

- Working with public relations staff to convey program goals and regulations to industry, government, cooperators, and educate the general public.
- Assisting cooperators in carrying out survey and regulatory activities designed to stop the spread of EAB.
- Assisting cooperators in carrying out control activities designed to eradicate EAB.
- Outreach (right now, our most critical step). Ongoing public awareness campaigns are designed to provide education to residents and encourage their cooperation and support in reporting possible beetle damage in their area and suspected incidents of quarantine violations.
 - This should include billboard signage, public service announcements, newspaper
 - The development and distribution of additional information brochures, public surveys, and posters.

Education is the Key

As the IDOA deals with the regulatory aspect of dealing with the infestations, lawmakers have already garnered \$7.6 million dollars to help fight the EAB in Illinois. The already understaffed IDOA will welcome any help that it can get in this fight. As explained, it will be much more difficult to eradicate than the Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) that was successfully conquered in Chicago. As one IDOA field inspector explained, "it is difficult to see an infestation if there are no symptoms on the tree. Typically, the first sign of an infestation will occur at the top of the canopy, it is not something easily seen from the ground." He went on to say, "just because we did not see an infestation does not mean the tree is clean, we can't see eggs that were recently laid prior to inspection. The EAB is hard to track."

All of the representatives from the IDOA, APHIS, and the USDA looked tired at the July 17 meeting. Most of their work is still ahead of them as they draw closer to designing and implementing some type of plan. One positive note is that Illinois is not the first to go through this. We are able to learn from neighboring states and begin to concentrate on what matters.

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hard to track.*

Steps to Take on Your Property and Neighborhoods

There are certain things each property owner/manager can do to help.

1. Conduct a tree inventory; know where your ash trees are.
2. Visually inspect your ash trees for dieback, yellowing, and water sprouts from the base. If a tree is suspect, search for loose bark, galleries from feeding larvae and D-shaped exit holes.
3. Help neighbors and others through the process. Often the first step is identifying if indeed there the tree in question is an ash. You can help relieve some of the calls to the IDOA and APHIS by helping to identify the tree species.
4. If you suspect an infestation make the call to 800-641-3934 or 312-742-3385 and let them know you are a green industry professional, not a homeowner. Your call will be treated differently (as it should).

The knowledge that I have gained by sitting on the EAB readiness task group has made me realize the impact this bug could have. If it is

(continued on page 22)

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not eradicated, the impact of the EAB on ash in North America will be similar to that of chestnut blight and Dutch elm disease, which devastated woodland and urban forests in the 20th century. The ash has become a very popular landscape tree because of its tolerance of less than ideal planting conditions and its resistance to the gypsy moth and other pests. In Michigan alone, 300 million ash trees have been planted in the landscape with approximately 28 million in the infested area. You could imagine the economic impact if allowed to spread into the northeastern United States where nursery, landscaping, timber, golf, recreation and other tourism industries are economically critical. The forests in Michigan alone have 850 million ash trees that are at risk. So many are concerned with the economic impact, sometimes it is difficult to think of the environmental effects we may see. Imagine losing the leaf cover provided by our ash. Suddenly, the economic impact does not seem so important.



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3/8" hollow tines taken from a putting green.

Gearing Up For Aeration

Another season is two-thirds over. There is only one last holiday weekend coming, which seems to bring the heavy play to an end. For most of us, this is a relief. As for most, I also look forward to the heat waves of summer coming to a close. High temperatures are not only difficult on turf but are also grueling on the equipment. Our projected rounds of play for this summer are close to 30,000. After supporting this play, it is time for us to help the turf recover. For our course and many others the week after Labor Day becomes hell week. Heavy aeration of greens, tees, approaches, and fairways is executed without disrupting play. Beginning on the Tuesday after Labor Day, from predawn to dusk, two greens aerators, two fairway aerators, a tractor driven sweeper, push blowers, a top dresser, drag screens, brushes, mats, utility tractors and carts, push snow shovels, fertilizer spreaders, and endless semi-loads of sand will all begin to move at the hands of our staff.



