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now golf course superintendent at Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Country Club has stepped down, and John Ekstrom's tenure as chairman is officially over this month, leaving at the very least 2 vacancies. If you are a Class C member and wish to lend your support, give Scott Verdun a call or shoot him an email—again, (847) 899-1019 or [scott1019@hotmail.com](mailto:scott1019@hotmail.com).

Old news, but for posterity's sake, we report that GCSAA CEO Steve Mona, CAE is STILL leaving our national association to take on the newly-created position of CEO of the World Golf Foundation. We all wish him the best, and thank him for his 14 years of dedicated service to our profession.

On another stellar unseasonably mild October day—the 16th to be precise—the University of Illinois Turf Alumni group held its annual golf outing at The Club at Strawberry Creek in lovely Kenosha, WI. Host superintendent **Matt Kregel** and his staff had the course fast and firm despite the rain that fell the day before. What a nice golf course! Designed by **Rick Jacobson** (Jacobson Golf Course Design, Inc.), it is a links-style track meandering through the Wisconsin hills and wetlands, with plenty of trouble in the form of fescue areas to be found if you are not a straight shooter (like the U of I turf alums proved to be—or not to be. That is the question). The group gets together yearly for this event (thus the "annual golf outing" thing) to bring together alumni in the business and students in the turf program for a day of golf and camaraderie. After golf and prizes (many thanks to the vendors who ponied up the prizes), it was off to the famous Brat Stop for dinner and debauchery. The Brat Stop is a Wisconsin institution that greets its patrons at the door with a full-size stuffed brown bear hanging by its neck over the staircase (didn't seem to help the Packers up in Lambeau this time). It is also somewhat known for its pork products and large beer selection. Our thanks to Matt and the great people at Strawberry Creek, Dr. Tom Voigt, and everyone who participated in this event.



Some Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program news for those of you who are members: First, as of July 1, 2008 the annual fee for golf courses will go to \$200. This represents a 3 percent yearly increase since the last one 7 years ago, and covers increased postage costs, inflation, and expanded services. Second, the new ACSP Certification Handbook for Golf Courses is now available after many months of development. This handbook replaces the Resource Inventory and Environmental Plan and the Certification Workbook previously used for guiding environmental management efforts and completing certification. To obtain a copy, or for general information regarding certification, contact Joellen Zeh at (518) 767-9051 or email her at [jzeh@auduboninternational.org](mailto:jzeh@auduboninternational.org).

The Golf Industry Show is around the corner, and GCSAA has several useful tools for members to take advantage of in order to make the most of their conference experience. The Attendee Tool Kit, available at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org) offers assistance in such topics as Get There!, Pre-Show Planning, Education Conference, Golf Industry Show, Networking Opportunities, Involve the Team, and Post Event Follow-Up. Take a look.

On January 31st in Orlando, GCSAA will present Greg Norman with its 26th Old Tom Morris Award at the Opening Session of the Education Conference. Among his MANY accomplishments, Mr. Norman has won 91 professional tournaments, was ranked #1 in the world for 331 weeks in the '80's and '90's, was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2001, and is a highly successful businessman in several ventures including Great White Shark Enterprises, Greg Norman Golf Course Design, Medalist Development, Greg Norman Turf (they license proprietary turfgrasses for sports), Greg Norman Production Company, and he even makes a nice bottle of wine with his Greg Norman Estates in Australia. Most recently, Greg Norman is a trustee of the Environmental Institute for Golf and a huge supporter of GCSAA and golf course superintendents everywhere.

While I was clicking on some of the links provided on [gcsaa.org](http://gcsaa.org), I happened across a really interesting article on the [biggamidlandsection.com](http://biggamidlandsection.com) site (BIGGA is the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association). The article was written by two greenkeepers who had volunteered to work this summer's US Open at Oakmont. The perspective from an English greenkeeper on the preparations for the majorest of American majors was truly fascinating and fun

(continued on page 24)







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to read. "Chris & Mike's US Open Adventure" began in Orlando in February of 2005 when they met and spoke with Dave Ward about his experience with the Open at Olympia Fields CC. Some fun items included their amazement at the scrutiny the sand bunkers received, noting that "...if a bird had walked through it (I'm only talking blackbird size) it had to be raked again." Also, when describing the greens watering procedure to their readers, they had the following to say, "Watering of the greens was one guy hooking up his hose to a gecka, starting at one end of the green and running with it turned on swishing it from side to side till he reached the other end then turn it off and that was it." Gecka? Good stuff from across the pond.

.....  
Speaking of the US Open, did you know that the USGA tests over 20,000 golf balls annually to determine if they conform to the Rules of Golf as established by them and the Royal & Ancient? It's a fact.  
.....

