

the Bull Sheet

John Gurke
Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 13-14 — GCSAA Regional Seminar, Oak Brook, Illinois

January 17-20 — 70th Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference in Lansing, Michigan

January 18-20 — Midwest Turf Expo, Indianapolis, Indiana

January 20 — Deadline for chapter team signups for GCSAA Golf Championship

January 24 — MAGCS monthly meeting, Arrowhead Golf Club, Bob Breen host

February 14-15 — GCSAA Golf Championship, Mobile, Alabama

February 14-20, 2000 — GCSAA International Conference and Show, New Orleans, Louisiana

June 24, 2000 — World Shotgun 2000

The staff at *On Course* magazine and your MAGCS Editorial Committee would like to add a "Letters to the Editor" feature in future issues. If anything you read in *On Course* gets your goat, or in any other way causes a reaction you feel should be heard by its readership, WRITE IN! Address letters or e-mails to Cathy Miles

Ralston (contact information on inside front cover).

The GCSAA Foundation would like to remind you of the ongoing "Blue Tag" fundraising program. Turf-Seed, Inc. and Tee-2-Green will contribute \$.50 for every Turf-Seed variety or mixture blue tag, and \$1.00 for every Penn Pals variety blue tag, sold to and purchased by a GCSAA member over the next five years. Half of these proceeds will go to the MAGCS, and half to the "Investing in the Beauty of Golf" campaign. Save those tags and bring them to a MAGCS meeting.

The third annual Chemical Cup ice hockey game took place on Tuesday, November 30 at the Fox Valley Ice Arena. This event featured many of our more hearty MAGCS members and a few ringers from origins unknown. The Cup—the brain-child of Hank Wilkinson—doesn't really exist, but the game is a lot of fun. This year marked the first time in the game's storied history where more spectators than players were on hand. Thanks go out to our proud sponsors—Bayer, Chipco, DowAgro Sciences, Novartis, Pro's Choice, Summit Seed, Turf Partners and Zeneca—who treated us to ice time and a pregame social at the Big Chill Sports Bar, with extra special thanks to Keith Coleman for his deep pockets and Tess Wilkinson, photographer extraordinaire (who would be considered for martyrdom if she accidentally lost those photos).

Make your plans now! The MAGCS Kane County Cougars outing is officially on the schedule. August 19 is the date (a night game with fireworks). Bring the kids, bring the wife. Heck, with this much lead time, make a kid or marry a wife. Just be there.

The first (to-be-annual) West Side Holiday Party held at Dave -n- Buster's was a smashing success. Many thanks to Dave Braasch (who risked his good credit for the welfare of the Association) and Don Ferreri for their hard work in arranging the bash. (See related story on page 20.)

I know this is about three months late, but I ran across a recipe in the *Naperville Sun* that HAS to be passed on to owners of golf course dogs. If your dog encounters a skunk while on his/her daily rounds, mix a quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide (found in any medicine cabinet belonging to a blond woman with brown roots), 1/4-cup baking soda and 1 teaspoon liquid soap. Work into the coat well until the stink is gone, and rinse with tap water. Oh, and don't store any leftover concoction—it could explode.

The NCTE is tail lights, but a few highlights are worth remembering. Dr. Frank Rossi gave a great talk called "Musings From a Turfgrass Heretic," and our own Tony Kalina, Eddie Braunsky, Randy Kane and Mike Bavier contributed with excellent talks and workshops. The U of I professors were here en masse, and provided outstanding programs, also. The ITF Awards Luncheon was great, with D. A. Weibring the keynote speaker, and Randy Wahler the moderator of the whole shebang. Deserving students received many oversized novelty checks, but the highlight

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was the presentation of the 1999 ITF Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Tom Fermanian, who more than deserves it to say the least. Finally, the trade show was a nice venue to see friends and talk shop. Overheard at the Lesco booth: You can now get eight months' pythium control from Subdue Maxx—apply it in November.

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Congratulations to Mike Mumper, who is heading up the road a skitch. Mike is the new golf course superintendent at Park Ridge Country Club. Good luck in your new position, Mike, and keep in touch with the little guys you've left behind...

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On a related note, congratulations to Ed Esgar, former assistant superintendent for Mike Mumper, who has accepted the superintendent's position at Ravisloe Country Club.

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Congratulations to MAGCS member Matt Dziedzic, president of Autumn Tree Care, upon being elected vice president of the Illinois Arborist Association. Following his vice presidency during 2000, Matt will become IAA's president in 2001. IAA is crucial in maintaining the high standards of knowledge and professionalism for all arborists in Illinois.

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Still for sale: Neary Spin-Matic II Reel Grinder and Neary Bed Knife Grinder with Automatic Travel. Call Bob Dunteman at 630-557-2900.

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For sale: Complete hydraulic two-speed 690 heads, \$35; complete 650 hydraulic heads, \$25; complete 670 hydraulic heads, \$25; 1992 Turfco top-dresser with new belt, \$600; Toro 44" walk-behind mower,

\$500; log splitter, \$100; 1992 Express dual-reel grinder and 1989 Foley bed knife grinder, \$6,500. Call Biltmore C.C. at 847-381-1963 and ask for Brian.

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The MAGCS sends out its heartfelt condolences to Gene Thompson and his family on the tragic and unexpected loss of his sister on December 8. Our sympathies are with you in this difficult time, Geno.

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"Super asides:" Three MAGCS members—Dave Braasch, Joel Purpur and John Gurke—decided life was not exciting enough, so they tried something new: sky-diving. Now Joel can both fly the plane AND jump out of it (preferably not the same plane). Skydive Chicago was our "host," and a good one they turned out to be, as all landed safely and without incident.



Dave Braasch, Joel Purpur and John Gurke prepare to take off.



Dave's 150-mph smile.