Aerification in process

As I look at the calendar, that week approaches fast. I always wonder if there enough time to prepare the equipment in between all of the other daily tasks. The last few years, I have begun to set aside time to begin preparations of each machine. This has made it a bit easier. I've learned that by marking a reminder on my calendar well in advance reminds me to think about hell week. I usually mark the first week of August down along with other important dates (tournaments, big events, etc.) way back in early spring. As these dates approach, I also start to refer to last year's notes. I use my notes as reminders from the previous year's experience. They always help to refresh my mind on what should be changed or added to the preparation of the equipment. Typically when the big week is over and the last machine gets put away for the night, that is usually how it stays. "Ridden hard and put away wet" is a line from a movie that has always stayed with me. It means the aerator, sweeper, and everything else that won't be used until next spring, won't be serviced anytime soon. I try to make "Ray Rayner" notes and stick them on each machine's file to recall incidentals that need to be addressed. I create notes such as the type and size of tines that were used, and how many did I go through during the day. One advantage, for me, is the tradition of the same equipment year after year. Another plus, is having the same operators return every season to use the same machines.

Aerators and Tines

One of the first things I do when preparing an aerator is to check my inventory of spare belts, chains, and of course tines. I communicate with the superintendent to make certain I have enough of the desired tines in stock to complete the aerification process. Tines seem to disappear throughout the season when various areas are aerated. I don't want to get caught short and be forced to search for tines during the week. There are many different tines available today and it makes sense to try new ones, but a word of caution: Some of the newer, harder, longer-lasting tines when installed on older equipment can

(continued on page 25)



The sand man cometh.

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cause problems down the road. Some of these new tines do too good of a job transferring the shock load from impacting the soil through the tine to the tine holder to the arm to the connecting rods to the bearings and ultimately to the belts or chains. Today's equipment is built better with dampening systems that will absorb the blows that hardened tines will transfer. Keep in mind that the OEM has designed the machine for the particular year it was produced and the tine it came equipped with, this translates to what will work and last.

Grinding Equipment

As aeration is wrapped up, don't forget about your grinders.

Though used throughout the season, maintenance of your grinders should be on your calendar as well. Their busy time approaches. I'm looking at a beautiful pile of top dressing sand and knowing the outcome and benefit that it serves for the greens, tees, and fairways, outweighs the after-math to the cutting units. I know a major percentage of all that sand will pass through and destroy my precision ground cutting units. I know I will spend four or five consecutive days right after topdressing and then two to three more days the following week grinding cutting units over and over again. I will depend on the grinders to perform to my standards as always. However, prior to this

onslaught, I will take the time to remove covers, shields, and baffles. I will inspect the machines and pay attention to any components that show signs of wear. I have done this for many years, and have not had to replace much more than stones and guides on these often overlooked machines. I urge you to do the same. Each spring I am awakened by the first smells of cut grass and at the end of summer the smell of the soil pulled from the ground by an aerator begins the thoughts of a season ended.



How much sand do we need?



Even better than a Ray Rayner note – take a picture of the correct settings.



Good bye sand.



Readying the mowers again and again.

the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 17 – 20 – PGA Championship at Medinah Country Club, **Tom Lively, CGCS** host.

August 21 – MAGCS monthly meeting at McHenry Country Club in McHenry, IL, **Bill Humphres** host.

September 4 – Deadline for submissions for *Golfweek's* SuperNEWS 2007 Best Friend Calendar (the one with the dogs in it) sponsored by Lebanon Turf.

September 14 – ITF/University of Illinois/CDGA (apologies to any I've omitted) Research Field Day at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL. Check your mail for more information.

September 25 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Golf Championship at Makray Memorial Golf Club in Barrington, IL, **Chris Blake** host.

October 1 – Deadline for submissions for the James Watson Fellowship Awards funded by Toro. Info follows.

October 2 – MAGCS/ITF Golf Day at Ivanhoe Club in Ivanhoe, IL, **Tom Prichard** host.

