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**Brandon Burns, Weed Man-Arlington Heights**

Brandon Burns, former GCS Twin Orchards CC, IL  
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If you would like to chat with a **Weed Man Lawn Care Franchise Career Consultant**, please feel free to contact Terry Kurth at (608) 798-1490 or email him at [takurth@gmail.com](mailto:takurth@gmail.com). Terry is a former Golf Course Superintendent and still a member of the GCSAA and WGCSA who has built multi-million dollar lawn care franchise locations.

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Terry Kurth, **Weed Man Career Consultant** (and a former GCS) 2211 Eagle Dr, Middleton, WI 53562

## MIDWEST BREEZES

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



### GENTLEMEN, START YOUR HOSES

This year's summer has been a little different than last year. It's been a tale of two seasons. 2010 was hot and wet and 2011 has been hot and dry (until recent record rainfalls). Irrigation systems have already been put to the test. Any gaps in sprinkler coverage have been identified. Frequent sightings of brown turf areas have indicated poor irrigation coverage. Daily checks for clogged nozzles and non-turning sprinkler heads have become routine. Worn nozzles have needed to be replaced. Wetting agents have been applied preventatively and curatively in chronic hydrophobic areas. This has been the year to see how efficient your irrigation system has been. Irrigation water quality can become a factor. Maybe it's time for an irrigation audit. Even the newest irrigation systems with state of the art control require the hand held hose to fill in the gaps. Bottom line given the choice, most Superintendents would prefer to be able to control the amount of water going down on the turf and the hand held hose gives the Superintendent the ultimate control.

On the surface, hand watering with a hose seems like an easy task. Just plug in quick coupler and fire away, right? Not so, hand watering is actually more difficult than it may seem. If we're talking about precise control then just the right amount of water is very important. If not enough water is applied in the morning then by mid-afternoon the desired area can become "baked out". If too much water is regularly applied, then the area can become overly soft and possibly infested with algae or prone to disease or mower injury. It takes a "trained eye" and years of experience to learn and see specific stress areas and be able to identify other potential areas before they become problematic. Different soils such

as sand based greens or tees require different amounts of water than clay or loam based turf. Soils can vary from hole to hole. Irrigation coverage is only so effective and at that point the hose becomes the deciding factor to fill in the gaps.

I spoke with a few Superintendents who we'll refer to as "Hosers" or "Men of Rubber". They use these hoses daily and have become attached to them to the point where they are on a first name basis and have personalized quirky names for them. One Superintendent named his hoses, Hose A and Hose B. Another named his Yorick, after the Shakespearean character. Another interesting name for a hose was Curious George and then another was even called #@\*^%&!! These hoses go out in the morning and then again in the afternoon as needed. Some hoses have special trailers with reels that have electric driven retrieval and others are manually hand cranked. Some are even just unceremoniously "hucked" into the back of work cart. A fully charged, 100 foot, 1" hose at 80 P.S.I. is very heavy to handle is not for the weak. You have to lean into it and use your full body to keep steady. I once let my young son Daniel help me out hand watering and he went for a "ride". A charged hose on the loose can be quite dangerous, kind of like an out of control cobra. By the end of the watering shift you can feel it in your arms and you know you did some work. The seemingly, thankless hose becomes the final piece of the irrigation puzzle defense against wilt and drought. A big "shout out" goes to the Crewman who assists in this process. It can mean the difference between life and death of the turf. Thank you Hosers. **-OC**



## THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



# August 2011

### DATES TO REMEMBER

August 1-6 – 109<sup>th</sup> Western Amateur at North Shore Country Club in Glenview, IL, **Dan Dinelli, CGCS, Jerry Dinelli** hosts.

August 6 – MAGCS Family Night Picnic and Kane Country Cougars game at Elfstrom Field in Geneva, IL.

August 7 – Deadline for nominations for GCSAA's John Morley Distinguished Service Award.

August 17 – Deadline for applications to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Syngenta Business Institute being held December 5-8 at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC.

