



Oh @#%*! Why couldn't I have been a flying squirrel?

MAGCS member **Brian Widmer, CGCS** was one of TurfNet's featured bloggers recently in its Turf Blog Aggregator. The Hilldale Golf Club superintendent used his blog to inform his golfers about the "Half and Half" greens aerification program they've been employing for the past four years, whereby they punch half of each green to leave the other half pristine for cup locations, and then punch the other half after the first half has healed.

The Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents held a really cool meeting on October 26th at the Morton Arboretum, with Dr. Kris Bachtel providing the day's education. Kris talked of Emerald Ash Borer, structural pruning and training of young trees, along with a wide variety of related topics while guiding a tour of the arboretum grounds and maintenance facilities on a blustery October day. Among the highlights of the day was learning that our own northern Illinois tree nurseries are among the BEST at producing quality stock due to their diligence with pruning during the trees' crucial developmental stages. A few fun facts: The Arboretum has 1,700 acres of property, and it IS the same Morton family that got a little famous for their salt. Thanks to Kris and the Morton Arboretum for a great day, and the the brain trust at CAGCS to think of going there.



Fall golf course fun—feel free to send me some of your images as well. We owe our goose-free courses (and in many instances our sanity) to our four-legged friends, so let's do them some justice for their efforts.



La la la la eating my nuts la la la la
on this safe golf course la la la la...

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As mentioned in Dates to Remember, the deadline to apply for the 2012 USGA Green Section Summer Internship Program is December 15th. Each year the USGA provides the opportunity for 14 to 17 students to travel with members of the Green Section staff on Turf Advisory Service visits for one week between May and August. The goal is to provide students with a broader view of the golf course industry and help them learn about golf course maintenance through the perspective of the Green Section agronomists. If you know of a college student who'd be interested, contact Kimberly Erusha, Ph.D., Senior Director, USGA Green Section at 908-234-2300 or at kerusha@usga.org.

GCSAA has its new Chief Operating Officer! Richard Konzem, who has more than 30 years of management experience, primarily in college athletics, has been named to the position, and started his tenure on October 17th.

Apparently even with our economy going to **pot** and development **stonewalled**, there's still value to be found in golf course closings—at least in Cheltenham, PA. Charlie Patterson, a local farmer, was caught growing over 250 marijuana plants on the grounds of the former Cedarbrook Hill Country Club, currently nothing more than a **weed** patch. He had elaborate alarms and even an irrigation system installed; but alas, some nosy neighbors took the **high** road and notified police of their suspicions, landing old Charlie in the **joint**.

The Musser International Turfgrass Foundation has launched a website—www.musserfoundation.org—to make information about the group's mission and graduate student award program easily available to all interested parties. Check it out.

Retired MAGCS member Dick Trevarthan, CGCS has something you might be interested in: He is selling his 1979 Cushman Haulster, which has been in storage since his retirement in 1996. The truckster is in excellent condition, with a great engine and no body damage. The asking price is \$1,350. Give Dick a call at 815-919-2487 or shoot him an email at rtrevartha@aol.com.



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-OC

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EDUCATION REVIEW

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



iTurf Expo 2011

The 2011 iTurf Expo was held at the CDGA Golf House, in Lemont. It was geared to be a little more than a Field Day and continues to be a "work in progress" trying to respond to the ITF Members needs and desires. Chris Painter and his staff had the Sunshine Course in great shape. Dr. Derek Settle had the turf plots well marked, defined, and set up for the attendees to do their own evaluations, ask their own questions and get a "hands on" learning opportunity.

The day started out with coffee and donuts and networking among attendees and all present. Silent auction items were on display by various vendors. University of Illinois Extension was on site and hosting a "Rate the Annual" competition of flowers planted throughout the site to see, evaluate, and choose the preferred plants. They were available to answer questions about growing habits, flowering trends and future hybrid varieties.

At the signal of a horn, groups were divided up and then spread out onto the Sunshine Course to hear presentations by some of the top pathologists, agronomists and researchers from the Midwest.

Some Research Presentations included:

- "Selective control of creeping bentgrass and other weeds for golf course roughs." Dr. Aaron Patton, Purdue University
- "Using preventative DMI fungicide applications for control of fairy ring and other turf diseases." Dr. Lee Miller, University of Missouri.
- "Everything Dollar Spot." Dr. Jim Kerns, University of Wisconsin.
- "Waitea Gone Wild – Research Experiences of Early Summer 2011" and "Testing Newer Fungicides For Disease Control on Golf Greens." Dr. Derek Settle, CDGA
- "Multi –State Evaluation of Dollar Spot Susceptibility in Creeping Bentgrass Cultivars." Tim Sibicky, CDGA
- "Sustainability Using LIST – Low Input Sustainable Turf: Zoysia" and "Relative Aggressiveness of Zoysia Types in Northern Illinois" Dr. Ken Diesburg
- "Response of Turfgrass to Urea-Based Fertilizers Formulated to Reduce Ammonia Volatilization and Nitrate Conversion". Shelby Henning, University of Illinois
- "Late Fall Turf Management and Imprelis Update," Dr. Bruce Branham, University of Illinois

The stops were short and interesting and we kept on the move from site to site. Each site had something to see and something to learn.

A delicious lunch was served by the always friendly staff of Cog Hill Golf and Country Club.

After lunch, festivities included games and raffles for prizes. Almost everyone got a free ITF golf shirt.

The Superintendent and Vendor turn out for the iTurf Expo was a little "light". The weather was nice so why the small turn out?

I spoke to Dr. Derek Settle about the current state of research in general. "Research continues to expand, the demand is strong. It has been unaffected by the recession. Companies are continuing to develop new products and research is needed to bring these products to market. A strong sign was the number of confidential plots featuring new chemistry that we had on site today. If you look around most of the industry leaders are here."

Erwin McKone, current ITF President and Superintendent of Briar Ridge Country Club had this to say: "The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation was founded as a not for profit fundraiser for the University of Illinois Turfgrass Program. The importance of the ITF is to continue to select and fund independent research for real world problems that aren't tied to company product based research. This fits in with the concept goal of the Big Par 3 contest. It is a new way to fund research that truly benefits the end user, the golfer – and allows them the opportunity to become educated and take part in the funding of turf."

Look for more educational events coming this winter hosted by the ITF. **-OC**



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