

# ON COURSE

THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

October 2012

## Calumet Country Club

Matthew Harstad

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents  
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Midwest Turf Clinic Turns 60

The Glen Club Bunker Project

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OCTOBER 2012 Volume 66 No. 6



Calumet Country Club is the host site of the 2012 MAGCS College Championship. Matt Harstad and Dave Sievers will prepare the course for this annual event. Good Luck to all competitors.

#### FRONT COVER

The tenth hole at Calumet Country Club is a short par 4 for today's standards, 485 from the tips but the green is heavily protected by a small grove of trees on the left side. Set up your approach shot with a well centered second and you'll have access to the putting 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.

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DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Matt Kregel, *The Golf Club at Strawberry Creek*



# When do Traditions Start? Certainly Before 60 Years

*What else can one say about 2012 that hasn't already been said. Can you believe that we experienced and survived it? I always thought that the Midwest had some of the best superintendents in the country and this year we were truly able to shine. Job well done to all my fellow keepers of the green.*

The 60th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic is fast approaching. Can you believe that this great educational opportunity is turning 60? That is quite a remarkable accomplishment. The education committee has prepared a strong educational program for the day. Mark your calendars for November 14, 2012 at Medinah Country Club.

Chicago's very own turf doctor, Dr. Derek Settle, will talk about the year that was 2012. He also has formed a panel of local experts that he worked with over the year to talk about their on course findings and experiences. The panel includes fellow superintendents, Tim Christians, Brad Chamra, Scott Pavalko, and USGA Agronomist Bob Vavrek.

Dr. Rick Latin, Purdue University, one of the leading authorities on bacterial wilt will be on hand discussing that very topic. Is it for real and do we need to be concerned about it?

Steve Cook, CGCS, MG, will be in attendance discussing everyone's favorite weed, those that have gone hard, trees. Are they good, bad or indifferent? What were they thinking when they planted so many. How has the course changed with the maturity of these weeds.

Dr. Nick Christians, Iowa State University, is slated to talk on the drought of 2012 and what was involved in keeping

turf alive in the brutal heat and lack of rain. Water management will be a key proponent of this talk.

The keynote address will be from Chicago Bear Tom Thayer. For the past 16 years, Tom has been one of the voices of Bears radio on WBBM. Let's hope that come mid-November there still is plenty of excitement and buzz in the air concerning football in Chicago.

Don't forget about President Kohlstedt's year in review, chapter elections and the numerous awards that are given out on this day.

The education committee is always looking for ideas/topics for education and speakers for our monthly meetings. Please pass along that information and we will reach out to that individual. Along the same lines, *On Course* is always looking for content for its monthly publication. We encourage you to contribute to your magazine. It can be turf related or something completely off the wall. Get the creative juices flowing and be heard.

Happy aerating to all and I hope many will have irrigation systems winterized and snow mold protection applied when we meet on November 14, 2012 at Medinah Country Club for the 60th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic. **-OC**

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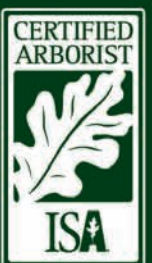
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FEATURE I

Billy Sharp, *Chicago Highlands Club*



# From Landfill to Landmark: Chicago Highlands Club

*Nearly a decade ago, all one could see from I-294 & Cermak Road was a flat, over-grown native area that happened to be one of the area's largest landfills of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The average person would have never imagined that the area would be transformed into one of "Golf Digest's Top New Courses in 2010," or that the spectacular ninth hole would be named "Golf Digest's Hole of the Year" that same year. At present, anyone driving on I-294 is not able to see any of the golf course because Earth Inc. is in the final stages of completing a giant berm to block out all traffic noise from the busy highway. Even when driving on 31<sup>st</sup> street, one can barely make out the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> hole because of the giant fescue hills that "ebb and flow" throughout the Scottish-Links style course in Westchester, IL.*

The entire project started back in 2003 when Arthur Hills was hired to help design the course. Hills was retained by John Baxter, Tom Healy, and Joe Hills, the owners and managing partners of Chicago Highlands. Together, they had a vision to create a family oriented country club with a golf course that was unlike any other in the area, let alone in the Midwest.

With a preliminary plan in place, they broke ground and began clearing all of the vegetation that covered the ground. After that, the trucks started to roll and still have not stopped. To date, nearly 1.4 million cubic feet of soil has been trucked in to the property. This created the drastic and scenic 95-foot elevation change on the course. The highest point is the 9<sup>th</sup>

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green and the lowest point is 31<sup>st</sup> street. The amount of fill that has been brought in is astounding; a standard semi-truck holds approximately 10 cubic yards of soil. All this equated to nearly 125,000 trucks that have dumped on the property, and it is estimated another 30,000 loads will be required to complete the berm along I-294. After the course was shaped, seeding took place with A-1 bentgrass on greens and Authority bentgrass on tees and fairways. Native areas were seeded with a mixture of Chewings, Hard, and Rescue fescue species and varieties. After grow in, the course opened in the Spring of 2010.

