

BullSheet



FEBRUARY 2014

Dates to Remember

February 18 - Annual Assistant Winter Workshop - Midwest Golf House, Lemont, IL.

March 5 – John Deere Landscapes University at the Midwest Conference Center in Northlake, IL. Call 1-800-347-4272 for details.

March 6 – MAGCS meeting at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL, Dr. Ed Nangle and Chris Painter hosts.

March 11 – Conserv FS' Tech Day at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL, Dan Murray, CGCS host.

March 12 – 30th Annual Chicagoland Forum at Naperville Country Club, Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG and Steven Biehl hosts.

March 30 – Deadline for nominations for GCM's Most Valuable Technician awards program presented in partnership with Foley United.

April 9 – CAGCS meeting at Lake Shore Country Club, Jeff Frentz, CGCS host.

April 29 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Spring Scramble at Silver Lake Country Club, David Kohley host.

May 5 - ITF/MAGCS Combined Event -Country Club of Peoria, Andy Morris Host.

It's nice to be here in the Midwest, where the only weather issues we face are the occasional tornado, the hundred-year flood that happens yearly, or the blizzard that stops us in our tracks. So we have to pick up a few sticks, squeegee off a bit of water, and plow a little snow. In Wales last month, golf courses got to REALLY experience Mother Nature's wrath in the form of huge waves off of the Atlantic Ocean which brought some unusual debris with them. Along with the assorted sea plants and garbage, Welsh

greenkeepers had the pleasure of cleaning up all the stinky fish that were just too old or tired to swim back out with the sea when it receded. And there were some really BIG fish—this one weighed over 15 pounds (or is that what its market value was?)



In another of Her mood swings,

Mother Nature brought us that polar vortex early last month, which really messed with ITF's Turf Conference 2014 on the 7th and 8th. Because many of the people scheduled to speak at the event and many attendees had difficulties traveling to Oak Brook on the morning of the 7th, the start was delayed until noon, and many last-minute alterations had to be made. Thanks to **Bruce Branham**, Luke Cella, the ITF board members, the presenters and the venue—the Hyatt Lodge—the event went on somewhat as planned and was a great success. Nice job everyone on calling those audibles from the line of scrimmage!



The Lodge at Hamburger University on 1/6/14. It doesn't look like it is -16°F.



Speakers were "skyped" in while moderators advanced their slides and relayed questions from the audience at the Turf Conference.

Our sincere condolences go out to the Dinelli family on the passing of **Frank (Jerome) Jerry Dinelli**—father of **J.D. Dinelli**—on January 19th at the age of 73. Mr. Dinelli retired from Northmoor Country Club in 1974, where he worked with then Data Control Systems (now IBM) on the first computer-controlled irrigation system—a man well ahead of his time. Rest in peace, Mr. Dinelli.

Congratulations to **Roger Stewart, CGCS** at TPC Twin Cities in St. Paul, MN on being named the recipient of GCSAA's 2014 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship. Rog, who once plied his trade in these parts at Riverside GC and Stonebridge CC (have I forgotten any?), has been an industry leader in environmental stewardship throughout his nearly 40-year career, and received his award at the Opening Session of this month's Golf Industry Show in Orlando. Great work, and well-deserved, Roger!



Roger Stewart, CGCS

Q: What is it called when you choose to use a cart at **Todd Schmitz's** course?
 A: A Phillips Park 'n' Ride.

BIG time movement in the superintendent ranks around town. **Scott Goniwiecha**, formerly at The Glen Club is the new superintendent at the Dunes Club in New Buffalo, MI. **Paul Bastron, CGCS**, most recently with Midwest Turf Products has taken over the reins at Kenosha Country Club. **Dan Tully** from Kemper Lakes Golf Club has moved to his new position at Twin Orchard Country Club. Lastly, Drew Barnett, who has been

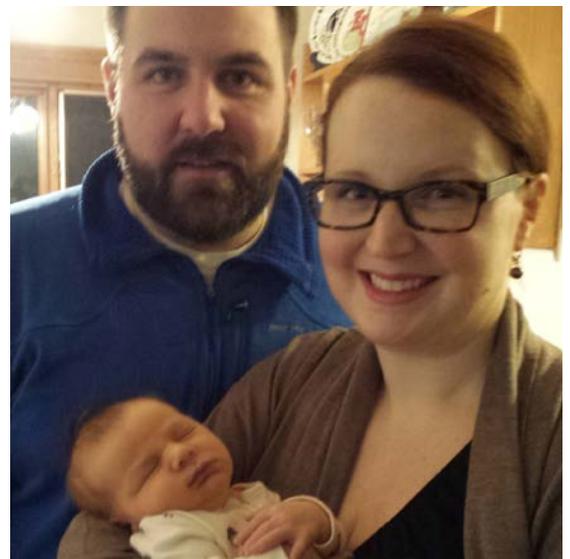
with the Philadelphia Cricket Club for the last three years is the new superintendent at Knollwood Club, taking over for the retired **Randy Wahler**.



Drew Barnett

I think I've discovered the new Dream Job—golf course superintendent at Santa Clara Golf & Tennis Club in California. The reason? You'll be known for the firmest fairways EVER. Why? Because City officials have approved a special permit to use said fairways for 5,000 extra parking spots on games days at Levis Stadium where the 49ers play. Thank God it never rains in California...

