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January 2013

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INSIDE

VanLanduit busies himself
at Briarwood

The Mayan Calendar

Golf Industry Show



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Midwest members and others enjoy the Annual Southside Superintendent Christmas party at the always mildly decorated Bier Stube in Frankfort.

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Torrey Pines State Reserve is located within San Diego city limits and remains one of the wildest stretches of land on the Southern California Coast.
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

Dave Kohley, *Silver Lake Country Club*



Come for the Convention, Stay for the Vacation

Next month is the Golf Industry Show in sunny San Diego. The Show this year is February 4th thru 8th and the National Golf Tournament is February 3rd-5th. If you didn't know, San Diego was just recognized as the Nation's top meetings and convention destination. I can count two good reasons; their average daily temperature is 71 degrees and over 300 of their days are sunny each year. How can you go wrong with that? There are over 70 miles of pristine beaches and many family attractions; the world famous San Diego Zoo, Sea World, Wild Animal Park and don't forget LEGOLAND for any young ones wanting to enjoy. For those that want a little different experience, The Gaslamp Quarter is 16-blocks of restaurants, bars and live music in walking distance from the convention center in downtown San Diego.

This year our MAGCS Hospitality Reception will be held on February 6th at The Hotel Solamar. If the hotel sounds familiar, it is because we hosted our MAGCS Reception there in 2010. We had such a great response to the outside venue on the roof top of Hotel Solamar then, we figured if it's not broke why fix it. The board also took note on last year's Reception at Hard Rock and will be carrying over some positives from that event. Please plan to join us as we celebrate another year together.

The most important message that I bring to you for the MAGCS Hospitality night is a "THANK YOU" to our SPONSORS. Without your help and support we couldn't do these great events year after year. I truly believe we have one of the most highly respected chapters in the country. **-OC**



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FEATURE I

Justin VanLanduit, *Briarwood Country Club*

Seasons of Change



As I sit down to write this we are just coming up on the end of the “100 Days,” that lovely time between Memorial Day and Labor Day. We all know it’s a stressful period of time, but the summer of 2012 took that to another level. Mother Nature wasn’t so nurturing this year. We had the hottest July on record as well as the second driest period after the Dust Bowl. Is this becoming the norm? If so, the changes we’ve made here at Briarwood are going to give us a fighting chance.

October 1, 2012, is my fourth anniversary as Superintendent here at Briarwood Country Club, and it’s been an experience. Three out of those four years I’ve had the pleasure of listening to veteran Superintendents exclaim, “I’ve never seen a season like this before.” What do I take from this? We survived! It hasn’t been easy and things haven’t always been perfect, but I’ve learned a great deal about myself, my knowledge as a Superintendent, and a great deal about the golf course here at Briarwood. I knew stepping in to replace an icon was going to be a challenge, but I didn’t expect the weather to add so much to that challenge.

Let’s back track to January, 2010. What is significant about this month and year? ICE, and lots of it! I remember getting two inches of rain at BCC on Christmas Eve of 2009, but the kicker was the high of only 11 degrees the following day. The two inches of water sat on the ground surface and froze solid. As the days went by we received a little bit of snow. A few days of thaw only added to the ice that was already there. As we crept into the second week of January, I felt we had to be proactive. The *Poa* present in large quantities on our greens was in jeopardy if we waited any longer.

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XGD is installed in Briarwood’s 90 year-old push up greens and provides an easy exit for water and gases trapped by the soil structure.



This was my first experience dealing with ice. Did I really need to be concerned? What were the best methods of handling the ice pack? Ha, saying ice pack I feel like I'm on "Deadliest Catch." Anyway, these are the times when I feel fortunate to be part of an industry where guys are so willing to help one another out. I reached out to my colleagues to pick their brains on those two questions. After consulting, we went to work using a mechanical tamper to help fracture the ice and create cracks for gas exchange and oxygen. Now, fast forward a couple months to March, when we noticed we had some issues. Four greens had significant ice damage, and all four had elements in common: poor surface drainage, low pockets, and large amounts of *Poa annua*. At this point I realized my vision for BCC wasn't so simple anymore; it wasn't just aesthetic changes that *could* be made, but structural changes that *needed* to be made . . . fast.

