# ON COURSE THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE CHIPPENTENDENTS

THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

September 2010

## Fox Run Golf Links Greg Thalmann, CGCS

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents 11855 Archer Ave. Lemont, IL 60439

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Jury Duty, Why Me? The Future of *On Course* 2010 Midwest Scholars

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Fox Run Golf Links, the site of the 2010 Midwest College Championship, supports many nice mini-groves of trees that have been planted since its inception.

#### **FRONT COVER**

The 10th at Fox Run Golf Links looking back from the green. The 400 yard par 4 opening hole on the back challenges the player from the tee forcing a carry over water to be in position for the approach. *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 Luke Cella. MAGCS



# The Future of On Course

Most people hate to do two things that are vital to successful organizations—volunteer and fill out surveys. Thankfully, MAGCS has a tremendous pool of willing volunteers and survey takers who make the Midwest what it is today.

This past Spring MAGCS members were asked to fill out a short anonymous online survey about *On Course (OC)*. The survey was designed as a tool to measure the value of *OC* to our members and to help in the creation of a new sponsor package dubbed "Midwest Core Sponsors."

MAGCS thanks all the members who took the time to complete the survey. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and allows for an open and honest look at operations and helps us make things better for the *OC* readership. The results have been tallied and can be found below.

### Here's the Good Stuff

96.7% of you look forward to receiving OC each month and out of all those people, only one of you doesn't read it (I could insert an explicative about that one subhuman, but he or she would never see it).

22% of you read half of the magazine, 44% of you read three quarters of it and 30% of you read all of it.

The question that interested me most (from a publisher standpoint) was how much time passes before you read the magazine – 49% of you read it on the day of delivery and the rest read it within a week of receiving it. This tells me what I knew all along, but never was able to put it into words – our members like to read *OC* magazine because it is about people, places, problems and solutions that they know and understand. It's about us.

We asked the same question (how much time passes before the magazine is read) of other industry publications. All of them combined did not reach the same number of readers that read *OC* has on the day of delivery.

When it comes to advertising, 95% of you notice the advertising in OC. 68% of you said the advertising presence in the magazine will influence your decision to purchase products/ goods/service. And 91% say there is a good balance between advertising and article content in OC. Several of you use OC

On average, how much time passes before you read On Course after receiving it?

as a reference for finding new companies and it serves as a solid directory for locating products and information. Golf course are more comfortable doing new business with companies who advertise in *OC*.

We also tracked your favorite article to read, and to no

surprise "Bull Sheet", is still the favorite. Accolades to John Gurke, CGCS who has never failed to submit and put a smile on my face each month. Our feature articles were ranked number 2, thanks to all those that tap these out each month and provide the meat of the magazine.

### **To Make Better**

Survey results can be like discovering a piece of lettuce caught in your tooth and trying to remember who you've talked with since chomping down that

Caesar salad during lunch. The problems have been there but no one has told you about them; hence, there is no fixing them. Here's the lettuce:

- Get the issue to us at the beginning of the month so that information is relevant to us.
- Cover more local issues in our industry.
- List the authors of the articles that are up for consideration in the Gerber and Opperman Awards – so recognition will be given to all contributors.
- Mail a week before the monthly meeting profile.
- More pictures of courses and projects around town it is nice to see what is going on instead of just reading about it.
- Less droning on about meeting participation, etc.

There were a few comments associated with delivery – it being a little erratic each month. For those of you that don't know, we are now using a printer in Batavia, called BFC. We made the switch with our May 2010 issue and have worked out a few kinks since then with the publishing process. As always, (continued on next page) our timeliness depends on getting material so we are able to edit, layout and print. The process from pieces - to proof to print has been shortened but we still need content and we still need to get it done each month.

We are quickly approaching the winter months where Association activities begin to gear up. Many items gleaned from the survey will be used to direct the editorial committee as it meets and plans the future issues. Topics suggested for future articles include:

- What other courses are going through
- Facility type topics
- Superintendent experiences
- Science related information
- Course projects
- Practical applications, new ideas and innovations
- Business and budget advice
- CDGA and U of I research articles
- Unrelated to golf
- Construction topics
- Member biographies
- Golf course histories
- Environmental issues and stories
- Local news and time sensitive topics
- Maintenance standards and budgeting
- Reviews and uses of new chemicals and equipment
- Personal finance, writing wills and trusts
- Create an opinion section containing many viewpoints
- Recap of articles in other magazines, especially during the busy months of our year

### Future of On Course

We surveyed you on the "Future of *On Course*", a topic that always seems to come up given the state of the publishing and print industry. 68% of you said you would read the magazine in a digital format and 59% said we should pursue options to print and distribute the magazine digitally beyond our current offering. The board has discussed this option (and will continue to visit this) but don't expect the printed version to go away anytime soon. If anything, this survey has shown in its current print form it is still a true value to all who receive and read it – and we only sent the survey out via email! *On Course* will be offered in print and electronically to satisfy all of our members.