October 15 – Deadline for nominations for the GCSAA's Excellence in Government Relations Awards. Info follows.

October 21 – Another deadline—this one for the GCSAA/*Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders |in Golf Awards in partnership with Syngenta and Rainbird. Yep—info follows.

Here's the info: The James Watson Fellowship Awards funded by Toro give money—up to 4 \$5,000 fellowships worth—to deserving candidates pursuing either their masters or doctorate in a golf-related field. Information can be obtained by calling Amanda Huggenkiss, employment administrator, at 800-472-7878, and the deadline for application is October 1st, so hurry. Correction, her name's Amanda Howard (a little Simpsons humor there).

The GCSAA Excellence in Government Relations Awards recognize individuals and chapters for their outstanding work in—duh—government relations, and more specifically in advocacy and compliance. The nominations for these awards are due October 15th.

Finally, the GCSAA/*Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards in partnership with Syngenta and Rainbird recognize those who have excelled in their commitment to environmental stewardship. The deadline for these nominations is October 21st. By the way, if you've already won it, and are still at the facility where you won it, you can't win it again, so don't try to win it again. To find applications and more information on these 2 awards, go online at gcsaa.org.

If you perused last month's *Golf Course Management*, you may have run across an interesting article by Amy Bird on page 32 about the work **Fred Opperman** has been doing with Habitat for Humanity. Although first scooped here in *On Course*, the GCM article was a much more in-depth look at our past-president, past-editor's life after retirement. Oh, and what might Fred be up to lately? Grandpa is babysitting his grandson Zander while his son Todd and his daughter-in-law Tonja battle wildfires in Utah.

Another case of the apple not falling far from the tree...

Our condolences to the Ebel family and their friends on the passing of Juanita Ebel on June 21st (wife of John Ebel, former MAGCS member and longtime superintendent of Barrington Hills Country Club).

John Huber (Huber Ranch Sod Nursery, Inc.) recently received some great news—after entering Sweetwater Sound's monthly giveaway sweepstakes for the last several years, John finally got the call that he had won the May giveaway: An all-expense-paid trip to Rock & Roll Fantasy Camp in New York City valued at \$8,500. While in the Big Apple, John will have the opportunity to meet, hang out, and jam with some HUGE names in rock music including George Thorogood, Dickey Betts, Levon Helm, Jon Anderson, Dr. John, Joe Satriani, Max Weinberg, Mark Farner, Dee Snider, and the horn section from the David Letterman Show. Each attendee is called a camper, and is assigned to a camp counselor. The counselors include Teddy Andreadis from Guns N' Roses & Alice Cooper, Gary Burr from Carole King/Ringo Starr, Spencer Davis, Jack Blades from Night Ranger, Barry Goudreau of Boston, Kelly Keagy from Night Ranger, Simon Kirke of Free and Bad Company, Bruce Kulick of Kiss, Michael Lardie of Great White, Mark Slaughter of Slaughter, Kip Winger from Winger, Peter Dinklage from the Monkees, and many others. The camp takes place from August 13th through 17th at the Gibson Hit Factory Studios, and culminates with a battle of the bands at B.B. Kings in Times Square. John, being a music guy (playing in a contemporary Christian band called The Average Christian Band), is ecstatic about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

This is obviously not news to MAGCS members, but keep an eye out for our latest uninvited pest—the emerald ash borer. This thing (and his friends) has killed over 20 million ash trees in the US since 2002, including about 15 million in

(continued on page 28)

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Michigan. At the time of this writing, the bug had been discovered in Kane County in St. Charles and more recently in Wilmette on Chicago's north shore. If you think you have an infestation, contact the Illinois Department of Agriculture at their toll-free hotline 800-641-3934 quickly, as time is of the essence in order to contain and eventually eliminate this devastating pest. (Let them know you are a green industry professional with plant knowledge, you won't get the homeowner line of questioning from them.)

Just one passing thought on the complete collapses of Lefty and Monty at the U. S. Open: Ugh.

