









## MIDWEST BREEZES

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



*Fall has always been a great time for golf courses to embark on improvement projects. They can benefit the turf growth and create upgrades to facilities for the coming season. Our Members have been taking full advantage of the favorable weather and have been very busy.*

**Chris Pekarek** of the Village Links of Glen Ellyn has been involved in a major clubhouse and practice area expansion project. "We are basically doubling the size of our existing clubhouse. We will improve our food service to be able to accommodate larger outings, weddings and other special events." The improvements will increase the clubhouse size, making it possible to host events serving over 150 people. The project includes a full bar with a seating capacity of 40. A new dining room, new restrooms, and a new patio are also included. The expansion of the parking lot required the existing putting greens be removed and relocated. The new practice putting green will be 9400 square feet. The first tee on the nine-hole course had to be moved to accommodate the expansion. While they were at it, Village Links looked to increase the size of their driving range tee from 1.25 acres to over 2 acres. The new tee will be sodded with low-mow bluegrass and be ready for play in 2013. The total cost of the work will be \$6.3 million.

**Chuck Barber** tells us that St. Charles Country Club recently completed installation of XGD drainage on three greens with drainage challenges. "The goal was to help get water off of the older push up greens. It was very impressive how quickly and efficiently they completed the work." They started on Monday and were finished by Friday. It took about a day and a half for each 5000-square-foot green. A 6-inch width of sod is removed and a trench is dug. The pipe they install is a 2-inch, micro-slit, perforated pipe that connects to an exterior port, which connects to existing drainage. The sod that's removed is stacked to the side during the work and is replaced in its original location. The putting quality after the project is uncompromised.

**Don Cross** of Skokie Country Club has been overseeing work on expanding fairway landing areas. Rather than using purchased sod, which is expensive and looks noticeably different when installed, Don chose vegetative propagation, a method he has used many times. "It is highly successful, relatively quick, inexpensive, and most importantly, the resulting turf is an exact match to the turf species in the 'donor' area." Don first removes the bluegrass rough from the expansion area. He then core aerates healthy fairway areas and harvests the plugs. The plugs are laid out, two to three deep, in the expansion area and then rolled, dimpled, fertilized, and watered. This tried and proven method looks the same, performs the same, and saves money. **-OC**

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## THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



# NOVEMBER 2012

### DATES TO REMEMBER

November 14 – 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club, **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS, MG, Ross Laubscher, Jake Mendoza, and Jim Wallace** hosts.

November 27-30 – Second Annual Golfdom Summit at the Reunion Resort in Orlando, FL. Register at [www.golfdom-summit.com](http://www.golfdom-summit.com).

November 30 – Deadline for nominations for the 2012 TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta.

December 3 – Annual Southside Superintendents Holiday Party at the Bier Stube, Frankfort. Contact Matt Harstad or Ed Esgar for the details.

December 4-5 – The 2012 Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium at the American Club in Kohler, WI.

December 4-6 – Annual Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Conference and Show at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, OH. Go to [www.otfshow.org](http://www.otfshow.org) for information.

December 11 – Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS) Holiday Lunch at Pinstripes in Northbrook.

December 11-13 – 2012 Asia Pacific Golf Summit at the Empire Hotel & Country Club in Brunei Darussalam. Go to [www.golfconference.org](http://www.golfconference.org) for all the details.

December 13 – Annual West Side Superintendents Holiday Party at Seven Bridges Golf Club, **Don Ferreri and Dave Gelino** hosts.

January 8-9 – Illinois Turfgrass Foundation Turf Conference at the Hyatt Lodge in Oak Brook, IL. Go check out [www.iturf.org](http://www.iturf.org) for all the goods.

January 23-26 – 60<sup>th</sup> Annual PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando, FL. The week all of our pro shops are locked up.

