

# ON COURSE

THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

April 2012



Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents  
11855 Archer Ave.  
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This picture was snapped of eastern skyline of Las Vegas before the sun comes up while testing out the camera gear for the day.

FRONT COVER

2012 Midwest Hospitality Reception, Las Vegas Nevada. Thanks to our Golden Tee Sponsors and all in attendance for a great night. 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

Ed Braunsky, CGCS, Geneva Golf Club

# The Future is Built on our Past



*MAGCS recently conducted its annual Past Presidents' Meeting and it got me thinking...as most of you know by now this fine association recently turned 85! The golf course superintendents in this area of the country have been very blessed to have one of the premier superintendent associations in the land! A great debt of gratitude is owed to the many who have gone before us.*

I thought I would relive a little more than 30 years of my own memories of the MAGCS.

## Monthly Meetings

I often heard stories about the meetings going until the wee hours of the morning. Many times guys would not get home until well past midnight, stopping off for breakfast just to be sure not to get home "too early". Maybe that's why the tales of guys ending up in Iowa (Carl) may not have been that far-fetched!

John Stephenson would accompany Albie (Albie Staudt 45 years at Geneva Golf Club) and I to meetings. John had this great knack of falling a sleep during the education part of the meeting (turned out John was diabetic and never knew till later in life). You could also tell the menu for the day due to the fact that it would be on John's shirt! I miss you John. Speaking of Albie, who can forget "Mr. President I'd like to make a motion we dispense with the minutes of the previous meeting".

Long-time guy Bill Kraft always wore a shirt and tie to every meeting. He wore it even while on the links. Ray Gerber is still walking to the front of the room somewhere trying to take a picture! Greatest line at a monthly meeting...while putting on a par three at Mt. Prospect, Lynn Wesson yells out to a chatty Kathy named Wally Fuchs, "Hey Wally is my putting bothering your talking". I still have Toro tees if anyone needs some.

## Hospitality, Parties and More

Christmas Parties at Turf Products...I still smell like that warehouse (SP and fresh floor paint). Every year Adolph Bertucci would have his Christmas bash at Lakeshore. We would make the drive in from Mayberry (Geneva), have a few drinks, some chow, and then head back home. I never saw so many coats piled up on tables in Adolph's old shop along with several police and firemen and VIPs from around the hood. Open houses at Illinois Lawn...always had great seafood!

*(continued on next page)*







**The Birth of the Hospitality Room**

Back in the day Albie and Bob Breen and Art Clesen would haul booze up to the a couple of adjoining rooms in suitcases. Then the boys would babysit later in the evening for the likes of Bavier and Fischer.

**Miscellaneous**

The Association’s Telephone & Telegraph operator was Pete Vandercook at Illinois Lawn. Pete knew the buzz of the association. If someone was sick or had passed on, Pete knew and made sure that those who needed to know did. I remember having Chris Johnson come out to demonstrate a Jake greensmower. He confidently unloaded the machine and proceeded to head out to our practice green. This hotshot started mowing but there was one problem. He forgot to remove the transport wheels! I couldn’t run to the phone quick enough to call Pete. It was all over Chicagoland in a matter of minutes. Now they call that Facebook.

**Ken Zanzig’s poems.**

Bruce Williams’ President’s picture in the Bullsheet back in 1981: He looked like an adult film star.

Julie Albaugh calling the stimpmeter a “rectal thermometer”.

**It’s all in a Name**

Dave “Legs” Louttit, Wayne “Kinky” Trometer, Johnny Lebs, Jerry Crist, Frank Krueger, Ben Kronn, Jim Latham, Howard Baerwald, Warren Bidwell, Jerry Adank, Jackie Butler, Ed Wollenberg, Cecil Kerr, Dr. Daniel, Herb Graffis, Roscoe Randall, John Ebel.

Past Executive Secretaries: Penny Meyer, Joan Minnis, George Minnis.

I know I missed a lot of names and memories but hopefully you will get a chuckle or a smile out of some of the things I listed.

Here are a few more names: Dave Braasch, Scott Witte, Joel Purpur, Brain Bossert, Tony Kalina, Tim Anderson, Luke Strojny, Fred Behnke, Don Ferreri, Mike Bavier, Phil Zienert, Dan Sterr, Ed Fischer, Bob Maibusch, Kevin DeRoo, Ed Braunsky, Luke Cella, and Bob Kohlstedt. All of the above participated at the Past Presidents Council meeting held at the Geneva Golf Club.

The theme of the meeting was the present state of the MAGCS. It is still outstanding shape thanks to these men and those that came before them. **-OC**

**“April Showers”**

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- Kenneth R. Zanzig





FEATURE I

Scott White, *Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Golf Club*



# Being a Super Dad

The field manual all Superintendents should receive before leaving the hospital

*As I sat down to write my article for this month's On Course, I started to review my list of topics, comparing them to all the articles we're accustomed to seeing in our local and national trade publications. Every month we read great articles on managing your golf course, career, employees, as well as the articles on cutting edge research or technology. For those of you who don't know me, I've been the Superintendent of a small, private country club in Rockford for the past five years. For the most part, I feel we do an amazing job here with the limited resources we have. Are we revolutionizing the industry by topdressing fairways or using the newest electric mower? Absolutely not, but we are improving the golf course every year and providing great playing conditions for our members. So I asked myself what possible earth shattering piece of information I could offer the membership in this article. Then it struck me, how about balancing being a Superintendent and a father? Although I feel I'm a great superintendent, I believe I'm becoming a pretty good father too, after seven years of experience. The real fun comes when you need to manage these two responsibilities at the same time.*