I started to press my Grounds Committee about the need for proper surface drainage as well as subsurface drainage. BCC's greens are, for the most part, original from 1921, when the course was constructed without subsurface drainage. Minimal amounts of rainfall would leave the soil completely saturated to where a few greens couldn't even be mowed. I began researching subsurface systems, like XGD and PC Drainage. Briarwood chose XGD's services, as they had a great track record. Our original plan was to do the four greens that had significant ice damage, but the summer of 2010 changed all that. The summer of 2010 was wet and warm. Without subsurface drainage, our greens were suffocating. I remember going out to our 13th green on July

16th with my assistant, Moe Sanchez, to check roots and soil temperatures. Again, we were battling the negative things *Poa* brings into the equation. When probes showed roots of roughly an inch tops I looked at Moe and said, "In a situation like this, we're damned if we do, damned if we don't. The green's already saturated, but the *Poa* is drying out. If we water, we're putting fuel to the fire, but if we don't, we are as well." By August, we had two greens where areas of *Poa* had faded away. After Labor Day, we closed both of those greens to reseed.

After 2010's icy start and summer beating, I presented a plan to the Grounds Committee and the Board. It was a plan to remedy both our drainage issues and our weak turf. I could only meet expectations for greens conditions when the weather was ideal for *Poa*, and I was discovering that ideal *Poa* weather is rare and fleeting. Our plan had two-phases: Phase 1 was to install XGD drainage in all 16 pushup greens. Phase 2 was to fumigate and regrass all 18 greens to a pure stand of durable bentgrass. The plan was presented to the membership in a special town hall meeting at the end of August 2010. The members approved the plan with only one nay vote. On September 7, 2010, we began our XGD installation. I had anticipated roughly 3½ weeks for installing the 16 greens. The rain stayed away, and we completed the XGD in just 19 days. Phase II wouldn't begin until the fall of 2011.

As we entered the winter of 2010-2011, I was a little more relaxed, knowing that there was a light at the end of the tunnel. I was confident that XGD was going to help us. Right out of the gate, XGD showed me things I wasn't sure

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The greens and approaches were prepped for Methyl Bromide, the most labor intensive and difficult part of the process.

were possible. For instance, before XGD our #1 green would be too soft to mow after .25" of rain. XGD gave us the ability to mow that green following a nice 1.1" early morning rain. It was great to watch the water flow out of the pipe and know the soils were being relieved of saturation while the roots were getting oxygen. As the summer progressed, we received the same heavy rains and high temps as 2010, but the greens continued to perform. Our normal maintenance adjustments, such as smooth rollers, raising heights, easing up on topdressing produced better results. I'm confident that the XGD played a large part in the greens' survival throughout 2011.

August 8, 2011, was the day! In the initial planning procedures we learned a great deal from talking with other Superintendents. Most of them were seeing the majority of *Poa* encroachment coming in at the front of the greens. The assumption was that this *Poa* was being brought in from the fairways and that the buffer wasn't big enough to catch those seeds and prevent them from reaching the surface of the green. When I calculated the cost to do all our approaches as well, it only made sense. I decided that regressing our approaches would give us large buffers in front of each green. We could utilize some of the new *Poa* controls and create better playability.

Our procedures began the week before the fumigation. We scalped surfaces by aggressive verticutting and by lowering mowing heights to .08" on the greens and .100" on the collars and approaches. Prepping for gassing was probably the most strenuous and time-consuming aspect of the project. We carried out a quad verticut, Drill n Fill (7/8" x 8" bit), Deeptine (1/2" x 6" solid), and normal aerification (5/8" hollow at 2" spacing). Following the deep tining, we topdressed to fill the holes, before carrying out the normal aerification, after which we topdressed as well. Once all the sand was brushed in and smooth the greens were ready for Methyl Bromide. The Methyl Bromide process was simple. The laborious part was the sod work around the edges to tie down the tarps in order to keep the Methyl Bromide trapped. Tarps were left on most greens for three days. A few had them on for five days, because of a weekend.

Tarps were pulled, the greens were left to air out for a little over 48 hours, and then we began to seed.

The seeding process began on August 17, using a 50/50 blend of A1/A4 on the greens and a 50/50 blend of PennEagleII/PennLinksII on approaches and collars. All areas were seeded at a 2lb/1000 rate. Once the seed was dropped, we went in three directions with our TruSurface Spikers, topdressed, rolled, fertilized, then popped on the water. Weather caused us to put the brakes on for a few days, but seeding was completely wrapped up on August 23. I'll admit that the time waiting for the seed to pop was nerve wracking. The rain on the 21st had us wondering how much seed washed away, if any. Each day I drove to each green looking for the faintest bit of new grass. Germination was obvious five days after we seeded the first four greens and approaches, and the others followed suit. As time went on we started to notice that things seemed stunted after germination. Mornings you could see a nice hue of dew across the greens, so we knew turf was there but it just didn't seem to be filling in. We hadn't considered the effects of dry conditions and the constant use of our irrigation water with high salts and bicarbonates. After that rain on the 21st, there was no rain for just over three weeks. Routine irrigation cycles to keep the seed moist kept adding more salts to the soil. Once again I reached out to colleagues. The information they provided made me decide to drop the acid injection to 5.8 pH and give the greens a good watering. This seemed to be very helpful, but the real help was 0.8" of rain on Sunday, September 18. Two days later, there was a night and day difference in new grass coverage. September began to close and temperatures began to cool. Covers were used on some of the slower growing greens to keep temperatures ideal. Thankfully, in early October we got a nice, much-needed, warm-up. That last warm-up filled things in to about 95% coverage.

