

ON COURSE

THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

June 2012

Blackstone Golf Club

Andy Perry



Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents
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INSIDE

Mercury Pump Seals
Banned in Illinois

Ryder Cup gets Closer

The Summer that Started Early

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FRONT COVER

The clubhouse over looks the 18th green at Blackstone Golf Club. Aim at the hole on your approach otherwise you might find yourself in a pinch on this horseshoe shaped green.
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.

All editorial and advertisement inquiries should be directed to Luke Cella, Publisher, *On Course*. 11855 Archer Avenue, Lemont, IL, 60439. (630) 243-7900 or visit www.magcs.org for rates and requirements. Statements of fact and opinion are the responsibility of the authors alone and do not imply an opinion on the part of the officers or members.

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ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT
Bob Kohlstedt, *Fox Bend Golf Course*



Here We Go

Ready or not, we start another season of mayhem. I hope everyone found some time during the shortened "off-season" to recharge and spend some quality time with family. My wife and I used the GIS to escape the kids for a few days and spend some time as a couple, which is rare for us. As our children approach the high school years their activities seem to double. These activities take time, and we have to become good managers of our priorities. The winter months allow us more freedom with time, but as the season starts, the pressure builds. Sometimes hard decisions need to be made, and family functions get shortened or skipped. I believe this is the evil side of our profession. It is easy to get sucked in. We pour our hearts and souls into our little slice of the earth, and it consumes us. I challenge myself every season to try not to forget to set aside time for family and friends. Equally important is to make time to take care of yourself and your well-being. Play more golf, go to more games (Go White Sox!), or take a long weekend. Don't regret not having a life off the course.

The business of turf management has definitely changed over the years. I must be getting to be a grumpy old man, but it seems to me that greens keeping was more fun when I was younger. Not that I don't enjoy my chosen profession, but it's frustrating being asked to do the same, or more, with less money and manpower. Thanks to the wonderful state of this economy, there's no relief within reach. Still I am amazed what my staff can get done in a shortened day, with old equipment, and at the same wages as last season. For that I am very grateful.

We all know about learning from past experience and applying the lessons to current challenges. Extremes are not what any of us want to deal with, but after two decades of turf management it's inevitable that we will experience similar conditions again someday. Be proactive. Don't add any unnecessary stress to the turf during the "100 day war," because a shaggy green is easier to restore than a brown one. Concessions need to be made in dealing with smaller budgets. The demand for tournament conditions during extremes is unrealistic. As professional turf managers we need to be able to communicate this to the golfers so there is some understanding.

I often make the mistake during difficult growing conditions to think I'm the only one that's struggling. When soil temps wander above 95 degrees on 75% *poa* greens, the last thing you want to hear is a golfer telling

you that your neighboring course isn't having any trouble. That's what they want you to believe. You know it's not true. That's the time to reach out and talk with peers. Misery loves company. I have had some of the best conversations at MAGCS monthly meetings. This is one reason to attend the meetings and share experiences (and a cold one) with others who are willing to help.

The Midwest is here to help the membership spend a little time away from the pressures of the job. Blackstone Golf club will be hosting the next MAGCS event on June 19th. You should plan on bringing your assistant and competing for the Dom Grotti Championship. Assistants deserve a chance to recharge as well. Too busy? How about bringing the family out to the Kane County Cougars game on July 14th? This is a great opportunity to spend some of the above-mentioned quality time with friends and family. What about a long weekend with buddies north of the border wrapping up at Big Foot Country Club on September 24th? Then it's time to call an alum and compete for your alma mater at Calumet Country Club on October 22nd. The strength of this chapter comes from its membership. After attending other local and national events, it's easy to see that the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is one of the best.

So, here we go! I hope we all have the perfect season and that we all take care of ourselves, because nobody else will. **-OC**



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FEATURE

Todd Kerry, *Water Well Solutions*

Mercury and Water Don't Mix

Illinois Law Bans the Sale of Mercury Seals for Well Pump Applications Due to Environmental Concerns

Mercury is a very toxic element that can cause severe neurological health problems. Mercury can enter the human body through inhalation, ingestion, and skin absorption. Over the years there has been a growing concern with the use of mercury. Many environmentalists believe that the use of mercury in everyday products may have contributed to cardiovascular disease, autism, seizures, mental retardation, hyperactivity, dyslexia and many other conditions. Many states have enacted legislation that has reduced or eliminated the amount of mercury that a product can contain.

Recently, in the interest of public safety, the Governor of Illinois signed new legislation (SB 1213), which was approved by the Illinois House of Representatives and the State Senate, banning the sale and distribution of "mercury seals" for water well pumping equipment. Due to the environmental and public health concerns, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), Division of Pollution Protection, decided to add submersible motors to the mercury ban list after several mercury spills were reported throughout the country.

