

# the Bull Sheet

John Gurke  
Contributing Editor

## DATES TO REMEMBER

April 24 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Elgin Country Club—**Tod Hopphan** host.

May 15 — ITF Combined Golf Day at Silver Lake Country Club—**Dudley Smith** host.

June 19 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Winnetka Golf Course—**Henry Michna** host.

June 24, 2000 — World Shotgun 2000.

July 20 – 23 — U.S. Women's Open at Merit Club—**Oscar Miles**, CGCS host.

Check out the February issue of *Golf Course News*—there's a great two-page write-up on the preparations being done at Olympia Fields for the 2003 U.S. Open, complete with quotes from MAGCS members **Dave Ward** and **Kevin West**.

Following up on the PDI issue (on which **Tim Kelly** of Village Links of Glen Ellen enlightened us at January's MAGCS meeting), a quick way to learn the abcs of it all is to read the February issue of *NewsLine*. Past president **Bruce Williams**, CGCS wrote a nice "in-a-nutshell" article on the issue, and it fit ON ONE PAGE!

Let's give a big MAGCS welcome to **Jonathan Jennings**, CGCS, the new superintendent at Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton.

Jon hails from The Patterson Club in Fairfield, CT, and replaces Bill Whitley. Jon is no stranger to our area, as he served an internship at Olympia Fields several years back. Be sure to extend a congratulatory handshake to Jon at the next MAGCS meeting.

Congratulations to **Dan Sterr** (former superintendent of Fox Bend Golf Club) who is the new golf course superintendent at Stonebridge Country Club.

Congratulations to **Mike Hubbard** of Hidden Meadows Golf Club, who was certified in December, and is now Mike Hubbard, CGCS. Has a nice ring to it, doesn't it?

Another congrats goes out to **Paul Schaefer** of Prairie Isle Golf Club, who also has earned the CGCS moniker. Word is that Paul passed the entire test on the first try, and with time to spare!

The GCSAA International Conference and Show in New Orleans is now behind us, but some of the memories will remain . . .



**Scott Witte** of Cantigny Golf Club received some amazing news just a few days after returning home. Bob Shively from GCSAA called Scott and asked if he were sitting down. Once that was taken care of, Scott learned he was the

winner of the 27-hole challenge and a new Cadillac Escalade SUV (or the cash equivalent). After investigating his options with the aid of his financial planner, Scott opted for the cash—a mere \$32,000—and plans to make good use of it by investing in pyramid schemes and teletype machines. Scott's secret to success? Bend the edges of the entry to keep it from sticking to the others in the bin, and you're on your way to (Big) Easy Street. The line for charitable causes forms outside Scott's office . . .

Before mentioning anything more about the conference, the MAGCS membership should recognize the following individuals and companies for their contributions to the VERY FINE MAGCS

### HOSPITALITY SUITE:

First, the man who got the ball rolling and took care of all the behind-the-scenes boring stuff in order for us to enjoy ourselves while in New Orleans: Andrew Jackson, winner of the Battle of New Orleans (with a little assistance from Jean Lafitte).

As far as the hospitality suite is concerned, **Brian Bossert**, CGCS of Bryn Mawr Country Club deserves our highest praise for arranging the excellent venue, food, beverage and service (including the now-famous Penny Nichols—the server whose parents had a wry sense of humor). Brian did not even get to enjoy the results of his efforts due to his impending fatherhood (see below), but **Luke Strojny** of Poplar Creek Country Club, **Kevin DeRoo** of Bartlett Hills Golf Club and **Paul Yerkes** of Lesco assisted with the onsite details to ensure we had the absolute best of everything. Double-kudos to Paul for arranging the green contributor-recognition ribbons worn by our many sponsors—they were a great idea.

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Triple-kudos to Paul for the livery service he provided several MAGCS members who may have overshipped the GCSAA merchandise booth.

Without our generous donors, the hospitality suite would not exist. MAGCS recognizes and expresses its deepest thanks to the following hospitality suite sponsors:

- Arthur Clesen, Inc.
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Thank you all again for your supreme generosity.



Paul Voykin (Briarwood C.C.) gives a stirring and humorous tribute to his old friend Mike.



