

ON THE GREEN, "ALMOST" DOESN'T CUT IT.

Jacobsen® Eclipse® 322: the industry's only
100% hydraulic-free riding greens mower.

When we say no hydraulics, we mean it. The Jacobsen Eclipse 322 provides greener operations and less maintenance to lower operating costs by up to 86%. Combined with programmable settings and individual reel control, you're assured perfectly manicured greens every single time. **Determine your course savings using our cost calculator at www.Eclipse322.com.**



www.Eclipse322.com

Burris
EQUIPMENT

www.burrisequipment.com



PGA

The Official Turf Equipment Supplier to The PGA of America and
The Exclusive Turf Equipment Supplier to PGA Golf Properties.
© May 2010, Jacobsen, A Textron Company.

JACOBSEN
A Textron Company

Lakemoor

27939 W. Concrete Drive
Ingleside, IL 60041
(815) 363-4100

Waukegan

2216 N. Greenbay Road
Waukegan, IL 60087
(847) 336-1205

Frankfort

10351 W. Laraway Road
Frankfort, IL 60423
(815) 464-6650

2012 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Bob Kohlstedt, Fox Bend G.C.

VICE PRESIDENT

Michael Mumper, Riverside Country Club

SECRETARY / TREASURER

Dave Groelle, CGCS, Royal Melbourne C.C.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Luke Cella

BOARD

Chuck Barber, St. Charles Country Club

Matt Harstad, Calumet Country Club

Matt Kregel, The Club at Strawberry Creek

Dave Kohley, Silver Lake Country Club

John Nelson, Merit Club

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Dan Sterr, Stonebridge Country Club

COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Eric Nadler, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc.

CLASS 'C' REPRESENTATIVE

Nick Marfise, Cog Hill Golf Course

TURFGRASS ADVISOR

Dr. Derek Settle

EDITORIAL CHAIRMAN

Chuck Barber

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

John Gurke, CGCS

Chuck Anfield, CGCS

GRAPHIC ARTIST

Mark Karczewski

Table Of Contents

www.magcs.org

AUGUST 2012 Volume 66 No. 4



If there is a good thing about a drought it is most of the golfers that come to our properties pull out of their driveways and see their lawns toasted. When they pull up to the golf course, they are amazed at the turf conditions presented to them.

FRONT COVER

The dog days of summer came early this year. Sam (Jake Mendoza's canine) takes a break from all the prep work for the Ryder Cup this summer. Jake's responsibility for the Ryder Cup is being the go-to-guy for every vendor and contractor that are on property for the event. No small task. Photo credit: Luke Cella

ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

3 Making an Impact in This Season

Luke Cella

FEATURES

5 The Summer of 2012

Bruce Branham

9 Employee Training is the Key to Efficiency

Josh Therrien

20 Tyler Carter -N-Kane County Cougars

Josh Therrien

DEPARTMENTS

10 the Bull Sheet

John Gurke

25 MAGCS in Motion

Charles Anfield



The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS), founded December 24, 1926, is a professional organization whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance. We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

The MAGCS member is also an environmental steward. We strive to uphold and enhance our surroundings by promoting flora and fauna in every facet in a manner that is beneficial to the general public now and in the future.

All editorial and advertisement inquiries should be directed to Luke Cella, Publisher, *On Course*. 11855 Archer Avenue, Lemont, IL, 60439. (630) 243-7900 or visit www.magcs.org for rates and requirements. Statements of fact and opinion are the responsibility of the authors alone and do not imply an opinion on the part of the officers or members.

Be Prepared for the Tier 4 Mandate

The Environmental Protection Agency's Tier 4 diesel engine emission reduction mandate will soon have an impact at your course. Beginning January 2013, turf equipment manufactured in the 25 to 74 horsepower category must be Tier 4 compliant.



To comply with this EPA mandate, diesel powered equipment will require more sophisticated engine electronics and exhaust after-treatment systems. The increased design, manufacturing and component costs will make this new equipment more expensive. Contact your Reinders sales representative today to find out how Tier 4 will affect your course. They will help you evaluate various options available regarding your turf equipment needs and purchasing plans.

