



# Golf Cars

## Do you have a plan?

*Unfortunately, you can't maintain your golf car fleets with a bucket of car wash and a few extra tires. More and more, they are an important part of the golfing experience at each club and the golf car fleet can't be forgotten. Not to mention, as with all rental equipment, safety is always a large concern. A few questions to ponder as you think about your golf car fleet:*

- How do you monitor golf car usage and service?
- What kind of personnel do you have working on cars?
- Are you solely responsible for the golf cars?
- Is there staff to keep the cars clean? Daily?
- How is it communicated when there is a problem with a golf car; Are you contacted by phone, e-mail, messenger?
- How are cars taken out of use when there is a problem with them?
- How accessible are the cars to service?
- Is there ample parking and maneuverable space in their storage area?
- Are the cars rotated to keep the life span at optimal lengths?

We have electric cars at Wilmette Golf Club and I have found that an electric fleet is far more time consuming through the season than gas-powered carts. For me, the brake adjustments, compounded by the battery and tire maintenance take the most toll on my time.

In the shoulder months, it is easier to keep track of the car rotation, but once the first weekend of great weather arrives, the formalities of a true cart rotation can fall by the wayside. With 400 to 500 rounds of golf on Saturday and Sunday many golf cars will be driven three rounds in a single day. By the time the last cart gets cleaned and plugged into charger it could be as late as 9:30 pm. How important is it that these last ones in are not the first ones out at 5:30 a.m.? 15 hours to fully charge

a cart is a long time when the car is only plugged in for 8 hours each night. The first step in solving the daylight dilemma is setting up a successful cart rotation.

It can be done, but takes organization. It takes a simple plan that is easy to follow. It takes training the staff to do it properly and it takes documentation. Those that have successful cart rotation plans have fewer problems with their golf car

fleets, often a cleaner fleet (some type of detailing program is built into the rotation), better records of problems, easier repairs, and ultimately a better golfing experience for the customer.

I am developing a cart rotation plan, but it is hard work and takes some dedication. I have found a trusted part-time co-worker that wants to start this project. As a check to our plan, we have started to utilize the built in system found on our Club Car Electric DS I/Q fleet. A quick overview of this program enables us to keep track of the actual rounds

each car does every month. By plugging in a simple monitor to each car, I can transfer usage information to my computer. I have created a program using a simple spreadsheet to color code the cars that have been overused (red) to the ones that have been underused (green) when compared to the fleet as a whole. See chart.

Sometimes you find some interesting anomalies, like car 3 and car 4. They are parked right next to each other and car 3 is used six to seven times as much! Upon inspection, I found car 4



is parked next to a wall and harder to pull out of the storage area than car 3. – It makes sense; car 3 offers the least amount of resistance when a human is given the choice of selecting a golf car for the next round. This is all the more reason for a rotation plan that can taught to staff and followed each day.

I'm still working out the detailing part of the golf car program and any ideas would be appreciated. If you have any please pass them along and that reminds me, please contribute that tip or idea to *On Course*. Our Technician Section in the magazine is a great place to share. For now, I'll take the next rainy day and get those cars cleaned up with members of the maintenance staff. I hope it just doesn't rain at night.

-OC





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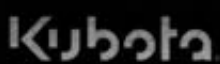
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## THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



# July 2008

Welcome to the following new members to the MAGCS family:

**Bill Ahlstedt**—Class C, White Deer Run Golf Course

**Nicholas Marfise**—Class C, Glenview Park Golf Club

**Heath Peterson**—Class C, Glen Flora Country Club.

The MAGCS Scholarship Outing will be held later this month at the newly-renovated Geneva Golf Club with Eddie Braunsky, CGCS serving as our host. Registration is open online at [magcs.org](http://magcs.org) (\$100 per player, limited to the first 72 paid players). In order for the most money possible to go to the scholarship fund, the following sponsors have stepped forward to allow that to happen: **Geneva Golf Club** is providing the golf at no cost, **Bayer Environmental Science** is providing the tee prizes, **Arthur Clesen** is providing lunch, **BTSI** is sponsoring on-course beverages, **Nadler Golf Car Sales** is donating the golf cars for the event, and **Cleary's** and **Esler Golf Designs** are also on board as contributing sponsors. Thanks in advance to you folks.

While you're online filling out the registration form for the above event, go ahead and order up some tickets for the MAGCS Kane County Cougars Game and Family Picnic. Bring your family out for an afternoon/evening of great fun and excitement—baseball, games for the kids, food and drink, base running, fireworks, and a whole lot more await you and your deserving kinfolk, and it's really cheap—\$10 for kids and \$15 for adults! Order tickets online or call Luke at MAGCS at 630-243-7900. MAGCS thanks the generous sponsors for this event: **Bayer Environmental Science**, **Burris Equipment Company**, **J. W. Turf, Inc.**, **Nadler Golf Car Sales/Authorized Club Car Distributor**, **Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc.**, **Palatine Oil, Inc.**, and **Reinders, Inc.**

### DATES TO REMEMBER

July 7 – 8th Annual John Buck Scholarship Outing at the Highlands of Elgin, **Brad Legnaioli** host.

