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March 2009



Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents
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INSIDE

Golf's DNA

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More - Economical Agro-
nomical Thinking - Part 2**

**MAGCS Members Storm
New Orleans at the Golf
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MAGCS members enjoy the local fare at the Hospitality Reception in New Orleans.

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MAGCS members travel a long way to see the mighty Mississippi River as they attend the 2009 Golf Industry Show in New Orleans.

Photo Credit: Luke Cella

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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

Bob Kohlstedt, *Fox Bend Golf Course*
Jim Keith, *St. Charles Country Club*



Bob Kohlstedt

Jim Keith

2009 Meeting Schedule and Golf Events

With the 2009 golf season right around the corner, we have some exciting venues to feature for the upcoming season.

The *April* meeting will take place at Prairie Landing Golf Club on the 28th with the host superintendent being none other than Tony Kalina, President of MAGCS. The spring event is a fun way to start the golfing season. It features a scramble so that everyone can shake the rust off early in the year.

We return to the Merit Club in *May* on the 18th thanks to John Nelson. John will be hosting the ITF event that featured a Ryder Cup format in 2008 and will be repeated this year. All proceeds that are raised for the event will be rewarded research that benefits our industry.

June features the Dom Grotti Championship along with the Senior and Class C Championships that will be hosted by Matt Kregel at The Club at Strawberry Creek on the 15th. The Dom Grotti Championship, for those not familiar, pairs Superintendents and their Assistants for the day. The event is in honor of Domenic Grotti, the long time Superintendent of Sunset Ridge Country Club. Domenic encouraged the participation of Assistant Superintendents both locally and nationally in their associations.

Our annual family event takes place on *July 25* with the Kane County Cougars. This has become a great tradition involving the families of the MAGCS. Come out and enjoy a fun filled day where the spirit of baseball is still alive and genuine.

The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation has asked us to combine our *August* meeting this year with the all new iTurfExpo. Part of the day's agenda on August 25 is to play Dubsdread, Cog Hill's famous #3 course. MAGCS longtime member and mentor to many, Ken Lapp, will host this afternoon and show off the fruits of his labor, unveiling the changes recently made to this championship track. By the way, we will be the last group to play "Dubs" prior to the BMW Championship in early September.

Attending monthly meetings is a great way to meet new members and stay involved with one of the GCSAA's leading chapters.

Former MAGCS President, Phil Zeinert at Elgin Country Club, will host the *September* meeting in the western suburbs. This is the annual MAGCS Golf Championship. Elgin offers a fantastic venue for our Champions to compete for the title. The winner of the Championship Flight receives an automatic exemption into the 2010 Illinois Open.

We return to Arrowhead Golf Course, Mike Mumper will host the annual College Championship. The famed Collegiate Championships, held in *October* on the 5th, feature a two-man scramble representing regional colleges and universities. This event has been dominated by Danville College the last few years (I guess they golfed more than they studied down yonder).

We encourage all members of the association to participate in as many meetings as possible during the year. Attending monthly meetings is a great way to meet new members and stay involved in one of the GCSAA's leading chapters. The success of our organization depends largely on the involvement from the vast and talented membership of the MAGCS. Attending these meetings is a great way to stay refreshed within a demanding work environment. It also gives us all a chance to relax and play a round of golf. So please, plan to attend a few events during the 2009 season. See you there! **-OC**

SUPER -N- SITE

Nick Marfise, *Glenview Park Golf Club*

Keith Rincker -N-



A 25-year-old with a Masters Degree from Southern Illinois may not be too hard to come by, but Keith Rincker has certainly set himself apart from the rest. Last summer Keith became the Manager of Turfgrass Research, for the Chicago District Golf Association (CDGA) working with Dr. Derek Settle.

Like most growing up in Strasburg, Illinois Keith learned to farm corn and soybeans on his family's farm 180 miles south of Chicago. His family also raised cattle on approximately 800 acres of land. Keith was drawn to turf science while attending a career day at Lake Land Community College in Mattoon, Illinois. He was watching a couple of grounds workers lay sod and was certain that he could do a better job than they had.

Keith began his turf career working summers at Angus Links, a local 18-hole golf course. He enjoyed the long hours and working outside with his hands. Keith's father was the mechanic at Agnus Links eventually becoming Golf Course Superintendent.

While maintaining his position at Angus Links, Keith attended Lake Land Community College where he achieved an Associates Degree in Agriculture Business and Supply. At Angus Links Keith helped his father develop a 60-acre sod farm consisting of Kentucky Blue grass, and Zoysia grass that was sold to the public. Keith soon went to Southern Illinois University (SIU) in Carbondale, where he attained his Bachelors Degree in Plant and Soil Science. While going to school in Carbondale, Keith worked at the Hickory Ridge Public Golf Center. During this time, Keith found himself liking the science aspect of turf, much more than the business side. He was fascinated with this new realm and upon completion of his Bachelors Degree, Keith started to work with Dr. Ken Diesburg on a Master's project involving tall fescue.

Keith's tall fescue challenge was a breeding project using self-pollination to determine the inbreeding depression of the species. Simply, Keith was trying to determine the macro and micro characteristics of his tall fescue plants.

Keith says, "a lot can be done with tall fescue" and feels that there is so much more we can get out of that particular species. One of his tests showed a greater resistance to brown patch.

Keith has only been with Chicago District Golf Association since June of last year and is already off to a flying start. Working with Dr. Derek Settle, Keith manages the research

and data that they collect from their trials and experiments on the Sunshine Course. Keith also travels the Chicagoland area helping with onsite visits and running trials and experiments on golf courses.

Keith is setting up two experiments for the 2009-10 seasons that are right up his alley. He is going to look at over 40 different cultivars of tall fescue to see which hold up the best under stress and which ones are most susceptible to disease. Keith also plans to work with low mow Kentucky bluegrass and record and study their response to newer herbicides. Keith recently expressed an interest pursuing plant breeding; something he knows can lead to better pest resistance. Keith has been taking a few classes in web design this past winter and will put his knowledge into practice by updating cdgaturf.com – a website that is part of the CDGA's outreach.

As you could guess, Keith enjoys the outdoors. When he is able, he camps and canoes in the northern Minnesota boundary waters and surrounding forests. Keith has been known to mountain bike, and has participated the past two summers in the Rodney Miller Triathlon in Decatur.

Keith currently resides Westmont. Future plans for Keith include pursuing a doctoral degree and growing turf in the Caribbean. We are fortunate to have Keith as a key component and resource in the CDGA's Turfgrass Program. **-OC**