Reinders

Solutions & Supplies for the Green Industry

3816 Carnation Street | Franklin Park, IL
888.838.5778 | www.reinders.com

COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT SALES

Joe Etten 630.284.8492 | Tim Snell 708.284.8497

Steve Stewart 630.284.8496 | Whitey Anderson 630.251.4832



Count on it.

www.toro.com/tier4



DIRECTOR'S COLUMN
Luke Cella, *Publisher*



Making an Impact in This Season

There is something to be said about being solid and secure, especially since human nature and the world are always changing. This growing season has been a challenge and continues to test each and every Midwest member. Whether this is your first season at a club, or your 20th something year at a course, the trials continue.

Most were happy for the March we experienced, getting a jump-start on wrapping up projects from the fall, and welcoming golf in short sleeves for the entire spring. With this fortuitous beginning, however, there lurked in the back of everyone's mind a question of the kind of summer it would produce. I just thought everyone would be tired come July, only because the amount of work (warm days and lack of rain outs) that took place in spring – I didn't think we'd see the tired out there now: The tired caused by lack of rain. The tired caused by holding hoses at all hours of the day. The tired caused by excessive heat. The tired caused by irrigation pumps, controllers, heads and water sources. The tired caused by the long range forecast. The tired caused by hoping a spray will last another day or two until you can get out there again. The tired caused by caring for the turf, like only you do on your property. The tired caused by the inability to sleep past sunrise. The tired caused by turf conditions that worsen instead of mend. The tired caused by seeing only the sick turf on 3000 square feet rather than all the healthy turf on the rest of the 120 acres. The tired caused by being too tired for anything enjoyable other than sleep.

Here's the thing, though. You can still be counted upon. You still show up for work everyday, often the first one there and the last one to leave. You create schedules for your crew, utilizing this resource in the best way possible. You give your staff days off and keep morale high by praising the work they do each day. You tweak your irrigation program conserving every last drop of water. You plan each day around the weather, scheduling tasks and programs. You calculate the best way to fertilize and feed the turf. You happily talk with members and golfers about their own lawns and give them sound advice. You tour the course each day to see what needs to be done, what needs to be improved, what can be done better.

Most could not do what you do, mentally, physically, or even emotionally. There are still a few weeks to go until that date in mid-August. That date that you look forward to each season where the days are noticeably shorter, the shadows a bit longer and pockets of cool air more common across your face on your morning tour. You are still at it, still caring, still trying to improve, still offering a place for respite and relaxation where others may forget about the things that drag them down. That is solid. That is impactful. **-OC**

Bayer CropScience



John "JT" Turner
Area Sales Manager IV
Bayer CropScience LP
Environmental Science / Golf and Lawn
40 W 665 Campton Woods Drive
Elburn, IL 60119
Tel: 630-443-7807
Mobile: 630-215-6110
Fax: 630-443-7839
john.turner@bayer.com
www.bayer.com



LAYNE-WESTERN

When in need of professional services for well drilling, well rehabilitation, pump installation and repair, please contact fellow M.A.G.C.S. members at:

Aurora, IL: **TOM HEALY** 630-897-6941 office
708-514-2233 cell
thealy@laynechristensen.com

Beecher, IL: **JOE EISHA** 708-946-2244 office
708-514-0631 cell
jeisha@laynechristensen.com

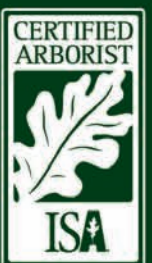


Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc.

A Proud Tradition Since 1930



Phone: 847-475-1877 • Fax: 847-475-0037
www.nelsjohnsontree.com



FEATURE I

Bruce Branham, *University of Illinois*



The Summer of 2012

One for the Record Books or a View of the Future?

One can not ascribe climate change as the proximate cause for individual weather events. Climate does vary, but how much of what we are observing in this summer heat wave can be attributed to climate change? That is a difficult question to answer and beyond my range as turf scientist. I do know that it is hot, dry, and extremely unusual weather that we're experiencing. Those of you who have around the block a few times remember the summers of 1995 and 1988 as exceptionally hot or dry, respectively. How do those summers compare with what we've experienced in 2012? How does 2012 compare to some of the all time hottest summers, like 1936 or 1934?

The State of Illinois climatologist, Jim Angel, is based at the Illinois Natural History Survey and has posted online the daily climate record for Champaign-Urbana going all the way back to 1888. I've used that data to put together some comparisons that will give you an idea of just how hot 2012 has been.