### **Keeping it Up**

Members value *On Course*. Our articles are authentic, written by members who know their topic and care to share their successes and failures with other professionals. Our articles are first rate. They are not written by professional writers who are paid to research a topic, but written by those in the trenches, living the life that their words describe. Our articles are first-run. If it is published in *On Course*, it was written for *On Course* with our member in mind. 45 of you said you are willing to contribute to *On Course*- see what I mean about the volunteer thing with MAGCS. You all rock! Look for a communication from Mike Mumper, our soon to be editorial chair for 2011. **-OC** 



FEATURE I Mike Bavier, *Class AA* 

# Jury Duty, Why Me?



A few years ago, that dreaded jury duty notice arrived in the mail. Many of you have received these notices and I would guess that like me, you really wanted nothing to do with the request to serve. Those horror stories all have to be true, because we had heard them for years.

When my notice first came, I thought I would be ineligible because I had changed my residence from one county to another county. Therefore, I thought I'll just avoid the dreaded task by sending in my change of address. Much to my surprise the court system forwarded my address change and in a few days I received another notice at my new address.

My new notice sent me to one of the courthouses in Lake County. The selected date was in early spring. Rather

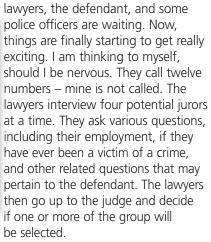
than putting it off and delaying the task of serving, I filled the card out with all the pertinent information about family, occupation, age, etc. I was to be at the court house early Monday morning.

Monday morning arrived quickly and I was nervous about getting to the courthouse on time. I was driving during rush hour and needed a parking space. The notice had inserted a parking permit for certain areas within the city. Like all golf superintendents, getting up early and getting to the courthouse was the easy part.

Upon arriving, everyone is checked through security and directed to the location of the rather large waiting room where each of us was giving a number. After waiting patiently for about a half hour, a judge came in to make a speech. He said we would only be needed at most a week. If we were not called the first day we would only have to phone daily to see if we would be needed another day. He was a very humorous man, interesting and very dedicated to his service within the system.

After he left, we were then told we could take a break. This must be the dreaded waiting time I had heard about. To my surprise, while talking to other potential jurors, I discovered that we all came with the same opinion of this duty – not so much that it was a dreaded task, but a meaningful acknowledgement and privilege as part of our responsibility of being an American Citizen. How many of us think how great our country is and what we can do to help keep it that way?

Now after only a half hour or so – my number is called. I am assigned to go to a court room, where the judge, a few



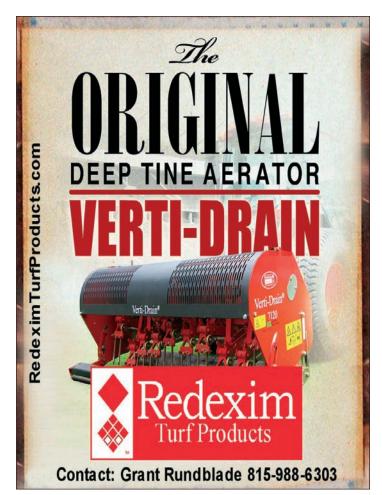
More numbers are called, including mine. I was selected to serve on the jury, but as an alternate in case there was an illness or other excused absence by one of the original jurors. An alternate sits through the entire trial, the same as the other jurors. We chatted together during the recesses. One of selected jurors happened to be a golf member at a private club. That made things a little more interesting for me – we always had plenty to talk about when the discussions were not involving the trial at hand. On the final day, I was dismissed because none of the jurors dropped out.