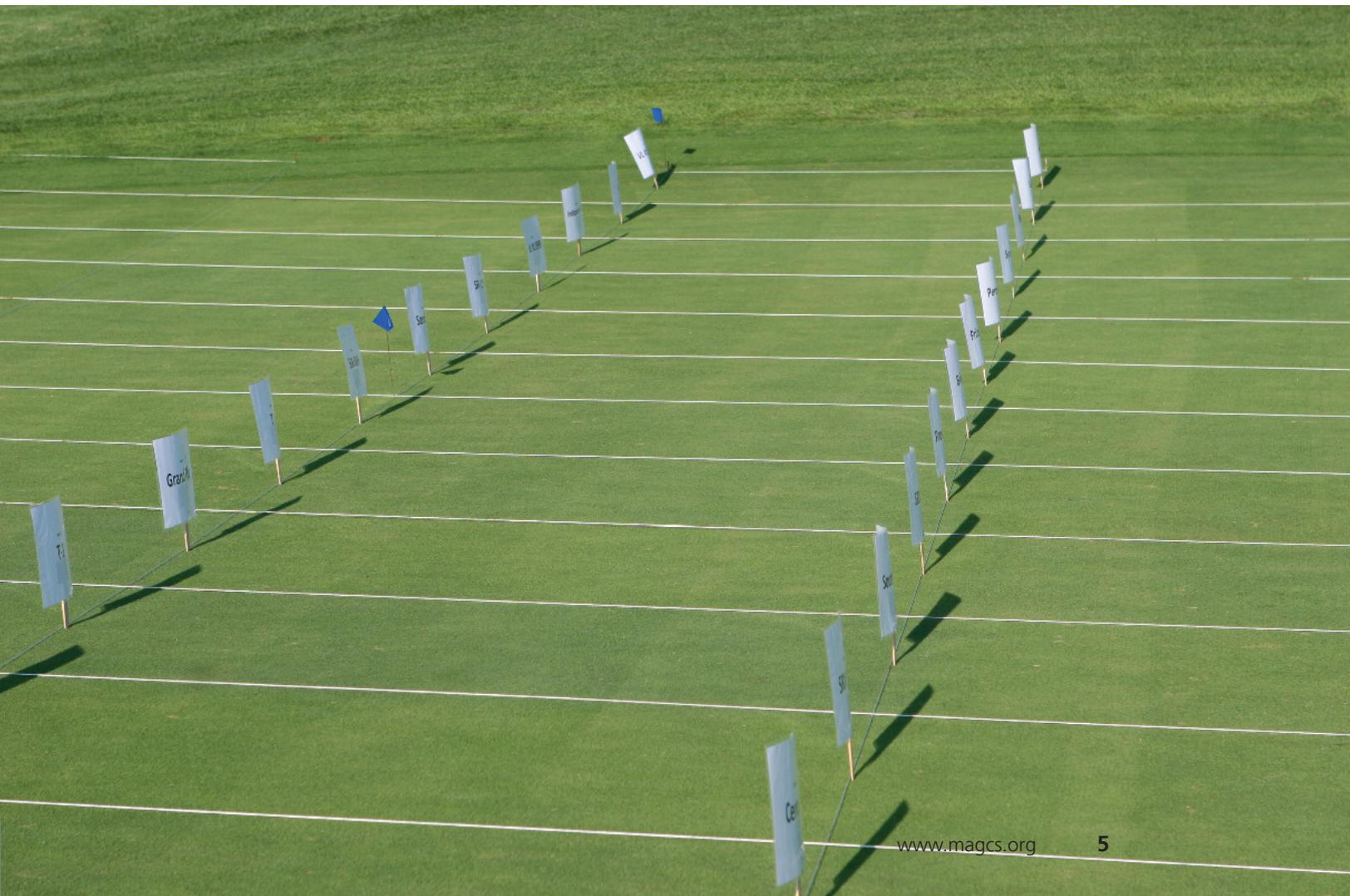


Keith Rincker



Above: Keith Rincker addresses a group on the Sunshine Course at the Turf Field Day in September 2008.

Below: Rincker is all about collecting solid data to make the turf we manage better.





The golf industry has witnessed remarkable growth and transformation, but little has changed in the game itself. Golf is about golfers and the wondrous places we play the simple interaction of man and nature with friends, family or competitors.

Our goal is to make that interaction remarkable.

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Golf's DNA

In an article published in 1989, Frank Hannigan, Former Senior Executive Director of the USGA, said, "....the motives for building golf courses are different. There is a conflict between the profit motive and excellent golf." This statement is extraordinary in its implication as well as prophetic. This assertion was made at the beginning of the "second golden age of architecture." His assessment reveals how golf had changed.

Since the 1950s, golf has been transformed into a fuzzy likeness of the game that was born on the shores of Scotland. A generation of golfers, spellbound by Nicklaus and Palmer, Augusta and TPC, fast greens and Tiger, established new expectations for the game of golf: a perception that quality golf is defined by spectacular maintenance, ratings, yardage, par, slope, or some other classification.

A tectonic shift had occurred. Golf had become a stroke play game, leaving the less television appropriate Match Play format. Because of this, and to challenge the world's best golfers, Master Golf Course Architect Robert Trent Jones Senior issued a game-altering, industry-changing proclamation when he stated: "My job is to protect par!"

Par now governs the game.

Because the game now uses par as its basis, the genetic makeup of the game has mutated. Because of par, the game of golf has morphed into a game of "fairness," "challenge," and the color green (money and turf). Expectations in every sector of the industry, from owners to operators and golfers alike, have been driven by television and have altered the game.

Golf course architects have responded with more challenging, diabolical, deliberately difficult, and maintenance intensive layouts in an effort to attract and challenge the better, more frequent golfer. Because the battle is against an artificially imposed standard (par), golf course architecture devotes considerable attention to protecting it. Maintenance practices escalate to provide for par-saving fairness. The attention given to par has resulted in golf courses that attract an ever-contracting market.



All in the name of par.

Once upon a time, match play determined the best golfers. With match play, the golfer battled the opponent and played the course. This was a duel - a match of wits and will played out across the landscape. The less able golfer had options and alternatives for combating the longer, more aggressive golfer. Match play golfers weren't consumed with fairness, because the 'rub' affected everyone without prejudice. The opponent was the competition, not the golf course. Match play golfers didn't fight the golf course: they played the opponent, using creativity, cleverness and ingenuity. The golf course allowed for – even supplied bad luck. The golf game was the match, not the score.

Submission to par has shaped a generation of golfers now accustomed to stroke play. The entire industry is now defined by it. Because of stroke play: fairness is a prerequisite and maintenance requirements soar; score is mandatory, so golf takes too long to play; golf is too expensive because maintenance and construction costs require "equity;" and golf is less fun because par must be defended. Because of par, numbers now define the game. The game has changed.

The golf industry has witnessed remarkable growth and transformation, but little has changed in the game itself. Golf is about golfers and the wondrous places we play – the simple interaction of man and nature with friends, family or competitors. It appears that the game of golf has undergone a genetic mutation. Golf has evolved, and the effects are astounding.

(continued on next page)

Golf's DNA

Golf has changed, but solutions to the problems facing our industry are evident. The future of golf is in its original DNA.

1. Golf is not fair

If we are to save this industry, we need to focus on the game – as it was intended. Right now we are too fixed to stroke play and its standards, rules, and regulations. All of this was intended to make the game fairer. Don't kid yourself - this game is not fair. Golf is like life, and life isn't fair. Bad things can happen and probably do. Risk is inherent in the game. The true magic of this game is how golfers react to the rub.

The instinct to make it fair has only made it more complicated and more expensive.

What if the golf industry forgot about length and its preoccupation with protecting par? What if designers were encouraged to defend a golf course with strategy, not distance or hazards? What if golf courses were judged on the merits of their design strategies, shot values, and a match play perspective instead of maintenance, slope values, or length? Golf would have a more wide-ranging appeal. If we reduce the impact of par, we can resuscitate the game by improving the pace of play, reducing the impact of hazards, promoting strategy, and, most importantly, encouraging a new generation of golfers.



2. Golf is about golfers

Golf is not about The PGA, waterfalls, par, length, gps systems, clubhead speed, launch angle, or stroke play. Golf is about golfers. Golfers want to play, but for whatever reason, we have not provided the customer with what is needed. Let's be clear: what golfers want, and what golfers need are two different things. Golfers say they want challenge – let's give them fun. Golfers want entertainment – but that means being engaged. Golfers want superior maintenance – but only if it doesn't cost anything. Golfers want fair – unless it's unfair to the opponent. Golfers want excitement – but that translates to enjoyment.

Like the big three automakers the golf industry has not reacted to global shifts in costs, consumer needs, wants, or expectations. An industry strategy based on size, aesthetic, or marketing is not sustainable. As Frank Hannigan implied, this has become a "fashion-first" industry.

We have focused on the product and the brand, the style, the sale and profit, not the customer. Decisions about design, operations, and maintenance must be developed with a more pragmatic viewpoint.

This may sound populist. So be it. These ideas are based in time-tested design philosophies; they are based in the soul of the game. Golfers want to play – let 'em.

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3. Golf is an adventure

Adventure is defined as: an activity that comprises risky, dangerous and uncertain experiences.... Adventurous activities are typically undertaken for the purposes of recreation or excitement.