In Chicago, the 1995 heat wave was blamed for nearly 750 deaths. I don't have data for Chicago, but C-U is usually warmer than Chicago, so the C-U climate data is a good proxy. In this series of graphs, I've plotted high temperatures from June 1 through July 31 in 2012 compared to 1995 (Figure 1), 1988 (Figure 2), and 1936 (Figure 3.) Plotting all of these together is more efficient but you really can't see the differences.

While 1995 was hot, it can't hold a candle to the heat we've had in 2012. From June 1 till June 26th, the two years were similar, but in 1995, it cooled off in late June with a high temperature of 72° on July 1. In contrast, in 2012 the temperatures touched 100° F for two days in a row near the end of June. In early July, it got really hot with 4 consecutive days at 100° or higher. The end of July saw significantly higher temperatures in 2012 compared to 1995. Clearly, 2012 has been hotter in June and July than 1995.

(continued on next page)

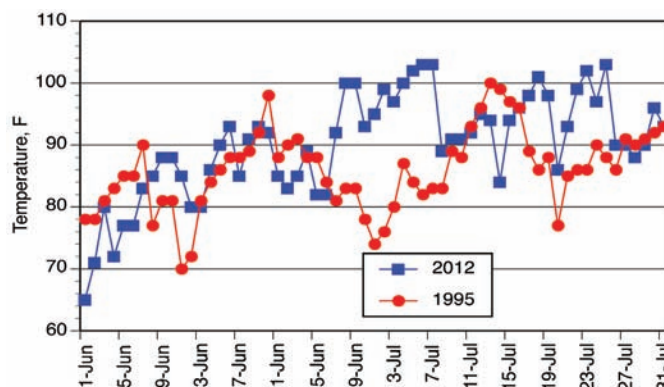


Figure 1. Daily high temperatures for June 1 through July 31 for 2012 and 1995.

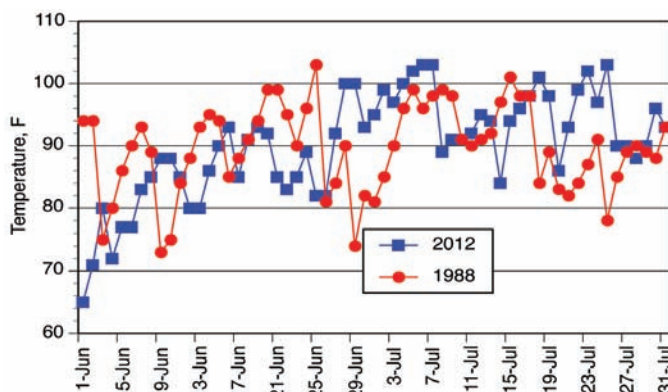


Figure 2. Daily high temperatures for June 1 through July 31 for 2012 and 1988.

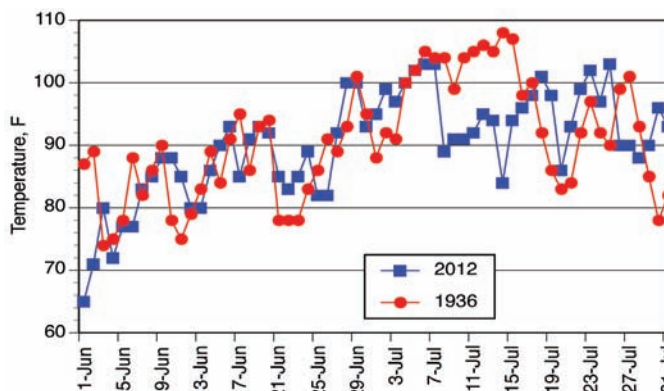
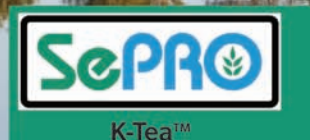


Figure 3. Daily high temperatures for June 1 through July 31 for 2012 and 1936.