(continued on page 7)



To shorten the story a bit, the trial went well. I was actually saddened that I did not get to give my opinion on the outcome. After two and a half days of listening to the lawyers' questions and statements, back and forth, I actually thought I had something worthwhile to articulate. I really had the desire to be a part of the complete process. Unfortunately, I had to wait until the next day to find out the verdict. Just as I had anticipated, the defendant was found guilty as charged. This was not one of the trials of our ex governors – and that I'm sure you could figure out by the length of the trial.

Now here is the real story. Maybe you have thought of ways to get out of serving as a juror. But from my perspective this is first not only your duty, it is also a very fulfilling and important service that you can do for yourself as well as your fellow citizens. You might just enjoy the time spent and feel a sense of satisfaction that I did. So, next time when that notices arrives in the mail, smile—you can look forward to a rewarding time. **-OC** 





SUPER - N - SITE Luke Cella, *MAGCS* 



Since 1982, the year before Fox Run Golf Links opened for play, Greg Thalmann, CGCS has been at the helm, quite literally. In his 28 years at Fox Run, Greg has overseen many different projects including installation of a continuous cart path system, irrigation system upgrades, planting plans and landscape improvements. Among the more recent projects at Fox Run Golf Links has been the renovation of the clubhouse in 2006-07. An addition was added to the building that now houses the pro shop and grill area. A few walls were added to create an event room that can seat 120 quests comfortably.

Another project that never ends is the shoreline stabilization of the Salt Creek. Greg has utilized many different methods to hold the banks together, each gets tested every year. In fact, if you are in the market for a stabilization project, give Greg a call, I know he can help you out. Sharing of information is one thing Greg loves about the profession and looks to MAGCS as the conduit in which this occurs. Greg is a proud member of MAGCS, having served on the Board for five years starting in 1996. Greg spearheaded the Scholarship Committee back then and is to thank for all of the good that it has done since then.

Greg happily offered up his par 70 / 6300 yard facility at the last minute because of a conflict at our scheduled venue for September. To the tenured superintendent, rolling with it has always come easy. The course, thanks to Greg and his staff will offer a fun and challenging venue for our college scramble.

Fox Run Golf Links was built in the floodplain of a branch of the Salt Creek, on property donated to Elk Grove Village by a home builder. The course was designed by William Newcomb, a Michigan native. The course is not intentionally penal in design but the water does come into play on 12 of the 18 holes. To offset this, Newcomb sparingly placed bunkers in areas to direct golf shots toward the desired line. Greg has created buffer zones and let plantings grow along the water banks, there are not many hazards that sneak up on you. Large greens are very receptive to both the air and ground game, offering a shot for players of all talents.



Greg Thalmann, CGCS (third from left) with his "Midwest Family" -Tom Savage, Luke Strojny and Ernie Corsi at the Hospitality Reception in San Diego this past February.

Upon entering Fox Run, one can't help but notice the annuals and perennials around the clubhouse. Thigh high impatiens greet each player as they walk through the entrance. Greg explained many people ask him how they get so big. He attributes their size to a seaweed based fertilizer he has been using for several years. "I think the nutrients have just built up in the soil over the years and offer a steady stream of food throughout the growing season." Gardening is one of Greg's pleasures away from the course but it comes to life in the clubhouse landscape.

Greg has been active in the business a long time and sees the computer as one of the greatest technological advances that has changed the way he operates. He loves the way he can store information on his computer and pull it up with a few keystrokes. This process becomes more valuable with each year, Greg jokes. Recently the Village of Elk Grove upgraded its intranet. One advantage Greg has utilized is a shared calendar. (continued on page 10)



Stored online, anyone on the staff can access it and view what is scheduled for the entire facility. It certainly makes things easier when secluding maintenance around outings and other events and vice versa.

Hiring the right people is very important to Greg. "I have a lot of good people around me and I let them do what they were hired to do." Greg believes one must have a solid knowledge and understanding about an operation to oversee it. But just as important is hiring the right people and letting them do their job. Greg has been successful with this mindset and Fox Run Golf Links is the testament.

Certainly the trials of this summer have pressed Greg, but one thing he is used to – turf under water. If the property receives ¾ -1" of rainfall, the course takes a day to drain. It is not uncommon for Fox Run to close for a day following a heavy rain, something the regular players have all figured out. However, the regulars always return to play as the water recedes because of the conditions and golfing value Greg and his staff provide. Greg's assistant Pascual Perez has been with him since 1984, a testament to Greg's ability to surround himself with good people. This belief has allowed Greg to be the successful General Manager of the property for the village of Elk Grove since the late 1990's. Greg looks forward to retiring one day, but not until his next project is done. Fox Run Golf Links has hired Greg Martin to design a facelift for the course. Though none of this will occur at least until 2011, Greg is excited about the changes that are to come under his care. After sharing a few moments with him, it is easy to see his passion and share his excitement about golf course superintendenting.

