

The BullSheet

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



APRIL 2013

Dates to Remember

April 15 – Deadline for applications for the inaugural Stanley Zontek Memorial Scholarship. Details to follow.

April 15 – Deadline for applications for GCSAA's Legacy Awards scholarships. Details to follow.

April 16 – CAGCS monthly meeting at Makray Memorial Golf Club in Barrington, IL, **Tim Christians** host.

April 30 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Calumet Country Club in Homewood, IL (second time's a charm), **Matt Harstad** host.

May 5 – J.W. Turf's Annual Equipment Auction at their Hampshire location beginning at 8:00 AM. Contact **Danna Curtis** for information at danna@foxvalley.net.

May 13 – MAGCS/ITF combined event at Beverly Country Club in Chicago, **Kirk Spieth** host.

May 18 – Sunshine Through Golf Foundation's 100-Hole Golf Marathon at the Zigfield Troy Golf Course in Woodridge, IL, **Dennis Troy** host.

June 1 – Deadline for MAGCS Scholarship Applications. Applications can be found on our website.

June 1 – Deadline for applications for GCSAA Scholars Competition. Details to follow.

June 15 – 13th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing at Randall Oaks Golf Club, **Mike Sprouse** host.

June 17-23 – Champions Tour's Encompass Championship at North Shore Country Club, **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** and **J.D. Dinelli** hosts.

Congratulations to Jen and **Elliott Dowling** (Cress Creek Country Club) on the birth of their baby boy Elliott Lane on February 3rd. The confirmed Red Wings fan came into the world ironically in the midst of the Blackhawks unprecedented streak at 8 lbs., 0 ozs., and 20" long.

Big congrats to **Jeff Hoste** on being named the golf course superintendent at the Village Greens of Woodridge. Jeff started in his new role on March 18th.

Best wishes to **David Schingel** on his new position as Director of Maintenance at Canyata Golf Club in Marshall, IL.

Also on the move recently were **Andrew Decker**, formerly at Oakland Hills Country Club who is now assistant superintendent at Lake Shore Country Club; and **Christopher Gray**, formerly at Elkhorn Golf Club who is the superintendent at Villa Olivia Country Club in Bartlett. Congratulations and best wishes to you.

Speaking of Chris Gray, can you guess the most famous musical performer to play the lounge at his course? Villa Olivia Newton-John.

And even more good news: The golf industry may be heading in the right direction, based on this year's Chicago Golf Show attendance. The 30th Annual event presented by the BMW Championship and held on February 22-24 shattered its previous attendance record by 15%, with 19,200

attendees versus 16,700 last year. Hopefully that translates to more revenue for all of our courses. And more play. And more divots. And more ball marks. Oh just forget I mentioned it.

This is better news: The drought that overwhelmed much of the central United States the past two summers might be making an encore. This news came on Valentine's Day from a panel of experts



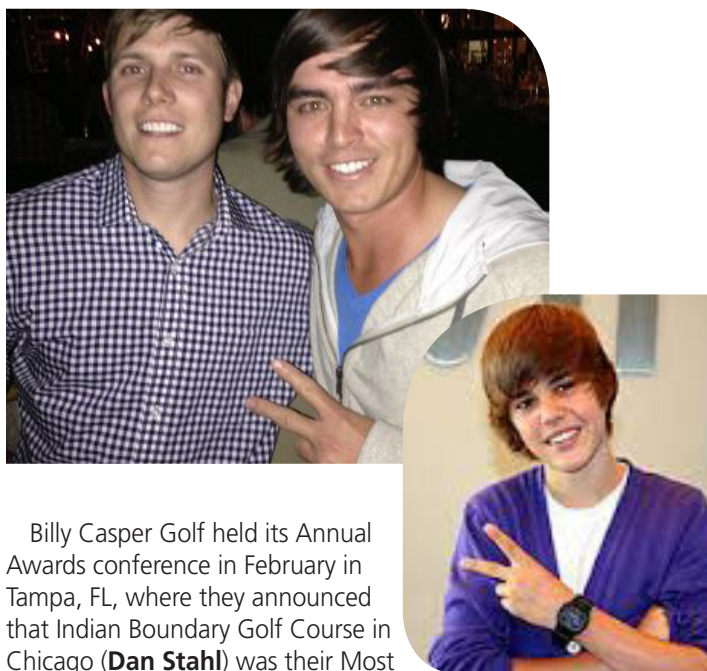
The Dowlings



Jeff Hoste, new Superintendent at Village Greens of Woodridge

speaking to the U.S. Senate committee on agriculture, nutrition and forestry. "The continuing conditions really look like they're setting up for a very similar level of drought in the Midwest and West," Roger Pulwarty of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration told the committee. Time to restock the hose repair kit.

