

Staff appreciation events are as individual as the golf courses we manage. There is no right or wrong way to say thanks for the effort. Suffice it to say that if you are squirreling aluminum can money to feed the crew, you are not alone. If you are pulling money out of your pocket to finance a lunch, you are not alone. If you allow the crew to kick back and enjoy an afternoon on the clock, you are not alone.

Call it team-building on your daily labor summary.

We are living in turbulent times.

By the time this article is published we will have completed a presidential election that will mean big changes for all of us. During the campaign both parties claimed to be standard bearers for the change that the American people demanded. So regardless of who won it looks like there's a new sheriff in Washington, D.C.

A financial crisis of epic proportion is percolating through the economy and the ripples (or tidal waves) will continue to be felt in the near future.

Some homeowners are fighting tooth and nail to hold on to their homes.

Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, North Korea, China and some other countries will get our attention between now and the holidays.

Al Qaida and the Taliban continue making noise.

Jobs are scarce.

Health care is in crisis.

People are scared, and it seems like things are spinning out of control.

This year's Conference and Show in New Orleans is giving us an opportunity to make something good happen. The GCSAA and its partnering associations are teaming up with Habitat for Humanity to host a couple of work days before the trade show opens to help build homes in some of New Orleans' most devastated areas.

This is a first-ever volunteer project sponsored by our industry's biggest gathering of the year. Wouldn't it be nice to absolutely overwhelm the host city with support?

Please strongly consider volunteering for one of the two work days scheduled (Tues. Feb 3 and/or Wed. Feb 4). More information can be found in your conference brochure on page four or at www.golfindustryshow.com.

There is a twenty-five dollar registration fee that the MAGCS has graciously agreed to reimburse any member who participates.

Thank you. -OC



Cookouts and cold beer are still by far the most popular method of a quick thank you to your staff.

2009 Golf Industry Show Volunteer Habitat for Humanity Project

If you would like to give something back to the people of New Orleans, here's your chance to make a big difference. The partnering associations of the Golf Industry Show are teaming up with Habitat for Humanity to host a series of special work days before the trade show opens to help build homes in some of New Orleans' most devastated areas. No experience is necessary, and all the equipment and supplies are provided. Your time and energy can help make the dreams come true for several families in a big way.

The work days will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 3, and Wednesday, Feb. 4, from 7:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

All volunteers will be placed in teams of 15 to work on homes within a particular area. The Golf Industry Show will provide transportation from the New Orleans Morial Convention Center, lunch at the work sites, and plenty of outdoor necessities such as water and sunscreen. Project t-shirts will be provided to show your team spirit and build camaraderie with your peers.

If you'd like to participate in this first-ever volunteer project, you can sign up through any of the education conferences presented by GCSAA, NGCOA or CMAA. Participation requires a \$25 registration fee. (MAGCS will reimburse you, thanks to Fred).



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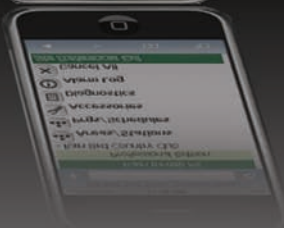
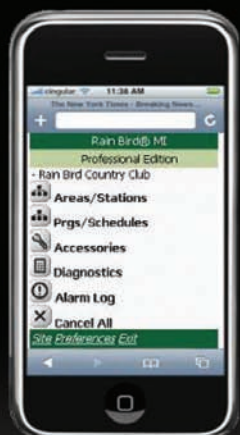
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MIDWEST BREEZES

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



The Renovation of Dubs Dread

Cog Hill's #4 course, also known affectionately as Dubs Dread has just gone through a major renovation. The course is located in Lemont, Illinois, was designed by Dick Wilson and opened in 1964. It was truly one of the earliest of the upscale public golf courses. At the time, it was a revolutionary idea when public golf meant you were playing beat down "goat ranches" cut with two mowers, one for the greens and one for everything else. Joe Jemsek took a leap of faith and created "private club" conditions for the public. It opened to rave reviews and changed public golf forever.