There were still some sparse areas, so we decided to cover all of the greens for winter. Mild conditions throughout the winter kept my mind racing, trying to figure out how this would help or hurt the turf underneath. Never did I imagine that we'd have days throughout the winter when temperatures

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The tarps were removed after 3 days of cover and seeding began at the rate of 2lbs per 1000 square feet.

under the covers were peaking at over 70 degrees. With that warmth, we were actually seeing growth—very aggressive lateral growth. We pulled off the covers on February 1, 2012, and gave the greens a cut to get that lateral growth under control. I really believe that if we hadn't mowed them, there would have been a hard battle, come spring, to get things to where we wanted. The quick warm up to spring was a blessing. It helped us get on the greens and start working to increase density and durability. For a time we had to alternate—covers off and covers on—especially if we saw a cool stretch of weather coming. For the most part, we would mow, topdress, put covers on for a few days . . . then repeat. Doing this required a lot of added labor, but it helped us move things along.

Our target date for opening was the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, May 25. I hadn't realized when I pitched the project that Memorial Day was almost a week earlier than the previous year, but we were able to open. Again, things lined up for us. That weekend included a spike in temperatures, which really helped push the A1/A4 to fill in any areas that were thin. Members commented they could feel the difference from Friday to Monday when fixing ballmarks and even when walking on the greens. As much as we'd like to forget what happened as the summer progressed, I was happy to see how the turf performed. Those hot, dry conditions were exactly why we chose to do the regrassing, although I would have preferred not to have seen the turf put to the test in its very first year. The weather made me a bit nervous as well as timid with practices; the last thing we needed to do was push too hard too fast. As the 2012 heat and drought continued, I was amazed at the resilience of the new turf. I had told my assistants that throughout the season we'd do what the greens allowed us to do. We'd implement practices and see how the turf responded. If the response was positive, we'd progress; if we saw any negative effects, we'd back down. I'm very happy to say the greens made it through with flying colors. I'm very happy, as is the membership here at Briarwood. It wasn't the easiest sell. It required limiting an already short golf season, but the membership saw what this turf is capable of, and now we can move into the future with less worry.

Greens are always the major focus at any course, and that's true of the project at BCC, but I can't slight the approach work we did. The area in front of each green varies, but each creates a welcoming approach to the complex along with different playability options. These areas are mowed very tight (.275"), and the members are enjoying it greatly. Lots of people have mentioned that they like to be able to putt

or use a utility wood to bump the ball up onto the green. Others like the clean picking of the ball using a wedge to get better control and increase spin on the ball. We've tried our best to maintain these areas with the greens, but the summer of 2012 shifted our focus. In years to come, the approaches and greens will all be maintained in basically the same way with cultural practices and spraying.

While the course was closed, members started to talk about other things that needed to be done. The heavy rains of 2010 and 2011 showed that our bunkers' weren't performing well. Many times half the staff was out on the course pumping water from bunkers and pushing sand back onto the faces. I estimated that we had spent roughly \$60,000 in labor to get our sand traps back in shape after rains. Not only was this a great deal of money to spend and still have substandard bunkers, but it took labor away from other necessary tasks. After research and analysis, the bunker project was presented to the board. They took the issue to the membership for a last-minute vote. It passed on Sunday, August 28. We were digging out our first bunker on the 29th at 6:00 a.m. Members had lots of ideas on what they'd like to see done, but we had to be practical. People wanted the flashy white sand, but I had to educate and inform them of costs. White sand meant liners would be needed, as well as more hand raking, and more frequent replacement of sand. I love the look of white sand, but the size of our bunkers (and the fact that we weren't doing full bunker renovations) didn't warrant that extra cost per ton, as well as the cost of additional maintenance. Our decision was to go with Steep Face from Waupaca. We couldn't be happier. Our goal was to increase drainage and reduce our maintenance after rains, and this sand has enabled us to do so. The minimal rains we've had this season have shown us the capabilities of Steep Face. After a 2" rain a few weeks ago there were minimal washouts. These were minor enough that the operator of the SandPro could fix them on his own, rather than needing three or four guys with shovels.

