

ON COURSE

THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

November 2012

Medinah Country Club

Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS MG

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents
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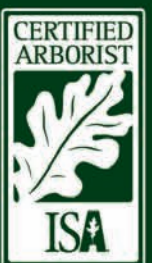
Ryder Cup Wrap Up
Midwest Breezes Return
Chapter Delegate Update



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While working on the course at Ryder Cup, the roar of the crowd could be heard in the distance. All knew something special was happening.

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The seventeenth green attacked by a set up team on Saturday morning of Ryder Cup play. 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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ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT
Bob Kohlstedt, *Fox Bend Golf Course*



A New Tradition for the Midwest

As another difficult growing season comes to an anxiously anticipated end, so does my term as President of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. My board service was fast-tracked due to some unfortunate changes in the normal board structure. Five very fast years have passed, and just as I become more confident in my abilities, I will be handing the gavel to your next president. Looking back, I wasn't sure board service was right for me. I don't have any issues with the way the association is running. I don't like change. What do I possibly have to offer? I think this may be a familiar inner dialogue for future board members. Things are a little confusing when you attend your first board meeting and get handed a committee assignment, but after a few meetings things start to groove. It isn't so bad. I can do this. One more year completed and time to move on to the next. Then before you know it, you're the Vice President (no turning back) and the nerves return because you realize that next year you are running the show.

Fortunately for me, my term as President was mostly uneventful— no conflicts, no complaints, no attempted assassinations, and no public speaking. *Easy. Right? The only thing I have to pull off is the Turf Clinic.*

Just as the light at the end of the tunnel starts to glow, I get a call from our executive director. The Illinois PGA has put together an Illinois Golf Day Event and has requested the involvement of allied associations. *Free Lunch!* Representatives from the Midwest AGCS, CDGA, and Western Golf Association will come together and discuss the economic impact of golf in Illinois. *Sounds interesting.* The event is designed to educate state leaders, the media, and other stakeholders that benefit from golf. *Cool. I'm in.* Then I get more details. They would like the allied leaders to speak on behalf of the associations they represent. *Oh crap. There goes my appetite.* They requested a presentation approximately three minutes in length. *That's not very long; I can do three minutes without fainting.* Thankfully we have an extraordinary Executive Director. I think Luke felt sorry for me, so he agreed to help me put some thoughts together. *Judging by this article, you can understand I needed some help.* After countless revisions, I had a speech I was comfortable with and was ready for the event. It didn't even faze me that Governor Pat Quinn was to be in attendance. *Holy crap.*

The day of the event I was surprised at myself. I was not nervous, and was rather looking forward to the opportunity to represent the members of MAGCS. The inaugural Illinois Golf Day was held at the new Ronald McDonald House in downtown Chicago. It's a magnificent facility built to house

(continued on next page)



Bob addresses those in attendance at the first Illinois Golf Day.

the families of seriously ill children, giving the families the opportunity to stay close to their children in their time of need.

The event started with comments from representatives of the Illinois PGA and CDGA. They described the amazing golf facilities in the area and the people that make up the golf industry. At one time Illinois' golf industry generated a total economic impact of \$4.8 billion, supporting over 50,000 jobs and \$1.5 billion in wages. I was shocked at these figures. Too many times we feel isolated, when in fact we are a key industry. The message of the day was not just the employment and revenues created by golf, but also the tourism that it generates, the charities that it benefits, and the environmental leadership our industry provides. Which brings us to my presentation. *Insert nervousness.*

I started by introducing myself as the representative of all the men and women that manage all the amazing courses that had been described. People responsible for maintaining open green space and the oxygen it provides, at the same time that they provide the opportunity for recreation in a beautiful setting. I spoke of the playing conditions we maintain even during difficult growing seasons. I detailed the environmental responsibility we exercise when applying plant protectants, nutrients and irrigation. I explained how improvements to our courses create wildlife habitat, control erosion, enhance wetlands, and filter floodwaters. I felt confident that I explained the science behind golf course

management and thanked the audience on behalf of MAGCS. *3 minutes 10 seconds.*

I was pleasantly surprised when Governor Quinn took the podium and echoed the same topics that I had described as important to the environment. I felt he understood the message the coalition was trying to convey and the true impact to the economy of Illinois. This may help influence legislation crucial to the vitality of our industry. I hope that this event will become an annual Golf Day, and I'm thankful that I was a part of the inaugural event.