Distinguished gentleman Mike Bavier flanked by his family, with wife Mary (L), daughter Holly and son Mike Jr. (Ivanhoe C.C.).

Mike Bavier of Inverness Country Club accepted his GCSAA Distinguished Service Award, and a nice party was held in his honor in the MAGCS hospitality suite on Thursday, February 17. Paul Voykin of Briarwood Country Club gave an eloquent talk about his friend, which segued into the cake-cutting ceremony. Mike's family was at his side (including Mike Bavier, Jr. of Ivanhoe Country Club) for the great evening.



Not to be left out of the action, Chris Johnson of Illinois Lawn

Equipment, Inc. got to show off the fruits of his labor—the Textron Two Million Dollar Club award. Congratulations to Chris and everyone at Illinois Lawn on this fine achievement.

Other MAGCS members enjoying the Hospitality Suite . . .



Taking the term "group photo" to the next level are Catherine and Dan Anderson (Fox Valley Golf Club) and Steve Vincent of Lesco.



L to R: Wally Fuchs (Turf Products Ltd., retired), Hans Hoppfan (Blackberry Oaks G.C.), Lynn Wesson (Phillips Park G.C.), Jim Latham (USGA agronomist, retired) and Tod Hoppfan (Elgin C.C.).



Brothers Tom and Rick Wilson (Glenview Park District).

Hard to see any resemblance.

As mentioned previously, Brian Bossert was unable to attend the conference this year due to the impending birth of his first child. Although mom Pam and yet-to-appear child were happy to have him home, they decided to wait until February 28 to "do the deal." Congratulations to Brian and Pam Bossert on the birth of their daughter, Bailey Lee.

Parting thoughts: These are some of the many memorable quotes heard at the hospitality suite:

*"New Orleans? I'd go back in a heartbeat (once I have a heartbeat again)."*

*"Goofy streets—the only place where Turtle Taxis (pedal-powered) get you around faster than motorized ones."*

*"Those rumors about pickpockets are true—they just don't know the difference between receipts and money."*

*"It musta been a bad oyster I ate."*

*"Hurricane devastation IS as bad as I've read about."*

*"If my hotel is five minutes from Bourbon Street, why does it take 45 minutes to get home?"*

*"Where'd my wife get all those beads?"*

Back to the Midwest . . .

MAGCS sends its heartfelt condolences to **Al Fierst** of Oak Park Country Club, who lost his mother on February 25.

MAGCS also wishes to express its sympathies to **Kerry Blatteau** of Oak Brook Hills Golf Club on the loss of his mother.

Warm condolences as well to Oscar Miles (The Merit Club) and **Timothy Miles, Sr.** of GolfVisions, Inc. on the loss of their mother on March 4.

Our sympathies go out to the entire Turf Partners family on the tragic loss of **Dennis Killham** on February 24. Our thoughts and prayers will be with all of you, as well as with your friends and families who have recently lost their loved ones.

Assistant superintendent sought: The Nippersink Country Club of Genoa City, WI, is looking for a qualified assistant superintendent. The successful candidate will be self-motivated, enthusiastic and upbeat. Salary range from \$20,000 to \$26,000 with allowance for local and national conferences. Will work directly under club owner.

Send or fax resume to: 262-279-5847, Nippersink Country Club, N1055 Tombeau Road, Genoa City, WI 53128  
Attn: Joan Huart.

Wanted to buy: Core Harvester—any condition—call John Gurke at 630-892-3600. I have a relative in Ohio who owns a golf course and is interested in just about any equipment in any shape. If you have some shop cleaning to do, and you have some "junk," give me a call. One man's garbage is another man's treasure . . .

Assistant superintendent wanted: Aurora Country Club seeks a qualified assistant superintendent. Position is open immediately, with perks too numerous to mention. Experience in all facets of maintenance a plus. Salary and benefits negotiable. Call John Gurke, CGCS at 630-892-3600 for details. You don't have to actually say the CGCS part when calling . . .

For sale: One set of vibratory rollers with quick attach; 1991 Jacobsen HR 5111 rotary mower. Call Steve at Crystal Lake C.C. at 815-459-7240.

Remember!! *On Course* is accepting letters to the editor for publication. If you have a thought, send it in! You DO have a say in what your magazine should be, so let your editor know.



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