The mercury ban in the new law prevents the installation of a mercury seal commonly found in the Flowserve Corporation, Byron Jackson, Type "H" Submersible motor, which has been installed in many water wells throughout the State of Illinois. The Byron Jackson motors are unique as they are the only submersible motor manufacturer to offer a mercury seal option in a submersible motor. This design utilized mercury's unique characteristics to create a seal around the rotating shaft. This inhibits the intrusion of well water into the oil-filled electric motor housing, preventing a catastrophic motor failure. The Type "H" motors have 8.25 to 17.25 pounds of mercury located within the seal. Seals on a standard water-filled motor are not as critical. Well water can enter a water-filled motor without risk of immediate motor failure, unlike an oil-filled motor.

The mercury ban goes into effect on July 1, 2012. After that, owners of water systems will be required to install alternative seals, such as the industry standard mechanical seal found in all other submersible motors. According to the IEPA, owners will no longer be allowed to purchase, repair, or re-install the type "H" motor with a mercury seal. According to the law, if a submersible motor is pulled for servicing, the seal cannot be altered or repaired. If repairs to the motor are necessary, the IEPA will require that the mercury seal be replaced. In response to this new legislation, the Flowserve Corporation has decided to discontinue production and repairs to the

Type "H" motor with mercury seals as of July, 2012. They will make conversion to a double mechanical seal mandatory.

Owners will not be required to pull existing pumping equipment in order to become compliant. Owners of water systems will be required to become compliant with the law only when installing new systems or when repairs become necessary. There are several options available for compliance with the new law once a system requires repairs. When the pumping equipment is removed from the well for service, the Byron Jackson Type "H" motor can be retrofitted with a double mechanical seal. Another option is to adapt the pump to a water-filled, submersible motor with a standard mechanical seal, which is often seen as more environmentally friendly. Water-filled motors have been around for decades. Due to their reliability and availability, they are the most commonly used submersible motors in the world. They account for over 90% of all motors installed.

There are some important considerations when determining whether to convert the Byron Jackson to a double mechanical seal or to replace the motor altogether. When evaluating the cost of conversion of the Byron Jackson or replacement with a new water-filled motor, the prices are comparable. The choice of repairing the old motor or replacing it with new becomes compelling once you factor in the turnaround time for repairing and converting the Byron Jackson motor, which can be between 7 and 16 weeks. Typically, water-filled motors are readily available for immediate installation.

Our goal is to assure that all water operators are fully informed of the impact of this new law and to provide assistance in developing cost-effective solutions for achieving compliance. How do you know if you'll be affected by this legislation? Questions on the new law can be directed to Becky Jayne with the IEPA. You may also contact us directly. A simple site visit by a qualified service technician can help determine the law's effect on you. **-OC**

SUPER -N- SITE

Travis Dykstra, *St. Charles Country Club*



Andy Perry -N- Blackstone Golf Club

Blackstone Golf Club (BGC) is an upscale, 18-hole, public golf facility located just outside Marengo, Illinois, on 172 acres of rolling terrain. It is owned and operated by Dan Weck. Construction began in 2005 and the course opened in 2006, under the architectural lead of Bob Lohmann. BGC offers a full practice range, as well as a full bar and fine dining options, all located in its newly-constructed clubhouse. What makes Blackstone unique is that each hole is very different from the next. Not only does it have a great mix of wooded holes that protect you from the wind, but it also has many holes that are out in the open, which challenges the golfer's ability to hit every shot. This makes turf management challenging because of the different microclimates. At least this is what my good friend, and BGC course superintendent, Andy Perry, tells me.

Andy has been at Blackstone Golf Club since February of this year. He took over for Nick Leu, when Nick moved to Superintendent at Omaha Field Club, located in Omaha, Nebraska. Oddly enough, Andy and Nick are high school friends who grew up in Ottumwa, Iowa. Andy says, "My transition to BGC has been very smooth because Nick was doing an outstanding job and was very organized."

Andy developed a passion for the golf course at a very young age because his father was a course superintendent back in Iowa.

"He was always bringing me to the golf course to hit balls or ride on the course with him," says Andy. Andy started working at Ottumwa Country Club, for Gary Twedt, while he was still in high school. After graduation he went on to Iowa State University where he earned his degree in Horticulture with an emphasis in Turfgrass Management. During his tenure at ISU, he worked at Veenker Memorial Golf Course, under the supervision of John Newton. During the summer of 2003, Andy participated in an internship program at the Seaview Resort, in Absecon, New Jersey. In the summer of 2004,



Andy and wife Sara.

Andy came to the Chicagoland area and interned for Ron McCarthy at Edgewood Valley Golf Club in LaGrange. After graduating from ISU in May 2005, his passion for golf and the Chicagoland area brought him back. He landed his first Assistant position at Cress Creek Country Club, in Naperville, working for Bill Kennedy. After spending five years at Cress Creek, he worked for Dave Biery at Black Sheep Golf Club in Sugar Grove for the past two seasons.

