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Congratulations to **Beth Whitehouse** of Dow Agrosiences and Zachary Duschack who were married on April 9th. Time for some new business cards!



OK, let's get this out of the way right now so I don't offend anyone else or incite an ASPCA high alert: The squirrel didn't die—it was just playing possum with that dog.



Right after the photo was taken, it got up, said "hah hah" to the dog, and gallivanted back to its wonderful life in the trees. Same thing with these geese, who hatched their brood of poop machines and lived happily ever after (and tasted awesome).

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.....
 Congratulations to **Dave Radaj, CGCS** of Green Acres Country Club on his recent recertification with GCSAA.

Syngenta's turf carbon calculator tool, which is designed to help golf course superintendents and other professional turf managers establish the total carbon footprint for their respective operations has a name now—it is now known as GreenCast EcoMeasures, and is part of a joint effort between Syngenta and Marriott Golf while it has undergone testing on selected Marriott golf courses in the U.S. and Caribbean markets.

In early April, GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans announced the beginning of an "open test" of the redesigned website and new forums product. The goals of the test are to put the site and forums into use so that any glitches or needed improvements can be identified, and to give you the opportunity to become familiar with them before they are officially launched. The current website is still the primary site, but you can access the new site by clicking the icon on the upper right hand corner of the home page. I did it. It's fun.

Also from GCSAA, you can renew your membership online by following these easy steps: Log on to gcsaa.org, click the "Renew Now Online!" button in the upper right corner (I don't get the exclamation point either), update your contact and business info, enter your credit card info, submit your renewal, and check your email for payment receipt. Piece of cake.

This is just the kind of thing that makes us all want to ring a golfer's neck, isn't it?

Oh, wait—that's not a golfer, it's a superintendent, and superintendents are allowed to do that. On their own courses. Which in this instance is Indian Lakes Resort. Where **Chuck Barber** is superintendent. Just sayin'.

A February court ruling by a DuPage County judge makes playing golf for us hackers, sprayers, slicers and hookers a little less nerve-wracking. In a nutshell, a guy hit a big hook while playing at St. Andrews Golf & Country Club in West Chicago that left the property and hit a woman on the head while she was out in her adjacent yard gardening. The woman sued, claiming the golfer was negligent by failing to properly aim and execute the swing of his golf club. The suit was dismissed because, among other things, a golfer cannot be held negligent for a ball that veers from its intended path (which would create *prima facie* liability that is not the law in Illinois), and there is inherent risk in living adjacent to where golf is played. Hack on.

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of **Steve Partyka** of White Pines GC on the loss of Steve's father Edward Partyka on April 4th at the age of 84. Ed had been the superintendent of White Pines for 50 years prior to Steve's taking the reins, and was a longtime GCSAA and MAGCS member.

H.R. 872, the federal bill to negate the need for Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) pesticide general permits for aquatic pesticide applications has passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a 292-134 vote. This good news was made possible thanks to the 650-plus GCSAA members who participated in the action alert

(continued on next page)

last month. There is still work to be done, as the bill needs to be passed by the Senate and signed into law. Keep tuned in for updates, and make your voice be heard when the opportunity presents itself.

.....
Nice April, huh? April 18th, 3,582 miles southeast of Dutch Harbor, Alaska on the 156-acre Park Ridge Country Club, superintendent **Joel Purpur, CGCS** took this photo from his wheelhouse...er, clubhouse.



And while on both subjects (Joel and the obvious allusion to "Deadliest Catch"), am I the only one who wonders how Joel juggles his superintendent responsibilities, his world-famous hobbies and pastimes, AND has time to narrate all those Discovery channel shows AND sell Fords on the TeeVee AND star in "Dirty Jobs?"



That's one busy guy.

.....
So the USGA people have been busy too. After exhaustive studies on use of the word "green," they have at long last reached a determination. Green is a noun and has two proper golf meanings. The first meaning is chiefly of Scottish origin—it simply defines all territory of a golf course, or all areas outside the confines of the clubhouse. Thus, it can be used in relation to all outdoor areas of a golf course. The second meaning, most readily known to modern audiences, means the area of short grass surrounding a hole. In keeping with the first meaning, a greenkeeper is someone whose responsibilities entail maintaining all areas outside the clubhouse. They also concluded that in most cases of using the



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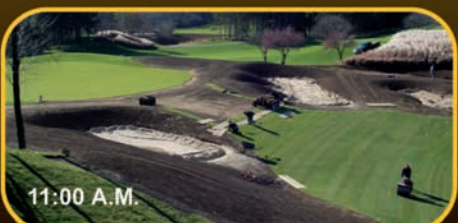


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word green in golf terminology, the use should be singular. Green fee, greenkeeper, green committee, and of course USGA Green Section are all correct uses. In no way does green refer to any particular color found on a golf course. So now that's all straightened out.

.....
It seems like a year ago, but wasn't that Masters Sunday a hoot? At one point I think six or seven guys were tied at -10. **Scott White** (Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Golf Club) was one of the fortunate MAGCS members to make the trip down this year (by car no less). Unfortunately, Scott's young son Jackson could not make the trip; but he got to experience the next best thing—his Curious George doll went in his stead, and word is he had more fun than a barrel of monkeys. Looks like Augusta has really loosened the entry requirements, huh?



