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THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



APRIL 2012

Did you catch the last page of the March issue of *GCM*? You know, the page called The Final Shot where they feature a photo taken by a GCSAA member of his or her golf course? The one I'm talking about was taken by Chase Bonnell, assistant superintendent at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove, IL (**Jeff Vercautren** superintendent), and it is a spectacular photo of the course on a frosty November morning. Mmmmm. November...

You can catch another MAGCS member gettin' all into the media thing by checking out Valent's website which features a video starring **Henry Michna** (Winnetka Golf Club) as he discusses his successes with the company's Tourney fungicide. The video was done in an "evening news breaking story" format, and Henry nuttered it! Go to www.valent.com and start clicking stuff til you find it.

On March 25th **Brian Bossert**, CGCS of Bryn Mawr Country Club ran in the Ocean Drive Marathon in Cape May, New Jersey. That's cool all by itself, but there's more to the story. The initiative of the event was to raise money for the Global Impact Fund's "Water for Thirty Thousand" program which aims to provide water treatment plants to underdeveloped areas. They are very close to their first treatment plant being operational in Karachi, Pakistan, a city of 16 million people. In Pakistan, 630 children under the age of 5 die **each day** due to dirty drinking water. Brian and his wife Pam are asking for any assistance you are able to provide in helping them raise \$5,000 to purchase 1,000 5-gallon jugs to be used by

(continued on next page)

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 18 – National Golf Day.

April 19 – Northwest Illinois GCSA monthly meeting at Swan Hills Golf Club in Belvedere, IL.

April 23 – Wisconsin GCSA monthly meeting at Geneva National Golf Club in Lake Geneva, WI.

April 25 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Spring Scramble at Naperville Country Club, **Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG** and **Steven Biehl** hosts.

May 6 – J.W. Turf's annual equipment auction at their facility in Hampshire, IL.

May 14 – Wisconsin GCSA monthly meeting at Trappers Turn Golf Club in Wisconsin Dells, WI.

May 15 – Northwest Illinois GCSA monthly meeting at Mendota Golf Club in scenic Mendota, IL, Steve Wolf host.

May 19 – CDGA's 4th Annual Golf Marathon benefiting its charitable arm—the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation—at Zigfield Troy Golf Course in Woodridge, IL.

May 21 – ITF/MAGCS Golf Day at Twin Orchard Country Club, **Kyle Jacobsen** host.

May 22-27 – 73rd Annual Senior PGA Championship at Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor, MI.

May 25 – Deadline for submissions of 2012 MAGCS Scholarship applications. Applications can be found at www.magcs.org in the Events tab.

June 19 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Blackstone Golf Club in Marengo, IL, **Andrew Perry** host.

July 10 – 12th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing and Scholarship Fundraiser at Bartlett Hills Golf Course in Bartlett, IL, **Kevin DeRo** host.

July 14 – MAGCS Family Night Picnic and Kane County Cougars game at Elfstrom Field in Geneva, IL.

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Brian Bossert

.....
 Congratulations and welcome to Scott Bordner, the new superintendent of Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton. Scott takes over for **Jon Jennings**, who left for the East coast and the lure of hosting a U.S. Open championship. If Jon lets it get to his head, will he get Shinnecocky? Ba-doom-boom.

GCSAA recently announced that GCM, its industry-leading publication, is going global. Beginning in May, GCM China will be delivered digitally in Mandarin, or simplified Chinese. Always loved those little oranges—especially in Jello. Or even in a nice fruit salad.

