

MIDWEST BREEZES

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



Ryder Cup Update

As you may know (unless you've been living in an irrigation hole and you may have given this spring) this is a Ryder Cup year. It will be played at the venerated Medinah Country Club #3 Course on September 25-30. You know, the place where we have our MAGCS Annual Turf Clinic in November and they have the really cool looking Turkish Clubhouse?

This is going to be epic. You have to like the way our U.S. squad is shaping up. Captain Davis Love III or DL3 as he is known, has yet to make his Captain picks. Many of the top guys have already qualified. We have a few of the older guys like Phil, Tiger and Stricker that have a lot of experience already on the team. Plus, we've got the younger, upcoming, aggressive, "golf boys", Bubba, Hunter, Ricky and the Kuch. These guys are playing red hot, winning golf tournaments and gaining confidence.

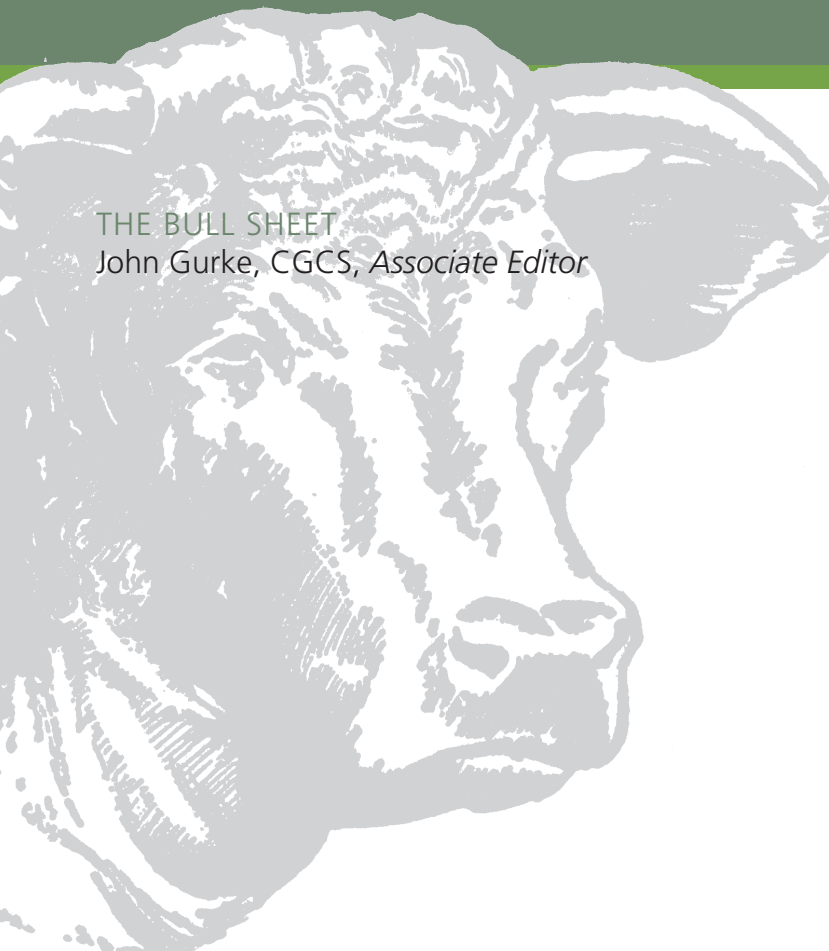
To quote former Ryder Cup Captain Ben Crenshaw, whose team won the miracle comeback at Brookline, "I've got a good feeling about this." If you don't think these guys don't get motivated to play an exhibition match for no paycheck, think again. This event is for their country and pressure is unsurpassed. The Ryder Cup is without question the biggest event in all of golf.

I had a chance to visit with Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS MG recently and I can tell you it is all coming together. The main focus for everyone involved; Members, Medinah Staff, and the PGA of America is to create a set of conditions that favors our team to bring home a winner.