Most superintendents would agree with Andy that the most challenging aspect of course maintenance is dealing with the ever-changing "Mother Nature."

However, Andy says, "Each day is different than the last, and there is always something new going on. The job always keeps you on your feet, and there is never a dull moment." Currently, Andy and the BGC crew are working on removing a large hump in the practice green and leveling it out. They will be expanding it to allow for more cup area, permitting them to disperse foot traffic a little more. Additionally, they also plan to continue re-sodding collars that have been contaminated with bluegrass.

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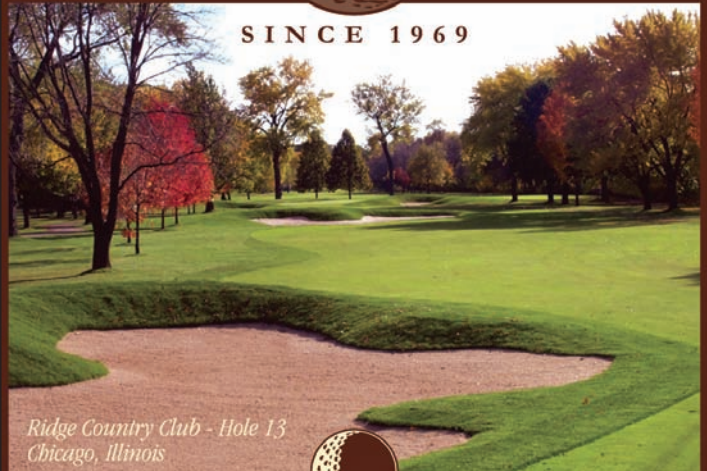
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His favorite piece of equipment at BGC thus far is a Toro Greensmaster 3300 Tri-flex that was purchased last year. It has 14 blade reels. This piece of equipment allows Andy to allocate man hours elsewhere on the golf course without sacrificing quality of cut.

Andy told me that even though his father is no longer a golf course superintendent he is someone he has always looked up to and calls often for advice. He also has tremendous respect for the above-mentioned men who have been instrumental in his development from assistant superintendent to superintendent.

Outside of work, Andy and his wife, Sara, live in Aurora with their dog, Chloe, and George the cat. In his off hours he enjoys spending time with Sara, golfing, exercising, following sports, going to concerts and spending time with family and friends. Most importantly, he enjoys cheering for the Iowa State Cyclones and the Detroit Lions.

I am truly honored to say that Andy is one of my good friends. Therefore on behalf of me and MAGCS, a big "Thank You" goes out to Andy, Dan, and the rest of Blackstone Golf Club crew for their generosity and dedication in preparing for the June Meeting. **-OC**



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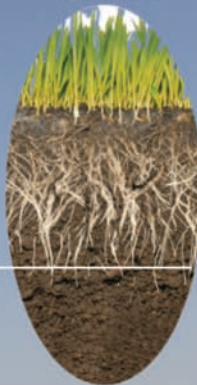
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MIDWEST BREEZES

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



Ryder Cup Update

As you may know (unless you've been living in an irrigation hole and you may have given this spring) this is a Ryder Cup year. It will be played at the venerated Medinah Country Club #3 Course on September 25-30. You know, the place where we have our MAGCS Annual Turf Clinic in November and they have the really cool looking Turkish Clubhouse?

This is going to be epic. You have to like the way our U.S. squad is shaping up. Captain Davis Love III or DL3 as he is known, has yet to make his Captain picks. Many of the top guys have already qualified. We have a few of the older guys like Phil, Tiger and Stricker that have a lot of experience already on the team. Plus, we've got the younger, upcoming, aggressive, "golf boys", Bubba, Hunter, Ricky and the Kuch. These guys are playing red hot, winning golf tournaments and gaining confidence.