Half empty of half full? The February 26th edition of National Golf Foundation's (NGF) Dashboard electronic publication ran the following headline: "Golfer Confidence Index Improving—Rounds Indicator for 2012 Encouraging." On March 22nd, NGF reported "Course Closings Outpace Openings in 2011." In fact, last year saw the closing of 157.5 (wha?) 18-hole golf courses versus just 19 new openings. Yet golfer confidence is encouraging. Hmm. Something doesn't quite jibe here. One of those 157.5 courses that closed—the Center Valley Club in Pennsylvania—got a bit creative when its assets were sold at auction. Along with the standard triplexes, walk mowers, kitchen appliances and furniture, the club sold off 50,000 square feet of bentgrass putting green sod. Selling your greens can leave you feeling like your glass is half empty for sure; but for the buyer, the opportunity to replace worn-out contaminated greens surfaces with pure bent sod would leave their glasses half full, right? Or would it be GRASSES half full?

Great news for **Chad Ball**! The 2013 BMW Championship will be played at Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake Forest. Conducted by the Western Golf Association to benefit the Evans Scholars Foundation, the BMW is the third of four events in the PGA Tour Playoffs for the FedEx Cup and determines the final field of thirty for the Tour Championship at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta, GA. And while we're on the subject of Chad, is it just me, or does he have a REALLY annoying lookalike on that sports channel from out East?

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Chad Ball and Tony Kornheiser



Gary Schweber and Christopher Lloyd

Next month, on May 19th, CDGA will hold its 4th Annual Golf Marathon at Zigfield Troy Golf Course in Woodridge. The event supports the life-changing programs provided by CDGA's charitable arm, the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation, while participants can sharpen their short games and spend a fun day playing 100 holes on the par-3 course. To learn more, or to register, go to www.sunshinethroughgolf.org.

Let's just make it official and rename this magazine *On Dinelli* (for **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** of course). I mean, he's always doing something newsworthy, isn't he? To wit, Links magazine recently ranked North Shore Country Club #2 in its list of Top 10 Green Courses in the country. Thanks to the many environmentally-friendly practices Dan and his staff have incorporated at North Shore, this honor was bestowed on the venerated Colt/Alison/MacKenzie-designed course. Congratulations to Dan, as well as to Jerry and Joe for their great efforts and positive publicity.

So new GCSAA president Sandy Queen has made turf research his priority—a noble and necessary undertaking. Coincidentally, just before the Golf Industry Show, GCSAA announced it will conduct four new research projects in 2012 through the support provided by the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG). The chapter cooperative projects include: Characterization and management of root-infecting Pythium species on bentgrass putting greens in the Midwest (Dr. Lee Miller); Deficit irrigation programs for water conservation in the management of bermudagrass fairways in Texas; Plant tolerance/resistance to annual bluegrass weevil among bentgrasses: Which cultivars are at great risk and which are the best for overseeding/replacement; and Field implementation and educational events to support principles in the manual: Best Management Practices for Protection of Environmental Quality on Virginia Golf Courses. The words exciting and compelling come to mind, don't they?

Andrew Lloyd Schweber?? In this bonus MAGCS member/celebrity lookalike feature, courtesy of Tim Buse of ProGro Solutions, the Christopher Lloyd (in his role in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest") and **Gary Schweber, CGCS** of Rolling Green Country Club (who's just plain cuckoo) combination does make one wonder.

The WE ARE GOLF coalition, comprised by GCSAA, PGA of America, NGCOA and CMAA along with support from various other golf organizations, headed back to Washington, D.C. on National Golf Day (April 18th) to tell its story to policymakers. The goal for this, the fourth year the coalition has gone to our Nation's capital, is to establish equal footing for golf when compared to other small businesses and industries. The stature is sought in a variety of areas such as disaster relief, taxation, employment/labor, regulation of products, etc. More on MAGCS' participation next month.

Keep your eye out for updates from the new and improved Illinois Turfgrass Foundation. The mission of this important entity is to become everything turf in Illinois, from research funding to education programming. Contact **Luke Cella** to subscribe to the new blog found at the new streamlined address—www.iturf.org.

