

# #BullSheet

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



JUNE 2013

## Dates to Remember

**June 19** – 13th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing at Randall Oaks Golf Club, **Mike Sprouse** host.

**June 17-23** – Champions Tour's Encompass Championship at North Shore Country Club, **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** and **J.D. Dinelli** hosts.

**July 8** -- GCSAA 2014 board nominations due.

**July 15** -- GCSAA Distinguished Service Award nominations due.

**July 22** – MAGCS monthly meeting at Edgewood Valley Country Club, **Ron McCarthy** host.

**August 1** -- Lebanon Turf and GCSAA's Dog Days of Golf Calendar submissions due.

**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.

One new member of MAGCS is **Dr. Ed Nangle**, the new Director of Turfgrass Programs at the CDGA. Ed arrived recently from the University of Florida where he worked with a range of products including fungicides, pigments and herbicides as part of his post-doctoral research. He earned his PhD at the Ohio State University, and is interested in plant physiological responses to environmental stresses (something many of us can relate to). Let's help welcome Dr. Nangle to our neighborhood—he is here to help us.



Unfortunately for Dr. Nangle, **Tim Sibicky** will not be at Golf House to help out. As of May 15th, Tim left the CDGA and headed to Purdue University to pursue his PhD under **Dr. Rick Latin's** guidance. We thank Tim Sibicky for his fine work here, and wish him the best in his future.

Do you ever wonder just how they name all the different cultivars of plant material? I sure do. This one for example—why in the world would they call it a 'Spring Snow' crabapple?



Good news from the U.S. government (or the “guvmint” as some like to say). The latest report on the mysterious disappearance of honeybees points to a parasitic mite as the biggest factor behind colony collapse disorder—and downplays the role of pesticides that European officials are planning to ban. The EPA and USDA say there should be further research into the effects of neonicotinoids, but that studies so far have not shown them to be the biggest hazard facing the bees.

On the 13th of this month, 156 golfers will tee it up at Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, PA for a shot at winning the United States Open. The USGA reported that it received a record number of entries this year—over 9,800 attempted to qualify for the 113th Championship! Of the 9,860 entrants, only 52 players including 11 past champions are exempt in the field. Local qualifying rounds took place at 111 sites across the country in early to mid-May; Sectional qualifying took place at two international sites—Japan and England—and 11 US facilities. Just though I’d share that.

Oh, and this too: During one of those qualifying events--at The Club at Emerald Hills in Hollywood, FL--a woman drove her car onto the 11th hole during play. Nobody was hurt, but the USGA is now considering banning all drivers from its competitions henceforth. Ba-doom-boom.

Congratulations to **Elliott Dowling**, formerly golf course superintendent at Cress Creek Country Club, who is the new Director of Agronomy for USGA’s Mid-Atlantic section. Elliott has very big shoes to fill—those of Stan Zontek, the man who was the longest-tenured USGA employee and the previous director of the mid-Atlantic region from 1985 until his death last August. We will miss you, Elliott, and wish you great success in Philadelphia!



*Elliott Dowling sports the USGA look for his new position.*

Q: What do they call a big summer music festival held on Ron Fox’s course?

A: Point O Woodstock.

MAGCS members were prominently featured in the April issue of Golfdom magazine. **Tom Lively**, CGCS had his mug in the Golfdom

Gallery section just prior to the Valero Texas Open held at his facility, TPC San Antonio. The turn of a few more pages to the feature article titled “Early to Rise,” **Brian Palmer** of Shoreacres was one of six superintendents 30 years of age or younger to be highlighted.

*Fred Behnke (right) is all laughs at the MAGCS April Meeting. Now we know why. Good luck Fred.*



Mow...Plow...Both end in OW... The superintendent of this course reminds us all to MAKE SURE YOUR NEW EMPLOYEES CAN READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE JOB BOARD BEFORE SENDING THEM OUT TO WORK!!

Congratulations to **Fred Behnke**, CGCS on his official retirement after 31 years at Mt. Prospect Golf Club. Fred has long been an active MAGCS member, serving on its Board and ultimately as our President in 2004, and we hope he will use all his newly-acquired free time to join us at a few monthly meetings and keep us up to date on his retirement adventures. As Fred heads off into the sunset, **Darin Douglas** takes the reins for the next 31 or so years. Congratulations, and the best of luck to both men!



