

# #BullSheet

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



MARCH 2013

## Dates to Remember

**March 6** – CAGCS Chicagoland Forum, Naperville Country Club, Steven Biehl and Tim Anderson, CGCS MG

**March 11** – MAGCS Monthly Meeting at Royal Melbourne Country Club, Dave Groelle, CGCS  
Dr. Karl Danneberger, Ohio State University

**March 13-14** – Reinders 21st Green Industry Conference at the Waukesha Expo Center in Suburban Milwaukee, WI.

**March 30** – Deadline for nominations for GCM's Most Valuable Technician (MVT) award.

**April 30** – MAGCS monthly meeting at Calumet Country Club in Homewood, IL (second time's a charm), Matt Harstad host.

**May 13** – MAGCS/ITF combined event at Beverly Country Club in Chicago, Kirk Spieth host.

**May 18** – Sunshine Through Golf Foundation's 100-Hole Golf Marathon at the Zigfield Troy Golf Course in Woodridge, IL, Dennis Troy host.

MAGCS bids a fond farewell to **Dr. Derek Settle**, who as of February 1st is the newest addition to the Bayer Environmental Science team of technical service specialists. Derek has been an invaluable friend to all of us who endeavor to grow turfgrass in the Chicago District, having served as the CDGA's Director of Turfgrass Programs since 2006. Doc was always there in a pinch, making countless diagnostic visits to area courses and providing his weekly Scouting Reports for the betterment of all of us. Our loss is Bayer's gain—thank you for everything you've done, and we will miss you Derek!



Another MAGCS guy is making a move, but not too far. **Travis Dykstra**, former assistant superintendent at St. Charles Country Club, has accepted a position with J. W. Turf as an equipment sales representative effective last month. Congratulations and the best of luck to Travis.

Remember, the end of this month marks the deadline for you to nominate your equipment technician for GCM's Most Valuable Technician (MVT) award. The program is designed to honor the best and brightest golf course equipment technicians in the industry, the men and women who play such a key role in keeping the tools of our trade up and running. The nominations will be narrowed to a field of three finalists by a team of industry judges, after which GCM readers will be able to review the resumes and qualifications of the finalists online and vote for their favorite. The MVT winner will be announced in the July issue of GCM. Go to [gcsaa.org](http://gcsaa.org) for the nomination form, and submit it by March 30th!

Another reminder that the Reinders 21st Green Industry Conference is just around the corner on the 13th and 14th at the Waukesha Expo Center outside of Milwaukee. GCSAA Education Points are available for attendees, who will receive .4 continuing education points for each day, or .8 points for the two days. A wide variety of seminars are on the agenda, and one lucky attendee will win a trip to Disney World, so get to Milwaukee and "Catch the Wave."

Better late than never—a couple MAGCS members made moves last year that I finally got wind of. **Josh Bebeau**, former assistant at Highland Park Country Club has been named the superintendent there; and **Dan Stahl**,

former assistant at Orchard Valley Golf Club is superintendent at Indian Boundary Golf Course in Chicago. Belated congrats, guys.

Happy news for **Jay Lemanski** (Waters Edge Golf Course): He and Candace welcomed their first child into the world on December 5th. Maya Winter was 7 lbs., 8 ozs. at the time of her birth, and is healthy, happy, and I'm guessing poopy. Congratulations Jay and Candace!



Candace, St. Nick, Jay and Maya Winter

'Tis the season for acquisitions and mergers in the turf industry. In the news again is Eagle One Golf of Anaheim, CA, which has acquired Fore-Par, increasing the depth and breadth of its product offerings. Nufarm, currently the third-largest plant protection supplier in the turf and ornamental market, has acquired Cleary Chemical, adding Cleary's fungicide brands to its existing line of insecticides and herbicides. And finally, BASF has merged its Professional Turf & Ornamental and pest control divisions along with Professional Vegetation Management and Market Business Development units into the BASF Specialty Products Department (SPD). The merger is intended to better understand and meet the changing needs of BASF's customers. And, while not really a merger or acquisition by definition, Hunter and LASCO have partnered to create the Hunter HSJ Swing Joint by LASCO. The new, heavy-duty swing joints are available in a multitude of inlet and outlet sizes, and when paired with Hunter rotors, the rotor warranty is extended from three to five years. You like apples? How'dya like THOSE apples?