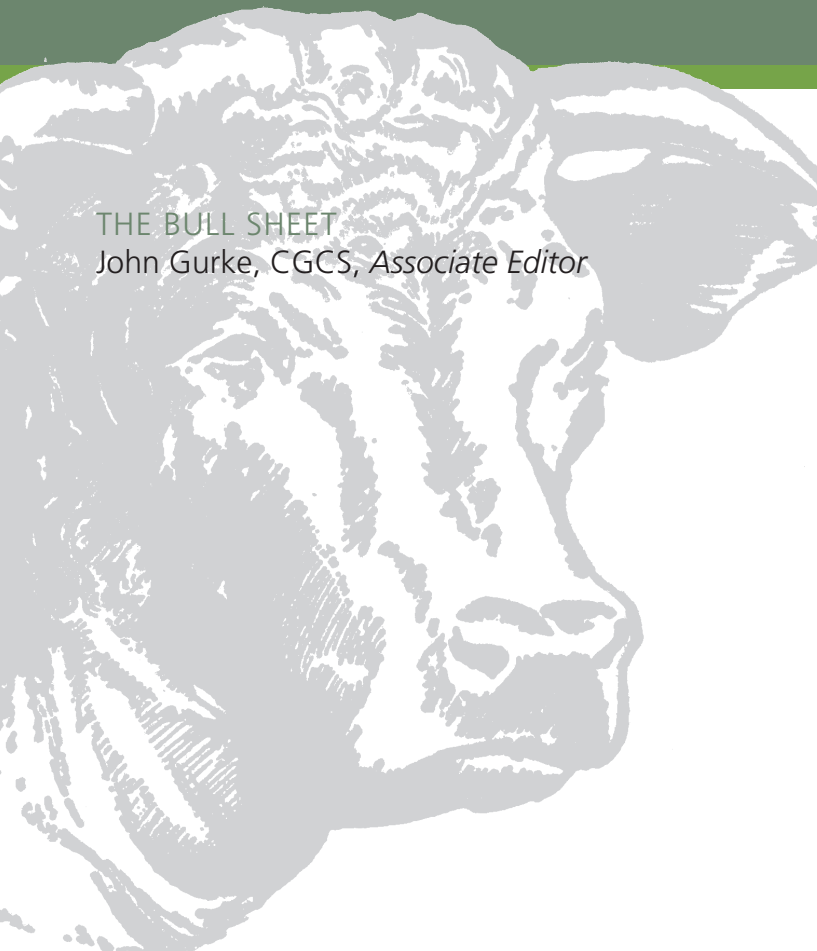
To quote former Ryder Cup Captain Ben Crenshaw, whose team won the miracle comeback at Brookline, "I've got a good feeling about this." If you don't think these guys don't get motivated to play an exhibition match for no paycheck, think again. This event is for their country and pressure is unsurpassed. The Ryder Cup is without question the biggest event in all of golf.

I had a chance to visit with Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS MG recently and I can tell you it is all coming together. The main focus for everyone involved; Members, Medinah Staff, and the PGA of America is to create a set of conditions that favors our team to bring home a winner.

The #3 Course has been through some dramatic changes over the last few years since the PGA Championship in 2006. There has been some "major" tree removal, new hole changes, re-grassing of turf, new bunkers and new tees. The last few growing seasons have been brutal for any course going through a renovation, let alone for an event as big as the Ryder Cup. Curtis has been handling it well and taking it all in stride. Some people like the changes, some don't. This is not your Father's Medinah #3. This is going to be set up and maintained to give the U.S. Squad as much a "home turf" advantage as possible. Look for expanded and graduated rough to give our "bombers" an edge and shorter grass around the greens to promote recovery shots. The course should play "easier" than a major set up. The match play of the Ryder Cup puts the focus on the game and the competition between individuals and teams. The fans and the players will both enjoy the roar and excitement of making birdies and eagles.

The grandstands and corporate tents will start to be set up in June. DL3 will visit the course to make his recommendations for any additional "tweaks" such as expanding the graduated rough in certain spots or more tree removal depending on how the U.S. players play the course as they filter through playing practice rounds.

Tickets have been sold out for months. There are a few corporate tent opportunities left open. Medinah expects to host up to 40,000 people per day during the event! Emotions will run high and the pressure will be intense. All systems are go. GO USA! **-OC**



THE BULL SHEET
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



JUNE 2012

Are you like me and have a few things in your chemical storage room that you look at every time you walk in, you KNOW you're never going to use, yet you have no idea what to do with? The Illinois Department of Agriculture has your answer—the Clean Sweep Pesticide Collection program has been scheduled for late this summer in the following counties in northern Illinois: Boone, DeKalb, Kane, Lake, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, and Winnebago. All you have to do is register the products you want to dispose of by July 13th. Forms can be obtained by calling the IDOA Pesticide Hotline at 1-800-641-3934. There are two great reasons to do it—first, it's free; and second, the state of Illinois assumes full liability for the proper disposal of all materials collected. Go on! Purge your chemical room of its unwanted contents. Purge it!

Happy belated Skin Cancer Awareness Month (which was May). Always a good idea to make that appointment for a quick once-over by a dermatologist and catch any little thingies before they become big thingies. Believe me—this is one of the few things that I know what I'm talking about. Want one of these???



(continued on next page)

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 19 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Blackstone Golf Club in Marengo, IL, **Andrew Perry** host.

June 25 – Wisconsin GCSA Golf Tournament at Oshkosh Country Club in Oshkosh, WI.

July 5-8 – 67th U.S. Women's Open Championship at Blackwolf Run in Kohler, WI.

July 10 – 12th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing and Scholarship Fundraiser at Bartlett Hills Golf Course in Bartlett, IL, **Kevin DeRoo** host.

