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In advance of our first golf meeting—the traditional 4-person scramble event to be held at Naperville Country Club and hosted by Tim Anderson and Steven Biehl—we offer our sincere thanks to the sponsors whose generosity make it all possible. The sponsors for the April 27 event are:

Arthur Clesen, Inc., Burris Equipment Company, J.W. Turf, Inc., Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Syngenta, BASF, Water Well Solutions, PHP, Layne-Western, and Pendelton Turf Supply. If you bump into any of these folks, please remember to thank them for their support.

.....
This Just In: This is pretty important stuff, so please read it even though there are no pictures. GCSAA is urging its members to take action and push for passage of recently introduced legislation (HR 872) to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) to clarify that additional Clean Water Act (CWA) permits are not required for pesticide applications made in accordance with FIFRA. You can write your US Representative (without even knowing who your US Representative is) by following the prompts at gcsaa.org. By doing so, you will be encouraging your Representative to re-establish the legal primacy of FIFRA over all

pesticide uses, as well as inform the EPA and the courts that Congress did not intend for other environmental laws to overtake FIFRA by creating duplicative regulatory burdens. The letter is already written—all you have to do is click on it and type in your name and hit “Send.” Here’s how to access the letter: Go to gcsaa.org and log on. At the bottom of the main page is a tab called “Advocacy.” Click on it, then “GCSAA Legislative Action Center,” then “Legislative Alerts and Updates.” Once there, click on “Take Action Now!” at the bottom and fill in the required boxes. It sounds like it’s complicated—and I probably made it much more so than it really is—but it’s really quite simple and takes like a minute to do. The form letter is even editable so you can add your own personal touches. Again, this has the potential to affect your operation, so take the minute to do something about it. Now! You can read the rest of the magazine afterward.

.....
Did you do the aforementioned thing? Yes? OK, then read on. And for your reward, here’s a picture. **Jan Jarvis** deserves all the credit for finding this in the Tribune. Not really sure what it is, but it sure bears a striking resemblance to **Rusty Stachlewitz** in some kinda drag-type get-up, no? Or maybe he’s just really excited about the new tulip bulb varieties fresh outta Amsterdam.

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Rusty Stachlewitz

Billy Casper Golf, which has over 120 golf facilities in its portfolio recently held its annual corporate conference at the World Golf Village in St. Augustine, FL, and some of our MAGCS members and courses stood out at the 2010 awards ceremony. Taking top honors, **Jeremy Turton** of George Dunne National Golf Course was named Superintendent of the Year, and in the "Top Performer of the Year," Highland Woods Golf Course in Hoffman Estates (**Jason McIntyre, CGCS**) took the cake. In the coveted "ACE the Guest Experience Award," Chick Evans Golf Course (**Beau Breunig**) was the winner for superior guest service. Also walking to the podium was Orchard Valley Golf Course (**Matt Senatra**) for the "Food and Beverage Operation of the Year" award. Congratulations to all of you on your success.

Is it just me, or does anyone else wonder when watching "The Wizard of Oz" if a certain Executive Director/Editor for this very association may have had a previous life as a scary flying monkey? Anybody else? Anybody?



Still not convinced? I wasn't either until we unearthed this long-lost photo of him at his desk working on an old issue of Bull Sheet.

Ed note: There is no way I would ever wear a hat like that, the jacket maybe - the hat, no chance.



Attention Rain Bird users: You can now purchase Rain Bird products directly from the factory by utilizing the new Golf Online Store. This direct-to-golf course pilot program was launched in our area last month, and can be accessed by going to <http://golfstore.rainbird.com/>.

It's that time again—the time to snap photos of your golf course dog(s) and submit them to TurfNet for its "2012 Superintendent's Best Friend Calendar" presented by BASF. Fourteen photos will be used for the calendar, but even if yours doesn't make the final cut, all owners submitting photos for consideration will receive a Tuff Balls pull toy courtesy of BASF. Also, all dogs will be included in the online slide show which is cool. To nominate your dog, email high-resolution photos to Laura Salinas (lsalinas@turfnet.com) and include the dog's name, age and breed, photographer's name, owner's name, phone number, email address, and the name of the golf course where the owner and dog work. And your mother's maiden name. Deadline is July 30th. Good luck.

Thank you to **Mike Mumper** and Arrowhead Golf Club for hosting last month's MAGCS meeting on the 1st. Dr. Mike Fidanza and Dr. Derek Settle provided the day's education, and the AGC staff provided the great lunch. Also thanks to the day's sponsors, who were:

Arthur Clesen, Inc., Burris Equipment Company, J.W. Turf, Inc., Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, and Syngenta.