Back in 2004, when my wife was pregnant, I may have been the most paranoid father-to-be. I knew how to keep grass alive at .125 of an inch, but keeping a baby alive – seriously, this was not for me. I finally calmed down with some help from my wife and by using the idea of bringing the basic principles of turf to childcare. Feed it, water it, love it, and clean it up when it gets messy, right? Heck, I have a turf degree. I can do anything. Why not raise a kid, too? Unfortunately, what doesn't come with the job is a simple set of instructions. I probably would have skipped the manual anyway and winged it, but things can go especially wrong when you bring little ones to the golf course. When you finish reading this article, if you still need advice, please seek a professional. Consult someone like Brad Anderson on the north side. He has about a dozen kids and grandkids. God bless him; Brad must



be very patient and have a high tolerance for pain.

Don't be afraid to bring your kids to work. Situations differ; make sure you understand and operate within your club or golf course rules. Check with your superiors first if you have any questions. At the Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Club, I'm lucky, because my family is seen as a part of the club and interaction is encouraged. For me, being a Superintendent isn't just a job, it's a way of life, and my family is a huge part of it. Some Superintendents can completely separate work and home, which is fine. I choose to involve my family because, frankly, I couldn't imagine it any other way. Please don't think my son, Jackson, is there all the time or on the payroll. I don't bring him to the golf course every week, but usually every other week during the season. So I thought I would share a few of the following lessons and ideas about kids at work.

*(continued on next page)*



## Making Time

1. I try to limit the time I bring Jackson to the golf course to afterhours when crew is gone or on Sunday mornings while I'm changing cups. I avoid Wednesday (men's day) unless it's late into the evening. I also try to bring him only when I know I have time to spend with him. Our job is stressful enough. If you can't spend time with them, it's not going to be fun for either of you.
2. Our favorite time is late evening golf course tours in the cart. It's priceless and probably the one thing he will always remember.

I think it's important to establish two basic rules from day 1 and make no exceptions

**Rule #1** - We have the polo law written in stone for a professional appearance and khakis if we plan to go into the clubhouse or if members are going to see us on the golf course.

**Rule #2** - We're quiet, calm, and no joking around or craziness.

## At the Shop

1. Set the ground rules first and early, designate the areas where your child can be. Shop safety is important. I allow Jackson in the office and break room, only, unless he's with me.


2. Bring some fun toys to pass the time, but no matter what we bring, the dry erase board, maps, and desk calendar seem to be a hit at my shop.
3. Keep the irrigation computer and radios off limits.
4. Always keep the chemical and fertilizer off limits and locked.
5. Sand piles – years ago my Superintendent, Brian Yeager, allowed his kids to play for hours in the indoor, top-dressing sand pile. It was a great place for them, after the crew had gone for the day
6. Equipment is also off limits, unless you are with your child. Injuries can happen and last thing you need is a trip to the urgent care down the street

## Around the Clubhouse


1. Establish a quiet rule, no running, and always use manners.
2. Try to limit or avoid interaction with members. The golf shop is a great place to practice addressing adults and handshaking while making eye contact with the Golf Professional and the staff.

## On the Range

1. When practicing with your child on the range, always keep him/her in the hitting bay and in front of you. You can see them and avoid the chance of a backswing meeting a forehead.




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## On the Course

1. Demonstrate and use proper golf etiquette at all times; it's never too early to start instilling the key principles.
2. Keep riding in a cart as a privilege, and do not play around while driving.
3. Avoid parking the cart on slopes. Remember to remove the key if your child stays in the cart.
4. Teach your child about all aspects of the golf course and what you do.
5. Teach your child how to walk without dragging his/her feet on the putting surfaces and the importance of properly raking footprints out of a bunker.

## Playing Golf

1. Keep the game fun. There's a time for instruction and a time for fun. You will have many years to turn them into the next Tiger or Rory. They will naturally gravitate to the game. The last thing you want is for them to hate playing. Give them time to grow into the game, before you start talking about college scholarships.
2. Teach them the etiquette: how to pick up their feet, how not to swing a club on the putting green, flag placement, marking the ball, and retrieving the ball from the cup.
3. Play less golf: play from the forward tees or junior tees with them, and play fewer holes. It's a great way to speed up the game and work on your short game at the same time.
4. Avoid demonstrating any anger, frustration, or club throwing. Warning! Your child becomes a mini version of you.
5. Point out any wildlife, and teach them to be good stewards as you play.

## Other:

1. **Starting point** – If you are nervous about taking your child onto the golf course at an early age, try a local public course's putting green. At the age of two, I used to take Jackson over to Tamarack and practice putting. You'll be surprised. Your child will act better than you think.
2. **Snowplowing** – Don't Do It! Do not take your kids with you to snow plow, even if it's just a parking lot. I always looked forward to the day I could take Jackson along with me. Then I heard a horrifying story from Northwest Indiana, about a Lawn care Supervisor's son killed in an accident while plowing in an empty parking lot. I'll spare you the details; trust me don't do it.
3. **The PGA** – every year I schedule a day to attend a local golf event with Jackson, during a practice round. It's a great way to get away from the golf



4. course, see the pros, and get a few autographs. The pros are more accessible, and often there are kid-friendly activities to participate in. Last year it was the BMW. This July we will be heading to the Women's U.S. Open at Blackwolf Run, in Kohler, Wisconsin. Oh, and I almost forgot, with your GCSAA card, it's free.