In the present state of our industry, many new courses are not being built and renovations to older courses are scarce. As we slowly recover from the recession, the facility is slowly emerging as envisioned by its backers. Chicago Highlands has been a surprise to many, both by design and the timing in which it was constructed. Being a “zero-debt” club, it is still in the process of building the membership to 250 before construction begins on the clubhouse. Though the club is still in its infancy stage, the growing reputation has

caught the eye of many golf fanatics in the Chicagoland area.

Coming from Wynstone Golf Club, a high-end private club and gated community located in North Barrington, I was used to the traditional upkeep of a “parkland” style course. I never had experience on a “Scottish links” style course. I knew I was in for a bit of a culture shock but didn’t realize how much until I really began working at Chicago Highlands. During the tour I was given for my interview, I was completely overwhelmed by the immensity of the layout. Though the greens were covered and there was a bit of snow on the course (the bit that we actually got this past winter), I was still able to decipher the difficulty of the course and could only imagine what it would be like during the peak season. After I accepted the Assistant Superintendent position this past April, I knew I had to adjust to a new role and new environment simultaneously.

The first real difference I noticed as the course emerged from winter was the fact there are no trees, except for a small natural area between holes 5 and 12. Not only does this help with air circulation and increasing sunlight, but also provides

*(continued on page 9)*





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spectacular views of the course and Chicago skyline. I've come from heavily wooded courses with giant Oak trees that prohibited sunlight and air movement. These trees were beautiful to frame the golf holes but also created maintenance nightmares after a severe storm and during the autumn season.

Another difference I realized as we started to maintain the bunkers. In my previous experiences bunkers were primarily edged every 2-3 weeks and a consistent lip was maintained for the sharp, crisp look to go along with the white angular sand that contrasted the green turf well. I was surprised to learn that we only edge bunkers once in the spring to rid the excess sand that has built up on the edges, and crisp lines are a thing of the past. This jumbled look gives the bunkers a natural, scruffy appearance found on links courses.

Managing large fescue areas is also new to me. These areas have become popular lately, as out of play or low maintenance areas at many courses that are aesthetically pleasing. Superintendents are using fescue areas with the intention

of "less input, more output." Often the only maintenance that happens is a complete mowing down at the end of the season and the pre/post herbicides applied in the spring.

The biggest change I've had to face is the wind. Yes I realize we are the "Windy City. But when the wind gets up to 30+ mph with gusts upwards of 40+, you'd better hang on for dear life. This is especially true when trying to putt on the 9<sup>th</sup> green.

Being a newer club in the area, I'm sure there is a lot of curiosity and questions about everything from turf variety to design and layout. Next time you're driving along I-294 and happen to look over at the giant fescue berm, you'll know that there is actually a golf course behind it. **-OC**

[Ed note: MAGCS Arrangements and Golf Committee has been talking with Superintendent Michael Heustis about hosting a meeting in the near future, stay tuned].



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FEATURE II

Scott Goniwiecha, *The Glen Club*

# The Glen Club Bunker Project



*The Glen Club is a Tom Fazio designed championship golf course located on a 195-acre piece of land in Glenview, Illinois. Some may know it as the former site of the Glenview Naval Air Station. The course opened in 2001 and has hosted seven Illinois Opens and numerous Nationwide Tour events.*

Throughout the brief history of The Glen Club, there have only been minor changes made to the golf course. The bunkers remained relatively untouched and were in need of some work. Being a Tom Fazio course, most of the bunkers have his usual steep sloping faces of sand, which look great, but washed out frequently. This movement of sand plus the regular wear and tear wreaked havoc on them. In their short lifespan they became contaminated with silt and p-stone. The p-stone created poor playing conditions and the silt clogged the pore space in the sand, which stopped the bunkers from draining properly. Even a medium sized precipitation event would leave a large pond of standing water in the bottom of many of them that would have to be pumped out. This, combined with the repairing of the washouts, resulted in a horrendous amount of labor after each rain. The need for a bunker renovation was a necessity.

In the summer of 2011, we decided to start with the greenside and approach bunkers and leave the fairway bunkers for later. The project entailed renovating a total of 39 bunkers, which covered approximately 52,000 square feet. The scope of the project included removal of all the old sand, the cleaning of the drainage pipe, installing new p-stone, installing a liner, adding new sand, and re-sodding the edges

of the bunker. Leibold Irrigation, Inc. was selected for the project, and work started the first week of October 2011.