I want to thank the membership for giving me the opportunity to serve as President of the Midwest. It was an honor and a privilege I will never forget. I am grateful for the opportunity to have served with professional ladies and gentlemen that have worked hard for the members over the last five years. Special thanks to Luke Cella for continuing to elevate this association to the highest level. Thank you to all that have contributed to *On Course* and to the hosts of our monthly events. We all owe a great deal of gratitude to our corporate sponsors. Thank you for your contributions to the association and support of the membership.

Finally, to my wife, Robyn; to my kids, Kelli, RJ, and Kyra; and to the staff at Fox Bend for continually making me look better than I am, Thank You!

Happy Holidays!

Bob **-OC**

Bob Kohlstedt shares a table with Illinois Governor, Pat Quinn and other association leaders from the PGA, CDGA, and IJGA who collectively hosted the Illinois Golf Day.



FEATURE
Luke Cella, CGCS, MAGCS

U.S. Loses Ryder Cup; Tyrrell, Crew, Medinah, Chicago, and Golf Win



Curtis Tyrrell addressed the staff and volunteers each morning before the operation began.

Certainly there are some that would like to erase the memory of the 2012 Ryder Cup, as Americans we know who those people are. But for the Europeans, and golf itself, the Ryder Cup was delightful. I encountered more than one person who explained to me how glued to their TVs they were on Sunday, claiming it was the most exciting sporting event they have ever seen. The most curious part of this is that they never watch golf. That makes the loss a little easier to bear, especially when I joked with European volunteers on Saturday night of the tournament week that the event was pretty much over for them. All both sides hoped for was a couple of early European wins on Sunday to keep the crowd and world somewhat interested in the event. When it was all said and done, I didn't feel bad the American team lost, because golf won bigger than anyone could have imagined, planned, or expected, and it happened in our front yard, conducted by one of our own Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS MG.

I'm an early bird and that was reinforced tournament week with my arising each morning around 3:30 a.m. to make the 5:00 a.m. starting time at the grounds department. I have to say I never had problems popping out of bed. Curtis had over a hundred volunteers, the majority of positions filled by Midwest members, a small contingent of Europeans, and a group of students from Penn State. We were all impressed

with our uniforms, three different colored shirts that rotated depending on the day of the week, (one of my larger stress issues each morning, what color shirt was I supposed to wear today?), a really nice rain suit and a black hat. All were instructed to wear khaki colored pants and show up on time for your slated slot(s).

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Each morning and afternoon the managers met and discussed the plan for the coming maintenance, tweaking it in the process. The whiteboard behind Curtis read "Congrats! We made it. HAVE FUN but focus."



Each morning the teams assembled together in the maintenance compound and learned their tasks for their coming shift.



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Moving around the course sometimes proved difficult for the maintenance crew once the crowds were let into the gates.



The maintenance crew drove in together after morning set up to avoid the crowds and keep noise to a minimum once TV coverage began.

Curtis created a team and not only led it, but took charge by setting an example that all wanted to follow. His team consisted of his Superintendents, Jim Wallace, Jake Mendoza and Ross Laubscher and his Equipment Manager Paul Barousse. Other key employees, included his Assistants Dane Wilson, Ryan Cummings, Justin Gladhill, Chris Funke, and Admin Assistant Carrie Kirchow who all took direction and ran with it. Certainly his team was rounded out by his other 80 employees or so bringing the total of bodies to nearly 200. It reminded me of a head coach of an NFL team. Curtis started each morning with a prayer and then a pep talk to get the troops going. He followed these by introducing a well thought and calculated game plan leaving room to call audibles along the way to deal with the unknown. It could certainly be compared to a symphony of sorts, but I have no idea what a composer has to do to prepare for a symphony.

Every staff member and volunteer was put on one of fifteen teams. Each team was responsible for some type of process on several holes each morning, afternoon or evening. For example, Jim Wallace's hole set up team (one of three) started on 13 green each morning. They took care of the dew whipping, green mowing, hand raking of bunkers, blowing and rolling of the green, hole setting, watering (bluegrass and green if needed). On a side note, each green was probed with a TDI meter for moisture levels and hand watered if needed. Jim started on 13 because of the layout of the course and

the noise produced by the crews. It was all set, so when the players teed off on one, they'd be far away from the action.

There were six mowing teams that took care of tees, fairways, surrounds, and some areas in the rough. Other teams filled divots, dew whipped, raked fairway bunkers, and blew and raked leaves (yes, the leaves started to fall thanks to a couple of hard frosts the prior week.) Two of the other teams took care of the putting green and driving range. In the evening, bunkers were fly-mowed, surrounds hand mowed, the rough cut. I was there late on Friday, away from any fans and hubbub and the peace that each of you find on your course that time of day was even there as the sun set and chill fell.