It's here! The new USGA Stimpmeter is now available to stick in your cart and never use. Besides being blue instead of the traditional '69 Ford Mustang metallic green, the new double-sided version features not only the traditional ball-release notch at the top of it, but a notch on the other side that is halfway down to produce half the normal ball roll. This comes in handy for today's modern greens where large, level surfaces are not available to use the old version practically. So if you have "potato

chip" greens with many undulations and not much flat area, test drive the new Stimpmeter at a dealership near you soon! You can purchase the New Stimpmeter for \$110 plus S&H and tax by calling 1-800-336-4446. Or if you have a used Stimpmeter, you can return it and purchase the new version for \$75 plus S&H and tax. You can use the USGA Stimpmeter Rebate Form at [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org) to take advantage of this discount. Lastly, you can view videos of the proper use (where they teach the subtle "extra-little-push-for-an-extra-foot-of-roll" technique) of the Stimpmeter on the same USGA website.

Q: What do you call the overly-affectionate members of **Les Rutan's** club?

A: Crystal Tree huggers.

This news is really hard to believe considering the winter we've been having. A federal committee has published a draft of the country's third climate assessment report, a comprehensive analysis of the latest and best peer-reviewed science on the extent and impacts of global warming on the United States. Although none of the findings are entirely new, the report suggests that evidence is now stronger and clearer than ever that the climate is rapidly changing—primarily as a result of human activities, including the copious burning of fossil fuels. Basically, what we've been experiencing lately will continue and worsen. "Summers are longer and hotter, and periods of extreme heat last longer than any living American has ever experienced. Winters are generally shorter and warmer. Rain comes in heavier downpours, though in many regions there are longer dry spells in between." Lovely.

If you're a "glass-half-full" kinda person, you'll take some solace in these tidbits from Bull Sheets past: 60 years ago this month, the hot topic was "The winter of 1952-53 will probably go down in the records as one of the mildest winters in recent years in the Chicago district. Grass has been green practically all winter and there has been very little frost in the ground. There has been very little snow, and what there was disappeared in a hurry." Furthermore, in the March, 1983 issue—30 years ago this month—it was documented that "Much of the Midwest has been blessed with an unusually mild winter so far. Very little snow has fallen to interfere with driving and the mild temperatures are in direct contrast to those of last year." See? This isn't so abnormal after all.

In other MAGCS history from the archives, 50 years ago this month our forward-thinking association took the leap into modern technology by buying a TAPE RECORDER! 40 years ago this month, then-editor Ray Gerber opined that "With all the automatic irrigation systems that have been installed in the Chicago area and all those that are in the planning stages, there will be very few night watering men left for the mosquitoes to get a midnight snack." And finally, 30 years ago this month, the TUCO Agricultural Chemicals Division of Upjohn introduced Banol fungicide, a systemic control for Pythium blight in turf and ornamentals; while Cleary's introduced the first-ever flowable systemic fungicide with its unveiling of 3336-F. OK, history lesson is over now.

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We found him! For those of you—and I'm sure there are many—wondering whatever happened to Al Borland, that whacky sidekick and straight man to Tim "The Tool Man" Taylor, wonder no further. Al is alive and well and working on the south side at Calumet Country Club! Al, aka **Matt Harstad**, will be hosting our monthly meeting come this April 30th, so bring your umbrella...



## MIDWEST Doppelgänger

Thank God for golf! Golf 20/20, a collaboration of leading organizations representing all segments of the US golf industry, reports golf's economic impact of \$68.8 billion in 2011. Highlights of the findings include: 1.98 million jobs; \$55.6 billion wage income; 25.7 million golf participants; and 15,751 traditional golf facilities. And let's not forget the other important things golf courses do for our world, like filter runoff, prevent soil erosion, provide habitat for countless species of wildlife, and perhaps most-importantly, provide landing facilities for all the world's disabled aircraft. Most recently, an ultralight plane made an emergency landing January 1st on the sixth hole of the Viera East Golf Course in Rockledge, Florida, ending up in a bunker. No injuries resulted, other than the soreness in the arms of the guy who had to rake up after the plane was removed.



Oops—add one more benefit that golf courses provide: Serving as a playground for all winter sports enthusiasts, from cross country skiing and sledding all the way to snowcross competitions. Heck, those guys don't even need snow!

**Dan Dinelli, CGCS** took this photo of Levi Lavallee giving him the thumbs-up in Lake Geneva during a snowcross event for which snow was manufactured. If those things were supposed to fly they should have wings...



Congratulations to **Mike Werth**, formerly with Pendleton Turf Supply, on his new position as sales representative for ProGro Solutions, servicing the Northwest Illinois and Southwest Wisconsin territory.

Thanks to **Todd Fyffe** of Westmoreland CC, **Henry Michna, CGCS** of Winnetka GC, and **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** of North Shore CC for hosting the Chicagoland Shop Tour on January 22nd. The annual event is always well-attended, and is a great way for superintendents to get their winter staff out of the shop for a day (so they can go hang in someone else's shops). Always a great event, and this year was no exception.