We began each bunker by first marking out the entire area that was planned to be re-sodded. It was amazing once we started analyzing the bunker edges how much bunker area was actually lost over time. We typically re-sodded the entire bunker face and approximately two rows outside of these lines. After the sod was stripped, the sand removal began. The old material was hauled and dumped into one of our fescue rough areas. The Glen Club has over 70 acres of fescue rough, so finding a spot that was not in play and easily accessible was relatively easy. Once the old sand was removed the depth of the bunker changed dramatically. This was something that I was not expecting and had to adjust my plans. I only budgeted to install an average depth of five inches of new bunker sand. When the old sand was removed, often there was a cavity that was two times larger than the original had existed. To resolve this issue this shortfall of sand and dollar quantities, the contractor recommended to dig a hole where we were dumping the old sand and use the native soil to lessen the depth of each bunker that was too deep.

*(continued on page 13)*



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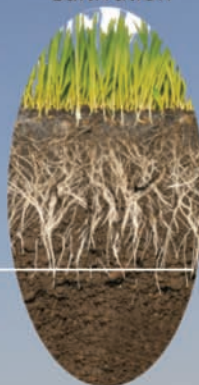
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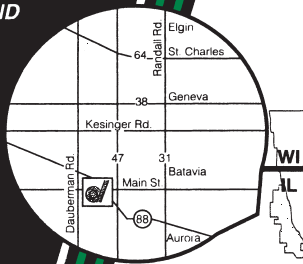
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At this point all the drainage lines were exposed, so the next step was to remove all the p-stone and discard it with the old sand. Then the drainage pipe was disconnected and brought outside of the bunker to be cleaned thoroughly. We also wanted to make sure that all the drainage lines leaving the bunkers were draining properly so they were flushed with water. Once they were certain that everything was working, the pipe was placed back into the trenches and backfilled with new p-stone.

After the drainage system was completed, the installation of the bunker liner followed. Throughout the many meetings before the bunker project was approved by my supervisors, the most questioned item was the need for a liner. By talking to many different superintendents, and researching all the different kinds of liners, we decided to go with the SandMat 350 white fabric liner. The main reason we chose this option was to correct the issues that had plagued the original bunkers. It was important to keep the bunker sand in place and to prevent the migration of larger stone particles into the bunker sand. Most important to the success of the project was to reduce labor costs associated with washouts and maintenance. Purchasing and installing the SandMat added a large expense to the project, but one, I felt was worthwhile.

Once the liner was installed and stapled down, the new bunker sand was added. Of all the different options of bunker sand that are available, we narrowed our choices down to the Steep Face Bunker Sand and the Best Tour Grade Bunker Sand. We selected these two sands because of their

angular properties. We knew the shape would help to keep the sand on our severely sloped bunker faces in place. In the end we decided to go with The Steep Face Bunker Sand because its natural brown color would fit in with the landscape of The Glen Club when compared to the bright white sand of the Best Tour Grade brand. After it was distributed evenly throughout the bunker, the sand was compacted to a five-inch average. Once the sand was installed, new sod was laid and the bunker was completed.

We had a massive pile of old sand that was located in one of our fescue areas that had to be leveled, shaped, and contoured to match the surrounding landscape. This area was prepped, and in early November we seeded it to the original fescue mix and laid a straw blanket to help prevent washouts from heavy rains.

The entire project really couldn't have gone better, and thanks to the amazing weather that we experienced in the fall of 2011, everything was completed in five weeks. From a maintenance standpoint, it has been a great relief to not have to pump and repair washouts after every heavy rain, and all of that labor can now be allocated to other areas of the golf course. In addition to reducing labor costs, the level of playability has increased also. All of the feedback I have received from the membership has been very positive. The completion of this project has been a great addition to The Glen Club.

I wish everyone a great fall as you put your courses to bed for the winter, and let's all hope for a little cooler 2013! **-OC**



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Billy Sharp, *Chicago Highlands Club*

# Matthew Harstad -N-



*Driving east on the Tri-State toll way near Homewood, Illinois, one can just catch a glimpse of Calumet Country Club, despite the course only being 15 feet from the expressway. The best way to actually see the unique design and great playing conditions of Calumet Country Club is to play a round of golf, or in my case, get a first-hand tour from Golf Course Superintendent Matt Harstad.*

Calumet Country Club is a Donald Ross design that was established in 1901. Located on 120 acres in south Chicagoland, the club sits on a prime location to entice new players and members from the surrounding villages and suburbs. The club was originally located at 95<sup>th</sup> Street and Cottage Grove, but moved to its current spot shortly thereafter. One unique and interesting thing I learned about the course is that part of it, specifically hole 7, was originally part of Lake Chicago. Lake Chicago was a huge extension of Lake Michigan hundreds of years ago. The sandy soil is not found anywhere else on the course except hole 7 and is the prime indicator that it used to be some sort of beach. Another sign of Lake Chicago is a stand of Black Oak trees on the seventh hole as well. The rest of the course consists of the native soil, which is home to Washington bent/Poa greens, as well as bent/Poa tees and fairways. Another interesting tidbit about Calumet's early history was that Byron Nelson won his 11<sup>th</sup> straight tournament victory at this club in 1945, claiming the title in the Chicago Victory Open.

