

# the Bull Sheet

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Contributing Editor

## DATES TO REMEMBER

April 23 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Ruffled Feathers Golf Club, **Dan Albaugh** host.

May 6 — J.W. Turf Annual Consignment Sale Auction in Hampshire, Illinois. More details below.

May 7 — ITF Combined Golf Day at Kishwaukee Country Club, **Phil Zeinert, CGCS** host.

The 72nd GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show in Dallas is now a memory, and we are all hopefully back in one piece (no thanks to the choppy flights). Here are a few of the highlights (and lowlights):

Conference attendance was 20,600 (down 5% from last year), most of whom were privileged to see General H. Norman Schwartzkopf give a stirring talk that both amused and motivated the large crowd at the opening session. The 75th anniversary lapel pin given out at the door was a nice touch by GCSAA.

The annual meeting resolved several important issues, most notably the passing of the Professional Development Initiative (PDI) by a resounding 76%. Of local interest, **Tommy Witt, CGCS**, previously of Wynstone Golf Club, was elected president of GCSAA, while Hinsdale Golf Club's **Bob Maibusch, CGCS** was reelected a director, along with Sean Hoolehan, CGCS, pre-

viously at Butler National. For more on Tommy Witt, check out page 13 of your March 2 issue of *Golfweek's Superintendent News*.

On February 15, Chicago Turf & Irrigation, Inc. was recognized as Distributor of the Year for 2000 by Otterbine/Barebo, Inc. of Emmaus, PA. The award honors a combination of sales, marketing and service. **Rich Daly** of CTI accepted the award—the fourth he and CTI have received—in Dallas. Congratulations to Rich and the folks at CTI.

The biggest event of the conference was obviously the MAGCS Hospitality Suite in the Adam's Mark Hotel. Our generous donors and the people behind the scenes (**Paul Yerkes** of Lesco and **Kevin DeRoo** of Bartlett Hills G.C.) are the folks to thank for two very fine nights. Paul's director's column (p.7) goes into much more detail about this, but after enjoying the great food and refreshments, I had to chime in with another cheer of gratitude from all of us to our sponsors. I'd also like to point out an omission from the contributors' banner that was displayed in the room—Layne Western was mistakenly left off the banner, but was a generous contributor to the room. Thanks to **Tom Healy** for not taking the money back.

The trade show (however difficult it may have been getting to it in the dreadful weather) was very well laid out and had something to offer everyone in attendance. The 75th anniversary displays throughout the convention center were a nice way to revisit the past and learn about the history of our national association and its affiliated chapters. Prominently featured in the chapter history display (which was a disappointing out-of-the-way corner outside the trade show floor) were items and manuscripts from both MAGCS and the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents.



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The "Best Story From The Show" contest was a draw. The first involved a dinner for four including **Tom and Bob Lively, Steve Van Acker, CGCS** and **Paul Schaefer, CGCS** of Prairie Isle G.C., who decided to celebrate Tom's move to Medinah Country Club (replacing retired **Dan Quast, CGCS**) on March 15. The dinner itself was not the big story, but the tab was. "A tail on every plate" was the theme (LOBSTER tail), and when the bill arrived, the honoree had to pony up \$1,200 to avoid a week of washing dishes. Congratulations to Tom on his exciting new career move.



Can these guys really eat \$1,200 worth of food? L to R: Tom Lively, Paul Schaefer, Bob Lively and Steve Van Acker pose with Byron Nelson.

The second story involved the hardships endured by **Tom Savage** of Pine Meadow C.C. (Thelma) and **Kevin Czerkies, CGCS** of Sportsman's C.C. (Louise) while en route to Dallas in Tom's vehicle. It seems an improperly latched hood succumbed to the force of the oncoming wind and opened a bit past its intended limit, causing near panic in the cockpit. Disaster was averted, and the vehicle (NOT a classic T-Bird, but still nice before the incident) was safely brought to a stop before careening over any canyon walls to certain death, and the lucky though shaken occupants were once again on their way to Dallas in their new rental car.

Entertainment asides: Although the weather, the public transportation system (was there one?) and the inconvenient locations of hotels tried to thwart any potential fun, most of our MAGCS members showed the perseverance necessary to get out and find some. The Adam's Mark "disco" was a happening night spot where many of our rhythm-challenged colleagues attempted to dance the nights away (you know who you are—no further embarrassment necessary here). The West End was a big attraction also, where you could find just about anything to eat and drink, and just about anyone from MAGCS to eat and drink with. After taking an informal survey, and considering ALL aspects of the presentation, The Lodge was the winner in the "Best Steak In Dallas" competition. Also receiving honors was Denny's for best hash browns.

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**NOW ON TO OTHER NEWS . . .**  
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Congratulations to **Dan Marco, CGCS**, who is the new superintendent at Ruth Lake Country Club. Dan replaced Tom Lively in March, and is ecstatic to be back among his friends in the Chicago area. Welcome back, Dan.

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Another MAGCS member is on the move: **Tom Brodeur** of Crystal Tree C.C. is moving back home to Massachusetts to take on golf course superintendent responsibilities at the new TPC of Boston facility. The property is 400 acres of woodland, and will feature vast areas of wetlands and native vegetation. Akin to the Midwest Golf House at Cog Hill Country Club, the site will house the Massachusetts Golf Hall of Fame along with several allied associations once it is finished. Opening is scheduled for July of 2002. Best of luck to you, Tom!

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Also congrats to Vince Dodge of Nordic Hills Golf Club on passing (with FLYING colors) the certification exam while in Dallas. Vinnie is now **Vince Dodge, CGCS**. Nice going, Vince.