Greg and his wife Trudi live in Mt. Prospect and have welcomed their first grandchild into this world, Cora born to their daughter Abby and son-in-law Lewis only a few weeks ago. Their other daughter, Sarah, currently lives in St. Louis and works for the St. Louis Zoo as a meeting planner. Sarah wishes to relocate back to the Chicago area as the job market opens. Their son Nathan lives in Chicago and works for CDW.

The last time Greg hosted the Midwest was in July of 2004. I remember, I had to play with Braunsky and ever since then I've had trouble with a ringing in my ears. I look forward to Fox Run Golf Links this September, as I know Greg is happy to have us back. **-OC** 



As I was packing up my camera gear, I overheard one player upon completion of his round at Fox Run Golf Links say, "I lost seven balls out there today,"



"When we had the 4" rainfall this summer, the tee sign on 7 was completely submerged," Greg explained. Built on a floodplain, Fox Run Golf Links was planned to take on water from the get go.

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THE BULL SHEET John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



## September 2010

### DATES TO REMEMBER

September 6-12 – BMW Championship at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club in Lemont, IL, Kenn Lapp, Frank Jemsek, and Frank Latzko hosts. September 8 – Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Golf Day at Brickyard Crossing in Indianapolis, IN. September 16 – MAGCS monthly meeting and College Scramble at Fox Run Golf Links in Elk grove Village, IL, Greg Thalmann, CGCS our last-minute host. September 22 – Second Annual iTurf Expo at Midwest Golf House and Sunshine Course in Lemont, IL. September 29-October 1 – Green Start Academy 2010 presented by John Deere Golf and Bayer Environmental Science in Clayton and Fuquay-Varna, NC. October 4 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Golf Championship at Cantigny Golf Club, Scott Witte, CGCS, Jeremy Duncan, Mark Kosbab, Steve Kuretsky, John Maksymiu, Tom Weigland, and Mike Nass hosts. ..... October 15 – Deadline for nominations for GCSAA's 2011 Excellence in Government Relations Award. October 24 – Deadline for applications for the 2010 GCSAA/ Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Award (ELGA). October 28-30 – GIE+EXPO 2010—Hardscape North America at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, KY. More info at www.gie-expo.com. November 3 – 58th Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club, Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS host. November 15 – Deadline for nominations for the 11th Annual TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta. More to follow. 

Johnson Tree Experts, Palatine Oil Co., Inc., Quali-Pro, Reinders, Inc., Syngenta, and XGD Systems—is more than merited. Thank you all for your generosity.

(continued on page 17)

Welcome to the newest member of MAGCS: Brian Placzkowski, Assistant, Royal Melbourne Country Club Brendan Dolan, Assistant, Bryn Mawr Country Club Tyler Dykstra, Assistant, Edgewood Valley Country Club Jeff Cameron, Assistant, White Eagle Golf Club Chris Quinlan, Associate, Becker Underwood, Inc. Craig Klinefelter, Assistant, Hawthorn Woods Country Club Casey Ballou, Assistant, Rolling Green Country Club Travis Schnelle, Assistant, Kohler Co. Thomas Wilson, Regular, Deerpath Golf Course Kirk Carls, Regular, Spring Lake Country Club

I hope that by now things are back to some semblance of normalcy in the turf world, and that we are all enjoying the cool onset of fall that September usually brings; and may your grass be green and happy for the remainder of this VERY memorable summer. Thank you again to **Dr. Derek Settle** and the team at Golf House and **Ty McClellan** of the USGA for keeping everyone informed with their excellent articles and pest alerts. Well done!

A huge thank you to **Greg Thalmann, CGCS** and Fox Run Golf Links for stepping up BIGTIME at the last minute and hosting this month's MAGCS meeting and College Team Scramble. All the fun photos and results of the meeting will be posted in next month's Bull Sheet, but a quick shout out to our host and sponsors—**Bayer Environmental Science, Burris Equipment Company, Chicagoland Turf, E-Z-GO, Great Lakes Turf, J.W. Turf, Inc./John Deere Golf, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Nels J.** 



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Multitasking. ITF President and Briar Ridge Country Club superintendent **Erwin McKone** demonstrates another of his many talents—multitasking. Who else do you know that can read a totally awesome magazine, monitor his radio communications, talk on his cell phone, train his dog, oversee his mowing equipment, AND get a tan all while taking the temperature of his topdressing sand the old-fashioned way (the rectal thermometer method)? Nobody. That's who.



