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Also congratulations to **Ben Kelnhofer** on being named the golf course superintendent of Mistwood Golf Club in Romeoville. Ben had served as Mistwood's assistant superintendent before being promoted to his new position.



Ben Kelnhofer

Billy Casper Golf, which owns and operates golf courses in 24 states, has been chosen by the Chicago Park District to manage its 7 golf facilities, bringing the total of BCG-managed facilities in and around Chicago to 22. The courses are Jackson Park, Sydney R. Marovitz, South Shore, Robert A. Black, Columbus Park, Marquette Park, and the Diversey Driving Range.

It sure didn't take Monroe Miller long to unretire. Miller, who had served as golf course superintendent at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison, WI for 36 years and was the longtime editor of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association newsletter *Grass Roots*, retired last year after a career laden with awards and accolades, including most recently being awarded GCSAA's 2009 Colonel John Morley Distinguished Service Award. So much for retirement—Monroe is now the first executive director /ambassador of the Wisconsin Turf Association, which was previously run by a volunteer board. Congratulations to Monroe on his very short retirement.

In the past we've run items featuring **Jon Jennings, CGCS'** competitive running exploits. Now, in case you are not convinced that he's a serious runner, how about this—Jon won his division in the Chicago Area Runners Association in 2008 with an undefeated season! Competing in the Clydesdale Division (or Beef-a-lo as **Brian Bossert, CGCS** affectionately refers to it), Jon accepted the top honors at the CARA Awards Banquet in January. Oh yeah, while on that subject, he also **ran** for election (unopposed, but still...) and won that, too—Jon is now the 39th President of the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS). Congrats to Mr. J on these magnanimous achievements.

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Jon Jennings

GCSAA has announced that it has discontinued the Chapter-hosted Regional Seminar Program and the Superintendent Leadership Series as of January 1, 2009. The decision was based on the growth of local educational opportunities, with most chapters that participated in the programs now offering their own programs. (Wonder if this had anything to do with External Education Opportunities?) On a related note, GCSAA and USGA have slashed their turf research budgets this year, delaying or cutting a combined \$375,000 in new projects, citing the economic downturn as the reasoning behind the decision. For GCSAA, this translates to a cut of \$70,000 to \$80,000 in chapter cooperative and national research projects. There goes my "The Effects of Prolonged Winter Drinking on Already Out-of-Shape Superintendents" grant that I applied for...

Winter, though soon coming to an end, is a prime time to do other things besides the above proposed case study—it is also a great time to spend some QT in front of the computer and surf around a bit. One site that should be of particular interest to all of us is the Environmental Institute For Golf's website (eifg.org). One useful tool on the site is EDGE, which contains tons of case studies written by superintendents and other experts in their fields on a huge variety of environmental-themed projects, and they are downloadable for you to print and take to your favorite reading place. Great ideas of how you can improve your facility from an environmentally friendly standpoint, and great way to connect with the people who are the movers and shakers in that arena. And wouldja believe **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** is currently featured?

This just in for you MSMA users: The MAA (no idea) and EPA (know that one) have signed an agreement that permits the continued use of the herbicide MSMA but ends its use on residential turf in 2010. Sale of MSMA to golf courses will continue until the end of 2012, with use of stocks permitted until the end of 2013. You may recognize this herbicide by its many trade names such as Daconate, or by some of its more descriptive names like Die-Weed, Kill-A-Plenty, Sure Death, Select-Kil, and Weed Hoe (not to be confused with Crack Hoe, Cheap Hoe, or Nasty Hoe). Or perhaps you are from the south, where it is sold—ironically—as either Bueno or Border Patrol. You can't make this stuff up.

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How many ways can you label MSMA?

There's no keeping Chef **Scott Witte, CGCS** out of the news—Scott won Cantigny's Annual Chili Cookoff for 2009 with his now-famous "Smokin' Compost Chili." The event brings the entire Cantigny organization to Scott's maintenance facility for an afternoon of good times and good eats, followed by a night of aromatic spousal abuse beneath the sheets for all who partake. Congratulations to Scott, condolences to Sue.



For all you who are members of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses AND are subscribers to CourseVision, you are eligible to have your annual membership fee for the ASCP paid for by CourseVision. This is a result of a new partnership formed between the two entities which will enable them to continue to define areas where CourseVision's powerful visualization capabilities like Google Earth can be adapted to assist courses in the ASCP certification process. How d'ya like that?