The human experience is tied to adventure. Golf provides a small opportunity for that man-nature experience. By ensuring fairness, the game becomes less adventurous. My favorite golf adventure was in Scotland, where you are expected to play golf! That means play the ball as it lies, up, down and sideways. The fun of the game was not in the score, but in the imagination that was called upon to invent shots from those implausible lies. This was far beyond fun: this was an adventure.

Golf is better when the conditions are challenging. Golf is better when you are tested. The best golf courses are those that provide the most distinct and unique golf adventures. They reveal your character and the land, simultaneously. This industry needs less standardization and more variety, more adventure and less calibration, more that is unique and less duplication.

4. Golf is about nature

We live in an age where everything around us is a digital replication of the original. Everything has been reduced to 1s and 0s. The digital age is here to stay. I can find music, news, books, movies or television right here on my phone. I don't have to go anywhere!

Golf offers an alternative. Golf is a respite - it is the opposite of digital. Implicit in this is the fact that golf is an escape from the wired world. It is an environmental encounter, a man-nature interaction - not a product of, or excuse for technology. Golf should be seen as unplugging from the digital world to recharge. Golf is not a man vs. nature contest: it is a man-nature encounter. Golf is the remedy for the digital distraction.

5. All golf is local

Golf industry insiders, like lobbyists in Washington, have driven the game. GOLF has been governed by marketing, definition, standardization, uniformity and promotion. Industry expectations have had a sobering effect that has led to increased costs and fewer returning golfers.

Golf is not about any measure, whether it's length, par, or slope. Nor is it about titanium, signature holes, or branding, much less someone's "objective" rating system. Golf is about golfers and the game is about your home course. Your home course is the fertile ground to grow the game and ensure survival. Effort should be focused on the needs of the golfing community, from junior programs to senior leagues, and everything in between.

Golf needs to support initiatives that grow the game within the community. Kids, juniors, women, and novices should be given maximum access with minimum cost to expose potential golfers to the game. The game will support itself if given the opportunity.

More importantly, golf has benefits that reach beyond its borders. We should make sure our customers and non-customers, golfers, and those who look down on the game understand the cultural, environmental, and recreational value of golf.

Like the auto industry, we should be focusing on better engineering and more efficient models, on sustainability, stewardship, and economic sense.

6. Golf is Match Play

The game was borne from the links of Scotland – golfer against golfer. My six beat your seven. Ha!

What if our expectations about golf were reintroduced to the simple premise that golf is Match Play? Would golfers play faster? Would we enjoy the game differently? Play the course differently? Enjoy the surroundings differently?

Certainly, the emphasis on match play would provide more strategic designs and less demand for longer golf courses. Match play would increase the pace of play because score is less important. Match play would moderate the need for contrived beauty and stress naturalized environments. Match play would lower maintenance expectations. Match play would celebrate originality, variety, and diminish the need for "fair".

I am inspired to produce more golf courses that are filled with variety, beauty, and balance; golf holes that are thoughtful, engaging, and inspiring to every class of golfer; that require intelligence, wit, skill, and execution; golf courses that are meaningful for the game and fun for golfers of all ability, not monuments to difficulty, a specific golfer, individual, or demand. Golf holes should be conceived to improve the strategic instinct - compelling engaging match play while allowing for an honest treatment of the land.

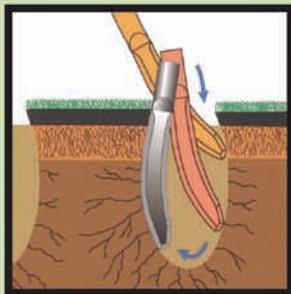
Harry Colt, a "Golden Age Master Architect" said, "Immediately when we attempt to standardize sizes, shapes, and distances, we lose more than half the pleasure of the game." The foundation of par does just that – it reduces the game to standards. Golf cannot afford to be standardized. We must appreciate the basic gifts of the game and reorient our expectations.

Accommodating golfers with engaging courses and operations that foster adjusted expectations will inspire a new generation of players while saving our environment. Like the auto industry, we should be focusing on better engineering and more efficient models, on sustainability, stewardship, and economic sense. There is a distinct opportunity now to promote and illustrate how golf has benefits that stretch far beyond its boundaries.

Golf has a future, but it is not rooted in Tiger Woods, signature design, branding, technology, standardization, or marketing. Its future is based in its DNA. **-OC**



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FEATURE II

David Marquardt, *Dirt-n-Turf Consulting*



Economical Agronomical Thinking – Part 2 *Labels, Marketing and More*

This is a great time of year. Vacations are ending, yet the rush of a new season is not yet upon us. The GIS is still fresh in our minds, as is the taste of the food and the culture. Now as most of you know, I did not make the GIS this year due to heart surgery. And while I missed the food, chasing a good bottle of wine or two, and seeing so many clients and friends all in one place, the thing I may have missed most was the chance to walk the floor and look at all the 'new and improved' products on the market.

One of my rituals is to try and get acquainted with as many of the new labels as possible so we can make educated recommendations to clients. In these many hours of strolling isles, it is always interesting to see the ingenuity of manufacturers as they strive to re-package, re-label, and re-price their fertility products. And that is the point I want to address.

As mentioned in the first article, these are some of the more difficult times we have experienced in both the golf and horticulture industries. Trickle-down economics is in full force as many courses cut back on expenses, which equates to less product bought and applied, which equates to less revenue for manufacturers, which equates to more aggressive marketing and packaging strategies. Simply put, in these more difficult times it becomes more prudent than ever to know what you're buying and just how it is affecting the overall chemistry and performance of your soil and turf.

Let's talk numbers. A recent survey, in the February 2009 issue of *Golfdom*, suggests that 34% of golf budgets have been increased, 42% of budgets remain the same, and 23% of budgets have been reduced. The same survey says that if asked to cut, 48% would first cut labor and only 7% would cut fertility. This data comes from polling 652 private, daily fee, and municipal facilities which should be a great cross-section of our industry that probably holds true to my experiences in Chicago and the Midwest. However, with increases in about every area of our expenses over the past year, it would be a safe assumption that a fairly high percentage of the 42% who held to the same budget, really have less buying power. Add this to the 23% who have had budget concessions and we are looking at 65% of the industry with reduced purchasing power.

The first area of prudence comes in reading the label.

While these numbers are very real, they should not be cause for playing Chicken Little. Indeed the same article in *Golfdom* tells us that 56% of courses feel optimistic and 27% neutral for the upcoming year. This leaves only a handful who are pessimistic. From my experience, this is nothing new. Positive attitudes will go a long way toward swaying some of those on the pessimistic side to move on over and join the rest of us in enjoying this great sport and career.

Don't assume that fertility has to suffer because of the present financial situation. Indeed, if superintendents get a little more down and dirty, they will find that there are many ways to save money and do a great job on fertility. The first area of prudence comes in reading the label. I find it interesting that when we sit through a class and an exam for pesticide licensing, most of the time is spent reading and understanding the labels. Labels are explicit and must, by law, tell us what is in the product we are applying. Fortunately, the same is also true for fertilizer products. While labels on organic and biological products may be a bit fuzzy, typical synthetic NPK products are not. Reading and understanding these labels will tell us if the contents are indeed 'new and improved' or just re-packaged. OK, case in point:

(continued on page 12)

In a visit last year a superintendent was finding it a bit too expensive to apply the amount of potassium that he needed to mitigate the salts in his water. When we went to the shop to look at his inventory we discovered that instead of using SOP (0-0-50) as recommended, he had purchased a product with half as much actual potassium. He was told that the other product he had purchased also had some magnesium and a couple of percent of minor elements and was a good product. The cost for SOP is essentially the same as the product with half the rate that he had been using. Simply put, he was paying double just to get a couple percent of magnesium. KMag, which is 11.20% magnesium, is the same price as the other product and has almost three times the amount of magnesium. Similar stories can be told, especially about products containing calcium, but that is fodder for future articles.