Superintendent Matt Harstad is an Illinois native and has been on the job at Calumet Country Club since February of 2006. Prior to that, he spent time as Assistant Superintendent at Butterfield Country Club and Ravisloe Country Club both after a short internship at Naperville Country Club. Matt is a Penn State alumni. He graduated in 2000 from the well-respected turf program. Since coming to Calumet, Matt has overseen various projects that not only help to improve



*Matt and Nittany, not a lion  
but we know where he got the name.*

playing conditions, but also help to beautify the course. One of the first major projects he accomplished was the installation of the XGD drainage system in the greens on holes 12, 14, and 16 during his second season. Matt explained that these were extremely problematic greens during the summer and since has noted great improvement in the years after the installation of the system. In addition to the drainage, the crew has been consistently removing trees around the green complexes in order to promote greater sunlight and air movement. Matt said that some greens were almost completely shaded during the critical hours of the day when the sunlight was most needed. From 2008-2009, Matt oversaw a complete restoration of all the greenside bunkers at Calumet Country Club. The old, contaminated sand was removed, new drainage installed, followed by the installation of the new sand. The difference between the new and old bunkers is like "night and day," according to Matt.

The feedback from the membership has been very positive, helping to justify this large and costly project.

Like many other Superintendents in the country, Matt is working with a tightened budget. The economy has affected every club in the United States, private or public. At Calumet Country Club, larger more expensive projects are broken down in to smaller jobs to help spread out the cost and labor. Matt has done a terrific job with what he has been given.

*(continued on page 17)*



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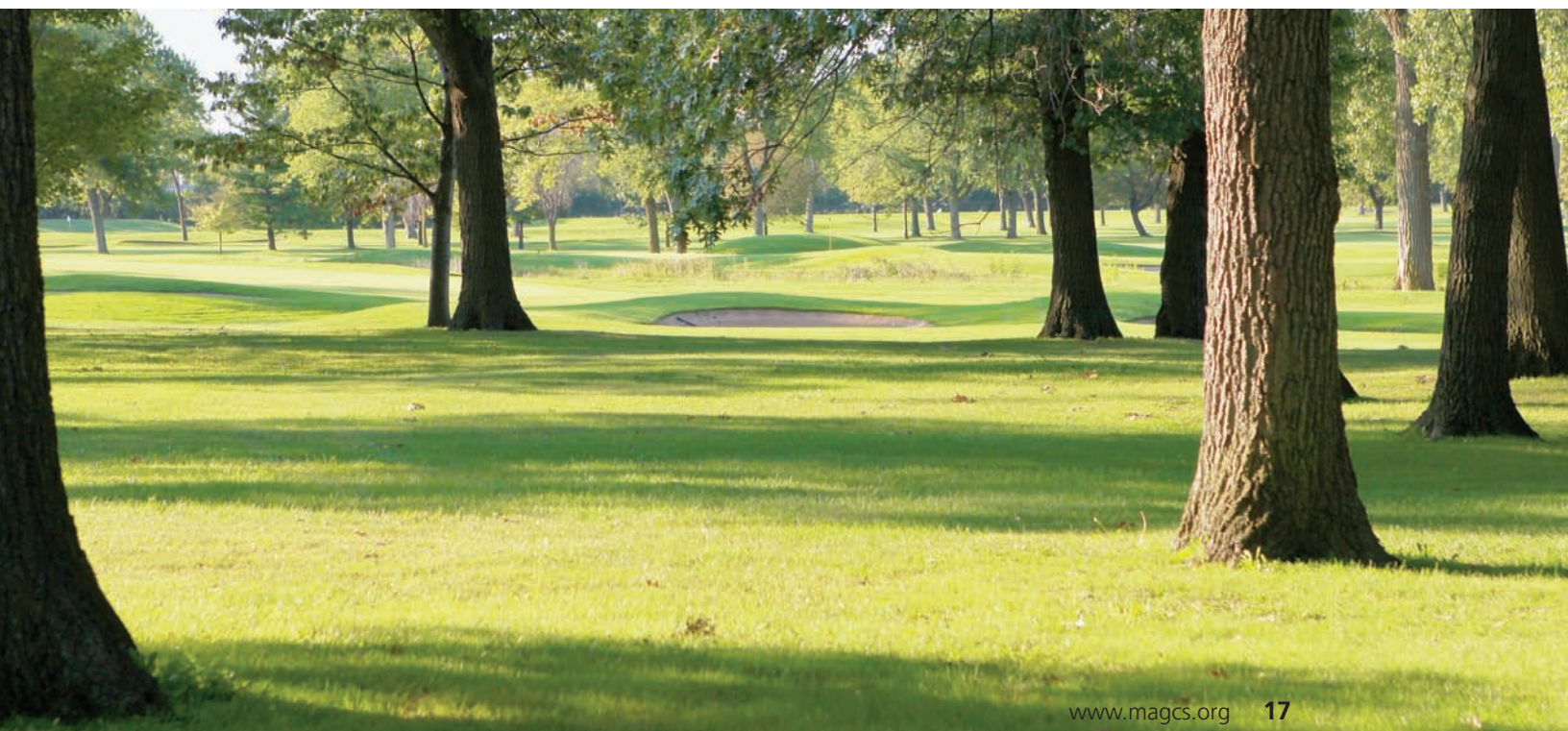