Wheeling 847-537-2177
Mokena 708-444-2177

We'll help you keep your water features worry free.



arthurclesen.com
Anderson, Garry....630-514-4114
Anderson, John.....630-669-0519
Bartosh, Scott.....262-221-5524
Lamkin, John.....708-259-4354
Spier, Scot.....847-561-3139



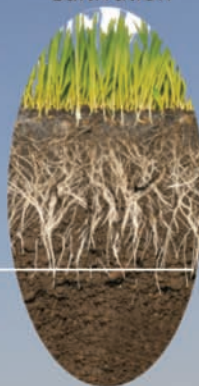
Common Sense Turf Management

CS Turf offers the turfgrass industry a "Common Sense" approach to turfgrass health and management. You are measured by the factors and quality of your turf that is above ground. These components are defined by what is below ground, the plant roots. CS Turf offers a complete service of deep tine aerification operations for all your turf needs.

Experienced Operators - (25+ years as golf course superintendents)
Flexible to Your Schedule and Turf
Affordable
Needle Tine at Night™ - we'll get it done and only the roots will know
Let's Talk Turf - call today for a quote

WHAT'S HOLDING BACK YOUR ROOTS?

Conventional Cultivation



Break up your cultivation pan

Deep Tine Cultivation



WHY GO SHALLOW WHEN YOU CAN GO DEEP?

Utilize and expose your complete soil profile to adventitious roots by shattering the cultivation pan created by repeated shallow cultivation.

Renny Jacobson
renny@csturf.net
(815) 791-7404
Frankfort, IL

What about 1988? That was a year of unrelenting drought and stifling heat. Interstate pavement buckled around Omaha, NE as temperatures soared above 100°. These two years look more similar than did 1995 and 2012. However, while mid- to late June was hotter in 1998 than in 2012 with a 102° reading on June 25 in 1988, by the end of the June, 2012 is clearly much hotter. There were two days with temperature readings above 100° in 1988 and nine in 2012. In 1988, there were 34 days at 90° or above for June and July. In 2012, there 36 days at 90° or above including 27 days in July. So, both summers were hot, but the average daily high temperature in 2012 was 90.2° while in 1988 the average daily high for June and July was 89.6° F, which would indicate that 2012 was slightly warmer than 1988. However, if I just remove the first 2 days in June from the average, then the 2012 average becomes 90.9° and the 1988 average becomes 89.4°, indicating 2012 had a daily high air temperature that was 1.5° F higher than in 1988.

My father grew up on a farm and often talked about how hot the summer of 1936 was. This was during the dust bowl, and while it wasn't dusty in central Illinois, it was hot and dry and no one had air conditioning. Here we see that 2012 meets its match. The temperatures were very similar throughout June and early July in both years. However, in 2012 we had 4 days of 100°+ temperatures in early July, almost exactly the same pattern seen in 1936. In fact, during high temperatures in early July, every record high came from 1936. In 2012, our temperatures cooled off to a relatively balmy 89° F on July 8th and stayed in the low 90°s over the six days. In 1936, by contrast, the temperature dropped all the way to 99° on July 8th and then stayed over 100° for the next six days reaching a high of 108° F on July 14th. In 1936, the average daily high temperature for June and July was 90.8° versus 90.2° in 2012, a difference of over a half of a degree per day. July of 1936 had 13 days of temperatures over 100° F versus 7 days in 2012. So, 2012 is not the hottest summer on record, but very close to the hottest in human records (which are no more than a nanosecond of the history of the earth).

What about drought during these years? In 2012, we had decent rain in early June, but since June 17th, we've had a total of 0.67" of rain. For the two months of June and July, the average precipitation in C-U is 9.04" and we've had a total of 2.89" in 2012. In 1995, 1988, and 1936; C-U received 3.92, 3.96, and 1.82" of rain, respectively. While the 1988 number looks respectable, the drought broke near the end of July, and we received 3.24" of rain between July 18 and July 25. In 1988, the drought started in late April

and lasted until mid-July. While 1995 was hot, the bigger problem for turf managers was the rain. In the first 9 days of August of 1995 (the data I'm showing is for June and July), we received 4.5" of rain. It is more difficult to manage turf through excess moisture than lack of moisture. Receiving all of that rain in early August when temperatures were still above 90 F created sauna-like conditions perfect for rapid disease development. It is the disease pressure that makes turf management such a challenge for today's superintendents. So while 2012 has been very challenging, disease pressure has been relatively light and thus turf problems have not been as catastrophic as we might expect had we had more rain. As a note caution to golf turf managers, if the rain does return yet this summer, be prepared. The humidity that will accompany significant rain when combined with the weakened state of most turf will put tremendous disease pressure on the turf. Periods of control can be much shorter than anticipated and turf loss can be rapid and severe.

