

by, think of this: "A perfectly maintained golf course is a golf course where the man has got for every dollar he has spent a dollar's worth of goods." Hawkins, H. 1935.

Each year, the GCSAA invites you to attend the national conference weighing the benefits to you and your employer. "Your visit to Chicago the week of March 21-26 is conclusive evidence that you are keeping in step with the times." An Open Letter To Every Greenkeeper in America, John Morley, 1927.

The Midwest has offered its membership the opportunity to openly share and exchange ideas, practices and principles as it relates to the art and science of greenkeeping. "One of the best ways to get rid of some of the headaches or problems that have come along is to visit your fellow greenkeepers. I can safely say that if a man will ask a few questions and keep his eyes open, he will invariably come away with an idea which he can adapt to advantage at his own course." Hawkins, H. 1935.

The advent of our Association, based upon the principles that are still alive today, changed forever the game of golf. Like women that won't share their meatball recipe for fear of, I'm not really sure – trade secrets were the name of the game as the "old timers" guarded their turf knowledge from those entering the profession. Their experiences based upon trial and error gained them the upper hand when growing grass, setting up a golf course and maintaining conditions throughout a season. There were a number of things that converged at the time to change the practice of greenkeeping forever.

On December 24, MAGCS will celebrate its 85<sup>th</sup> year in existence. I hesitate to call it a birthday, because it wasn't really born or an anniversary because we don't celebrate it every year. I would suggest it to be a milestone that represents two key facts. One, the Midwest has been valued enough by its members to still be a viable and valuable entity and two, it has survived because its members accept and often drive progress.

Certainly, there are things that are no longer troublesome on the golf course, such as wagon ruts or large rocks sticking through the turf. (If you have one – make a fire on top of it to heat it and then douse it with water and watch it crack to pieces, learned that from Martin Rasmussen, greenkeeper from St. Paul, MN 1928.) And no one ever worried about rebooting a computer or a virus that infected records back then, but the profession is still as important and honorable to the game of golf today. To the next 85 years! **-OC**

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## THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



# December 2011

### DATES TO REMEMBER

December 1 – Non-member registration opens for GCSAA's Education Conference in Las Vegas, NV.

December 5 – Annual South Side Superintendents Holiday Party at Die Bier Stube in Frankfort, IL.

December 9 – Annual West Side Superintendents Holiday Party at Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge, IL, **Don Ferreri and Dave Gelino** hosts.

December 12-16 – OSHA 30-hour Outreach Training Compliance Course at the Butterfield Office Plaza Building in Oak Brook, IL. Info can be found at [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com).

December 14-15 – ITF 2-Day Winter Education Program at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.

December 15 – Application deadline for the 2012 USGA Green Section Summer Internship Program.

January 17 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Wee One Fundraiser at Seven Bridges Golf Club—still in Woodridge, still hosted by Don Ferreri and Dave Gelino, and still REALLY close to Tilted Kilt. Just sayin'.

January 26-28 – 59<sup>th</sup> Annual PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando, FL.

February 24-26 – GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic in Palm Springs, CA.

February 27-March 2 – GCSAA Education Conference in Las Vegas, NV.

February 29 – MAGCS Hospitality Reception at the Hard Rock Café at 4475 Paradise Road in Las Vegas, NV from 7:00 pm til 10:00 pm.

February 29-March 1 – Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas, NV.

Welcome back to an old friend—the EPA has approved American Vanguard Corp's PCNB fungicide for use on golf courses after a years' absence from the market.

Congratulations to the new MAGCS Board members for 2012. The vote took place at the MAGCS Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club (**Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** host) last month, and your Board of Directors is comprised of these dedicated individuals: President **Bob Kohlstedt**; Vice President **Mike Mumper**; Secretary/Treasurer **Dave Groelle, CGCS**; Directors **Chuck Barber, Matt Harstad, Dave Kohley, Matt Kregel**, and **John Nelson**. **Dan Sterr** is now your Past President while **Scott Witte, CGCS** has completed his Board service. **Jim Keith, CGCS** did not seek re-election. We thank these gentlemen for their commitment to our great organization, and wish them all the best in their tenure as board members.

Make sure to mark your calendar for the January MAGCS meeting being held at Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge (Don Ferreri and Dave Gelino hosts). Not only will there be a very valuable education program conducted by the Illinois EPA on the new NDPES permit process as it pertains to the golf industry; but it will also feature the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wee One Fundraiser event that includes a sponsored bar and a silent auction where our MAGCS vendors' goods and services can be bid on all for the great Wee One cause. Don't miss this great event on January 17!