Ronald G. Dodson is retiring from Audubon International after serving as the organization's founder and president of the board for more than 25 years. Ron made the announcement after playing a central role in Al's intensive search for a new executive director, which culminated in the hiring of Ryan Aylesworth (formerly of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) in June of last year. Among Ron's many contributions to AI, he worked closely with the USGA to grow the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, which has enrolled over 3,000 properties including golf courses, cemeteries, ski areas, housing developments, hotels, and many others. We wish Mr. Dodson all the best.

The BMW Championship is going to be contested for the first-ever time at Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake Forest, with **Chad Ball, CGCS** serving as host superintendent. The reason I mention this so early is that the Western Golf Association has recently announced that it has invited golf fans to sign up for opportunities to serve as volunteers for the event, which takes place from September 9th through the 15th. Anyone interested in volunteering—aside from those helping out Chad and his staff—can go to [www.BMWChampionshipUSA.com](http://www.BMWChampionshipUSA.com) and click on the Volunteers tab. Chad Ball and **Connor Healy** will be looking for some help as well. If interested in volunteering for the event (either a whole day or the entire week), please contact Connor Healy at 847-295-0285 or [healyconnor@gmail.com](mailto:healyconnor@gmail.com) with your availability and contact info.

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On January 24th, the MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Wee One Fundraiser was held at Seven Bridges Golf Club, with **Don Ferreri** and **Dave Gelino** hosting. The education program for the morning was very good, with John Miller, CGCS—GCSAA's Field Staff Representative for our Great Lakes Region—kicking things off with his update on GCSAA's most recent activities, as well as an explanation of his role as our representative.

Following John, GCI's Pat Jones, who is NEVER at a loss for words, gave his version of "What Would Wayne (Otto) Think?" Always armed with insider information and behind-the-scenes stories and anecdotes, Pat didn't disappoint. I couldn't help closing my eyes and listening to Pat speak—he sounded just like The Dude from "The Big Lebowski."

Following a nice lunch, it was time do get to the business of making some money for the Wee One Foundation. An entire room full of great products, services, and sporting event tickets was available to the highest bidders, and those bidders were very generous—a total of \$25,705 was raised for the cause! In the end it was a great day with a great education program and a great cause—The Wee One Foundation—was the ultimate winner. Thank you to Don and Dave and everyone at Seven Bridges for the terrific service and venue, and to the REAL important folks—the day's sponsors, who were: **Burris Equipment Company, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., Reinders, Inc., and Syngenta Professional Products.**



*Danny Quast, CGCS President of Wee One Foundation practices his tug on the ear bid move for the live auction.*



*Dustin Huguen looks over the silent auction items not having to go far to find many useful and valuable items for his golf course operations.*



*Sword fighting with the pen for the silent auction, Dave Radaj and Steve VanAcker trade blows and laughs.*



*Scott Speiden (r) talking about something that is apparently really small. Charlie Brugler (m) seems to have heard this story before and Eric Reed (l) seems a little embarassed by the whole thing.*

Q: If Tom Abbott went to the University of Iowa, what would he be called?

A: A Thunder Hawkeye.

**News from the GCSAA....**

The second in a series of GCSAA-exclusive surveys looking at operational data of golf course facilities and superintendents is now available online for A, SM, ISM, and C members. The Capital Budget & Labor Survey results can be accessed by going to [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org).

If you have the urge to speak or teach at next year's Education Conference, the Request for Proposals form is now available online as well.

The GCSAA Education Conference is in the books, having been held last month from the 4th through the 8th in San Diego. By most all accounts it was a great show at an even greater venue. San Diego is truly a fantastic town in which to get away for a few days, with tons to do besides walking the show floor. Teeing off the week was the National Championship and Golf Classic, where MAGCS members acquitted themselves admirably. In the Championship itself, **Tommy Robinson** was our highest finisher,

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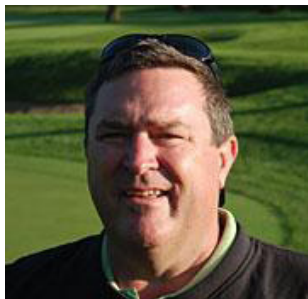
grabbing 16th place, followed closely by **Al Pondel** in 17th. In the Chapter Team events, the team of **Bob Kronn, Al Pondel, Tommy Robinson** and **Justin VanLanduit** took 4th in the Gross division, while in the Net division, **Don Cross, Al Fierst, Bob Maibusch, Tommy Witt** and **Scott Witte** were the winners, with the team of **Tim Davis, Ed Fischer, Brian Mores, Paul Schaefer**, and **Steve VanAcker** taking 3rd.