Congratulations to Lauren and **Matt Harstad** (Calumet Country Club) on welcoming their son Tucker Carl Harstad into the world on January 14th. Tucker arrived after putting up a good fight to stay put at 8:19 PM weighing 8 pounds, 10 ounces, and 21.5 inches long.



Welcome to the world Tucker Carl Harstad.

A couple unique education events are on the horizon that are worth looking into. On March 5th, the John Deere Landscapes University will take place at the Midwest Conference Center at 401 W. Lake St. in Northlake, IL—call 1-800-347-4272 for information. Then, on March 11th, Conserv FS' Tech Day will take place at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL (**Dan Murray, CGCS** host). You can register by contacting Kimberley Schumacher at kschumacher@conservfs.com.

GCSAA recommends an item for your New Year's To-Do list: Record your service and education points!

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On a related note, three Midwest members get to keep their CGCS's after their names, having successfully completed the recertification requirements through GCSAA. Congratulations to **Eddie Braunsky**, **Ricky Wilson**, and **me** for remembering to record all those service and education points.

Kerry Anderson is known to us all for many things, but NOT for his skills at coaching or commentating on basketball games. Or so I thought...



Brian Thomson's shop won "owning the largest toolbox on the planet award"

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Could he and P.J. Carlesimo possibly be one and the same?



Ted Soenksen (l to r), Rich Becker and Jeff VerCautren look over one of Wynstone's topdressers.

In its State of the Industry Report for 2013, Golf Course Industry had several promising trends to point out that are hopefully a sign of things to come...kinda. First, golf course budgets are trending up...sorta. In 2013, 37% of courses reported increased budgets versus 30% in 2012, while 29% remained unchanged and 34% were decreased—the latter two numbers being very similar to 2012 data. There has also been a consistent rise in profitability over the last three years. In 2011 32% of facilities reported turning a profit, while in 2012 it was 38% and 2013 showed 42% of golf courses being in the black. This does lead one to question whether our industry is truly getting healthier, or are other factors at work? Could this higher percentage of profitability and spending possibly be related to this statistic—in 2013 fourteen golf courses opened, while 157.5 (I'm guessing the .5 means an 18-holer closed 9 of its holes) shut their doors. That's a net loss of 143.5 golf courses last year. Ouch.

If your equipment technician is your most valuable employee, why not nominate him for Golf Course Magazine's Most Valuable Technician (MVT) awards program presented in partnership with Foley United? You can find the form at www.gcsaa.org—the deadline to submit is March 30th, and the winner will be announced in the July edition of GCM.

Thanks to the three hosts of last month's CAGCS Shop Tour held on the 14th. **Brian Thomson**, CGCS and Biltmore Country Club were the breakfast stop, followed by **Scott Hillyard** and Hawthorn Woods Country Club and finishing up with lunch at Wynstone Golf Club with host **Ben McGargill**.

WE ARE GOLF—a coalition of the game's leading associations and industry partners focused on communicating the game's economic, charitable, environmental and fitness benefits to members of Congress—has launched a redesigned website with increased functionality, social media interactivity and streamlined navigation. Check them out at www.wearegolf.org.

Did you hear? The EPA has extended the deadline for sale and distribution of Methyl Bromide for golf courses from April 30th to November 30th of this year.

GCSAA has announced a new dues rate for the Associate membership class. For 2014, the rate will drop from \$185 to \$90 in an effort to engage more individuals in the employment "gap" between student and assistant superintendent.

MAGCS members in the media last month included **Chuck Barber** of St. Charles Country Club on TurfNet TV showing off his dedicated course set-up cart and all the goodies it carries; while GCI magazine featured Bob Lohmann's article "Divide and Conquer," suggesting adapting master plans into a dozen or so smaller projects that can be handled individually and with available funding.

On the 22nd of last month, Seven Bridges Golf Club and hosts **Don Ferreri** and **Dave Gelino** welcomed the MAGCS membership to the MAGCS monthly education meeting and 5th Annual Wee One fundraiser. A large turnout came out on a blustery morning for two fine education presentations from

Michigan State's Dr. Thom Nikolai and labor attorney Timothy Eavenson, Esq. Mr. Eavenson raised some very valuable points about employment contracts and related issues, while Doc Thom was his usual focused self ("oh look—a squirrel!") in discussing the many variables in maintaining modern putting greens. It was nice to see Bruce Williams make an appearance (he's really let himself slide, hasn't he?) (you had to be there to get the joke). Following education and lunch, the Wee One fundraising auction was on tap, with a whole slew of donated items up for bid via both silent and live auctions. Thanks to the generosity of those who donated goods and services, the auction made just over \$31,000 for the worthy cause. Thank you also to Seven Bridges for a great venue and service, and to all bidders who supported the event. (pictures on page 22) @

Don't Miss the
**Annual Assistant
 Winter Workshop**
 February 18, 2014
 Midwest Golf House

Get Your Career in Gear
 visit magcs.org to register today



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Brian A. Bossert CGCS
 Bryn Mawr Country Club
 Lincolnwood, IL

For more information contact:

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