.....
Congrats to Idlewild Country Club's **Kurt Sams, CGCS** on being the winner of a painting of a scene at Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club and Lodge in Orlando, FL, presented by Arysta LifeScience. Kurt won the painting by entering a drawing at the Arysta booth at the GIS in February.

.....
Anyone who does not receive the weekly CDGA Turf Scouting Reports is really missing out. Dr. Derek Settle, Tim Sibicky, and their dedicated contributors put together a very useful and informative tool that is delivered to your computer every Friday throughout the season. To start receiving these reports, go to the new website www.cdगतurf.org and click on the subscribe button. It's FREE!

The National Golf Foundation held its fourth annual Golf Business Symposium in conjunction with its 75th anniversary in Chicago last month, with a host of issues being addressed. Among the items they worked on were: Generational Risk in Golf, The Geography of Golf, State of the Industry, and the Image of Golf. Crazy fun was had by all as you can imagine.

.....
Our sympathies go to Jim Reed and his family on the passing of Jim's mother Ruth Reed on April 15th.

.....
Got Roseman mowers? Brad Roseman, the grandson of Joe Roseman is searching for a few of his grandfather's Roseman mowers. If your facility has any, please contact him at 847-445-6660. He is trying to preserve a little bit of history before it winds up in the scrap pile.

.....
-OC



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MAGCS IN MOTION

Steven Biehl, *Naperville Country Club*

To Blog or Not to Blog

Communication seems to be a never-ending task at many clubs. Soon after I started at Naperville Country Club, Tim and I began discussing how we could be more effective at communicating information to the members. I knew what a blog was and what it was capable of, but had never created one. We looked at examples of other superintendent blogs, and then became bloggers ourselves.

Due to the versatility of the blog, we hoped it would become our primary forum for the members. Previous to the blog, the formal communication of the green department existed of a few paragraphs in the monthly newsletter and a bulletin board in each locker room. Those outlets rarely provided the adequate length or versatility necessary for the topics we inform our members about. With the blog, we utilize however much space we need and can include pictures, videos and links of related resources. Likewise, the member can get as involved as they choose. They can subscribe to receive new postings through email, comment or just check in to read the latest posts.

We have found more to like than dislike about maintaining a blog. It has become very easy to make a large amount of information available to the entire membership. As we expand the blog's uses, it keeps getting easier. Along with the blog, we have created accounts through Twitter, TwitPic, YouTube and utilize the club's Facebook page. By utilizing the RSS feed of the blog the information we post is automatically posted on Twitter, and the club's Facebook page. With a phone smart enough, we can take a picture while on the course, write a sentence about it, and send the picture and text to the blog as an email where it will be uploaded as a new post. The RSS feed will then send the new post to anyone subscribed to the blog, our Twitter account and the club's Facebook page, all before we can get back to the office.

What started out as just a blog has turned into an entire social network for the green department. We had not anticipated the blog to be anymore than an avenue to provide members with information. Along the way, the blog has become part of a network of golf course management blogs where superintendents share information about each one's respective maintenance practices. Because of this, the decision to make the blog private or public should be made before the blog is created. If it is available to the public it can be utilized



to move internet traffic to a club's website through Search Engine Optimization (SEO).

Through it all, we still only have a small percentage of members who visit the blog on a regular basis. That number is slowly increasing as we utilize a wider range of resources on the internet. The next step we are taking is to provide a touch screen computer in the locker room that will be set to display only the blog and act as an interactive bulletin board. Whether communicating through a blog, email, or face-to-face, there needs to be two halves working together. With the blog we feel we are continuously improving our half.

Blog examples

Friday, April 22, 2011

WET WEEK FOR THE COURSE



The rain didn't want to stop this week. We had 0.70" on Saturday morning, 0.80" on Monday morning, 0.68" on Tuesday morning, 0.26" this morning and almost 0.20" since we have been at work today. Thankfully it looks like the bulk of the rain will be missing us to the south. Our total for the week is still a little more than 2.5".

(continued on page 29)

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As I mentioned earlier, most of our time this week was spent on getting our bunkers in shape. This involved trimming and pulling weeds around the edges, moving sand to provide a uniform depth and finishing up with a thin layer of fresh sand. The bunker on the left was done and ready for a fresh layer of sand.



Here is a picture of the guys adding a fresh layer to the green side bunker on 9.

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

WORK ON THE POND AT 11 TEE



Last season you may have noticed a spot between the cart path and pond on 11 was beginning to show a sink hole. This spring we dug it up to find out exactly what the problem

was. There is a pipe that moves the overflow for the pond to a concrete tank underneath the cart path. From there the water move out of the tank into another pipe that moves it to the pond on 17. After it was dug out, the underside of the metal pipe that was in the ground had completely rusted out and soil was being washed from around the pipe into the concrete tank.



The hole was dug out and a new pipe was put in place.



We were not able to get the repair completed before a rain event set us back a little.



After the rain, we needed to dig around the pipe again to prepare for more concrete to seal the pipe to the concrete tank and to hold the pipe in place. **-OC**





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