

THE LITTLE GIANT RTV500

**Starts quicker.
Runs quieter.
Stops smoother.**

The new Kubota RTV500 compact utility vehicle has all the comfort, technology and refinements of a larger utility vehicle. Available in Kubota orange and Realtree® camouflage, the four wheel drive RTV500 is ready for work or play. Visit your local Kubota dealer to test drive the only utility vehicle of its kind.



Martin Implement, Inc.

18405 115th Avenue
Orland Park, IL 60467
(708) 349-8430



www.kubota.com

*Realtree is a registered trademark of Jordan Outdoor Enterprises, Ltd.
© Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2008



S O D

Sod That Fits Your Course To A Tee

*All varieties available as washed sod,
traditionally cut sod or big roll sod.*

Your Single Source for:

Bentgrass Varieties

- Penncross™ Bentgrass Sod
- Pennlinks™ Bentgrass Sod
- Penneagle™ Bentgrass Sod
- L-93™ Bentgrass Sod

Low Mow Varieties

- XL2000™ Bluegrass Blend
- Bluegrass Fescue Blend

*Installation and turf stripping capabilities available.
We can custom grow to your specifications.
Please inquire.*



3900 West 167th Street, Markham, IL 60428

708-596-7200

1-800-244-7200

Member:



WWW.HESOD.COM

Save Money, Improve Turf
Use HIGH QUALITY BIOSOLIDS
As Fertilizer or Soil Amendment on
Golf Courses...Athletic Fields... Public Parks...
New Construction and Renovation.

Benefits:

- Excellent soil amendment with high organic matter content that builds soil quality
- Reliability built upon three decades of research and 15 years of successful application in the Chicago region



- A slow release fertilizer delivering nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and micronutrients
- Technical support from environmental soil scientists
- Contributes to environmental stewardship
- Available at *no cost* and delivered free!!

Call today 708-588-4063 or 708-588-4300

Protecting Our Water Environment

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Premium Ice Melter

QUAD RELEASE™

- No messy residue on Carpet
- Safer to Vegetation
- 4-Way Melting Power works fast
- Effective to 10 degrees below zero
- Pattern Indicator
- Treated to allow easy pouring and extend shelf life



PO Box 1325 * 800-732-9401
Frankfort, IL 60423 * Fax: 815-463-8395



ARTHUR CLESEN INC.

Dedicated to Service!

See the difference.

Quality products • Priced competitively • Prompt delivery

You get fast, courteous service from Arthur Clesen Inc.

We've staked our reputation on it.

Try us and see the difference.

▶ **WHEELING** p. 847.537.2177 f. 847.537.2210 ▶ **MOKENA** p. 708.444.2177 f. 708.479.9477



PALATINE OIL CO., INC.

Chicagoland
Only
Full-Service
Supplier!

**“One Call Does It All!”
Discover the difference!**

Budget Broken?

Give us a call and we can be
Your Solution to any **Fuel Cost Hassles!**

Over **thirty-seven years**
of caring service
and delivery of
Quality products.

visit us online **www.palatineoil.com** or call us at **1-888-358-7621**

MIDWEST BREEZES

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



“Superintendents List of New Year’s/Season’s Resolutions”

Another year has gone by. It’s time to reload and start a new one. What will this season bring us? Will it be another cool, moist, “easy” summer (I hope so)? Or, will it go back to days of yore (remember 1995) and be sweltering hot and funky humid?

It’s hard not to reflect back on all the successes and failures over the past golf season. We all spend part of our winter preparation time coming up with new programs and adjustments to our agronomic plans. How I can I make my Golf Maintenance Operation better, more efficient? It’s time to come up with another of the Superintendent’s List of New Year’s Resolutions. In no particular order:

Be Nicer to Staff

Most of the people who work in the Golf Maintenance Industry are barely making a living wage. Yet, we expect them to perform at a high level, doing heavy, physical labor at the crack of dawn and in all kinds of weather. Yes, we still have high standards to uphold, because that’s what our golfers expect. And yes, we have to do more with less, because that’s the “new world economic order” of things. As my old Hoosier boss liked to say, “Chuck you can catch more flies with honey”.

