

BullSheet



OCTOBER 2013

Dates to Remember

October 17 - Class C Golf Outing - Cog Hill Golf Club - (Class C Members Only)

October 18 – Deadline for applications for the GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards.

October 31 – Deadline for nominations for the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association's (IGCEMA's) 2013 Edwin Budding Award presented by Jacobsen/Ransomes.

November 14 – 61st Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club in Medinah, IL, Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS, MG, Ryan Cummins, Jacob Mendoza, Jim Wallace, and Dane Wilson hosts.

November 30 – Nomination period ends for the 2013 TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta.

December 3-6 – 2013 Golfdom Summit in Orlando, FL.

December 9-12 – Syngenta Business Institute at the Graylyn International Conference Center on the campus of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC.

It looks as if the trend to make just about anything into a golf cart continues. First we had Bubba Watson with his hovercraft, blowing every last grain of sand and seed from every divot on the course. Now we have the GolfBoard, an electric-powered longboard allowing golfers to travel across the course at the same speed of a golf cart and experience the terrain like a surfboard.

There's a removable stand-up handlebar/bag holder for the inexperienced rider that also has a drink holder—a key feature for any golfer-surfer-drinker, but apparently not a part of the marketing strategy.



Congratulations to **Ryan Dunbar**, assistant superintendent at Jackson Park and South Shore Golf Courses, and **Ryder Underwood**, assistant at Whisper Creek Golf Club who were both selected to attend the John Deere/Bayer Green Start Academy this month at the Bayer Development and Training Center in Clayton, NC and the John Deere turfcare factory in Fuquay-Varina, NC.



Ryder Underwood and Ryan Dunbar on their way to John Deere / Bayer Green Start Academy this fall.

Some encouraging news about our industry was reported on CNN recently. The \$67 million in prize money that was made available through the FedEx Cup playoffs “reflects how the industry is battling back from recession...and contributing more than you might think to help boost what is still a fragile U.S. economy,” the network said. World Golf Foundation Chief Executive Steve Mona was quoted in the story, saying “The golf industry is larger than the spectator sports and performing arts industries combined,...employing close to two million Americans with a

combined income of \$55.6 billion.” The total economic impact of golf on the U.S. in 2011 was estimated at \$176.8 billion, according to WGF’s Golf 20/20 report. And I would have guessed that George Clooney alone was larger than the golf industry.

Congrats to another MAGCS member who notched a hole-in-one this season. Sevens were definitely lucky when **Dave Braasch** of Glen Erin Golf Club in Janesville, WI hit 7-iron on the 7th hole from 158 yards out to a back right pin location that he didn’t know was jarred until he got to the green. Meaning he obviously had help from a gopher or wolverine or badger or whatever animal they have up there that does that type of thing.



Any other guy and you’d say this was trick photography, but THIS guy is special!

Just wondering: Am I the only one who spends a stupid amount of time trying to bend those little wire flags back straight? I mean, they cost like a penny and I find myself wasting a buck’s worth of time trying to straighten them out. Which, by the way is impossible. Anyhoo...

Our condolences to the family and friends of Bertha Staudt, who passed away on September 13th at 97 years of age. Bertha was the widow of **Albie Staudt**, the longtime superintendent at Geneva Golf Club, and a very active MAGCS member for many many years.

If sprinklers could talk: “Mmmmmm. Frog legs. They taste like chicken.” If frogs could talk: “Really? Are you kidding me? This guy better water tonight.”



PHOTO: BRIAN MORES

Great job by **Chad Ball, Connor Healy** and the crew and volunteers at Conway Farms Golf Club on a fantastic golf course for last month’s BMW Championship! The place shined, and provided some truly great and memorable moments (none as memorable as Jim Furyk’s 59). And didn’t Chad look like an old pro during his interview with the Golf Channel folks? Awesome work everybody!

Q: What are the protective covers on the mowers called at **Owen Benson’s** course?
A: Bonnie Brook shields.