Now the 'other' product this superintendent had been using is a very good product, new to the market, and performs very well. But performance was not the question. The question was one of affordability in applying the amount of potassium that the soil and turf needed. If this superintendent's budget was flush, and he wanted to apply twice as much of the other product that would have been fine. The problem is it wasn't. Karl Dannenberger, Ph.D. from Ohio State University, wrote a very nice article that addresses price per unit of fertility. It can be found in the same February issue of *Golfdom*. (This is obviously an issue worth reading while you're cleaning your office and preparing for spring!)

So, if item one is learning to be more aware of the labels on the products we use, then item two is to conduct trials more diligently before making mass changes to your fertility program. Time and space do not allow me to properly deal with this subject. There are many academic types that are far more adept at telling us how to set up trials. The only suggestion (and plea) I want to make is, do more homework before making major changes to your program. We run into clients regularly who have implemented a new foliar program, a new biological program, and a new minor's product, and started to treat their water all at the same time. The problem is that we now have no way to measure the results and effectiveness of the products. Before you upgrade your existing fertility program with 'new and improved' products, we recommend the following:

- Fully evaluate your present program and carefully list the pros and cons.
- Collect soil and tissue data so that you have a baseline against which to measure the trial results.
- Select sites such as nursery, putting greens, target greens, or select greens on the course for your trials. This allows you to measure your treated areas and the untreated.
- And, should you like a product you test, read the label carefully to see just what may be providing the results you are seeing. It may well be that a high shot of iron is providing the color response you are seeing, not a new and improved biological product.

...do more homework before making major changes to your program.

- And finally, repeat your testing so that you can correlate the visual response to the chemistry that is on the label. I wouldn't want to publish results from this simple trial method, but it may well keep you from making expensive mistakes. And finally, utilize the services of the CDGA and the Midwest Golf House. I say this as I applaud the CDGA staff for the trial work they did last year. Their work opened many an eye to the fact that there is little correlation between cost and effectiveness of fertilizer products. I would strongly suggest that you contact their staff and ask for a copy of their fall report. It is often said that if we watch our pennies the dollars will take care of themselves. This has never been truer than it is in our present economy. In that same issue of *Golfdom*, the survey asked where superintendents would cut first if they were asked. Of the respondents, 48% said labor. Perhaps if we, as operators, become more sophisticated buyers and users of our fertility products, then we could keep an extra person employed. **-OC**



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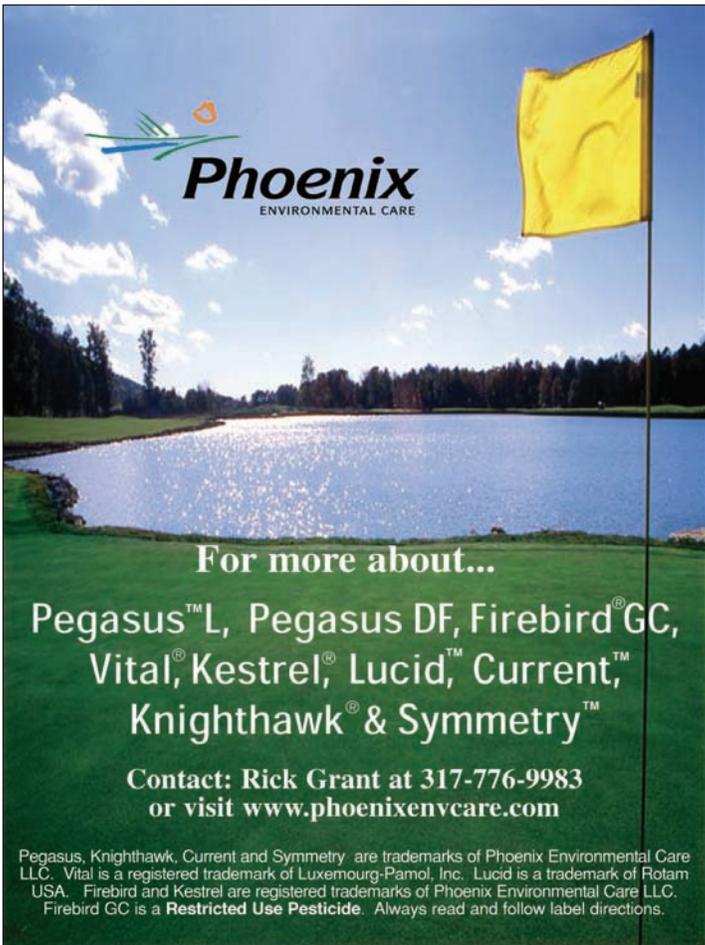
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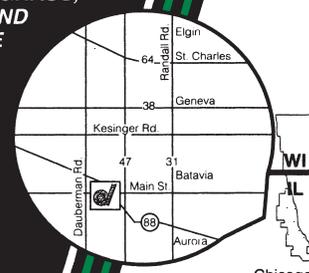
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“You Might Be a Golf Course Superintendent if.....”

I was looking for something “light” to help you start your year off in what is looking like a tough fiscal year for many. So I came up with this little ditty. Enjoy.

This article is kind of a play on Jeff Foxworthy’s “You Might Be a Redneck if...” comedy monologue. It’s always amazing to me that if you put a bunch of superintendents from anywhere in the country together in a room, the conversation is always the same. Whether it’s cool season or warm season turf, country club or public, we share similar stories about growing turf, golfer habits, staffing, and even our personal lives. Resemblance to any individual is purely coincidental.

You Might Be a Golf Course Superintendent if...

- Your dog is named bogey.
- Your favorite website is TGIF (Turfgrass information File).
- Your dress shoes are Dry Joy Teaching shoes.
- You only see your wife and children when it’s dark out. They think you are a vampire.
- Your favorite movie is Caddyshack.

- When you watch sports on TV, you check out the turf and mowing patterns.
- All of the books in your library are about turf diseases, landscaping, or golf course design.
- You quote memorized lines from Caddyshack in normal conversations.
- The people in your neighborhood only know you as “that grass guy”.
- All of the shirts you own have a golf course or other turf care product logos on them.
- The only magazines you subscribe to are golf or turf related.
- Your living room décor is golf memorabilia.
- You hang out with other turf nerds on your personal time.
- Your favorite day of the year is when you aerify greens.
- Your role model is a former employer/Superintendent.
- Unlike “normal” people you look forward to winter and hate summer. **-OC**



Charles Anfield

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Toro Sand Pro 5020

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18 hp gas engine, 3WD, Rear rake,
front blade, fully serviced
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Toro Reelmaster 3100-D

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blade, 32" Sidewinder cutting
reel, 84 inch cut, canopy, lights
\$13,500 ea.

Cushman Truckster

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& box, ROPS and roof
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Toro Workman 1100

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12 hp Kohler gas engine,
dump box, 1250 lbs capacity
\$4,600

Jacobsen AR-5

2006 1245 hrs
59 hp Turbo Kubota diesel
engine, 4WD, 5-22" decks, ROPS
\$21,500

Groundsmaster 328-D

2004 566 hrs
26 hp Kubota diesel, 2WD,
72" side discharge cutting deck
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Greensmaster Flex 21

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New Orleans '09 – Technology

Even though attendance was down and the economy is in a rut, new technology shined brightly at the 2009 New Orleans Trade Show.

Precise Path

Precise Path unveiled the first robotic greensmower in the industry. Currently coupled with a Toro DPA triplex head, its HOC (Height of cut) is .062 to .297, width of cut is 21 inches, and weight is 650 pounds. The batteries last 3 hours and recharge in 8 by plugging the machine into a standard 120V AC outlet.



The 36V lead-acid battery supply is segregated; 24V for the mower operation and 12V for the software. The software is loaded onto your computer at work. You set the mowing schedule (days of week), parameters (single or double cut), direction, cleanup, and the distance it goes **after** it leaves the green before it makes its turn. Cleanup is accurate to within ½ inch.

