

local favorite, Midlothian Country Club. After initially deciding school wasn't for him, very similar to my own path Jim decided to join the Army where he would serve three years. Again strangely similar to my own path, after his service Jim began to pursue a formal career in golf at the local community college and eventually Southern Illinois University. During his younger years Jim had gained a feel for the game working minor maintenance jobs at places like Twin Ponds and Crystal Lake Country Club, finally reaching the level of superintendent at Woodstock Country Club. After only a short time at Woodstock, a member there who also happened to be the greens chairman at Big Foot Country Club mentioned to Jim that the superintendent position was available at the club. Jim applied for the job and took the reins in late 1979 and the rest is history. Jim informed me that he had very little formal experience when he started and really learned the job just by doing it and by surrounding himself with a good bunch of friends in the business. I asked Jim if he had any words of wisdom about his philosophy he could share with some of us young superintendents and I'd like to share a few of them with you.

"There is no cultural practice more important than aerification."

"Don't succumb to members need for green speed, because they remember dead greens a lot longer than slow ones."

"If you find yourself in a stretch of tough weather wondering whether you should be doing more, DON'T. Keep it simple."

I'm sure we have all heard a version of these statements over the years, but they are all very true.

Just like we all attempt to, at least during the summer anyway, Jim also enjoys his time away from the golf course. When he manages to get away, Jim enjoys spending time with his wife Sandy of 37 years, as well as his three daughters and four grandchildren. They especially enjoy traveling in

the winter making frequent trips to Mexico and Florida. As we all know, in this business you can't beat the winters. Oh! I almost forgot! I am very proud to report that even though his path has taken him north of the border he has not been infected by the deadly blight...Jim is most definitely a diehard Bears fan.

So, if you find yourself at the MAGCS Championship this September, be sure to stop and say hello to Jim, I guarantee you won't regret it. **-OC**

(more course photos on page 13)





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THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



SEPTEMBER 2012

Welcome to the growing MAGCS family to these new members:
Michael VanDeVelde, Class E, Breezy Hill Nursery
Stan Baker, Class DT, Oregon State University
Justin Pawlicki, Class C, White Eagle Golf Club

As the summer from hell, of hell, IN hell comes to a merciful end, we would be remiss if we didn't send a shout out to the many wonderful Class E commercial members of MAGCS who were there when we needed them on countless occasions. The unsung heroes of our industry deserve a big round of thanks from those of us who rely on them day in and day out, and often take for granted the superb service and assistance they provide. CHEERS to you all! And thanks to **Brian Bossert, CGCS** for the reminder...

Ladies and gentlemen, Elvis has left the building. By Elvis, I mean **Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG** of Naperville Country Club, and the building to which I refer is the grounds maintenance facility. The MG after Tim's name can officially be turned around to read GM, as in General Manager, as the club recently announced that Tim has been promoted to that role from the interim Club Manager position he previously held. Accompanying this announcement, NCC also promoted **Steven Biehl** to the position of golf course superintendent from his previous assistant's role at the club. Congratulations and best wishes to both gentlemen! Oh, and elephants beware!

(continued on next page)

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

September 20 – CDGA's 41st Annual Husband & Wife Championship at Crystal Tree Golf & Country Club in Orland Park, IL, **Les Rutan** 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, Jake Mendoza, and Jim Wallace** hosts.

October 2 – Northwest Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association (NWIGCSA) monthly meeting at Dubuque Country Club, presumably in Dubuque, IA.

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 15 – Deadline for nominations for GCSAA's 2013 Excellence in Government Relations Award.

October 19 – Deadline for nominations for the 2012 GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards.

October 19 – Golf course equipment auction at Graystone Golflinks. Information to follow.

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

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

October 25-26 – GIE + EXPO in Louisville, KY. For info, go to www.gie-expo.com.

October 29-30 – Symposium on Affordable Golf at Southern Pines, NC. Information on this event is available at www.symposiumonaffordablegolf.com.