What a crazy story from Chick Evans Golf Course last month, huh? Forty-five carts were destroyed by a fire that investigators determined to be “most likely intentional.” The estimated loss was set at \$135,000. Thankfully, the course is up and running, having pulled some carts from several other facilities to augment the two dozen that were spared.

In another bizarre story that could in no way be local, a golfer from New York is suing a golf course after a crocodile bit off two of his fingers. The course is in Cancun, Mexico where apparently they imported crocodiles as a marketing attraction. It happened something like this: Guy hooks his ball in the gunch. Guy goes into the gunch—even though there’s caution tape advising him to keep out. Guy claims caution tape means “Ground Under Repair” in America (interpreted as: guy is an idiot). Guy gets bit and loses two fingers. Guy sues for \$2.25 million. And he’ll probably get it.

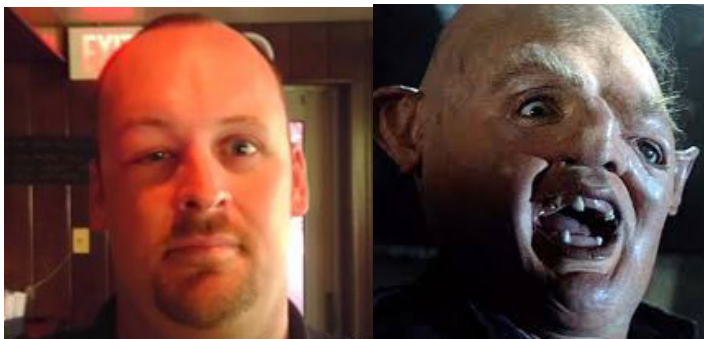
A great story came across my desk thanks to **Mike Bavier** via **John Turner**. Per Mike’s request, John sent him copies of some very special telegrams (look it up youngsters) that were sent to John’s grandmother between February and April, 1945. John’s dad William E. Turner was a bombardier on a B24 Liberator in World War II when his plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire forcing him and the crew to bail out. The first telegram informed John’s grandmother that her son had been reported as missing in action. He was captured by German forces in February, and liberated in April—the second telegram told of his being a prisoner of war. The third brought the news that

he was being returned “to military control,” and the fourth told of Mr. Turner’s return to the United States. He was 23 years old at the time—an old-timer compared to the rest of the crew who averaged 21 years of age. Imagine what was going on in your life when you were that age! After he returned to the States, William married his sweetheart in July of 1945, had two children and two grandchildren, and he lived to be 88 years old. John’s mother is living in Fort Wayne, IN, and just turned 88 herself. John still has all his dad’s medals, as well as his metal-covered bible in which he kept a journal of his days in captivity. AND he had the opportunity to go up in a replica B24, during which he sat in the bombardier’s seat to relive what his dad saw from the air and to try and understand what went through his young father’s mind when the plane was hit and the call to abandon ship was heard. Thanks for sharing, JT and Mike.



Not cool. Really. Not cool.

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Thanks to Chuck Barber and a really pissed off wasp, we now know who played Sloth in the movie “The Goonies.”

The 10th Annual Wee One Foundation Golf Outing—which was well-publicized in John Walsh’s article in the August issue of Golfdom magazine—was held on September 16th at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI. Always a must-go for any number of reasons—the venue with its perfect conditions and vexing greens, the cause with proceeds going to help families in our industry cope with medical issues, the fun of getting together with friends old and new, or just to have two or three shots at passing the taco and brat stands. We enjoyed a beautiful crisp day on the as-usual pristine golf course. May thanks to the volunteers and sponsors who help to make the day possible, and to Rod Johnson and his crew for the great golf course. Also thanks to Bob Lively for catching three dyed-in-the-wool Bears fans in a moment of weakness. Or is it a moment of



lunacy?

