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THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

June 2009

The Club at Strawberry Creek

Matt Kregel

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents
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Cover and above photo: Paul Hundley Photography

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The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS), founded December 24, 1926, is a professional organization whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance. We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

The MAGCS member is also an environmental steward. We strive to uphold and enhance our surroundings by promoting flora and fauna in every facet in a manner that is beneficial to the general public now and in the future.

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DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Mark Thibault, *Carillon Golf Club*



MAGCS Employment & Membership Update

The 2009 golf season is upon us. Because the 2009 season seems unlike any other, there are many unanswered questions for the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Will the number of job postings be higher than usual? Will golf courses have higher employment turnovers? Will our golf events have a lower turnout? How will the economy affect the association's membership numbers?

The MAGCS is an important venue for listing job opportunities. Employers simply fill out a questionnaire, and the information is posted as a job opening. The following figures illustrate how beneficial our services have been both for facilities and members. During the year 2005, 16 jobs were posted with the MAGCS: 7 Superintendent positions, 5 Assistant or Second Assistant positions, and 4 Technician positions. In 2006, 14 jobs were posted: 3 Superintendent, 8 Assistant or Second Assistant, 1 Director of Grounds, 1 Territory Manager, and 1 Assistant Technician. In 2007, 29 jobs were posted: 6 Superintendent positions, 18 Assistants, 4 Technicians, and 1 Horticulturist. During the year 2008, 22 jobs were posted: 4 Superintendent, 16 Assistant, and 2 Technician positions. So far, in 2009, 21 jobs have been posted: 6 Superintendent, 12 Assistant, and 3 Technician positions. We provide a valuable resource where courses and golf-related businesses can list their job opportunities. This can only be a positive for those interested in entering the golf industry.

One recent change to the employment section of the website is any non-superintendent posting is available to the world. Only superintendent postings are password protected, so if you are searching for a key staff member, think of the MAGCS website as your place to begin your search.

A membership in the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents can be beneficial for many and different reasons. Some members attend our events for networking, some for education, and some for the golf outings. Whatever the reason, our membership has grown through recent years. In 2006 we had 666 members; in 2007 we had 780 members; in 2008 we had 799 members; and in 2009, to date, we have 768 members.

...if you are searching for a key staff member, think of the MAGCS website as your place to begin your search.

This year the Board of Directors is hoping to see more members than usual venture out to different events. If you usually attend the golf outings, how about inviting someone that normally would not attend? Or, how about golfing in a different foursome? During 2009, try attending educational events and giving MAGCS your feedback, good or bad. If you are a seasoned member, invite newer members to our organization. Try to introduce yourself to new members at events. Ask newer members to join your foursome at the next golf outing or even invite them to play golf at your establishment. Whether as seasoned superintendents or new superintendents, we can all learn from each other. We have a great organization, and we hope you will take the time to be more involved on any level. **-OC**

SUPER -N- SITE

Ryan Hinnars, *Sunset Ridge Country Club*

Matt Kregel -N-



On June 15, the MAGCS members will be taking a short trip just over the Northern Illinois border into the beautiful land of Wisconsin. They will visit The Club at Strawberry Creek, hosted by Superintendent Matt Kregel. There will be plenty of competitions: the Senior and Super Senior Championships, the Class C Championship, and the Dom Grotti Championship, where the Superintendent and his Assistant are paired together as a team, competing with other teams of the same make-up. This Championship honors Domenic Grotti, a long time Superintendent at Sunset Ridge Country Club, who always encouraged Assistant Superintendents to participate in both local and national associations.

Matt Kregel grew up south of Chicago in the small village of Beecher. You might miss the Village of Beecher if you blink. It may or may not have any stoplights, but it's big enough for a 27-hole golf course – Shady Lawn Golf Course (now named Cardinal Creek). This home town course is where Matt was introduced to the game of golf by his grandfather and uncle. They would bring him along to drive the golf cart and caddy for them. As an 8th grader Matt was parking carts, helping in the clubhouse, and mowing lawns. At the age of 16, he was brought over to the grounds crew by Jerry Crist and John Hogan. He had an arrangement worked out where he would change cups or mow greens in the morning before he went to class. He also worked weekends. Matt continued to work at Shady Lawn for his summer job. He was unknowingly preparing for his future in the golf course industry.

Matt's college education began at Illinois State University as a business major. While attending college, Matt worked part time and weekends at the ISU Golf Course under Steve Leason. After two years of business classes, he realized that he did not want to work indoors and stare at a computer all day. His love for working outdoors and working at a golf course led him to a major decision. Matt not only changed his college major but



The Kregels, clockwise from Matt are his wife Rosa and kids Hannah, Tyler, and Isabel.

he also had to change universities.

He transferred to the University of Illinois and enrolled in the Ornamental Horticulture program with a concentration in turfgrass management.

During his schooling at the U of I, Matt interned at two private clubs in the south suburbs of Chicago. First, at Prestwick Country Club for Dick Trevarthan and, later, he served a second internship with Dave Ward at Olympia Fields. This was in 1997, when they hosted the Senior Open. Matt graduated from the University of Illinois and accepted a job with the Ivanhoe Club. He was there for the next seven years, three as a Second Assistant and four as the Senior Assistant. In his tenure with the Ivanhoe Club, Matt had the opportunity to work with two respected individuals, Peter Leuzinger and Tom Prichard.