Okay, I'm fairly certain the guy on the left is **Craig Shepherd** below. He claims the other guy is Ricky Fowler (and that Ricky's a really nice dude). I have a sneaky suspicion Sheppy just didn't want us to know he was at a Justin Bieber concert and had just met his ultimate heart throb.



Billy Casper Golf held its Annual Awards conference in February in Tampa, FL, where they announced that Indian Boundary Golf Course in Chicago (**Dan Stahl**) was their Most Improved Facility of the Year for 2012. Congrats Dan on a great job last year!

It was a sad winter for several MAGCS families whose loved ones passed away. Zachary Zeinert, the son of Naomi and **Phil Zeinert** (Elgin CC) lost his long battle with cancer at the age of 28 in February. In March, Bill Nadler, the father of **Dave Nadler** and grandfather of **Eric Nadler** and **Matt Baumgartner** passed away. Also last month, Joyce Jacobson, mother of **Rick Jacobson** passed; Dennis Augdahl, the father of **Dan Augdahl** left us and David Lapp, the son of Carol and **John Lapp** lost his struggle with an extended illness. Our heartfelt sympathies are with you all.

The 15th of this month is the due date for applications for two scholarship opportunities. The Stanley Zontek Memorial Scholarship presented by Golf Course Industry magazine honors Stan's legacy and his passion for turf and the game of golf. The \$2,500 grant is available to any current student, and details and an application form can be found at www.golfcourseindustry.com. The GCSAA Legacy Awards, funded by Syngenta and sponsored by the Environmental Institute for Golf, are \$1,500 awards for children or grandchildren of GCSAA members who have been active Class A, Superintendent Members, Class C, Class A-Retired, Class SM-Retired or Class AA members for five or more consecutive years. Applicants must be enrolled full time

at an accredited institution of higher learning or be a high school senior who has been accepted at such an institution for the next academic year. Application forms are available at www.gcsaa.org by clicking on the Education tab and then the Scholarships tab.

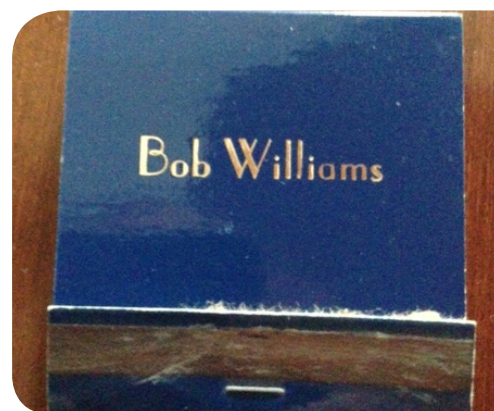
June 1st marks another deadline for students to get some cash. The GCSAA Scholars Competition is available to members who are enrolled in a recognized undergraduate program in a major field related to turf management with at least 24 credit hours or the equivalent of one year of full-time study. Selection criteria include academic excellence, work experience, extracurricular activities and potential to become a leading professional in the golf course management industry. The scholarships range from \$500 to \$6,000, and applications can be found at www.gcsaa.org at the same place as the previously mentioned one.

Q: How does **Tommy Robinson** feel if his neighbor **Mike Bavier Jr.** at Deerfield gets a new irrigation system?

A: He is Ravinia Green with envy.

KemperSports has had a busy winter in our neck of the woods. In February, it was announced that they had been selected by the Illinois International Port District to manage its Harborside International Golf Center in Chicago, and it will also partner with Rockford Country Club to provide turnkey management of the private, member-owned club. In March, the company held its Annual Leadership Awards Conference in Glenview, IL, where it was announced that the Glen Club (**Scott Goniwiecha**) was named the 2012 Facility of the Year.

Remember these things? We used to use them to start fires before there were Bics. **Bruce Williams** found these among his dad's belongings—back in the day if you bought fertilizer, you got your name on a matchbook. Nowadays you get a trip to Pinehurst. I prefer nowadays.



If you are a user of WeedAlert.com—PBI Gordon's online weed identification and control resource since 1998—you've probably noticed its new look. New to the site are color photographs of 109 weeds, allowing turf professionals to search and identify weeds by name, appearance or region. Have a gander if you haven't checked it out—it's a really nice resource.