After golf wrapped up, it was on to the conference, where the usual plethora of education sessions was offered—this year sponsored by Precision Labs—and all the other trappings with which we’ve become familiar were on tap. The Opening Night Celebration held on Tuesday the 5th featured Major Dan Rooney, author of the book “A Patriot’s Calling,” and Wednesday’s Opening Session and Thursday’s General Session—both sponsored by Syngenta—featured Old Tom Morris Award winner Michael Hurdzan, Ph.D., Brandel Chamblee, and Tim Rosaforte to name but a few of the dignitaries that were on hand. At the Annual Meeting, your new Board was elected, and consists of President Pat Finlen, Vice President Keith Ihms, and Secretary/Treasurer John O’Keefe. Directors Peter Grass (fitting name) and Darren Davis were re-elected, and newly-elected to the board was MAGCS member **John Fulling, CGCS** of Kalamazoo Country Club—congrats to John!



Matt Kregel

More local flavor was infused in the list of candidates for TurfNet’s Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta, with MAGCS members **Matt Kregel** from the Club at Strawberry Creek and **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS, MG**, of Medinah Country Club and



Andy Morris

downstate neighbor **Andy Morris** of the Country Club of Peoria all having been nominated. Alas, the award went to Dan Meersman from the Philadelphia Cricket Club, but congratulations to all of the deserving nominees.



Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS MG

The crowning event took place on Wednesday the 6th, when MAGCS hosted its Hospitality Reception on the beautiful rooftop of the Hotel Solamar. It was a splendid evening enjoyed by a huge group of partygoers, and we have many people to thank, including Luke Cella for arranging things (the three separate trips to San Diego to scout

locations may have been a tad excessive, but who’s counting?), the folks who volunteered their time to check guests in, and of course the night’s sponsors, who I will list here just to let them know how much they are appreciated: RYDER CUP: Burris

Equipment Company, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., Reinders, Inc., and Syngenta. HOLE IN ONE: Arthur Clesen, Inc., and Bayer Environmental Science. EAGLE: Chicagoland Turf, BASF, J.W. Turf, Inc., and Hollembeak Construction, Inc. BIRDIE: CS Turf, Harris Yamaha Golf Cars, Layne Christensen, Lemont Paving Company, Nadler Golf, Pearl Valley Organix, ProGro of Illinois, LLC, Pendleton Turf Supply, Tyler Enterprises/Masterblend International, and Water Well Solutions. PAR: The Andersons, Arysta Lifescience, Aquatrols, Dow AgroSciences, DryJect Chicagoland, Great Lakes Turf, Growing Solutions, Inc., Lohmann Companies, Prime Turf, Inc., Rain Bird Services, and XGD Systems. Thanks to all of you!

And thanks to everyone that bought a raffle ticket at the Hospitality Reception. We raised \$2,300 for the Scholarship Fund. In case you didn’t hear, the winners were:

- iPad - **Brian Racette**
- iPod - **Justin VanLanduit**
- \$100 gift card - **Glen Bereiter**
- \$50 gift card - **Chris Frank**
- Overnight at Solamar was **Mike Matchen**



Brian Racette takes over the Witte win streak, held for a short while by VanAcker during the interim.

And of course, no trip to “The Show” would be complete without the fun stuff our members take advantage of when in a beautiful and warm place like San Diego. Whether you went hiking in La Jolla, or just lollygagging around the Gas Lamp District, fun was found in many different ways. In particular (and because I was there so I have pictures), there was the University of Illinois Alumni gathering at the Tilted Kilt Pub outside of Petco Park, along with the Hickory Stick Invitational, where some MAGCS members donned the knickers and hacked their way around the Coronado Municipal Golf Course using actual hickory-shafted clubs called niblicks and mashies from days of yore. Another



Chris Frank, one of MAGCS new members wins at the Reception.

group even tried their hand at surfing in 50-something-degree water with some pretty nasty rip currents. Whatever your thing is, it was able to be done in SoCal. Another great memory, and nice to come home and NOT have to mow grass. @



John Nelson showing the GCSAA Golf Championship contestants how to knock so close that it holds up all day on a closest to the pin.



Tony Kalina and Scott Bordner wait anxiously to get their autographed copy of "Turfgrass Insects of the U.S. and Canada," by Pat Vittum (in forefont with pens). Note Randy Lusher in background (he actually waited in line for Tony and Scott while we all chatted).



MAGCS first couple, Brooke and Dave Groelle at the Hospitality Reception.