At Ivanhoe, the high level of golf course conditioning and the 27-hole master plan renovation provided invaluable experiences that helped groomed Matt for

his future. He encourages all aspiring Superintendents to gain renovation and construction experience as an Assistant. Clubs are always looking to update and remain competitive. Matt says it was at Ivanhoe Club that he gained his experience in golf course construction, which in turn gave him

the qualifications for the Superintendent position at The Club at Strawberry Creek.

The ground was broken in spring 2004 to start the golf course and housing development at Strawberry Creek. In the spring of 2005, Matt took over as superintendent while course construction continued. By the fall of '05 the grow-in was complete. Some invited rounds were being played that fall. The following spring the course opened with mature, healthy turf and ready to be enjoyed.

Designed by award-winning Rick Jacobsen, The Club at Strawberry Creek opened in April 2006, with prairie landscapes and native grasses that create a "links style" feel. The course has 50 acres of bentgrass with rolling hills, generous landing areas off the tees, hidden rollofts, wetlands, 126 bunkers, and fescue native areas. It is a family oriented club, which is geared to any style of play from novice to professional. The clubhouse was designed and built with the entire family in mind; from the resort-style swimming pools, to the fitness center, to the activity room for the kids, to the spa for the ladies (and men). For the first couple years, the club was a private one that allowed outside play in order to drum up interest. With the completion of the brand new state-of-the-art clubhouse in February 2009, the club became fully private.

***RIGHT:** The 6th hole, a short par 4 at 299 yards presents an interesting choice off the tee.*

***BELOW:** The 17th hole, another short par 4 has a very receptive green.*

After being involved with every aspect of the construction from the ground up, to the grow-in, to facilities, Matt and his Assistant, Jeremy Dahl, are both looking forward to entering the 2009 season with no major projects scheduled. Matt says Jeremy "is a huge part of the success at Strawberry Creek." They are both excited to be getting back to maintaining the greens and grounds. When Matt is not at the club he enjoys spending time with his wife, Rosa, and kids Isabel, Hannah, and Tyler. The three young kids keep him on his toes. Matt is a Fighting Illini fan who bleeds orange and blue for U of I football and basketball. Those colors also work for being a Bears fan. In the land of cheese there are bears; one of Matt's owners is former Chicago Bear, Jay Hilgenberg. Matt is a Chicago Cubs fan as well and very much enjoys attending games at Wrigley Field and Wrigley North (Miller Park).

MAGCS thanks Matt and Jeremy in advance for hosting this year's Championship Golf Meeting. We look forward to playing the Midwest's most exciting new venue. **-OC**



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FEATURE ARTICLE I
Jeff VerCautren, *Rich Harvest Farms*



The 2009 Solheim Cup at Rich Harvest Farms

The Solheim Cup is a biennial, trans-Atlantic team match-play competition featuring the best U.S.-born players from the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour and the best European members from the Ladies European Tour (LET). The U.S. Team leads the competition, 7-3, and has never lost The Solheim Cup on home soil. In 2009, the Americans will be looking to keep their untarnished home record intact at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove.

U.S. Solheim Cup team captain, Beth Daniel, a member at Rich Harvest Farms, will lead a cast of 12 Americans against Allison Nicholas' European team from August 17-23, 2009. Daniel, a player on eight U.S. Solheim Cup Teams, was assistant captain for the U.S. Team at the 2007 Solheim Cup in Hamstad, Sweden.

"I am very excited that the Solheim Cup is being played at Rich Harvest Farms," said Daniel. "The layout of the course adds to the risk and reward of match play competition."

The rich history of The Solheim Cup dates back to 1990 when the first international competition was held in Orlando. Since then, the event has grown not only in patriotism, but also in fan involvement. The 2005 Solheim Cup at Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, Indiana, sold out eight months in advance via a random drawing. A record 103,000 attended the last staging of The Solheim Cup on American soil, and estimates for the 2009 crowd are pushing 150,000.

"The greater Chicago area is a perfect venue for this event and we couldn't be more excited to make a variety of ticket packages available to fans in the United States and abroad," said Kelly Hyne, 2009 Solheim Cup executive director. "Rich Harvest Farms provides a fantastic layout for fans and corporate guests to experience the event in a unique setting."

Fans from around the world can purchase tickets at www.solheimcup.com or by phone at 866-848-4639. Tickets at Rich Harvest Farms will be limited to 40,000 fans per day.

The Solheim Cup is named in honor of Karsten Solheim, and his family, the makers of PING golf equipment. In addition

to founding sponsor PING, Global Partners of The Solheim Cup include AIB Group and Rolex. All GCSAA members will be able to enter the event with their card but guests will have to pay at the door.

For more information on the 2009 Solheim Cup, including a schedule of events, hotels and accommodations, log on to www.SolheimCup.com.

Rich Harvest Farms is Going Green for the Cup

In preparation for hosting the 2009 Solheim Cup, Rich Harvest Farms is going even greener. The staff at Rich Harvest is proud to be working at a facility that can be rated in Golf Digest's "Top 100 of America's Greatest Golf Courses" and still be 'green.'

Over the years, RHF has consistently used integrated pest management to limit chemical and fertilizer application on the golf course. To limit the use of water, we have one of the most up-to-date irrigation systems. Ninety percent of all the water features (ponds, creeks, and streams) on the property are bordered with native grasses both to reduce runoff and to filter the water that runs through and off the property.