All in all, the volunteers did the majority of what I would deem low-level tasks, not unimportant but let's just say we all knew we were there for any trouble that may come in the form of inclement weather. Curtis' staff had been running the drill weeks prior and had it dialed in by the time the event rolled around. Hole set up was documented to the minute and calculated by the proximity of play. Those volunteers that got in the groove made an impact with bunker raking, filling divots, dew whipping, blowing clippings picked up by the greens rollers, and in general a lot of standing around talking about the process that was going on and how tight the place looked. If you ask the leaders, we did make a little difference in the timing by speeding up the process. Curtis took the time to create an intricate schedule rotation for each of the volunteers. He set it up so each saw most of the golf course,

(continued on page 9)

A retrofitted walking greensmower with brush combed the collars to create a difference in color of turf so the players could discern when they were on the putting surface.

The evening shifts consisted of fly-mowing bunker surrounds, leaf clean up and touch up work.



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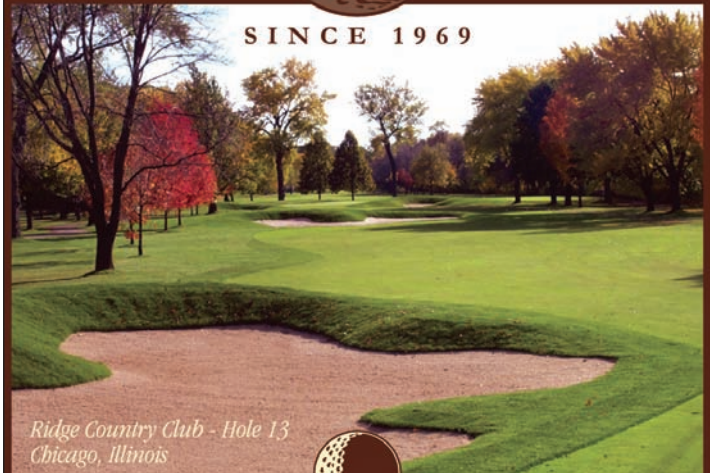
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Leaf clean up became an issue with the early hard frosts in September and crews were sent out to get them out of play.



Superintendents Ross Laubscher and Jim Wallace look over the set up on a putting green as fans pick their spots to wait for play.

working on a different set of holes with each shift, and even doing different tasks throughout the week. This attention to detail was appreciated by all the volunteers and kept each one of us fresh, motivated, and curious to see what we would be doing the following shift.

After set up on a hole was complete, the last step in the process was a walk through by either Curtis or Ross, or sometimes both of them. With their trained eyes, they would make sure everything was correct before turning the hole over to play. Once this occurred, the crew was cut loose to start on their next hole or head back in for rest. Each morning, the crew congregated by the 16th hole and headed in as a group down Medinah Road. The last hole set up was 15 as play had already begun. There was no way to get the crew through the course back to maintenance facility other than down the street. Standing, watching the crew come past, gave insight to the scale of the event. Over 80 vehicles caravanned down the Medinah Road past the pointing fans who were waiting to get through the main gate.

Looking back, this was another item that was different at the Ryder Cup from other events that I've worked. Because of the schedule of play and the limited number of viewing sites, it was very common for us to be doing course set up each morning in front of fans as they camped out, sometimes hours prior to play. I noticed many of them became excited to see the crew, often pointing at each process that took place. They were interested in seeing the crew mow the greens, and the skills demonstrated especially when changing direction on

the turning mats. The fans were intrigued by the rollers and could only guess what the staff was measuring with the TDI meters. I suppose if one was wearing really good set of noise cancelling headphones and listening to Bach or Beethoven, the work was like a symphony. Each task could be put to music as everything was measured and calculated (even the volunteers leaning on their rakes and shifting their weight to the other side) ending in a quiet exit underneath the ropes. The whole process allowed the fans, often the golfers that support our profession, the opportunity to see what gets done not only for a tournament, but everyday at their own places of play many hours before they arrive. It was an added benefit that lets the public see the expertise and talent of our profession.

One audible that was incorporated into the daily routine was to brush the collars each morning. After the first practice round, the players commented they were having trouble seeing the difference between green and collar. The mowing height between collar and green height is not that much different on Course 3. Because a golfer can mark and lift their ball on the green, not on the collar, something needed to be done to delineate between the two. I thought for sure they were just being overly sensitive, but after looking at a collar or two, it was tough to see the difference. Curtis and crew knew the solution and it implemented as one of the last items accomplished after green complex set up; each collar was brushed with retrofitted mower to create a contrast between collar and green. It worked perfectly.