In 1964, all golfers used wooden drivers and a big hit with a balata covered, wound golf ball was 250 yards. Today's multi-covered, solid core ball, combined with the extra punch of the 460 cc metal driver and players are driving the ball consistently in excess of 300 yards. Rees Jones, known as "The Open Doctor" was brought in to modernize the course but keep the same overall look. The ultimate goal is to stay relevant as a PGA Tour stop and make the course a potential future candidate to host a U.S. Open. Keep in mind, the majority of the play will still be "Joe Public" on Sundays.

I called Ken Lapp, Golf Course Superintendent at Cog Hill Golf Club to talk about the renovation. I have been stopping in to see Ken whenever the Western Open was in town so he knew what he was in for by taking my call. Cog Hill has hosted the Western Open (now the BMW Championship) since 1991. The course took the year off during the renovation. This year the event was held at Bellerive Country Club in St. Louis, Missouri. Ken has been at Cog since 1973, overseeing all 72 holes. I'll save you the math, that's 36 years! He starting working for the Jemsek family when he began his career working for his father at St. Andrews and took the Superintendent position at Fresh Meadows Golf Club where he worked for 18 years. This adds up to working in the golf business for over 60 years. I asked him what the secret was to his longevity. He says "I just enjoy what I do". He also attributes a large part of his success to working for the Jemsek family. "They are golf people and they care about golf". He oversees a crew of 75. Many of those people have worked for him since the 80's. "It was different this year not having the tournament, but the renovation got my adrenaline going".

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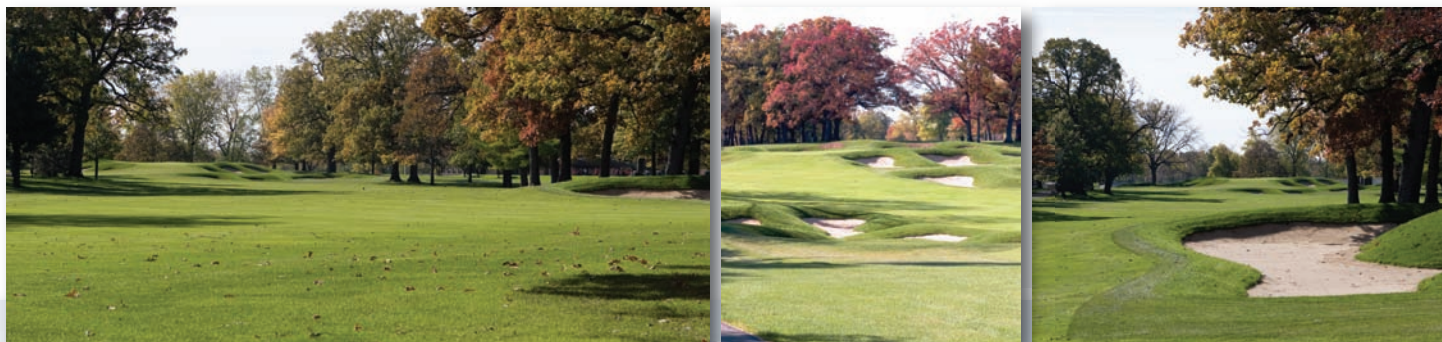
We visited in his office while the crew was coming in and wrapping up their day. We then headed out for a hole by hole tour. All of the original routing remains the same. The fairway bunkers were moved out and pinched in, with more bunkers added. The greens were re-contoured and regrassed with an A-1/A-4 combination. The changes to the greens are very subtle and feature some new cupping areas. The green side bunkers were also renovated. More bunkers were added and they are also steeper and deeper. The tees were redone and seeded with Pennncross. More tees were added and all were squared off. A new triple row Toro irrigation system was added and installed by Midwest Irrigation. As another added upgrade, a Subair system was installed for each green. This is the same soil air/water management system found at Augusta National Golf Club.

Wadsworth Construction started the renovation last October. They are in the process of wrapping up some small stuff and completing punch lists. The grow in is just about completed. I saw Paul Carlson and Paul Berger from Central Sod at the CDGA Field Day prior to my tour and they said they

delivered over 45 acres of Tour Ready Bluegrass sod to the site! Ken expects to open the course this coming spring, "it was a good year for a grow in". Ken was very impressed with all of the individual contractors (Rees Jones, Wadsworth Construction, Midwest Irrigation, Hunter, Subair, Lemont Paving) ability to coordinate and work together.