Best of luck on a successful and stress-free grow-in to the MAGCS members whose courses are currently under the surgeon's knife: **Tim Anderson, CGCS** at Naperville Country Club is undergoing a course-wide renovation, while **Al Fierst** (Oak Park Country Club) and **Dan Charlton** (Evanston Golf Club) are in the midst of major changes as well. May your courses be open on time and within budget!

I'm not sure if congratulations are the proper thing to offer for this distinction, but let's go with it—**Rich Harvest Golf Links (Scott Resetich, Jason Funderburg and Jeff VerCautren)** is Chicago District Golf Association's most difficult private golf course with a course rating of 78.5 and a slope of 153 from its Pro tee markers. The public course to take that dubious honor was **Bon Vivant Country Club (Michael Vilendrer, CGCS)** with a rating of 76.3 and a slope of 135.

The past month and a half have offered MAGCS members the opportunity to get together and enjoy a wide variety of golf courses and events. First on our menu was the June 7th monthly meeting at Old Oak Country Club in Homer Glen with **Chad Walk** and **Pete Lieponis** serving as our hosts. The day was full of events, with the Senior Championship, the Dom Grotti (Superintendent/Assistant) Championship, and the Class C

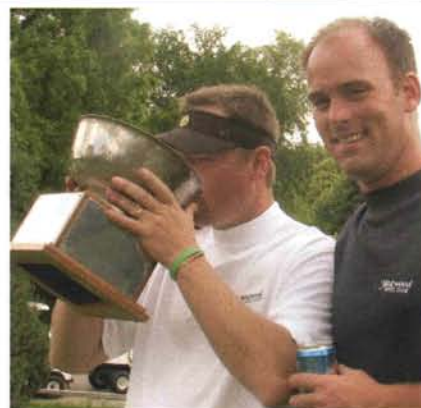
Championship all being contested. Before hitting the golf course, we were treated to a highly useful demonstration on "The Geometry of the Golf Swing" by **Brian King**, Director of Golf Instruction at **Prairie Landing Golf Club**. Brian was actually the first person ever to challenge **Carl Spackler's** contention that cutting the Achilles tendon would cause someone to give up the game by assuring us that not EVERY shot would go right, but only a large majority thereof. We thank him for his enlightening (and used-once-and-forgotten) schwing tips. The course was beautiful, the service impeccable, and the day in all a perfect ten, thanks to **Chad, Pete**, and our sponsors **Burris Equipment Company, JW Turf, Inc., Nadler Golf Car Sales, Palatine Oil Company, Turf Professionals Equipment Company, and Prime Turf** (our beverage cart sponsor). Winners of the many competitions were: Super Senior Champion—**Ray Schmitz**; Senior Champion—**Tommy Robinson**; Class C Champion—**Justin VanLanduit**; and Dom Grotti Trophy winners **Paul Bastron** and **Brad Roose**. Congratulations to you all, and thank you to everyone at Old Oak and to our sponsors!



Our host and his foursome featuring Kurt Sams, Dion Pearce and Jeremy Turton.



Our other host Pete Lieponis with Mark Olson and their big bad diggin' machine.



Stanley Cup champs Ben Kelnhofer and Dave Drendel.



Paul Schaefer, Steve VanAcker, Bob Lively, and Pat McDonagh.



Justin VanLanduit, Tom Prichard, Tom Robinson, and Brad Anderson.



John Maksymiu, Charlie Brugler, Greg Coyne, and Scott Witte.

