

the Bull Sheet

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Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

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.

October 19 — University of Illinois Turf Alumni Golf Outing, Olympia Fields Country Club, **Dave Ward, CGCS** host.

November 29 — Second Annual U of I Alumni Breakfast at NCTE.

The official groundbreaking ceremony for Midwest Golf House took place on July 5, with CDGA executive director **Bob Markionni** and president **Jerry Maatman** on hand for the honors. MAGCS will have an office in the new complex on the grounds of Cog Hill Country Club, along with its name on the entrance sign. Further details about all the Golf House activities and plans can be obtained through CDGA.

Congratulations to **Ken Goodman** of Bull Valley Golf Club for winning the Old Elm-Elmer Bertucci Trophy for low senior superintendent at the July 18 MAGCS meeting at RedTail Golf Club. **David Mayzel** of Eagle One

Golf Products gets a big pat on the back for his overall senior low net score of 73 (I witnessed it—the guy's got game). Thanks from all of us at MAGCS to **Pat McDonagh** and his staff at RedTail for a great course and a great event.



Mike Mumper, CGCS, of Park Ridge C.C. presenting the coveted framed On Course magazine featuring RedTail Golf Club to our gracious and talented host Pat McDonagh.

The University of Illinois Field Day, held in Urbana on August 3, was a huge success (although attendance from the northern part of the state was a bit scant). Those who made the trip were treated to a dream day for the turf doctors—central Illinois' heat and humidity gave participants a chance to see active pythium on ryegrass and six-foot brown patch symptoms on Colonial bentgrass. Other ongoing plots were on display, including **Luke Cella's** ball lie/fairway height-of-cut project, **Dr. Branham's** Basamid study focusing on ground preparation and rates applied (being done in conjunction with Purdue University),

MAGCS sends out its thoughts and prayers to Conrad Stynchula and his entire family; Conrad's father Frank is fighting the fight against cancer.

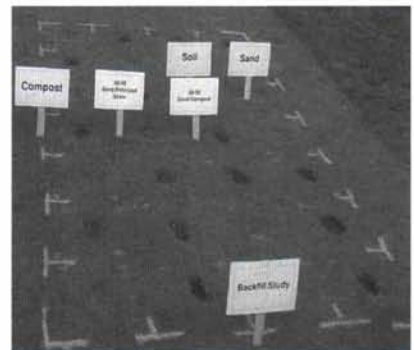
It's official—the drought of 2000 has been cancelled by the Illinois Interagency Drought Task Force. Wonder what tipped them off?

Your Education Committee has arrived at a tentative lineup for the MAGCS 48th Midwest Turf Clinic and Annual Meeting at Medinah Country Club (**Dan Quast, CGCS** host) to be held on November 9. Highlights will include Steve Mona, CEO of GCSAA, speaking on the future of our association and Eddie Adams, greenkeeper of the Old Course at St. Andrews and host of the 2000 British Open Championship. Make your plans now to attend this always-educational event.

Textron Golf & Turf of Racine, WI is looking for all alumni of its 29 "Future Turf Managers"

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and Sam Schmitz's divot study with Drs. Branham and **Tom Voigt**, looking at different seed rates and growth media. For information on any of these studies, contact Dr. Voigt or Dr. Branham at the U of I.



Results of Sam Schmitz's divot study at the U of I Field Day on August 3.

seminars to attend the 30th reunion reception during the GCSAA Conference and Show in Dallas in February 2001. If you are an alumnus, or know of any in the MAGCS, contact Diane Ellsworth, events coordinator, at dellsworth@ttcsp.textron.com. If memory serves, this seminar was previously called the Jacobsen College Student Turf Seminar, and Lake Michigan is VERY cold in Racine at that time of year.

By now, most everyone in MAGCS has received the finalized version of GCSAA's proposed Professional Development Initiative (PDI) from president R. Scott Woodhead, CGCS. This proposal is scheduled to be drafted by the standards and bylaws committee in October, and will be distributed to all voting members with the Notice of Annual Meeting in December. Your Board of Directors strongly encourages you to read this proposal thoroughly, as it will affect all classes of golf course superintendents in the future. Our vote will be cast in February in Dallas, and it carries significant weight!