Raise Mowing Heights

A few years ago, we all used to say to ourselves how low can we go and how frequently can we cut it? Now, the new economic mentality is how high can I get away with and what’s the least I need to cut it? It has been my experience that green, healthy grass is always preferred over the dead, brown variety. I still remember from Turf 101 that a higher leaf height will provide more root mass. This could be a good thing if the “sh#@ hits the fan.” Let’s face it; most players would prefer to sweep the ball instead of picking it.

Communicate More

Tell everybody around you what you are going to do, when you are going to do it, and how you are going to do it. Tell them with email, in person, tweet, blogs, memos, set up meetings, write news-letters, make phone calls, and/or text. Create a scenario of full transparency. Then do it.

Set Up Course Easier

As we know, most golfers are not as good as they think they are. There is a lot of LOFT (Lack of %#@ talent). Let’s make the game more fun and speed up play with easier hole locations,

keep the rough cut lower, slow greens down (just a little), widen fairways, cut trees down, and set up the courses shorter. If people have more fun, they might play more. This is good for golf.

Play More Golf

This is one of the reasons we all got in this business. You will see more of your course, or other courses. You might learn something. Take notes. Depending on your game, you might see places you would never think to look. You will get a much better look around and see the details of your course with a four-hour round than zipping around in your cart in a 30-minute lap. It’s a great place to conduct meetings about the course. It will build up your street cred.

Be More Involved with the MAGCS

Join a committee; it’s not too late (ask Luke). Give something back to the Association and the game. The people you work for might be impressed. It’s extra credit points.

Be More Environmentally Friendly

Turn off light switches, use power strips, recycle more, use more eco friendly products, switch out incandescent bulbs for fluorescents, encourage other staff to help out and be an example, plant native plants. Have an audit done on your irrigation system to improve efficiency. Improve overall operational efficiency and help keep costs down.

Give More

Contribute more to charities, churches, and other not-for-profit organizations. Give more time to your family and friends. The more you give, the more you get back. Pay it forward.

Be More Patient

Chill out, life’s short. Everyone has their own pace for accomplishing tasks. It’s just grass.

Have More Fun

The “fun meter” in this business went down a few years after 9/11, when we first started to do more with less. People come to golf courses for recreation and fun (I think). Let’s set the example. Make your guests feel more welcome. Customer service is extra important in a time when customer retention is the key to successful operations. Nothing says that more than a simple smile and wave.

There it is: something to think about. Let’s make it a great year. Good luck, and see you at the MAGCS Meetings. **-OC**



It's All About Control
The ONLY Irrigation Water Treatment System With pH Over Flow Technology.

Also Specializing In:

- Fertigation Injection Equipment
- Amiad Filtration Equipment
- Muck Removal From Ponds
- Aerators
- Water Fountains

Growing Solutions, Inc.

For information, sales or service call 1-800-816-4041.

www.Your Growing Solutions.com

Who Can You Trust to Provide & Protect Your Water Supply?

Layne®

Layne-Western

Complete Services for
High-Capacity Water Wells and Pump Stations

Source Development • Wells & Pumps • Maintenance
Aurora, IL: 630-897-6941 • Beecher, IL: 708-946-2244
www.laynechristensen.com

Schedule your Spring fines free topdressing loads today!

WAUPACA
SAND & SOLUTIONS

715-258-8566
www.WaupacaSand.com
Proud supporter of MAGCS

HOLLEMBEAK CONSTRUCTION INC.

SINCE 1969



Ridge Country Club - Hole 13
Chicago, Illinois

Golf Course Construction • Renovations • Bunkers
Clearing • Feature Grading • Shaping • Drainage
Tee and Green Construction • Cart Paths • Grassing
Shoreline Stabilization • Pond Construction and Dredging
Laser Tee Leveling • GPS Golf Course Mapping

P.O. BOX 103 • BIG ROCK, IL 60511 • 630-556-3891

Are You Using the right 2-Cycle Engine Oil?