McKone sets new standards for multitasking.

A couple of MAGCS-member golf facilities were recently honored by *GOLF Magazine* in its September issue. Cog Hill's Dubsdread course, the site of this month's BMW Championship, was named a Top 100 Courses You Can Play, coming in at 16th overall, and FIRST in Illinois. Congratulations to superintendent **Ken Lapp** and owner **Frank Jemsek** and everyone in the Cog Hill family. Also, Orchard Valley Golf Course, managed by Billy Casper Golf was ranked the 6th Best Public-Access Course in Illinois, besting 496 other daily-fee facilities in the state. Congratulations to superintendent **Matt Senatra** and everyone at Billy Casper Golf.

It's that time of year again—the time to get your nominations in for the 11th Annual TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta. The criteria used in judging candidates are: labor management skills, maximizing budget limitations, educating and advancing the careers of colleagues and assistants, negotiating with government agencies, preparing for tournaments under unusual circumstances, service to golf clientele, upgrading or renovating, and dealing with extreme or emergency conditions. Past winners include our own **Sam MacKenzie, CGCS** of Olympia Fields Country Club (2008) and **Paul Voykin** of Briarwood Country Club (2003). Nominations can be made online ata TurfNet.com, or emailed to jreitman@turfnet.com, and are due by November 15th. Good luck. Saw this guy on AOL news one morning. No idea why he was in the news. But doesn't he look like Jay Cutler on donuts?



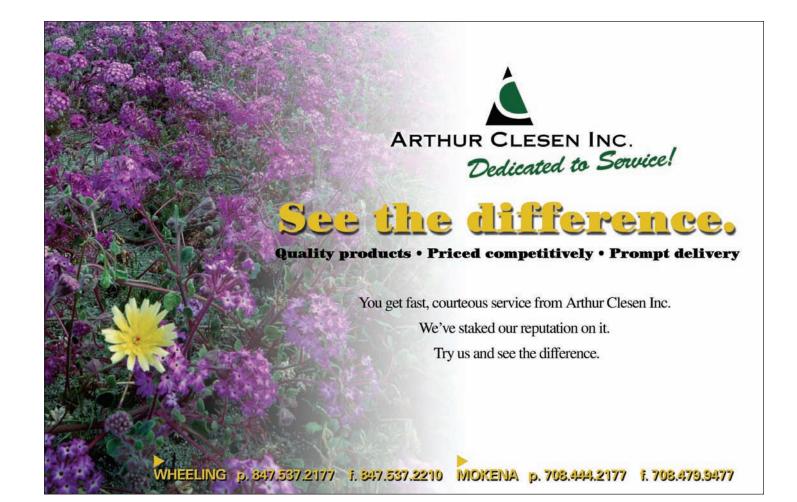
Way to go **Keith Peterson!** Keith and Beverly Country Club were the official FIRST ones to complete the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation's inaugural BigPar3 Competition on August 18th, netting \$700 for turf research. We have all received the information on this novel idea—to hold a closest-to-the-pin contest at multiple venues in order to raise funds for turf research and spread the word to golfers about the important work ITF does. What you may not know is that the event is not held on the same day at all venues—it can be held whenever the host course wants. That being said, you can still participate if you call Luke Cella and get your ducks in a row. There is very little effort involved in this (we're not talking Audubon certification here), and huge rewards await in the form of public relations benefits and of course contributing to the research that you ultimately will put to use at your facility. Give this a try-it doesn't bite! . . . . .

Congratulations to **Josh Therrien**, the former assistant superintendent at St. Charles Country Club who is now the golf course superintendent at Piper Glenn Golf Club in Springfield, IL. Josh has been serving as your Class C Advisory Committee's Board Representative this year, and will be missed. Thank you for your service to MAGCS, Josh, and the best of luck to you in your exciting new career move!