CAGCS Forum Review by Chuck Barber:

The annual Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents Forum was held on March 9th at Naperville Country Club. Many thanks to our host Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG, NCAA, ASPCA, CPA, CMAA, AARP, WKRP and Naperville Country Club. The day's education began with John Miller, CGCS, of the GCSAA's Great Lakes Region Field Staff.

John discussed much of what GCSAA is doing for you these days which includes:

- Member engagement through the field staff
- A new job board for improved employment assistance
- Faster flow of information for stakeholders (members)
- Streamlining and improving the GIS
- New education opportunities

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Of particular note is the amount of revenue the GIS draws for GCSAA. Without that particular source of income dues for a SM and Class A member would be around \$3000. \$330 doesn't sound so bad anymore. John also drew some attention to some government and public policy issues including the waterway pesticide application permits we all need to have, immigration reform issues and some ADA compliance updates. Mr. Miller was knowledgeable and is eager to be active within the Great Lakes region's chapters so long as they're not in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan which doesn't really exist in his estimation (the UP wasn't on his map of the region, and actually still isn't: <http://www.gcsaa.org/chapters/default.asp>).

Next up was Dr. Frank Rossi of Cornell University. His beginning topic started out as a discussion of 'sustainability' which is used incorrectly much of the time. It means different things to different people. Dr. Rossi will certainly make you think about the nature of much of what we, as superintendents, do. Some of the touch points included:

Emissions – We have a dramatic impact on CO2 and Nitrous Oxide emissions. The goal should be to emit less! Apparently it IS possible to get 18 pounds of carbon out of 8 pounds of gasoline. Bob Maibusch, CGCS MG has the math.

Soil testing – The good Doctor suggested soil tests overestimate demand and underestimate supply. Those in

attendance may recall the Potassium discussion which took a significant amount of our time that day.



Dr. Frank Rossi

Aerification – Making a hole, regardless of the method, is crucial. Pulling a core is messy and perhaps unnecessary.

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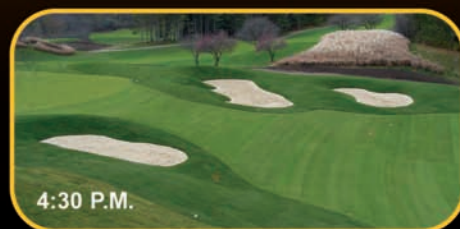
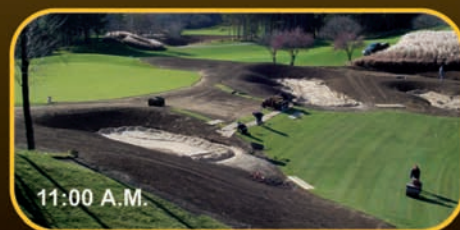
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Irrigation – “Golf Course Superintendents suck at watering”. That’s a direct quote. The point being that auditing is important, monitoring is critical and supplies should be protected. BTW, the quote was later recanted once the gentlemen from Naperville Country Club spoke up about their watering habits.

Dr. Rossi talked about climate change, pathogenicity and pathogen’s response to climate change, and water and energy supplies in the future. The point being golf course superintendents need to begin learning to do the job while minimizing inputs of EVERY kind.

The food at Naperville Country Club is awesome. Those of you not in attendance missed a great lunch.

- Dr. Rossi moderated an afternoon round table forum featuring some of Chicagoland’s finest superintendents.
- Dave Radaj, CGCS from Green Acres Country Club in Northbrook
 - Michael Heustis of Chicago Highlands Club in Westchester
 - Mike Sauls of Butler National Golf Club in Oak Brook
 - Don Cross, CGCS from Skokie Country Club in Glencoe (figure that one out)
 - Tim Anderson, CGCS/MG from Naperville Country Club in Naperville (that’s better)



Don Cross, CGCS shares the trials of 2010 at Skokie Country Club.

Topics in the moderated forum included ice damage, snow mold, flooding, Pythium injury, ‘brews’ of tank mixes and the like. The takeaway lesson was that we’re all trying to achieve the same goals and each superintendent has unique ways of achieving those goals. Don Cross has lots of problems at Skokie Country Club, by the way (He was the only one on the panel that has *Poa annua* on, in, and over his greens). That much was clear.

Thanks to Tim Anderson, Steve Biehl and Dan Marco for a terrific day.

Congratulations to Jenny and **Brian Racette** (Lincolnshire Country Club) on the birth of their son Zac last month.



Zac Racette

OK, it’s spring and all, and we are dying to get out and start the season and all, but sometimes you just gotta grab the reins and say “Whoa there big fella—step back and think this over first!” Maybe topdressing wasn’t the best idea for this particular course at this particular time. Of course, they can always topdress the ruts to smooth them out...