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The putting surfaces got a quick shot of water if needed after everything was set. It was nice to have enough staff around so the hose didn't drag across the putting surface after it was mowed and rolled and ready for play.

When the Stimpmeter came out, everyone took notice like the group of volunteer marshals behind the green.

Medinah staff member Victor Garcia, prepares his cup cutter with care in the early morning.



The Stimpmeter drew a lot of attention. I often laughed every time the Stimpmeter was used; those in the crowd (usually the marshals and other volunteers) took immediate notice and wanted to know what they were rolling. Fast and true was the answer quickly given, and those that knew the meter is three feet long saw it flip comfortably 4.5 times could do the math, I think.

It is hard to describe the enormity of the event. Each day I traveled around the course and property, there was always something new that I saw that I didn't think about before that had to be planned, managed, set-up or maintained. There were 43.5 acres of temporary roof provided by the villas, tents and other structures (A new PGA record). The first course I managed was only slightly larger than that, and that includes the parking lot! There were over 23,000 stakes and other implements driven into the ground since June. Only 18 times did something get hit, kudos to Jake Mendoza for his coordinating this underground feat. There were grandstands on 11 holes, stakes, ropes, waste receptacles, first aid stations, portable toilets (players' are much nicer than the common folks), portable cell towers, generators, cables, cranes, cameras and more cameras. Sky TV (Euro TV's coverage) telecast the event in 3D and duplicated NBC's/ESPN's cameras, all in all there were over 60 TV towers. Those were the things I saw on the course, behind the scenes there was so much more. By far, this was the biggest build the PGA had ever done for one event.

Crowds were estimated at over 40,000 each day. Ryder Cup spectator golf is different than other golf tournaments; there is a lot of waiting to see golf. Those who had multiple day tickets learned the best place to camp out was as close to the ropes as they could find and in sight of one of the many large TV monitors and not too far from the beer vendors and portable toilets. For all, the payoff was worth it, when the players come through and the throng that followed. Some of the villas didn't look too bad for viewing either with their array of drinks, food and flat panel TVs.

Each morning started out as everyday for the main crew at Medinah CC with a manager's meeting in the conference room. As any great leader, Curtis used this time to listen to the guys on the ground and make tweaks to the battle plan as a team. From there it was off to the tent where the volunteers and crew assembled awaiting directions. On the first day of play, during the morning meeting, Curtis thanked

his leaders for working so hard up to this point and gave them all the credit for the course the world now say. He explained he had often thought over the past five years of what he would say to the larger group had just one word and that was an emotional and genuine "Thank you." He then got the group pumped up with all joining in a "USA, USA, USA" chant. It's been a long road for the staff and crew at Medinah, starting five years ago when Curtis landed the superintendent role. Not many will know the real extent of the event, but that's what happens when someone in the lead leads.

Curtis and crew finally caught a break. The weather that week was perfect for any outdoor activity, let alone a consecutive 3-day event in front of the world. The Americans lost all right; but golf won, and Chicago golf won even greater. This was my fourth go-round volunteering at a major golf event. It is a great place to be, inside the ropes being part of the team – that's how everyone felt, no matter what task he or she did each day. The golf community came together for golf's biggest show.

As David Feherty put it before the first ball was even struck, "The Ryder Cup is the greatest event in golf." He went on to explain, "Davis (Love) has not only set up the course for the players but set it up for the crowd, as much as the players." Feherty likes the crowd at the Ryder Cup because collectively it is a bit like him. He explained, "they (the fans) are not to be quiet, not to be partisan, we are going to see a lot of birdies, a lot of great shots, as well as a lot of awful shots, some of the most awful shots you've ever seen, because that's what the Ryder Cup does." I think he nailed it; there was some really great golf and some really bad golf, but just not what the USA expected.

When we experience something inside the ropes, our outlook changes. We are in the know to an extent and that is what makes life interesting. In the weeks following the Ryder Cup, I can't tell you how many conversations I had with golfers and non-golfers alike about the event. In fact, people still ask me about it and want me to share my experience with them. I am thankful for the experience that I had, and I know it didn't even put a nick in the surface of all that truly went on for the past two years leading up to the event. I'm grateful to have been a part of it. **-OC**



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MIDWEST BREEZES

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



Fall has always been a great time for golf courses to embark on improvement projects. They can benefit the turf growth and create upgrades to facilities for the coming season. Our Members have been taking full advantage of the favorable weather and have been very busy.