## MIDWEST Doppelgänger



*Dan Dinelli or is it Leo Rossi?  
(No relation to Frank, although that is Dan's first name?)*

Since he's already going to kill me for the unflattering photos of him in the May issue, why not just pile on? I can't help but wonder how Dan finds the time to do all he does at North Shore Country Club, enjoy his many and varied hobbies, AND act in just about every mob movie ever made. There truly is no end to his talents.

Golf Digest, with support from the USGA and the PGA of America, is launching an initiative to support more nine-hole rounds. The new "Time for Nine" campaign is a fun and creative way to start promoting the nine-hole round of golf as a complete and enjoyable experience that is consistent with the traditions of playing the game. According to the USGA, nine-hole rounds are fully compatible with both the Rules of Golf and the USGA Handicap System. I'm a big fan--nine holes is plenty enough abuse for any given day.

Hopefully you did the "Chicago thing" and voted early and often for GCSAA Most Valuable Technician award finalist **Tim Johnson** of Arrowhead Golf Club and Geneva Golf Club. TJ was one of three finalists amongst scores of candidates to be considered for the prestigious MVT award. Voting closed on the 31st of May, and the results will soon be announced. Good luck Tim--you certainly deserve it!

July 8th marks the deadline for nominations for the 2014 Board of Directors. If you or someone you know are interested in serving on the mother ship, give Luke Cella a call and let him know so MAGCS can submit the nomination.



Do you know someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the superintendent profession? Nominate them for GCSAA's Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award by the 15th of July--individuals must be nominated by a GCSAA member, an affiliated chapter, or a qualified golf association.

### South Side Party

MAGCS members and ITF members alike were fortunate to have had the opportunity to experience two of the South Side's true gems in a two-week span. The MAGCS May meeting was held at Calumet Country Club on May 30th, with **Matt Harstad** and company hosting--and THIS time the weather was terrific! **Jeff Leuzinger** of Pearl Valley Organix kicked the day off with an education session about Organics and Composting and Their Role in Soil Health. Following Jeff's presentation, MAGCS members hit the links with lunches in hand for a beautiful day on a beautiful golf course. The traditional Spring Scramble format is always a great way to work the kinks out after a long winter away from golf. Afterward, a nice spread of food and beverages was available to the hungry and thirsty competitors, topping off the great day. Thanks to Matt and his staff, to the F & B staff and the Pro Shop folks at Calumet, and to the day's sponsors--**Bayer, Burris Equipment Company, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Reinders, Inc., and Syngenta Professional Products.**



*Keith Copersmet and Brian Trifilio*



*Our host Matt Harstad was all smiles as the sun shone for our April Scramble.*



*Chad walk (l) shares a laugh with Harstad's former assistant Adam Lenke.*



*Chad Hauth, John Turner and "old man" Jeff Frentz sporting the bucket hat and white knee highs.*



*Can't tell what is out of place in this picture? It could be a number of things, but certainly not Nick Baker in the middle of the fairway.*



*Bordner gets DeRooed. Scott Bordner (l) can't believe Kevin DeRoo (r) ate his lunch while he was at the range and only left him the apple. Kevin may be looking for a new partner next event.*



*Craig Shephed lines up a putt while the rest of his team carefully helps him out.*



Just two short weeks later, the ITF/MAGCS Combined Golf Day was held at historic Beverly Country Club, with Kirk Spieth hosting. This event was a two-man best ball format (requiring poor shlubs like me to hit their own ball all day long). Thankfully, forecaddies were provided, making for a surprisingly quick 18 holes on a gorgeous Donald Ross classic. The golf course was fantastic, with fairways about as tight and firm as can be possible. I'm told a whole bunch of trees were removed recently, but I'm skeptical—I still managed to find lumber at least once on every hole. Somewhere inside that massive clubhouse there were after-golf munchies and drinks, capping another spectacular day on another awesome golf course. Thanks to Kirk and his crew, the management team at Beverly, and again to our generous sponsors that made the day possible: **Agrium-Direct Solutions, BASF, Bayer, Best Signature Sand, BTSI, Burris Equipment Company, Dow AgroSciences, Dunteman Turf Farms, Great Lakes Turf, Green Source, Inc., Profile Products, Rainbird Irrigation, Reinders, Inc., Shoreline Sand Solutions, Inc., Syngenta, and Waupaca Sand & Solutions.**





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