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5. **Watching golf** – I always pull Jackson into the room during the end of a major golf event on TV or during a highlight on Sportcenter. The excitement and thrill of victory never gets old, no matter what age you are.
6. **Career Day** – Last year, in Jackson first grade class, I volunteered to be a guest at career day. I made a great power point presentation, threw in a few jokes, polished up my public speaking skills, and fielded some tough questions. What is my favorite color of golf ball? It was great to talk about the game we love and teach others about our job. The true highlight of my day was having a student, the son of a local golf professional, make it clear to me that his dad was my boss. It was a good laugh. If it wasn't for the local police officer having a gun, I think I would have been the favorite that day.

Your kids grow up fast. Memories made at the golf course are priceless, whether it's first par, always having a Fanta out of the soda machine, helping cut a cup, or having lunch inside the clubhouse. Sure, it's a little crazy balancing work and time with them at the golf course. You probably won't get as much work done while they are there, but it's worth it. We often get lost in our jobs, worrying about the smallest of details and spending long hours taking care of

the golf course. Our wives and children sacrifice so much for us during the season. This is a great way to get a little bit of that missed time back. Your wife will appreciate a break and a little peace and quiet. Anyone can buy one of those, *World's Greatest Dad*, T-shirts at Target and wear it, but there's more to earning the title. I still have a long way to go in becoming the Superintendent and father I aspire to be, but I am headed in the right direction. What better place to grow up than on a golf course with your dad? I would like to leave you with one other final thought. It's amazing how many skills we can mix between both jobs. While parenting, I learned that communicating with a green committee member and a five-year-old is, sometimes, almost the same. Sometimes, no matter how simply you explain it, they just don't understand. Good Luck. I hope you learned a thing or two. Although there are a lot of days I pull my hair out, I can't imagine life without my little assistant beside me. **-OC**



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## FEATURE II

Dave Groelle, CGCS, Royal Melbourne Country Club



# When Getting the Finger is a Good Thing

*I thought that might get your attention, and quite possibly make you take a moment to read this five-minute article and change your life. There are probably many situations that are going through your head, right now, that involve getting the finger, but road rage and angry golfers are not what I had in mind. I'm talking about cancer, prostate cancer to be specific. Now don't stop reading! Just hear me out. It might save your life.*

First of all, what is it and where does it occur? Well, prostate cancer forms in tissues of the prostate (a gland in the male reproductive system found below the bladder and in front of the rectum). It usually occurs in older men. I apologize if this article doesn't speak to the women in our organization, but it might help the men in their lives as well. Due to the fact that our profession is very male oriented, I thought this would be a great public service opportunity. And here is why:

### The bad news

- In 2011 it was estimated that 240,890 men would be diagnosed with the disease and 33,720 would die.
- About 1 man in 6 will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in his lifetime.
- In the United States, prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in males, behind lung cancer. About 1 man in 36 will die from the disease.

### The good news

- More than 2 million men in the United States who have been diagnosed are still alive today.
- Early detection saves lives!!

I hope after reading all that you are asking yourself:

"How do I know if I should go see my doctor?"

Here are the facts:

- Screening should take place at age 50 for men who are at average risk of prostate cancer and are expected to live at least 10 more years.
- Screening should begin at age 45 for men at high risk of developing prostate cancer. This includes African-American men and men who have a first-degree relative (father, brother, or son) diagnosed

with prostate cancer at an early age (younger than age 65).

- Screening is recommended at age 40 for men at even higher risk (those with several first-degree relatives who had prostate cancer at an early age).
- Based on these criteria, those who want to be screened should be tested using the prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test. The digital rectal exam (DRE) may also be done as a part of screening.
- If a man is unable to decide if testing is right for him, the screening decision can be made by conferring with a health care provider, who takes into account the patient's general health preferences and values.
- Men who have a PSA result of less than 2.5 ng/ml, may only need to be retested every two years.
- Screening should be done yearly for men whose PSA level is 2.5 ng/ml or higher.

So, basically, your family history determines the timing of your first exam. Another reason for having a screening done is the presence of any of the warning signs. However, keep in mind that warning signs don't always occur and aren't necessarily indicators of cancer. They can also be symptoms of other, noncancerous, conditions.

They are as follows:

- Blood appearing in the urine stream
- Smaller or weaker urine stream
- The urge to urinate frequently, but producing only small amounts
- Painful urination
- Inability to fully empty the bladder
- The uncontrolled dribbling of urine
- Difficulty beginning to urinate

*(continued on page 10)*



Once I decide to make an appointment to see my doctor, what are the tests that will be administered? How are they performed? This is where we need to set aside our bravado and just do it. The first exam is called a digital rectal exam (DRE). This is the "finger" I was referring to in the title. I'm guessing you've all heard about this one, so I don't need to explain it. There are even commercials that joke about it. It's the reason most men haven't gone to see the doctor in the first place. In reality, it's quick and painless. Is it uncomfortable? Yes. However, the information it provides could save your life. Just get over it, guys!

The second test is a blood test for prostate-specific antigen (PSA). PSA is a substance made by cells in the prostate gland (it is made by normal cells and cancer cells). PSA is most commonly found in semen, but a small amount is also found in the blood. Most healthy men have levels under 4 nanograms per milliliter (ng/mL) of blood. The chance of having prostate cancer goes up as the PSA level goes up.