Along with these practices, within the last two years RHF has refurbished a horse stable and arena into lodging for the club's membership. When compared to building new, this practice of refurbishing has reduced waste in landfills and limited the resources needed for construction. During the stable's renovation, a geothermal energy source was used for heating

(continued on next page)

and cooling. Initially, this geo-thermal installation was more expensive, but the energy savings in the long run will give the club a good return on the investment. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, geo-exchange systems save homeowners 30-70% in heating costs and 20-50% in cooling when compared to conventional systems.

The next step RHF took toward going green was the implementation of a recycling program. Based on their experiences at home, many people think that this would be fairly simple, but getting the staff, membership, and guests to buy into this program has not been easy. The golf course and grounds maintenance has been on the program for a year. They have reduced the waste going straight to the dump by 40%. Because of these positive results, a recycling program has been implemented for the entire club and estate.

This year RHF is also changing to B11 (Biodiesel blended 11%) diesel fuel. Biodiesel is a renewable resource; it reduces harmful emissions. Research has shown that engines that run on biodiesel need less maintenance. The cost of biodiesel is a little higher, but the state of Illinois exempts users of sales tax if the blend they use is greater than 10% (B10). This tax break gives about a 10-cent-per-gallon savings when compared to the price of regular fuel.

Rich Harvest Farms is also investigating a program for changing the irrigation pump house controls to Variable Frequency Drive. An adjustable speed drive often uses less energy than an alternative fixed speed mode of operation.

When a pump is driven by a fixed speed motor, the flow can sometimes be higher than it needs to be. Flow can be regulated by using a damper, but it is more efficient to regulate the speed of the motor. It follows from the affinity laws that reducing pump speed by 50% results in a power consumption drop of 12.5%. In addition, the electricity supplier, Commonwealth Edison, also provides incentives up to \$7 per horsepower for qualifying premium efficiency motors.

The Kids Golf Foundation of Illinois, housed at Rich Harvest Farms, is dedicated to bringing the sport of golf into the lives of young children and providing them with an opportunity for personal growth and career enhancement. The Foundation offers and supports several junior golf programs. These are designed to introduce children between the ages of 5 and 15 to the sport of golf, its fundamentals, rules, history, etiquette, and more. Rich Harvest Farms is also working with Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops. They go on nature walks and talk to RHF representatives about golf courses and their environment. Our outreach to the community allows us to become stewards of our local environment.

With all these practices in place, Rich Harvest Farms looks forward to becoming one of the community leaders in smart business solutions for the environment. These business solutions will result in a greener Solheim Cup tournament and a greener business in the future. **-OC**

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FEATURE II

Jason Sarna, Luke Cella, MAGCS



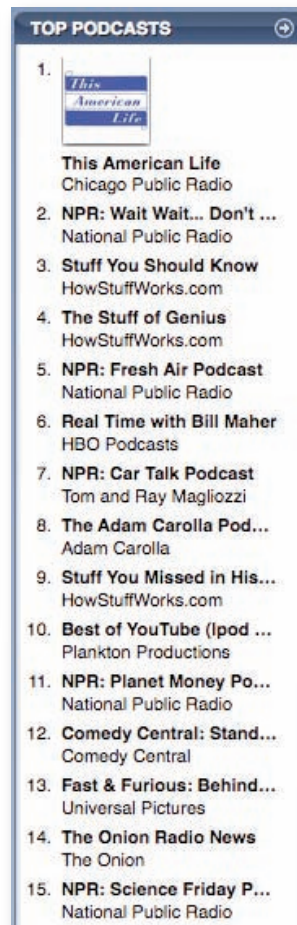
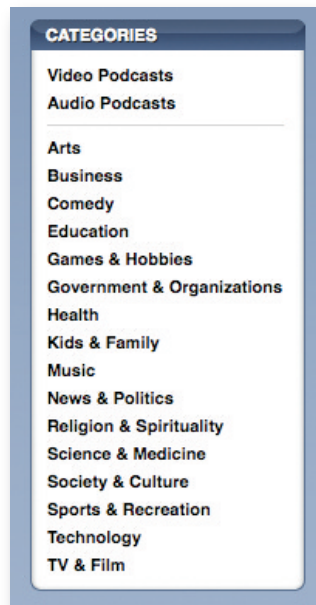
One More Avenue – the Podcast

A Podcast is basically a free, no commercial, audio or video file that's not controlled by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and universally available to download, listen to, and share. The name, Podcast, derives from the words "iPod" and "Broadcast." There is no real significance to this name; other than it's a type of broadcast that can be uploaded onto an iPod.

Unlike normal radio, Podcasts are not controlled by the FCC. This means that there are no restrictions on the content; therefore, Podcast hosts are free to say whatever they wish without any interference. Think of Podcasts like small uncensored talk shows about anything and everything minus the constant commercials (some Podcasts may contain commercials, but they're often very minimal, and usually at the very beginning or the very end.)

Who Makes a Podcast?

Anyone with a computer, microphone, sound board, Internet access, and headset can create their own Podcast. Besides from that, you just need something to talk about. Podcasts allow anyone the opportunity to own and operate their own personal radio show. With that said, expect to encounter some pretty horrendous Podcasts. I've listened to many bad Podcasts— sometimes the audio is unbearable to listen to and other times the content is extremely dull. There are other factors that make a bad Podcast, but I'm mostly turned off by bad sound and boring content. There's a certain flow to good radio that seems easy but is hard to achieve.



If you are ever interested in creating your own Podcast or would like to learn more information, a good website to check out is <http://www.wikihow.com/Start-Your-Own-Podcast>. This site provides people with Podcasts Steps, Tips, Warnings, Things you Need and Related Sites. Creating your own Podcast is easy and a great hobby with endless possibilities.

