

# the Bull Sheet

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Contributing Editor

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- July 6-9 — Western Open at Cog Hill C.C., **Ken Lapp** host.
- July 17 — John Deere Team Championship at White Eagle Golf Club, **Gilberto Velazquez** host.
- July 18 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Redtail Golf Club, **Pat McDonagh** host.
- July 20-23 — U.S. Women's Open at Merit Club, **Oscar Miles, CGCS** host.
- August 3 — University of Illinois Field Day at the Landscape Horticulture Research Center and Hartley Selections Garden at Urbana, IL.
- August 22 — MAGCS monthly meeting at White Deer Run, **Joseph Meier** host.
- September 14-16 — 2000 LaSalle Bank Chicago Open at Beverly Country Club, **Les Rutan** host.
- September 18 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Stonewall Orchard Golf Club, **Larry Flament** host.
- October 10 — ITF Fall Golf Day at Gleneagles Country Club, **Keith Fuchs** host.

Congratulations to **Gregg Rosenthal, CGCS**, of Kemper Lakes Golf Club for the fine work he and his staff did in

preparing the course for the SBC Senior PGA Open last month. The course was in magnificent shape and showed the world once again what golf in Chicago truly is. On a side note, but just as important, Kemper Lakes was recently designated a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by the ACSP—the seventeenth course in Illinois, and the 217th in the world to achieve this prestigious designation. Contributing editor's apology for not mentioning the SBC event in Dates to Remember prior to it. Mea culpa . . .

Also congratulations go out to **Hans Hopphan** of Blackberry Oaks Golf Club, who officially retired on June 1. A large gathering of Hans' closest friends and relatives took place at the club's restaurant, Ralph's Place, and went well into the night. Granted, retirement for Hans means something completely different than it does to you and me, as he was at work the very next day, and every day since. Overseeing a bunker renovation project sounds like a nice way to relax, huh?

On a related note, **Steve Holich** is now the superintendent at Blackberry Oaks. Congratulations, Steve, and good luck with your new gig, which is no piece of cake what with the Fox Valley Golf League tearing up the course every Wednesday . . .

Best wishes to Oscar Miles, CGCS and his staff in hosting this month's U.S. Women's Open at The Merit Club. This will be another opportunity to showcase

one of the best-conditioned golf courses in the world to an international audience, and there is no better person than Oscar to head it up. Those of you who visit the MAGCS message board know that several of The Merit Club's past assistants and other MAGCS members will be assisting in the preparations for this important event, which is a tribute to Oscar AND to our Association. Anyone interested in lending a hand can e-mail Oscar at olmMerit@aol.com, or call him at 847-816-6985. Knock 'em dead, guys!

Our own (we still think of him as our own) **Bruce Williams, CGCS**, chaired a cross-committee meeting of GCSAA's Membership Standards Resource Group, which included nearly 80 Career Development, Certification, Education and Membership Committee representatives on April 15-16. The meeting focused on the proposed Professional Development Initiative and included MSR's recommendations and review of all feedback received. According to Bruce, the meeting was very productive, with many issues raised and resolved. More information on this hot issue can be obtained through GCSAA.

For the second consecutive month, **Dan Anderson, CGCS**, of Fox Valley Golf Course gets a pat on the back. Dan was featured in an article titled "Plant Doctors" that appeared in *The Sun's* May 19 paper. Also quoted in the article was our very own Dr. Randy Kane (a.k.a., the Dirt Doctor, according to last month's feature article author). Exposure such as this is key to the public's understanding of what we do, and any opportunity to take part in such a PR bonanza should be met by MAGCS members with open arms (in my humble opinion).



May's ITF Golf Day at Silver Lake Country Club was a huge success, with all participants enjoying a beautiful day on a beautiful course, thanks to **Dudley Smith, Dave Kohley** and staff. Dudley made a surprise appearance after the delicious steak fry, and his many friends gathered around him like mosquitoes around a blood bank. Congratulations, Dudley and Dave, for the great conditions!



*Dudley Smith and Dave Kohley were our gracious hosts for May's ITF Golf Day.*

You know that map in *Golfweek's Superintendent News* that flags North America's course conditions? MAGCS member and past president **Ed Fischer, CGCS**, was the guy from Illinois quoted in the May 26 issue, highlighting his strategies for promotion of root development through the use of wetting agents and deep, sustained irrigation. Good to see our guys in the spotlight.



*The Schmitz family and extended family enjoyed their day together— L to R: Ed Esgar (Ravisloe C.C.), Todd Schmitz (Aurora C.C.), Ray Schmitz (Flossmoor C.C.), and Mark Schmitz (Meadows G.C.).*

Since the theme of this month's *Bull Sheet* seems to be members in the media spotlight, new member **Jon Jennings, CGCS**, of Chicago Golf Club was featured in the June issue of *Golf Course Management* magazine's "Back Nine" section. Jon and longtime friend and fellow super-

*(continued on page 40)*

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intendent Pat Sisk competed in the New York City Marathon last fall, placing 6,414th and 22,184th respectively out of 31,785 contestants. A marathon is 26.2 miles. I get tired DRIVING 26.2 miles.

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 Deep sympathies to United Horticultural Supply's **Al Van Alsburg** on the tragic loss of his wife Diane. The MAGCS offers its warmest condolences.  
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Finally, our hearts go out to everyone in the business who survived the severe storms last month. Judging from the comments on the MAGCS Web site, the devastation was incredible. Stories of over 200 trees lost, lawn furniture stuck into building walls, feathers shot through fence posts, the appearance of flying squirrels where flying squirrels don't exist, and the like were common from superintendents whose courses happened to be in

the path of Mother Nature's hissy fit. The silver lining to this dark cloud was the assistance the affected courses received from fellow MAGCS members. Chippers and chainsaws were lended, manpower was sent out and many commercial members were there in a moment's notice to help. I hope things are getting back in order for those of you who had to endure this, and that the rest of your season is not so eventful.  
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On Course With the President (continued from page 4)

I know I have written this before, but I find it bears repeating if for no other reason than to remind myself. We always need to keep our priorities in order. This is a challenging time of year and it is very easy to lose our focus. Keep an eye on the big picture and enjoy today. There are no promises for tomorrow.

While scanning the membership at a recent MAGCS meeting, I noticed a similarity among many of us. Quite a few superintendents are becoming light in the hair department. You all know who you are, and those of you with a full head of hair aren't working hard enough. So this being the case, and with my message this month about remembering how to laugh, I thought I would attempt to be funny. If the following makes you smile, I will take the credit. But as with so many

other things around here, if my attempt fails miserably, I blame my assistant Dave.

From the home office in Naperville, IL, the top ten reasons golf course superintendents lose their hair.

10. Children—From 2:00 a.m. feedings to 2:00 a.m. curfews.
9. Pesticides—Mixing Thiram TGF with your arm seemed like a good idea at the time.
8. Mother Nature—The ultimate in a sense of humor.
7. 90-degree rule—30 plus 30 plus 30 = 90.
6. Canadian geese—Being outsmarted by a 20-pound bird with a brain the size of a pea.

5. New employees—That's a string-trimmer, not a chainsaw.
4. Superintendent's wife—If you're not married, you have hair. Enough said.
3. Veteran employees—You did say 30 ounces per thousand?
2. General managers—Is that a copy of *Golf Course Management* on their desk?
1. Golfers—It's a frost delay, I didn't know I couldn't use the putting green.

Time is precious, especially in our line of work. Try to brighten someone else's day with a touch of humor. It will give quality to you as an individual and keep your focus intact. God bless, and keep it light. 