When prostate cancer develops, the PSA level usually goes above 4. Still, a level below 4 does not mean that cancer isn't present – about 15% of men with a PSA below 4 will show prostate cancer on biopsy. Men with a PSA level in the borderline range between 4 and 10, have about a 1 in 4 chance of having prostate cancer. If the PSA is more than 10, the chance of having prostate cancer is over 50%.

I realize there are no answers here. We are talking about cancer. My goal in writing this is to get men who are at risk to make an appointment with their doctor. We work in a world where we go to great lengths to take care of our turfgrass. We apply all kinds of plant protectants to keep them healthy. Sometimes we send samples to turf labs hoping to find what ails it. Do the same for yourself, and get screened for prostate cancer. You can find more information on prostate cancer at the American Cancer Society website: [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org). **-OC**

**Sources:**


- [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)
- [www.prostatecancerwarningsigns.org](http://www.prostatecancerwarningsigns.org)

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THE BULL SHEET  
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

# APRIL 2012

Did you catch the last page of the March issue of *GCM*? You know, the page called The Final Shot where they feature a photo taken by a GCSAA member of his or her golf course? The one I'm talking about was taken by Chase Bonnell, assistant superintendent at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove, IL (**Jeff Vercautren** superintendent), and it is a spectacular photo of the course on a frosty November morning. Mmmmm. November...

You can catch another MAGCS member gettin' all into the media thing by checking out Valent's website which features a video starring **Henry Michna** (Winnetka Golf Club) as he discusses his successes with the company's Tourney fungicide. The video was done in an "evening news breaking story" format, and Henry nuttered it! Go to [www.valent.com](http://www.valent.com) and start clicking stuff til you find it.

On March 25<sup>th</sup> **Brian Bossert**, CGCS of Bryn Mawr Country Club ran in the Ocean Drive Marathon in Cape May, New Jersey. That's cool all by itself, but there's more to the story. The initiative of the event was to raise money for the Global Impact Fund's "Water for Thirty Thousand" program which aims to provide water treatment plants to underdeveloped areas. They are very close to their first treatment plant being operational in Karachi, Pakistan, a city of 16 million people. In Pakistan, 630 children under the age of 5 die **each day** due to dirty drinking water. Brian and his wife Pam are asking for any assistance you are able to provide in helping them raise \$5,000 to purchase 1,000 5-gallon jugs to be used by

*(continued on next page)*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 18 – National Golf Day.
- April 19 – Northwest Illinois GCSA monthly meeting at Swan Hills Golf Club in Belvedere, IL.
- April 23 – Wisconsin GCSA monthly meeting at Geneva National Golf Club in Lake Geneva, WI.
- April 25 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Spring Scramble at Naperville Country Club, **Tim Anderson**, **CGCS**, **MG** and **Steven Biehl** hosts.
- May 6 – J.W. Turf's annual equipment auction at their facility in Hampshire, IL.
- May 14 – Wisconsin GCSA monthly meeting at Trappers Turn Golf Club in Wisconsin Dells, WI.
- May 15 – Northwest Illinois GCSA monthly meeting at Mendota Golf Club in scenic Mendota, IL, Steve Wolf host.
- May 19 – CDGA's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Marathon benefiting its charitable arm—the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation—at Zigfield Troy Golf Course in Woodridge, IL.
- May 21 – ITF/MAGCS Golf Day at Twin Orchard Country Club, **Kyle Jacobsen** host.
- May 22-27 – 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Senior PGA Championship at Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor, MI.
- May 25 – Deadline for submissions of 2012 MAGCS Scholarship applications. Applications can be found at [www.magcs.org](http://www.magcs.org) in the Events tab.
- June 19 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Blackstone Golf Club in Marengo, IL, **Andrew Perry** host.
- July 10 – 12<sup>th</sup> Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing and Scholarship Fundraiser at Bartlett Hills Golf Course in Bartlett, IL, **Kevin DeRoo** host.
- July 14 – MAGCS Family Night Picnic and Kane County Cougars game at Elfstrom Field in Geneva, IL.

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**Brian Bossert**

.....  
 Congratulations and welcome to Scott Bordner, the new superintendent of Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton. Scott takes over for **Jon Jennings**, who left for the East coast and the lure of hosting a U.S. Open championship. If Jon lets it get to his head, will he get Shinnecocky? Ba-doom-boom.  
 .....

.....  
 GCSAA recently announced that GCM, its industry-leading publication, is going global. Beginning in May, GCM China will be delivered digitally in Mandarin, or simplified Chinese. Always loved those little oranges—especially in Jello. Or even in a nice fruit salad.  
 .....

Half empty or half full? The February 26<sup>th</sup> edition of National Golf Foundation's (NGF) Dashboard electronic publication ran the following headline: "Golfer Confidence Index Improving—Rounds Indicator for 2012 Encouraging." On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, NGF reported "Course Closings Outpace Openings in 2011." In fact, last year saw the closing of 157.5 (wha?) 18-hole golf courses versus just 19 new openings. Yet golfer confidence is encouraging. Hmm. Something doesn't quite jibe here. One of those 157.5 courses that closed—the Center Valley Club in Pennsylvania—got a bit creative when its assets were sold at auction. Along with the standard triplexes, walk mowers, kitchen appliances and furniture, the club sold off 50,000 square feet of bentgrass putting green sod. Selling your greens can leave you feeling like your glass is half empty for sure; but for the buyer, the opportunity to replace worn-out contaminated greens surfaces with pure bent sod would leave their glasses half full, right? Or would it be GRASSES half full?  
 .....