About ten years ago, some two-cycle engine manufacturers came together with the Industrial Standardization Organization and standardized the two-cycle oil to be used in their products. That standard became known as **ISO L-E** standard. They also needed a way to test two-cycle oil and have it certified. This is where **JASO** certification comes in. **JASO** stands for Japanese Automotive Standard Organization.

The current ISO L standard is ISO L-EGD and the JASO certification is JASO FC. Just because a two-cycle engine oil label says that it meets and exceeds the ISO L-EGD standard does not necessarily mean that it does. It needs the JASO certification on the label, along with the certification number, to truly meet and exceed the ISO standard.

These specifications are much like the SAE and API classifications on engine oil for your car or truck. As long as the ISO standard and JASO certification appear on the label, you can use it in any two-cycle engine that powers a blower, chainsaw, lawnmower, snowblower, stingtrimmer, etc., regardless of what oil-to-gas ratio it uses (32:1, 40:1, 50:1, etc.).

The standardization of two-cycle oil is important because of federal Environmental Protection Agency regulations as well as C.A.R.B. (California Air Resource Board) standards. With the more stringent emissions requirements, the engine manufacturers realized it was necessary to have a two-cycle oil that was standard for the outdoor power equipment (OPE) industry. The leaned out fuel systems did not allow much tolerance for error when it came down to gas oil ratios or the wrong oil.

Two-cycle oil for an outboard marine motor is not the same as for outdoor power equipment. Nor is two-cycle oil for outdoor power equipment the same as for outboard marine engines. The marine motor is cooled by water, and OPE equipment is cooled by air. The marine engine runs at a lower speed at full throttle. A chainsaw could rev up to over 10,000 rpm.



The next time you pick up some two-cycle oil for your outdoor power equipment, look for the JASO certification and make sure your using the right two-cycle oil.

The following is an excerpt from Stihl's website on their 2-cycle engine oil: <http://www.stihlusa.com>

Low Smoke Oil

STIHL's Low Smoke Oil blend of 2-cycle engine oil has all the features and benefits of High-Performance oil, but with reduced smoke in the exhaust. **It meets and exceeds the ISO L-EGD Standard and is JASO FC certified.** It provides superior bearing and piston lubrication at high temperatures, protects against piston scuffing and seizure, and keeps rings and ports free of carbon build-up. Available in 2.6 oz., 6.4 oz., 12.8 oz. and 1 gallon or 5 gallon pails.

STIHL High Performance 2-cycle Engine Oil

STIHL 2-cycle oils are premium-quality, conventional petroleum based engine oils designed to deliver the highest levels of engine protection in modern, high-performance, air-cooled 2-cycle engines. They contain a pour depressant to aid in low temperature applications and a mixing agent (solvent) to aid in mixing with gasoline. STIHL oils are fully compatible with oxygenated fuels. **-OC**

THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



March 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 4 – Emerald Ash Borer Action Plans free seminar at Aquascapes Designs in St. Charles, IL.

March 6 – CDGA's Club Leadership Conference at Medinah Country Club, **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** host.

March 10 – Chicagoland Forum 2010 at Naperville Country Club, **Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG**, Club Manager and Chief Bottle Washer host.

March 6-14 – Chicago Flower & Garden Show at Navy Pier in Chicago, IL.

March 12 – Reinders Open House at the Franklin Park facility, 3816 Carnation St., Franklin Park, IL

March 16 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.

March 18-20 – International Golf Course Equipment Manufacturers Association's Virtual Trade Show on your internet-connected computer.

April 11-14 – International Conference on Turfgrass in Angers, France (in case you're in the neighborhood).

April 27 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Joliet Country Club, **Mark Kowaliczko** host.

May 2 — JW Turf's Annual Equipment Auction and Consignment Sale at the JW Turf headquarters in Hampshire, IL.

Congratulations to St. Charles Country Club's **Josh Therrien**, who was appointed to the Class C Advisory Committee chair, to **Nick Baker** of Chicagoland Turf, who has been appointed to the Class E Advisor's position on the MAGCS board of directors; and to **Dan Charlton** of Evanston Golf Club who was appointed to fill out the remainder of **Harry Lovero's** term on the board. Best of luck, and thank you to the three of you for volunteering your time and effort. And why not—congrats to President Witte for surviving the ordeal of having to fill 3 vacancies at once!