It Happened in Vegas:

News and Notes from the Golf Industry Show

The Golf Industry Show and GCSAA Education Conference made their (arguably) triumphant return to Las Vegas, Nevada from February 27th through March 2nd. Actually, the fun began for many folks before that, when the GCSAA National Golf Championship and Golf Classic was held in Palm Springs, CA from the 24th through the 26th. Our MAGCS participants represented us very respectably, with the following guys making the leader board: In the National Championship, **Justin VanLanduit** took 12th place and **Tommy Robinson** grabbed the 20th spot. In the Affiliate Net, **Paul Carlson** took 2nd place; in the Classic I Gross, **Dave Arden** was 8th, and 4th in the Classic I Net. **Brad Legnaioli** took 2nd and 3rd places respectively in the Classic II Gross and Net; while in the Classic III Gross **Brian Mores** grabbed 4th and **Paul Schaefer** took 11th. In the Classic III Net, the order was reversed with Paul taking 4th and Brian 5th. The Classic IV Gross saw **Steve VanAcker** take 1st place and **Scott Witte** 10th, while in the Net, Steve took 2nd and Scott 3rd—nice job there, boys! In the Senior I Net, **Don Cross** was 2nd and **Bob Maibusch** 6th; while in Senior II Gross, **Tim Davis** took 2nd and **Tommy Witt** 4th, with **Al Fierst** coming in 2nd in the Net side, followed by Tim in 6th and Tommy in 7th. The Super Senior division was ALL MAGCS, with **Bob Kronn** and **Ed Fischer** grabbing top honors of 1st and 2nd respectively in the Gross, and Bob taking 1st and Ed 4th in the Net—well done! In the 4-Ball I Gross, the

(continued on page 17)

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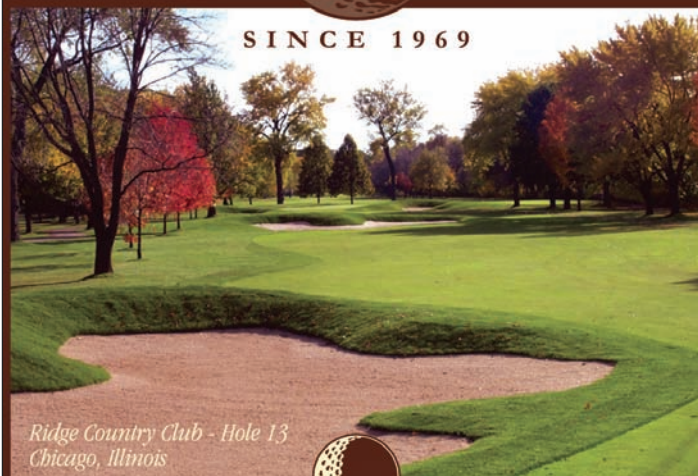
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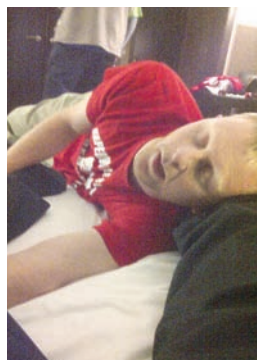
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team of **Dave Kohley** and **Tim Scott** took 1st place honors, and 3rd in the Net. In 4-Ball II, Brian Mores and his partner Chris Thuer grabbed 6th Net and 9th Gross; and in the 4-Ball III Gross, Al Fierst and Tommy Witt were the big winners in 1st place, whereas in the Net they took 3rd, and the Cross/Maibusch squad were 10th. The Chapter Team Gross event saw MAGCS 1 take 4th place (Tim Scott, Dave Kohley, Tommy Robinson, Justin VanLanduit and Bob Kronn); and MAGCS 2 (Steve VanAcker, Tim Davis, Ed Fischer, Paul Schaefer, and Brian Mores) came in 7th. In the Chapter Team Net event, MAGCS 2 came in 2nd, and MAGCS 4 (Al Fierst, Don Cross, Tommy Witt, Bob Maibusch, and youngster Scott Witte). Well done, everyone! After the official golf, many MAGCS members were privileged to have the opportunity to play golf at other notable Vegas-area venues. Whether it was The Donald's famous Shadow Creek, or the just-as-good Primm Valley, the golf and associated camaraderie were second to none, and a perfect lead-in to the conference.