Matt's Assistant Superintendent Dave Sievers, six full-time, and six part-time employees, have done a remarkable job during this tough summer. I was amazed at how healthy and lush the course looked during my time at Calumet Country Club. Strategic blind shots, beautiful tee shots set up over small ponds, and the early Donald Ross designed greens are just a few of the highlights I saw during my tour of the property. Expect this and more at the MAGCS meeting this October. Maybe some of those Washington bents in his greens will be a little purple with the cooler temperatures.

When Matt gets a break from the grind at the course, you can find him cheering on our hometown Blackhawks. Having a partial season ticket package, you just may see him in his favorite Hawks jersey with his face painted in the first row at the United Center a time or two during the season. Also an avid skier, Matt tries to make out to the slopes a few times a year. Matt currently lives in Homewood with his wife of four years, Lauren, and their dog, Nittany. **-OC**



*Matt and Lauren*





THE BULL SHEET  
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



# OCTOBER 2012

First and foremost, HUGE congratulations to **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS MG**, course superintendents **Ross Laubscher, Jake Mendoza** and **Jim Wallace**, the grounds maintenance staff at Medinah, and all of the many volunteers from around the globe who teamed together to produce the masterpiece that we witnessed during the 39<sup>th</sup> Ryder Cup matches. There are no superlatives that could do justice to what they accomplished. Thank you for showing the world what golf course conditioning and tournament preparation in Chicagoland are truly about. You can read all about the preparations in September's *GCM* magazine, the cover story of which featured Curtis and Course No. 3. And don't miss November's *On Course*, which will feature much more about the big event.

Big congratulations to Nick Kukla with Billy Casper Golf on completing the Golf Course Management Certificate with distinction from The Ohio State University. Nick started at George Dunne National Golf Course as a cart attendant in 2005, and is now the assistant superintendent. Nice work Nick!



**Nick Kukla**

.....

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 15 – Deadline for nominations for GCSAA's 2013 Excellence in Government Relations Award.  
.....
- October 19 – Deadline for nominations for the 2012 GCSAA/*Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards.  
.....
- October 19 – Golf course equipment auction at Graystone Golf Links. Information follows.  
.....
- October 22 – MAGCS Annual College Championship at Calumet Country Club, **Matt Harstad** and **Dave Sievers** hosts.  
.....
- October 24 – Deadline to volunteer for 2013 GCSAA committee service.  
.....
- October 24-26 – PLANET 2012 Green Industry Conference in Louisville (pronounced Loo-uh-vull), KY.  
.....
- October 25-26 – GIE + EXPO in Louisville (pronounced Loovl), KY. Go to [www.gie-expo.com](http://www.gie-expo.com) for information.  
.....
- October 29-30 – Symposium on Affordable Golf at Southern Pines, NC.  
Check out [www.symposiumonaffordablegolf.com](http://www.symposiumonaffordablegolf.com).  
.....
- November 14 – 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club, *Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS, 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](http://www.golfdom-summit.com).  
.....
- November 30 – Deadline for nominations for the 2012 TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta.

And speaking of Billy Casper Golf and George Dunne National, on September 13<sup>th</sup> the inaugural Conservation Cup Golf Outing, co-sponsored by BCG was held at the course, raising \$100,000 for Children's Programming in the Cook County Forest Preserves. Billy Casper himself was on hand to hit the ceremonial first tee shot, talk with golfers, pose for photos, sign autographs,

*(continued on page 21)*

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and generally schmooze. He then showed up in town a couple weeks later during Ryder Cup week to sign copies of his autobiography The Big Three and Me at two venues the Clocktower Café at the Sidney Marovitz Golf Course on Chicago's lakefront and Whisper Creek Golf Club in Huntley, IL.