More MAGCS members have been spotted in the pages of the various industry magazines and e-publications. **Jeff Donahoe** of Sycamore Golf Club was a contributor to GCM’s September issue in the Photo Quiz section where readers are challenged to “Identify The Problem.” Jeff’s was unique—a perfect pile of corn stalks in the middle of the course was identified as having been left behind by floodwater, which is a near-constant issue on Jeff’s course. September’s Chicago District Golfer magazine had a feature article on golf course architect **Greg Martin** titled “There’s No Place Like Home,” describing the abundance of work Greg is undertaking locally. In that same issue, guest writer Jeff Rude wrote of a memorable experience he had revolving around the Evans Scholarship program. Rude, himself an Evans Scholar, was at the 1974 Western Open at Butler National Golf Club when he saw Tom Watson win his first of 39 PGA Tour victories. In the victory ceremony, Mr. Watson told the crowd that his local caddie for the week, **Bobby Maibusch**, was applying for the Evans Scholarship and had asked if Watson would write a letter of recommendation. Watson then said he’d do one better, and then turned to Chick Evans—the program’s founder—who was seated nearby and advised that Maibusch should receive the scholarship. The same Bobby Maibusch received that scholarship, attended Michigan State University, and is to this day at Hinsdale Golf Club. Cool story that I didn’t know about.

The 2013 Edwin Budding Award presented by Jacobsen/Ransomes recognizes innovators, technicians, educators, engineers, etc. that have gone above and beyond their normal day to day jobs and made a significant impact in the golf and turf business. October 31st is the deadline to submit an application—if your technician fits the above description, nominate him! Go to www.igcema.org to submit an application. Previous winners include Wes Danielewicz of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County in 2011.

Arthur Clesen, Inc has moved from their Wheeling location to their new warehouse in Lincolnshire at 635 Margate Drive. ACI is planning an open house on November 1 to show off the new crib.

Continued on page 18



GCSAA has launched a new mobile app for iPhone and Android users. Developed with input from member surveys and feedback from GCSAA committees, the app is designed to help members stay connected with GCSAA. Go to www.gcsaa.org to download the app.

Rounds 4 Research completed a successful year with the conclusion of its August auction that raised an additional \$39,000 for turfgrass research. Cumulatively this year's auctions of golf at members' courses raised just under \$150,000 for the important cause. Stay tuned for plans for 2014 Rounds 4 Research auctions, and feel free to donate a foursome!

GCSAA is proud to announce that it has awarded twenty college scholarships as part of its Legacy Awards Program. Among those twenty winners was Taylor Behrman, the daughter of **Dave Behrman, CGCS** and a student at the University of Minnesota. Congratulations Taylor!

The MAGCS Annual Golf Championship and monthly meeting was held on Monday, August 26th at the hot and steamy Crystal Lake Country Club, with **Steve VanAcker** serving as our host. Did I mention the day was hot and steamy?



Before hitting the course to contest the championship, **Todd Quitno** of the American Society of Golf Course Architects gave a presentation on "What's Trending Now?" in regard to golf course design. After that it was time for lunch and then golf. The hot and steamy (am I being repetitive?) course was in tremendous condition, leading to some excellent scores among the few elite golfers in our brethren. After it was all played out, a hot and steamy **Al Pondel** was the champion, and a well-deserving one at that. Many thanks to Steve and the folks at Crystal Lake, to the people who volunteered their time for registration and all the other many duties necessary to carry off a successful event, and to our sponsors, who were: **Arthur Clesen, Inc., BASF, Burris Equipment Company, J.W. Turf, Inc., Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., Reinders, and Syngenta.** ©

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MAGCS August Meeting Crystal Lake Country Club

MAGCS Championship Results
 Champion: Al Pondel, CGCS
 Class A Gross: Don Altman, CGCS
 Class A Net: Don Altman, CGCS
 Senior A Gross: Al Pondel, CGCS
 Senior A Net: Don Altman, CGCS
 Super Senior Gross: Ed Fischer, CGCS
 Super Senior Net: Rober Kronn, Sr.
 Class E Gross: Bruce Schweiger
 Class E Net: Bob Lohmann
 Senior Class E Gross: Bruce Schweiger
 Senior Class E Net: Chris Smith

Congratulations to all winners! Thanks to Steve and everyone at Crystal Lake CC for a great day, and to the day's sponsors who made it all possible: Arthur Clesen, Inc., BASF, Burris Equipment Company, J.W. Turf, Inc., Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., Reinders, and Syngenta.