The #3 Course has been through some dramatic changes over the last few years since the PGA Championship in 2006. There has been some "major" tree removal, new hole changes, re-grassing of turf, new bunkers and new tees. The last few growing seasons have been brutal for any course going through a renovation, let alone for an event as big as the Ryder Cup. Curtis has been handling it well and taking it all in stride. Some people like the changes, some don't. This is not your Father's Medinah #3. This is going to be set up and maintained to give the U.S. Squad as much a "home turf" advantage as possible. Look for expanded and graduated rough to give our "bombers" an edge and shorter grass around the greens to promote recovery shots. The course should play "easier" than a major set up. The match play of the Ryder Cup puts the focus on the game and the competition between individuals and teams. The fans and the players will both enjoy the roar and excitement of making birdies and eagles.

The grandstands and corporate tents will start to be set up in June. DL3 will visit the course to make his recommendations for any additional "tweaks" such as expanding the graduated rough in certain spots or more tree removal depending on how the U.S. players play the course as they filter through playing practice rounds.

Tickets have been sold out for months. There are a few corporate tent opportunities left open. Medinah expects to host up to 40,000 people per day during the event! Emotions will run high and the pressure will be intense. All systems are go. GO USA! **-OC**



THE BULL SHEET
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

JUNE 2012

Are you like me and have a few things in your chemical storage room that you look at every time you walk in, you KNOW you're never going to use, yet you have no idea what to do with? The Illinois Department of Agriculture has your answer—the Clean Sweep Pesticide Collection program has been scheduled for late this summer in the following counties in northern Illinois: Boone, DeKalb, Kane, Lake, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, and Winnebago. All you have to do is register the products you want to dispose of by July 13th. Forms can be obtained by calling the IDOA Pesticide Hotline at 1-800-641-3934. There are two great reasons to do it—first, it's free; and second, the state of Illinois assumes full liability for the proper disposal of all materials collected. Go on! Purge your chemical room of its unwanted contents. Purge it!

Happy belated Skin Cancer Awareness Month (which was May). Always a good idea to make that appointment for a quick once-over by a dermatologist and catch any little thingies before they become big thingies. Believe me—this is one of the few things that I know what I'm talking about. Want one of these???



(continued on next page)

DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 19 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Blackstone Golf Club in Marengo, IL, **Andrew Perry** host.
- June 25 – Wisconsin GCSA Golf Tournament at Oshkosh Country Club in Oshkosh, WI.
- July 5-8 – 67th U.S. Women's Open Championship at Blackwolf Run in Kohler, WI.
- July 10 – 12th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing and Scholarship Fundraiser at Bartlett Hills Golf Course in Bartlett, IL, **Kevin DeRoo** host.
- July 12-15 – John Deere Classic at TPC Deere Run in Sylvis, IL.
- July 13 – Deadline to register products for disposal through the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Clean Sweep Collection program. More to follow.
- July 14 – MAGCS Family Night Picnic and Kane Country Cougars game at Fifth Third Ball Park in Geneva, IL.
- July 17 – NWIGCSA/ITF Golf Day at Timber Pointe Golf Course in Poplar Grove, IL, Tyler Reiches host.
- July 30 – Deadline for photograph submissions for the Superintendent's Best Friend 2013 Calendar presented by TurfNet and sponsored by BASF.
- July 31 – Wisconsin GCSA Summer Field Day at the O.J. Noer Center in Verona, WI.
- August 1 – Deadline for submissions for the Daconil Action Tough Turf Video Contest.
- August 10 – Annual CAGCS Founders Cup at Lakeshore Country Club, **Jeff Frentz, CGCS** host.
- August 21 – Deadline for submission of applications and essays to be considered for attendance at the Syngenta Business Institute to be held on December 3rd through the 6th.

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A recent TurfNet Blog Aggregator found MAGCS member **Steve Cook, CGCS, MG** of Oakland Hills Country Club informing his membership of the true cost of those dreaded WTGH's. What is a WTGH you ask? Why, it's an undesirable tree of course—a Weed That Gets Hard, as Steve refers to them. He mentions that the initial cost to plant a species such as a silver maple is not where the story ends—oh no, not by a long shot. When factoring in the maintenance of the tree throughout its life, the additional inputs and maintenance procedures required to keep the shaded turf beneath it in golf-shape, the time and personnel spent in leaf and seed removal, and the eventual removal of the tree, Steve figures that it costs around \$10,000 to sustain each WTGH on his course. Yikes.



Steve Cook

By the way, did we mention that Steve Cook was one of *Golf Course Industry* magazine's 2012 Social Media Award recipients in the Best of the Blogs category? He was indeed—congrats Steve!