Among all the recent educational and travel opportunities was the January 22nd trek to beautiful Arrowhead Golf Club for the MAGCS 2009 kickoff meeting hosted by **Mike Mumper**. The day began with President Kalina—ever the wordsmith—calling for the "dispensement of the previous minutes' meetings" and just kept on cruising from there. The education portion was strong, with Aaron Johnsen of Spectrum Technologies speaking on sensor and measurement technology available to golf courses for implementation into maintenance regimes. **Don Ferreri** then took the podium to

(continued on next page)

give his annual GCSAA delegate's report, including a couple tidbits about MAGCS' power on the national level (top 5 in votes cast with 288, and well above the national average for GIS attendees per chapter). After that, a lively round-table discussion ensued, with moderator **Luke Cella** posing questions related to the changes we will see with regard to the economy, with our oddly talkative host chiming in frequently (turns out he was stalling for time to let the kitchen staff get lunch ready). Observations and comments such as "early order program orders are down," "pre-purchased fuel," and "zero overtime initiative" were the flavor of the discussion, with everyone from public to private, vendor to grower agreeing that it will be a rough road to hoe. There's that hoe word again. The day ended with a regal lunch spread and then all the 4 X 4's pulled out of the lot and Arrowhead was back to normal. Great job by all, from Mike and the folks at Arrowhead to our education contributors to our very generous sponsors, who were **J.W. Turf, Inc., Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc., and Reinders, Inc.** Thank you one and all!



The new and improved Arrowhead Clubhouse.



Aaron Johnsen of Spectrum Technologies.



Don Ferreri addresses the MAGCS members and talks about the upcoming national election.



Gracious host (l) Mike Mumper accepts thanks from Bob Kohlstedt (r). Mike is hosting MAGCS again this year on October 5 for the College Championship.

Musings from the 2009 Golf Industry Show

I'm thinking that the best way for me to do this is chronologically, so I'll begin at the beginning.

OK, there was this hurricane that hit New Orleans a while back. It did a lot of bad things, and we all know that story. Thing is, there's still a bunch of messed up stuff down there that needs fixing, and GCSAA along with Habitat For Humanity did a cool thing by helping out and sending volunteers into the messed up areas and pitching in on the rebuilding projects. MAGCS sent a nice contingent of helpers, and only one hurt himself, but not badly.



Okay, I get how Fred Behnke could hurt his finger at the Habitat for Humanity work day; but how did he get all those beads?

But John Ekstrom's got that story covered, so let's move forward.

Backward, actually, to a few days before when the National Championship and Golf Classic was? were? played out in Gulf Shores, Alabama. Lots of MAGCS guys went there, and some of them really did well. **Tim Scott**, (Stony Creek GC) went in there and played some serious golf, taking second place in the National Championship. Some guy named Seth Strickland beat him by 2 thingies, but he was a repeat winner; no, a three-peat winner, so he's probably a pro or manager or hockey player or something. Nice job, Tim. We also had a couple other guys on the first page of the leader board—**Al Pondel** tied for 18th and **Dave Kohley** tied for 20th. And the MAGCS Chapter team of Scott, Kohley, Pondel,

and **Tommy Robinson** won the Chapter team competition. Pretty good for guys who don't play golf in the winter.



MAGCS is well represented at the National Golf Championship in Gulf Shores, AL.



MAGCS Chapter team consisting of (l to r) Dave Kohley, Tim Scott, Al Pondel, and Tommy Robinson (not pictured) took home 1st place.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	19-TOTAL	TOTAL
Tim																						
SCOTT	54	7	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	79	155
Stony Creek GC	54	38	4	3	4	4	5	4	5	5	3	8	7	6	155							
Orland Park, IL	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	74	229
Championship																						

So now back to New Orleans, where the big show hap-
pened. Well, first there was Biloxi, but that's another story,
and I think I've already thanked (and apologized to) everyone
responsible for getting me there and back with only minor
injuries. Thursday arrives—Opening Session, Dan Dinelli gets
the 2009 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship.
Shouldn't they just call it the Dan Dinelli Award for Environ-
mental Stewardship and be done with it? Keynote Address,
Paul Azinger, Ryder Cup, "you guys are the real heroes,"
whoa. Missed it, but **Chuck Anfield** has that covered,
so let's move forward.

For me Thursday was "Floor Day," so I made that bitch mine
and walked that floor til I could walk no more. Til my shins
hurt. Til the lights dimmed at closing time if you really want
to know. I wasn't expecting that to happen—it was like
closing time at a bar (as I recall it from back when I was able
to stay awake until closing time at a bar). Witnessed a great
irony—the people manning the robotic mower booth manu-
ally vacuuming their carpet at day's end. I mean, go to
Home Depot and get one of those robotic vacuums for

(continued on next page)

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Pete's sake. I woulda bought four of those mowers if they had done that. The trade show was weird this year—not too many people walking around (they're saying 30% down, but I'm thinking more like 40 or so). The "thing in the middle"—the thing they build on the floor for people to take pictures of with their phones—was called the Water Use and Maintenance Project, and I got to see **Tim Anderson, CGCS** from Naperville Country Club talk about storm water and permits and such—right there on the floor, which was new I think. Oh, and there was an electric greens mower from somewhere like Denmark that was copper-colored and had tentacles and tubes and suction devices and looked either like a horseshoe crab or a vessel from a Jules Verne book; and there was that robot mower thing which doesn't need a person to mow with, but still needs a person to take it to the place it's going to mow so I don't really get it.