October's GCM magazine featured a Midwest flair, with 2 articles about MAGCS and TETA members. In "A Perfect Fit," Terry Ostmeyer introduced the world of golf course management professionals to technician **Wes Danielewicz** and superintendent **Mike Vukmir**, 15-year fixtures at Maple Meadows Golf Course. In the magazine's ongoing Unique Golf Hole feature, **Tony Kalina** and Prairie Landing Golf Club are highlighted in "Double Trouble," a look at architect Bruce Charlton's damned-if-you-do, damned-if-you-don't 5th hole.

.....  
Congratulations to **Kerry Anderson**, who recently accepted the position of Turf Sales Manager for Valent Professional Products.  
.....

All 2008 Golf Industry Show Attendees -  
MAGCS member, Dave Arden, well actually his dog Rayzee is in the 2008 Lebanon Turf Calendar. She could win dog of the year with your help. You need to vote for her at booth #3152 and what is best is that MAGCS can win too - to the tune of \$2000.00 for our scholarship fund. Let's show them who invented the slogan vote early and vote often. Good luck Dave (and Rayzee)

.....  
The Wee One Foundation held its 4th Annual Golf Outing on September 24th at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI. Founded on behalf of Wayne Otto, Wee One provides financial assistance to superintendents and their families who have suffered through catastrophic illness and have incurred large medical bills. To date, over \$131,000 has been given to 11 families. The event is a fund-raiser for this endeavor, as well as a great way for Wayne's friends and family to get together for a fun day on an absolutely pristine golf course. Superintendent Rod Johnson and his staff are always at the top of their game when it comes to conditioning, and this year was no different. They also seem to have the course figured out, as evidenced by assistants Todd Martin and Brent Johnson's 1st place finish in the selective drive and alternate shot format. Great cause, great course, great food, great folks—GREAT day!



.....  
Most recently, the MAGCS/ITF Fall Golf Day and Annual College Championship was held at Prairie Bluff Golf Course on the 2nd of October. **Kenny Shepherd** and the crew gave us a beautiful course on an unseasonably mild day which produced some challenging, windy conditions. Congratulations to this year's college champions from Danville Community College—**Brian Bossert, Brock Burton, Dennis Buck**, and **Ron Dohman** who shot a 138. In second place with 140 was the team from the University of Illinois (**Dan Anderson, John Anderson, John Gurke**, and **Brian Winkel**). In third was the Michigan State University team of **Chad Ball, Paul Bastron, Mike Mumper**, and **Dave Radaj**. In the 2-man scramble event, Kenny Shepherd and Whitey Anderson took honors with a net 62, followed by **Paul Yerkes** and **Jim Keith** (also 62). Sara Krause and Jodi Sterr raked in \$755 on the 13th tee for the scholarship fund, and **Darin Habenicht** donated \$1,650 for 7 of the 11 H & E Sod/Town & Country logo balls which were brought back from last fall's event and hit the green. The event wound up with a fine food spread and **Dan Sterr** then proceeded to raffle off every last prize item in the MAGCS closet. Thanks go out to everyone who volunteered their time and effort to make the day a success, as well as to our invaluable sponsors—**BASF, Bayer Environmental Science, Central Sod Farms, H & E Sod Nursery/Town & Country LDS Supply, Lesco, Inc., Nadler Golf Car Sales, Syngenta**, and **Turf Professionals Equipment Company**. -OC  
.....

(photos on page 26 and 27)



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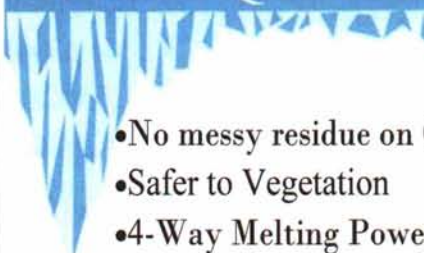
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## OFF COURSE

Rusty Stachlewitz, Associate Editor



# November 2007

As we are engulfed by cold and winter is upon us I have decided to look into what others think of grass. Not scientists or researchers, but poets and politicians. I know I could use more culture, and I am going to assume all of you could as well. In fact, I would estimate from my non-scientific research that 98% of those in the golf maintenance industry could use a little refinement.

(This is an excerpt from "Imitation of Immortality" by William Wordsworth.)

*Though nothing can bring back the hour  
Of splendour in the grass, of glory in the flower;  
We will grieve not, rather find  
Strength in what remains behind;  
In the primal sympathy  
Which having been must ever be;  
In the soothing thoughts that spring  
Out of human suffering;  
In the faith that looks through death,  
In years that bring the philosophic mind.*

I'm no English major but I think he is telling you not to cry when your greens die next spring. Interesting advice. I wonder what your greens committee would think if you told them, "We will grieve not, rather find strength in what remains behind," when you explain that temporary greens will be set up and sod will be ordered!