We discovered some surprises when we started removing sand from the bunkers. The bunkers were dug to where the sides were straight down, forming a 90 degree angle with the base. At spots they were almost 18" deep. When we saw this, I felt we needed to address this and create a better edge around all the bunkers. In-house, we used clay, stockpiled on the property, to go through each bunker and pack the edges. We painted a 6" lip around all the bunkers. The crew would then pack clay up to the lip, creating a slope down to the base of the trap. My explanation was a "bathtub" bottom, a

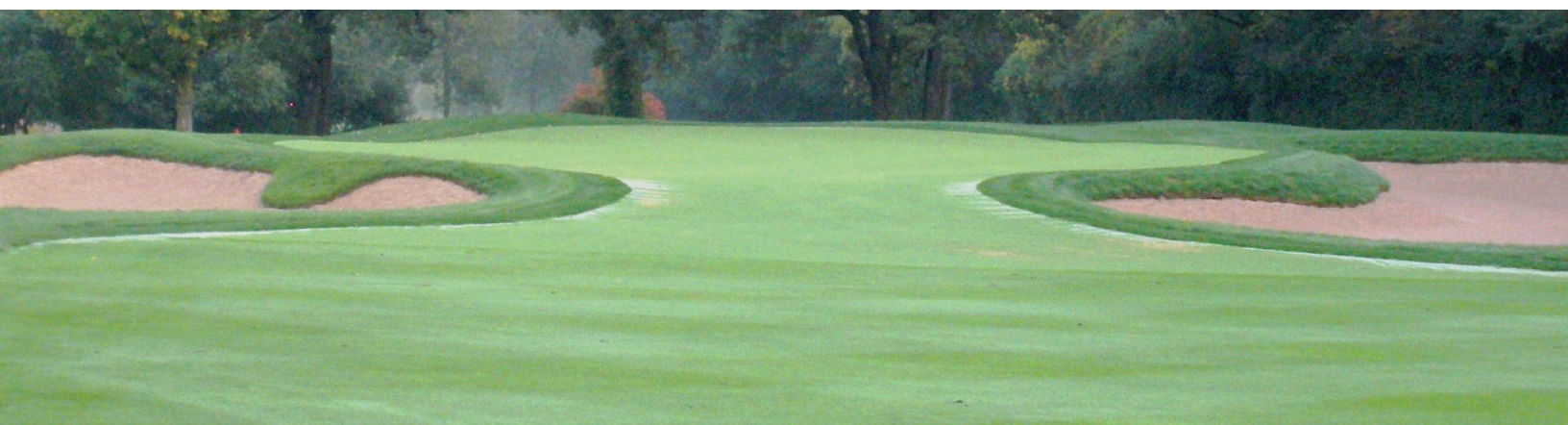
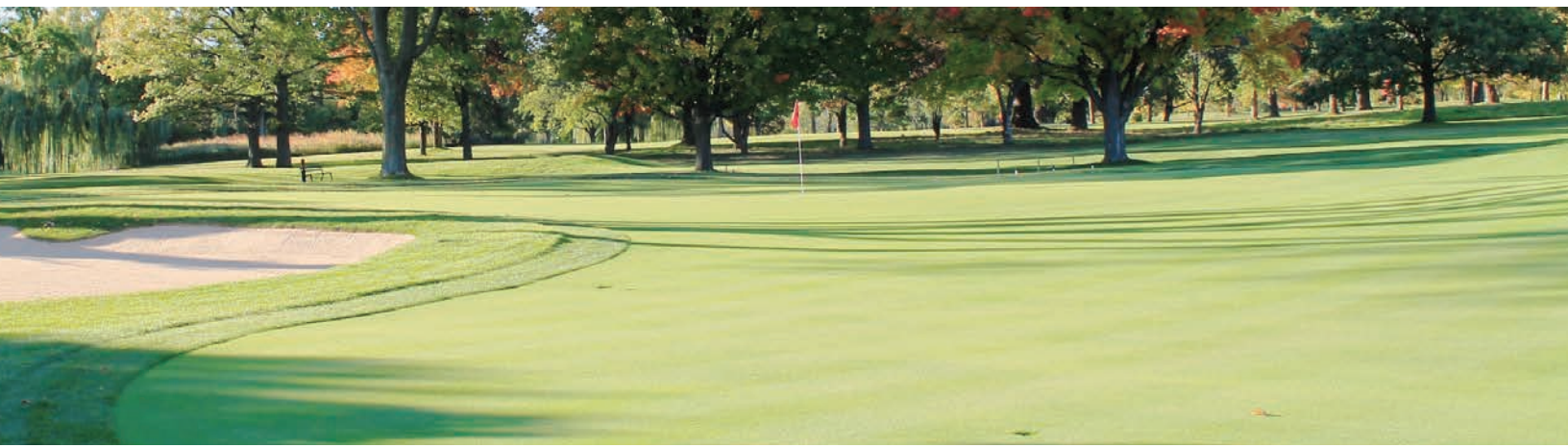
curved slope helping water get pushed to the center of the bunker rather than being trapped along the edge. It was a great deal of hard work, but we had the time to correct some things, so we thought we should do it right. By doing this we've helped reduce washouts and increased drainage.