July 12-15 – John Deere Classic at TPC Deere Run in Sylvis, IL.

July 13 – Deadline to register products for disposal through the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Clean Sweep Collection program. More to follow.

July 14 – MAGCS Family Night Picnic and Kane Country Cougars game at Fifth Third Ball Park in Geneva, IL.

July 17 – NWIGCSA/ITF Golf Day at Timber Pointe Golf Course in Poplar Grove, IL, Tyler Reiches host.

July 30 – Deadline for photograph submissions for the Superintendent's Best Friend 2013 Calendar presented by TurfNet and sponsored by BASF.

July 31 – Wisconsin GCSA Summer Field Day at the O.J. Noer Center in Verona, WI.

August 1 – Deadline for submissions for the Daconil Action Tough Turf Video Contest.

August 10 – Annual CAGCS Founders Cup at Lakeshore Country Club, **Jeff Frentz, CGCS** host.

August 21 – Deadline for submission of applications and essays to be considered for attendance at the Syngenta Business Institute to be held on December 3rd through the 6th.

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A recent TurfNet Blog Aggregator found MAGCS member **Steve Cook, CGCS, MG** of Oakland Hills Country Club informing his membership of the true cost of those dreaded WTGH's. What is a WTGH you ask? Why, it's an undesirable tree of course—a Weed That Gets Hard, as Steve refers to them. He mentions that the initial cost to plant a species such as a silver maple is not where the story ends—oh no, not by a long shot. When factoring in the maintenance of the tree throughout its life, the additional inputs and maintenance procedures required to keep the shaded turf beneath it in golf-shape, the time and personnel spent in leaf and seed removal, and the eventual removal of the tree, Steve figures that it costs around \$10,000 to sustain each WTGH on his course. Yikes.



Steve Cook

By the way, did we mention that Steve Cook was one of *Golf Course Industry* magazine's 2012 Social Media Award recipients in the Best of the Blogs category? He was indeed—congrats Steve!

In another rendition of the Blog Aggregator, **Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG** at Naperville Country Club (does TurfNet select only guys with more than 4 letters after their names?) reported that the yearly pump station maintenance had been completed, which included the usual oil change and lube, repacking bearings, tightening spindles, etc., and of course the washing and waxing of the entire station. The photo said it all—Tim's pump station looks better than most of our vehicles.

Q: What do the Mexican crew members call the flags at **Tom Lively's** club?

A: TPC San Antonio Banderas.

While channel surfing recently, I came across an episode of Chicago District Golfer that paid homage to the game's silent heroes—the superintendents. Appearing in the feature were **Fred Behnke, CGCS** of Mt. Prospect GC, **Al Fierst** of Oak Park CC, and Kurt Strothers of Eagle Ridge, with each offering their insights into our business. Al played second fiddle to his border collie Nap, who was the star of his segment, while Fred offered up his usual profound wisdom in likening the superintendent's job to "a center on a football team—nobody notices what you do until you get a holding penalty." He then made an attempt at a Carl Spackler impression that left me speechless. And NOT in a good way.



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Big congratulations to Kevin Bauer of Prairie Bluff Golf Course, one of three finalists in the TurfNet Technician of the Year Award. Kevin works with **Luke Strojny** at the golf course, keeping all of its machinery up to par, with **Kenny Shepherd** and the Lockport Township Park District, keeping all of ITS equipment in apple-pie order, and as if that isn't enough, he also maintains the city's fleet of police cars! The award is sponsored by Toro, and is presented annually by TurfNet to one outstanding golf course equipment manager from among those nominated by superintendents, colleagues, owners, operators and industry reps—and Kevin is certainly deserving! The winner receives the Golden Wrench Award and a weeklong training school at Toro's Service Training University in Bloomington, MN. Good luck Kevin!



Kevin Bauer

.....
 And now this bit of interesting-albeit-useless trivia from the USGA Green Section Record that I found worth relating: Did you ever wonder how the practice of using ropes to separate players from galleries came to be? You'd figure it was to give the players room to ply their craft on untrampled turf, yes? Actually, it all began as an effort to stop kids from scrambling to the teeing ground and grabbing the used tees as souvenirs. In 1922, a Dr. William Lowell patented the wooden-peg tee we know today, and painted them red. After Howell persuaded Walter Hagen to try the gadgets, he would walk the course with the tees stuck behind his ears, using one on each tee box and leaving it there after his shot, prompting the rush for the little red prize. How about that?

I think we have another case of a MAGCS member looking suspiciously like a celebrity, with both sharing EERIE similarities. Case in point—there is this political commentator named Steven Colbert (pronounced "Cole-bear"). And then you have Aaron Goy of ProGro, whose favorite libation is cold beer (pronounced "Cold-beer"). Mind-boggling.