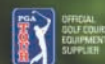
L-R: Josh Therrien, Nick Baker, Dan Charlton and Harry Lovero

Congratulations to Medinah Country Club (**Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS**) and Olympia Fields Country Club (**Sam MacKenzie, CGCS**) on making *GolfWorld* magazine's 100 Best Golf Shops list, both in the Private category. Slow news month.

Need a USGA Handicap for 2010? Please let Luke know (luke@magcs.org) and he will set you up with one through the CDGA - one of the many member benefits of MAGCS.

Also kudos to past MAGCS president (1984) Roger Stewart, CGCS on winning the GCSAA/*Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders in Golf Award for 2009. Roger is superintendent at TPC Twin Cities just outside Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN, and accepted the award in the National Private category.

(continued on page 18)



Covers all the angles. Literally.
The new 220 E-Cut Hybrid.

The first John Deere walk greens mower with a full-contouring cutting unit.

The new 220 E-Cut Hybrid's ball joint design combined with an electric reel drive permits maximum movement of the cutting unit to follow contours. And the cutting unit's range of motion can be adjusted to meet the most demanding conditions. This unique cutting system can even steer through the clean-up pass—reducing stress around the outside of the green. All while a mechanical-drive traction drum keeps the mower speed consistent (to maintain a consistent frequency of clip no matter how severe an incline). All this technology was first suggested by you. So no wonder it performs flawlessly. Call us for a demo today.



JOHN DEERE
GOLF

J. W. TURF, INC.
14 N 937 US HWY 20
HAMPSHIRE, IL 60140
(847) 683-4653

And congratulations to **Paul Schaefer, CGCS** of Prairie Isle Golf Club on achieving his recertification with GCSAA in January.

.....
Roger Johnson has a new business card—ROJ Turf Equipment is Roger's new company, which handles T.I.P. Inc. products as well as Buffalo Turbine, LLC offerings. Congratulations and best of luck to Roger.

.....
A belated welcome to the mainland goes to **Dan Mosblack, CGCS** who made the move from Janesville Country Club up there in the hinterland to Klein Creek Golf Club.

.....
This just in: Billy Casper Golf last month took over operations of Water's Edge Golf Course (**Jason Lemanski** superintendent), replacing the previous management team of Kemper Golf.

.....
Sadly, Midwest Irrigation lost a true friend last month. Ken Holthaus, who was an integral part of growing the irrigation industry and developing the techniques used today in design and installation of irrigation systems passed away on February 1st. Ken began his career with Midwest in 1965, and worked there until shortly before Christmas of 2009, and truly enjoyed his associations with all the golf course superintendents with whom he worked. Condolences to Ken's family and friends, and to the folks at Midwest Irrigation.

.....
In happier irrigation news, Rain Bird Golf has announced that Rain Bird Services Corporation of Illinois/Wisconsin is the new distributor for their golf product line. RBSC has a sales team of talented individuals (and familiar faces) in **Scott Pace**—District Golf Sales Manager, and **Kevin West**—Golf Senior Sales Specialist, who have a combined 35 years of irrigation experience. Congratulations to Scott and Kevin, who might finally be nearing the end of answering the question, "What's going on with you guys?"

.....
Sometimes all the schooling in the world still can't make a person smart. Case in point, **Rusty Stachlewitz**, noted MSU alum and scholar extraordinaire recently decided that it would be a good idea to go swimming. Outdoors. In Michigan. In February. Alright, there was motivation for this craziness—the Stanton Polar Plunge, which took place on a brisk 20-something-degree day last month, was a fundraising event that benefited Special Olympics Michigan, a cause Rusty is near and dear to. He survived, with the only battle scar being some expected shrinkage (which he fears may be permanent), and he thanks all his MAGCS friends for their donations.



Rusty and friends prepare for the plunge...



There are no words for this. None.