I'm excited about the future here at Briarwood. The membership has shown great enthusiasm for protecting their #1 asset, the golf course. It hasn't always been easy or perfect, but the club has listened to what needs to be done to move BCC in a positive direction. I can't thank the Grounds Committee and Board enough for their support throughout the process. Thanks to Moe and Nate, my assistants, for helping the contractors and crew to complete in a timely matter. Lastly, thanks to all my colleagues, who either stopped by or took calls from me while I researched and completed this project. **-OC**



The bunker project began: Members had lots of ideas on what they'd like to see done, but we had to be practical.

As the turf matured and we were able to drop the mowing heights on our newly grassed approaches. The members really like the quality of turf on the approaches now because it allows many different options if the ball is left short of the green; - players can putt, bump and run or use a wedge to spin the ball.



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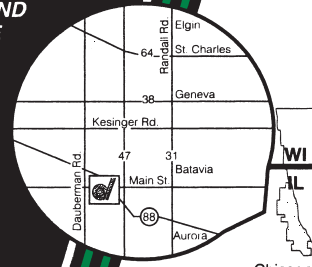
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FEATURE II

Sarah Barber, *University of Central Florida*



December 22, 2012: It Happened

In November, NASA launched a web site entitled, "Beyond 2012: Why the World Won't End,"¹ to dispel widespread urban legends of an ancient Maya prophecy that the winter solstice of 2012 (December 21, 2012) marks the end of the world. NASA is not alone: the Russian and French governments have also taken action to dismiss end-of-days panic.² So did you lose sleep over the impending end of the world? Planned a blow-out party for that night, which conveniently landed on a Friday? Hopefully you had your painkiller of choice ready for the hangover you suffered on December 22nd. People who actually know something about ancient Maya prophecies—namely archaeologists, art historians, anthropologists, and living Maya people themselves—enjoyed the day, like any other.

Apocalyptic predictions aside, there is actually an interesting and rare event occurring in the ancient Maya calendar on December 21st. It's called a Baktun ending date, a calendrical moment roughly analogous to the beginning of a century in our own calendar. Baktuns, however, end every 394.52 years rather than every 100 years. Given that the last time anyone gave a flying leap about a Baktun ending was A.D. 830, it would probably startle the Maya kings of old to know that their long-dead calendar system has found new life among the foreigners from across the sea.

The December 21, 2012, Baktun ending date wasn't just any Baktun ending date. It was special and for this reason has been merged with a modern example of the apocalyptic frenzies that have recurred in Western literature and philosophy since the dawn of Christianity.³ To understand this unlikely convergence of an ancient Native American calendar system with apocalyptic views ultimately derived from Near Eastern religions, it is necessary to delve into the esoteric realms of epigraphy (the study of ancient writing systems), mathematics, and calendrics (the reckoning of time). The fact that urban mythologizers have done exactly that is almost as surprising as the fact that the two traditions have been melded together at all.

The Maya calendar isn't technically Maya. It is more accurately known as the Mesoamerican Long Count Calendar, and it was just one of several calendars used by the Maya and their neighbors in ancient Mexico and Central America. The Long Count was used largely by rulers to record historical and astronomical events, kind of like putting Roman numerals on a building cornerstone. The Long Count operates something

like our own annual calendar in that it represents a continual count of days from a fixed point in the past. Our A.D./B.C. system was developed in the A.D. 500's and perpetually counts forward from a hypothetical date for the birth of Jesus Christ: January 1, 1.⁴ The Maya Long Count counts forward from a similarly important moment known to scholars as the Era Day, which falls on August 13, 3114 B.C., in our own system.