Bruce Williams, CGCS has added another accomplishment to his long list of them. He is now International Correspondent Bruce Williams after having attended the China Golf Show last month. In its infinite wisdom, *Golf Course Industry* magazine made Bruce its foreign correspondent for the event, and he provided daily reports of the goings-on in Beijing, which many of you should have received electronically. Thanks for the insight, Bruce, and if you need a valet to schlep your bags or shine your shoes for any future foreign forays, I’m your fella.

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Another MAGCS member and past president of GCSAA was seen in the pages of one of our trade mags recently. *Golfdom's* January issue featured an article by John Walsh titled "A View of the Top" and included insights from four past presidents—one of whom was **Tommy Witt, CGCS**—about the benefits of serving their association. Tommy's reflections on his presidency included an important bit of knowledge that anyone considering a run on an association board should heed—have the full support of your employer before embarking on this venture. There are time and travel demands associated with board membership, and employers must have full knowledge of this and give full approval for it. Good stuff from Mr. Witt.

GCM magazine has long been at the social media forefront of the golf course management industry, with the longest-running blog (From the Desk of GCM) and the longest-running Twitter account around. Now they've taken the next logical step, and can be found on Facebook—look for it at www.facebook.com/GCM_Magazine.

Shane Ritchie at Schaumburg Golf Club is looking for an interim equipment technician to fill in for this season. Interested parties can contact Shane for more information at 847-534-3075.

Classifieds:

For Sale: 2 Halsey free-standing water coolers/drinking fountains (model #SCWT8AQ 1G) and one Elkay wall-mounted water cooler/drinking fountain with Flex Guard. All are in good working condition. Price for the set is \$100 OBO. Call Brendan at Bryn Mawr Country Club at 847-677-4112.



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EDUCATION REVIEW

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*

March Meeting

The MAGCS Members met at Arrowhead Golf Club for the March Meeting, Mike Mumper hosted the event. Dr. Mike Fidanza from Penn State was the featured speaker for the day.



Dr. Fidanza's first topic was "Update on Spray Application Technology". Lately there has been more and more scrutiny on spray applications and Dr. Fidanza did a great job of explaining why. The products are becoming more expensive and there are concerns from communities and environmental groups. It is more critical than ever to attempt to maximize product performance.

Dr. Fidanza went into depth and I thought it would be easiest to list some potential failures for disease control and opportunities to improve product performance that he discussed:

Fungicide Resistance-Tactics to Reduce the Risk

- Rotate different modes of action
- Use preventative applications
- Proper timing is important
- Avoid at risk fungicides with single site mode of action
- Alternate mode of action strategy (Vargas)
- Use research based information for products and chemistry (www.buckeyeturf.osu.edu)
- If you suspect resistance contact distributor, university, manufacturer, CDGA

Calibration – Is Your Sprayer Properly Calibrated?

- Nozzle spacing
- Boom height
- Pressure
- Nozzle type and output
- Ground speed

Application of Water Volumes

- Fairway recommendation is 1 gal/m
- Green recommendation is 2 gal/m
- Water Carrier Volume- is your spray volume appropriate for desired area and product being used?

Targeting Pathogens

- Do you have the proper product at the appropriate rate?
- Is your target foliage, roots or plant crown?
- Are you using a contact or systemic product for the correct target?

Nozzle Selection

- There are many new better types featuring some new technologies
- Change nozzles for precision applications (fungicides vs. herbicides)
- Common errors include: worn nozzles, misalignment, droplet size
- Best droplet size: medium to coarse

Other Notes

- Viscosity of solution important
- Maintain proper pressure range. Ideal range 30-60 PSI
- Avoid too large droplet size = poor coverage
- Spray carrier pH is important. Most pesticides are stable in the 4-6 range and may begin to decompose in solutions greater than 7.

Dr. Fidanza's next topic was an "Update on Fairy Ring Biology and Control". Dr. Fidanza recently wrote an article on this topic published in the USGA Green Section in March 2009.

Fairy ring is an organism in the soil. It has become an ongoing problem in turf, especially in putting greens. Symptoms usually include; mushrooms, green rings, dead unhealthy turf, drought or water stressed indications. There are three types that all colonize organic matter:

Type 1 has severe kill or injury.

Type 2 has dark green rings.

Type 3 is when mushrooms are present.

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Dr. Fidanza had some great slides of examples of fairy ring. He has found that surface venting helps disrupt fungi. There are many labeled fungicides on the market. He cited that many work and many fail and he is uncertain why. He does know that fungicides seem to work best when a surfactant is added.