.....  
 Great news for **Chad Ball!** The 2013 BMW Championship will be played at Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake Forest. Conducted by the Western Golf Association to benefit the Evans Scholars Foundation, the BMW is the third of four events in the PGA Tour Playoffs for the FedEx Cup and determines the final field of thirty for the Tour Championship at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta, GA. And while we're on the subject of Chad, is it just me, or does he have a REALLY annoying lookalike on that sports channel from out East?  
 .....

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Chad Ball and Tony Kornheiser



Gary Schweber and Christopher Lloyd

Next month, on May 19<sup>th</sup>, CDGA will hold its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Marathon at Zigfield Troy Golf Course in Woodridge. The event supports the life-changing programs provided by CDGA's charitable arm, the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation, while participants can sharpen their short games and spend a fun day playing 100 holes on the par-3 course. To learn more, or to register, go to [www.sunshinethroughgolf.org](http://www.sunshinethroughgolf.org).

Let's just make it official and rename this magazine *On Dinelli* (for **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** of course). I mean, he's always doing something newsworthy, isn't he? To wit, Links magazine recently ranked North Shore Country Club #2 in its list of Top 10 Green Courses in the country. Thanks to the many environmentally-friendly practices Dan and his staff have incorporated at North Shore, this honor was bestowed on the venerated Colt/Alison/MacKenzie-designed course. Congratulations to Dan, as well as to Jerry and Joe for their great efforts and positive publicity.

So new GCSAA president Sandy Queen has made turf research his priority—a noble and necessary undertaking. Coincidentally, just before the Golf Industry Show, GCSAA announced it will conduct four new research projects in 2012 through the support provided by the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG). The chapter cooperative projects include: Characterization and management of root-infecting Pythium species on bentgrass putting greens in the Midwest (Dr. Lee Miller); Deficit irrigation programs for water conservation in the management of bermudagrass fairways in Texas; Plant tolerance/resistance to annual bluegrass weevil among bentgrasses: Which cultivars are at great risk and which are the best for overseeding/replacement; and Field implementation and educational events to support principles in the manual: Best Management Practices for Protection of Environmental Quality on Virginia Golf Courses. The words exciting and compelling come to mind, don't they?

Andrew Lloyd Schweber?? In this bonus MAGCS member/celebrity lookalike feature, courtesy of Tim Buse of ProGro Solutions, the Christopher Lloyd (in his role in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest") and **Gary Schweber, CGCS** of Rolling Green Country Club (who's just plain cuckoo) combination does make one wonder.

The WE ARE GOLF coalition, comprised by GCSAA, PGA of America, NGCOA and CMAA along with support from various other golf organizations, headed back to Washington, D.C. on National Golf Day (April 18<sup>th</sup>) to tell its story to policymakers. The goal for this, the fourth year the coalition has gone to our Nation's capital, is to establish equal footing for golf when compared to other small businesses and industries. The stature is sought in a variety of areas such as disaster relief, taxation, employment/labor, regulation of products, etc. More on MAGCS' participation next month.

Keep your eye out for updates from the new and improved Illinois Turfgrass Foundation. The mission of this important entity is to become everything turf in Illinois, from research funding to education programming. Contact **Luke Cella** to subscribe to the new blog found at the new streamlined address—[www.iturf.org](http://www.iturf.org).

**It Happened in Vegas:**

**News and Notes from the Golf Industry Show**

The Golf Industry Show and GCSAA Education Conference made their (arguably) triumphant return to Las Vegas, Nevada from February 27<sup>th</sup> through March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Actually, the fun began for many folks before that, when the GCSAA National Golf Championship and Golf Classic was held in Palm Springs, CA from the 24<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>. Our MAGCS participants represented us very respectably, with the following guys making the leader board: In the National Championship, **Justin VanLanduit** took 12<sup>th</sup> place and **Tommy Robinson** grabbed the 20<sup>th</sup> spot. In the Affiliate Net, **Paul Carlson** took 2<sup>nd</sup> place; in the Classic I Gross, **Dave Arden** was 8<sup>th</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> in the Classic I Net. **Brad Legnaioli** took 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places respectively in the Classic II Gross and Net; while in the Classic III Gross **Brian Mores** grabbed 4<sup>th</sup> and **Paul Schaefer** took 11<sup>th</sup>. In the Classic III Net, the order was reversed with Paul taking 4<sup>th</sup> and Brian 5<sup>th</sup>. The Classic IV Gross saw **Steve VanAcker** take 1<sup>st</sup> place and **Scott Witte** 10<sup>th</sup>, while in the Net, Steve took 2<sup>nd</sup> and Scott 3<sup>rd</sup>—nice job there, boys! In the Senior I Net, **Don Cross** was 2<sup>nd</sup> and **Bob Maibusch** 6<sup>th</sup>; while in Senior II Gross, **Tim Davis** took 2<sup>nd</sup> and **Tommy Witt** 4<sup>th</sup>, with **Al Fierst** coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Net side, followed by Tim in 6<sup>th</sup> and Tommy in 7<sup>th</sup>. The Super Senior division was ALL MAGCS, with **Bob Kronn** and **Ed Fischer** grabbing top honors of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively in the Gross, and Bob taking 1<sup>st</sup> and Ed 4<sup>th</sup> in the Net—well done! In the 4-Ball I Gross, the

(continued on page 17)