As you may have read in the Midwest Voices column (p.26), one of our own is leaving the fold. **Gene Thompson** has resigned from Indian Lakes Resort to move to Georgia nearer his family. "Dad," as he's known by his Fox Valley Golf League friends, will be missed by all of us, and even more so by the accountant at Blackberry Oaks. Best of luck to you and Donna, Gene, and our prayers will be with you and your family during this transition—don't be a stranger.

Due to the previous item, MAGCS is now accepting applications from any bands interested in playing at the annual dinner dance this fall. Send demo tapes to **Brian Bossert, CGCS**.

While on the subject of our president, this just in: Brian ran in the Napa Valley Marathon the weekend of March 3-4. Our mole on the scene reports that Brian made a detour at the first winery along the route, and did not reappear until he stepped out of a cab with a half-mile left in the race sporting a red "milk moustache." The driving rain and wind managed to wipe the red liquid off his face, and Brian finished the race in 4 hours, 21 minutes and 24 seconds (the cabbie got lost). More important than finishing the race, Brian reached an even bigger milestone by finally beating his father-in-law, whose wooden legs malfunctioned in the downpour.

As mentioned in Dates to Remember, J.W. Turf is holding its Annual Consignment Sale Auction on May 6 at their location in Hampshire, IL.

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Although our MAGCS representatives who competed in the GCSAA Golf Tournament did not bring home any first-place hardware, we can nonetheless report more than several impressive accomplishments. In the Championship Flight, **Al Pondel, CGCS** of Rockford C.C. shared third-place honors with five others at 148, and **Tim Scott, CGCS** of Stony Creek G.C. was right behind them at 149. In the Two-Man Team Championship at the TPC Four Seasons, **Ed Fischer, CGCS** of Old Elm Club and **Bob Kronn** of LaGrange C.C. took second place with a 70, with **Dan Sterr** of Stonebridge C.C. and Tim Scott two spots back at 72. Al Pondel and **Randy Wahler, CGCS** of Knollwood Club took second in the Two-Man Gross Division of the tournament, with **Dave Kohley** of Silver Lakes C.C. and Tim Scott one shot back at 69. In the Senior Flight I, **Tim Davis** of Shoreacres and Ed Fischer finished among the top five with 60 and 57 points respectively. In Senior Flight II, Bob Kronn took sole possession of second place, while **Brian Chalifoux** of Fort Wayne C.C. placed third in the Fourth Flight, **Chad Ball, CGCS** of Conway Farms G.C. took third in the Fifth Flight, and Steve Van Acker of Crystal Lake C.C. and **Brad Johnsen** of Klein Creek G.C. grabbed second and fourth, respectively, in the Eighth Flight. Congratulations to all of our competitors for a fine showing.



Steve Van Acker celebrates his second-place finish in the Eighth Flight.



Tom Prichard of the Glen Club shows off his classic form.

Golf & Turf equipment auction will start at 8:30 a.m., with Lawn & Garden equipment to follow at 11. Call 847-683-4653 for more details.



Fifty years of membership in GCSAA, and none the worse for wear.

Since we're in the congratulatory mood, a couple of others to pass along: First to **Albie Staudt**, who is celebrating his 50th year as a member of GCSAA—way to go, Albie! Second, big kudos for a big baby born to Michele and **Dave Blomquist**, CGCS (Naperville C.C.) on February 24. Dane Oscar Blomquist entered the world weighing a whopping 9 pounds, 10 ounces, nosing out the Schmitz baby by a smidge. Mom, dad and Dane are all well and home—congratulations, guys.



The new addition to the Blomquist family—Dane Oscar—does what babies do best.

Your MAGCS Long-Range Planning Committee needs your input. LRPC basically takes input from past presidents, Board of Directors, last year's survey and YOU to recommend any changes in policy or direction our Association needs to take. This is your chance to have a say in how your Association is run, and how to improve upon the programs and benefits membership entails. **Fred Behnke** of Mount Prospect G.C. is chairman of this important committee, and welcomes your comments, concerns and critiques via the following methods: phone 847-632-9331; fax 847-342-9113; or e-mail at Fbehnke@juno.com. Take a moment and think about what you would do differently, and get hold of Fred and tell him!

**ITEMS FOR SALE:**

140 Accuform bunker rakes in good shape for sale or trade. Call Dave Blomquist at Naperville C.C. at 630-355-9807 for details.

1988 Jac Greens King Diesel w/ groomers, 2,300 hours—\$3,000. 1991 Jac Greens King w/ groomers, 2,600 hours—\$3,500. Will take \$5,500 for both. 1979 Toro GM III, heads good, best offer. 1979 National 84" triplex, good runner—best offer. All mowers are ground and ready to cut! Call **Jerry Mach** at Lake Bluff G.C. at 847-234-6788 for more info.

Panoramic Landscape Co. has 800+ yards of fill material available for the picking. Call **Darin Ayres** at 630-514-3356 to arrange for delivery.

Three (3) Jac LF100 fairway mowers, in good condition, minimum bid \$800 each. One (1) Brouwer Vacuum Model BV138, in excellent condition, minimum bid \$2,500. Call **Tony Kalina** at 630-232-1650 for more details.

One (1) 1983 Toro Greens-master 3, variable speed control and cutting units, \$1,000. 1988 Toro Sand Pro with push blade, \$1,500. Cushman Truckster with 100-gallon SDI sprayer hose reel, boom, electric solenoids, \$2,000. SDI pto 300-gallon sprayer boom, foamer, raven controls, \$4,500. 1972 Toro general tractor, needs power steering cylinder, \$1,000. Call Dennis or Glenn at Sunset Ridge C.C., 847-446-5268.

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