There is a new hot topic in the industry, as evidenced by the rash of articles in industry publications—trees. Thankfully for those of us with overplanted courses, the articles have been about the removal of trees, rather than addition of more. David A. Oatis has written several very informative articles in *USGA Green Section Record* over the past few months on this subject, and an article appeared in a recent *Golf Journal* whose title began with "Cutdown Clubs." These articles may be blasphemy to many golfers and "tree-huggers," but they are helpful in conveying to our customers the negative impact trees can have on golf



Oops! Although this may resemble the storm damage many of us suffered this summer, the only storm that caused this boo-boo was the brainstorm a certain superintendent had in thinking the tree would fall into the wind. Stupid me . . . er . . . him.

courses if they are improperly sited, of a poor species, overcrowded or simply unsafe. This latter case was brought to the forefront in May, when a woman was killed by a falling tree on a British Columbia golf course, and officials issued a mandate to remove all diseased or dead trees from golf courses there.

Finally, if you are in search of a great read, check out *Royal and Ancient—Blood, Sweat and Fear at the British Open* by Curt Sampson. The book recounts the 1999 British Open Championship at Carnoustie, and highlights the famous self-imposed destruction of Jean Van de Velde (gotta-makeafivegottamakeasixgottamakea seven) and the almost-equally famous greenkeeper John Philp's role in the Open.

The golf world lost a true friend on Thursday, July 20. *Chicago Tribune* outdoors columnist John Husar died at the age of 63. As **Mike Bavier, CGCS**, of Inverness Golf Club pointed out to me, years ago John Husar was a

Trib golf writer who frequently sought out local superintendents to learn of the problems they were facing and make the golfing public aware of our profession through his columns. More recently, John was considered THE MAN when it came to hunting and fishing around the Chicagoland area. MAGCS thanks John Husar for breaking new ground in publicizing our profession long before it was fashionable. He will be missed.

For sale: One Modern reel grinder, one Modern bedknife grinder, two Foley lawn mower sharpeners, one Toro Greensmaster mower with extra heads. Contact Carl Gustafson at 815-875-3436 or at 202 S. Chestnut, Princeton, IL 61356.

Assistant superintendent AND equipment technician wanted. Salary with numerous benefits. Contact **Bob Rigney** at Village Greens of Woodridge at 630-739-8050.

An early August update from “Big (Smoky) Sky Country”

By Fred Opperman

Well, I'm sure the west has been on the news lately with all of the fires. Our valley here has been smoke-filled for the past two weeks. Our views of the surrounding mountains have disappeared and yet the closest fire is 150+ miles away in western Montana or Idaho.

Old-time residents say they have never had the mountains disappear before . . . even when Yellowstone burned in '88 and that is only 80 miles south! The last two days you can smell the smoke, before that it looked like smog. The sun is a red ball (that one can look at due to the haze) morning and evening, and last evening it disappeared an hour before sunset. Quite a few “trophy homes,” along with others, have burned south of Missoula;

for the ones that haven't burned, the reason they were built there is no longer present.

Our weather has been hot, in the 90s most days and very dry. Humidity today is 16%. Our nights have been down in the low 60s or mid-50s. As for the mountains close to me, the grass is still green and somewhat moist. But by the end of August that all could change.

I went to a conference for Habitat for Humanity in Seattle last week; it was at the University of Washington. What a beautiful campus that is . . . beautiful, huge, mature trees of every species you can name. One morning I walked over to the arboretum and enjoyed a couple of hours walking around it.

I've been going on weekly hikes with a group of retired guys from the Montana Wilderness Association. So far I've hiked to the two tallest peaks around here, Mt. Bauldy at 8,400+ feet and Mt. Blackmoor at 10,154 feet. The hikes were about eight miles each, round trip. Another hike we took was 14 miles and that really was rough. I need younger legs and more lung capacity. Above tree line, the alpine flowers are beautiful and profuse. At some spots the snow is melting away and there is a flower blooming that you know was covered by snow only a day or two before. Nature is wonderful, thank the Lord.

That is all from “Big Smoky” for now, y'all keep in touch.

On Course and the MAGCS thank our September advertisers.

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