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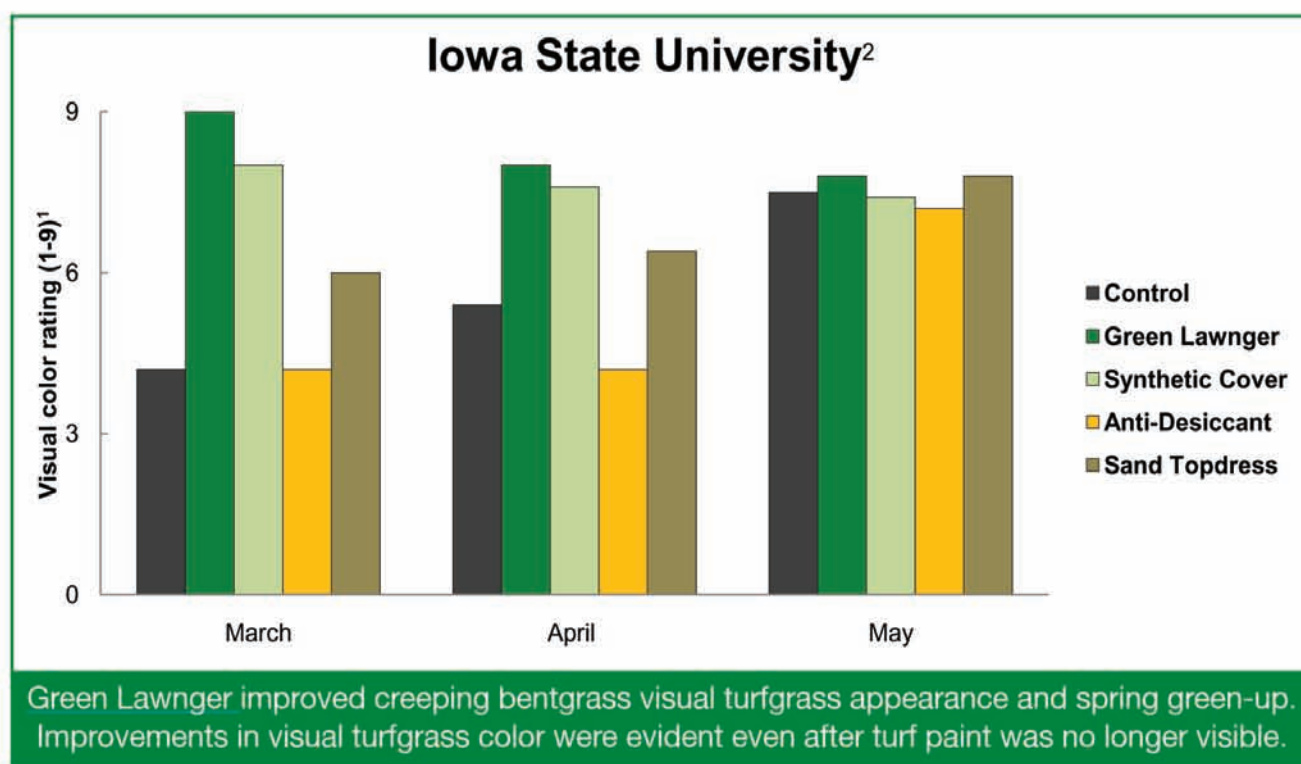
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¹Visual color ratings were made prior to spring green-up (March), at the start of spring green-up (April), and following spring green-up (May). Visual color ratings were based on a scale of 1-9, with 9=best and 6=least acceptable green color. Green Lawnger was applied December 7 the prior year at a rate of 32 fl. oz. per 1,000 ft².

²Adapted from Minner D.D. and F.J. Valverde. 2005. The effect of winter protection products on putting greens. Presented data were collected at the Iowa State University Research Station.