It uses LPS (Local Positioning System) with 4 beacons that are attached to magnets that are permanently installed around the green. It has adjustable sensitivity for collision avoidance for objects on the green. Optional for owners is the programming of audible verbal warnings.

You can sign up for a demo or view one at a course near you on their website (www.precisepath.com).

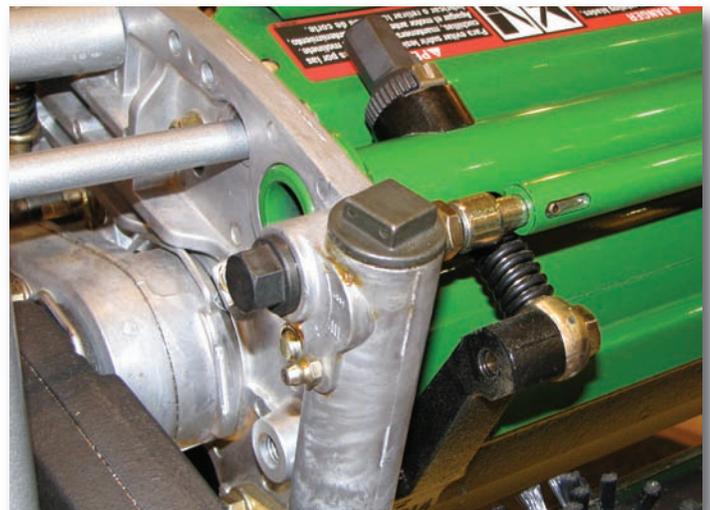
Smithco

Smithco is always tinkering with electricity and equipment. This year they brought a sprayer with the spray pump being driven by a BIG electric motor.

John Deere

John Deere wins the prize this year for bringing the most new toys to the show and all new reels for everything.

Dubbed the QA5 (Quick Adjust 5 inch Reel) and QA7 (Quick Adjust 7" Reel), these reels are the culmination of a redesign project that began at the Reel Cell in Horicon a few years ago. The QA5 reels come with 1-click bedknife to reel adjustment and quick adjust HOC that can be performed at the rear of the reel on either side using a 5/8 inch or 16mm socket or wrench. A shaft and worm gear adjusts both sides of the rear roller equally at the same time.



Also new are the cast aluminum side frames. The QA5 comes in 18 inch width for the 8000E fairway mower and 22 inch width for the 220E walker, 2500B, and 2500E triplex greensmowers. The 7500, 7500E, 8500 and 8500E fairway units also contain a 22 inch width. Seven and 11 blades are available.

(continued on next page)



The QA7 has 1-click reel to bedknife adjustment as well as the new HOC adjustment. The 22 inch reel comes with 8 or 10 blades and is for the 7700 and 8700 fairway units. The 26 and 30 inch come with 5 or 8 blades and are available on the 7200 and 2653B trim/surrounds units.

Three new fairway mowers debuted; all using electric reel motors powered by a 48 volt alternator (the same one used on the 2500E triplex mower). The 7500E and 8500E are a remake of the 2 mowers introduced last year. The 8000E is a completely different animal. Based on a triplex platform (3 wheels), it carries 5 QA5 18 inch reels with electric motors. All three tires are 24x12x12 slicks and the GRIP traction system is standard.



The 220E walker was shown at last year's show and made its official debut this time around. It has a 22 inch QA5 11 blade reel powered by an electric motor. It has a fully floating head, adjustable FOC (frequency of clip) and onboard backlapping.

Solar Drive

These guys came up with a solar panel that can be retrofitted to most electric golf cars and utility vehicles. It charges while the vehicle is outside.

Jacobsen

The fruits of Jacobsen's labor showed off in work done behind the scenes. A \$1.5 million investment in a special grinding process gives reels a total run-out of .0015 and puts 45° relief on each blade. Whether you prefer backlapping or grinding only, the relief will last much longer. All new reels made come with this new grinding process.

New aerating tines were also unveiled, the DuraTine™ XL and XLT Series. With special alloys, a proprietary heat treating process and special coating, Jacobsen says these tines last

4 times longer than their original ones and up to 75% longer than the competition.

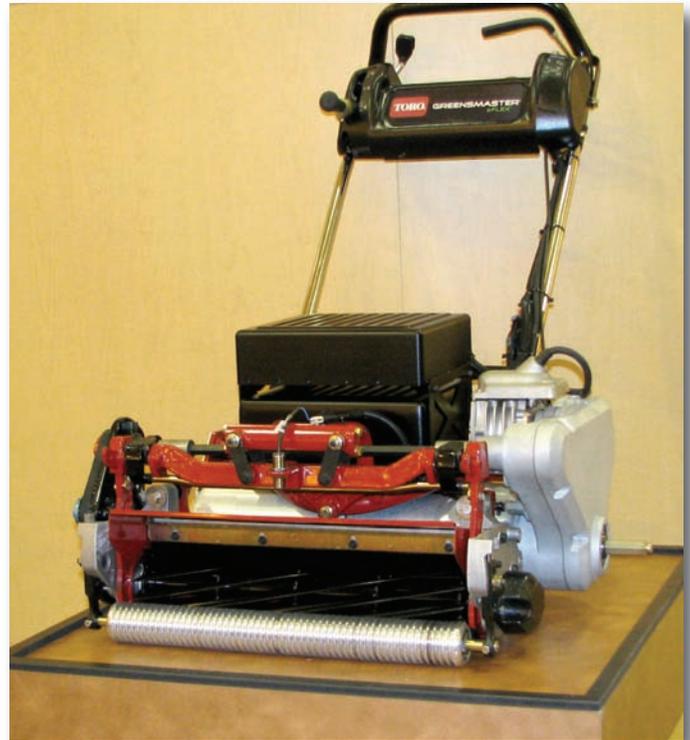
The Eclipse 322 triplex, which debuted last year, is now available for order.

Turfco

They introduced the 3-Point TriWave seeder last year; this year they brought a walker. Independent floating seeder heads. They also introduced a programmable topdresser, the Wide-Spin 1540.

Toro

The E-Flex made its debut. A lithium-ion battery powers the unit; giving it the capability to mow 6 greens with a single cut. A sensor on the front slows the unit down at the end of a pass for easier turning. It comes with the 14 blade reel. The projected release date is sometime in 2010.



The hybrid triplex was shown in a dimly lit room, no cameras allowed. Electric reel motors. A cast aluminum segmented floor that swings out of the way to gain easy access to the center unit. Cutting units are 5 inches off the ground in transport position, now making it easy to check the height of cut. The yoke assemblies and carrier pull frames that are a hallmark of Toro triplexes are gone. Now in place are new cast aluminum yokes attached to the reels by 2 quick release tabs. This will also come with the 14 blade reels. They currently plan on showing it to the public in San Diego next year, with a possible release date of late 2010.

Wireless hour meters are now available that sync with Toro's MyTurf equipment maintenance software. Used in conjunction with a base station, they can record the hours automatically.

Actioneco



The guys from Finland brought their mower, the "ONE". Lithium-ion battery pack that lasts 7-8 hours. Plug in the wall recharging. Auto HOC and FOC. Auto clipping dispersal. No steering wheel, no pedals. AC servo motor drives. One hand joystick operation. Programmable control systems via satellite antenna with Finland. A 4 wheel fairway unit with 5 or 7 cutting units and a walker are scheduled to be released later this year.