.....
 This really touching story was making the rounds last month, but for those who did not see it, this letter was sent to the friends of the late **Dennis Wilson**, long time superintendent of Sunset Ridge Country Club by his wife Pat: "As some of you know we have had a house in Glenview since 1972—we closed on it 10 days before our wedding. After we moved to the course, we rented it out and for the last 12 years our daughter has lived in it. After Dennis died, I decided I needed to sell it since I still have a mortgage on the house I live in and I need to pay it off. That was Dennis' plan too—but of course he didn't foresee getting cancer. So the kids and I started to work on it and get ready to sell. It took us 9 long months and finally it went up for sale last September. The showings were amazing. We had over 100 between September and March—bad news not one offer. Finally in mid-March would you believe I received 3 offers. I took the highest one of course and we were under contract. Yea! Well I went to the closing last Friday and met the young couple. I talked about Dennis and they asked what he did. I told them he was a superintendent. So was the guy. Talk about being dumb-founded! What are the chances. I felt instant peace—I felt that Dennis was helping me from above and had sent this couple to let me know it was OK to let go of this home. His name is **Aaron Becker** and he is assistant to **Dave Schlagetter** whom Dennis knew forever of course. So whether you want to call it coincidence or God's hand it is up to you. I know that he is waiting for me and continues to watch over me (or should we say he is still in control!!!) I know Dennis is up there with Dom, Bruce Sering and all the others watching over you guys. I wanted to let you know—I think of you often. This business is so much a part of our lives. Good luck in the loooong season that started in March."

And here's another note that Luke got via email:
 Subject: The Bull Sheet 1967
 To: Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents
 Dear Luke,
 I just wanted to thank you for posting the old *Bull Sheets*. I googled my father last night and was delighted when his name came up in a 1967 Bull Sheet. It was a piece about the **Julius Goffo** Memorial Golf Tournament. I was the youngest of the five kids the tournament was intended to benefit. Thanks again.
 Patty Goffo

.....
 Condolences to **Dave "Junior" Braasch** and his family on the loss of his father Donald last month.

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MAGCS also wishes to send its condolences to the **Gary Hearn** family on the passing of Gary's mother Paula last month.

The long-awaited list is out! *Golfweek's* 2012 Best Courses You Can Play is a virtual who's who of great public courses, and those making the grade in our state are no exception.

- The Top Ten courses you can play in Illinois are:
- 1) Cog Hill No. 4 (Dubsdread)—**Scott Pavalko** supt.;
 - 2) Highlands of Elgin—**Brad Legnaioli** supt.;
 - 3) Eagle Ridge (The General)—**Kurt Strothers** supt.;
 - 4) The Glen Club—**Scott Goniwiecha** supt.;
 - 5) TPC at Deere Run;
 - 6) Weaver Ridge;
 - 7) Thunderhawk—**Mark Petitgoue** and **Tom Abbott** supts.;
 - 8) Bowes Creek—Brad Legnaioli AGAIN!;
 - 9) Pine Meadow—**Javier Garcia** supt.; and
 - 10) Harborside International (Starboard)—**Mike Moran** supt.
- Congrats to these MAGCS members and their courses.

And to continue in the "all-Lively all-day" theme, Q: What do the dentist members of **Bob Lively's** club advise everyone to do?

A: Flossmoor.

A longtime friend and educational contributor to MAGCS members and superintendents everywhere was recently honored when Dr. Frank Rossi won the Environmental Communicator of the Year Award presented by the Turf & Ornamental Communicators Association. Cindy Code, the Executive Director of Project Evergreen presented Frank with the prestigious honor, for which we congratulate him.



Billy Casper Golf Chairman and CEO Peter Hill has been elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Golf Foundation. To repeat, BCG CEO is COB of NGF.

Be on the lookout for a really cool film to hit the airwaves this month. The USGA has announced the production of "1962 U.S. Open: Jack's First Major," its first-ever film produced for network television. The one-hour documentary chronicles Jack Nicklaus' first U.S. Open victory in 1962 at Oakmont Country Club, after which history was made. The premiere

will take place this month on the 17th at 1:00 PM on NBC prior to the network's final-round coverage of the 112th U.S. Open Championship at The Olympic Club in San Francisco, CA.