Do I need an iPod to Hear a Podcast?

Podcasts can be listened to on the computer or uploaded onto any portable mp3 player. I own a 4GB (1,000 song capacity) iPod Nano, which works great. The only problem with the 4GB iPod is that the memory is limited, so I have to update it often. This doesn't take much time or bother me, but it's something you should consider before making an iPod purchase. If you're interested in purchasing an iPod, I recommend visiting their website <http://store.apple.com> or one of their various locations.

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You can also search Podcasts by categories. The categories are listed on the left hand side under CATEGORIES. The following categories are available in iTunes: Arts, Business, Comedy, Education, Games & Hobbies, Government & Organizations, Health, Kids & Family, Music, News & Politics, Religion & Spirituality, Science & Medicine, Society & Culture, Sports & Recreation, Technology, and TV & Film. There's literally something for everyone.

iTunes also has a TOP PODCAST section, which is located on the right-hand side. This list is updated daily and orders the Podcasts by number of downloads. This section is definitely worth checking out. Some of the top rated Podcasts include: This American Life, Stuff You Should Know, Savage Love Radio, National Public Radio, Real Time with Bill Maher, and Stuff You Missed in History Class. If you click on any of these, you will be taken to the specific Podcast page where you can download the Podcasts. There are also descriptions and Podcast reviews on each specific page. For example, if you clicked on the Podcast "Stuff You Should Know," the description reads, "Why do humans have body hair? Can lakes explode? Join Josh and Chuck as they tackle all sorts of Stuff You Should Know in this Podcast from **HowStuffWorks.com**." Under the description is the average rating (4.5 out of 5 stars) and various listener reviews.

You can also do a Podcast search, which is located in the upper right of iTunes. For instance, if you want to search for Golf related Podcasts, just type in GOLF and hit enter. You will be directed to a new screen with various boxes labeled: Albums, TV Seasons, Applications, Audiobooks, Podcasts, and iTunes U. Next to PODCASTS box, click on SEE ALL—this will display all the various Golf Related Podcasts. Click on the one that interests you, let the next page load, and download an episode. The episode will then download into

your iTunes Podcast library (located on the top left under Library). You can now listen to the Podcast on your computer or upload it to your iPod.

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As I said up top, the majority of Podcasts are free, but some may ask for a fee or donation. You can usually listen to some free samples before deciding whether or not you want to purchase a specific Podcast. Either way, there's enough free Podcasts to keep you busy for a lifetime.

Podcasts allow individuals' access to A TON of interesting and informative information for FREE. If you have the slightest interest in talk radio, I HIGHLY recommend getting an iPod and uploading some Podcasts. It's like having a radio version of TiVo in the palm of your hand. You have access to unlimited information that you can collect whenever it's convenient for you. There are Podcasts out there for everyone.



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MAGCS's Adventure into Podcasting

MAGCS was awarded a matching grant from the GCSAA to start our own Podcast. The grant was funded through the GCSAA's Outreach and Communications Committee to help local chapters expand their own outreach. The purpose of the Podcast will be to inform the world about what we do as golf course superintendents. As the grant proposal states:

"Golf maintenance is not glorious, especially to the non-golfer. However, to the golfer and even non-golfer there is an interest in what our superintendents do behind the scenes on a golf course. The reason for this is twofold. The first, there is a certain peculiarity to the job, our knowledge and training is not mainstream. The second reason dovetails with the first, is that our knowledge and experience is desirable to those that own or manage their own turf. The information that we possess as professional turf managers is a commodity. This outreach proposal will allow the MAGCS to share their knowledge of turf and golf maintenance practices with the golfing and non-golfing communities while promoting our profession in a positive, environmentally sensitive and professional manner. "

While the overall format of our the MAGCS Podcast is being scripted, the idea is simple:

"The expertise of the golf course superintendent will be used to create a one to two minute timely lawn care tip (attracting non-golfing public). This tip will then be expanded to its use on the golf course highlighting the professionalism, sensibility and the environmental awareness of the golf course superintendent (1-2 more minutes, attracting the golfing public). The segment will be wrapped up explaining the science behind the tip or practice, after all, our practices are based upon sound scientific principles."

We are very excited about starting up this Podcast and would like to invite our member's help. There are a number of ways you can help:

- If you have a series of lawn tips you already put out for your golfing membership, send it our way.
- If you would like to be a part of the Podcast, let us know. We would love to interview you in person or over the phone.

We are hoping to create enough Podcasts to take our listeners through our growing season, keeping the golf course superintendent at the forefront. **-OC**