Tim Anderson delivers his talk on Stormwater Management at the Water Use and Maintenance Project.



The hit of the floor—the Precision Path robotic mower (though we never got to see one actually move).

Electric greens mower or Jules Verne's Nautilus II?

There was the Dog of the Year contest and the Superintendent of the Year contest. We did pretty good in those, by the way—**Sam MacKenzie, CGCS** from Olympia Fields won the superintendent one (he was baffled, but he got to meet Mike Schmidt who always had Bruce Sutter's number but I digress), and **Brian Kimbrough's** hound Rusty—Miss July in the Dog Days of Golf calendar—was narrowly beat out by Willie, a German Short-haired Pointer mix belonging to Steve McCormick of Columbia Country Club in Maryland for Dog of the Year. It's all so political. Brian says he's OK with it, but it's gonna to take a few cold frosties to break the news to Rusty. Maybe Brian should have a few, too.



Superintendent of the Year Sam MacKenzie with Mike Schmidt (L) and Syngenta's Golf Market Manager Dave Ravel (R).



Brian Kimbrough

There seemed to be a lot of New Orleansy things and gimmicky things and inflatable things like huge sasquatches that I said "Hi Mump" to but that didn't answer back and bands that played that New Orleansy music and even a New Orleans funeral procession that reminded me of "Live and Let Die" without Jane Seymour. Oooh, she was great as Solitaire.



There's more than just iron on the floor—there's brass, too.



It wouldn't be New Orleans without large inflatable dolls, would it?



The lovely greeters/bouncers Sharon and Maureen.



The photographer had obviously been to the bar one too many times by this point.

I could go on about the trade show, but that would be like Bubba coming up with a few more ways to cook shrimp, so let's move forward.

I think they should rename Thursday night to Hospitality Room Night. Ask **Brian Winkel**—there's like 400 of them, and he has to hit them all, poor boy. Mmmm—po' boy. Makes me hungry. The U of I has a nice one (hospitality room, not po' boy), and they let non-Illini in there (because it's a land grant institution, whatever that means, and a cash bar). Penn State does a prayer breakfast so they get a pass on the hospitality room thing. Not sure about the other schools, but Wink would know. Just as well. MAGCS has about the nicest one of all (aside from those big corporate ones with magicians and caricature artists and famous people signing books), and over 275 people including me were witness to that. Wow was that food great! Except for that weird squishy sausage thing—couldn't trust that. And how about **Sharon Riesenbeck** and **Maureen Clark** sitting there checking people in while we were all having fun? Them, and the volunteers—especially the Class C guys—that helped out in that whole thing are my heroes. And all the people who sponsored the deal—the list is as long as my arm, which just shows to go ya how great the commercial people in MAGCS are. But Sharon's got that story covered, so let's move forward.



The weird squishy sausage thing, really it is a taste of New Orleans.

(continued on next page)



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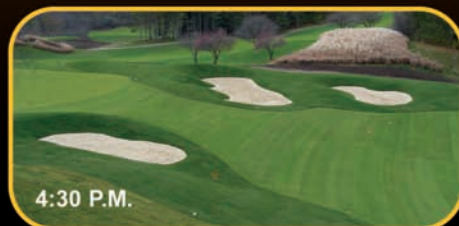
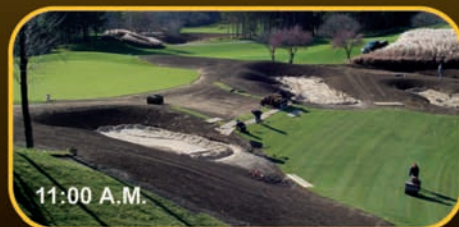
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There was an election that I don't think anybody lost. The new president is Mark Kuhns from Baltusrol in New Jersey where I once went to watch a friend miss the cut in the US Open. Stayed in one of their member's houses—it was a mansion and we had our own wing. I hear that was the last time they opened their house to people from Illinois. But again I digress. There was the launching of GCSAA TV that pretty much is self-descriptive. **Chad Kempf** of EPIC Creative is in like all of the videos—he's the interview-guy with the mike and the questions who has to keep a serious look on his face and nod when people are talking to him.



Chad Kempf

And there was the Harrah's Casino where you could stay up all night in your suit and gamble and then go straight to the airport and fly home. And of course, there was Bourbon Street where little plastic tubes filled with neon-colored liquid cost four dollars plus tip and after you drink them the girl who sold them to you spits the tubes up in the air (which is smoky always) and you go "What did I just drink?" And you could go watch housewives ride mechanical bulls, and the bulls didn't even give them beads and they still, well...you know.

Well, I guess that's about it. **-OC**



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