On precisely December 21, 2012, a total of 1,872,000 days (5,128.77 years) will have passed since the Era Day: a long time, but it doesn't immediately stand out as unusual until you consider Maya mathematics. The Maya counted in increments of 20 (vigesimal system) rather than our more-familiar increments of 10 (decimal system). So while we get excited about units of 100 (10 x 10) and 1000 (10 x 100), the Maya thought units of 400 (20 x 20) and 8000 (20 x 400) were pretty neat. The problem we and the Maya both face is that our solar system doesn't operate in increments of either 10 or 20: the earth revolves around the sun in 365.242375 days. That is an inconvenient number for anyone trying to count on 10 fingers and/or 10 toes. Our extraordinarily unwieldy solution merges a 12-month lunar calendar and a repeating count of numbered days that are inconveniently not divisible by 10 and a continuous count of individual 365-day solar years (the A.D. year count). To get to an exact date in our system, you have to know the lunar month and day as well as the individual year.

While the Maya used repeating weeks and months like ours in addition to the Long Count, that information wasn't

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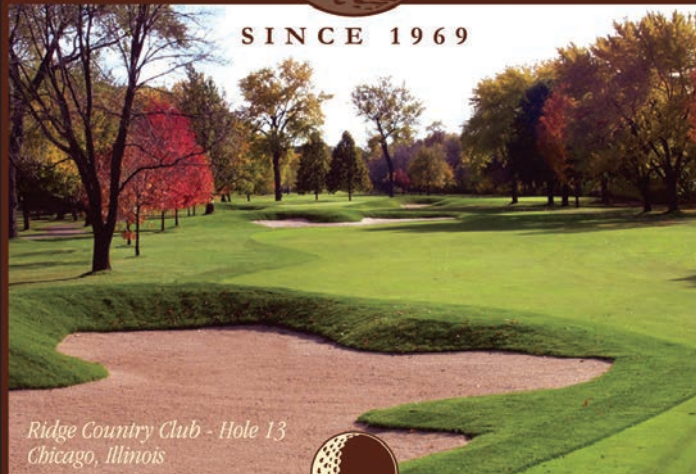
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THE BULL SHEET
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

JANUARY 2013

Happy New Year! It is December 21 as I write this, so if the Mayans were right, please disregard.

As we begin the New Year, the MAGCS Board asks that you consider contributing to one or more of the committees that truly make our association hum. This year's committee chairs are as follows: Editorial—**Matt Harstad, Jim Pedersen** and **Chuck Barber**; Golf & Arrangements—**Justin VanLanduit** and **Dave Kohley**; Education—**Matt Kregel** and **Kris Kvelland**; Class C—**Shane Conroy**; Class E—**Jake Vollbeer**. Feel free to contact these folks with your ideas or to volunteer.

Don't miss this month's meeting at Seven Bridges on the 24th. Pat Jones of Golf Course Industry magazine (and Facebook) will be in town to talk about our industry and its future as well as social media, and John Miller, CGCS, our GCSAA Field Representative will tell us what it is he does for us in that capacity. After the education, the Wee One Auction and Fundraiser will take place, which is always a hoot, and a great way to score some cool merchandise while contributing to a great cause. Hope to see you there.

Congratulations to **Harry Lovero** on his being named the golf course superintendent at Broken Arrow Golf Club. Welcome back Harry, and good luck to you!

(continued on page 17)

DATES TO REMEMBER

- January 16-18 – Annual Mid-Am (Mid-American Horticultural Trade Show) at Navy Pier in Chicago, IL. Phone 800-300-6103 or go to www.midam.org.
- January 21-24 – The 2013 Michigan Turfgrass Conference at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing, MI. Go to www.mtfconference.org for details.
- January 23-26 – 60th PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando, FL.
- January 24 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Wee One Fundraiser and Auction at Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge, IL, **Don Ferreri** and **Dave Gelino** hosts.
- January 29-31 – 79th Annual Iowa Turfgrass & Trade Show at the Downtown Des Moines Marriott. Phone 515-232-8222 or go to www.iowaturfgrass.org.
- February 3-5 – GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic in San Diego, CA.
- February 4-8 – GCSAA Education Conference in San Diego, CA.
- February 6-7 – Golf Industry Show in San Diego, CA.
- February 6 – University of Illinois Turfgrass Alumni get-together at an unspecified tavern in the Gaslamp District from 5:30 til 7:00 PM. Luckily U of I alums are smart enough to figure out the venue without being told.
- February 6 – MAGCS 2013 Hospitality Reception from 7 til 10 PM at the Hotel Salomar at 435 6th Avenue on the Rooftop Lounge.
- February 7 – GCSAA's 2013 Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA somewhere.
- March 1 – Deadline for applications for the Billy Casper Golf Agronomy Internship Program.
- March 11 – MAGCS monthly meeting at the Marriott Oak Brook/Willow Crest Golf Club in Oak Brook, IL, **Dave Behm** host.

