

JOHN BUCK OUTING  
John Gurke, Aurora Country Club



# Picture-Perfect Day

## The 7th Annual John Buck Golf Outing

Perhaps the Irish have it all figured out—commemorate the passing of a loved one by getting all of his family and friends together for a party, laughing and regaling in the stories and fond memories that everyone holds dear. The John Buck Golf Outing is a page right out of that book, and this year's rendition was the best yet. On June 26th, the friends and family of John Buck converged upon Bartlett Hills Golf Course for the 7th such event, and host superintendent **Kevin DeRoo** and his staff provided a picture-perfect venue for a picture-perfect day. This event is all about benevolence—one of Mr. Buck's most famous characteristics. Like its namesake, the outing puts fun at the forefront while also stressing the importance of giving. The beneficiaries of the day are the recipients of the John Buck Scholarships, distributed through the Kane County Farm Bureau, the Northwest Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association, and the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. The event itself is a 4-person scramble, but the real fun is all the other stuff happening on the golf course, from betting holes to beads and



John Buck

from long drives to the limbo (which, rumor has it, is how Kevin DeRoo blew out his Achilles). The course was marvelous, the many volunteers who entertained the troops at various locales were wonderful, and the big food and prize shebang afterward was outstanding. As for the beads, I'll only say that Jaime Braasch had the most at the end of the day, and she did NOT earn them in the traditional New Orleans Big Easy fashion (unfortunately). Her "cheer-off" win over

**Brad Legnaioli** provided another \$250 for the scholarship fund, though, and I'm sure all those beads found some good use in the Braasch household. I would list all the winners of the various golf events and raffles, but that would be excluding too many—EVERYONE who participated in the 7th Annual John Buck Golf Outing was a winner, as is everyone who will benefit from the generous legacy left behind by our friend John Buck. Thank you to all who played a part in this day, especially the folks at J. W. Turf and **Holly Gilmour**. And thank you, John. -OC



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## OFF COURSE

Rusty Stachlewitz, Associate Editor



Do you want to learn more about how to keep your facility in the best possible condition? You are reading the wrong section of the magazine. The things contained below could possibly, inadvertently help you be a better employer and person but they won't help out your green thumb. Heck, some of the things below may actually make you a little dumber just for having learned about them.

Do you have that one person on your staff that is just a pain in the rear? Maybe there is someone else that you can't stand to be around? Well there is help. *"The No A\*\*hole Rule: Building a Civilized Workplace and Surviving One That Isn't"* by Robert I. Sutton, PhD and published by Warner Business Books is here as your guide. Now, upfront it should be said that the author advocates removal of the offender as the best course of action but understands that is not always possible. Sometimes that isn't within your power but more and more commonly there are too many people that would fall into that group which would leave you doing all the work. The book gives you tools to use to

work with difficult or demeaning people. The author is a Stanford University, Professor of Management Science, which gives him some credibility. The book is an easy read that is fun and informative. The book actually outlines a way to quantify the cost of counter-productive staff members. This is something we all could use. Maybe you don't think this book is for you because you can't think of an unsavory person on your staff. You may want to pick it up and take the self test to see if you are the A\*\*hole in the organization. Don't worry the author offers ways to improve yourself as well.

Something to Note as *Off Course* evolves: *Off Course* is not only many peoples least favorite part of this magazine it was one of Japan's most influential rock bands. It was formed in early 1969 by Kazumasa Oda (????). They broke up in 1989 after their February 26 farewell performance at Tokyo Dome.