-OC

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THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



March 2009



MAGCS extends a warm welcome to the new members who have recently joined:

- Michael Paciga**, Class C, Biltmore Country Club
- Juan Acosta**, Class C, Makray Memorial Golf Club

If you are a Class A member, you probably received a letter from **Jason Funderburg** and **Jeff VerCautren** of Rich Harvest Farms requesting volunteers for the Solheim Cup. A follow-up email was sent out on February 10th to clarify the dates of the event, which this item will also do. The Solheim Cup, which is the women's version of the Ryder Cup, will pit 12 of the top Ladies European Tour players against 12 of the LPGA's best in a match play format. The international event will take place from August 20th through the 23rd, and any help you can offer will be greatly appreciated. The letter came with an application form—please fill it out and get it back to Jason Funderburg by April 1st. The address is: Rich Harvest Farms, PO Box 610, Sugar Grove, IL, 60554. Several of our members are in the news with big goings-on recently. **John Leibold**, President of Leibold Irrigation announced the formation of a new company called ProGro Inc., and will serve as its president as well. The company will be focused and positioned to manufacture and distribute products and services for the professional turf, tree, and landscape markets. ProGro has purchased the assets and trademark Eco Agronomic programs of Bull Market Turf & Ornamental, Inc. from former owner and president **Aaron Goy**, who will retain equity ownership in the firm and serve as its Managing Partner responsible for sales and operations. Also joining the ProGro sales team this month is **Rusty Stachlewitz**, formerly of The Lawn Institute. Best of luck to these gentlemen in their exciting new endeavor.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 7 – CDGA Directors Workshop at Medinah Country Club, **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** host.
- March 11 – CAGCS Annual Chicagoland Forum at Naperville Country Club, **Tim Anderson, CGCS** host.
- March 11-12 – Reinders 19th Turf & Irrigation Conference at the Waukesha Expo Center in suburban Milwaukee, WI.
- March 15 – Deadline for applications for the Par Aide Joseph S. Garske Collegiate Grant awards.
- March 19 – MAGCS Computer Camp – College of DuPage, **Luke Cella, CGCS**
- March 25 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL, **Dr. Derek Settle, Keith Rincker** and **Chris Painter** hosts.
- March 31 – Deadline for GCSAA's Student Essay Contest applications.
- April 28 – MAGCS Annual Spring Scramble and monthly meeting at Prairie Landing Golf Club, President **Tony Kalina** host.
- May 9 – North American Birdwatching Open held on International Migratory Bird Day. More info on this will be forthcoming.
- May 18 – MAGCS/ITF Spring Golf Day at Merit Club, **John Nelson** host.
- May 19 – CAGCS monthly meeting at the Glen View Club, **Tony Frandria** host.



Rusty Stachlewitz

(continued on page 22)



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Also congratulations to **Ben Kelnhofer** on being named the golf course superintendent of Mistwood Golf Club in Romeoville. Ben had served as Mistwood's assistant superintendent before being promoted to his new position.



Ben Kelnhofer

.....
Billy Casper Golf, which owns and operates golf courses in 24 states, has been chosen by the Chicago Park District to manage its 7 golf facilities, bringing the total of BCG-managed facilities in and around Chicago to 22. The courses are Jackson Park, Sydney R. Marovitz, South Shore, Robert A. Black, Columbus Park, Marquette Park, and the Diversey Driving Range.
.....

It sure didn't take Monroe Miller long to unretire. Miller, who had served as golf course superintendent at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison, WI for 36 years and was the longtime editor of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association newsletter *Grass Roots*, retired last year after a career laden with awards and accolades, including most recently being awarded GCSAA's 2009 Colonel John Morley Distinguished Service Award. So much for retirement—Monroe is now the first executive director /ambassador of the Wisconsin Turf Association, which was previously run by a volunteer board. Congratulations to Monroe on his very short retirement.

.....
In the past we've run items featuring **Jon Jennings, CGCS'** competitive running exploits. Now, in case you are not convinced that he's a serious runner, how about this—Jon won his division in the Chicago Area Runners Association in 2008 with an undefeated season! Competing in the Clydesdale Division (or Beef-a-lo as **Brian Bossert, CGCS** affectionately refers to it), Jon accepted the top honors at the CARA Awards Banquet in January. Oh yeah, while on that subject, he also **ran** for election (unopposed, but still...) and won that, too—Jon is now the 39th President of the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS). Congrats to Mr. J on these magnanimous achievements.

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Jon Jennings

GCSAA has announced that it has discontinued the Chapter-hosted Regional Seminar Program and the Superintendent Leadership Series as of January 1, 2009. The decision was based on the growth of local educational opportunities, with most chapters that participated in the programs now offering their own programs. (Wonder if this had anything to do with External Education Opportunities?) On a related note, GCSAA and USGA have slashed their turf research budgets this year, delaying or cutting a combined \$375,000 in new projects, citing the economic downturn as the reasoning behind the decision. For GCSAA, this translates to a cut of \$70,000 to \$80,000 in chapter cooperative and national research projects. There goes my "The Effects of Prolonged Winter Drinking on Already Out-of-Shape Superintendents" grant that I applied for...

Winter, though soon coming to an end, is a prime time to do other things besides the above proposed case study—it is also a great time to spend some QT in front of the computer and surf around a bit. One site that should be of particular interest to all of us is the Environmental Institute For Golf's website (eifg.org). One useful tool on the site is EDGE, which contains tons of case studies written by superintendents and other experts in their fields on a huge variety of environmental-themed projects, and they are downloadable for you to print and take to your favorite reading place. Great ideas of how you can improve your facility from an environmentally friendly standpoint, and great way to connect with the people who are the movers and shakers in that arena. And wouldja believe **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** is currently featured?

This just in for you MSMA users: The MAA (no idea) and EPA (know that one) have signed an agreement that permits the continued use of the herbicide MSMA but ends its use on residential turf in 2010. Sale of MSMA to golf courses will continue until the end of 2012, with use of stocks permitted until the end of 2013. You may recognize this herbicide by its many trade names such as Daconate, or by some of its more descriptive names like Die-Weed, Kill-A-Plenty, Sure Death, Select-Kil, and Weed Hoe (not to be confused with Crack Hoe, Cheap Hoe, or Nasty Hoe). Or perhaps you are from the south, where it is sold—ironically—as either Bueno or Border Patrol. You can't make this stuff up.

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• Remove clothing immediately if pesticide gets inside. Then wash thoroughly and put on clean clothing.
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ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS
DO NOT apply directly to water, to areas where surface water is present or to intertidal areas

anything that has been treated, such as plants, soil, or water. Use Coveralls, waterproof gloves, shoes plus socks, protective eyewear.

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How many ways can you label MSMA?

There's no keeping Chef **Scott Witte, CGCS** out of the news—Scott won Cantigny's Annual Chili Cookoff for 2009 with his now-famous "Smokin' Compost Chili." The event brings the entire Cantigny organization to Scott's maintenance facility for an afternoon of good times and good eats, followed by a night of aromatic spousal abuse beneath the sheets for all who partake. Congratulations to Scott, condolences to Sue.



For all you who are members of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses AND are subscribers to CourseVision, you are eligible to have your annual membership fee for the ASCP paid for by CourseVision. This is a result of a new partnership formed between the two entities which will enable them to continue to define areas where CourseVision's powerful visualization capabilities like Google Earth can be adapted to assist courses in the ASCP certification process. How d'ya like that?

Among all the recent educational and travel opportunities was the January 22nd trek to beautiful Arrowhead Golf Club for the MAGCS 2009 kickoff meeting hosted by **Mike Mumper**. The day began with President Kalina—ever the wordsmith—calling for the "dispensement of the previous minutes' meetings" and just kept on cruising from there. The education portion was strong, with Aaron Johnsen of Spectrum Technologies speaking on sensor and measurement technology available to golf courses for implementation into maintenance regimes. **Don Ferreri** then took the podium to

(continued on next page)

give his annual GCSAA delegate's report, including a couple tidbits about MAGCS' power on the national level (top 5 in votes cast with 288, and well above the national average for GIS attendees per chapter). After that, a lively round-table discussion ensued, with moderator **Luke Cella** posing questions related to the changes we will see with regard to the economy, with our oddly talkative host chiming in frequently (turns out he was stalling for time to let the kitchen staff get lunch ready). Observations and comments such as "early order program orders are down," "pre-purchased fuel," and "zero overtime initiative" were the flavor of the discussion, with everyone from public to private, vendor to grower agreeing that it will be a rough road to hoe. There's that hoe word again. The day ended with a regal lunch spread and then all the 4 X 4's pulled out of the lot and Arrowhead was back to normal. Great job by all, from Mike and the folks at Arrowhead to our education contributors to our very generous sponsors, who were **J.W. Turf, Inc., Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc., and Reinders, Inc.** Thank you one and all!