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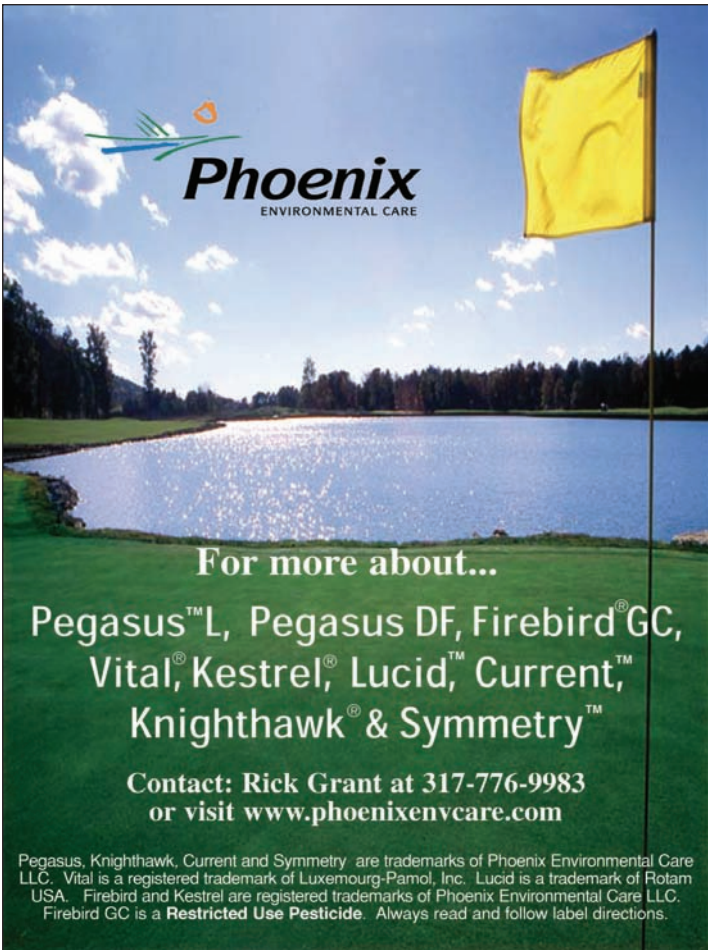
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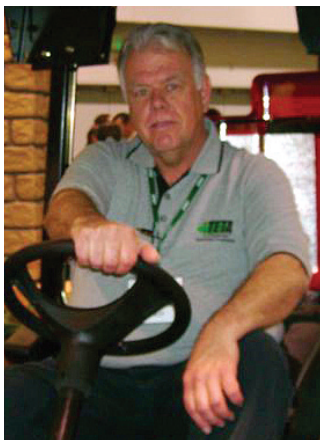
With great pleasure I hand over the title of Turf Equipment Technicians Association (TETA) President to Donald Briggs, Equipment Technician at The Merit Club. Donald has been involved in TETA since the early '90s from all directions and in many forms. He will continue to do a great job for the association because he believes in TETA's mission. If you do not know Donald, then you are new to the business, and you will soon get to know him. I look forward to working with Don for many years to come.

Since being elected to the TETA Board of Directors back in 1997, I have gained numerous invaluable tidbits of knowledge. I have also met new friends and acquaintances. They will continue to be a part of my career in golf. To all who have been a source of knowledge and enrichment to me in this industry, thank you.

I have had many opportunities to share my experiences in equipment repair and service in front of group sessions both locally and at the GIS. On most occasions, I took back more knowledge than I presented.

I want to thank each of you for your continuing support of the association. TETA will continue to grow in membership and knowledge as long as all of you see the benefits of such an association in partnership with MAGCS and its supporters.

Thank you. It's been a great ride, and it is not over by a long ball. -OC



Don Briggs, the newly elected TETA President takes the wheel of the Association.

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THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



June 2009

Committed to the Indian

A big welcome to the new members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, who are:

- Bret Rush**, Class E, Arysta Lifescience,
- Christopher Holt**, Class C, Highland Woods Golf Course
- Todd Kerry**, Class E, Water Well Solutions

And a big thank you to the Toro Company for contributing \$500 to the Environmental Institute For Golf in the name of MAGCS 1, the winners of the Gross Division of the Chapter Team Flight at the 2009 GCSAA Golf Championships in Gulf Shores, AL. The team members were **Dave Kohley**, **Al Pondel**, **CGCS**, **Tommy Robinson** and **Tim Scott**, **CGCS**. Way to go, guys.

Congratulations to Highland Park Country Club's **Dan Cherrstrom** on his recent certification with GCSAA, making him now and for evermore (unless he doesn't keep up with those pesky points) **Dan Cherrstrom**, **CGCS**.

Longtime MAGCS member **Jim Reed** (Reed Irrigation Services) has been named the sales representative for the Sto-Cote Industries GreenJacket impermeable and permeable turf covers for the entire state of Illinois. For information, go to www.greenjacket.com.

Layne-Western (**Joe Eisha** and **Tom Healy**), which has been in business for 80 years in Northern Illinois and is a division of Layne Christensen Company, announced on May 5th that they have purchased certain assets of Meadow Equipment Sales and Service, Inc., including key field equipment, selected inventory, client lists, files, and records pertaining to