Josh Therrien

OK, enough with the mushy, teary goodbyes. Out with the old and in with the new I always say. And with that, we welcome our newly-appointed Class C Representative **Joe Schneider** of Beverly Country Club to the MAGCS Board. Good luck to you, Joe, and keep up the great work that the Class C Committee does.







### Joe Schneider

Big thanks to **Brian Winkel** and Syngenta for donating the Subdue Maxx Link Pack to the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation for auction. All proceeds for the online auction held last month benefited ITF turf research, and we are grateful for their generosity. **Jim Keith, CGCS** and St. Charles Country Club won the Subdue Maxx Link Pack.

Congratulations to Conserv FS's **Chris Smith**, who recertified in July and now can remain Chris Smith, CGCS.

This just in—you can now purchase AND redeem GCSAA gift certificates online through the GCSAA Merchandise Store by visiting the store at www.store.gcsaa.org. Take a gander—it's like the amazon.com of golf.

Best wishes go out to Roger Stewart, CGCS, longtime MAGCS member and President in 1984, who had a little health glitch in July that involved robotic surgery to correct some clogged artery issues that nearly resulted in a heart attack. Thank God he recognized the symptoms and acted quickly, seeking medical attention. The Rog came out of it like a champ, and is well on his way back to full strength. Thanks for sharing the experience with us, Rog, and take good care!

The 2010 ELGA (the GCSAA/*Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards) are up for grabs and awaiting your applications. The awards, which honor superintendents, golf courses, and chapters for their commitments to environmental stewardship will be presented in partnership with Syngenta and Rain Bird at the 2011 Golf Industry Show. Applications are due by October 24th, and can be found by contacting Greg Lyman, GCSAA's Director of Environmental Programs at 800-472-7878, ext. 3625.

GCSAA has chosen World Golf Hall of Fame member Nick Price to receive the 2011 Old Tom Morris Award to be presented during the Celebrate GCSAA! session at the deal over by there in Orlando on February 8th. This is GCSAA's most prestigious honor, and is presented to an individual who "through a continuing lifetime commitment to the game of golf has helped to mold the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris." Morris (1821–1908) was greenkeeper and golf pro at St. Andrews Links in Scotland, a four-time winner of the British Open, and one of the top designers of his era. Congrats to Zimbabwe's Nick Price on this great honor. The 22nd of this month marks the Second Annual iTurf Expo at Golf House, and this year's event has some very cool stuff in store for you. This year's event is a one-day only deal that is an outdoor trade show/research event combining the best aspects from the Illinois Professional Turf Conference (IPTC) and the popular Midwest Field Day. The morning will feature research and education, highlighted by presentations by such renowned researchers as Dr. Jim Kerns of University of Wisconsin, Dr. Cale Bigelow of Purdue University, Dr. Ron Calhoun of Michigan State University, and our own

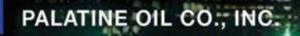
**Dr. Bruce Branham, Dr. Derek Settle,** and **Dr. Ken Diesburg** and their support staff. The afternoon will allow attendees to walk around the trade show and kick some tires, meet with vendors, and check out the research plots on Sunshine Course. There will also be various social events including a beer garden to relax after a long day and kibbutz with friends and colleagues. Don't miss it!

The National Golf Foundation—you know, that place where Steve Mona went after leaving GCSAA—has launched the American Golf Census to count the country's estimate 27 million golfers. How much more accurate they'll get than the estimate, and how useful that number will be is anyone's guess. However, one benefit to be derived from this project is that all golfers who participate will be automatically entered into a sweepstakes—the largest in the history of golf—to win more than \$100,000 in prizes, including great golf equipment, dream vacations to Pebble Beach, Pinehurst, Scotland, and Ireland, and golf instruction at the ANNIKA Academy in Orlando. For information, go to www.ngf.org or www.americangolfcensus.com.

The ITF Summer Golf Day took place on July 26th at the lovely Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Golf Club in scenic Rockford, IL. **Scott White** and his crew had the course in unbelievable shape, especially considering all the rain and heat that preceded the event. Greens rolled true and quick, and a great time was had by all in attendance. Thank you to Scott, his staff, the fine folks at Mauh-Nah-Tee-See, the attendees, and of course, the sponsors, without whom none of these golf days could take place at such a reasonable price. Our hats are off to Arthur Clesen, Inc., BASF, Bayer Environmental Science, Burris Equipment, D&K Turf Products, Dow Agrosciences, Great lakes Turf, LLC, Pendleton Turf Supply, Premier Greens & Turf, Syngenta, and The Andersons.



