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The City of Aurora recently honored the Nadler family for their 50 years of doing business in the city. The business opened in 1963 as Nadler Harley-Davidson Sales, Inc. by Bill and Bea Nadler, and became Nadler Golf Car Sales under the second generation of Dave Nadler and his sister Karen Baumgartner, followed by the recently-renamed Nadler Golf under owners Eric Nadler and Matt Baumgartner.



On hand for the presentation were L. to R.: Eric Nadler, Karen Baumgartner, Mayor Tom Weisner, Dave Nadler and Matt Baumgartner. Congratulations on this great achievement Dave, Karen, Eric and Matt!

Michael Benkusky of Michael J. Benkusky, Inc. has reached a major career milestone--that of celebrating 25 years in the golf course design business. Congratulations, Mike, and may there be at least another 25 on the horizon!

Q: What kind of car does a surfer-dude member of **Randy Wahler's** club drive?

A: A Knollwoody.

The Johnson family operated Illinois Lawn Equipment Company for many many years. Illinois Lawn became Burris Equipment and eventually the Johnsons left the business. Or DID they? Is that really **Jake Vollbeer** at Burris Equipment Company, or did the Johnsons leave their long lost cousin Zach Johnson back to keep an eye on things? It's possible, no?

MIDWEST Doppelgänger



Vollbeer needs to logo it up a bit and maybe work on his swing or Johnson needs to start wearing some Textron colors.

Audubon international is proud to announce that it has designated its 1,000th golf course as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. Eagles Pride Golf Course in Washington State is the venue, and John Ford, CGCS is the superintendent.

If you're interested in winning \$2,000 worth of irrigation products and services from Rainbird, read on. The Groundwater Foundation was founded in 1994 as a way to educate users on the need to conserve water. Part of that mission is the formation of the Groundwater Guardian Green Site program that encourages managers of green spaces to implement, measure and document groundwater conservation practices. Any golf course can apply for Green Site designation by completing a survey and application, and once submitted, a point system determines how well (get it? I said well and I'm talking about groundwater) you are doing. If your site earns a total of 70% of the total applicable points, it gets Green Site designation and is eligible to receive the \$2,000 in Rainbird stuff. Go to www.groundwater.org to apply.

Remember the Red Rider utility vehicle? The one with the engine on the handlebars? Well, the guy who brought it to market back in 1967, Ted Smith, the founder of Smithco passed away on June 10th at the age of 98.

In case you feel you've had a few too many on the course and are not sure if you should drive, there's a new gadget called the Golfalyzer, a battery-powered breathalyzer geared toward us "social athletes" to help make the decision. Developed by a couple of golfing buddies, the device aims to deter golfers from driving home after overindulging during their rounds or at the 19th hole.

A potentially new type of MAGCS meeting took place last month on the 10th at the St. Charles Country Club (**Chuck Barber** and **Jason Kahlstorf** hosts). The unique things about the event included the start time which was 2:00 p.m., leaving a good portion of the day for participants to get their responsibilities taken care of at work; the 12-hole game, making for a shorter day on the course; and the casual, walking-encouraged atmosphere of the event. The Quarry Course was the site--a six-hole monster with some really fun holes complete with huge elevation changes and gnarly goat-eaten ravines, and it was a blast! In the end, the team of **Ron McCarthy**, **Brian Stout**, **Brian Kalal** and **Craig Shepherd** prevailed with a 35, besting 3 teams that were on their tails with 36's. After golf a sumptuous barbecue on the pool deck compliments of the folks at **Arthur Clesen, Inc.** was just the ticket to bring the great day to an end. I think the experiment was an unmitigated success! Thanks to Chuck and St. Charles CC, to the Clesen folks, and to **Dave Blomquist** and **Shaw's** for providing the beverages AND bringing them to us, and to **Harris Golf Cars** for providing a couple of people movers. Thanks everyone for a truly wonderful and unique event. (pics here "st_chuck003, 010, 014, 018, and 023" with captions on 014: Hosts Jason Kahlstorf, Chuck and Tina Barber; 018: Chefs Garry Anderson, Lisa Tomashek and John Anderson)



NEWS FROM USGA

If you didn't watch the U.S. Open last month, you may have missed the fun new "While We're Young" campaign the USGA launched, which is a public-education campaign to address slow play. Playing off the "Caddy Shack" line, the series of ads featuring the likes of Arnold Palmer and Tiger Woods are funny, yet contain an important message--PLAY FASTER!

Also from USGA, on the morning of May 21st, the proposed Rule 14-1b--the one prohibiting of anchoring the club while making a stroke--was adopted by the USGA and The R & A, and will become effective January 1, 2016 (pending an anticipated TON of litigation).

NEWS FROM GCSAA

The first Rounds For Research (R4R) auction is in the books, and it was a complete success, raising more than \$100,000. The next auction is August 1st.