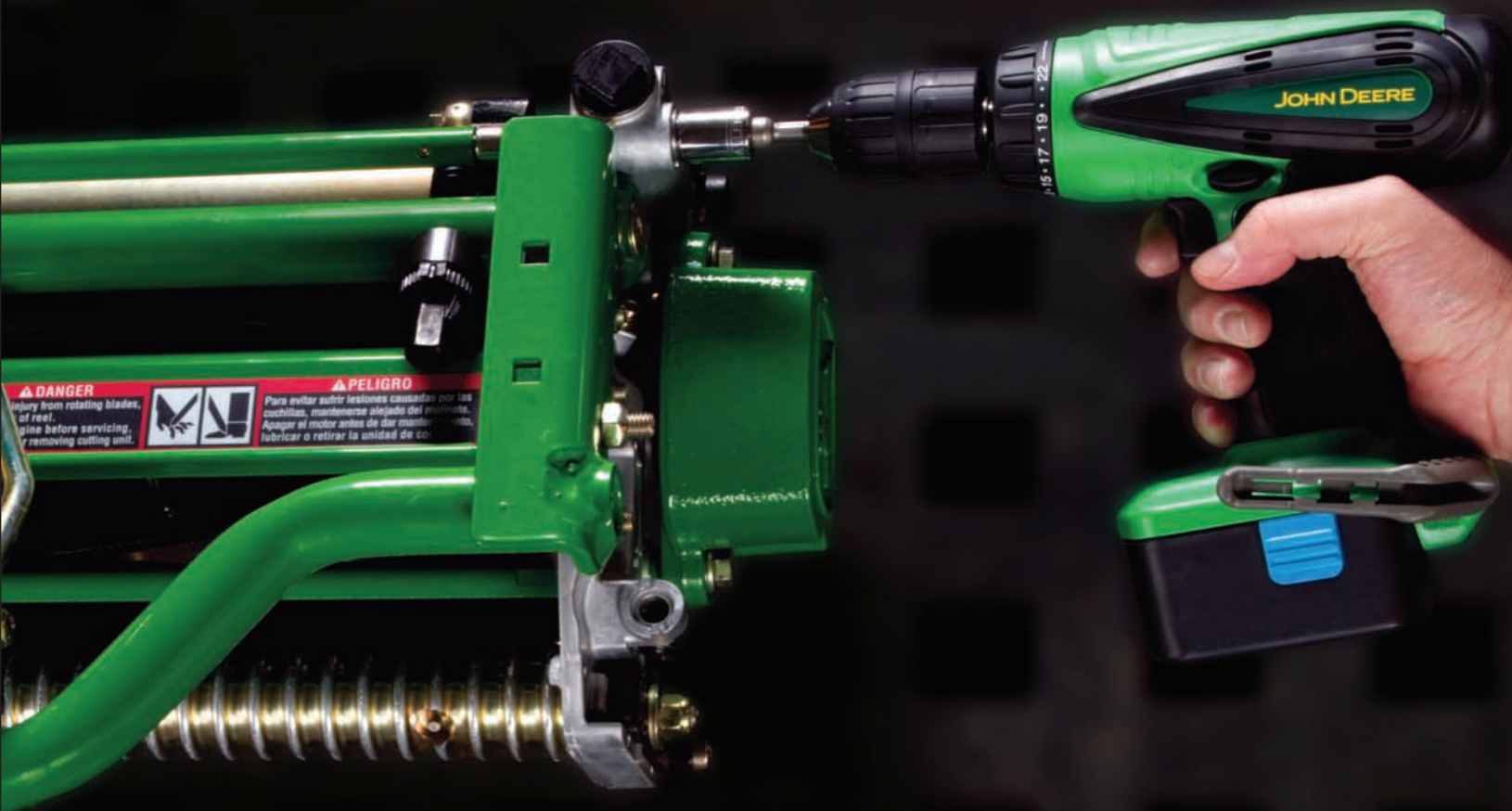
DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 1 – Deadline for applications for the GCSAA's Scholars Competition.
- June 15 – MAGCS monthly meeting at the Club at Strawberry Creek in Kenosha, Wisconsin, **Matt Kregel** host. The Dom Grotti, Class C, and Senior Championships will be contested at this event.
- July 1 – Deadline for receipt of nominations of candidates for the 2010 GCSAA Board of Directors.
- July 8 – Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing at Pinecrest Golf Course in Huntley, IL, **Brian Comiskey** host.
- July 25 – MAGCS Family Night Picnic and Kane County Cougars baseball game at Elfstrom Field in Geneva, IL.
- July 27-29 – Illinois Open at Hawthorn Woods Country Club in Hawthorn Woods, IL, **David Schingel** host.
- August 1 – Deadline for entries for Lebanon Turf's 2010 Dog Days of Golf Calendar.
- August 18-19 – Junior Solheim Cup at Aurora Country Club, Aurora, IL, John Gurke, CGCS and **Virgil Range** hosts.
- August 21-23 – Ping Solheim Cup at Rich Harvest Links in Sugar Grove, IL, **Jeff Vercautren** host.
- August 25-26 – Inaugural iTurf Expo at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL, **Dr. Derek Settle**, **Keith Rincker**, and **Chris Painter** hosts.

projects, and a special phone forwarding service to Layne when calling in to their main phone number.

The 21st of April was a big day for **Dr. Randy Kane** (CDGA). On that day, Randy and his longtime girlfriend Anne Desjardins were married "in a ceremony that was short compared to the courtship" at noon in front of Judge Dave Dubicki in Peoria, IL. Randy and Anne have big plans for their future as well—they recently received an offer on their house in Peoria and are headed out to Bangor, Maine to start their married life together. Congratulations and the very best of luck to both of them!

(continued on page 18)



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Randy and Anne take the plunge in front of Judge Dubicki.



Randy in a trap—a sign, or just a coincidence?

For the second consecutive month, I am privileged to report a new face added to the team at Midwest Golf House. Dr. Settle and Keith Rincker welcome the new CDGA Turfgrass Program intern Nick Devries to the fold. Nick grew up in Michigan, went to college in Florida, and completed an internship at Cape Cod National Golf Course in Cape Code, MA under superintendent Steve Cadanelli, CGCS, past president of GCSAA. Apparently Nick is drawn to peninsulas. Nick will assist with all the research projects underway at Golf House, and hopes to begin working toward his Masters in Plant Pathology with a focus on Turfgrass. Nick was hired with a grant from the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation to help in an effort to help for the upcoming iTurfExpo. Welcome and good luck to Nick.

Following up on the news that our own **Carl Hopphan** will be inducted into the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame was a very complimentary article in Carl's hometown *Aurora Beacon News* newspaper on May 7th by staff writer Jim Owczarski. The article details Carl's 31 years as Aurora CC's superintendent, along with the 12 years he spent at Evanston CC and his most recent post with ITF, and features a photo of his flawless backswing.