Dr. Fidanza's Four Step Program for Fairy Ring

Use cultural practices to disrupt fungi in soil include spiking and venting. Keep the soil profile moist; don't allow the soil to dry out. Thatchy and low fertility areas are more prone to outbreaks or displaying symptoms.

Apply soil surfactants. Attempt to alleviate hydrophobic symptoms. Minimize wet and dry cycles. Apply surfactant, then fungicide or tank mix. Water in thoroughly.

Apply fungicide to attempt to control pathogen. 2-4 gallons of water per thousand for fungicide application is recommended. Post irrigate to move the fungicide into soil.

Repeat if necessary. This should be done on a case by case basis.

Dr. Fidanza concluded his presentations with "What Happened in 2010?"

In 2010 the abiotic type stresses were magnified. It was a lethal combination of the weather with high temperatures, high humidity, high soil temperatures and proliferation of every pest imaginable. Issues that complicated turf growth included: shade, drainage, fertility, pests, thatch, mowing injury, turf species and sometimes over management. It was one of the hottest years on record. Crabgrass took advantage of the spring rains. We had many days over 90 degrees. Optimum ranges for turf growth were exceeded.

Soil temperatures are more important than air temperatures for plant physiology; wet soil is hotter than dry soil. Short mowing heights, wet soil excessive nitrogen levels and shade became problems.

Pythium was a large factor in turf decline. Bentgrass, ryegrass, *Poa annua* and *Poa trivialis* are all very susceptible to this disease. Infection is very rapid. *Pythium* kills turf. It affects leaves, crowns and roots. Typical pathogenic conditions favor hot and humid weather. Temperatures greater than 68° at night prolonged over 14 hours are "prime" conditions for outbreaks of *Pythium*. Turf that has lush growth from excessive nitrogen applications is more prone to the disease. *Pythium* is more likely on slopes that collect water or turf areas that are slower draining.

Cultural management for *Pythium* includes: keep it dry, improve drainage, prune trees, and use fans to circulate air flow, avoid mowing wet turf and avoid excessive nitrogen applications. There are many products for control and the phosphite products are becoming more popular. Dr. Fidanza recommends making adjustments for 2011.

Dr. Derek Settle took to the podium for the final presentation of the day "Hello 2011, A Research Review".

Dr. Derek Settle, CDGA Director of Turfgrass Program, gave a brief overview of research projects ongoing at the CDGA Sunshine Course where Chris Painter is the Superintendent and Tim Sibicky is the Manager of Turfgrass Research and Internet Communications.

The majority of the turfgrass research focuses on disease control. The Sunshine Golf Course is used as an outdoor laboratory. Current trials include: turf varieties, fungicides, herbicides and established turf.

Dr. Settle reminded us that the CDGA Scouting Reports would begin soon. The Scouting Reports include data from the Sunshine Course and outpost golf courses. Derek also to reminded everyone to attend the upcoming Field Day on September 22 at the Golf House. **-OC**



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What about Bob?

Last month I was fortunate enough to travel to Lawrence Kansas with Bob Kohlstedt, your Vice President. The reason for the trip was to attend the GCSAA Chapter Leaders Symposium. Each year the GCSAA conducts this two-day event for the chapter leaders and chapter executives to share ideas, focus objectives and learn about association management. There were 24 chapters represented by the 44 attendees at this year's event. It was a good experience for the both of us as we learned from other chapters and the GCSAA how to make MAGCS better. Thank to the Robert M. Williams



TETA and MAGCS

Four years ago the Midwest and TETA partnered to help the struggling Technician's Association. TETA had difficulty publishing their newsletter in a timely fashion and the Midwest offered them *On Course* as their platform to reach their members. At the time TETA increased their dues by \$30 per member and each one of them became Class D(T) members of MAGCS. The moneys collected, were paid to MAGCS each year to cover the cost of printing and mailing the added magazines and directory. In late February of 2011, TETA decided to pull out the partnership with the MAGCS citing difficulty in reaching *On Course* deadlines and not enough flexibility with our publishing workflow.

Team Building Event

Last year, in lieu of a board gift (usually a golf shirt or other token of thanks) the Board conducted a team-building event at Cantigny Golf Club. Scott Witte, CGCS was host to the group and spouses for this event. It included a tour of the McCormick museum and dinner for those in attendance. This year, the Board is planning a similar event to work in conjunction with a strategic planning workshop for the Association.

Commercial Membership

Are you doing business with a company that is not a member? Do you think they might benefit from membership within the Midwest? I bet they would. Membership forms can be printed off the website, or new members can join right online. Membership has its privileges.

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