August 22 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Golf Championship at Bowes Creek Country Club, **Brad Legnaioli, CGCS** host.

September 12 – CAGCS Annual Founders Cup at Onwentsia Club in Lake Forest, IL, **Scott Vincent** host.

September 19 – Annual Wee One Foundation Golf Outing at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI.

September 22 – iTurfExpo 2011 at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.

October 3 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual College Championship at Merit Club in Libertyville, IL, **John Nelson** and **Arne Nordenson** hosts.

October 4-December 16 – Fall session of Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station on the campus of Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ.

October 21 – Illinois Golf Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies at The Glen Club in Glencoe, IL. MAGCS' own **Paul Voykin** will be the 5<sup>th</sup>-ever golf course superintendent to receive the honor of induction at this event.

Congratulations to **Kurt Sams, CGCS** of Idlewild Country Club, and **Tom Tully, CGCS** of Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa on recently achieving re-certification through GCSAA.

Great news from the **John Ekstrom** family—it got bigger last month. On July 18<sup>th</sup>, baby Emma joined the crew, arriving at a healthy 7 lbs., 12 ozs., and 18.5" long (or is it tall?). Congratulations Ekstroms!



This headline was recently seen in print. "Hunter Adds Rotor for Synthetic Turf Use." Anybody else besides me confused?

(continued on next page)



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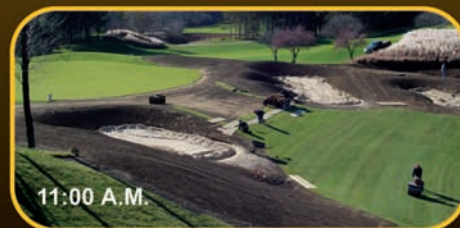


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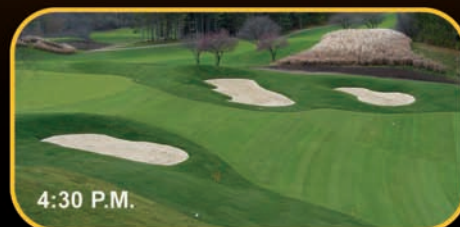
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The Four Sandbaggers of the Apocalypse—the most successful team to represent MAGCS at the GCSAA Championship and Golf Classic over the past MANY (shall I go so far as to say countless?) years was caught on spy camera at a recent CAGCS meeting. Team 4, featuring **Al Fierst**, **Don Cross**, **Bob Maibusch**, and **Tommy Witt** have really raked in the pewter plates, and REALLY wanted to flash the “Vee for Victory” sign to gloat about it, but arthritis is such a cruel mistress.



.....  
 Congratulations to **Steve Schendel**, who is the new Vice President/Agronomist in the Midwest for Golf Maintenance Solutions, who oversees the maintenance of over 120 golf courses throughout the country. Steve will be based locally, but will also assist in other regions as needed. Good luck to you, Steve.

.....  
 GCSAA is looking for help. The position of Managing Director of Marketing & Business Development has been created to grow and develop revenue opportunities while enhancing and improving the positioning and image of the GCSAA brand, and is open for qualified candidates to apply. More information about the position and qualifications can be had by contacting Katey Tryon or Mary Heideman at (816)822-1976, and resumes can be sent in confidence to [gcsaa@tryonheideman.com](mailto:gcsaa@tryonheideman.com).

.....  
 It seems more and more golf facilities are hosting July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks shows, doesn't it? And really, what more perfect setting could you ask for? Guests can plop their blankets down on finely-manicured turf, watch the spectacle from a much closer vantage point than the typical city or municipality show, and IF there is a mishap at the launch site, high-pressure water from a 1-inch hose is always close at hand. Those are the nights we pray for the wind to blow in the direction that will carry the shrapnel off property, for the no-vandalism gods to smile upon us, for our crew's alarm clocks to work the following morning, and for the dang parents of all those dang kids to tell them that those are NOT beaches!



But even with all the work and cleanup required, it's still worth it isn't it?