Our industry bid farewell to another of its legends on August 28<sup>th</sup> when Stan Zontek, a USGA Green Section Agronomist for 40 years passed away unexpectedly after suffering a heart attack. Mr. Zontek was one of golf's most respected personalities, having been a frequent speaker at national and regional events and winning the 2006 GCSAA Distinguished Service Award. He will be missed.



While on the subject of legends, **Paul Voykin** is still making headlines with his efforts to promote his beloved native plants and wildflowers. Mr. Voykin, who is retired after serving as golf course superintendent at Briarwood Country Club for 46 years, was recently recognized by a resolution adopted by the City Council of Chicago on July 25<sup>th</sup>. With the help of Aldermen Patrick O'Connor and Matt O'Shea (I think they're Italian), the resolution was approved by mayor Rahm Emanuel, and it reads in part: "Whereas, one of Paul Voykin's wishes is to have this body set aside a few days at the end of July in order to highlight, extol, and reflect upon the beauty of the native flowers and grasses indigenous to this area. According to Illinois wildflower expert Dr. John A. Hilty, there are over 3,500 vascular plants that are native to or have naturalized in Illinois. In the United States, only California, Texas, and Florida have more; Now, therefore, whereas the environment of the thousands of wildflowers and varieties of grasses growing throughout our communities is one of the most remarkable experiences that can be encountered in nature. It behooves this august body to celebrate their noteworthy beauty; Now, therefore, Be it resolved, that we, the Mayor and members of the City Council gathered together this twenty-fifth day of July, 2012, do hereby declare July 25<sup>th</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012 to be "Native Flower and Grass Days" throughout Chicago and express our heartfelt thanks to Paul Voykin for bringing their pulchritude to our attention and that of the citizens of our city." In a recent conversation with Paul, he encouraged all MAGCS members to contact their local legislatures to have similar declarations enacted and celebrate our native plants. Paul is willing to help anyone with this endeavor—he can be reached at 847-234-9314 or at voykin@aol.com. Great work, Paul!

Q: Where does a plane go if it overshoots the runway at the DuPage Airport adjacent to **Tony Kalina's** course?

A: A Prairie Landing strip.

Another month has passed, and the hazards have not gotten any easier:

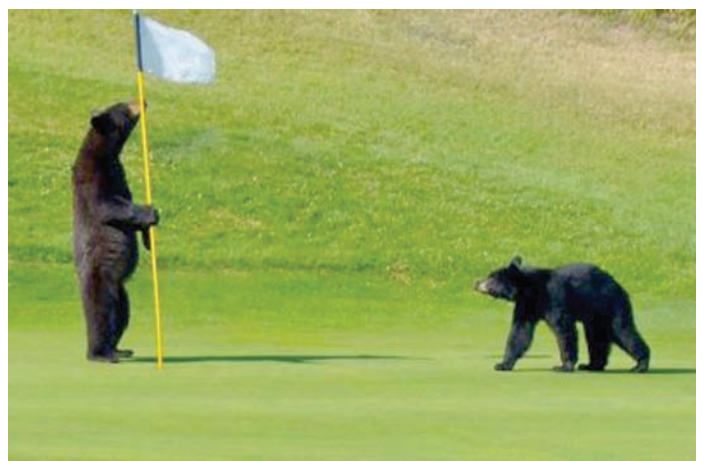


*Oopsy daisy*



*Double oopsy daisy*

Pat Jones of GCI magazine may have found the ultimate golf course hazard with this photo:



Pat included the following tidbit as a comforting thought: "Remember—you don't have to be faster than the bears, just faster than one guy in your foursome."

It's list time again, and in GOLF magazine's 2012 "Top 100 Courses You Can Play" list, three local courses were included.

*(continued on page 22)*

Number 21 was Cog Hill's #4 Dubsdread course (**Scott Pavalko** superintendent), followed by The Glen Club at #72 (**Scott Goniwiecha** superintendent) and The General at Eagle Ridge at #98 (**Kurt Strothers** superintendent).