On a glorious Monday, May 21st, Twin Orchard Country Club and **Kyle Jacobsen** hosted the ITF Spring Golf Day. A full field of 100 took to the links, and what a beautiful golf course it was! The fairways were so perfect, I felt the need to drop my ball in the rough so I wouldn't harm them (which fortunately never arose as I never hit a fairway). The event featured a Ryder Cup 2-man best ball format pitting cart against cart, which is always fun. This year the Blue Team took the lap in the winner's circle with its 13-11 victory over Red. Other winners on the day were **Brian Mores** with his proximity on #6, **Bob Kronn Sr.** with closest to the hole on #11, Jim Walsh with the longest putt on #9, and **Scott Spieden** and **Steve VanAcker** guessing their drive distance to within 4 feet (thank you to the folks at **Gewalt Hamilton & Associates** for measuring those tee shots). And of course the biggest winner of the day was TURF RESEARCH and EDUCATION in the great state of Illinois, as all proceeds from the event and all other ITF events goes to this important endeavor. Many thanks to Kyle and his staff for a great course, to the staff inside the clubhouse for the fantastic spread of food and beverages after the day on the course, and to our generous sponsors, who were: Driver Level—**Syngenta**; Iron Level—**BASF**; Wedge Level—**Bayer Environmental Science** and **Premier Greens & Turf**; Putter Level—**Dow AgroSciences** and **The Andersons**.



(continued on page 19)

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(continued on page 20)



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 - 3 Groomers for Toro 3150 DPA: \$500
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 - 2 LF 128 backlap hoses: \$50
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 - Zep parts washer (pump, bin, light—no solvent or drum): \$200
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This 2002 Toro Sidewinder has been well maintained and serviced regularly. Only used to mow the clublawn area, never used for banks mowing, with only 1785.9 hours.12,000 OBO. For Pictures or more information please email donova50@msu.edu or call 630-668-3588. Chicago Golf Club. **-OC**



MAGCS IN MOTION
Luke Cella, *Executive Director*



June 2012

2012 Midwest Directories are at the printer and will be sent directly from them to your preferred address on file. Look for them soon.

The ADA Standards for golf courses have become law as of March 15, 2012. If your club or course is making alterations to the course, an accessible route is required. For more information take a look at On Course, April 2011, American With Disabilities Act Guidelines Officially Adopted for Golf Courses or consult your local favorite golf course architect.

The Midwest Board of Directors met in May and decided it was a good idea to start to use the GCSAA – Midwest chapter logo more. The Board is also looking into updating our logo to make it easier to reproduce on apparel and the like – right now, it takes a lot of stitches, not to mention a lot of space.

I recently attended the biennial USGA family meeting this past May. This meeting brings all the USGA local committee members and allied representatives together to share. Bob Vavrek was in attendance and gave a brief talk demonstration on the TruFirm device as well as soil moisture meters. I spoke

about the need to keep the science behind what we do, especially when it comes to legislation and future laws.

Sometimes I can't tell unless you let me know – if you have not been getting the Midwest's emails (we typically send one a week) let me know. There are a few reasons why this can happen, usually our server has been tagged as spam by your server or mail host. I always try to send emails from luke@magcs.org - another good practice is to add this email to your safe senders list or just add it to your contact list and systems will do it automatically.



The Kane County Cougar Game is in July this year – July 14. We moved it up a bit this year – based on weekend home games, etc – this was the best time for us. Plan to attend with your family, you won't be disappointed. Our own Jan Jarvis is going to sing during the seventh inning stretch. **-OC**



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MIDWEST PERSONALITY

Josh Bebeau, *Highland Park Country Club*

Job Title: **Golf Course Superintendent**

MAGCS Member Since: **2006**

Year of Birth: **1982**

Place of Birth: **Appleton Wisconsin**

Current Residence: **Highwood Illinois**

College/Degree: **BS Soil Science, University of WI Madison**

Spouse/Children: **Ashley, Elijah, one more coming.**

My Favorite Childhood Memory is: **I had a great childhood.**

I Grew up riding my bike in the country, push mowing for dad....thinking about stripes at young age.

My Professional Mentors: **Wayne Kussow, Bret Ziegler**

Favorite Actor: **Will Ferrell**

Favorite Musical Performer: **Fun**

Favorite Restaurant: **Smokey John's Madison WI**

Favorite "Pig Out" Food: **Ice Cream, Pringles, Creamsicles!**

Favorite TV Show: **WGN Weather**

Favorite Color: **Blues**

Favorite Pro Athlete: **Stricker, Mickelson**

Favorite Pro Golfer: **Brodell**

My Handicap Index: **20**

My Favorite Place to Play Golf is: **Not my course!**

My Best/Most Memorable Round: **Hole in one #7 2006. HPCC**

The Most Interesting/Exotic Place I've been: **El Salvador, La Libertad, black sand Pacific ocean beach. Was nice.**

The Book I've Been Recommending Lately: **Ha!**

In my Spare Time I Enjoy: **road cycling, hanging with my boy and wife. ping pong, foosball**

Three Words that Best Describe Me: **consistent, sharp, porous**

What I Enjoy Most about My Job: **Doing my own thing**

What I Enjoy Least about My Job: **Sunburn**

I'm a MAGCS Member Because: **Why not. Meet great people. -OC**



Josh Bebeau and Sophia

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Tip for Your Ball Mark Repair Tool

I know I am not passing along any ground-breaking news, but all superintendents know the importance of having a consistent putting surface. One of the components of keeping a consistent putting surface is repairing ball marks on a daily basis, especially before mowing.