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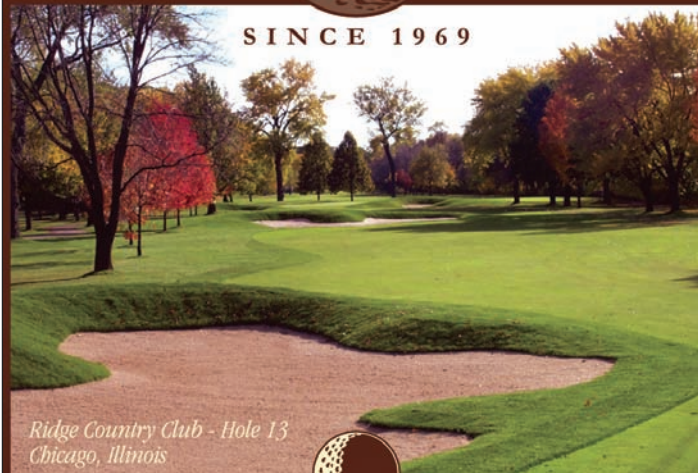
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team of **Dave Kohley** and **Tim Scott** took 1<sup>st</sup> place honors, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Net. In 4-Ball II, Brian Mores and his partner Chris Thuer grabbed 6<sup>th</sup> Net and 9<sup>th</sup> Gross; and in the 4-Ball III Gross, Al Fierst and Tommy Witt were the big winners in 1<sup>st</sup> place, whereas in the Net they took 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the Cross/Maibusch squad were 10<sup>th</sup>. The Chapter Team Gross event saw MAGCS 1 take 4<sup>th</sup> place (Tim Scott, Dave Kohley, Tommy Robinson, Justin VanLanduit and Bob Kronn); and MAGCS 2 (Steve VanAcker, Tim Davis, Ed Fischer, Paul Schaefer, and Brian Mores) came in 7<sup>th</sup>. In the Chapter Team Net event, MAGCS 2 came in 2<sup>nd</sup>, and MAGCS 4 (Al Fierst, Don Cross, Tommy Witt, Bob Maibusch, and youngster Scott Witte). Well done, everyone! After the official golf, many MAGCS members were privileged to have the opportunity to play golf at other notable Vegas-area venues. Whether it was The Donald's famous Shadow Creek, or the just-as-good Primm Valley, the golf and associated camaraderie were second to none, and a perfect lead-in to the conference.



In fact, for SOME people, the golf proved to be REALLY tiring!



This Show was all the evidence I needed to REMEMBER TO REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE IN ADVANCE!! The registration line was brutally long, more than likely due to the last-minute decision by many—this writer included—to attend. Once that process was completed, the show floor awaited, and although it was only slightly smaller than last year's show in Orlando, it seemed MUCH smaller to me.

Attendance figures told the same story—just 66 fewer attendees than in 2011 (although GCSAA points to the 2.6% increase in “qualified buyers” over last year as the REAL statistic in its claim that the industry has turned the corner). So after all that, guess what is on tap for the Golf Industry Show in 2013? I'll tell you—since the Club Managers Association of America's World Conference and Club Business Exposition will take place from February 7-11, and since the GIS will happen from the 4<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>, GCSAA and CMAA have agreed to offer their members access to both general education sessions on a complimentary basis. So the managers and superintendents are gonna get together for next year's show—it's like déjà vu all over again, huh? On a positive note, there were many highlights to this year's Show, including presentations given by Old Tom Morris Award winner Peter Jacobsen who recalled his days as a grounds crew worker, and a really great one delivered by David Feherty that had people laughing and crying all at once. On a more local front, **Don Cross** was nominated for the 2011 TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta, one of only 9 finalists to vie for the honor. Also, the University of Illinois Turf Alumni Association held its annual gathering at the Bahama Breeze, thanks to MAGCS member sponsors **John Anderson** (Arthur Clesen), **Jeff Leuzinger** (Pearl Valley Organix),

*(continued on page 18)*



**Greg Oltman** (GRO Horticultural Enterprises), **Eric Reed** (BTSI), **Trent Severns** (Agrium Advanced Technologies), **Scot Spier** (Arthur Clesen), and absentee **Brian Winkel** (Syngenta), who missed the show recovering from neck surgery. A quick cab ride down Paradise Road was the site of the MAGCS Hospitality Reception at the Hard Rock Café, and it was OUTSTANDING! The venue, the excellent service, and the atmosphere were just the ticket for weary MAGCS members who were in need of an oasis away from the glitz and glamour of the Strip. Total home run hit by Luke Cella for booking the venue, and our awesome Golden Tee Sponsors for their undying support. Ryder Cup Sponsors were: **Arthur Clesen, Inc., Bayer Environmental Science, Burris Equipment Company, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., Reinders, Inc.,** and **Syngenta.** Hole In One Sponsors were **BASF** and **Lohmann Companies.** Eagle Sponsors were **J.W. Turf, Inc., Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc.,** and **ProGro Solutions.** Birdie Sponsors were **BTSI, Chicagoland Turf, Inc., DuPont Professional Products, H & E Sod Nursery, Harris Golf Cars, Hollebeak Construction, Layne Christensen Company, Lemont Paving Company, Precision Labs, Tyler Enterprises/Masterblend,** and **Water Well Solutions.** Par Sponsors were **The Andersons, Becker Underwood, Blu Petroleum, Conserv FS, Dow Agrosiences, Dryject Chicagoland, Great Lakes Turf, LLC, Growing Solutions, Inc., Harrells, LLC, Pendelton Turf Supply, Prime Turf, Inc., Rain Bird Services Corp.,** and **Riverwalls, LTD.** Big BIG thanks to all of these companies AND people for a great evening!



