

the Bull Sheet

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 27 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Mill Creek G.C.

May 3 — ITF combined meeting, Mount Holly C.C. and Weaver Ridge G.C., Peoria area.

June 16 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Broken Arrow G.C.

July 19 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Crystal Lake C.C.

Greetings from your future editor! For more than a month now, Fred has been working with me diligently, preparing me to assume full-fledged responsibilities. I'm delighted to initiate my affiliation with this fine magazine and the outstanding people at MAGCS, and grateful to Fred for his dedicated tutelage and the impressive legacy he will leave.

In light of the magazine's impending transition in editorial leadership, effective immediately, please direct all *On Course*-related correspondence, inquiries, article ideas, etc. to me, Cathy Miles Ralston, at 276 Lincoln Terrace, Buffalo Grove, IL, 60089; my phone/fax number is 847/537-7883. Finally, you may e-mail me at on_course@hotmail.com

Fore! At the 1999 GCSAA Golf Championship in Orlando, our own Midwest contingent made an outstanding showing. Competing against colleagues who hail from warmer climes and have

a few more months each year to hone their form, a number of MAGCS participants nonetheless won top honors, as follows.

Championship Flight, Division A

Alan Pondel, Deerfield G.C., 2nd Place

Seventh Flight, Gross Point Division

Steve Van Acker, Crystal Lake C.C., 1st Place

Seventh Flight, Net Point Division

Brad Johnson, Klein Creek G.C., 2nd Place

Eighth Flight, Net Point Division

Alan Fierst, The Oak Park C.C., 2nd Place

Senior I, Gross Point Division

Robert Kronn, La Grange C.C., 1st Place

Not only did the above individuals shine—Midwest teams excelled, too.

Team Competition, Gross Point Division

1st Place—Robert Kronn, La Grange C.C., Alan Pondel, Deerfield G.C., Tommy Robinson, Ravinia Green C.C., Randy Wahler, Knollwood.

Team Competition, Net Point Division

1st Place—Don Cross, Skokie C.C., Alan Fierst, The Oak Park C.C., Bob Maibusch, Hinsdale G.C., Les Rutan, Beverly C.C.
2nd Place—Brad Johnson, Klein Creek G.C., Jim Knulty, Big Foot C.C., Paul Schaefer, Prairie Isle G.C., Steve Van Acker, Crystal Lake C.C.



"One of the true masters," says Carl Hopphan of his friend, Walter Fuchs, CGCS, who passed away on February 20 in Naples, FL. A past president of the MAGCS, Walt was also a member of the GCSAA and earned his certification some 28 years ago. During his lengthy and illustrious career, he served as golf course superintendent at Cedar Rapids C.C. in Iowa, Gleneagles C.C. in Lemont, Scioto C.C. in Columbus, OH, Pheasant Valley C.C. in Crown Point, IN, and Evanston G.C. in Skokie. "Walt always accomplished the ultimate within the golf career he loved so dearly," noted Carl. "He touched people with a strong hand and backed it up with a kind heart. No one will ever replace Walt. His family will truly miss him and an endless list of many thousands will never forget this man." We at the MAGCS extend our heartfelt condolences to Walt's family, including his wife Wilhelmina and sons Wally and Keith.

A memorial service will be held on April 24 at 10:30 a.m. at College Church, 300 E. Union Avenue, Wheaton, IL.

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It is always sad to report a death and especially sad when one has to report the death of a child. Valarie and Jim Roberts (Schaumburg G.C.) lost their son, Bradley, eight months of age, to the disease leukodystrophy. Bradley died on Tuesday, February 2, 1999. The deepest sympathy of the members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is extended to the Roberts family in this tragic loss.

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The GCSAA recently recognized several MAGCS members for earning or renewing their Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) status. Dan Albaugh, Ruffled Feathers G.C. achieved initial certification, while Dave Blomquist, Naperville

C.C., Ed Braunsky, Geneva Golf Club, and John Gurke, Aurora C.C., successfully renewed their certification. Kudos to all!

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MAGCS friend Len Conley, recently of Griffin Industries, informs us that he and his wife are moving to Denver, where he will be joining Soil Management Technologies, a golf course construction firm, as national agronomist. He writes, "It is said that we are very blessed in this industry because we not only work with a great group of professionals, but we work with our friends. I will miss these friendships that have developed over my many years in Chicago. My wife and I wish everyone at MAGCS the best in the coming year . . . Again, thanks for the many friendly miles we shared together—they made the difference!"

For sale: border collie puppies, due in late April. Both parents are registered and are golf course working dogs. Please call John at Mission Hills C.C., 847/498-3212.

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I would like to report to the membership that for the recent GCSAA Chapter Newsletter Contest, *On Course* won First Runner-up in Category 4 (publications produced primarily by professional editors/publishers or paid chapter executives). The issue chosen for the competition was the May 1998 issue, which was in memory of Adolph Bertucci.

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Everyone who attended the hospitality room in Orlando needs to give Brian Bossert a call to tell him what a great job he did. Also, be sure to thank the commercial firms that provided the financial backing. See Brian's report to thank the proper people.

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Bill Leith, Elgin C.C., has retired. Bill started working at Elgin C.C. in 1947 after high school when his father was the pro/superintendent. He took over from his father in 1957 and worked as the superintendent through 1960. At that time, the board of directors thought they needed a change and Bill left to work for Marv Gruening at the Midwest G.C. as his assistant. In 1963, Bill was called back to Elgin, and has been there ever since, more than 51 years! Bill and Della, enjoy your future years.

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Congratulations to Susan and Scott Witte (Cantigny G.C.) on the birth of their son, Alec, on December 29, 1998. Alec weighed in at 8 pounds, 2 ounces.

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For those of you who know Paul Voykin, be sure to ask him about the story of "Cold Steel." I will forewarn you to be prepared for 15 minutes of a hilarious story as only Paul can tell it.



I am taking the editor's liberty here and showing a picture of my bragging rights on an early February fishing trip to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, which is at the tip of the Baja of California. The other marlin that I had hooked and fought for 20 minutes got away. This marlin took more than 35 minutes to land before we released it back into the sea.

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A belated congratulations to Lorraine and Marv Gruening on celebrating their golden wedding anniversary on January 29, 1999.

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