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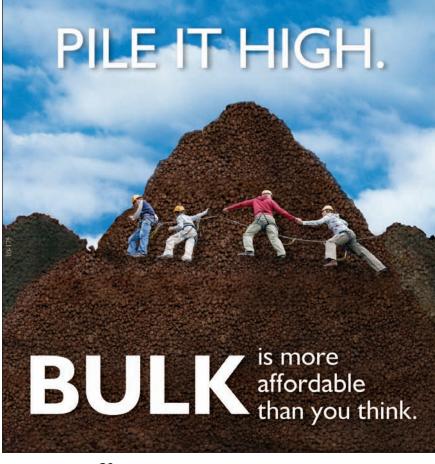
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Hopefully this is old news now, but last month, in the August 24th version of GCSAA THIS WEEK, there was a link to a YouTube video called "Why Does Turf Die in the Summer?" The video featured Wendy Gelernter, Ph.D., of PACE Turf, and was kinda fun to watch as she compared cool-season turf during a scorching summer to an egg being fried in a skillet. Look it up—in a strange way she's kinda hot. And she fries a mean egg.

MAGCS on the move: **Kevin Knudson, CGCS**, formerly at Arthur Clesen, Inc., is now with Reinders, Inc. **Jacob Mendoza**, former Class C member at Medinah Country Club is now a Superintendent Member at Medinah. Congratulations to these gentlemen.

**Gary Galecki'**s older brother Glenn is going to run the Chicago Marathon on October 10 in support of lung cancer research.



"On October 10, I will be running again in the Chicago Marathon as part of Team LUNGevity raising money for cancer research. The LUNGevityFoundation matches all money raised by Team Gary Galecki. The monies go to research for early detection of lung cancer so that treatment options may be provided before it is too late. Current research grants are in place at Northwestern University and University of Illinois School of Medicine in Chicago, MD Anderson in Houston, John Hopkins University, UCLA, and other leading research laboratories. I'm participating in this activity in memory of my young brother, Gary who was my personal little buddy. I miss most our almost daily phone calls solving family problems, arguing about sports, and talking about "dumb guy things". I'll be running in this race with his son, Josh and his girlfriend Kate in support of lung cancer research." MAGCS will be sending a link to sponsor Glenn and Team Galecki in this upcoming event.



*"I just want to know what it feels to be a Blackhawk," Gurke pool hopping with the Grotti.* **-OC** 

MAGCS IN MOTION Luke Cella, *MAGCS* 



# 2010 Family Night Picnic Midwest Scholars Awarded

On July 17, 2010, the Midwest hosted the annual Family Night Picnic at Elfstrom Stadium in Geneva, Illinois as the Kane County Cougars took on the West Michigan Whitecaps.

The Midwest took advantage of the ballpark's new set up and reserved one of their rooftop decks. Adjacent to their "sky box section" this new area offered both picnic style seating as well as a few rows of stadium seats for those interested in the game.

The Midwest sold 126 tickets for the event, and all who showed up were treated to a fun night of baseball and friendship. Meeting sponsors included: **Bayer Environmental Science, Burris Equipment Company, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd., JW Turf / John Deere Golf, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Palatine Oil Co., Inc., Quali-Pro, Syngenta** and **XGD Systems**. Their support helped offset the costs and made the event affordable for all. Please support them.

The last few years we have invited our scholarship winners to the Family Night Picnic, and this year Ashley Anderson and her dad, John Anderson were able to make it. Ashley is attending University of Michigan and studying Business.

### Describe something significant you learned in college (in or out of the classroom) that surprised you about life.

"I have learned a lot of things in college classrooms and from my college professors about not only whatever subject they are teaching but also how people and the world work. However, the most important thing that I have learned this past year was not taught in a classroom.

In April of this year, Ann Arbor was having problems with arson. Multiple cars in parking lots were set on fire, and in one incident, a porch was set on fire and several people were severely injured. These events struck close to home when a car in the parking lot of my sorority chapter house was set on fire, a car that was parked right against the back of our wooden kitchen. We were lucky and although the car ended up completely charred; our house only suffered minor smoke damage. Since this happened at about 2 o'clock in the morning, 60 women had to evacuate our house until we knew the extent of the damage. As Chapter President, I was in charge of the safety of all those women, talking with emergency officials, and alerting Chapter Advisors of our situation. Although we were able to enter the house just a few hours later and no one was hurt, this event taught me a lot about myself and how to handle emergency situations.