Nice retirement, Ron! Last month we reported that Ron Dodson, the founder and president of Audubon International had retired after 25 years at the helm. If you blinked, you missed it, because he is now the chairman of the International Sustainability Council and Audubon Lifestyles (ISC-Audubon). "For over 25 years I have dedicated my professional life to advocating properly designed and managed golf courses. For the remainder of my

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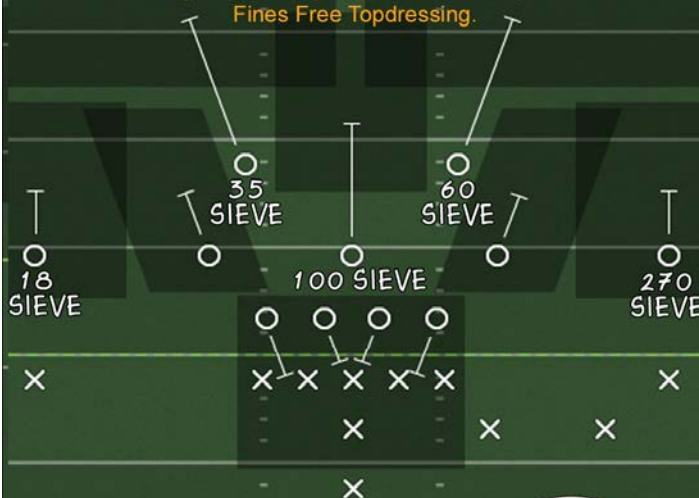
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professional life I intend to focus my attention on getting people more connected with nature and sustainable living and lifestyles. I am starting this effort by focusing on the golfing public,” said Dodson.

Greg Martin has another couple of feathers for his VERY feathery cap. In its spring 2013 edition, By Design magazine, the quarterly publication of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (those guys who wear the plaid jackets), ran an article listing ASGCA's first-ever Design Excellence Recognition Program award winners, and Greg was among them for his work on Phillips Park Golf Course in Aurora. On top of that, Greg was nominated to serve on ASGCA's Executive Committee through 2017, assuming its Secretary role for this year. Congratulations, Greg!



While kinda on the subject of Audubon International, it was recently announced that Katie Hopkins has been hired as the new External Communications Coordinator, AND that they have moved into their new headquarters in the Rensselaer Technology Park in Troy, NY.

One of MAGCS very own has a new employer. **Tom Fermanian** has joined the team of turf scientists at Lebanon-Seaboard to lead the development of its product lineup. Tom's specific area of expertise will be research review, as well as to evaluate and refine the biological and biostimulant offerings of the company's products. Tom joins Drs. Mike Kernan and Clark Throssel to form the team. Best of luck to you, Tom!

What's going on with these sinkholes? First we hear about a poor guy in Florida disappearing into one while he slept, never to be found; and then in our own state, a golfer at Annbriar Golf Course in the St. Louis area fell through the 14th fairway into a 15-foot deep sinkhole just last month. Luckily for him, he was extricated with only minor injuries. Another reason not to play golf in March.

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Has anyone ever seen **John Anderson** after 10:00 PM? I think he's pulling double duty on late-night TV (above).



Drs. Fermanian, Throssel and Kernan

MAGCS Milestones: The following gentlemen—all of them industry icons—have passed a major professional milestone. Congratulations to **Oscar Miles, Dick Trevarthan, Harold Fredrickson, Tom DiGuido, Carl Hopphan, Joe Dinelli, and Paul Voykin** on being GCSAA members for over 50 years!

In gearing up for the season that thankfully took its sweet time arriving, the final frenzy of winter workshops and educational events is officially over. On February 19th, the Class C Winter Workshop was held at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, with

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round table discussions on making the leap to superintendent (below: **Justin VanLanduit, Chuck Barber, Justin Kirtland, and Elliott Dowling**) and exploring other career options featuring Dave Blomquist, Keith Krause and Brett Ziegler highlighting the event.



On March 6th, the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents held its 29th Annual Forum at Naperville Country Club, with Tim Anderson and Steven Biehl hosting. The theme was “New Tools and Technology,” and a highlight of the day was the presentation of a plaque to Dr. Derek Settle pictured with **Dave Ward** in recognition of and appreciation for all the fine work he has done for Chicagoland superintendents.



On March 13th and 14th Reinders held its 21st Green Industry Conference outside of Milwaukee, with “Catch the Wave” being the theme. The conference featured more than 80 leading suppliers on the trade show floor, and more than 35 educational seminars.