Gracious host (l) Mike Mumper accepts thanks from Bob Kohlstedt (r). Mike is hosting MAGCS again this year on October 5 for the College Championship.

Musings from the 2009 Golf Industry Show

I'm thinking that the best way for me to do this is chronologically, so I'll begin at the beginning.

OK, there was this hurricane that hit New Orleans a while back. It did a lot of bad things, and we all know that story. Thing is, there's still a bunch of messed up stuff down there that needs fixing, and GCSAA along with Habitat For Humanity did a cool thing by helping out and sending volunteers into the messed up areas and pitching in on the rebuilding projects. MAGCS sent a nice contingent of helpers, and only one hurt himself, but not badly.



Okay, I get how Fred Behnke could hurt his finger at the Habitat for Humanity work day; but how did he get all those beads?



The new and improved Arrowhead Clubhouse.



Aaron Johnsen of Spectrum Technologies.



Don Ferreri addresses the MAGCS members and talks about the upcoming national election.

But John Ekstrom's got that story covered, so let's move forward.

Backward, actually, to a few days before when the National Championship and Golf Classic was? were? played out in Gulf Shores, Alabama. Lots of MAGCS guys went there, and some of them really did well. **Tim Scott**, (Stony Creek GC) went in there and played some serious golf, taking second place in the National Championship. Some guy named Seth Strickland beat him by 2 thingies, but he was a repeat winner; no, a three-peat winner, so he's probably a pro or manager or hockey player or something. Nice job, Tim. We also had a couple other guys on the first page of the leader board—**Al Pondel** tied for 18th and **Dave Kohley** tied for 20th. And the MAGCS Chapter team of Scott, Kohley, Pondel,

Pete's sake. I woulda bought four of those mowers if they had done that. The trade show was weird this year—not too many people walking around (they're saying 30% down, but I'm thinking more like 40 or so). The "thing in the middle"—the thing they build on the floor for people to take pictures of with their phones—was called the Water Use and Maintenance Project, and I got to see **Tim Anderson, CGCS** from Naperville Country Club talk about storm water and permits and such—right there on the floor, which was new I think. Oh, and there was an electric greens mower from somewhere like Denmark that was copper-colored and had tentacles and tubes and suction devices and looked either like a horseshoe crab or a vessel from a Jules Verne book; and there was that robot mower thing which doesn't need a person to mow with, but still needs a person to take it to the place it's going to mow so I don't really get it.



Tim Anderson delivers his talk on Stormwater Management at the Water Use and Maintenance Project.



Superintendent of the Year Sam MacKenzie with Mike Schmidt (L) and Syngenta's Golf Market Manager Dave Ravel (R).



Brian Kimbrough

There seemed to be a lot of New Orleansy things and gimmicky things and inflatable things like huge sasquatches that I said "Hi Mump" to but that didn't answer back and bands that played that New Orleansy music and even a New Orleans funeral procession that reminded me of "Live and Let Die" without Jane Seymour. Oooh, she was great as Solitaire.



The hit of the floor—the Precision Path robotic mower (though we never got to see one actually move).

Electric greens mower or Jules Verne's Nautilus II?

There was the Dog of the Year contest and the Superintendent of the Year contest. We did pretty good in those, by the way—**Sam MacKenzie, CGCS** from Olympia Fields won the superintendent one (he was baffled, but he got to meet Mike Schmidt who always had Bruce Sutter's number but I digress), and **Brian Kimbrough's** hound Rusty—Miss July in the Dog Days of Golf calendar—was narrowly beat out by Willie, a German Short-haired Pointer mix belonging to Steve McCormick of Columbia Country Club in Maryland for Dog of the Year. It's all so political. Brian says he's OK with it, but it's gonna to take a few cold frosties to break the news to Rusty. Maybe Brian should have a few, too.



There's more than just iron on the floor—there's brass, too.



It wouldn't be New Orleans without large inflatable dolls, would it?



The lovely greeters/bouncers Sharon and Maureen.



The photographer had obviously been to the bar one too many times by this point.



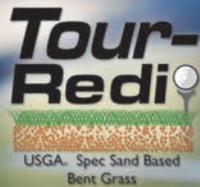
(continued on next page)

I could go on about the trade show, but that would be like Bubba coming up with a few more ways to cook shrimp, so let's move forward.

I think they should rename Thursday night to Hospitality Room Night. Ask **Brian Winkel**—there's like 400 of them, and he has to hit them all, poor boy. Mmmm—po' boy. Makes me hungry. The U of I has a nice one (hospitality room, not po' boy), and they let non-Illini in there (because it's a land grant institution, whatever that means, and a cash bar). Penn State does a prayer breakfast so they get a pass on the hospitality room thing. Not sure about the other schools, but Wink would know. Just as well. MAGCS has about the nicest one of all (aside from those big corporate ones with magicians and caricature artists and famous people signing books), and over 275 people including me were witness to that. Wow was that food great! Except for that weird squishy sausage thing—couldn't trust that. And how about **Sharon Riesenbeck** and **Maureen Clark** sitting there checking people in while we were all having fun? Them, and the volunteers—especially the Class C guys—that helped out in that whole thing are my heroes. And all the people who sponsored the deal—the list is as long as my arm, which just shows to go ya how great the commercial people in MAGCS are. But Sharon's got that story covered, so let's move forward.



The weird squishy sausage thing, really it is a taste of New Orleans.



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There was an election that I don't think anybody lost. The new president is Mark Kuhns from Baltusrol in New Jersey where I once went to watch a friend miss the cut in the US Open. Stayed in one of their member's houses—it was a mansion and we had our own wing. I hear that was the last time they opened their house to people from Illinois. But again I digress. There was the launching of GCSAA TV that pretty much is self-descriptive. **Chad Kempf** of EPIC Creative is in like all of the videos—he's the interview-guy with the mike and the questions who has to keep a serious look on his face and nod when people are talking to him.



Chad Kempf

And there was the Harrah's Casino where you could stay up all night in your suit and gamble and then go straight to the airport and fly home. And of course, there was Bourbon Street where little plastic tubes filled with neon-colored liquid cost four dollars plus tip and after you drink them the girl who sold them to you spits the tubes up in the air (which is smoky always) and you go "What did I just drink?" And you could go watch housewives ride mechanical bulls, and the bulls didn't even give them beads and they still, well...you know.

Well, I guess that's about it. **-OC**



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Golf Industry Show is More than a Show

We shall return ...and so we did. The GCSAA made its post Katrina return to New Orleans. Compared to other areas, The French Quarter is considered "high ground" and fared the hurricane well. Other areas of the city did not. Some of our members participated in building a house for a "Habitat for Humanity" project. Those individuals included: John Ekstrom, Les Rutan, Greg Thalmann, CGCS, Derek Settle, Steve Stewart, Fred Behnke, CGCS, Keith Rincker, Al Fierst, Conner Healy, Kurt Sams, CGCS, Ed Braunsky, CGCS, and Joe Etten. Way to represent guys!

New Orleans is always a great venue for the GIS. The hotels and conference center are all within walking distance. The food and music available after a long day on the trade show floor are second to none. The weather is usually excellent. New Orleans is perfect for the short, three- or four-day stay most members enjoy. *Laissez le bon temps rouler!*

The opening session was the usual presentation of awards and elected GCSAA Officers. Our own environmental whiz kid, Dan Dinelli, CGCS, received the well-deserved Presidents Award for Environmental Stewardship. Paul Azinger, Captain of the winning Ryder Cup Team, then took the stage. He had some great "insider" stories about Anthony Kim and Phil Mickleson. His main theme was how he built and managed the team. He was involved in the Ryder Cup selection process to create four Captain picks instead of two. He wanted to get the hottest players on the team. He spoke of the recent problems of the American Ryder Cup Teams not being very cohesive and he was bound and determined to break the mold and find a way to get the American Tour Players to function together as a unit. He adopted a technique matching personality types in small "pods." Rather than pairing different personalities and trying to make them fit together, he matched players of similar psychological profile.