The new yardage will be close to an impressive 7600 yards. The new course slope and rating are currently under review. The BMW Championship will be back to Cog Hill in '09, '10 and '11. I don't think we will see any of the -20 scores the tour players used to post on the old course. As I was leaving I visited with Frank and Kathryn Jemsek. They are very happy with the results of the renovation and are excited about opening the course to the public and pros in 2009.

There is a reason why Cog Hill #4 is called "Dubs Dread". Now, it just got tougher. Check it out. If you do, you better bring your "A" game. **-OC**





TIP #1

Ground Control

You finally got that new piece of equipment delivered and it is all set to go. The cutting units are adjusted and set to height, the fuel tank is full, the hydraulic reservoir is full, and all the paint is still shiny. You schedule your best operator on it knowing this is just the start to its many hours of useful service.

Don't forget to check the transport speed before it leaves the shop for the first time. Take it for a spin yourself and see how fast it will travel at the top end in transport. Don't just take it on a ride down the smooth maintenance road to inspect it; you might leave the speed too fast for the bumps, rumps, and jumps our golf courses can hide.

Save abuse to your cutting units by setting the transport speed down to a comfortable rate for your golf course. We spend enough time adjusting units throughout the course of each day from the normal mowing process, this I can take – it is part of the job. However, I can't stand it when units get wacked out of adjustment when they are up and the slapping the frame because the transport speed is set too high for the terrain. I make it a point to configure each piece of equipments' transport speed when it is new and make spot checks throughout the season as they come in for service.



Toro RM5210 uses a pedal stop that is fully adjustable. The installed bolt controls the amount of pedal travel to keep the machine at a safe and controllable speed.

TIP #2

Reel Motors and Bearings – Keeping them Dry

Each day our Toro triplex mowers go out and mow. They do a fine job cutting and traversing many blades of grass each day. They are driven back, rinsed off, fueled, inspected, and set to go for another round the following day. The repetition, especially operation in wet conditions and if the operator happens to like washing his or her piece of equipment, can lead to water entering the bearing housing in the gap next to the drive motor. As we all know, when water and bearings meet, the result is failure.

Upon inspection, the area between the bearing housing and the drive motor has no sealing surface other than the metal-to-metal contact bond. These surfaces appear to be relatively flat; however, they are not flat enough to seal out a water molecule or two. After a couple measurements and a few calls I was able to find a very thin o-ring that fit well between the two surfaces. The o-ring is thin enough so it doesn't impede the motor contact to the drive coupling, but it is thick enough to create a watertight seal.

For pennies a reel, a seal can make the deal. **-OC**



Above: Grease and water don't mix.

Below: For a few pennies, a slim o-ring will create a water tight seal between the reel motor and reel bearing housing.





THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



November 2008

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 5 – 56th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club, **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** host.

November 13 – CAGCS Annual Meeting and budget exchange at Oak Park Country Club, **Al Fierst** host.

November 15 – Annual MAGCS Fall Dinner Dance at White Pines Golf Course in Bensenville, IL, Dawn and **Steve Partyka** hosts.

November 18-19 – 2008 Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium at the American Club in Kohler, WI.

November 21 – “Stomp Out Stress” seminar presented by Bayer Environmental Science at Ruth Lake Country Club in Hinsdale, IL, **Dan Marco, CGCS** host.

December 1 – Annual South Side Holiday Party at the Bier Stube in Frankfort, IL.

December 10-12 – 2008 Illinois Professional Turfgrass Conference at the Schaumburg Convention Center in Schaumburg, IL. **DON'T SHOW UP IN ST. CHARLES.**

December 12 – Deadline to guarantee conference hotel rates for the 2009 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in New Orleans, LA.

December 17 – Annual West Side Holiday Party at Salt Creek Golf Course in Wood Dale, IL, **Gary Hearn** host.

February 2-7, 2009 – GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in New Orleans, LA.

February 5, 2009 – MAGCS Hospitality Reception at the Loews New Orleans Hotel at 300 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130.

Welcome to the following new MAGCS member:
Randy Lusher, Class E – BASF Corporation.

