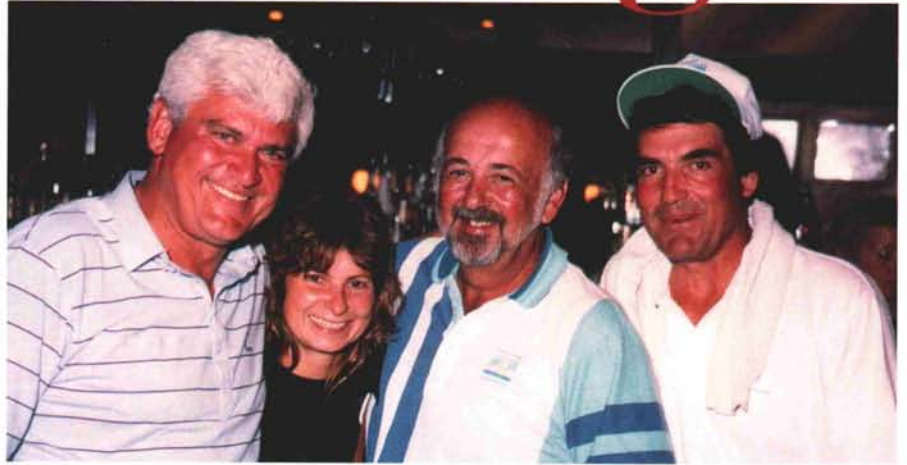


# Remembering John Buck



Holly Gilmour (L, center)  
and John Buck (R, center)  
with two of John's  
countless friends.

*One of the greatest rewards of being a member of the MAGCS is the sense of fraternity in the relationships that we develop over the years in the pursuit of our profession. We are drawn together through our efforts to achieve a common goal. Whether we are selling products, representing a manufacturer, servicing equipment or growing grass, we are the industry of golf course management. We have recently lost a major player in our local profession in the passing of John Buck.*

*... he was always  
the kind of person  
that was willing  
to help, wherever  
it was needed.  
Whether it was  
personal or profes-  
sional, you could  
always count on  
John Buck and  
that friendly smile.*

I would like to use a few column inches here in the publication he was very quick to support when we made the transition to the upgraded color format. When *the Bullsbeet* was evolving to become *On Course*, many additional costs were being incurred. This necessitated that the advertising rates be raised to cover these costs. At the time, there was a fair amount of skepticism on the part of the MAGCS Board of Directors that we would be able to pay for these improvements solely through advertising revenue. One of the keys to making this happen was that we had to sell every one of the back cover color ads for the next year. We had sent out the notice to advertisers of the opportunity to buy space for full-color ads and had only received orders for half (six months) of the issues. For some reason, J.W. Turf hadn't received the notice. When I called John to see if I could interest him in buying some of the remaining spots, he said, "Hell yes! I'll buy 'em all." The next year, when one of the major chemical manufacturers that had purchased three months' worth of color ads had to cancel their commitment because of a merger, we were once again faced with an advertising shortfall. Once again, John purchased these spots in addition to what he had already booked.

I guess I want everyone to know that he was always the kind of person that was willing to help, wherever it was needed. Whether it was personal or professional, you could always count on John Buck and that friendly smile.

There are others in our Association who have similar remembrances; here are a couple recollections representative of the many lives John touched.

*John Buck was a special person in so many ways. His way of conducting business was like nobody else's—I call it the Jamaican way—as he actually WOULD go out of his way to make sure the customer was happy. Need a loaner for a spell while your other-brand machine is being repaired? No problem. Need our technician to come out and help you through a repair? No problem. Need "customized" financing (i.e., pay for it when you can)? No problem.*

*It seemed that as long as we were happy, John was too. The generosity of the man goes beyond his treatment of customers—he was that way with everyone. MAGCS was a huge benefactor of John's goodness, as was every person that ever worked for him or was fortun-*

*nate enough to have known him. If you were down on your luck, John would be there to offer you whatever you needed. It's just the kind of man he was. I'll miss John, and I think all of us in this business owe him thanks for what he's done for us. We won't see many more like him.*

—John Gurke, CGCS,  
Aurora C.C.

*I would like it stated that Mr. John Buck was a gentleman's gentleman. I have dealt with John for more than ten years, and in that time I have come to think of him as a friend. The loss of John is huge to this industry. He loved his business and loved the golf industry.*

*On a humorous note, I have to say that he also was the one person that I could never yell at. I had a problem about two years back with his company and boy, was I going to let him know what I thought about*

*it. I drove out to J.W. Turf with all the intentions of letting him have it. When I arrived, I was pumped up and had my game plan together on how to deal with this problem. But once I was in front of his desk and looked at that smile he wore every time I saw him, I just clammed up.*

*Dealing with John always made me feel like I was dealing with my dad; I never could yell or say a bad word to him. For the people out there that know me, this never happens. I always say what I am thinking unless it was with John. The loss of John is huge to the industry and I have lost a good friend that would do everything in his means to help anyone that needed it. We will miss you, John.*

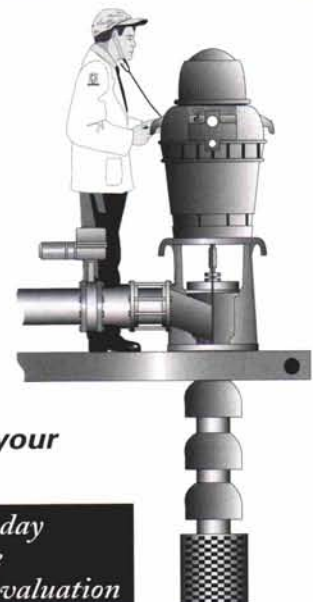
—Scott Speiden, Itasca G.C.



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