Each pod consisted of three players. The Aggressive pod was Justin Leonard, Phil Mickleson, and Anthony Kim. The Redneck pod was Kenny Perry, Boo Weekly, and Jim Furyk.



The Quiet pod was Stewart Cink, Ben Curtis, and Steve Stricker. Azinger also did another thing that was very unusual; he let his pods pick their own players. His only captain pick was Stricker. He let the players take ownership of the pods by allowing each to make their own choice. Talk about delegation. Azinger gave up control of the only thing over which he had control, his Captain picks. Each pod was given a short list to pick from. He also talked about recruiting the local Louisville population to function as the 13th Man. He wanted to get the crowd into it.

He also talked about how he worked with Mark Wilson, CGCS, and the Staff from Valhalla in modifying the course to give his team an advantage. This translates to the "bomb and gauge" game the PGA tour is famous for. The rough was shortened, fairways widened, and trees were removed to open things up. Zinger really got into his story telling and went 30 minutes over his time limit before he was asked to quickly wrap it up. The trade show floor was calling. I suspect he could have gone on for another hour, and I believe he would have. Azinger stuck around after his presentation for quite

a while to sign stuff and meet people. I wonder if that "pod method" would work with my crew?

The trade show seemed to me to have about the same level of Vendor participation as usual. The floor, facilities, and rooms at the New Orleans Conference Center were clean and

(continued on page 33)



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spacious. The trade show can be overwhelming, unless you have a game plan for exploring it. I always fall back on my systematic, aisle-by-aisle approach. Funny thing, I ran into my old boss, Les Rutan from Crystal Tree C.C., doing the exact same thing. Go figure. Robotic mowers and range picker units were displayed. It seemed like there were a lot of new products that came in jugs. I saw Tim Davis from Shore Acres C.C. down in the Club Managers end of the trade show floor. He said he smelled burgers cooking and followed his nose to investigate.

Of course the education opportunities at the GIS are endless. There are so many seminars, classes, presentations, and other opportunities to learn about our industry. If you walk away without picking up anything new, it's your own fault. There is so much to see and do, yet so little time.

The U.S.G.A. made their presentation "It's All About the Economy!" The theme of this year's program was about saving money in hard times. It featured nine speakers from the Green Section presenting ideas for avoiding the costs of overwatering, preventing the application of too little or too much calcium (or magnesium), saving money on the installation and maintenance of fans on greens, maintaining naturalized areas, using scientific research to evaluate water conditions, reducing the "wow" factor and enhancing playability, using inorganic soil amendments wisely, getting the best value from your mechanic, and keeping bunker maintenance to a minimum.

Stephen Covey, co-founder of the Covey Leadership Center, was the keynote speaker. His compelling presentation was based on his book, "The Speed of Trust". Covey told us that trust has become a critical leadership competency in today's business world. He has demonstrated that trust is no longer considered a soft skill but rather a hard-edged economic driver that can be learned and measured. One of his examples was, if you trust someone, a deal can be reached in a very short time frame. If you don't trust them, research and due diligence, which takes more time and more money, is required. Trust can be created or destroyed. The key is to make trust building a part of team relationships and corporate culture. Trust me, read the book.

As the tired and depleted MAGCS members gathered at the airport for the flight home, we were all glad the GCSAA had the GIS in New Orleans. New Orleans is still trying to rebuild from Katrina, and they need conferences like ours. Granted, New Orleans is a little grittier and older than the homogenized, vanilla shopping mall conference site on International Drive in Orlando. We know it doesn't draw as large a gathering either, because it's not considered a family-friendly venue. But for a conference that's a short and intense stay, it works very well, thank you. Let's hope it's not the last time we visit. -OC



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HOSPITALITY WRAP UP

Sharon Riesenbeck, *MAGCS Commercial Representative*



The Big Easy: Celebrating Our Superintendents

The Big Easy: Nickname for New Orleans, USA, referring to the easy-going, laid back attitude of jazz musicians and local residents. MAGCS translation: hosting a Hospitality Event with a laid back attitude for the Greatest Group of Superintendents is the BIG EASY, because we have a lot of volunteer and financial support behind the scenes. Please remember to thank our Golden Tee Sponsors highlighted on a separate page in this issue.

Each year we try to tweak the event to give it new flavor, and this year was no exception. If you were able to attend this year's event, our menu featured New Orleans Cajun delicacies: Alligator and Crawfish Sausage, Seafood Gumbo, Baked Louisiana Oysters on the Half Shell, Sautéed Crawfish Tails over Pasta, and many other foods with an infamous "Creole Kick". We also featured a bar on the outside of the room, helping the line into the hospitality suite go a wee bit faster.

Despite the obvious reduction in attendance at the show, our hospitality suite was brimming with people. We estimate we had approximately 275 people, which is just about the same number we have had in years past.

Our scholarship raffle was a success again. We raised over \$1200.00 for the fund. Thank you all for the support, and congratulations to this year's winners: Rick Uthe, Mike Murphy, Greg Thalmann, and Rod Johnson. It is especially heartwarming to see Rick and Mike win as they are constantly volunteering their time to MAGCS social events.

Speaking of volunteering, my heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who helped make this event run smoothly. Beth Whitehouse, thank you so much for taking the time to make our last minute phone calls to secure sponsorships for this event. It really says a lot about a person when she is willing to help out with an event that she will not even be attending!

Many thanks to Maureen Clark of Dow AgroSciences, Tom Healy of Layne-Western, Rick Uthe of J. W. Turf, Matthew Breeden of Evanston Golf Club, John Ekstrom of Hinsdale Country Club, Mike Matchen of Wilmette Country Club, Steve Stewart of Toro/Reinders, Garry Anderson of Arthur Clesen, and my co-workers Dena Di Vincenzo, Rob Johnson, Brett Grams of Waupaca Sand & Solutions.

Please remember to take note of the 40 Golden Tee Sponsors on our thank you page.

Once again, Luke Cella is the real muscle behind this event. He secured the venue, put together the PowerPoint presentation, purchased the raffle prizes, mailed out the guest passes, and negotiated the "climbing attendance count" with the staff behind the scenes. Thank you, Luke, for taking pictures during the evening; it's always nice to see what went on inside the room.

Please remember to take note of the 40 Golden Tee Sponsors on our thank you page in this issue. Special thanks to our newest contributor, Quali-Pro. Be sure to thank them not only personally but also with the purchase of their goods and services. This event would not be possible without their generous support. If you do business with other vendors, please encourage them to participate next year.

I wish all of the readers a successful season and look forward to seeing you all again in San Diego! **-OC**





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It was difficult to believe that the remnants of Hurricane Katrina could still be felt in the suburbs and areas around New Orleans. For those who attended the GIS, it was obvious that the Downtown area and French Quarter were cleaned and refurbished to attract visitors again; however, the outlying areas still needed major work.

In an effort to help, various members from the Club Managers Association (CMAA), Golf Course Builders Association (GCBA), National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA), American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA), and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) gathered and participated in a two day rebuilding effort. There were also several MAGCS members who willingly stepped forward to help out: Ed Braunsky, Fred Behnke, Les Rutan, Dr. Derek Settle, Keith Rincker, Keith Peterson, Connor Healy, Steve Stewart, Joe Etten, Al Fierst, and John Ekstrom.

The work that was performed by this group was installing floor beams and plywood floor, creating window and wall frames, hauling lumber, cleaning of the site, and set up and take down of daily equipment.

Thank you to all involved and hopefully this becomes an annual event for future Golf Industry Show's. **-OC**



The reenactment of our resident pathologist, Derek Settle smashing the finger of Fred Behnke.





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14 N 937 US HWY 20
Hampshire, IL 60140

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