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Important Public Service Announcement: Drought makes golf courses dry. Dry golf courses need water and wetting agents. Water and wetting agents are sometimes best applied through a hose-end applicator. Hose-end applicators can become dangerous hand grenades if their structural integrity has been compromised. Don't let your hose-end applicator become a hand grenade—check it thoroughly before turning that quick coupler on.



When pressure reached this applicator, the jar broke just under the threads, hurtling it 63 yards from its operator, with an accompanying pop heard over 400 yards away. The nozzle

also blew off, sending it in another direction. Had the jar been directed toward the operator, it would have been really ugly. I know this—it was me, and it scared the poopie outta me.

.....  
The PLANET 2012 Green Industry Conference, which is hosted by the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET), is held in conjunction with the GIE+EXPO and Hardscape North America trade shows from October 24<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup> in Louisville, KY. Attendees will learn practical formulas for business success, as well as solutions for dealing with technology, sustainable practices, generation Y, and the changing landscape of the green industry. Information on this conference can be found at [www.landcarenetwork.org/GreenIndustryConf](http://www.landcarenetwork.org/GreenIndustryConf).  
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The Turfgrass Information File (TGIF), produced at the Turfgrass Information Center of the Michigan State University Libraries, passed a significant milestone recently. As of June, 50% of all TGIF records link to full-text of the item. This is a huge deal, especially for researchers who spend countless hours searching for full-text documents in research libraries. Today, TGIF has around 204,000 total records (including this magazine), with over 102,000 being full-text accessible. Neat, huh?  
.....

The July 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday Tribune ran a story about this season's drought and its effects on local courses called "No Lie: Golf Courses Enduring Drought." In it, MAGCS members **Kevin Carlson** of the Naperville Park District, **Brad Helms** of Palatine Hills and **Bryan Stromme** from Billy Casper Golf were asked how their respective golf courses were handling

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the drought, and what measures were being taken to keep them in top condition. Then the July 23<sup>rd</sup> Aurora Beacon News ran a similar story featuring quotes from **Jim Pedersen** of Hughes Creek Golf Club. The common theme amongst them all was that they'd rather deal with a lack of water than too much, as we've experienced the last two years. Well done guys.

Our condolences go out to **Fred Behnke, CGCS** and his family on the loss of his father on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Those who knew him know he loved his family and his country, and he was a true patriot whose passing on Independence Day was sadly appropriate.

Q: What do you call a member at **Brian Thomson's** club who never repairs his ballmarks?

A: A Biltmoran.

The National Alliance for Accessible Golf announced the update of its two signature resources, the Toolkit for Golfers and the Toolkit for Golf Course Owners/Operators. These toolkits further the mission of the Alliance to increase awareness of inclusion for individuals with disabilities into the game of golf. These resources provide guidance for golf courses, ranges and facilities and individuals interested in golf for people with disabilities. Both are available in PDF format at [www.accessgolf.org/resources/index.cfm](http://www.accessgolf.org/resources/index.cfm).

Congratulations to the Kirtland's. Justin and Elise were married the weekend after the Cougar Game back in Michigan. Justin is the golf course superintendent at Arrowhead Golf Course in Wheaton.



Big month for announcements, huh? The National Golf Foundation (NGF) announced it launched the 2012 American Golf Census Sweepstakes on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Now in its third year, the Census continues to count the country's estimated 26 million golfers and give away some pretty amazing golf prizes in the process. You can register with the Census by filling out a brief form at [www.AmericanGolfCensus.org](http://www.AmericanGolfCensus.org). For participating, every golfer is automatically entered into a sweepstakes to win one of more than 80 prizes. The Grand Prize is a trip to Orlando for the PGA Merchandise Show (yawn) and fulfilling

(continued on page 14)

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The GCSAA Excellence in Government Relations Award recognizes and honors an individual, chapter, or coalition/alliance that demonstrates outstanding advocacy or compliance efforts in government relations. I'm guessing that's how it got its name. Nominees—and self-nominations are encouraged—will be judged on how their efforts best serve the interests of the golf course superintendent profession and the golf course management industry. The EGR Award may be given for the creation or successful use of tools, programs, or efforts to: Influence laws and regulations affecting golf courses, including but not limited to work with lawmakers, regulators, alliances, coalitions, and other entities; Encourage member compliance with laws and regulations, including but not limited to environmental laws, occupational safety and chemical applications. Nomination forms can be found at [gcsaa.org](http://gcsaa.org) by clicking on the Community tab, and then on Government Relations. Go get 'em, Dan.

In other GCSAA news, sixteen seminars have been added to the educational lineup for the 2013 GCSAA Education Conference to be held Feb. 4-8 in San Diego. To better reflect members' current educational needs and to keep offerings relevant to the profession, a number of seminars were deleted, rested, or restructured. For a list of the new seminars, go to [gcsaa.org](http://gcsaa.org), click on the Education tab and then Conference Seminars. It's very exciting.

Next month should provide some compelling news from the United States Golf Association and its European counterpart, the R & A. At issue is the act of anchoring long putters to one's belly, which has gained more and more popularity (and notoriety) after major victories by Keegan Bradley and Webb Simpson spurred cries from traditionalists for banning the act. Regardless of the outcome of September's meeting, any rules change enacted would not go into effect until January 1, 2016, when the next rules changes are implemented. Could be a good thing for Adam Scott. Ouch.

Q: What do you call **Tom Wilson** if he just can't stop telling fibs?

A: A Deerpathological liar.