In another rendition of the Blog Aggregator, **Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG** at Naperville Country Club (does TurfNet select only guys with more than 4 letters after their names?) reported that the yearly pump station maintenance had been completed, which included the usual oil change and lube, repacking bearings, tightening spindles, etc., and of course the washing and waxing of the entire station. The photo said it all—Tim's pump station looks better than most of our vehicles.

Q: What do the Mexican crew members call the flags at **Tom Lively's** club?

A: TPC San Antonio Banderas.

While channel surfing recently, I came across an episode of Chicago District Golfer that paid homage to the game's silent heroes—the superintendents. Appearing in the feature were **Fred Behnke, CGCS** of Mt. Prospect GC, **Al Fierst** of Oak Park CC, and Kurt Strothers of Eagle Ridge, with each offering their insights into our business. Al played second fiddle to his border collie Nap, who was the star of his segment, while Fred offered up his usual profound wisdom in likening the superintendent's job to "a center on a football team—nobody notices what you do until you get a holding penalty." He then made an attempt at a Carl Spackler impression that left me speechless. And NOT in a good way.



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Big congratulations to Kevin Bauer of Prairie Bluff Golf Course, one of three finalists in the TurfNet Technician of the Year Award. Kevin works with **Luke Strojny** at the golf course, keeping all of its machinery up to par, with **Kenny Shepherd** and the Lockport Township Park District, keeping all of ITS equipment in apple-pie order, and as if that isn't enough, he also maintains the city's fleet of police cars! The award is sponsored by Toro, and is presented annually by TurfNet to one outstanding golf course equipment manager from among those nominated by superintendents, colleagues, owners, operators and industry reps—and Kevin is certainly deserving! The winner receives the Golden Wrench Award and a weeklong training school at Toro's Service Training University in Bloomington, MN. Good luck Kevin!



Kevin Bauer

And now this bit of interesting-albeit-useless trivia from the USGA Green Section Record that I found worth relating: Did you ever wonder how the practice of using ropes to separate players from galleries came to be? You'd figure it was to give the players room to ply their craft on untrampled turf, yes? Actually, it all began as an effort to stop kids from scrambling to the teeing ground and grabbing the used tees as souvenirs. In 1922, a Dr. William Lowell patented the wooden-peg tee we know today, and painted them red. After Howell persuaded Walter Hagen to try the gadgets, he would walk the course with the tees stuck behind his ears, using one on each tee box and leaving it there after his shot, prompting the rush for the little red prize. How about that?

I think we have another case of a MAGCS member looking suspiciously like a celebrity, with both sharing EERIE similarities. Case in point—there is this political commentator named Steven Colbert (pronounced "Cole-bear"). And then you have Aaron Goy of ProGro, whose favorite libation is cold beer (pronounced "Cold-beer"). Mind-boggling.



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This really touching story was making the rounds last month, but for those who did not see it, this letter was sent to the friends of the late **Dennis Wilson**, long time superintendent of Sunset Ridge Country Club by his wife Pat: "As some of you know we have had a house in Glenview since 1972—we closed on it 10 days before our wedding. After we moved to the course, we rented it out and for the last 12 years our daughter has lived in it. After Dennis died, I decided I needed to sell it since I still have a mortgage on the house I live in and I need to pay it off. That was Dennis' plan too—but of course he didn't foresee getting cancer. So the kids and I started to work on it and get ready to sell. It took us 9 long months and finally it went up for sale last September. The showings were amazing. We had over 100 between September and March—bad news not one offer. Finally in mid-March would you believe I received 3 offers. I took the highest one of course and we were under contract. Yea! Well I went to the closing last Friday and met the young couple. I talked about Dennis and they asked what he did. I told them he was a superintendent. So was the guy. Talk about being dumb-founded! What are the chances. I felt instant peace—I felt that Dennis was helping me from above and had sent this couple to let me know it was OK to let go of this home. His name is **Aaron Becker** and he is assistant to **Dave Schlagetter** whom Dennis knew forever of course. So whether you want to call it coincidence or God's hand it is up to you. I know that he is waiting for me and continues to watch over me (or should we say he is still in control!!!) I know Dennis is up there with Dom, Bruce Sering and all the others watching over you guys. I wanted to let you know—I think of you often. This business is so much a part of our lives. Good luck in the loooong season that started in March."