Chris Pekarek of the Village Links of Glen Ellyn has been involved in a major clubhouse and practice area expansion project. "We are basically doubling the size of our existing clubhouse. We will improve our food service to be able to accommodate larger outings, weddings and other special events." The improvements will increase the clubhouse size, making it possible to host events serving over 150 people. The project includes a full bar with a seating capacity of 40. A new dining room, new restrooms, and a new patio are also included. The expansion of the parking lot required the existing putting greens be removed and relocated. The new practice putting green will be 9400 square feet. The first tee on the nine-hole course had to be moved to accommodate the expansion. While they were at it, Village Links looked to increase the size of their driving range tee from 1.25 acres to over 2 acres. The new tee will be sodded with low-mow bluegrass and be ready for play in 2013. The total cost of the work will be \$6.3 million.

Chuck Barber tells us that St. Charles Country Club recently completed installation of XGD drainage on three greens with drainage challenges. "The goal was to help get water off of the older push up greens. It was very impressive how quickly and efficiently they completed the work." They started on Monday and were finished by Friday. It took about a day and a half for each 5000-square-foot green. A 6-inch width of sod is removed and a trench is dug. The pipe they install is a 2-inch, micro-slit, perforated pipe that connects to an exterior port, which connects to existing drainage. The sod that's removed is stacked to the side during the work and is replaced in its original location. The putting quality after the project is uncompromised.

Don Cross of Skokie Country Club has been overseeing work on expanding fairway landing areas. Rather than using purchased sod, which is expensive and looks noticeably different when installed, Don chose vegetative propagation, a method he has used many times. "It is highly successful, relatively quick, inexpensive, and most importantly, the resulting turf is an exact match to the turf species in the 'donor' area." Don first removes the bluegrass rough from the expansion area. He then core aerates healthy fairway areas and harvests the plugs. The plugs are laid out, two to three deep, in the expansion area and then rolled, dimpled, fertilized, and watered. This tried and proven method looks the same, performs the same, and saves money. **-OC**

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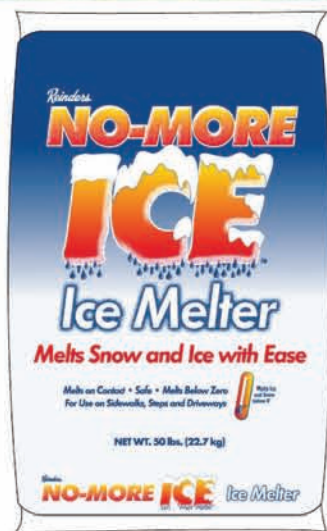
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THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



NOVEMBER 2012

Next month on the 4th and 5th, the Annual Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium will again take place in Kohler, WI at the American Club. This is always a fun and educational getaway for us lowlanders, and this year's theme "What's In Your Tank?" promises to hold up the strong tradition. Highlighting the event will be the keynote address, given by North Shore Country Club's **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** on Tuesday afternoon. Also presenting in the symposium will be GCSAA Field Staff Rep John Miller, USGA agronomist **Bob Vavrek**, and MAGCS member **Scott Verdun** of Kenosha Country Club. For registration information, contact Shelley Mazurek at (800) 287-9645, or go to www.wgcsa.com.

On October 4th, The Club at Strawberry Creek and superintendent **Matt Kregel** hosted the Chicagoland Turf/Turf Ventures annual customer appreciation day. Traditionally a fun and relaxed day of golf and fellowship, this year's rendition didn't disappoint with Matt and his crew providing a perfect golf course for all who ventured over the Cheese Curtain (or should it be **through** the Cheese Curtain?) (I mean, typically if you go over a curtain, that means the curtain is probably on the ground where curtains typically aren't found) Let's go with through instead of over; but I digress. It was fun, and I was able to glean a couple interesting things from the experience: First, I am a really bad golfer, and the fescue areas on Matt's course are now MUCH more populated with my Callaways. Second, **Randy Lusher** and **Tom Prichard** are long-lost twin brothers who were reunited at the event

(continued on next page)

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 14 – 60th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club, **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS, MG, Ross Laubscher, Jake Mendoza, and Jim Wallace** hosts.

November 27-30 – Second Annual Golfdom Summit at the Reunion Resort in Orlando, FL. Register at www.golfdom-summit.com.

November 30 – Deadline for nominations for the 2012 TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta.

December 3 – Annual Southside Superintendents Holiday Party at the Bier Stube, Frankfort. Contact Matt Harstad or Ed Esgar for the details.

December 4-5 – The 2012 Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium at the American Club in Kohler, WI.

December 4-6 – Annual Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Conference and Show at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, OH. Go to www.otfshow.org for information.

December 11 – Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS) Holiday Lunch at Pinstripes in Northbrook.

