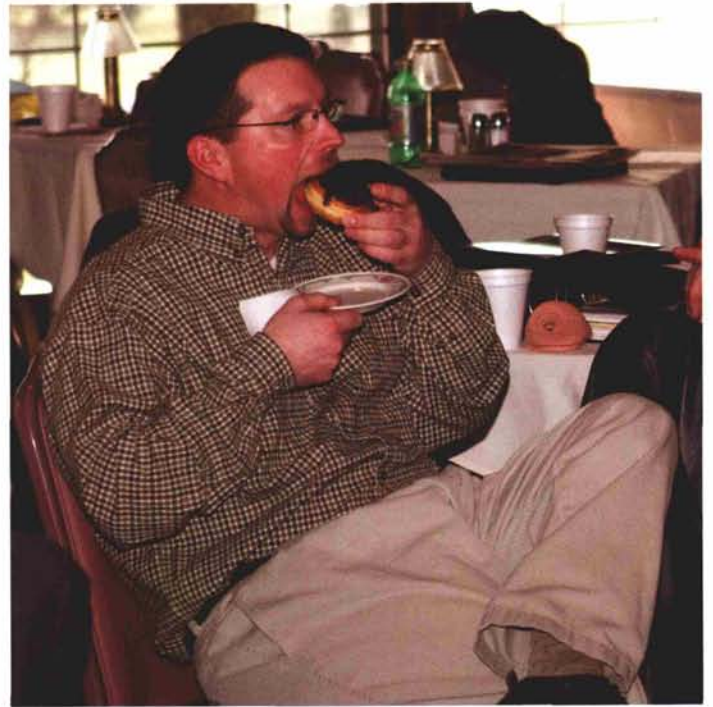


John Gurke even practiced the face he would make when he cracked the ribs of his victim.



Dave Braasch takes a break from saving lives.



Jim Keith goes in close to listen for a breath from his dummy.

-OC

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MAGCS IN MOTION

John Ekstrom, Hinsdale Golf Club



Habitat for Humanity – Work In Progress

On a Saturday in November 2007, members of the MAGCS took part in a first of a kind event for our association. With the help of many wonderful donors, a few hard working backs, and in cooperation with Habitat for Humanity we were able to fully sod a new home for a family in Aurora, Illinois.

That Saturday began as many late fall days do. Temperatures were in the mid 30s and the sky was gloomy. With the forecast calling for 3-6" of snow, work had to be done quickly. Members began arriving at 9 a.m., and soon grading and leveling work commenced. Unfortunately, most of the ground was already frozen and this made the hand work quite difficult. We did accomplish some grading but some adjustments will be made come spring. The important task of the day was met – installing the sod.

About an hour after our work started, the predicted snow started to drop. And drop. And drop some more. The majority of our sod laying was done in the snow. Before the City of Aurora issues an occupancy permit for any new residence, sod or lawn installation needs to be complete. With the great donation from **Dunteman Turf Farms**, and with the help of

MAGCS President Tim Anderson, Class C Advisor Michael Heustis, Brian Moesch, Brett Ziegler, Scott Verdun, Mark Kosbab, Ben Taylor, John Ekstrom, and Project Coordinator Matt Breeden, we did just that.

Much of the work for this home is still to come. We will need help come spring to re-level any sod and install our landscape plants and materials. Many thanks to Mr. Greg Martin and Associates for their donation of the landscape and planting plan. Also, MAGCS would like to thank JW Turf, Lohmann Golf Designs, Mariani Nursery, and the Brickman Group for stepping up with donations of materials and money to help us along the way.

As the weather breaks the Class C Committee and others will meet again and finish up the project. If you would like to help, please feel free to contact me or the MAGCS office. **-OC**



Members of the MAGCS Class C Committee makes a difference by sodding a Habitat for Humanity home in Aurora. The group will finish landscaping this home in Spring.

EDUCATION PRE-VIEW
Brian Moesch, Chicago Golf Club



Sharpen Your Mind

It has been quite some time since we last drove our spray rigs across the course. The tools we use for setup have been placed on storage shelves and have been collecting dust for some time now. That can mean only one thing; winter is upon us. It is easy to let one's mind wander as focus shifts from the golf course to projects in the shop that have needed attention for some time now. Although the course is taking a well-needed vacation, it is important that we ourselves do not lose our mental edge. One way of refocusing is to attend the MAGCS Annual Superintendents' Winter Workshop. This year's winter workshop will once again be held at the Midwest Golf House in Lemont. The theme will center on career advancement and professional development. This year's organizers have lined up two industry leaders to speak.

In the morning attendees will have the pleasure of hearing Mr. Bruce Williams, CGCS, deliver his talk entitled, "Preparing for the Interview." Williams was born in Evergreen Park, Illinois and spent many hours of his early life on the grounds of the Beverly Country Club. After graduating from Michigan State University, he spent the next twenty-two years at the Bob O'Link Golf Club in Highland Park, Illinois. Twenty of those years were spent as the course superintendent. Currently, Williams is the Director of Grounds at the Los Angeles Country Club, where he has been for twelve seasons. During his career Bruce has trained and coached over 140 men and women who have gone on to become superintendents. Topics covered in his talk will include: how to prepare, methods and tactics, and how to make yourself the most attractive candidate for the job. It will be a great learning experience for everyone in attendance.

The afternoon session will be run by incoming GCSAA President, Mr. Dave Downing, CGCS. Downing is the Vice President of Operations/Construction for the Signature Golf Group,

headquartered in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. He is a graduate of the Penn State Turfgrass Management Program. He spent eleven years as a course superintendent at four clubs, notably the TPC of Connecticut and the Las Vegas Country Club. From 1998 to 2002, Downing acted as Director of Golf Course Operations for Barefoot Resort & Golf, situated in Myrtle Beach. He led the construction of these four world renowned courses, the first 72-hole facility to open all four courses on the same day. This session will focus on how professionals in our field can utilize GCSAA, and its many resources. Not only will you learn where you can access the resources, you will also be shown how you can use them to benefit you and your facility.

This will be a great day for getting that brain back in working order. No matter what your stage of professional development, the day's events will be a great learning experience. So mark your calendars for February 21, for this year's annual MAGCS Winter Workshop. **-OC**

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