Weather Extremes

One last graph I'll leave you with. We saw that the temperatures in 1936 were similar to 2012 and actually warmer. What about the winter of 1936, was it warm like we had in 2012? As can be seen in Figure 4, the winter of 1936 was pretty severe with a low temperature below -20° F and many days of below zero lows. The average daily low temperature in 2012 was 25.2° F while in 1936 the average daily low temperature was 13.4° F. I would consider 1936 a year of temperature extremes while 2012 is just plain hot.

I will not start a debate about climate change in this post, but let us hope that 2012 is a weather extreme and not the start of long-term change in our climate. **-OC**

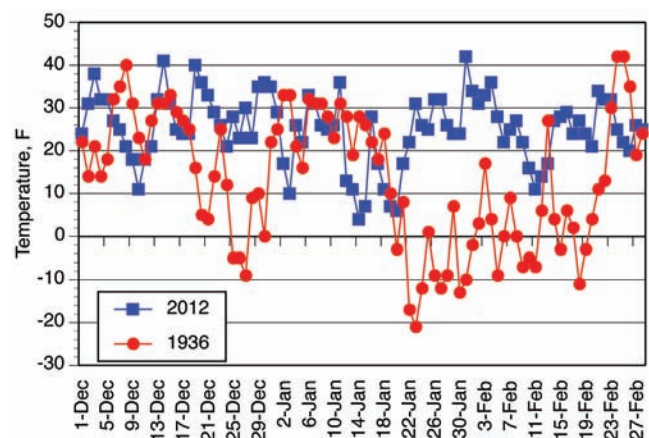


Figure 4. Daily low temperatures from Dec 1 through Feb 28 for 2012 and 1936.

*Specializing in Bedding Plants
Large Variety Fall Mums*

ANTON'S Greenhouses & Garden Centers

Rick & Bob Anton
ANTON'S OF KENOSHA
9140 Cooper Rd. (51st Ave.)
Kenosha, WI 53142
414/694-2666

Gary Anton
ANTON'S OF EVANSTON
1126 Pitner Avenue
Evanston, IL 60202
847/864-1134



A Pearl Valley Organix Brand
healthygrowpro.com



Jeff Leuzinger (815) 291-9627 jleuzinger@healthygrowpro.com



It's All About **PLAYABILITY.**

Playability keeps your customers coming back. At Chicagoland Turf, we have the agronomic expertise, range of products, and keen industry knowledge to help you make your golf course one that customers play again and again. And we'll do it with solutions that work for both your golf course and your budget.

Now proudly offering products by The Andersons.

To make the most of your golf course, contact us today.

(630) 268-8871
turfventures.com



chicagolandturf

global resources / local service

"I'll make dollar spot pay."



"Even the best turf can fall victim to disease. But with **Honor® Intrinsic™ brand fungicide**, I won't go down easily. On top of unsurpassed disease control, research shows that **Honor Intrinsic's plant health benefits** give me a better root system so I can stand up to stresses like drought and moisture events, extreme temperatures, and aerification—better than ever."

Intrinsic brand fungicides don't just fight disease; they give turf the resilience to endure stress. Find out more by contacting Randy Lusher, 630.810.1832, randy.lusher@basf.com.

BASF
The Chemical Company

* Not registered in California.
Always read and follow label directions. © 2011 BASF Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

FEATURE II

Josh Therrien, *Black Sheep Golf Club*



Employee Training is the Key to Efficiency

Before my child was born this spring I had always been the one to work twelve-hour days without thinking twice about it. I was always getting involved in everything because I had the attitude that if I did not do it, it would not get done correctly. Now, I do not have time to work those long shifts each day as I once did. The funny thing is, everything still gets completed. The reason tasks get accomplished without me being involved every step of the way is due to the fact that I have learned both how to train and trust my colleagues. Even in this outrageous summer that we have had, I have worked fewer hours because my superior and I have trained key staff members on hand syringing and hand watering.

