion was **Jimmy Frels**. Congratulations to all of these folks, and many thanks to Jim and everyone at Big Foot for a great event, as well as to our generous sponsors, who were:

Aquatrols, Arthur Clesen, Inc., BASF, Burris Equipment Company, Great Lakes Turf, LLC, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Reinders, Inc., Syngenta Professional Products, and Water Well Solutions.

(photos on pages 26 and 27) -OC

National Golf Championship

Did you know that the National Golf Championship in San Diego (2013) has a condensed schedule? The golf tournament will begin with the four-ball competition **Sunday**, Feb. 3, with the golf classic and national championship being conducted Monday-Tuesday, Feb. 4-5. A new event, likely featuring a scramble or shamble format, will be conducted Monday, Feb. 4, for those not participating in the classic or the national championship. The Sunday, Feb. 3 four-ball is a stand-alone event and does not require participation in the new Monday activity or the classic/national championship. In recent years, the four-ball was held on Friday, with the classic and national championship conducted Saturday and Sunday. This condensed format will shorten the amount of away time for those who want to compete or just play golf and network with other members from across the country.




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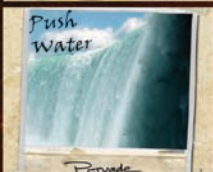
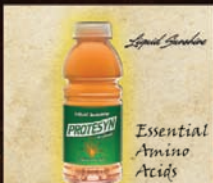
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