I was surprised in myself that I could handle such a major event and make sure that everyone was safe. I was also surprised in the people of our community and how we banded together when our fire was one of four set on the same street within an hour of each other. And lastly, I was surprised at the perpetrator, that someone could be so callous about dangerous fires. This event left a significant impression on me and made me realized things that surprised me about life."

– Ashley Anderson



Ashley Anderson and her dad John enjoyed an evening together at the Cougar game as guests of MAGCS.

Phil Bastron, son of Paul Bastron, was not able to make the event. He was spending his summer working for USA Track and Field in Indianapolis prior to heading back to graduate school at the University of Minnesota. Phil is studying Public Policy.

### Describe something significant you learned in college (in or out of the classroom) that surprised you about life.

"My undergraduate years at the University of St. Thomas taught me a number of valuable skills. I learned to analyze data sets using statistical software in my Econometric Methods course. I learned the proper pronunciation of the French language in my French Phonetics course. However, the most important skill and lesson that I learned in my years at St. Thomas was how to be a good team player.

In an increasingly connected world, it is more important than ever to be able to effectively work with those around you and understand your role in a group. This is a skill that I refined as a member and captain of the track team, as well as through various leadership roles on campus.

In order to be a good team player, it is important to understand your role in a group. As a college freshman on the track team, I wanted to be a leader right away. Having been a successful high school runner, I thought I could be a great inspiration to my teammates. However, I quickly learned that as a new member of the team, it was important for me to learn from others around me and to let those who had more experience to be the leaders. By observing the captains and the older athletes, I was able to develop into a leader on the team in the years to come. When I did become the leader that I sought to be, my role changed from an observer to an example, and it became important for me to share my knowledge and experience with the younger athletes."

– Phil Bastron



Our third winner, Ben Breuninger (grandson of Lynn Wesson), is our first out of state winner. Ben lives in Pennsylvania and is going to start college this fall at Dickinson College.

### Who was your most memorable high school teacher and why?

"I first met Mr. Schott in my first class of AP European History. I immediately took to him, perhaps because of The Who poster or the fact that, during our first class, he had us march outside awkwardly to take a picture that we would compare to another one taken at the end of the year to see how we had changed.

Mr. Schott's style is deadpanning, quirky, and orchestrated. He commands respect, but not explicitly; it's simply impossible to not appreciate his politeness and humor. He makes it a priority to understand what his students are up to, so by the end of the year one almost gets used to his constant references to Lady Gaga and Twitter. He also tries to make the class relevant and teach skills useful in life as well as school. For example, he introduces himself to each student on the first day of school after teaching proper handshake technique, and throughout the year he'll introduce concepts including red herring, punditry, and other things schools don't typically teach.

Currently, I'm a teaching assistant for Mr. Schott, which means that we get additional looks into each others' heads. We swap music and teaching ideas, and I'm offered the occasional cupcake left over from faculty functions. It's hard to say what I like best about Mr. Schott—his support for local indie radio, his sharp taste in ties, his refusal to let class be boring but above all, his verve and personality fosters both respect and understanding in his students."

-Ben Breuninger



Congratulations to all of our scholarship winners and thank you to all those that applied. We had a record number of 25 applicants this year.

(photos continued on next page)















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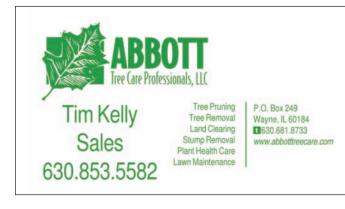
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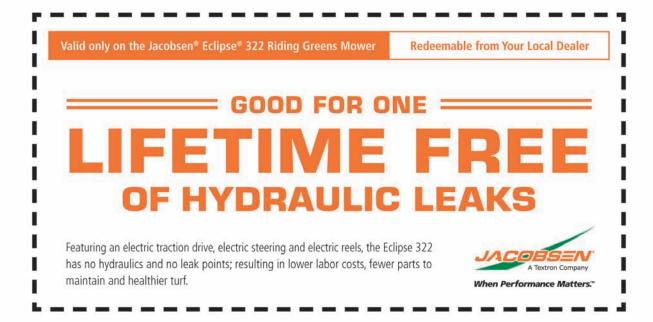
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