It is very possible that while you read this, the event described has already happened. If so, enjoy the recap. The 56th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic takes place on November 5th at Medinah Country Club, with new host **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** donning the greeter's jacket. The day's theme is “Going Green,” and the lineup of presenters is impressive. We are privileged this year to have keynote speaker Pat Hughes, Chicago Cubs radio announcer to entertain us and perhaps provide some much-needed closure to the abrupt and ugly end to the 2008 season. Also on tap is the annual election, with board candidates **Mark Thibault** (The Links at Carillon) and **Tim White** (Prestwick Country Club) on the slate. See you there.

The holiday season is just around the corner, and that means the parties are soon upon us. On December 1st, the South Side party at the Bier Stube in Frankfort will kick things off at 11:30 AM, and go until 4:00 PM. Call Keith Peterson for details at 708-636-4095. Later, December 17th marks another West Side Holiday Party—another event that has become a staple in the holiday season. This year's rendition will be held at Salt Creek Golf Course, with **Gary Hearn** hosting. After lunch, target golf will be offered at Top Golf USA next door. Cost for the day is \$35.00—call Gary Hearn (630-773-4790) or **Don Ferreri** (630-852-1746) for info or to sign up.

The MAGCS family sends its deepest sympathies to the family of Dave Mahoney who passed away suddenly on September 27th. Dave was the superintendent of Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville, New York since leaving the same post at Naperville Country Club that he held from 1884 to 1988.

(continued on page 18)

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Many of us remember Dave for his generosity, kindness, and sense of humor, and we will miss him greatly.

On November 21, Bayer Environmental Science will present its "Stomp Out Stress" seminar at Ruth Lake Country Club with **Dan Marco, CGCS** hosting. The main gist will be controlling stress in both our turfgrass as well as our personal lives. Dr. Joe Vargas of Michigan State University will speak on the management of biotic and abiotic stresses that impact cool-season grasses, while Dr. Wes Sime, a health and sports psychologist from the University of Nebraska will discuss personal stress management and how to be a better superintendent by controlling stress. Contact **John Turner** for more information at 630-215-6110 or at john.turner@bayercropscience.com.

You gotta love TurfNet. If you are unfamiliar, it is a subscription-based internet forum connecting superintendents and commercial reps from around the world featuring, among other things, the TurfNet.com Forum where industry folks discuss problems and solutions. The hot topic in September? Foxes digging up greens. The solutions offered? One guy put several hundred of those glue traps for mice around the problem green, finding several missing the next day and several others chewed up. If you've ever seen your dog get involved with one of those things, you can understand why it would work as a deterrent—first the paw gets stuck, then the other paw, followed by the whiskers, and so on. Another guy suggested personally "marking" the area,

stating that he had complete success after a bout with stage fright and a few cups of coffee to break the seal. Imagine a golfer enjoying a beverage in the 19th hole, looking out on the course and taking in that scene.

And if foxes aren't getting your goat, how 'bout them coyotes? Talk about your precision dumpage...



A coyote with uncanny aim, or just a golfer's way of telling you how he feels about your signage?

And while on the subject of marking one's territory, **Joe Hustler** recently celebrated his 30th year of service with JW Turf in Hampshire, IL. Heck, when Joe started working on John Deere equipment, it took both a mechanic AND a veterinarian to keep it in the field. Cuz there were no engines back then. So they used horses. Ba-doom-boom.



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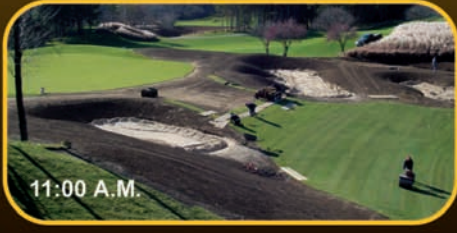


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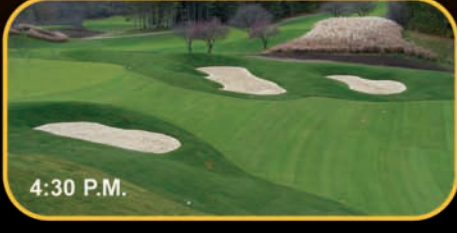
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Joe Hustler



That's Joe on the left.



The Old guys...



The Young guys...



And the confused guy—Whoever told Paul there was beer in the periscope was one funny old dude.