In fact, for SOME people, the golf proved to be REALLY tiring!



This Show was all the evidence I needed to REMEMBER TO REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE IN ADVANCE!! The registration line was brutally long, more than likely due to the last-minute decision by many—this writer included—to attend. Once that process was completed, the show floor awaited, and although it was only slightly smaller than last year's show in Orlando, it seemed MUCH smaller to me.

Attendance figures told the same story—just 66 fewer attendees than in 2011 (although GCSAA points to the 2.6% increase in “qualified buyers” over last year as the REAL statistic in its claim that the industry has turned the corner). So after all that, guess what is on tap for the Golf Industry Show in 2013? I'll tell you—since the Club Managers Association of America's World Conference and Club Business Exposition will take place from February 7-11, and since the GIS will happen from the 4th through the 8th, GCSAA and CMAA have agreed to offer their members access to both general education sessions on a complimentary basis. So the managers and superintendents are gonna get together for next year's show—it's like déjà vu all over again, huh? On a positive note, there were many highlights to this year's Show, including presentations given by Old Tom Morris Award winner Peter Jacobsen who recalled his days as a grounds crew worker, and a really great one delivered by David Feherty that had people laughing and crying all at once. On a more local front, **Don Cross** was nominated for the 2011 TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta, one of only 9 finalists to vie for the honor. Also, the University of Illinois Turf Alumni Association held its annual gathering at the Bahama Breeze, thanks to MAGCS member sponsors **John Anderson** (Arthur Clesen), **Jeff Leuzinger** (Pearl Valley Organix),

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Greg Oltman (GRO Horticultural Enterprises), **Eric Reed** (BTSI), **Trent Severns** (Agrium Advanced Technologies), **Scot Spier** (Arthur Clesen), and absentee **Brian Winkel** (Syngenta), who missed the show recovering from neck surgery. A quick cab ride down Paradise Road was the site of the MAGCS Hospitality Reception at the Hard Rock Café, and it was OUTSTANDING! The venue, the excellent service, and the atmosphere were just the ticket for weary MAGCS members who were in need of an oasis away from the glitz and glamour of the Strip. Total home run hit by Luke Cella for booking the venue, and our awesome Golden Tee Sponsors for their undying support. Ryder Cup Sponsors were: **Arthur Clesen, Inc., Bayer Environmental Science, Burris Equipment Company, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., Reinders, Inc., and Syngenta.** Hole In One Sponsors were **BASF and Lohmann Companies.** Eagle Sponsors were **J.W. Turf, Inc., Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc., and ProGro Solutions.** Birdie Sponsors were **BTSI, Chicagoland Turf, Inc., DuPont Professional Products, H & E Sod Nursery, Harris Golf Cars, Hollembeak Construction, Layne Christensen Company, Lemont Paving Company, Precision Labs, Tyler Enterprises/Masterblend, and Water Well Solutions.** Par Sponsors were **The Andersons, Becker Underwood, Blu Petroleum, Conserv FS, Dow Agrosiences, Dryject Chicagoland, Great Lakes Turf, LLC, Growing Solutions, Inc., Harrells, LLC, Pendelton Turf Supply, Prime Turf, Inc., Rain Bird Services Corp., and Riverwalls, LTD.** Big BIG thanks to all of these companies AND people for a great evening!



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Las Vegas 2012





P.S., if you missed any of the education sessions, you can get the PowerPoint presentations online at www.gcsaa.org by clicking the "View Conference Presentations" tab. And the coolest new thing on the show floor? SCAN4BEER, a smartphone app that allows golfers to place an order with the beverage cart or clubhouse by scanning a mobile barcode fixed to their golf cart. Just my opinion.

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Two Jacobsen LF-128 backlap hoses.	\$50
Husky air compressor—7 hp, 240V, 60 gal.	\$300
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