(continued on page 20)



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# THANK YOU

Las Vegas 2012







.....  
 P.S., if you missed any of the education sessions, you can get the PowerPoint presentations online at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org) by clicking the "View Conference Presentations" tab. And the coolest new thing on the show floor? SCAN4BEER, a smartphone app that allows golfers to place an order with the beverage cart or clubhouse by scanning a mobile barcode fixed to their golf cart. Just my opinion.  
 .....

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**-OC**







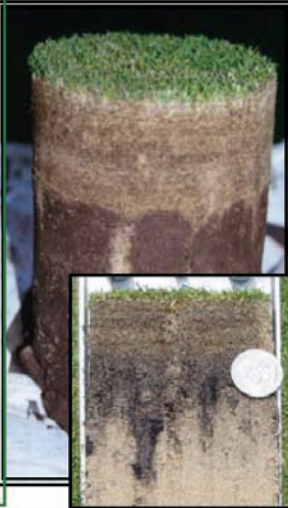


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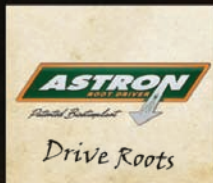
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# I am the ITF. RU? Part 1

*The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation has made it its mission to realign itself with its allied associations and Universities in 2012. This year the ITF needs to reintroduce itself to the turf industry in Illinois so we better understand the importance of turf research and education in our state for our entire industry, nation wide, and internationally. The ITF is doing this by consistent communication with you and your association through meetings, a new blog (which can be found at [www.iturf.org](http://www.iturf.org)), and written updates in your publications like what you're reading right now.*

As the current President of the ITF, I have asked our advisors to share some interesting facts, in their own words, about their programs to help us have a better understanding of who they are and why their program is important to our state and Foundation. The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation wants to make you proud to be supporting our great turfgrass researchers and educators.

This first installment and following writing comes from Ken Diesburg from Southern Illinois University.

"The SIU Turf Program cannot exist at its historical level of production without support from the ITF. For me, ITF funding provided the means for managing a research facility at a level of viability that corporation research agents desired to engage in cooperative research, thus providing even more funding.

Many times throughout my 23-year tenure at SIU, we Illinois turf professors were called by various ITF Boards to communicate our productivity, thus putting a value on the returns for the many monetary grants we have received. Until the break in funding which occurred four years ago, the various Board members always came to the same conclusion that it was justified to support both the University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University turf education and research efforts, recognizing that both of them were proportionately productive. During the same time as the break in university funding, the ITF saw justification in supporting the research efforts of Randy Kane and his successor, Derek Settle, employed and supported by the Chicago District Golf



Association. For 18 years previous to that change we university turf professors enjoyed equal status in the Board's vision. Given the three professors at Champaign—Tom Fermanian, Tom Voigt, and Hank Wilkinson—and one professor at Carbondale, Ken Diesburg, the total funding was divided 75/25. No matter how great or small the funding might be, the positive psychology was always there; we each had comparable value to the Illinois turf industry. Research conducted at both universities applied to turf management issues across the state. Do not underestimate the enormity of this

concept for us. Being employees of the state, and choosing to take a career path of service through teaching and research, our dominant motivation in getting up each morning is to serve our constituency. When the ITF chose to cut support to my program it was devastating; both instantly in my mind and heart, and later in my struggle to keep my turf research trials at a reasonable level, no longer able to hire help, purchase supplies, or maintain equipment. That struggle continues today. Corporate contracts diminished. It is with that sentiment that I am preparing this report. I hope and pray that you will see the value of the SIU Turf Program as comparable; no better and no worse than those of the UI Turf Program and the CDGA Turf Program, and that you will fund each professor and Ph.D. at the same level, no matter how large or small that amount might be.

The SIU Turf Program is the dominant turf-teaching program in the state. Turf research is a significant component of the program comprising 45% of its resources. The program is truly comprehensive: (1) it trains the sons of Illinois to become professional turfgrass managers, the majority of them going back up state as assistant superintendents. There are many SIU graduates in golf course management in northern Illinois as well as throughout the state. (2) The SIU Turf Program conducts turfgrass research and provides training in managing warm-season grasses as well as cool-season grasses. (3) The SIU Turf Program has an even balance between turf research and teaching, serving the turf industry, itself, as well as the Illinois citizens wanting to learn how to devote their careers to it.

The SIU Turf Program started in 1961 when Dr. James Tweedy, who eventually became the Dean of our College of Agriculture, then a Vice President of SIU, established the turf plots at the SIU Horticulture Farm. In 1965, Dr. Herbert Portz moved from forage to turf teaching and research; a move that was happening at several universities across the country during those years as the turf industry was rapidly growing. When Dr. Portz retired in 1987, Dr. Anna-Marie Pennucci was hired to replace him. She moved on in one year and was



replaced by me in 1989. I have remained at SIU for 23 years because of the great teaching and research environment we have here. I am allowed to pursue the avenues of research that I deem critical for the state of Illinois. The results of my research benefit the entire eastern transition zone. My zoysia breeding will benefit the future turf industry of United States from the latitudes of Chicago to northern Florida; everywhere low-input, persistent, playable turf is needed. In this SIU environment, I was allowed to model and expand my undergraduate turf program to match those of other major Midwest turf programs. I used the model I had learned from at Iowa State University with Dr. Nick Christians. The average number of turf

students in the SIU Turf Program has doubled since 1989 from 8 to 20. We send teams to the GCSAA Turf Bowl every year. One of those years, our 'A' team took 5<sup>th</sup> place against over 90 teams from across the country; surpassed only by the Iowa State team and three Purdue teams. That's pretty good company. All this has been possible through the years because the ITF has realized the value in supporting the SIU Turf Program. Please, don't let it fall during these tough times." **-OC**



