

the Bull Sheet

John Gurke
Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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

July 27 — 1999 Midwest Regional Turf Field Day at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

August 17 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Odyssey G.C.

August 18 — 1999 Michigan Turfgrass Field Day at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. For details, contact Kay Patrick at 517-321-1660.

November 3 — Midwest Turf Clinic, Medinah C.C.

November 20 — Fall Dinner Dance at Seven Bridges G.C.

The April MAGCS monthly meeting, held at Mill Creek, was unfortunately washed out. Brett Hultquist and his crew did everything possible to have the course in beautiful shape, but the gods were not smiling on us that day, my friends, and the rain just would not quit. Several of our more hardcore (for lack of a better or more insulting term) members tried to stick it out, but their only reward for their diligence was being wetter and colder than the rest.

The Toro Company donated \$1,000 to the GCSAA Foundation in the name of the MAGCS in honor of our winning both the gross and net chapter team competitions in Tampa, FL at the GCSAA Tournament. Congratulations again to our always-strong competitors.

Reminder: For those interested, copies of last year's MAGCS financial statement can be obtained by contacting your secretary/treasurer, Brian Bossert. The report makes great bedtime reading.

On behalf of all
MAGCS members.

THANK YOU,
FRED OPPERMAN,
AND BEST OF LUCK
TO YOU AND
YOUR FAMILY!

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L to R, Textron president Phil Tralies, Arnold Palmer, Phil Taylor, Textron CEO Carl Burtner

Congratulations to Illinois Lawn Equipment, Inc., for being honored by Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products at the recent GCSAA Convention in Orlando. Illinois Lawn Equipment received the *Raving Fan Award*, which recognizes outstanding achievement and excellence in customer satisfaction, while the *Dealer of the Year Award* recognizes outstanding sales growth and excellence in parts and service for customers. Illinois Lawn also joined the *One-Million-Dollar Club* for financing/leasing equipment through Textron Financial Corporation. Arnold Palmer participated in the presentation of the awards.

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A big, hearty congratulations to Rick Becker, assistant superintendent at Wilmette G.C., for taking first prize in the 18-Hole Challenge at the GCSAA Convention in Orlando. Rick is now the proud owner of a Ranger Sport R61 boat (which would have been useful at Mill Creek).

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Congratulations to the Steve Schendel family on the birth of their second daughter, Emma, on February 27, just two weeks after Steve took over as new superintendent at Highland Park C.C. Steve was most recently assistant superintendent at Butterfield C.C.

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Nice to see several of our members in print recently. Dave Ward of Olympia Fields C.C. was quoted in a *Chicago Sun-Times* article on renovations being done in preparation for the 2003 U.S. Open, while Bob Maibusch of Hinsdale G.C. has a letter printed in the April issue of the second-most anticipated publication we receive (after *On Course*, of course): *Golfdom*. Last but not least, Al Fierst of Oak Park C.C. responded to the most dangerous golfer known to superintendents (NOT Gerald Ford with a gallery)—the uninformed golfer with a nationally syndicated radio show—in a recent publication. It seems this local person feels that men playing golf, especially in the early morning, may lose interest in sex due to the pesticides applied on golf courses. Perhaps a case study should be performed to test the merits of this claim...

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Reminder #2: Please turn off your cell phones/pagers at MAGCS meetings—our education presenters deserve our full attention without the distractions.

Our Annual March Gin Charity Tournament

Sad to say, what was once a well-attended, fun tournament to benefit people in need has dwindled down to about a dozen loyal individuals. Unless we manage to get more people involved, this will be the last year for a charity event that has provided underprivileged children with more than \$20,000 over the past nine or ten years.

I realize it's hard to think about gin when the temperature outside is above 70° and there is a ton of work to do on our golf courses. Truthfully, March probably is not a good month for most of us. I realize also that the committee has to spend more time calling our Midwest friends to remind

them to come out, or at least send a check. In our Midwest circle, we have the most generous human beings in the world when it comes to needy, sick, helpless little children. So let me hear from you, along with a check made out for \$40 to the Maryville Academy. Please! You will sleep better.

The March Charity Gin Tournament was once again won by brother Peter (his fourth championship in ten years). Peter beat me in the finals after I made a lucky challenge. Congratulations, brother Peter.

Submitted respectfully
by Paul N. Voykin

The Masters: Go There, Do That

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seven-birdie string to climb on the leader board on Saturday. Brett and I pirated chairs at Amen Corner and skipped along all the way to his string-ending par on 14. I swear he missed that putt because he saw us at the ropes on 14 and thought we were stalking him.

Sadly, the trip home was a nightmare, but we did get back in time to see the final round on TV.

The following night I had—you guessed it—a green committee meeting. The first thing on the agenda was stimping the green with the hydraulic oil leak among all the ball marks where the mysterious turf disease was being spread by the geese. Oh no! Here we go again.



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