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, the Annual Wee One Golf Outing was held at the always-perfect Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI (Rod Johnson host superintendent). The weather cooperated, and the traditions of the event were all in place, from the crazy-fast and undulaty greens to the famous taco and brat stands to the par three hole-in-one contests. History was made on the ninth hole, when not only one but TWO MAGCS members made aces for the \$10,000 cash prize. **Brian Racette** was the first to card a 1, knocking a 9-iron just past the hole and spinning it back into the cup. Just three groups later, **Don Cross, CGCS** punched his 6-iron into the jar for his ace. Drama ensued as it was originally assumed that only the first hole in one would be paid out, but after a call to the insurance company the following day by Danny Quast, it was learned that any and all aces during the day are eligible for the prize money—definitely music to Don's ears! After the excitement on the course, the next tradition was enjoyed—the grand buffet and awards presentations. Another great day was had by all—even greater if you were Cross or Racette! Many thanks to everyone involved in arranging the event and to the volunteers who helped run it. Special shout-out to Wives of Turf representatives Tina Barber and Jennifer Zugel for their help (including Tina driving a Truckasaurus-full of post-Brat Stop revelers safely to Sheboygan

and back). More on the Wee One follows in the November issue. Also, check out the GCSAA TV video about the Foundation and the great things it does featuring MAGCS member **Kerry Anderson** at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org) or at [www.weeone.org](http://www.weeone.org).



Scott Verdun gets the low down from Craig Lewis prior to teeing off.

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The Pine Hills clubhouse perched on a bluff overlooking the course



Host superintendent Rod Johnson



GCSAA President Sandy Queen

.....

(continued on page 24)

It's that time again—time for nominations to be prepared for the 2012 TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award presented by Syngenta. The November 30 deadline is fast approaching, and after a summer like we've had, I'm guessing there are many MAGCS members deserving of the honor, which will be presented at the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in San Diego, CA on February 4-8, 2013. For information or to submit a nomination, go to [www.turfnet.com/super](http://www.turfnet.com/super).

So I'm sitting here watching a really gorgeous-looking golf course on my flat screen, while the Ryder Cup matches are being contested at Medinah Country Club, and I can't help but notice another eerie resemblance between a MAGCS member and a PGA Tour golfer. Jason Dufner—one of the few bright spots on the American team—not only looks like **Erwin McKone**, his last name describes Erwin's most frequently played golf shot—the duff. Do we have a love connection?



Congratulations to **Corey Kuhl**, former assistant superintendent at Butler National Golf Club on his move to the golf course superintendent's position at Riverside Golf Club.

Q: Why do the members at **Mike Sauls'** club (and Corey Kuhl's former club) dislike the designated hitter rule in baseball?  
A: They're in the Butler National League.

Condolences to the family of **John Leibold** on the passing of John's mother Carol on September 16<sup>th</sup> in East Dubuque.

Every fall, the turf students from Joliet Junior College under the tutelage of instructor Lisa Perkins, head to Golf House and Sunshine Course for a field day. This year, nearly 30 students made the trip to Lemont, and they were treated to a tour of the course by assistant superintendent Niki Munroe. Niki was the workhorse for the day, running the show while covering everything from how an irrigation head operates to changing a cup on a green (shown here)



A couple of big business deals have grabbed headlines recently, first with the news that Syngenta was acquiring the DuPont Professional Products insecticide business, and then more recently with the news that BASF plans to acquire Becker Underwood.

Many of us take the opportunity to get away for a breather after a grueling season on the course. Golf getaways, maybe some fishing, or just a little down time at home are great tonic for what ails us. For others, like **Steve Cook, CGCS, MG** of Oakland Hills Country Club, a little more excitement is needed. Steve recently returned—SAFELY—from a six-day trip to the Teton Mountains, where he passed the days climbing sheer faces and braving unthinkable heights, culminating in a successful summit of the Grand Teton on the last day. And I used to think sitting in a raft floating down a river was exhilarating!



GCSAA is looking for a few good men. And women. Anyone who is interested in volunteering for committee service, time is running out. The deadline to submit your volunteer form is October 24<sup>th</sup>, so get on it—you can find the form at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org) in the Dates and Events area on the right side of the main page.

Also making news recently was the announcement that GCSAA has awarded 17 college scholarships to students planning careers in golf course management who have excelled in areas such as academic achievement, potential to become an industry leader, employment history, extracurricular activities, and recommendations from a superintendent the student worked for and a current academic advisor. The scholarships were funded by GCSAA's philanthropic organization, the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG) and its Robert Trent Jones Endowment. Congratulations to the deserving students, and don't forget to apply for one if you have a student meeting the above criteria.

Our sympathies go out to the family and friends of Avery Harris, a longtime MAGCS member and supporter who passed away in September. Please remember him in your prayers.

MAGCS members are once again being found in all of the various media outlets in our industry. To name but a few, **Kyle Jacobsen** of Twin Orchard Country Club was highlighted in an August *Golfdom* article titled "Smart Spray," which delves into the new sprayer technology available to superintendents. An August Golf Course Industry article penned by **Bob Lohmann** titled "Short-changed Scenario" describes how a superintendent—in this case **Nick Leu** at Blackstone Golf Club—copes with the assumption that 40-50% of his irrigation water would come from the effluent produced from adjacent home lots, when only a fraction of those lots have been built. Keep it up guys.