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And here's another note that Luke got via email:
Subject: The Bull Sheet 1967
To: Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents
Dear Luke,
I just wanted to thank you for posting the old *Bull Sheets*. I googled my father last night and was delighted when his name came up in a 1967 Bull Sheet. It was a piece about the **Julius Goffo** Memorial Golf Tournament. I was the youngest of the five kids the tournament was intended to benefit. Thanks again.
Patty Goffo

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Condolences to **Dave "Junior" Braasch** and his family on the loss of his father Donald last month.

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MAGCS also wishes to send its condolences to the **Gary Hearn** family on the passing of Gary's mother Paula last month.

The long-awaited list is out! *Golfweek's* 2012 Best Courses You Can Play is a virtual who's who of great public courses, and those making the grade in our state are no exception. The Top Ten courses you can play in Illinois are:

- 1) Cog Hill No. 4 (Dubsdread)—**Scott Pavalko** supt.;
 - 2) Highlands of Elgin—**Brad Legnaioli** supt.;
 - 3) Eagle Ridge (The General)—**Kurt Strothers** supt.;
 - 4) The Glen Club—**Scott Goniwiecha** supt.;
 - 5) TPC at Deere Run;
 - 6) Weaver Ridge;
 - 7) Thunderhawk—**Mark Petitgoue** and **Tom Abbott** supts.;
 - 8) Bowes Creek—Brad Legnaioli AGAIN!;
 - 9) Pine Meadow—**Javier Garcia** supt.; and
 - 10) Harborside International (Starboard)—**Mike Moran** supt.
- Congrats to these MAGCS members and their courses.

And to continue in the "all-Lively all-day" theme,
Q: What do the dentist members of **Bob Lively's** club advise everyone to do?

A: Flossmoor.

A longtime friend and educational contributor to MAGCS members and superintendents everywhere was recently honored when Dr. Frank Rossi won the Environmental Communicator of the Year Award presented by the Turf & Ornamental Communicators Association. Cindy Code, the Executive Director of Project Evergreen presented Frank with the prestigious honor, for which we congratulate him.



Billy Casper Golf Chairman and CEO Peter Hill has been elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Golf Foundation. To repeat, BCG CEO is COB of NGF.

Be on the lookout for a really cool film to hit the airwaves this month. The USGA has announced the production of "1962 U.S. Open: Jack's First Major," its first-ever film produced for network television. The one-hour documentary chronicles Jack Nicklaus' first U.S. Open victory in 1962 at Oakmont Country Club, after which history was made. The premiere

will take place this month on the 17th at 1:00 PM on NBC prior to the network's final-round coverage of the 112th U.S. Open Championship at The Olympic Club in San Francisco, CA.

On a glorious Monday, May 21st, Twin Orchard Country Club and **Kyle Jacobsen** hosted the ITF Spring Golf Day. A full field of 100 took to the links, and what a beautiful golf course it was! The fairways were so perfect, I felt the need to drop my ball in the rough so I wouldn't harm them (which fortunately never arose as I never hit a fairway). The event featured a Ryder Cup 2-man best ball format pitting cart against cart, which is always fun. This year the Blue Team took the lap in the winner's circle with its 13-11 victory over Red. Other winners on the day were **Brian Mores** with his proximity on #6, **Bob Kronn Sr.** with closest to the hole on #11, Jim Walsh with the longest putt on #9, and **Scott Spieden** and **Steve VanAcker** guessing their drive distance to within 4 feet (thank you to the folks at **Gewalt Hamilton & Associates** for measuring those tee shots). And of course the biggest winner of the day was TURF RESEARCH and EDUCATION in the great state of Illinois, as all proceeds from the event and all other ITF events goes to this important endeavor. Many thanks to Kyle and his staff for a great course, to the staff inside the clubhouse for the fantastic spread of food and beverages after the day on the course, and to our generous sponsors, who were: Driver Level—**Syngenta**; Iron Level—**BASF**; Wedge Level—**Bayer Environmental Science** and **Premier Greens & Turf**; Putter Level—**Dow AgroSciences** and **The Andersons**.



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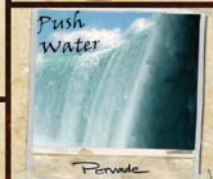
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