How much did weather disasters cost last year? How about a cool \$110 billion. Last year was the second most expensive year for weather-related disasters since record keeping started in 1980, according to federal climate scientists. The costliest was 2005, the year of Hurricane Katrina.

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Luke Cella, CGCS, MAGCS

Flying the United States Flag at Your Club or Course

This year, I've been at a couple of events that commemorated the lives of a different generation. At two of these services Honor Guards of our different military branches presented the United States Flag to the family members of the deceased. These ceremonies though solemn, honored individuals of a generation that didn't question their commitment or their call to defend the United States and its Constitution. At their passing, both were recognized for their sacrifices and the object used to symbolize this was the United States Flag. I've paid much more attention to the Flag since those ceremonies, and I think we too often forget what it symbolizes. I know most clubs and courses have a United States Flag, but how many follow our Federal Law in Title 4 of the United States Code when flying it?

The "Flag Code" includes instruction and rules on such topics as the pledge of allegiance, display and use of the flag by civilians, time and occasions for display, position and manner of display, and how to show respect for the flag. The "Code" also grants to the President the authority to modify the rules governing the flag. A few of the most unknown or ignored instructions are:

- It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on stationary flagstaffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.
- The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed.
- When flags of States, cities, or localities, or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the United States flag's right.
- On Memorial Day, the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff.
- No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living



thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.

- The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. (Most VFW halls will take flags that are unfit to fly and destroy them for you.)

Next time you are up by the clubhouse, take a moment to check out the flag and hold it in the esteem it deserves, if not for yourself, for those to whom it meant more. @



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SUPER-N-Site

Steve VanAcker & Crystal Lake Country Club

Brian Placzkowski, Royal Melbourne Country Club

PHOTOS: LUKE CELLA

The August Midwest meeting takes us to a faraway land that few of us regularly travel to: McHenry County. Crystal Lake Country Club (CLCC) is situated in, of all places, Crystal Lake, a far northwest suburb.

Having lived in the nearby town of McHenry for the past 26 years I amazingly, only recently discovered the location of CLCC. I have to tell you; it is definitely worth any travel time you may need to get there. I just had the opportunity to sit down and gain some insight with the longstanding CLCC superintendent and MAGCS member Steve Van Acker.

For those of you that don't know Steve, he has been the Golf Course Superintendent at CLCC for the past 23 years. He began his career in golf in 1974 as an intern at Turnberry Country Club. Steve's affinity for the outdoors and agriculture began at a young age as he grew up on a dairy farm in

nearby Huntley. He would later further his education and dedication to the field by attending McHenry County College to study Agriculture. Steve credits much of who he has become as a superintendent to the late industry icons Adolf Bertucci, Benny Kronn, and Peter Voykin.

When I met with Steve I asked him about his philosophies on being a superintendent, so that I might share his wealth of knowledge with everybody.

Steve believes in detail and imagination, "Don't be afraid to take on a renovation project in-house with your own staff. Take a step back and imagine how it's going to look before you even start and plan it through. This is a great way of increasing your value to your club."

Another great piece of advice Steve shared was to reach out to fellow golf course superintendents and not only offer help, but also ask for help. "We're all in this business together, each trying to provide quality turf conditions for our clubs. You never know when you'll need help, each of us does at some point in our career."

Another point Steve shared with me is to not become greedy and chase a paycheck. "Clubs will pay you what you're worth if you do the job they expect of you."

One last thing Steve shared with me, something he





wishes he were able to do now, is to thank your mentors. Let them know the impact they made on you, your career and your life. It takes a very special person to help those under their tutelage to become better than they are, one of the reasons our profession has advanced in such a short period of time.

Steve does occasionally find time to get away in the off-season. He enjoys traveling with his wife of 36 years, Mary Kay. A few of their favorite spots are Cabo San Lucas and Las Vegas. The most disappointing part of my meeting with Steve was the discovery of his long-term illness. You see, we've lost another Illinois soul to the dreaded green and gold scourge from the North. Yes, Steve is a Green Bay Packer fan, making two super-n-sites in a row.

Crystal Lake Country Club is beautiful 18-hole parkland layout situated on 135 acres and is just a short jog from downtown Crystal Lake. CLCC was built in 1922 by George O'Neil and Joseph Roseman (of Roseman Tractor Fame). The course has been renovated and updated over the past 25 years by Lohmann Golf Designs. The original layout encompassed 36 holes and was often considered a second Medinah

Country Club because of its proximity to the passenger train. The current 18-hole layout plays to 6800 yards from the tips and will present a challenge for the upcoming MAGCS Championship. Steve and CLCC have not hosted the Midwest since the 1999 Championship. Even if you played in that one, you'll want to make sure you don't miss the 2013 Championship on August 26 and experience the changes and improvements for yourself. @

Crystal Lake Country Club **Site of 2013 Midwest Golf Championship**

August 26, 2013