One of their most famous songs is YES-YES-YES.-OC

### A Day in the Life of...

Its 3:30 in the morning when the alarm awakens you, still  
Dark out from the night.  
It's a 40 minute ride thru small towns, quiet, peaceful.  
It's the most peaceful time of your day, to plan what is ahead of you.  
You drive up to your shop, first one there, as the sun starts to peak out  
Over number five you get a clear view of that beautiful piece of land that you planted and watched over.  
It's your baby and you nurture it.  
You take in one more big breath before heading inside to start your day.  
You hope you can get a cup of coffee in before your crew arrives.  
Now you begin to cram 18 hours of work into a 10-hour day.  
The long summer days seem to never end. No days off, no vacations, no  
time to think about watching anything else except if the course looks 110% and what can I do to improve it?  
It's 6:00 pm by the time you make that 40-minute drive back home (not as quiet as the morning commute).  
Time for dinner, maybe some playtime with your grandson and then to bed.  
You don't complain because this is what you do,  
This is not just a job, this is your life, your passion, your vision.  
This is a day in the life of my husband, and I could not be more proud of him.  
I know winter is around the corner and that is our time together.

Judy Lovero



# Life is too short to Plant Small Trees



If the question is trees...  
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# August 2007

## GCSAA

GCSAA website will not be fully functional from July 30 to August 20, 2007. While the site is undergoing a major renovation and upgrade, members will not be able to input Education Points online during this time. Members should call GCSAA member solutions at 800-472-7878 to record education points for them during the changeover. I have a complete list of times the website will be down (it is probably online) but if you encounter problems with the GCSAA website or can't find it in the next few weeks, don't panic, it's not you.

## EAB Update

The Emerald Ash Borer has now been found in DuPage and LaSalle Counties. This has forced the Illinois Department of Agriculture to expand the quarantine area established last year. For the most part, all of the counties the majority of the MAGCS members work and live in are under quarantine (Boone, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, McHenry, Putnam, Will and Winnebago). An EAB article for *On Course* is in the works. The article includes some new results and hope for select chemical control and/or protection from the pest. North Shore Country Club is a test site for preventative treatment chemicals and methods. For more information on EAB visit: [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info) or [www.agr.state.il.us](http://www.agr.state.il.us)

## Green Industry Association

The GIA (not the renamed Illinois Nurserymen Association to the Illinois Green Industry Association) met in July and discussed future actions of this group. Recently a few of our area community college's horticulture programs have been under attack from department heads and administration for decreased enrolment. This comes at a time when many of our green industry partners as well as us have trouble finding qualified (educated and trained) people to hire. Educators feel the slip is due to the perception that students have of the industry. – The pay is low. To forego this myth, the GIA is going to compile data from all our respective associations to create literature for prospective students on salaries, benefits and other advantages to working in our industry. The GIA hopes to place this in the hands of high-school students and counselors.

## IPTC Education Schedule Set

The education schedule is complete for this fall. Key golf talks will include presentations by Dr. Mike Fidanza of Penn State. Dr. Fidanza is scheduled to talk about his fairy ring work and offer control strategies for this unpredictable pest. Dr. Henry Wetzel of Jacklin Seed by Simplot will discuss strategies for seeding directly into existing stands of *Poa annua*/ bentgrass with newer cultivars of aggressive bents. Our own Dr. Settle of the CDGA and Ty McClellan of the USGA will recap the year from the acute to chronic problems they encountered in 2007. The IPTC education committee has slated many professional management seminars and talks throughout the conference. Somewhat related to golf, the Sports Turf Managers have put together a synthetic turf symposium that is second to none. If you work for an entity that is thinking about switching even one field to the synthetic stuff, let them know about the 2007 IPTC. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend – December 5-7, 2007. (It is a week later this year, a chance for everyone to get their snow mold prevention down and still attend.)

## MAGCS Logo

A new supplier for MAGCS logo apparel, the new website and the GCSAA's branding initiative have placed the MAGCS logo on the Board's agenda for review. Initial discussions have begun and the need to review the logo is agreed upon. Some local chapters have adopted what the GCSAA has termed a transition logo (shown below). Some of the issues that came up this year with the MAGCS logo is that it is too complex to reproduce on a broad range of media (apparel, web, print) and that detail is lost depending upon how it is used (size and resolution). The current MAGCS Board of Directors plans to discuss the logo and its own branding at a future board meeting this winter in a comprehensive public relations and media planning session. In the meantime, if you have feeling either way on the MAGCS logo, please let your board know or contact me. It is our logo. -OC







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