(continued on next page)





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Art Clesen, John Anderson, & Lisa Tomsheck

Best wishes to **Chuck Barber** in his new position as golf course superintendent at St. Charles Country Club. Chuck was previously superintendent at Indian Lakes Resort.



Chuck and Tina Barber

.....

Congratulations to Thunderhawk Golf Club on reaching its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Illinois' first certified Signature Sanctuary through Audubon International. The Lake County Forest Preserve golf course is overseen by **Mark Petitgoue** and course superintendent **Tom Abbott**, who registered in

the Signature Program in 1996. The Signature Program was created in 1992 as an opportunity for landowners and developers to benefit from a comprehensive approach to environmental planning and protection during the design, construction, and long-term management of a new project. Since its inception, 92 projects have been built using low-impact development (LID) guidelines, best management practices, and experience gained by Audubon International staff in working with these projects. Thunderhawk exemplifies these qualities, maintaining 33% of its overall property as turfgrass, with 57 acres of native prairie, 32 acres of wetlands, and 74 acres of woodlands. Oh, and it also appears perennially on just about every golf publication's Top Ten list of municipal golf courses, which is nice. Great job guys.



Mark Petitgoue



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It was nice to spot **Ty McClellan** in a recent issue of *Golfdom* magazine. Ty, who is not only a MAGCS member but is also our USGA Green Section Agronomist, was featured in an article titled "College Memories," where *Golfdom* readers reflected on some of the great turf programs in the nation (Ty's being Kansas State University). They never called me—go figure.



**Ty McClellan**

Rush Limbaugh is known as a conservative. **Kevin West** works for RainBird, whose mission is to conserve our most precious resource—water. Conservative? Conserve? Is there a possible connection here? Rush West?



**Rush Limbaugh and Kevin West**

GCSAA wants you to know that its Chapter Team Competition has been reformatted and is bigger and better for 2012. For the upcoming event, whether you compete in the National Championship or the Golf Classic, you can also opt into the Chapter Team Competition where 75% of the entry fees will be paid back to the winners. For example, in 2011 there were 55 teams in the competition, equating to a total purse of \$4,125, or \$2,062.50 each to the winning net and gross team. In addition, thanks to support from The Toro Company, the new "Chapter Payback Program" will reward every chapter with \$200 for each member who registers that has not played in the event in the last two or more years, and there are no

limitations to the number of competitors a chapter can recruit or how the chapter can use the funds. Simplified version: A bunch of MAGCS members that haven't played in the golf thingie in a while play in it this coming year means Bull Sheet guy gets a new snowmobile. Sign up today!

Also in regard to the Conference, a new mobile app is available for your smart phone called Golf Industry Show Connection. This app pretty much puts everything about the show in the palm of your hand, including show alerts, downloadable exhibitor brochures, an interactive map, calendar, education info, and even local merchant coupons and discounts. Download it at [www.golfindustryshow.com](http://www.golfindustryshow.com).

Best of luck to **Paul Bastron**, who has joined the Chicagoland Turf team, serving as its sales rep in the Milwaukee area market. Congratulations Paul!



**Paul Bastron**

Also with a new address is **John Ekstrom**, who has accepted a position with Bernhard and Company, who manufactures grinding and sharpening equipment. John will handle sales and technical support for the company's Midwest and Northeast territories. Congrats John.



**John Ekstrom**

Condolences to **John Maguire** and his family on the passing of John's mother Mrs. Jeanette "Jay" Maguire last month. Please keep the Maguire family in your prayers.

(continued on page 17)



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GCSAA recently announced it is adding more value to your membership by providing all webcasts at no charge. Webcasts will be available at no cost to members with no limitations on quantity for both live and on demand education events. Nonmembers will continue to be charged \$60 for access.

Why stop there? In its recent trend of being Mr. Nice Guy, GCSAA has relaxed its Certification requirements to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program, allowing members to apply for certification immediately upon attaining Class A status. The additional requirements of having one year as a Class A member and 5.0 Education Points have been removed.

And finally, due to continued demand among GCSAA members, the Plant Management Network (PMN) has extended its 50% first-year discount off Applied Turfgrass Science (ATS) subscriptions through December 31<sup>st</sup>. GCSAA members can receive a first-year subscription to ATS and four other turf-relevant resources for \$20, nearly half the already discounted \$38 rate. To subscribe, visit PMN's subscription page, click on the "\$38 subscription" button, and use coupon code Turf50 during checkout.