Once again this past month, MAGCS members were prominently featured in OPP's (other people's publications). **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** had a nice writeup on *TurfNet.com* about everything from how he came to land at Medinah Country Club; the renovations to Course #3, and the planned

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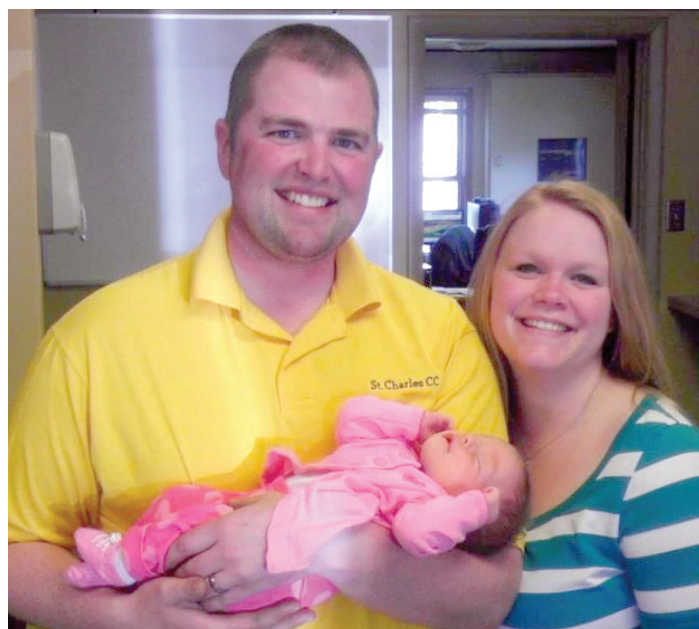


renovations to Courses #1 and 2; through the current preparations for next month's Ryder Cup matches. On *TurfNet's* Forum, **Chuck Barber** and **Tim Christians** posted on quite the variety of topics, from their favorite fertilizer to Quicksilver for moss control to the best sunglasses for the golf course. And of course, as usual **Dan Dinelli** was spotted in something or other. It was actually a great article in *Golf Course Industry* about dealing with poor water quality if memory serves.

I think it has finally been figured out. After years of research, and poring through old documents and photos, the question of PGA Tour golfer Ricky Fowler's parentage has been answered: Could **Eddie Braunsky** be Ricky's baby daddy? You decide...



Congratulations to Travis and Brooke Dykstra on the birth of their daughter Avery. Avery Grace was born on February 20 of this year.



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(continued on page 16)

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual John Buck Golf Outing was held at Bartlett Hills Golf Course on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July with **Kevin DeRoo** serving as our host. This event is a must-do as all of its proceeds go to the John Buck Scholarship fund, which is divvied up by the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation, the Northwest Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association, and MAGCS. The golf course was in perfect condition, and a great time was had by all who participated. Seemingly every hole had some kind of fun event on the side, including a big cup, three flags to choose from, the bags game, and the ring in the water chipping challenge (and all with pretty ladies running them). Following golf, a terrific dinner and awards ceremony were enjoyed by all. Many thanks to all the volunteers who ran the tee games, to Kevin and the entire staff at Bartlett Hills, to the folks at JW Turf, and to John Buck for being the man he was and the inspiration behind this great event.



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## Tyler Carter -N- Kane County Cougars

*On July 14th MAGCS held its Family Picnic Night at Fifth Third Bank Field to watch the Kane County Cougars. As golf course superintendents we often times find ourselves paying more attention to the turf on the field than the game itself when in a ball park. The man behind the scenes for the Kane County Cougars is Head Groundskeeper Tyler Carter. Tyler is in his rookie season as Head Groundskeeper for the Cougars. Prior to his arrival in the Chicago area, Tyler served as a grounds crew member for the Minnesota Twins at Target Field. Tyler also fulfilled a student internship at Target Field while attending Michigan State University's Sports Turf Management Program.*

As head groundskeeper, Tyler has been successful in field preparation for not only minor league baseball games but also other events that the park hosts. On July 8th the ball-park held its first concert. The band Wilco took stage during a major heat wave to their largest audience they every had. Fortunately, Tyler and his Assistant, Sean Ehlert, were able to prepare the field for all events while constantly keeping a watchful eye on the weather.

Prior to graduating from MSU Tyler received a Bachelor's Degree in Archeology from the University of Michigan. While at U of M, Tyler took a student job working on the football field. It was not too long after that when Tyler caught the "turf bug" and turned a college job into a career. Some of Tyler's mentors who have helped him hone his craft have been Dr. John "Trey" Rogers of Michigan State University and Larry DiVito, Head Groundskeeper of Target Field.

One aspect that Tyler enjoys is watching the stands full of fans at game time. Certainly MAGCS is a group of fans who can realize and appreciate the hard work that Tyler has put in so far. **-OC**

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*On July 14, 2012 the MAGCS held their Family Night Picnic at the Cougar baseball game in Geneva, Illinois. It was a mild evening weather wise and most of the talk centered on a few passing rainstorms that hit the evening and morning prior to the game. Nevertheless, those in attendance enjoyed a Cougar win, good food and company and fireworks as usual. The highlight of the night was our own Jan Jarvis as he sang "God Bless America" to kick off the seventh inning stretch. Thanks to our sponsors for making this night affordable for all: Arthur Clesen, Inc., BASF, Burris Equipment Company, Nels J Johnson Tree Experts, Pro Gro Solutions, Reinders, Inc. and Syngenta Professional Products.*

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*(photos on pages 21 and 23)*

