

John Gurke, CGCS Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 19 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Winnetka Golf Club, Henry Michna, CGCS, 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 in Urbana. See below for more information. 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.

As mentioned above, the University of Illinois Field Day will be held on Thursday, August 3 at the Landscape Horticulture Research Center and Hartley Selections Garden in Urbana, IL. Field Day activities will begin at 8:00 a.m., when current turfgrass, nursery and landscape research will be displayed and explained during morning tours. The afternoon program will feature workshops and classes. U of I horticulturists, educators, plant pathologists and entomologists will be available to discuss research, answer questions and diagnose plant problems. For questions and information, contact **Luke Cella**, U of I Extension turfgrass associate, at 217-265-8222.

A hearty MAGCS welcome to **Dan Gruett,** the new irrigation service manager at Chicago Turf and Irrigation. Dan brings to our area a world of knowledge in irrigation systems and computers (as your author was fortunate to learn firsthand), and is available 25 hours a day to troubleshoot

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MAGCS April 2000 meeting host Tod Hopphan of Elgin C.C. with Kevin DeRoo of Bartlett Hills G.C.



25-year MAGCS members (L to R) Dave Nadler (Nadler Golf Car Sales), Randy Wahler (Knollwood Club) and Peter Leuzinger (Ivanhoe Club).



The usual supects duffing it around the beautiful Elgin C.C. – (L to R) Albie Staudt, Ed Braunsky, Jim Burdett and Kerry Anderson.

The April MAGCS meeting was a great success, with Elgin Country Club and host **Tod Hopphan** providing us a beautiful golf course and excellent hospitality. The day was perfect for golf, but the treacherous track took its toll on the many teams vying for a trip to the prize table. The education topic, provided by Paul F. Gleeson of Vedder, Price, Kaufman, and Kammholz, was Legal and Employee Relations Aspects to Union Organizing Drives. Paul brought up some very good points about the treatment of employees, which hit home even where union drives are not expected.

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any problems. Congratulations, Dan, and welcome to Chicago!

Congratulations to **Dan Anderson, CGCS,** of Fox Valley Golf Club for his hole-in-one on the ninth hole at his home course on April 28. Dan and his group thought he'd hit it over the par-3 green until a little investigative work proved that he did indeed ace the hole—his second ever, and only 23 years apart!

Anyone interested in FREE wood chips and fill-grade soil can contact **Darin Ayres** at Panoramic at 630-285-0300, ext. 230.

Ken Shepherd of Prairie Bluff Golf Club is looking for an assistant. Prairie Bluff is run by the Lockport Park District, and opened in 1998. Interested applicants can call Ken at 815-588-0053 for details. There must be a black hole sucking assistants into some other dimension, what with everyone looking for them. **Dr. Randy Kane's** *Poa annua* seedhead control study, which is being conducted at several MAGCS member courses, is in the evaluation phase (i.e., deciding which discolored rectangle looks best). Look for results in *On Course* soon...

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Keep an eye out for the latest of Mother Nature's gifts—a newlydiagnosed disease called "Ball Mark" disease. Caused by the fungus Ophiosphaerella Agrostis, the symptoms are small brown spots on sunny bentgrass greens prone to wilt. Dr. Peter Dernoeden of the University of Maryland, the leading expert on the disease, reports that several currently available fungicides (soon to be an oxymoron?) will control the disease.

In case you've been in an isolation booth for the past two months, the National Weather Service has issued its first-ever drought warning for the coming season. Higher-than-normal temperatures with lower-than-normal precipitation are expected for our area. Yippee.

This just in: **Jim Burdett** is still retired. Who'd have thought it would last this long? Congratulations on sticking to your plan, Jim.

On Thursday, May 11, Bull Valley Golf Club and superintendent Ken Goodman hosted the annual pro-superintendent event. As usual, weather was uncooperative at the start, but once the players (and supers) were on the course, Mother Nature changed her mind and provided us with a decent day on a great golf course. This event is a wonderful opportunity to continue to build strong relationships between the PGA professional and golf course superintendent in a relaxed, non-work atmosphere while at the same time helping the pro to experience shots he or she would never otherwise have to make. Congratulations to the winning team from Conway Farms (Chad Ball, CGCS) and to Kenny Goodman and his staff for having the course in such beautiful shape despite the rain.