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Steven Biehl and Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG

Also big congrats to **Renny Jacobson** on his exciting new endeavor. Renny has started CS Turf—Common Sense Turf Management, Inc., which specializes in Deep Tine Aeration of greens, tees, and fairways. For more information, you can contact Renny at 815-791-7404 or at renny@csturf.net. Good luck Renny!

A bit of sad news, and a sign of the times—after 18 years of operation, Graystone Golflinks, 7600 W. 191st St. in Tinley Park is closing permanently. All golf course equipment will be auctioned at the site on October 19th at 9:00 am. Information is available by contacting owner Karen Gray at 708-908-0011.

Ever look at your fairways this time of year and wonder what is REALLY going on under the surface?



Married worms

Single worm

Q: What is the bank of Lake Kadija at the Ryder Cup's host club called?

A: MeDinah Shore.

Thank you to **Brian Green, CGCS** of Sunset Valley Golf Course on alerting the MAGCS membership to a potential health hazard on our golf courses. It turns out that Blue Green Algae (no relation to Brian), which can bloom in water bodies during the summer months, are toxic to dogs that drink it. Check out the video on what precautions to take with your dog(s) at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGG50pfBEhI&feature=player_detailpage.

(continued on page 19)

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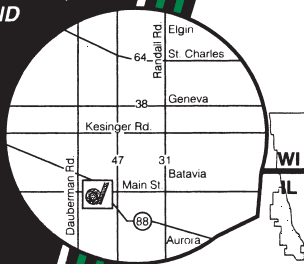
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Brian Green, CGCS

Congratulations to **Larry Flament** and the staff of Stonewall Orchard Golf Club on their successful hosting of last month's 90th Illinois Section PGA Championship from the 27th through the 29th. All players were in unison in their praise of the excellent course conditions, and that can be a tough group from which to get praise. Nicely done guys!

Encouraging news from the National Golf Foundation came out last month: NGF tracked a modest recovery in several areas of the industry this year, most notably in rounds played and in golfer confidence. With regard to national rounds played: June was up 3.2% vs. June 2011; YTD rounds are up 12.2% over last year; The YTD rounds increases are nearly double at public facilities (+13.5%) vs. private courses (+7.6%); And if rounds played for the remainder of the year

were to be flat vs. 2011, 2012 would end +5.7% (the equivalent to a year-over-year bump of more than 26MM rounds).


Audubon International has announced that after a nationwide search, its Board of Directors has named Ryan Aylesworth as the new executive director of the organization. Audubon International was founded by its current president Ron Dodson (who originally re-established the Audubon Society of New York State in 1987 after it ceased holding meetings in 1930, and which subsequently became Audubon International in 1996), and is the force behind the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. Among its Board members are Dr. Frank Rossi of Cornell University and **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** of North Shore Country Club.

Condolences to **Kerry Anderson** and his family on the passing of Kerry's mother Marian on August 18th at the age of 84.

Not that this news should affect anything from the customer standpoint, but Eagle One Golf Products was recently purchased by Canadian company Golf Supply House, which plans to continue to operate the Eagle One Golf office and production facility in Anaheim, CA, as well as its Eastern Distribution Center in Charleston, S.C.

I love a happy ending, especially when it involves a dog. Let me explain—while Joe Stoudt, the superintendent at Lander (Wyoming) Golf & Country Club was playing his course one afternoon in June, he was informed that a fire had engulfed the community center where his office was located and where he had left his dog Gizmo. He rushed back to the site, finding the building in flames, and feared the worst. Miraculously, Gizmo appeared unscathed in a window that

(continued on page 21)




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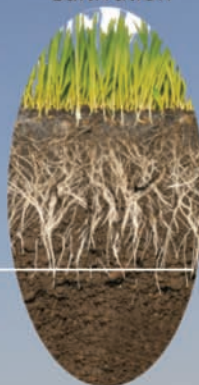
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