

The Lesson: You can NEVER over communicate

Mike used to talk about going to Board meetings and facing 'the music' for whatever was happening outside on the golf course that he felt was bothering the membership at that time. This was usually things like: green speed, green speed and green speed. I joked that he should wear his glasses (for those of you who haven't seen them, they are thick enough, I think, to see into the future) for surely no one would yell at someone wearing glasses. Mike's response was: "How about you go & yourself".

The Lesson: A sense of humor is a good thing

It might sound like a bad place to work from hearing these stories. At the time I might have agreed somewhat. Life can only be understood backwards but must be lived forward. Looking back I never learned more, I was never given the opportunity to do more, I was never given that much responsibility, I was never asked to be a leader before, I was never more aware of a larger picture. Many people ask me what it was like to work at Butler National and what it was like to work for Mike Sauls. My answer has been the same since the day I left. I tell people: "Mike Sauls is the best golf course superintendent I know. Working at Butler National is only as difficult as you make it on yourself". I use these lessons and many more in the way I do my job today and they will stay with me for the rest of my career. In my time at Butler National, Mike Sauls taught me a great deal about golf course management, working with memberships, peers, vendors, and the crew but to NEVER lose sight that family comes first. I try and emulate that today now that I have a family of my own. Thank you, Mike, for the chance to learn these things and I am glad the membership of Butler National Golf Club has recognized Mike today for the work he has done for the club for the last 22 years. It is my understanding that Mike and Errie Ball are the only employees to win this award. I don't imagine we'll see Mike mowing rough here at Butler when he's 99 years old! Thank you.



Mike's known as a man of few words, apparently the two imprinted onto the outing balls are a favorite with the membership.



The other side of the ball had Mike's pic on it, not sure why anyone would want to strike that side of the ball.

OK, I'm back now. Don't forget to sign up for the 11th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing which takes place on July 12th at Marengo Ridge Golf & CC (**Luke Roth** host). This event is always a blast with its 4-person scramble format and its post-golf feast, and benefits not only the MAGCS Scholarship Fund, but also the NWIGCSA's and the Kane County Farm Bureau's funds. Call J.W.Turf at 847-683-4653 to sign your team up.

As a public service, we offer the following helpful hint so you may hopefully avoid this...



When you repeatedly haul a heavy piece of equipment around a bouncy, bumpy golf course, and are usually going too fast to try and stay ahead of play, you may want to check the tow hitch periodically for signs of stress or fatigue before a catastrophe occurs. Tow-behind turbine blowers are another susceptible item (not that I would have any personal experience with that—I'm just sayin')

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The ITF /MAGCS Spring Golf Day was held at Briar Ridge Country Club in Schererville, IN on May 24th with **Erwin McKone, CGCS** hosting. This time Mother Nature cooperated with a glorious, albeit blustery day. The format was a two-person best ball with match play Ryder Cup scoring, pitting the evil black team against the virtuous white team. It came down to the last foursome and the White Team prevailed.

Many thanks to Erwin and the staff at Briar Ridge for a great golf course and a great food spread afterward. And of course, thank you to the day's sponsors who made it all possible: **Syngenta** (Driver Sponsor), **Dirt-n-Turf Consulting** (Iron Sponsor), **D&K Products, Arthur Clesen, Inc., BASF, Reinders, Inc., and Dow AgroSciences** (Wedge Sponsors), and **Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc., and The Andersons** (Putter Sponsors).



Dave Behrman and Dave Schingel.



Drs. Bruce Branham, Tom Voigt and Mr. Scott Witte share a laugh at the ITF/MAGCS Play day.



Brian Racette and Kurt Sams crossed the boarder to enjoy the day.



Joel Purpur and Dave Milosheff readying to play Briar Ridge.



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Smooth swinging ITF Board member Brian Mores (l). Kevin DeRoo trying to start the wave by himself after Barber's tremendous golf shot. (R)



Shane Conroy and Nick Marfise of Park Ridge Country Club.

What do you know? Witte wins another raffle.

John Nelson is such a good superintendent/golfer he can replace his divot before he even completes his swing.





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MAGCS current champion, Dave Kohley attempted to advance the ball as John Neslon explains to him the finer points of replacing your divot during your swing as they search for the ball again.



ITF's Past President Don Cross was able to pick up a Purdue memento at the Pro Shop at Briar Ridge. Dr. Voigt pretended to be amused.



Still hiding something, Erwin addresses the group as the current president of the ITF.

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If you have the urge to serve your industry, there is no better way than to serve it at the highest level. GCSAA is accepting nominations for the 2012 Board of Directors until July 5th. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting in Las Vegas next February. If you are interested, contact Luke Cella who will in turn submit your name to the nominating committee for its review.

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Erwin McKone shows off his coveted framed copy of On Course and is hiding something.

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So it's a shame that our winter sports teams have bowed out of the playoffs, and there will be no championships to celebrate this summer. There is an upside, though—since the Blackhawks made their premature exit from their defense of the Stanley Cup, it gave them the opportunity to get out on the links earlier than last year. This was a BIG upside for **Scott Witte, CGCS** at Cantigny Golf Club when he ran into Bryan Campbell and Jonathan Toews at his course recently. They REALLY look young next to Scott, don't they?



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WE ARE GOLF, a coalition led by five of the game's leading associations—including GCSAA—and supported by a wide range of industry partners, met with key members of Congress in April as part of the fourth annual National Golf Day. The five founding associations are GCSAA, the Club Managers Association of America, National Golf Course Owners Association, The PGA of America, and the World Golf Foundation. Among those in attendance was **John Ekstrom** of Hinsdale Golf Club who, in his role on GCSAA's government relations committee, and acting as *Golf Course Industry* magazine's correspondent on Capitol Hill prepared and sent his Daily Dispatches from Washington D.C. Great job by John on keeping us updated on the proceedings.

Did you catch the article in April's *Golfdom* magazine about the Reinvention of Mark Woodward? You will recall Woodward, the former CEO of GCSAA left his post under some cloudy circumstances. Well, after reading the article (which I had hoped would shed some light on the subject), the whole thing still seems cloudy doesn't it? I guess we file this whole episode along with Big Foot, the Loch Ness Monster, and Area 51—there's a story there and that story is that there is no story. Enough said on this.

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EDUCATION REVIEW

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*

Control Your Water, Control Your Results



The April MAGCS meeting was held at Naperville Country Club with Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG as the host. Larry Lennert Territory Manager for Aquatrols made a presentation, "Control Your Water, Control Your Results".

Statistics reveal that by 2013, 36 out of the 50 States within the United States will experience water shortages and overall increased demand. Water use efficiency will become a more and more prominent issue.

A Great Lakes Water Compact was created in 2008 to bind States bordering the Great Lakes and Canada with water use restrictions. The Compact specifically limits diversions of water outside the Compact area. It requires eight States and Canada to develop water conservation programs. Regulations will be coming our way soon and Best Management Practices (BMP) will be required.

Golf courses need to use water to irrigate turf. There is no escaping that fact. What we can do is attempt to become more efficient with our water use.

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- Minimize under watering and over watering
- Grow healthier turf
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2. Irrigation precipitation rate less than soil infiltration rate
3. Irrigation to bring root zone to field capacity
4. Uniform infiltration and distribution of applied water

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