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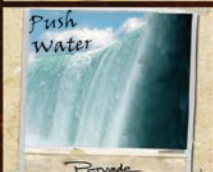
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Harry Lovero

Big news from the Nadlers to start the year—as of January 1st, Nadler Golf Car Sales is now Nadler Golf (complete with a new logo), and celebrates its 50th year in business by announcing its new owners, **Matt Baumgartner** and **Eric Nadler**. This makes the third generation of Nadlers to own and operate the business, which opened in 1963 as Nadler Harley-Davidson Sales, Inc. under the ownership of Bill and Bea Nadler. Congratulations, Matt and Eric, and the best of luck in your new (but not really new) venture!

Additionally on the long-time MAGCS vendor front, Burris Equipment Company is moving from its Frankfort location to Joliet this month. Burris purchased Illinois Lawn Equipment Co., which had been serving the Chicagoland area from its Orland Park site for 50 years, in 2004, and moved to the Frankfort facility the year after. The new Joliet facility is bigger than the two previous homes combined, and is located at 2001 Cherry Hill Road. The same phone numbers are still in use, so give them a call and welcome them to their new home.

Our sincere condolences to **Tim "TJ" Johnson** and his family on the passing of his mother last month.

I received a note from the VERY busy **Bruce Williams, CGCS** (more on that follows) last month, describing a trip he and **Al Fierst** (Oak Park CC) took to East Lansing for the Michigan State/Ohio State game (one of the teams which was actually bowl eligible). The game was a squeaker won by OSU 17-16, and the boys enjoyed all of it from the sidelines (for the second straight year) standing next to the MSU bench.



Al Fierst

They both had to dash out of town, as Bruce had to catch a plane to Tierra del Fuego or Ulan Bator or Timbuktu or another of his exotic destinations, and Al had to get back to the WGN studios for his side job.



Cookie

In news that involves both of the aforementioned scholastic institutions, on December 3rd Dr. Joe Vargas of Michigan State University was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Ohio State University during the Ohio Turfgrass Conference. In 58 years, Dr. Vargas is only the second recipient of this prestigious award.



Dr. Joe Vargas

Q: What social network did **Rick Bowden** join?

A: Bob O' Linked In.

Billy Casper Golf, the owner and operator of more than 130 golf facilities is once again offering a comprehensive agronomy internship program designed to identify and further educate future leaders in turfgrass management. Applicants must be currently enrolled in an accredited associate, bachelor or graduate turfgrass program or agronomy degree program with career aspirations in golf course management. The deadline for applications is March 1, and they can be found at www.billycaspergolf.com/agronomyinternship.

The United States Golf Association recently announced that Davis Love III is the recipient of its 2013 Bob Jones Award. Presented annually since 1955, the Award is the USGA's highest honor and recognizes as individual who demonstrates the spirit, personal character, and respect for the game exhibited by Jones, winner of nine USGA championships.

(continued on page 18)

Reinders is pleased to announce that Chris Frank has joined the company to help serve the south side of Chicago and Northwest Indiana as Territory Manager in the Soft Goods Business Group. Chris is responsible for sales and product support, and can be reached at 630-297-5827.



Chris Frank

.....
 This just in: Eagle One Golf Products, which was acquired by Canadian company Golf Supply Warehouse back in June, announced that it has acquired Fore-Par. With this acquisition, Eagle One claims it is "the largest distributors of golf course and golf range equipment, supplies and accessories in the world." This is awful news to **Jan Jarvis**, whose catalog just surpassed that of Grainger's in both weight and bulk.

I alluded earlier to the fact that Bruce Williams was a busy man. To that point, here is a small sample of his travel schedule recently: After returning from Myrtle Beach and the Cayman Islands, he taught a quick webinar before heading to China for the Asia Golf Show in late November, where he hopped from Beijing, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur, after which he spoke at the Asian Pacific Golf Summit in early December in the royal sultanate Brunei Darussalam, and then hitting the local trail with stops in Cleveland, DC, Atlanta, Daytona Beach, Orlando, Birmingham, Lookout Mountain, and Chicago this month. You can read a really great summary of Bruce's travels—called his Reporter's Notebook—in *Golf Course Industry*, where he goes

the extra mile to not only describe the event he's covering, but the things that someone traveling to such destinations would find helpful, such as the local customs, climate, food, and seemingly simple things like public transportation and negotiating a cab fare. - Compelling reading from the one-time MAGCS and GCSAA president.