July 15 – Midwest Regional Turf Foundation's Turf Field Day at Purdue University in West LaFayette, IN. Call 765-494-8039 or visit [www.mrtf.org](http://www.mrtf.org) for details.

July 17 – Iowa Turfgrass Field Day at the Iowa State University Turfgrass Research Station in Ames, IA. Call 800-605-0420 or go to [www.iowaturfgrass.org](http://www.iowaturfgrass.org) for more information.

July 19 – MAGCS Kane County Cougars Game and Family Picnic at Elfstrom Stadium in Geneva, IL. Go to [www.magcs.org](http://www.magcs.org) to get your tickets.

July 21 – ITF and Northwest Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association (NWIGCSA) Summer Play Day at TPC Deere Run, Paul Grogan, CGCS host. Go to [magcs.org](http://magcs.org) for registration info.

July 24 – CAGCS monthly meeting at Exmoor Country Club, **Kurt Galisdorfer**, CGCS host.

July 28 – MAGCS Scholarship Outing at Geneva Golf Club in Geneva, IL, **Ed Braunsky**, CGCS host.

August 6-9 – Golf Course Builders Association of America's summer meeting at the Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn, MI. Call 402-476-4444 or visit [www.gcbaa.org](http://www.gcbaa.org) for the poop.

August 13 – Ohio State University Turfgrass & Landscape Research Field Day at the OTF Research & Education Center in Columbus, OH. Yeah, yeah—call 888-683-3445 or go to [www.ohioturfgrass.org](http://www.ohioturfgrass.org) for those details.

August 26 – CAGCS monthly meeting at Midlothian Country Club, **Dave Behrman**, CGCS host.

When does **Dan Dinelli**, CGCS sleep? If he's not penning an article for any of several industry magazines, or calculating the environmental benefits of the trees on North Shore Country Club, or conducting any number of NTEP trials, or practicing falconry, or leading tours of the course for area

(continued on page 27)





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garden clubs and environmental groups, he really SHOULD sleep. But no—along with fellow MAGCS members architect **Rick Jacobson** and golf course builder **Jeff Hollembeak**, Dan is using new technology to map his greens' topography to within 2 millimeters in order to prepare a plan for future renovating of the original 1924 Colt, Alison, and MacKenzie designs. With this GPS-driven technology, the comparatively steep contours that ruled the day back in 1924 can be tweaked without losing the flavor of their original design, and pin placements lost to shrinkage (yes, these things DO shrink) can be recaptured—all to the finite decimal point in elevation. Sounds like a really interesting project—good luck with it, fellas.

.....  
Congratulations to Bruce Charlton of the Robert Trent Jones II golf architecture firm on being named president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. Bruce replaces Steve Forrest of Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest & Associates.

.....  
A true legend in our business has decided to call it a career after 35 years at the same course. What makes Monroe Miller legendary isn't just his longevity at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison, Wisconsin, nor is it his 24-year stint as the excellent editor of *The Grass Roots*, the publication of the Wisconsin GCSA. What makes this man a legend is best summed up by GCI's Pat Jones, as he describes Mr. Miller in the following manner: "Monroe Miller pisses me off. It's irritating the guy can write circles around me, a so-called professional journalist. But he also can grow grass with the best of them, has stayed in the same job for almost 40 years, is a stalwart supporter of his university and has provided mentorship and wisdom to hundreds of young people and peers throughout his career. And he's a great guy." Oh, and he has not taken dime one for his 24 years of churning out one of our industry's best chapter publications—it has been strictly a volunteer labor of love for him. You know, the more I think about it, he pisses me off too. I think the guy is truly flawless, although I have heard he is a Packer fan, so that could be considered a strike against him. Anyhow, from the FIBs south of the border, we salute Monroe Miller on an outstanding career and wish him and his wife Cheryl the best in their retirement years.

.....  
The May issue of *Golfdom* featured a new installment called "TOP Assistants," a question-and-answer session with an assistant superintendent. The premiere article featured Evanston Golf Club's **Matt Breeden**, and included highlighting his and the MAGCS Class C Advisory Committee's recent Habitat for Humanity project in Aurora. Personally, I think the highlight of the article was Matt's answer to the "what's your favorite hobby" query: "Watching the Cubs play at Wrigley Field." Amen! Nicely done, Matt.