December 11-13 – 2012 Asia Pacific Golf Summit at the Empire Hotel & Country Club in Brunei Darussalam. Go to www.golfconference.org for all the details.

December 13 – Annual West Side Superintendents Holiday Party at Seven Bridges Golf Club, **Don Ferreri** and **Dave Gelino** hosts.

January 8-9 – Illinois Turfgrass Foundation Turf Conference at the Hyatt Lodge in Oak Brook, IL. Go check out www.iturf.org for all the goods.

January 23-26 – 60th Annual PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando, FL. The week all of our pro shops are locked up.

Midwest Core Sponsorship

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS) has an easy to navigate sponsor package aptly named, Midwest Core Company Sponsors, to further recognize and enhance the partnership among the Midwest member and you. At the center Midwest are companies that support the industry through sponsorship, advertising and partnership.

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All Core Company Sponsor packages include the Midwest's key support opportunities, *On Course* Magazine, MAGCS Monthly Meetings and the Midwest Hospitality Reception.

On Course Magazine

All Core Company Sponsor levels include 12 months of advertising in *On Course*, one of the leading local and most read publications. *On Course* is one of the key membership benefits and is highly valued by its readers and other key golf course professionals each month.

Core Company Sponsor packages represent a minimum size advertisement for each corresponding level. Because advertising is a complex process, the Midwest will work with each company to meet specific advertising needs.

MAGCS Monthly Meetings

The Midwest conducts a meeting nearly every month at different venues throughout the geographic area. These meetings are all centered on education and networking.

Core Company Sponsors are recognized through several outlets for each meeting including: email, web, onsite signage, printed material and verbal communications.

Midwest Hospitality Reception

All Core Company Sponsor levels include sponsorship of the annual Midwest Hospitality Reception. In conjunction with the Golf Industry Show, this event is one of the most popular and best attended events each year.

This event grows better and better each year offering attendees fantastic local flavors of both food and drink. The Reception is the highlight and most memorable event of the Golf Industry Show for Midwest members. The 2013 Hospitality Reception will take place on February 6, 2013 on the rooftop deck of Hotel Solamar in San Diego. Make sure you are a part of it.

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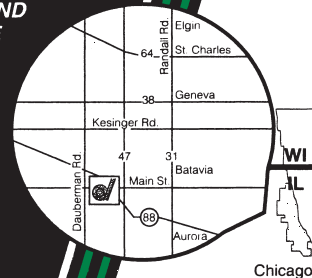
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Randy Lusher and Tom Prichard

Third, Craig Lewis's daughter Katie definitely got her good looks from her mother.



Craig and Katie Lewis

Added bonus: Chatting with Matt and a skinny guy named Jay, not realizing he was one of the club's developers and owners, and a former All-Pro Chicago Bears center with the last name Hilgenberg. Duh!

We gave it the ol' college try... On October 22nd the MAGCS college teams gathered at Calumet Country Club to contest the Annual College Championship. **Matt Harstad** and **Adam Lencke** and staff had the course primped and prepped and good to go, but alas, Mother Nature had her say in things, deciding that October 22nd was going to be the day the drought ended. The rain started about an hour before the shotgun start was planned, and it never stopped. Although no golf was played that day, a great gathering of the participants in the men's grill room did take place, making the trip more than worthwhile. Thanks to Matt and everyone at Calumet for hosting, as well as to our sponsors for their generosity, who were **Arthur Clesen, Inc., Burris**

Equipment Company, Nels J Johnson Tree Experts, Reinders Inc., and Syngenta Professional Products.

The good news is we are trying to rebook with them for an event next year.

.....
 This month, 63 years ago, the Bull Sheet ran the following public service announcement: IT IS WITH PROFOUND REGRET THAT WE INFORM YOU THAT THERE IS NO SANTA CLAUS. Those guys running MAGCS back in '49 were a serious lot. It was also reported that Chicago district golf courses spent over one MILLION dollars on maintenance in 1949. That's ALL Chicago district golf courses combined.

.....
 Congratulations to Shelleigh and Mike Skopik (Leibold Irrigation) on the birth of their 5-pound, 15-ounce, 19-inch long bouncing baby daughter Sydney Michaela on October 17th.

.....
 Growing Solutions is pleased and proud to introduce their newest team member **James M. Keith, CGCS**, former superintendent at St. Charles Country Club. Good luck, Jimmy on your new endeavor.

.....
 Also on the move is **Brent Miles**, formerly at Nettle Creek Country Club (and a co-worker of mine MANY moons ago), who is now the new superintendent at Green Garden Country Club in Frankfort, IL. The best of luck to Brent in the new position.

.....
 Q: If the turf scientist at Golf House bought a winter coat, what would it be filled with?