.....  
 Have you heard about the \$500 million golf course that's going to be built? Dutch Docklands, a player in the world of floating technologies has announced plans to build a golf course on the ocean in the Maldives, an island group in the Indian Ocean. There are lots of courses on the ocean, right? So why is this one so expensive? I'll tell you why—the concept is a series of manmade islands each with one or more holes on it, linked by transparent underwater tunnels through which golfers walk or ride to the next island. If you've been to the Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans you get the picture. The course is expected to open in 2015, and Troon Golf has already been signed on to manage it. By my estimates, it will become profitable in the year 3214.

.....  
 BIG superintendents should have BIG trucks. **Andy Weadge** satisfies both criteria.



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 (continued on page 18)



The July 13<sup>th</sup> edition of USGA's Regional Updates featured Mid-Continent Region Agronomist **Ty McClellan**'s observations on practice tee abuse and how we can avoid the typical lack of turf in mid-summer that is so typical in our area. Ty cited the practice facility at the Village Links of Glen Ellen and the data that superintendent **Chris Pekarek** has come up with. On their 1.25-acre tee, Chris estimates that 2 million practice shots are taken annually, with 1.5 million resulting in turf removal. The average size of a divot is 3" wide by 6.5" long, or 19.5 square inches. Therefore, 30 shots—a small bucket of balls—removes 4.1 square feet of the turf, so over an entire season, 205,000 square feet, or 4.6 ACRES of turf are removed from a 1.5-acre tee! It's no wonder we have trouble keeping turf on our practice tees, huh? Ty's article focuses on ways to mitigate the damage and one way he mentions is encouraging golfers to use the "linear method," by which each shot taken is from the spot directly behind the last divot, leaving a "line" of removed turf. By his calculations, this method removes only 2.1 square feet per 30 shots—around half the "scatter" or "leave a big hole" methods (I've taken the liberty to name these methods myself by the way). Not only does this method reduce the amount of turf removed, it also allows for quicker recovery by letting the surrounding turf creep into the void while the seed germinates (or tries to). As the guy who reseeds and resets his practice tee every day, I found this to be some very useful information—thanks Ty and Chris for putting it out there.

.....

This month's MAGCS member/celebrity look-alike features two guys with four first names. **Greg Martin** Luke Donald is all that's needed to be said. See it?



For the 2012 GCSAA Education Conference to be held February 27 through March 2 in Las Vegas, fifteen new seminars have been added to the lineup. Among the topics are some interesting titles such as "Environomics—Blending Environmental and Financial Stewardship for the Modern Superintendent," "Cool Season Putting Green Improvement—Changing Species or Cultivars, Interseeding, or Regrassing," "So You Want to be a General Manager?" and "Turning Your Greens Green Using Turf Colorants." It's in Vegas, so there'll be other stuff to do, too.

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Last month on the 12<sup>th</sup>, the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing and Scholarship Fundraiser was held at Marengo Ridge Golf & Country Club in Marengo, IL. The day was perfect weather-wise, and the course, thanks to host superintendent Luke Roth was magnificent. One of the funnnnest events of our season, the "Buck" features a scramble format in the most relaxed atmosphere you can imagine. And there's a nice steak dinner after golf that tops the day off in high style. Special thanks to the folks at J.W. Turf for the awesome job they do every year with this great event, to the ladies who manned the tee games, and to Marengo Ridge for being such a gracious host.



(continued on page 21)




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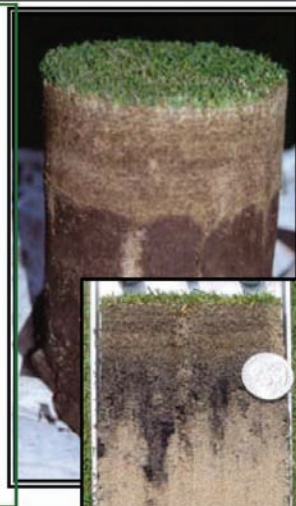


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