The Environmental Protection Agency has issued its initial list of pesticides that will be screened for any potential disruption to the endocrine system, and it includes several commonly used golf course products. Among the 67 active ingredients on the list are 2,4-D, chlorothalonil, and imidacloprid. The testing is

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being conducted through the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Process, an initiative under the broader Food Quality Protection Act. This initial list was developed on the basis of exposure potential, and EPA says it should not be construed as a list of known endocrine disruptors. So put that in your pipe and smoke it. But wash your hands first.

'Tis the season to call all golf course dogs. Lebanon Turf, in conjunction with *Golfdom* is looking for dogs for its 2010 Dog Days of Golf Calendar. All photos accepted, including fully nude dogs. Deadline for photo entries is August 1st, and more information can be obtained from Cynthia Andrews at 800-532-0900, ext. 253.

May 15th was a big day for the **Jemsek** family, when the long-awaited renovations to the No. 4 Dubsdread course at Cog Hill Country Club were debuted to the public. The project, which was designed by Rees Jones and built by Wadsworth Golf Course Construction, was initiated to update the course for today's players and equipment, provide a better playing experience for the public, ratchet up the challenge for PGA Tour pros, and be selected as the site for the U. S. Open when it returns to the Midwest, perhaps in 2017 (all this according to Chicagoland Golf's Phil Kosin). Can't wait til September 10 through 13 when the BMW Championship comes back to Dubs and we see **Ken Lapp's** new baby.

A pretty cool thing happened at Cantigny Golf Club (**Scott Witte, CGCS** and a cast of thousands) just prior to Armed Forces Day. Y'know all those helicopters our guys use that you hear about and see in movies like Apaches and Chinooks and Blackhawks? Well they all landed on the parade ground over there, and it was pretty awesome. Amazing they found dry ground to land on, huh?

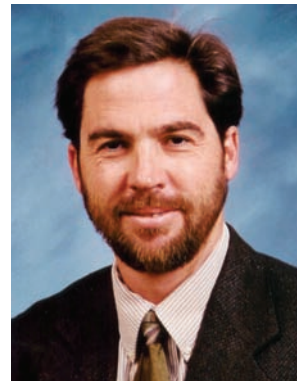


Best quote heard about the crazy wet weather we've witnessed (or would we say WETnessed?) this spring came from **Dan Anderson, CGCS** (City of Aurora): "Mother Nature needs to get laid." Yeah, huh?

As if we've had it bad, the guys down in Southern Illinois had a freakin' inland hurricane blow through there last month that really wreaked havoc. This was like a tornado but worse, and left behind all the same devastation.

Without the whole saltwater deal or the storm surge since they don't have an ocean down there. And of course no shrimp boats ended up in people's yards. But it was still bad.

The Illinois Open takes place at Hawthorn Woods Country Club on July 27th through the 29th, with **David Schingel** hosting. Here's a couple other interesting tidbits you might not have known. Before Dave and his assistant Alfonso Nava came to Hawthorn Woods, they built the Canyata Golf Club in Marshall, IL—*Golf Digest* magazine's 42nd ranked course in the nation. Also, Davis was named "Superintendent of the Year" by Kemper Sports, who manages over 90 courses nationwide. We're not done yet—Hawthorn Woods became the 49th course in Illinois to attain Certified Cooperative Sanctuary status by Audubon International in March, and Dave was featured on a special with Dan Roan of Channel 9 sports relating to the "Green to a Tee" program that he developed for Kemper for all its properties. Great work by Dave, eh?



David Schingel

Nice item about the Aurora City golf courses (Fox Valley and Phillips Park—**Todd Schmitz** superintendent) in May's *Golf Chicago* magazine. That's the one where three guys named Link Rat, Lefty, and TV Guy go and play public courses and rate them, and they enjoyed their day in Wayne's World on the 2 old tracks. Good pub for some good inexpensive courses.

Condolences to our members who have lost loved ones recently. Mary Ann Clesen, mother of **Arthur G. Clesen** and wife of the late Arthur N. Clesen passed away in late April. Shirley Burge, mother of **Jim Burge** of Reinders passed away in January after a courageous journey with metastatic breast cancer. Finally, on April 26th Jerry McNair, brother of Leon and **Jim McNair** passed away in his home.

Mark your calendars for September 8th—the MAGCS Golf Championship will take place at Kemper Lakes Golf Club (**Dan Tully** host). This event was originally scheduled to be played at Elgin Country Club, but an unforeseen conflict arose and Dan took the reins. **Phil Zeinert, CGCS** and Elgin CC will be our host in 2010. Thanks to both of these clubs and their superintendents for their generosity.