This just in—John Deere Golf is out of the irrigation business. On November 18<sup>th</sup> the company announced that Signature Control Systems will sell its golf irrigation products through its own distribution network, including select John Deere Golf distributors worldwide. Under terms of the agreement, irrigation sales will no longer be a part of the John Deere Golf portfolio, but the company will support customers who have its systems on their properties.

The 59<sup>th</sup> Midwest Turf Clinic and Annual Meeting was held last month on the 16<sup>th</sup> at Medinah Country Club with **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** hosting (as well as speaking). Kicking the day off was **David Marquardt's** invocation followed by a rousing (and rapid!) rendition of our National Anthem by **Jan Jarvis**. President **Dan Sterr** gave a brief recap of the year's events, pointing out that MAGCS member children have received over \$52,000 in scholarship money since the program's inception, and the Wee One Fundraiser in January of 2011 raised over \$41,000 for that great cause. Before proceeding with the education portion of the day, our 25-year members were recognized, who were **Greg Coyne, Kevin DeRoo, Gary Hearn, and Henry Michna, CGCS**. The morning education presentations were moderated by **Brian Placzkowski**, assistant superintendent at Royal Melbourne Country Club, who introduced speakers Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS who spoke on Ryder Cup preparations, followed by Tim Moraghan who talked about everyday championship agronomy. After elections and a really good lunch, the hardware was passed out. **Luke Cella** presented the Ray Gerber Editorial Award to **Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG** for his article "Shoot the Elephants First," and followed that by bestowing the Fred Opperman Editorial Award upon **Greg Martin** for his article "Ratings and Rankings: Let's Start by Stopping." Next up was President Sterr again, this time to present the coveted (and dare I say much-deserved) President's Award for Meritorious Service to a VERY unsuspecting Bull Sheet Editor.

Amazing what twenty bucks buys ya these days. Onward we went, with afternoon moderator **Shane Conroy** of Park Ridge Country Club introducing **Paul Vermeulen**, and then bringing Tim Moraghan back onstage for a "Pardon the Interruption"-esque Q and A between Paul and Tim, and emceed by Chuck Barber. The keynote address was ably delivered by "Old Uncle Fuzzy," or Doug Buffone to the non-Score listeners, who gave his unique perspective on all things Bears (as well as his thoughts on Packer fans). Some highlights included "If you spend 5 minutes talking to Lovey Smith, you'll lose your will to live," and about Lions QB Matthew Stafford, "He couldn't hit a bull in the ass with a banjo." With the long day nearly over, the last order of business was the introduction of new president Bob Kohlstedt, and the passing of the gavel from Dan to Bob. A great day it was, with some unique and compelling education and great camaraderie throughout. Many thanks to Curtis and the people at Medinah for hosting, to our moderators and presenters for the invaluable roles they played, to the education committee members who worked tirelessly to stage such a production, and finally to our sponsors without whom the event would not be possible. Thank you to **Arthur Clesen, Inc., BASF, Bayer Environmental Science, Burris Equipment Company, Chicagoland Turf, Great Lakes Turf, LLC, Harris Golf Cars, John Deere Golf, JW Turf, Inc., Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc., Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Pearl Valley Organix, Reinders, Inc., and Syngenta**.



(continued on page 18)





**Dan Sterr takes care of business running the Annual Meeting and wrapping up the year in review.**



**Doug Buffone wrapped up the day with a keynote address to the crowd when the Bears still had a chance to do something this year.**



**Brian Plackowski, Asst. of Royal Melbourne moderated the morning session.**



**I think it is the flag in all these pictures that makes these gentlemen do a lot of hand waving, pointing and promising. Bob Kohlstedt makes his first presidential motion, ending the Annual Meeting.**







Two of the newest Past Presidents, Dan Sterr (l) thanks Scott Witte, CGCS as he completes his formal service to the Midwest. Thank you Scott.



-OC



Dan Sterr awards witty "Bull Sheet" Editor John Gurke, CGCS who couldn't think of anything to say upon winning (that could be printed).



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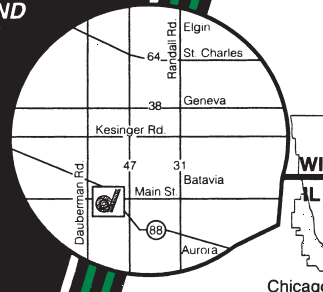
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