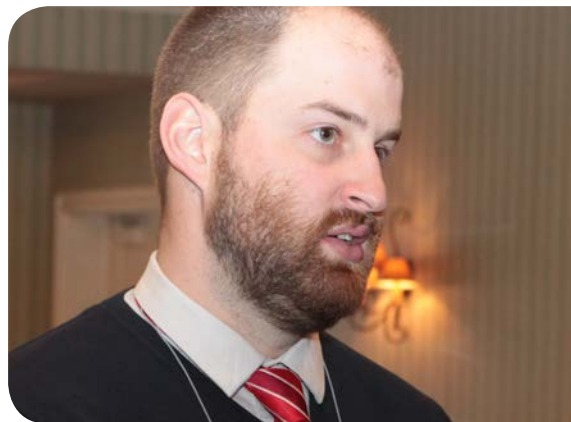


Members Matt Kregel, Mike Murphy and Dave Radaj enjoy the Reinders show.

On March 11th, president Dave Groelle hosted the MAGCS March meeting, with Dr. Karl Danneberger of the Ohio State University speaking on Managing on the Edge.



MAGCS Commercial Representative Jake Vollbeer helps at the registration table greeting members with his smile.



Bill Meyer of Park Ridge Country Club readies himself for a day of education



Eric Radkowsky and Scot Spier share a conversation during one of the morning break.



GCSAA would like you to know that PowerPoint presentations delivered at the 2013 Education Conference in San Diego are now available online at www.gcsaa.org in case you missed one. Or several. @



PHOTO CREDITS: KIRK SPIETH

Kirk Spieth and Beverly Country Club

Willam Meyer, *Park Ridge Country Club*

All of us in the golf business tend to end up in this industry in the same way. We get a summer job at a course and love it so much; we decide to make a career of it. Kirk Spieth's story falls right in that line. Kirk grew up in Ohio and naturally he attended The Ohio State University. While at school, he worked at Wedgewood Golf and Country Club in the summer for a little spending money.

This is where the story takes a quick and unexpected turn; Kirk graduated OSU with a degree in broadcast journalism. After graduating, Kirk looked back and thought about those summers on the golf course and made a decision that puts his story back on track. He then proceeded to work toward his two-year turf degree from Rutgers University. After Rutgers, Kirk went back to Wedgewood and was hired on as an Assistant Superintendent. After five years in this position, Kirk got the opportunity to move to this neck of the woods. He secured a position at Olympia Fields as an Assistant Superintendent, eventually working his way up to the North Course Superintendent. After another five years, Kirk got the opportunity to move on, where two seasons ago Kirk took over responsibilities as golf course superintendent at Beverly Country Club.



Kirk and his wife Katie



Beverly Country Club and the property itself are quite intriguing and unique. The club was founded in 1908; ten years after opening Donald Ross was contracted to make a master plan and renovate the course. Ross' thumb print has stood the test of time, although it has had a little bit of help. In 2002 a master plan and renovation was put into action that refreshed many of the still existing Ross trademarks and incorporated others that were part of Ross' original plans. Most recently, a bunker renovation project was finished in the fall of 2011. This renovation focused on replacing the existing sand with better sand and addressing drainage within bunkers.

The property itself is an interesting 120 acres. It is split in two by 87th Street, with the front nine and maintenance facility on the north side and the back nine and clubhouse on the south. The front nine is in the city of Chicago, however just across the street the clubhouse and back nine are in unincorporated Cook County. One prominent feature on the property is a ridge that runs across some of the front nine; it is the prehistoric shoreline of Lake Chicago. This prehistoric past makes for interesting contours on the property that can be unexpected so close to downtown.