Next month on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, the Annual Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium will again take place in Kohler, WI at the American Club. This is always a fun and educational getaway for us lowlanders, and this year's theme "What's In Your Tank?" promises to hold up the strong tradition. Highlighting the event will be the keynote address, given by North Shore Country Club's **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** on Tuesday afternoon. Also presenting in the symposium will be GCSAA Field Staff Rep John Miller, USGA agronomist **Bob Vavrek**, and MAGCS member **Scott Verdun** of Kenosha Country Club. For registration information, contact Shelley Mazurek at (800) 287-9645, or go to [www.wgcsa.com](http://www.wgcsa.com).

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, The Club at Strawberry Creek and superintendent **Matt Kregel** hosted the Chicagoland Turf/Turf Ventures annual customer appreciation day. Traditionally a fun and relaxed day of golf and fellowship, this year's rendition didn't disappoint with Matt and his crew providing a perfect golf course for all who ventured over the Cheese Curtain (or should it be **through** the Cheese Curtain?) (I mean, typically if you go over a curtain, that means the curtain is probably on the ground where curtains typically aren't found) Let's go with through instead of over; but I digress. It was fun, and I was able to glean a couple interesting things from the experience: First, I am a really bad golfer, and the fescue areas on Matt's course are now MUCH more populated with my Callaways. Second, **Randy Lusher** and **Tom Prichard** are long-lost twin brothers who were reunited at the event

*(continued on next page)*

# Midwest Core Sponsorship

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS) has an easy to navigate sponsor package aptly named, Midwest Core Company Sponsors, to further recognize and enhance the partnership among the Midwest member and you. At the center Midwest are companies that support the industry through sponsorship, advertising and partnership.

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## Core Company Packages

All Core Company Sponsor packages include the Midwest's key support opportunities, *On Course* Magazine, MAGCS Monthly Meetings and the Midwest Hospitality Reception.

### On Course Magazine

All Core Company Sponsor levels include 12 months of advertising in *On Course*, one of the leading local and most read publications. *On Course* is one of the key membership benefits and is highly valued by its readers and other key golf course professionals each month.

Core Company Sponsor packages represent a minimum size advertisement for each corresponding level. Because advertising is a complex process, the Midwest will work with each company to meet specific advertising needs.

### MAGCS Monthly Meetings

The Midwest conducts a meeting nearly every month at different venues throughout the geographic area. These meetings are all centered on education and networking.

Core Company Sponsors are recognized through several outlets for each meeting including: email, web, onsite signage, printed material and verbal communications.

### Midwest Hospitality Reception

All Core Company Sponsor levels include sponsorship of the annual Midwest Hospitality Reception. In conjunction with the Golf Industry Show, this event is one of the most popular and best attended events each year.

This event grows better and better each year offering attendees fantastic local flavors of both food and drink. The Reception is the highlight and most memorable event of the Golf Industry Show for Midwest members. The 2013 Hospitality Reception will take place on February 6, 2013 on the rooftop deck of Hotel Solamar in San Diego. Make sure you are a part of it.



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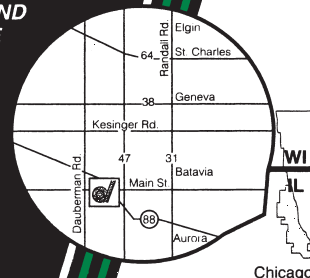
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**Randy Lusher and Tom Prichard**

Third, Craig Lewis's daughter Katie definitely got her good looks from her mother.



**Craig and Katie Lewis**

Added bonus: Chatting with Matt and a skinny guy named Jay, not realizing he was one of the club's developers and owners, and a former All-Pro Chicago Bears center with the last name Hilgenberg. Duh!

We gave it the ol' college try... On October 22<sup>nd</sup> the MAGCS college teams gathered at Calumet Country Club to contest the Annual College Championship. **Matt Harstad** and **Adam Lencke** and staff had the course primped and prepped and good to go, but alas, Mother Nature had her say in things, deciding that October 22<sup>nd</sup> was going to be the day the drought ended. The rain started about an hour before the shotgun start was planned, and it never stopped. Although no golf was played that day, a great gathering of the participants in the men's grill room did take place, making the trip more than worthwhile. Thanks to Matt and everyone at Calumet for hosting, as well as to our sponsors for their generosity, who were **Arthur Clesen, Inc., Burris**

**Equipment Company, Nels J Johnson Tree Experts, Reinders Inc., and Syngenta Professional Products.**

The good news is we are trying to rebook with them for an event next year.

