

the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS
Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

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, CGCS**, 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.

September 14-16 — 2000 LaSalle Bank Chicago Open at Beverly Country Club—**Les Rutan** host.

Check out the March/April issue of *Chicago District Golfer*. Not only is there a nice write-up on the Midwest Golf House Complex at Cog Hill, but an excellent look at Stonewall Orchard Golf Club in Grayslake. We look forward to playing host **Larry Flament's** course this September.

Dr. Randy Kane is currently conducting tests on Chicagoland-area golf courses for *Poa annua* seedhead control. Several different products are being applied side-by-side and evaluated for their usefulness in this yearly battle. Look for those results in the upcoming months.

In keeping with the theme, the University of Illinois triumvirate of turf titans (a little much?)—**Drs. Bruce Branham, Tom Fermanian and Tom Voigt**—has begun working on the divot

repair study that recently received matching funds from MAGCS and GCSAA. This study will examine the different aspects of divot repair (e.g., soil mixes, species and cultivars, fertilizers and other amendments) for tees, driving range tees and fairways with the objective of identifying efficient divot repair methods. An incoming graduate student, Sam Schmitz, has been hired for this project, and a survey has been mailed to a number of MAGCS superintendents to gather information to guide research activities during 2000 and 2001. The U of I researchers thank the MAGCS membership for their support in this endeavor.

More MAGCS folks on the move: **Bob Kohlstedt**, formerly of Wedgewood Golf Course, is the new superintendent at Fox Bend Golf Course. **Todd Schmitz**, formerly of Prairie Landing Golf Club, is the new assistant superintendent at Aurora Country Club. **Tony Frandria**, formerly of Midlothian Country Club, is the new assistant superintendent at Glen View Club.

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John Gurke, CGCS with Aurora Country Club PGA professional Pete Latkiewicz in front of the grand clubhouse.



"GQ" Jesper tees off on #18 at the National.

Been there, done that: In a follow-up to **Fred Behnke's** "Go There, Do That" article on the Masters that appeared in the June 1999 issue of *On Course*, I did just that. There is just no reason not to get away for a few days to visit the hallowed grounds of The National—it is spectacular! Admission is free with GCSAA credentials, and walking (no running allowed) the historic golf course is truly moving. Make your hotel reservations at least 600 years in advance, though, as space is definitely limited.

Shane Kissack, former assistant superintendent at Naperville Country Club, is the new superintendent at Riverside Country Club. Congratulations and best of luck to all these MAGCS members. Expect to see more news of this ilk in the near future, as MANY courses are seeking assistants and grounds employees.

Hopefully it is not May 8 when you read this: On May 7 at 9 a.m., J. W. Turf in Hampshire, IL is having a consignment auction that will feature numerous pieces of pre-owned golf and turf and lawn-care equipment. Contact J. W. Turf for details.

While on the subject of commercial members, can there be a better group of folks who truly care about their customers anywhere in the world? I cannot state emphatically enough how much we appreciate the "going beyond normal service" attitude that our commercial members take—you guys are simply the best in the business!

Let's do it again: Congratulations to—guess who—**Dan Dinelli** of North Shore Country Club for being recognized on national television by the O. M. Scott Company as recipient of their Tradition of Excellence Award during the final round of the Tradition tournament.

Also, congratulations to **Bob Maibusch, CGCS, MG**, of Hinsdale Country Club on his appointment to the GCSAA Board of Directors. President Woodhead hand-picked Bob to serve a one-year term. Thankfully, Mr. Woodhead did NOT learn the art of choosing talent from the Bears' front office . . .

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A Note From Fred Opperman

I received these pictures from Bob Hammerschmidt, a friend and owner of Lost Nation G.C. in Dixon, IL. I thought that the membership would like to see what the club is doing with trees that have died on the course. Everyone knows that it is proper to recycle; well, Lost Nation is taking it a step further. At the present, they have about seven to eight wood carvings on the trunks of trees that normally are cut down. The two pictures here are of an American eagle and a Native American. There are others of a beaver, old man, tee and ball, golf bag and an eagle in flight. All of this work was done with a chain-saw. Give Todd Rosquist, superintendent, a call at 815-652-4212 for more information.

As for myself, it has been almost a year since I left Illinois and moved to the Montana mountains. It has been a great time and very enjoyable. I have been spending one to two days per week working for Habitat for Humanity and have worked on four different houses to date. I am building a woodworking shop and stocking it with the different tools, and that takes up many pleasurable hours. This coming spring, I will be landscaping our new home, and of course, I need to spend time on the local trout streams. Just about every Saturday this past winter, I was snowshoeing with the local club. Most days we went into Yellowstone Park to find the deeper snow and to see more wildlife, which we did.

My best to all, and may you all have a successful year.



For sale: 1987 84" National triplex mower in very good condition with sharp reels. Also, a 110-gallon Smithco spray tank (Cushman mount-style) without boom nor pump. Offers are being accepted by Brian Bossert, CGCS at Bryn Mawr Country Club—847-677-4112.

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