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## EDUCATION REVIEW

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



# Miller and Vavrek highlight the March Meeting

*The MAGCS March meeting was held on an unusually warm day at Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton, hosted by Mike Mumper. With the early spring conditions and staffs not up to full swing, I think most guys were out cutting grass that day.*

Dr. Lee Miller, Extension Turfgrass Pathologist from the University of Missouri was the first speaker. His topic for the day was "Efficient Use of Spring Fungicide Applications for Disease Management." This presentation featured how to select fungicides and how and when to apply. His models are based on Growing Degree Days (GDD). Most of us use these GDD models to predict application timing of pre-emergent for crabgrass control, *Poa* seed head control and grub control. Dr. Miller cited that foliar diseases such as dollar spot are more difficult to predict because they are dictated more on moisture, relative humidity and surface temperatures. His recommendations are based on his research data. If your course is prone to these diseases, he believes better control can be achieved with the use of preventative applications of fungicides before disease symptoms occur.

Lee offered the following recommendations based upon soil temperatures. Websites, weather stations or a good old soil thermometer can monitor temps. If you use a soil thermometer, Lee recommends you base your data on a 2" depth taken daily at 11:00 a.m.

**Take All Patch:** Apply preventatively when at 2" soil depth, the temperatures is at 50 degrees.

**Summer Patch:** Apply preventatively when at 2" soil depth, the temperature is 65 degrees.

**Fairy Ring:** Fairy Ring is one of the most complex systems in plant pathology. Dr. Miller has done extensive research on this disease and written numerous articles and has become one of the experts in the industry on fairy ring. He said he was tired of the nicknames he gets called, use your imagination to fill in the blanks.



Dr. Lee Miller

If applying only curatively, a wetting agent is recommended along with the fungicide. You must water in the application with at least .25" immediately or within 10 hours. Keep TGR's off for at least 14 days as the DMI fungicides have growth regulation characteristics.

**Dollar Spot:** Early preventative applications using DMI's can delay onset and reduce severity for the entire season. It will also give you the ability to use lower rates later on.

Some of you may remember Dr. Miller when he worked for the CDGA from 2001 -2006 and helped Dr. Randy Kane "launch" Interactive Turf. He says "he drank his milk and is all grown up now". The prodigal son has a family now and has returned. Lee can be reached at [www.turfpath.missouri.edu](http://www.turfpath.missouri.edu).



Bob Vavrek

Type I: Basidiocarp (mushroom) formations

Type II: Green rings caused by the degradation of lignin.

Type III: Necrotic turf. The pathogen coats the soil particles and organic material causing hydrophobic soil and localized dry spots.

In all types the fungus is in the soil at varying depths. Preventative applications are much more effective than curative. Apply preventatively (2) applications at 28 day intervals and water in immediately with .125" or .25".

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Our new/old USGA Senior Agronomist of the North Central Region, Bob Vavrek has also returned to our shores. His presentation for the day was, "2011 Year in Review". Bob took some time and commented on the unusually warm weather we have been having.



"It is the warmest winter on record in Milwaukee with an average temperature of 34 degrees. It was the first time in 20 years we have not had any snow/ice damage. The warm weather has been a source of extra revenue for struggling clubs. I believe the hardiness zones are moving north. Winters are becoming more variable and summers have been hard to predict. It is uncertain if we will see more insect problems for this coming season. Possibly we may see an extra cutworm cycle."

Bob commented on possible future regulations that may be coming our way similar to what Canadian Golf Course Superintendents are currently experiencing. Regulations on irrigation documentation/justification and pesticide application/justification/documentation may be on the horizon.

Bob's power point slide presentation went over winter 2011 ice damage, summer USGA events in his region, herbicide damage, greens under stress, collar protection devices, green drainage problems and the usual assortment of dead green photos.

"2011 was a difficult year for cool season grasses that were on the edge." Venting greens was very popular as was the hose, for hand watering trouble areas.

Lunch was served and after the delicious Italian food was devoured, I witnessed a vapor trail of what had previously been where trucks were parked as guys headed back to work to work.

(BTW, we recorded the talks and if you'd like to see them call 630-243-7900 or email luke@magcs.org) -OC



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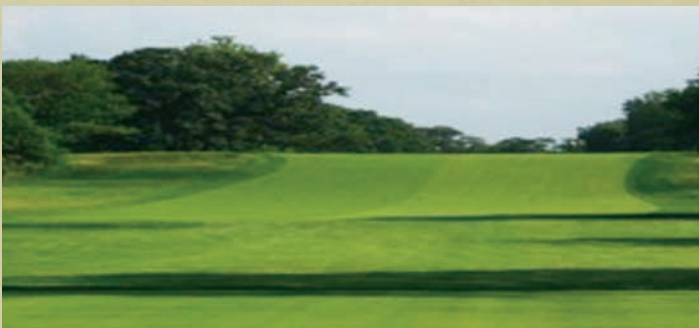
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