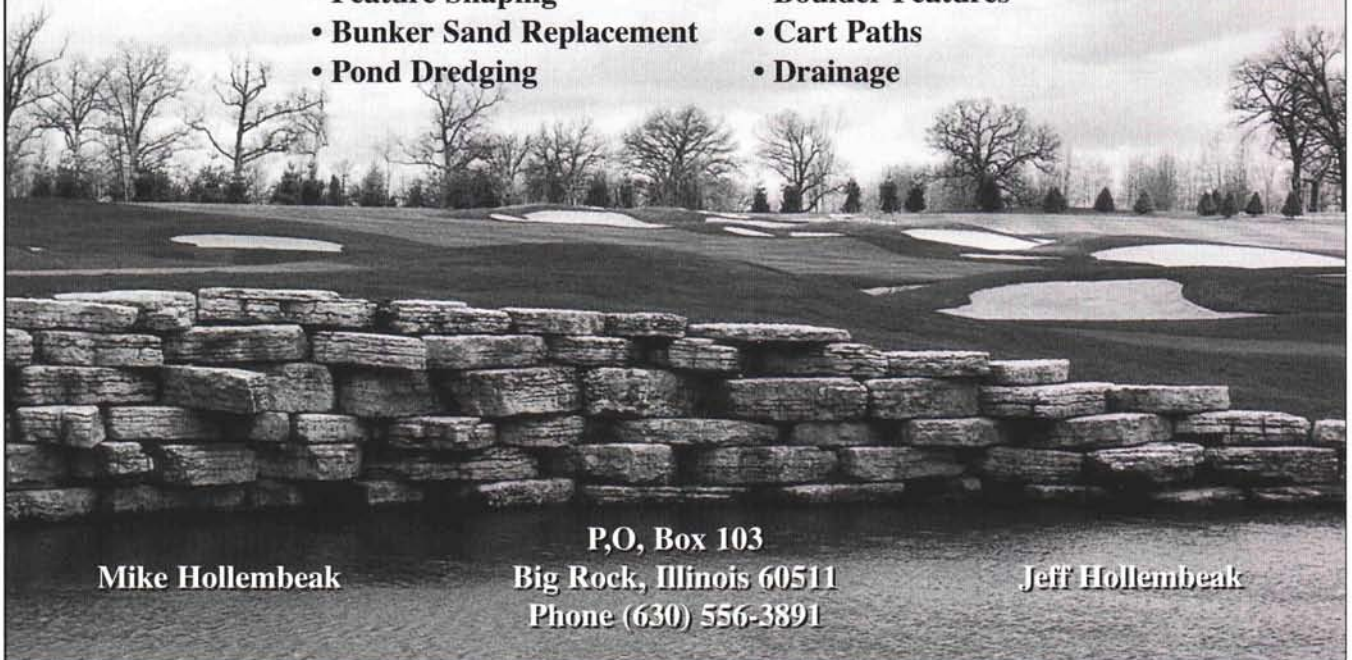
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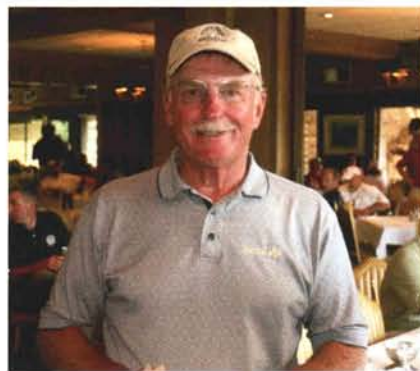


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Next up on the June-July tour was the Annual John Buck Memorial Outing at Marengo Ridge Golf and Country Club (**Luke Roth** and **Bruce Schweiger**) in Marengo, Illinois on June 24th. This event pays homage to one of the really good guys in our industry, the late John Buck while raising funds for important educational programs. The scramble format and light-hearted nature of the day perfectly jibe with the kind of man John was. It was all about raising money for scholarships for both the MAGCS Scholarship fund as well as the Kane County Farm Bureau, and what a job it did! Over \$12,000 was raised for the various scholarships the event benefited. The big winners of the day (besides those who will receive scholarship checks) were the winning team of **Dave Kohley**, **Rick Wilson**, **Clark Williams**, and **AL Wheatland** with a score of 16 under par. Al Wheatland (John Buck's closest friend and a HUGE donator to this cause) was also the lucky winner of the John Deere Gator raffled off after the golf. A side note: Holly delivers Gator to Al. Al's grandchildren crash Gator while Holly is still there. Holly brings smashed Gator back to JW Turf on the same day. Stuff happens. Thank you to everyone responsible for the success of this always great event, from