.....
Your association's president took a plunge of a different kind recently. **Scott Witte, CGCS** and his wife Sue were one of two competing couples in a pilot for a potential television series called "Kitchen Rivals," where the competitors enjoy a dish prepared by a professional chef, are then given all the ingredients that went into the dish, and then must recreate the dish using their culinary skills. And there's a catch—one extra ingredient that was not in the original recipe is added to the cart, and they must also figure out which it was and not use it. But don't trust me for the details—go to www.kitchenrivals.com and click on About the Show in the bottom left corner and have a look. By the way, the Wittes won, and Scott claims his chili cookoff victory from last year was the impetus that drove him down this road to culinary success.

.....
The 16th of this month brings Dr. Peter Dernoeden of Colorado State University to Midwest Golf House for the MAGCS March monthly meeting. Dr. Dernoeden's topics will cover "The Nature of Dollar Spot and its Management: Research Meets Reality" (1.5 hours), "Managing Greens Under Summer Stress" (1.5 hours), and "Tenacity: A New Herbicide for Golf Courses" (45 minutes). Following his presentation and lunch, CDGA's **Keith Rincker, MS** and **Dr. Derek Settle** will present the results of their various research plots on Sunshine Course. GCSAA Education Points have been applied for, so make plans to attend.

.....
The February issue of GCM had a nice article by **Dr. Tom Voigt** and Dr. Zac Reicher called "When Ornamental Grasses Aren't," about the tendency of many ornamental grasses to

aggressively grow beyond their intended sites, and the control measures available to curb them. Check out pages 84 through 90 to find out the exciting results.



Dr. Tom Voigt

Please support our advertisers.

They help get On Course to your mailbox each month.

If you're gearing up for another season of golf and all the anxiety that chasing that little white ball around inspires, Srixon may have just the tonic for that bubbly-gurgly feeling you get while standing over a 5-foot putt (no reference to **Tim Scott** intended here). The company's new yellow-green Z-Star golf ball "has a slight green hue to it, and studies of color have shown that the color green tends to produce a more relaxed state of mind," according to media and public relations manager Keith Patterson. This would explain my 2-handicap on the range tee versus my 22 on the course, no doubt.

Don't forget the International Golf Course Equipment Manufacturers Association's Virtual Trade Show on the 18th through the 20th taking place on your desktop, laptop, net-book, smart phone, or any other thing you can connect to the internet. Event partners Jacobsen, John Deere, and Toro along with many other exhibitors will take part in this three-dimensional trade show floor with booths that will have links to expanded, downloadable information on products and services. Likewise, each exhibitor will have a live representative available for chat and Q and A sessions 24 hours per day throughout the duration of the show. This sounds pretty cool. And inexpensive!

As March transitions us back to our real world, and the winter's snow gives way to the green grass of spring (hopefully), we look back upon winter with fondness for the opportunities it afforded us, whether to recharge our batteries, take that vacation, check out the show in San Diego, or whatever diversions we were able to enjoy. We are constantly finding ourselves answering the age-old question, "What do you do in winter?" with the stock "Plan for next season, assess last season's programs and tweak them for this coming year, catch up on continuing education, evaluate personnel performance, etc. etc. etc." as a reply. While these are all perfectly true, it is also true that we are able to do the things that we cannot find the time to do during the golf season. With that, let's pay homage to winter's blessings—and the great things it allows us to do... Some of us don't have to stray very far from home to find things to do in

winter, like the group of MAGCS members who formed a hockey team aptly named the Grassholes. Although the games were late at night, and the scores were typically not in their favor, they had more fun than the other guys and looked better doing it.



The beginnings of Grassholes go way back, with the original goalie being rock-solid, except for a weak five-hole.



But then **Harry Lovero** took over between the pipes and goaltending for the Grassholes was never the same again.



(continued on page 20)

Some guys found their winter diversion right in their own back yard, like **Dr. Derek Settle** at Sunshine Course.



Others found that getting away was their elixir, whether to head south to laze in a hammock on a tropical isle,



or to head north for a big ol' snowmobile trip, getting all psyched to hit the trails . . .



or in this case the trees.



Hard to imagine what these helmets are protecting in this group!



Some guys, like **Dan Murray** do really strange things like lifting up very heavy trees with one finger...