It wouldn't be a Bull Sheet without a **Dan Dinelli** item, would it? Dan's environmental efforts have been well-documented in these pages and in lots of other pages in lots of other magazines for lots of years, and now he has finally been noticed for those efforts. The GCSAA Board of Directors has selected Dan to receive the 2009 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship, which will be presented during the Opening Session of the 2009 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in New Orleans on Feb. 5th. Congratulations, Dan!

This month, on the 18th and 19th, the 2008 Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium will take place at the American Club in Kohler. The topic for this year's symposium is "Not All Water is Created Equal," and the event will feature 2 days of educational presentations relating to this extremely important subject. Also taking place will be a Monroe Miller retirement celebration on Wednesday the 19th, honoring the long-time superintendent of Blackhawk Country Club in Madison. Contact Shelley Brio at Milorganite at 414-221-6810 for more information.

There's no keeping the old retired guys down. Recently, we featured the many diversions that MAGCS member **Hans Hopphan** pursues while enjoying his retirement, mentioning an occasional game of golf with his buddies as one of them. **Lynn Wesson**, also retired and old, was happy to oblige by hosting his 3rd (perhaps more?) annual "Golf, drink, and burn your own steak" event at the Indian Oaks Country Club in beautiful Shabbona, IL in September. A lucky few young-uns were invited along (to remind the old guys when to take their medications), and the day couldn't have been nicer.

Our industry lost a true "superintendent's friend" when on August 24th Bob Labbanca passed away due to ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). If you ever read ANY of the golf publications that reach your mailbox, you've more than likely read Bob's work. Always the champion of the "keeper of the green," Bob traveled the world in pursuit of stories relating to our profession. Bob served as editor of *Turf* magazine, and was a monthly contributor to *Superintendent*, to name but a few of his credits. He will be missed.

Recently GCSAA awarded \$1,500 scholarships to 20 deserving recipients across the country as part of its Legacy Awards program. Three talented sons and daughters of MAGCS members were among those chosen to receive the awards:

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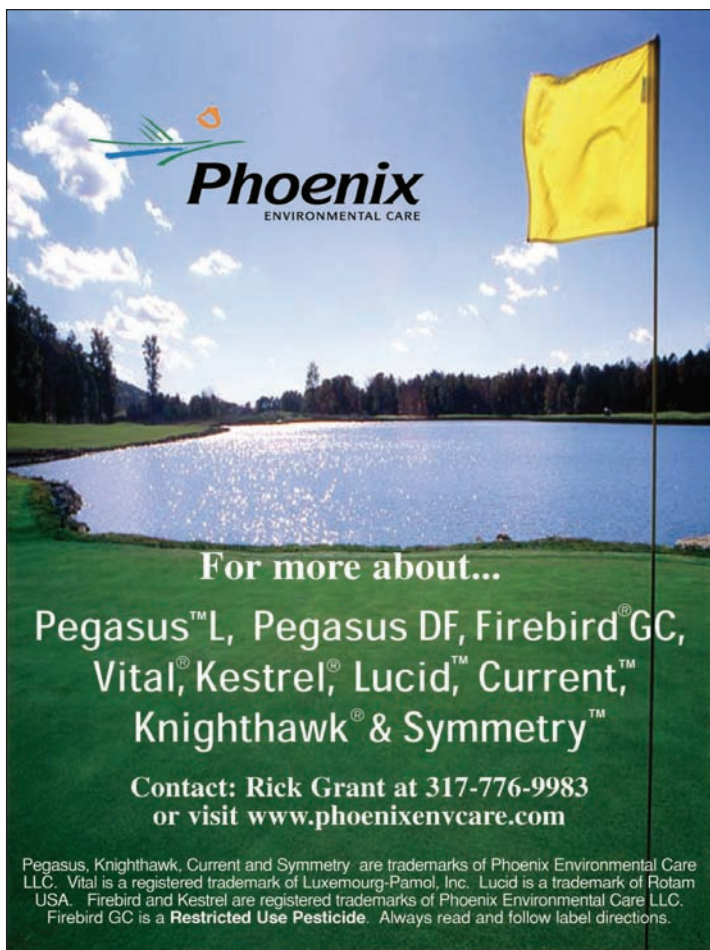
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