A: Derek Settle down.

.....
 Recently BASF announced that it will move its education program for turf and ornamental professionals closer to the North American headquarters of its agricultural products business unit. The new program will bring customers to Pinehurst Resort, and will include an educational and recreational component, and allow for visits to BASF research and development facilities in Research Triangle Park and Holly Springs, NC. The move away from Farmlinks expects to bring approximately 350 end users annually to Pinehurst to learn about its products. The new program will begin in January, 2013.

.....
 Just caught the movie "Office Space" on cable the other day, and realized something remarkable. Not only can **Dan Charlton** keep a great golf course, as he does so at Evanston Golf Club; he's also a pretty dang good actor. PLUS he got to snuggle up with Jennifer Aniston as a bonus. Want that job!



Dan Charlton



Ron Livingston?

.....
 (continued on page 20)

For the second consecutive month I regretfully must report the passing of a turf industry icon. C. Reed Funk, Ph.D., the former Rutgers University turf breeder responsible for the development of hundreds of cultivars of cool-season grasses, died on October 4th at the age of 84. Among the many awards and honors bestowed on him, Mr. Funk was recipient of GCSAA's Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award in 1979, and the USDA Distinguished Service Award for agricultural research in 1990.

Mark your calendars for January 8th and 9th, when the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation will hold its Turf Conference at the Hyatt Lodge on the Hamburger University campus in Oak Brook, IL. All information, including a printable conference program and registration form can be found at the new and improved iturf.org website. Go there now!

As inevitable as the changing of the seasons, another golf season has come and gone. The leaves have been cleaned up, the pipes drained, and the courses all put to bed. And of course there's the REALLY important stuff—the end of all the golf leagues and the final matchups between leagues for the ultimate bragging rights. In the case of the Fox Valley Golf League, which played its 19th season this summer, the bid to retain the Cheryl Cup (yes, there is a story, but not here) over offshoot rival Homeless League (and yes again, there is a story about that, too) was once again a success, and "The Cheryl" is in her rightful home again.

The victorious team included: Front row—Paul Carlson, Steve Stewart, Todd Schmitz, Jan Jarvis, Gil Velazquez and Rusty Stachlewitz. Back row—Aaron Reinhart, Chuck Anfield, Chad Rotert, John Gurke, Eric Nadler, and Brian Winkel

The American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) has announced its first "Design Excellence Recognition Program" honorees, and of the six American projects cited, two are local AND were designed by MAGCS members. Receiving the honors were Bowes Creek Country Club (**Brad Legnaioli**, CGCS superintendent) in Elgin and architect **Rick Jacobson** as well as Phillips Park Golf Course (**Todd Schmitz** superintendent) in Aurora and architect **Greg Martin**. Congratulations to Rick and Greg on this impressive honor.



Rick Jacobson



Greg Marin



Another calendar marker: The two big holiday parties are nearly upon us, and here are the particulars. The Annual West Side Superintendents gathering will happen on Thursday, December 13th at Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge, IL (Don Ferreri and Dave Gelino hosts). Cocktails start at 11:30 followed by lunch at noon. As always, poker will be available to any and all players. Cost for this one—a mere \$35. The South Side Superintendents bash will happen at its traditional location—Chef Klaus Bier Stube in Frankfort, IL—on the 3rd of December at 11:30. Cost for the feast is \$40 (and you will NOT go home hungry).



The GCSAA Education Conference brochure is now available online at www.golfindustryshow.com. The brochure includes all event schedules, sessions, presentations, and registration forms (registration is now open), and gives you the opportunity to save it to your desktop, print a PDF, and access it from your smart phone. The Conference will take place in San Diego, CA from Feb. 4-8, 2013.

If you are considering becoming a CGCS, you can now keep your certification portfolio online through OneFile, an online assessment tool for GCSAA members to use when applying

to the program. Users of this option will incur a \$25 user fee which will be credited back toward the application fee. Information can be found at www.gcsaa.org.

Calling all ice hockey players of ALL skill levels (even NO skill level is ok)—if you're looking to get a little exercise this winter, come on out and skate with your fellow MAGCS members on Thursdays at the Addison Ice Rink. It's purely recreation, so no teeth will be lost, PLUS it has a bar overlooking the ice, so really no more needs to be said. Call **Matt Harstad** at 708-921-2858 or **Dave Blomquist** at 219-871-4073 for details.

Equipment For Sale:

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- 1- Toro Hydroject with 860 hours—\$1,500.