*The Habitat House in Aurora landscaped and lived in. Thank you to all the donors especially The Brickman Group for helping this landscaping project.*

.....  
In the same issue of *Golfdom* was an article by editor-in-chief Larry Aylward titled "The Spackler Syndrome." Can we PLEASE get over this for once and for all?

.....  
I'm an idiot. I truly thought the pros would tear Torrey Pines a new one.

.....  
The Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS) has held its annual election, and the following gentlemen comprise the board for 2008: President **Dan Charlton** (Evanston Golf Club); Vice President/Verdure/Forum **Jon Jennings, CGCS** (Chicago Golf Club); Treasurer **Dan Marco, CGCS** (Ruth Lake Country Club); Arrangements Director **Brian Bossert, CGCS** (Bryn Mawr Country Club); Secretary **Tommy Witt, CGCS** (Northmoor Country Club); Education Director **Dave Ward** (Coyote Run Golf Course); and President Emeritus **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** (North Shore Country Club). Congratulations, guys!



*The CAGCS Board and Officers. (L to R): Witt, Ward, Marco, Bossert, Jennings, Charlton, and Dinelli.*

.....  
The May 26 *Chicago Sun Times* had a couple nice mentions of MAGCS members—**Dave Nadler's** Glen Erin Golf Club in Janesville (**Dave Braasch** superintendent) received great reviews in the "Course Spotlight" feature, and **Paul Voykin's** imminent retirement from Briarwood after 47 years was highlighted in Len Ziehm's "Local Golf" column.

.....  
If you have a scary story about something that happened on your golf course—something really weird or paranormal or otherwise unexplainable—you should give *Golfdom's* Anthony Pioppi a call (or simply channel him). If your story is used in his upcoming book, you'll receive an autographed copy. For those whose psychic powers are limited, you can submit your story to [HauntedGolf@gmail.com](mailto:HauntedGolf@gmail.com).



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
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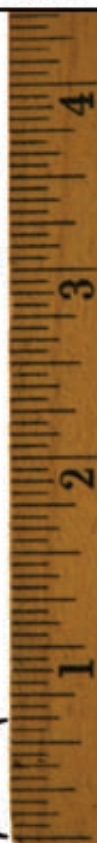
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Congrats to **Matt Kregel** (The Club at Strawberry Creek) on his hole in one at the Farm Links golf course in Sylacauga, Alabama last month.

.....  
GCSAA would like to remind you that the best way to keep track of all the education events you have attended is to create a folder that you can refer back to for comparison with your transcript. Any discrepancies can be handled with a call to GCSAA.

.....  
Also from GCSAA—you can meet the pesticide competency requirement by taking their IPM exam online. Go to [gcsaa.org](http://gcsaa.org) to get crazy on that.

.....  
**Josh Langell**, former assistant superintendent at Northmoor Country Club is the new golf course superintendent at Riverside Golf Club.

.....  
**Dow AgroSciences** recently announced a new addition to the Chicagoland market. Maureen Clark is the Chicago area Market Development Specialist in Turf and Ornamentals. Welcome to the neighborhood, Maureen.

.....  
The MAGCS Board of Directors has recently begun a media campaign with an agreement with *The Golf Scene* hosted by Steve Kashul. MAGCS will begin to advertise during each broadcast (aired Sunday evenings on Comcast Sports Net) and will be highlighted in several segments within the show. MAGCS will also be a part of podcasts, web links, and email blasts within Golf Scene's website. The mission behind this campaign is to bring awareness to the public about the profession of golf course superintendent and how we contribute to making golf great. Look for MAGCS in your living room soon.

.....  
Hopefully you were able to attend one or both of the great golf events held in May and June at two truly outstanding venues. The May ITF Spring Golf Day was held on May 12th at St. Charles Country Club with **Jim Keith, CGCS** hosting. The 2-Man Best Ball Match Play format was contested in ideal weather on a finely-conditioned golf course, and the entire day was first-class. Starting the day off was a tribute to this year's ITF Distinguished Service Award winner **Wally Fuchs** presented with the usual aplomb by **John Turner**. Wally was humbled by the show of respect, and attributed his success in life to his wife of 47 years Bonnie, his daughters, his parents, and his many friends in the golf business. Once the party moved to the golf course, it was a thorough old-fashioned whoopin' that Team Blue put on Team Red, besting the outmatched Reds 12.5 to 7.5. A really great spread of food was waiting in the clubhouse after golf, bringing the day to a fitting end. There are just too many people to thank for a day as nice as this was, but several need to be recognized: Jim Keith, club manager Tom Lichtenstein, and PGA pro Jim Sutherland for all their hard work; **Bill Johnson** and **Cleary Chemical Corporation** for the draft beer in 3 locations throughout the course; title sponsors **McGinty Bros., Inc., Phoenix Environmental Care, Reinders, Inc.,** and **Syngenta**; and to all the tee sponsors for their generous support. Oh, and many personal thanks to **Beth Whitehouse** for her eagle eyes in finding my Blackberry needle in haystack rough.