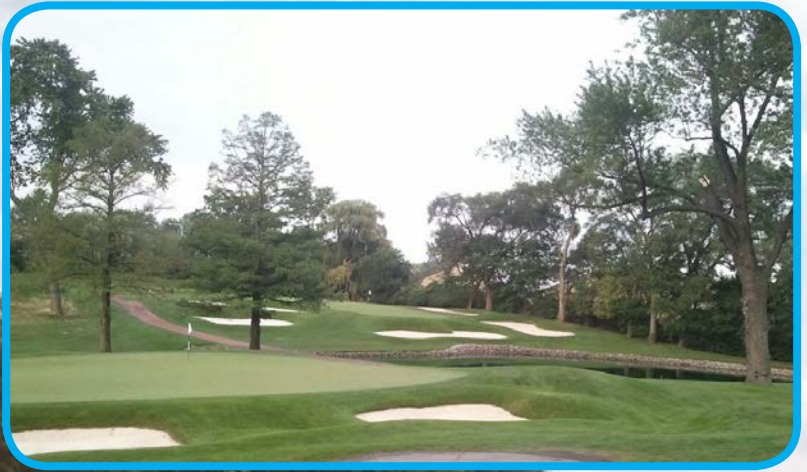
When talking to Kirk about this upcoming season he couldn't help but express his excitement "This is the first season that we are starting with a crew that has been trained in the way that the management team wants." This season, Kirk's main goal is going to be dialing in the Poa greens and Declaration/Poa tees and fairways in preparation for next year's Western Amateur. This will

not be Beverly's first large tournament; it is as a rather storied past when it comes to tournaments with champions such as Francis Ouimet, Arnold Palmer, and Jack Nicklaus. Beverly has hosted a dozen notable tournaments over the last 112 years, these events range from a U.S. Amateur to Western Opens.

Ross' thumb print has stood the test of time, although it has had a little bit of help.

In his down time Kirk enjoys spending time relaxing with his wife Katie at their home in Flossmoor. Kirk describes himself as a large sports fan, especially when it comes to college football and his alma mater The Ohio State Buckeyes. He is also a golfer and, like everyone else, feels like he doesn't seem to play enough with everything that happens in life. @





History of Beverly Championships

- 1910 – Western Open (Chick Evans, Jr.)
- 1930 – Western Amateur (Jack Westland)
- 1931 – Nat'l Amateur Championship (Francis Ouimet)
- 1943 – Chicago Victory Nat'l Open (Sam Byrd)
- 1963 – Western Open (Arnold Palmer)
- 1967 – Western Open (Jack Nicklaus)
- 1970 – Western Open (Hugh Royer)
- 1998-2000 Chicago Open
- 2009 – US Senior Amateur Championship

Course Record: 64, 1967 Tom Weiskopf



Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*

Dr. Danneberger's Turf Diatribe

The Midwest March meeting was held up near the northern border of Illinois, at the frozen turf of The Royal Melbourne Country Club in Long Grove.

MAGCS President Dave Groelle, CGCS was the host. The weather this year was quite a change from last year's meeting. You may recall it was near 80 degrees! Dr. Karl Danneberger, Professor of Turfgrass Science in the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science at Ohio State University was the featured speaker. His focus is turfgrass ecology and physiology.

An old extension professional, Dr. Danneberger described himself as a "self-professed rambler". He spent some time sharing philosophies, car stories, analogies and just doing a great job educating and generally entertaining the MAGCS members with his golf course maintenance observations and results from some of his research. He did a great job covering many topics throughout the morning, some, I've gathered here.

Golf course superintendents seem to share the same philosophy and attempt to manage their turf "on the edge of failure." This comes as we try to provide turf that is fast, firm



Dr. Karl Danneberger, a self-professed rambler and Illinois native, offered keen insight and shared his experiences and turf travels with the Midwest.

and green as the most optimum of playing conditions. The difference between excellent conditions and poor conditions can be a very fine line; and this line can change very quickly because we don't always know when to back off. We tend to manage our turf to extremes. Some examples of these extremes are:

- environmental fluctuations (high and low temperatures, high and low humidity)
- low mowing heights
- moisture management

We manage turf with high demands and high expectations from our players. Higher inputs always require higher costs and come with higher risk to plant health.

One study, Dr. Danneberger explained showed that injury on putting surfaced increased as green speeds became greater.

- 60% injury observed to turf managed at speeds over 10.5 feet
- 100% injury observed to turf managed at speeds over 12 feet

Dr. Danneberger dispelled rumors of higher stimpmeter speeds using special golf balls by conducting a research project with many different golf balls. He found no quantifiable difference using different balls to measure stimpmeter green speeds. Sorry Topflite.

Green firmness is never static. It is always in a state of fluctuation, greens are either building or losing firmness. It is a combination of organic matter and soil moisture, both items that fluctuate as time passes.

Most green agronomic problems can be related to low light situations. Dr. Danneberger went into scientific detail on the specifics of photo quality and photo quantity. Cool season grass can only "take so much light."



Dave Groelle, CGCS (l) welcomes Jeff Leuzinger as he checks in for the March Meeting at Royal Melbourne.