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NEWS FROM ALLIED GROUPS
Don Ferreri, *Seven Bridges Golf Club*



Chapter Delegates Update

I recently attended the chapter delegate meeting in Lawrence, KS the weekend of October 5-7. Many key items were discussed. One item that we all should be aware of is the new schedule for the National Championship and Golf Classic in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show. This event will take place the Sunday through Tuesday in San Diego of GIS week. This member's only event is an unparalleled opportunity to connect with your peers, learn new techniques and practices from your fellow members, and build lasting relationships. If you have not participated in this in the past and have interest, 2013 may be the year to try. The following is a condensed update provided by GCSAA to all chapter delegates after the meeting.

The What and the Why

"It is important that our members know the 'what' and 'why' of GCSAA efforts, but it is equally important that we hear what our members have to say," GCSAA President Sandy Queen said. "We cannot make decisions or shape policy without that feedback. That is why I am so pleased that there was debate on what was presented. I continue to be impressed with the quality of representatives the chapters send to the meeting."

Queen noted that prior chapter delegate feedback helped formulate the new conference and show schedule, implement free GCSAA webcasts and restructure the annual meeting. Discussion this year will be utilized to "tweak" certain aspects of the Rounds 4 Research program, study the GCSAA Chapter Affiliation Agreement and help the board of directors and staff prioritize programs and services.

Chapter Affiliation Deliberated

One of the most lively discussions regarded the GCSAA Chapter Affiliation Agreement, specifically Class A conformity between GCSAA and chapters in terms of membership classification. Ultimately, the board of directors opted to extend the current affiliation agreement to give the association and chapters an additional year to collect data and do further study on the issue.

The extension was also granted to give the association time to analyze the report of the Membership Standards Advisory Group. For the past nine months, this independent

panel of members has been studying the impact of the professional development initiative (PDI) that resulted in the creation of membership standards. The MSAG presented

(more photos on page 25)

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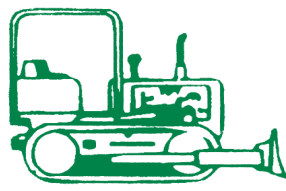
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to the delegates its findings that PDI had been successful with increased advocacy with policymakers, the creation of the IPM requirement, expanded education opportunities that were accessible and affordable, and improved playing conditions. It did note that the faltering economy and the cost and time necessary to affect change through a public relations campaign worked against the program.

Recommendations focused on membership conformity, simplifying membership classifications, and strengthening the requirements for Class A status and items to help market it.

Dues Increase Up for Vote

The association presented a proposed dues increase that will be voted on at the annual meeting in February in San Diego. The vote will be to increase dues \$25 for Class A and SM members, and \$15 for Class C members, making annual dues \$365 and \$185, respectively. The increase is a combination of a \$15 increase (for Class A/SM) based on the Consumer Price Index and \$10 (for Class A/SM) to compensate for GCSAA's group life insurance premium being doubled by the provider.

The Bottom Line

GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Rhett Evans shared the association's invest-recover-grow strategy that has shaped the association's budgeting philosophy for the past two years. He described how funds have been invested in new programs such as field staff, Rounds 4 Research, web technology, advocacy and other areas to better serve the members. Giving time to allow these programs to gain traction will ultimately help stabilize association operations.

Evans indicated that staff will present a balanced budget to the board in December, but will pull some funds from the association's reserve just as it has done in the past. Among the new items in the budget will be funds to complete the

filling of field staff, pay for headquarters facility improvements and add technology resources. The Mid-Atlantic and the Southeast regions are the remaining two regions without field staff. The facility improvement plan, announced earlier this fall, focuses on necessary structural repairs and enhancing the efficiency of the building. In all, expenses for the project are expected to be approximately \$1.9 million.

"We are by no means out of the woods when it comes to our financial challenges," Evans said. "Golf has had some struggles. But I believe we have been prudent in what we have done to weather the storm and are positioned for continued success."


Tooting Your Horn

Among the more popular presentations were those that demonstrated how GCSAA resources were being used to advocate on behalf of members. Staff outlined the various government relations activities and the importance of members meeting with federal, state and local lawmakers to be heard on policy decisions. Various examples of GCSAA media placements on television, in print, on the web and on the radio were shared as well. Evans pointed out that NGF studies continue to place a premium on GCSAA members for their role in driving golfer satisfaction and facility success. He said that reaching out to key influencers such as employers, avid golfers and policy makers will continue to be a priority for the association.

On Deck

Chapter delegates will convene on February 7 at 2:30 p.m. for the association's annual meeting in San Diego, held in conjunction with the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show.

I will also be updating the membership at the Midwest's Annual Meeting and the January Meeting prior to the GIS. **-OC**




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