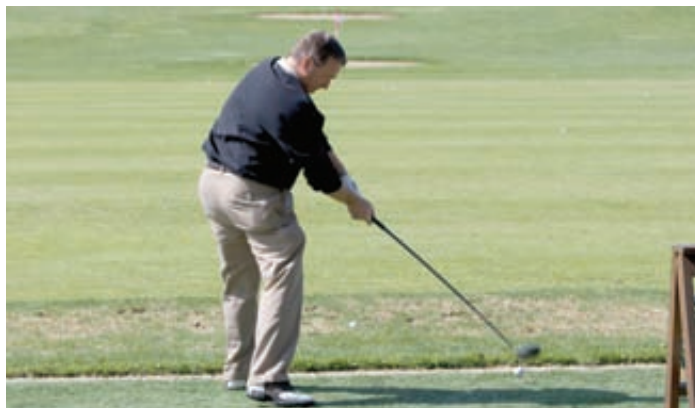
*Jim Keith, CGCS host of the ITF/MAGCS Golf Day had the golf course in great shape despite the slow spring.*



*Wally Fuchs, winner of the ITF Distinguished Service Award with daughter (l) Jill, wife Bonnie and daughter Terri.*



*Bob Lohmann takes a break from course set up while a foursome passes at St. Chas. CC.*



*The driving range was, for some the first chance to strike a ball all spring.*

*(continued on next page)*





*Ferreri and Lebedevs practice their steps for the next "Dancing with the Stars" tryout.*



*Members of the ITF and MAGCS gather after golf for prizes and cheer.*



On June 2nd, MAGCS members descended on Royal Melbourne and host superintendent **Dave Groelle** for our monthly meeting. Starting the day off were Michigan State University's Cliff Haka, Director of Libraries, and Peter Cookingham, Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) Project Manager and a quick tutorial on how to use TGIF. By the way, it is time to remind everyone AGAIN to A) Turn phones to vibrate or silent, and B) NOT conduct conversations on those vibrating phones during the education presentation. Anyhow, the golf course was phenomenal with greens rolling precariously fast, making the contestants vying for the Dom Grotti, the Senior, and the Class C Championships

a tad nervous. The steadiest putters prevailed in the end, with the following MAGCS members heading home with hardware: The Dom Grotti Championship (superintendent/assistant teams) was won by **Bob and Bob Kronn** (Woodstock CC), with **Dave Radaj** and **Jeff Everson** (Green Acres CC) taking second and **Dave Schlagetter** and **Tom Irvin** (Indian Hill Club) grabbing third. The Class C Championship (assistant superintendant) Gross Division went to **Justin VanLanduit** (Briarwood CC) with a 76, followed by Jeff Everson with 79 and **Matt Bourne** (Schaumburg GC) with 86; while the Net Division was won by **Barry McDonald** (Schaumburg GC) with second place going to **Brett Ziegler** (Knollwood Club) and third to **Ben Kelnhofer** (Mistwood GC). The Senior Championship Gross Division was won by **Tim Davis** (Shoreacres), followed by **Randy Wahler** (Knollwood Club) and **Jim Knulty** (Bigfoot CC), while the Net Division was taken by **Steve VanAcker** (Crystal Lake CC) whose 75 bested **Brad Johnsen** (Klein Creek GC) and **Rick Reed** (Arboretum Club). In the Super Senior Gross Division, **Ed Fischer** (Old Elm Club) beat out Bob Kronn and **Mike Bavier** (Inverness GC), and **Hans Hopphan** won the Net Division over **Lynn Wesson**. Long drive was won by **Chad Rotert**, long putt by **Chuck Odierno**, closest to the pin on #10 went to **Rick Hahn**, and straightest drive was executed by Dave Radaj. Another highlight for the day was the generosity of MAGCS members on the scholarship donation hole (#10) where **Danna Eberly** and **Kelli Zopfi** of JW Turf pulled in a whopping \$1,260 for the John Buck Scholarship Fund, which has donated over \$40,000 to deserving college students associated with MAGCS, NWIGCSA, and Kane County Farm Bureau. Many thanks to Danna and Kelli for donating their time and effort, to Dave Groelle and everyone at Royal Melbourne for all their wonderful work, and to the day's sponsors, who are **Bayer Environmental Science, J. W. Turf, Inc., Nadler Golf Car Sales/ Authorized Club Car Distributor, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., Palatine Oil, Inc., and Reinders, Inc.**



*Dave Groelle, CGCS host of the MAGCS June Meeting receives his framed copy of OC as a thanks for a great day at Royal Melbourne.*

*(continued on page 32)*