MAGCS members recently spotted in print include **David Marquardt**, whose "Labels, Marketing, and More" article was reprinted in *The Green Breeze*, the publication of the Greater Cincinnati GCSA in May, and **Paul Vermeulen**, our

(continued on page 21)

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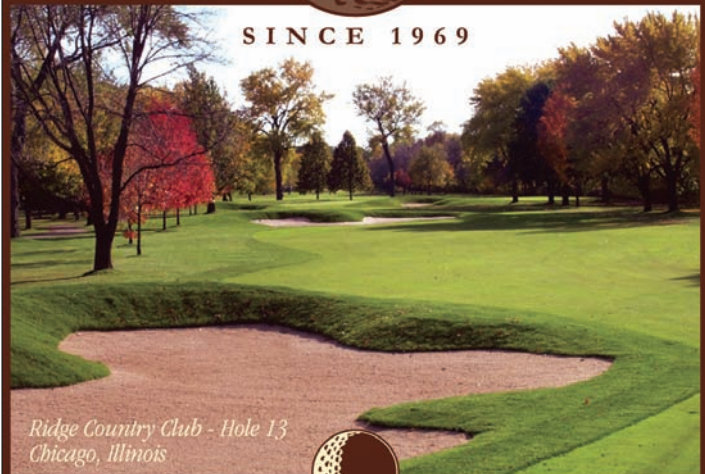


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past USGA Green Section Agronomist and current PGA Tour agronomist was on the cover of GCM last month, being featured in an article about the teamwork between he and the host superintendent of a PGA Tour event.

.....
 The April MAGCS meeting was hosted by **Tony Kalina, Eric Mundt, and Travis Dykstra** on the 28th at Prairie Landing Golf Club. The day, although a bit windy and chilly, was a far cry from last year's snow/sleet mix, and the 100+ members in attendance enjoyed another great Spring Scramble. The day began with the education event which was presented by **Rusty Stachlewitz** (ProGrow Solutions), who was summoned at the eleventh hour to fill in for Ted Werenski of Richmond Fisheries who could not attend due to an emergency. Following lunch, it was off to the links for 18 holes of four-person scramble golf—all of which played into the gale-force wind. The winning score of 59 was carded by Chuck Anfield, Dennis Buck, Mike Nielsen, and Brian Racette; with 2nd going to Doug Davis, Mike Hatton, Greg Mark, and Rick Wilson; and third place to Tim Davis, Ed Fischer, Brad Johnsen, and John Lebedevs. The four proximity events were won by Mark Norville, Mike Nielsen, Rick Wilson, and Chad Rotert. Congratulations to all the winners—and aren't we really ALL winners, when you think about it? In fact, I think the only foursome that didn't win anything was mine. But I'm not bitter. Anyhow, it was a great day for which we thank Tony and everyone at Prairie Landing and our generous sponsors, who were: **Burris Equipment Company, John Deere Golf and J. W. Turf, Inc., Nadler Golf Car Sales/Authorized Club Car Distributor, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., and Quali-Pro.** Thank you all!



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Gentlemen and Ladies: Start Your Engines



Kelli Zopfi and Danna Eberly were on hand to sell raffle tickets for the upcoming John Buck outing.



Host superintendent Tony Kalina



Education presenter Rusty Stachlewitz eyes his shot (you don't need very good distance vision to keep an eye on those).



Host superintendent Tony Kalina's dinner

(continued on page 23)

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Luke handles a minor scoring dispute



Education Chairman Mike Siefken and late inning relief presenter, Rusty Stachlewitz.



Half of the winning team of Chuck Anfield (L.), Dennis Buck (R.), Brian Racette, and Mike Nielsen.



(continued on next page)



(Above) Tim Johnson, Jim Keith, and Ed Braunsky posed outside for this pic but really welcomed everyone inside (below).



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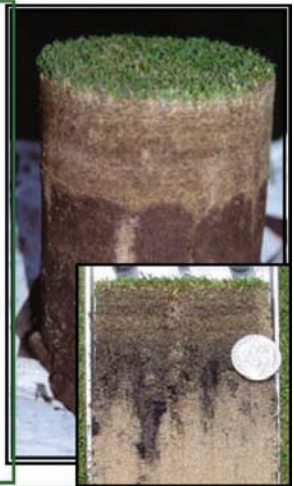


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EDUCATION REVIEW

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



Rusty Stachlewitz from ProGro Solutions made a nice spring review presentation on "Coping with Turfgrass Stress".

Ideally cool season turf has the healthiest roots at 50-65°. It has ideal shoot growth at 65-70°. Above or below those temps and the plant is under stress. We know we are not going to keep that temperature range through our typical summer here in the Chicago area. The way a plant "deals" with the stress is through avoidance to injury, tolerance to injury and evasion. Probably the most important type of stress we are looking to prepare for is the heat. Too much heat causes the turf growth processes to slow or even stop. Excess heat causes decreased rooting, increases wilting, increased susceptibility to disease and causes slower recovery time to injury.

Rusty says we can do some things to prepare our turf for stress.

- Some of the newer bent cultivars are more heat tolerant and inter seeding is an option.
- Proper fertilization to grow a healthy plant prior to stress.
- Using smooth rollers instead of grooved can help.
- Increasing the mowing heights.
- Maintain sharp reels.
- Skip mowing or skip the clean up pass.
- Keeping soil on the dry side improves root oxygen



Rusty Stachlewitz

and increases root zone cooling.

- Irrigating deep and infrequently promotes a deeper root system.
- Aerate as frequently as possible.
- Use wetting agents to retain soil moisture.
- Stop grooming, verticutting and topdressing.
- Be careful of fungicides that have growth regulation qualities.
- Use phosphonate fertilizers to improve disease resistance.
- Amino acid applications have shown to improve heat stress.
- A Virginia Tech Study showed a 60-175% increase in rooting with the addition of seaweed extracts.
- Organic fertilizers feed soil microbial populations which can reduce pathogens.
- Watch salts in fertilizer applications.
- Above 95° all root uptake stops. Use foliar applications.
- Syringe or hand water. Do what works for you.

Rusty says test products out. Set up a trial with plywood on your nursery. Use side by side comparisons. Prove it to yourself.

-OC

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