

#BullSheet

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



AUGUST 2013

Dates to Remember

August 13 - 7th Annual Sunshine Through Golf Foundation White Sox Fundraiser at U.S. Cellular Field in Chicago, IL.

August 19 - University of Illinois Turfgrass Field Day in Urbana, IL.

August 20 - Deadline for applications to attend the fifth Syngenta Business Institute on the campus of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

August 26 - MAGCS monthly meeting at Crystal Lake Country Club, **Steve VanAcker** host.

September 16 – 10th Annual Wee One Foundation Outing at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI

September 16 - Deadline to apply for Green Site status through the Groundwater Foundation.

September 9-15 - PGA Tour's BMW Championship at Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake Forest, IL, **Chad Ball, CGCS** and **Connor Healy** hosts.

October 7 - MAGCS monthly meeting at Chicago Highlands Club in Westchester, IL, **Michael Heustis** and **William Sharp** hosts.

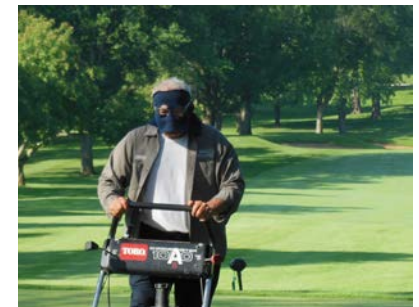
October 15 – Deadline for GCSAA's Excellence in Government Relations Award nominations.

Welcome to the following new MAGCS members, and the best of luck to them!

Mr. **Patrick Karnick**, Wadsworth Golf Construction, Class A
Mr. **John Jensen**, Reinders, Inc., Class E
Mr. **Paul Burger**, Green Source, Inc., Class E



Please forgive this vent. This is a gnat. This is how my guy Hector keeps gnats from going in his mouth. And nose. And eyes. And ears. Hector doesn't mow very straight



lines, and I think he might be related to Zorro. But I'm straying from my point. This is what I want to do to EVERY SINGLE GNAT ON THE PLANET.



"I wanna pull a Dennis Farina - may he rest in peace - and blowtorch 'em."

You know what? I'm still not satisfied—I want complete annihilation of the species. I demand nothing less than this.



Come to think of it, that isn't quite severe enough



I want to do the ol' Al Pacino thing and take a FLAMETHROWER to 'em.

Ok, I'm better now.

Congratulations to Ed Greve of Highland Woods Golf Club, who was named runner-up in TurfNet's 2013 Technician of the Year contest presented by Toro.

This month on the 12th, Billy Casper Golf will host the 3rd Annual World's Largest Golf Outing benefitting the Wounded Warrior Project. One hundred percent of donations and five percent of every entry fee will be donated to WWP. Last year over \$400,000 was raised, and this year's goal is to exceed the half-million mark. The Chicago-area courses participating are Chick Evans (**Daniel Lopez** supt.), George Dunne (**Jeremy Turton** supt.), Highland Woods (**Dan Stahl** supt.), Indian Boundary (Ryan Gilmore supt.), Orchard Valley (**Matt Senatra** supt.), River Oaks (**Jerry Cotton** supt.), Waters Edge (**Jay Lemanski** supt.), and Whisper Creek (**Brian Broman** supt.). Nice work for a great cause, guys!

Congratulations to Laura and **Craig Shepherd** on the birth of their baby boy Holden Alexander Shepherd on July 6th. Holden was a healthy, happy 8 lbs. and 21" long, and has already begun running with daddy.



"Poopy diaper! change me dammit!"

Wanna win a million bucks the hard way? All you need to do is make a hole in one. From the edge of a cliff where you hit down to a green a mere 1,410 feet below. To try, you need to get yourself to South Africa. Next, you have to go to the Legends Golf and Safari Resort (two things that go together like chocolate and peanut butter) and plop down \$1,060 which includes the helicopter ride to the tee, a souvenir cap, glove and DVD of you playing the hole. After that, it's pretty simple—walk to the edge of the cliff, tee up and hit your ball, and wait the 30 seconds it takes for it to land, and hope it goes in (they'll radio up with the results). FYI, nobody has done it, but Pdraig Harrington HAS made par on the hole.



John Deere Golf and the First Tee have launched a "Careers in Golf" program, whereby teen-aged participants at three First Tee chapters (locally held this month at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club in Lemont) get the chance to explore several aspects of a career in golf course management and the science of agronomy. The other two locations are TPC Boston (held in June), TPC Sugarloaf near Atlanta in July. Two participants from each chapter get to shadow a superintendent preparing for a PGA Tour event, meaning Chad Ball at Conway Farms will have a couple of extra helpers next month. This program is part of Deere's \$1 million commitment to the First Tee. If you'd like to help out, please contact Luke Cella.

This story makes no sense, since it is blatantly obvious that smart people do not play golf. The headline—"Mensa Members Share Their Top Ten Favorite Golf Courses"—says it all. I thought **Chuck Barber** was the only Mensa member who golfed, but I was wrong. Their favorite? Augusta National. Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton (**Scott Bordner** supt.) was 7th on the list, so our area has that feather in its cap.

Another group of smart folks has come out with its top courses list, too. The American Society of Golf Course Architects posted its Top 100 Golf Courses in the latest issue of Golf Course Architecture magazine, and it included a couple of tracks from our area. Chicago Golf was ranked 42nd, while Shoreacres (**Brian Palmer** supt.) was 74th. **Dave Groelle, CGCS, Tim White, and Brian York** should also be proud, as their courses NAMES were also included in the list; however, I'm going to go out on a limb and guess that the Royal Melbourne, Prestwick, and St. Andrews cited were not the ones in our neck of the woods.