The MAGCS Annual Golf Championship was contested at beautiful Big Foot Country Club in Fontana, WI with **Jim Knulty** hosting. Conditions were outstanding for the event, thanks to Jim and his crew, and attendees were treated to a great day of golf, food, and drink. As its name implies, the Annual Golf Championship produced some new champions for 2012. The winner of the Championship Gross event was **Dave Kohley**; the Senior Gross champ was **Randy Wahler**, while **Larry Flament** took the Senior Net honor. Regular Flight Net winner was **Larry Flament**; and the Super Senior (60 and over) Net winner was **Randy Wahler**. The Commercial Net winner was **Jason Funderburg**, and the Commercial Senior Net champion was **Jimmy Frels**. Congratulations to all of these folks, and many thanks to Jim and everyone at Big Foot for a great event, as well as to our generous sponsors, who were:

**Aquatrols, Arthur Clesen, Inc., BASF, Burris Equipment Company, Great Lakes Turf, LLC, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Reinders, Inc., Syngenta Professional Products, and Water Well Solutions.**

(photos on pages 26 and 27) -OC

### National Golf Championship


Did you know that the National Golf Championship in San Diego (2013) has a condensed schedule? The golf tournament will begin with the four-ball competition **Sunday**, Feb. 3, with the golf classic and national championship being conducted Monday-Tuesday, Feb. 4-5. A new event, likely featuring a scramble or shamble format, will be conducted Monday, Feb. 4, for those not participating in the classic or the national championship. The Sunday, Feb. 3 four-ball is a stand-alone event and does not require participation in the new Monday activity or the classic/national championship. In recent years, the four-ball was held on Friday, with the classic and national championship conducted Saturday and Sunday. This condensed format will shorten the amount of away time for those who want to compete or just play golf and network with other members from across the country.




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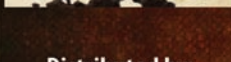
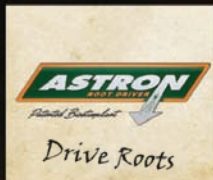
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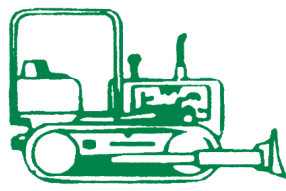


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MAGCS IN MOTION  
Luke Cella, *Publisher*



# October 2012

## Ryder Cup brings GCSAA Leaders to the Table

During the week of the Ryder Cup several members of the GCSAA board were in town and asked to meet with the leaders of the Midwest and Chicagoland Chapters. Both groups, along with past local GCSAA Presidents Mike Bavier, CGCS and Tom Witt, CGCS and chapter delegate, Don Ferreri met at Glen Oak Country Club. GCSAA President Sandy Queen, CGCS ran the meeting. Through the current administration, GCSAA is really trying to stay in touch with its membership, listening to those on the ground, and developing future plans around specific needs and desires. Thanks to Andy Dauksas for hosting.

The group discussed many topics including: preparing the superintendent through education for the changing future, Professional Development Initiative (PDI) and its future, support and marketing of Class A, SM and Certified Superintendents, membership communications, the Environmental Institute for Golf, the national championship, and the Golf Industry Show. I think it was a good meeting and one that all walked away from energized and confident that your associations make decisions based upon member input and need. Your GCSAA and MAGCS are just phone call away, use them.

## Illinois Golf Day

The Ryder Cup brought attention to our Illinois leaders during a Golf Day in which the Midwest cosponsored. The ILPGA, CDGA, IJGA and WGA hosted our Governor, Pat Quinn and other leaders to a luncheon on September 13. The economic impact of golf in Illinois was presented (2007 statistics): Illinois' golf industry generated a total economic impact of \$4.8 billion, supporting over 50,000 jobs with \$1.5 billion of wage revenue. Bob Kohlstedt spoke about our profession and the positive environmental impact that golf makes to the surrounding communities. Bob shared that the profession is based on science and each superintendent

works in and cares more for the environment than any other profession. Bob did such a great job relating the message, when Governor Quinn spoke, he likened our golf courses to the human body's kidneys, as "filters that clean our waters before they reach our rivers and lakes."

## Rounds for Research

Please participate in this program if you and your course are able. It is one way that the end user, the golfer, can help to sustain the future of our profession. For more information visit: [rounds4research.com](http://rounds4research.com) or call MAGCS 630-243-7900. When you donate, choose the Midwest as your local chapter.

-OC

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