*Grass – Carl Sandburg  
Pile the bodies high at Austerlitz and Waterloo.  
Shovel them under and let me work—  
I am the grass; I cover all.  
And pile them high at Gettysburg  
And pile them high at Ypres and Verdun.  
Shovel them under and let me work.  
Two years, ten years, and passengers ask the conductor:  
What place is this?  
Where are we now?  
I am the grass.  
Let me work.*

The message makes a lot of sense. As a professor in college once told me, "The grass was here before you got here, and it will be here after you leave." Let the grass do its thing. Do not overthink it. If Carl Sandburg can figure it out maybe we should too.

Walt Whitman wrote an entire book entitled *Leaves of Grass*. I won't bore you with the details, but he was a fan.

Water restrictions are getting to be an issue, and water rights will become an issue as we move forward. I am hearing more about golf courses being blamed for aquifer depletion and, worse yet, contamination. We will see more restrictions as we move forward. How come we don't have more politicians waxing poetic about grass? Read the statements below.

*"Next in importance to the divine profusion of water, light and air, those three great physical facts which render existence possible, may be reckoned the universal beneficence of grass. It is at once the type of our life and the emblem of our mortality. Lying in the sunshine among the buttercups and dandelions of May, scarcely higher in intelligence than the minute tenants of that mimic wilderness, our earliest recollections are of grass; and when the fitful fever is ended, and the foolish wrangle of the market and forum is closed, grass heals over the scar which our descent into the bosom of the earth has made, and the carpet of the infant becomes the blanket of the dead."*

*"Grass is the forgiveness of Nature — her constant benediction. Fields trampled with battle, saturated with blood, torn with the ruts of cannon, grown green again with grass and carnage is forgotten. Streets abandoned by traffic become grass-grown like rural lanes, and are obliterated. Forests decay, harvests perish, flowers vanish, but grass is immortal. Beleaguered by the sullen hosts of winter, it withdraws into the impregnable fortress of its subterranean vitality, and emerges upon the first solicitation of spring. Sown by the winds, by wandering birds, propagated by the subtle horticulture of the elements which are its ministers and servants, it softens the rude outline of the world. Its tenacious fibers hold the earth in its place, and prevent its soluble components from washing into the wasting sea."*

*"Unobtrusive and patient, it has immortal vigor and aggression. Banished from the thoroughfare and the field,*

*(continued on next page)*



it abides its time to return, and when vigilance is relaxed, or the dynasty has perished, it silently resumes the throne from which it has been expelled, but which it never abdicates. It bears no blazonry of bloom to charm the senses with fragrance or splendor, but its homely hue is more enchanting than the lily or the rose. It yields no fruit in earth or air, and yet should its harvest fail for a single year, famine would depopulate the world."

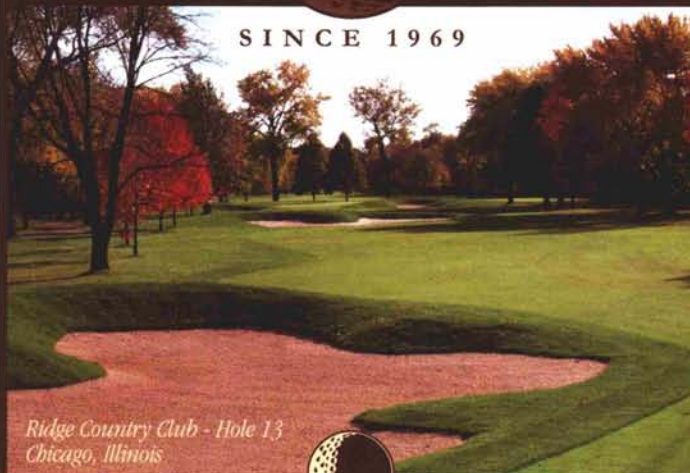
John J. Ingalls  
Senator from Kansas  
1873-1891

I couldn't have said it better myself. No really, I couldn't have. You've read this column, you know. Seriously, Mr. Ingalls was a fantastic writer who is considered one of the finest residents of Kansas ever. His likeness stands in the U.S. Capitol's National Statuary Hall Collection.

I do not even want to get into the musical connections to our beloved grass but how many times have you rode around the golf course singing to yourself, "Grazing in the grass is a gas, baby can you dig it?" by The Friends of Distinction? Just me? Well you don't know what you are missing. **-OC**

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