Audubon International has announced that Laura Karosic has been hired as the organization's Special Projects Coordinator, a newly-created position.

The results of a new survey conducted by Google Consumer Surveys concluded that most golfers are bending the rules. Based on over 6,800 screened responses, here are some of the findings: An overwhelming majority admitted to infractions such as taking a mulligan, using a foot wedge, taking gimme putts and improving their lie. Also, 63% said they would consider using equipment that was banned from professional play, so don't throw that belly putter away—just follow the majority and cheat!

For the second consecutive year, the PGA Tour has recognized the John Deere Classic, played at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, IL with its "Most Engaged Community" Award. Last month we reported that the tournament raised \$6.9 million for 493 charities in the Quad Cities area—over \$1.5 million more than the previous year. It was due to this, as well as the 12 percent increase in ticket sales over the 2011 event, and a laundry list of other great things the tournament and community have come together to produce that this award was so richly deserved. Congrats to our northwest Illinois neighbors.

Congratulations to **Alan Hoogstraat**, formerly the assistant superintendent at Ravisloe Country Club who is now the golf course superintendent at Ravisloe.

Q: What do you call Anfield when he plays Ben Kelnhofer's course?

A: A Mistwoodchuck.

We have just learned that another of our members has been moonlighting on the side at WGN. **Aaron Hearn**, it turns

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out, has been concealing his true identity for years until this undated photo of him was made public.



Aaron Hearn and Aaron Hearn?

It was PARTY CENTRAL around these parts last month. On the 3rd, the Annual South Side Superintendents Holiday Party took place in its customary location—Chef Klaus Bier Stube in Frankfort, where the traditional lunch of all things German (and mostly tubular) was enjoyed. Next up was the CAGCS Holiday Lunch at Pinstripes in Northbrook on the 11th. From there it was off to Seven Bridges on the 13th for the West Side Superintendents Holiday Party, where the annual Texas Hold ‘em card game took place, and those who didn’t want to stop the carnival when the bar tab was finally closed sashayed over to Tilted Kilt to keep things going. The very next day a very special party was held in honor of two very special men—**Tim Davis** and **Eddie Fischer**. The scene of the affair was Morgan’s Pub in Mundelein, and a host of MAGCS members were present to pay their respects to these two “Sod Fathers” (stole that from **Randy Wahler**). Congratulations to Tim and Ed on their memorable careers, and we wish them the best in their next phase.

Southside party



Westside party



(continued on page 21)



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Steve Cook was featured in an article about irrigation system upgrading/replacing called "Use Your Head."



The 2013 Old Tom Morris Award winner was announced recently, and that person is Mike Hurdzan, the renowned golf course architect who gained critical acclaim for his designs with a focus on environmental stewardship and affordability. The award will be presented at Education Conference in San Diego on February 6th.

GCSAA members now have a chance to earn a \$25 GCSAA gift certificate by referring a friend for GCSAA membership by January 31st. All you need to do is email your friend's information (name, facility name and address, and email address) to them by the 31st (mygcsaa@gcsaa.org) and claim your reward (if that friend actually joins).

If you are registered for the Show in San Diego, you can access your "My Planner" tool at gcsaa.org by clicking on the Education Conference button. The tool is an interactive technology that allows you to chart your course the entire week, map your route on the trade show floor, plan your sessions and seminars, and communicate with exhibitors to set appointments before you arrive in San Diego.

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- 5- John Deere 220A walking greens mowers— \$1,000 each, or all 5 for \$4,000
- 1- John Deere 260B walking tee mower—\$1,500
- 1- 2002 John Deere 3215B 2wd fairway mower with 2200 hours—\$3,250
- 1- 2004 Jacobsen T628 4wd with Lastec deck, 5200 hours—\$4,000
- 1- Toro Hydroject with 860 hours—\$1,500.

Call or email Scott White or Gordon Watson at The Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Club at 815-399-2961 or purdueturf@comcast.net. **-OC**

Last month was another big one for finding MAGCS members in OPP's (Other People's Publications). TurfNet's Blog Aggregator had **Don Cross, CGCS** of Skokie Country Club's blog informing his membership about their greens covering program, **Steve Cook, CGCS, MG** chimed in on goose control, **Shane Conroy** updated the Park Ridge CC membership on the completion of his path project, and **Steven Biehl** spoke on the winterization of the Naperville CC irrigation system and pump station. Elsewhere, in *GCI*,

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