Here at St. Charles Country Club three of our five walking greens mowing routes walk out from the shop and back in again. The problem we were running into was that the operator was carrying a dew whip and ball mark repair tool, while trying to operate the machine safely and effectively. After a discussion with Superintendent Chuck Barber and our Mechanic Dave Schultze, a decision was made to attach the ball mark repair tool to the greensmower. However, during discussion Dave strongly urged me to find a way we could do this without drilling any holes anywhere on the mower.

After a few days of brainstorming I knew I wanted to use a 3/4" -1 1/8" metal tool holder (image 1), but attaching it to the handle was where I was running into the problem. After a trip to our local hardware store I found a 3/4" bottom

load clamping conduit hanger (image 2) and bolted the tool holder to the hanger together (image 3). I then bolted the two tool holders to our Toro 1000 and Toro Flex greensmower handles (image 4, above).

The end product turned out very well, but one problem I did run into was that when the ball repair tool was inserted into the holder with the engine running the repair tool would spin freely from the engine vibration. To combat this problem I found a vinyl covered tool holder from McMaster Carr products for approximately \$1.90/each. I found the bottom load hanger at our local Ace Hardware for roughly a \$1/each. So after about \$40.00 in materials and couple hours of time we have solved one problem here at STCCC. If anyone has questions I can be reached at travis.dykstra@gmail.com. **-OC**



Image 1

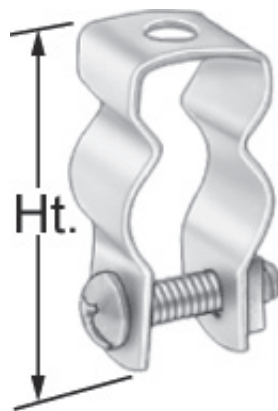


Image 2



Image 3

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NEWS FROM ALLIED GROUPS

Bob Vavrek, *USGA Senior Agronomist*



Riding the Roller Coaster

Six Flags officially opened on May 6th, but we have been riding the roller coaster since March regarding weather conditions. Ten days worth of unseasonably warm weather around St. Patrick's Day set the stage for another season of epic turf stress. Since then, a month of average to below average temperatures have us scratching our heads once again about what challenges and surprises are in store for us when summer arrives.

Old, experienced superintendents become old and experienced by having the ability to adjust maintenance practices according to the weather and the current needs of the turf. They are prepared to play whatever hand Mother Nature deals and have the ability to communicate with golfers regarding the rationale for making modifications to standard turf management practices. They realize that raising a mowing height, switching from grooved to solid rollers, or perhaps not mowing on a really hot day, is just as, if not more, important than having the latest and greatest biostimulant, fertilizer or plant protectant in the spray tank. Experience means making the right decision not to water fairways tonight and encourage an impending Pythium outbreak, even when you know the heat will hit triple digits tomorrow and the crew will be chasing hot spots all afternoon if the humidity suddenly drops.

Unfortunately, *Poa annua* is not very adept about adjusting to change and often folds when Mother Nature deals a bad hand. Somehow, it never fails that *Poa* checks out just before the biggest outing of the season, before the owner wants to play with his best friends or right before the club championship. Let's face it, the only thing you can depend on when it comes to *Poa annua* is that it will be undependable.

Poa doesn't like change. One rapid thaw-freeze cycle during late winter or early spring can produce catastrophic losses of turf on old *Poa*/bentgrass greens. Similarly, one afternoon of severe heat stress can wilt *Poa* into oblivion when roots have died back into the upper ¼-inch of the soil profile. Many climatologists predict more heat during summers and milder, more variable weather for winters in the future for the upper Midwest. Keep in mind, mild, more variable winter conditions will more than likely increase, not decrease, the odds of turf being affected by winterkill.

Fortunately, many golf facilities in the Chicagoland area "get it" regarding the need to address the limitations of putting surfaces dominated by *Poa annua*. A significant percentage of the mid-to-upper end Chicago courses have either fumigated/regressed or have completely rebuilt greens to convert from *Poa* to improved cultivars of bentgrass during the past 10 to 15 years and this number continues to slowly increase every year. Granted, every facility that undertakes a major renovation would probably do something different the next time around, but is anyone really ready to convert those new, sand based, bentgrass greens back to a mixture of *Poa* and old south German bent on native soil?

The interesting question is whether or not a renovation from *Poa* to bentgrass is inevitable for each and every Chicago course that strives to provide fast, firm, consistent putting surfaces for golfers from April through October? Climate change already dictates how we manage our turf...will it also dictate what species we maintain? I'm sure that question will be raised many times during Turf Advisory Service visits this summer. -OC

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