When training employees on new and more technical tasks the one thing I can tell you is patience is a virtue. It took years and a few tough summers for me to learn how to be precise at such things as hand watering, course set up, and irrigation diagnostics. No one can expect even a seasoned crewmember to be a specialist at a task that is new to them. When you are training someone, I have found that it is best to show and not just tell them what to do. Have them go out to the job site with you and demonstrate exactly what you want done. Be as detail oriented as possible and expound on how critical the job is. Also, when you go out to the job site make sure that you come prepared with all the tools required to accomplish the job. It just looks bad and unprofessional when you show a crew member how to cut cups and you bring the cup cutter but forget all the other necessities back at the shop. Additionally, demonstrating the proper way to do something the first time gives the employee confidence in you.

After you have shown someone a particular job, now it is his or her time to give it a try. Let them do it on their own with you watching and answering questions. Expect them to make mistakes. Don't get mad when this happens. Follow up is imperative. Just because they are trained on something as fixing a broken swing joint, does not mean that they are going to do it right all the time without slipping up. When they make a mistake let them know that it is all right and assist them in fixing it. Continue to watch and critique and always give them a vote of confidence. Just remember never to get worked up. Remember someone took the time to teach

you and the feeling you had of not knowing how to do something.

One of the more difficult aspects in training someone in a task that you once did on a regular basis is learning to let go. We all believe that we are the best in what we do. Sometimes we want to do it ourselves because we are the educated experts. Well, I have come to the realization that the educated experts have to learn to train, observe and fine-tune. I remember the first time I trained someone on how to syringe a *Poa annua* green. I thought to myself that this is going to go horribly wrong and I am going to get blamed for it when this green dies. After training the individual I was pleasantly surprised. Someone who I thought of as just an average worker, turned out to be my number one hand waterer. He became my go-to person even on the hottest of weekends. This process of teaching, training and letting go helped me grow as a leader and be more efficient as a manager. Now I spend more time fine-tuning other aspects of the golf course and am not so narrow-minded and controlling.

Golf course superintendents often get labeled as perfectionists. I see that as a good thing. If we teach everyone on staff to be a perfectionist in their tasks, that will be a great thing. After teaching and training is complete, just remember not to kick into auto-pilot and look at things each day. You are still accountable for someone else's work. When you give the right training and tools to the right person you too will find that you have more time to spend on other aspects of life, especially your family. **-OC**

THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



AUGUST 2012

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 20 – Annual CAGCS Founders Cup golf event at Lake Shore Country Club, **Jeff Frentz, CGCS** host.

September 17 – Annual Wee One Outing and Fundraiser at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI, Rod Johnson host.

September 24 – MAGCS Golf Championship at Big Foot Country Club in Fontana, WI, **Jim Knulty** host.

September 25-30 – The Ryder Cup Matches at Medinah Country Club in Medinah, IL, **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS, Ross Laubscher, Jacob Mendoza, and Jim Wallace** hosts.

October 3-December 14 – Fall Session of the Professional Golf Turf Management School Two-Year Certificate Program at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ.

October 22 – MAGCS Annual College Championship at Calumet Country Club, **Matt Harstad** host.

October 24-26 – PLANET 2012 Green Industry Conference in Louisville, KY. Information to follow.

October 25-26 – GIE + EXPO in Louisville, KY. Info can be found at www.gie-expo.com.

October 29-30 – Symposium on Affordable Golf at Southern Pines, NC. Go to www.symposiumonaffordablegolf.com for information.

November 14 – 60th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic, Medinah Country Club

Great news! **Dan Murray** is the new golf course superintendent at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL. Dan takes over for the retiring **Peter Mirkes**. BIG congratulations to both Dan and Peter on their new paths in life.



Dan Murray

Also congrats to **Jeff Plasschaert**, assistant superintendent at Bryn Mawr Country Club on carding a hole-in-one on a long par 3 at the Rock Island Arsenal golf course last month.

And more good news—**Brett Gutekunst**, superintendent at Sydney Morvitz, Robert Black, and the Diversey Driving Range (Chicago Park District facilities under the management of Billy Casper Golf) earned his Masters of Business Administration degree from Northern Illinois University. Brett, who has been with Billy Casper since 2008, graduated with a 3.6 GPA. Congratulations Brett!



Brett Gutekunst

(continued on next page)