This month, 63 years ago, the Bull Sheet ran the following public service announcement: IT IS WITH PROFOUND REGRET THAT WE INFORM YOU THAT THERE IS NO SANTA CLAUS. Those guys running MAGCS back in '49 were a serious lot. It was also reported that Chicago district golf courses spent over one MILLION dollars on maintenance in 1949. That's ALL Chicago district golf courses combined.

Congratulations to Shelleigh and Mike Skopik (Leibold Irrigation) on the birth of their 5-pound, 15-ounce, 19-inch long bouncing baby daughter Sydney Michaela on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Growing Solutions is pleased and proud to introduce their newest team member **James M. Keith, CGCS**, former superintendent at St. Charles Country Club. Good luck, Jimmy on your new endeavor.

Also on the move is **Brent Miles**, formerly at Nettle Creek Country Club (and a co-worker of mine MANY moons ago), who is now the new superintendent at Green Garden Country Club in Frankfort, IL. The best of luck to Brent in the new position.

Q: If the turf scientist at Golf House bought a winter coat, what would it be filled with?

A: Derek Settle down.

Recently BASF announced that it will move its education program for turf and ornamental professionals closer to the North American headquarters of its agricultural products business unit. The new program will bring customers to Pinehurst Resort, and will include an educational and recreational component, and allow for visits to BASF research and development facilities in Research Triangle Park and Holly Springs, NC. The move away from Farmlinks expects to bring approximately 350 end users annually to Pinehurst to learn about its products. The new program will begin in January, 2013.

Just caught the movie "Office Space" on cable the other day, and realized something remarkable. Not only can **Dan Charlton** keep a great golf course, as he does so at Evanston Golf Club; he's also a pretty dang good actor. PLUS he got to snuggle up with Jennifer Aniston as a bonus. Want that job!



**Dan Charlton**



**Ron Livingston?**

(continued on page 20)



For the second consecutive month I regretfully must report the passing of a turf industry icon. C. Reed Funk, Ph.D., the former Rutgers University turf breeder responsible for the development of hundreds of cultivars of cool-season grasses, died on October 4<sup>th</sup> at the age of 84. Among the many awards and honors bestowed on him, Mr. Funk was recipient of GCSAA's Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award in 1979, and the USDA Distinguished Service Award for agricultural research in 1990.

Mark your calendars for January 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, when the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation will hold its Turf Conference at the Hyatt Lodge on the Hamburger University campus in Oak Brook, IL. All information, including a printable conference program and registration form can be found at the new and improved [iturf.org](http://iturf.org) website. Go there now!

As inevitable as the changing of the seasons, another golf season has come and gone. The leaves have been cleaned up, the pipes drained, and the courses all put to bed. And of course there's the REALLY important stuff—the end of all the golf leagues and the final matchups between leagues for the ultimate bragging rights. In the case of the Fox Valley Golf League, which played its 19<sup>th</sup> season this summer, the bid to retain the Cheryl Cup (yes, there is a story, but not here) over offshoot rival Homeless League (and yes again, there is a story about that, too) was once again a success, and "The Cheryl" is in her rightful home again.

The victorious team included: Front row—Paul Carlson, Steve Stewart, Todd Schmitz, Jan Jarvis, Gil Velazquez and Rusty Stachlewitz. Back row—Aaron Reinhart, Chuck Anfield, Chad Rotert, John Gurke, Eric Nadler, and Brian Winkel

The American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) has announced its first "Design Excellence Recognition Program" honorees, and of the six American projects cited, two are local AND were designed by MAGCS members. Receiving the honors were Bowes Creek Country Club (**Brad Legnaioli, CGCS** superintendent) in Elgin and architect **Rick Jacobson** as well as Phillips Park Golf Course (**Todd Schmitz** superintendent) in Aurora and architect **Greg Martin**. Congratulations to Rick and Greg on this impressive honor.



Rick Jacobson



Greg Marin