We've found it! Something as old as **Eddie Braunsky, CGCS** that still works on the golf course.



Q: What is **Vince Dodge's** favorite band?
A: The Wilderness at Fortune Bay City Rollers.

Ever wonder why **Eric Reed** doesn't make deliveries on Sundays in the fall? I've heard through the grapevine he's been moonlighting with the Stillers (aka Pittsburgh Steelers) delivering the spheroid to receivers and tight ends.

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MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Here's a really cool story from **Scott Witte, CGCS**—"The Cantigny Golf Bee Barometer Project" has gone global. What began as a modest gift of three bee suits and two smokers (me either) to an ambitious school in Ghana, Africa, has become the start of an exciting relationship with student beekeepers intent on self-sustaining practices for their school. The Awutu-



Winton Bee Club, though under-resourced, is passionate about honeybees and their ability to provide a profit center for sustenance. The kids have written very eloquent thank you letters to Cantigny, and the project is a complete and far-reaching success.



Our monthly **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** item features his latest hobby. We all know that Dan has many passions outside of the turf industry,

from snowmobiling to falconry. Now Dan can proudly call himself a Walrus Whisperer as well. Actually, Dan got to chat with **Craig Stadler** after his victory at the Encompass Championship about the 18-footer the



Walrus made on the final hole to get the win at North Shore Country Club on June 23rd. By the way, great work by Dan, **J.D. Dinelli**, the NSCC staff and all the MAGCS volunteers for putting on one heckuva show for that event—the tournament was fantastic, and the course received nothing but raves from all the players.

These two guys met in 1958 at Bob O'Link Golf Club. **Bruce Williams** was 8 years old and "Speedy" Lipari was a sales rep with Upjohn. They are still enjoying golf together 55 years later at Saticoy Country Club in California where Kurt Desiderio was their host.



Speaking of a group getting together, the ITF and Northwest Illinois Golf Course Superintendents held a meeting at Short Hills Country Club in Moline this past month. A few of our members reunited apparently on the feeder course from the quad cities to the MAGCS. Pictured below: **Mike** and **Matt**



Senatra, Jeff VerCautren, and Shane Ritchie. Not pictured, but made the leap from Short Hills: **Mike Vercautren, Jeff Scott, Dave Behm, Jeff Plasschaert, and Jake Mendoza,** anyone else work at this gateway club?

Our members are finding ways to get the word out, as evidenced by the various publications with their stories in them. From TurfNet's Blog Aggregator we heard from **Steve Cook, CGCS, MG** at Oakland Hills Country Club in Michigan about his hands-on green committee meetings where members learn to change cups, rake bunkers, mow and roll greens, and other procedures we do on a daily basis in our jobs. **Shane Conroy** at Park Ridge Country Club blogged about irrigation system leaks during wet periods (like we experienced the first six months of this year), while **Tim Christians** chimed in on his favorite new toy, the TDR moisture sensor. In Golf Range magazine, Mistwood Golf Club's (**Ben Kelnhofer** supt.) new Performance Center was featured on the cover, which is just one of the many improvements that have been recently made to the facility. Also, in GCM, **Ed Nangle, Ph.D.**, the new Director of Turfgrass Program at Golf House was featured in the Insider section (pg. 38) of the July, 2013 issue.



The Melrose Leadership Academy offers the opportunity for any Class A member who has been so for at least 5 years and who hasn't attended the GCSAA Education Conference in the past 5 years to attend for free. Up to 20 scholarships will be awarded to qualified individuals provided they fill out the application and submit it by September 15th. They even throw in the hotel and some pocket money, so if you haven't gone to the Show in a while, this may be your ticket. Go to www.eifg.org and click on the Education tab or to www.gcsaa.org to find the Melrose Leadership Academy application tab.

It was recently announced that Richard Konzem, GCSAA's Chief Operating Officer since October, 2011 has resigned his position. Chief Executive Officer Rhett Evans made the announcement, stating, "I appreciate Richard's contributions to the association's operations and its members. We will miss him as a GCSAA team member, and wish him much success in his future endeavors."

There have been some schedule changes for the 2014 Education Conference and trade show set for February in Orlando. The Education Conference will be held Monday through Thursday, Feb. 3-6, while the trade show will take place on Wednesday and Thursday the 5th and 6th. The USGA Session—always a fan favorite—will become the General Session, taking place on Thursday the 6th at 8:00 a.m. The Golf Championship will begin one day earlier than last year, with no activities taking place on Friday.

By the way, the Midwest Hospitality Reception will take place on Wednesday, February 5 at Miller's Ale House on International Drive.


Nominations are open until October 15th for GCSAA's Excellence in Government Relations Award. Forms can be accessed at www.gcsaa.org.

As part of GCSAA's Chapter Outreach Grant Program, MAGCS has received a \$1,500 grant to develop a non-member digital version of On Course magazine. The idea is to communicate the value of our chapter and its members to other related organizations and interested individuals. There were a great many applicants--\$37,000 was requested from a pool of \$15,000—and MAGCS is very fortunate to have been selected.

On June 19th, Randall Oaks Golf Club and superintendent **Mike Sprouse** hosted the 13th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing. The event, which raises money for both the MAGCS and the Kane County Farm Bureau scholarship funds, honors its namesake John Buck, one of the greatest men ever to grace our association.



Randall Oaks Superintendent, Mike Sprouse

The day was beautiful, and the golf course was in tremendous condition, and as usual, just about every hole had some type of side event for golfers to participate in, from bags to ball bazookas. Many thanks to Mike and his crew and the rest of the Randall Oaks staff, to all the lovely volunteers who ran the games, and to J.W. Turf for another great time. 

2013 John Buck Memorial Golf Outing

