

the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS,
Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 2 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Orchard Valley Golf Course in Aurora, IL, **Jim McNair, CGCS** and **Harry Lovero** hosts.

July 5-8 — Advil Western Open at Cog Hill Country Club in Lemont, IL, **Ken Lapp** host.

August 2 — U of I Field Day in Urbana, IL.

August 15 — MAGCS monthly meeting at White Hawk Country Club in Crown Point, Indiana, **Dan Tully** host.

August 18 — MAGCS Kane County Cougars outing at the old ball park in Geneva, IL.

September 24 — 2001 John Deere Championship at Boulder Ridge Country Club in Lake in the Hills, IL, **Paul Wagner** host.

October 1 — MAGCS Scholarship Fundraiser at Geneva Golf Club, **Ed Braunsky, CGCS** host.

October 12 — Illinois PGA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Glen Club in Glenview, IL.

October 17 — ITF Fall Golf Day and MAGCS College Team Championship at Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park, IL, **Dudley Smith** host.

The ITF Spring Golf Event, held this year on May 7 at Kishwaukee Country Club with **Phil Zeinert, CGCS** hosting, was, as usual, a well-attended success. The course was superb, and Mother Nature once again was in one of her “moods,” making the difficult tract even more challenging. The MAGCS thanks Phil, his staff and all the people at Kishwaukee for making the day such a triumph.



Phil Zeinert receives the customary framed copy of On Course magazine from ITF president Don Cross, CGCS of Skokie CC.



Ed Braunsky, CGCS of Geneva Golf Club (L) and Albie Staudt (R), shown just moments after Carl Hopphan had severed the umbilical cord.



Dr. Randy Kane of the CDGA, shown with Luke Cella from U of I, prepares to bribe the photographer into running yet another picture of him in Bull Sheet.

The MAGCS Scholarship Committee is delighted to announce the recipients of this year's two \$1,000 awards: Ms. Brenda Ferreri and Mr. Eric Fischer. Brenda, the daughter of **Don Ferreri** (Seven Bridges G.C.) and Geri, is currently enrolled in the Illinois Institute of Art in Schaumburg where she has received Dean's Honors three times and is on the President's Honors list. She is maintaining a 3.5 GPA, and will embark upon a career in computer animation after graduation. Eric, the son of **Ed Fischer, CGCS** (Old Elm Club) and Jan, is a graduate student at DePaul University working on his MBA. Upon completion of his studies, Eric plans to establish his own landscaping business. Congratulations to both Brenda and Eric on this great achievement. See page 37 of this issue of *On Course* for Brenda's and Eric's scholarship competition essays.

From GCSAA, this just in: A new Web site has been launched to aid golf course decision-makers and club officials in understanding the role of the golf course superintendent. Especially designed for individuals new to the business of golf, golfsuper.com is the place to go to become informed about the scope and nature of our profes-

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sion. Links to other sites can be accessed from golfsuper.com for more in-depth information. Check it out.

While on the subject of Big Brother (GCSAA), your MAGCS Board of Directors has purchased seven commemorative bricks for GCSAA's 75th anniversary program. The bricks will be installed at GCSAA headquarters around the Old Tom Morris sculpture and gardens in Lawrence, Kansas, and will honor the six MAGCS members who have served as president of the national association. Bricks acknowledging **John MacGregor (1933)**, **Raymond Gerber (1950)**, **Robert Williams (1958)**, **Theodore Woehrle (1977)**, **Michael Bavier (1981)** and **Bruce Williams (1996)** will receive their place in history, along with a brick commemorating the MAGCS 75th anniversary. Next time you are in Lawrence, stop by and walk on our little part of the national association's past.

A couple of our old friends are on the move: Past editor **Fred Opperman** writes to tell us of his recent adventures, which include stops in the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and St. Petersburg, Russia; along with a trip into Yellowstone, Teton National Park and Jackson, Wyoming before heading back home to Bozeman, Montana (this, compared to his other travels, is like walking down to the corner store for a newspaper). **Jim Burdett** sent us a postcard from the Inside Passage in southeast Alaska, which he and a friend are exploring by motor home. Jim's wife Marilyn had to stay home and work, leaving him to roam the country. After a stop in Bozeman, they headed to Seattle to catch a boat up to Alaska. Hopefully, the two will have plenty of photos to share with

those of us who can only dream of such adventures.
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MAGCS (and myself personally) extend our deepest sympathies to **Gene Thompson** and his family on the passing of his father, Gene Thompson, Sr., on May 29. Gene was kind enough to share some of the events leading up to and following this tragic loss, and I thought them to be appropriate for this column. Just two weeks before Gene Sr.'s death, the family received the news that he had taken a turn for the worse. Gene wrote Arnold Palmer a letter about his dad's situation, asking him if he could possibly send a note of encouragement to cheer him up. Within a week, a letter arrived from Arnie telling him to remain strong and keep the faith and optimism—something one doesn't usually expect from today's celebrity-athletes. This really demonstrates what a class-act Arnold Palmer truly is. The send-off for Mr. Thompson was one for the ages—four cars and 17 people set about to scatter his remains in various favorite locations on the island, including under a huge live oak tree in his yard, the site where he released raccoons that he'd trapped out of his yard, on the 13th hole of Sea Island Golf Course (his favorite hole), in his own fish pond, and even (sneakily) in some bushes outside his favorite restaurant. Gene will now have a golfing buddy for eternity, as he saved a small portion to keep in a container in his golf bag. Thanks for sharing such a personal experience with us, Gene, and keep in touch.
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Check out the May 25 issue of *Golfweek's Superintendent News* for an insightful perspective by our own **Brad Anderson**, CGCS of Midlane Country Club. Brad certainly shows his knack for the written word, and his message

comes across loud and clear. Kudos to Brad for his stance on the benefits of the "daily-fee triumvirate" versus the corporate management scheme in golf course operations.
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Although this publication serves the MAGCS membership, I would be remiss not to mention the trials and tribulations of fellow superintendents across the land, who deserve our thoughts. The winter of 2000-2001 is over (although it is 45 degrees as I write this in early June), but many of our brothers are still suffering from its wrath. The Northeast was ravaged by winter kill, which is still keeping many courses either closed or on temporary putting surfaces. This widespread devastation prompted a winter kill summit to get superintendents and club officials together to discuss what happened and what is being done to bring the courses back into playing shape. The summit, held at the Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts, is another example of our profession's proactive commitment to the dissemination of information and the sharing of knowledge for the betterment of golf everywhere. Elsewhere, one of our "neighbors" whose controversial dismissal was well-documented has happily landed on his feet. John Netwal, CGCS, formerly of the TPC at Deere Run in East Moline, IL, is now the director of operations of the North Scott Community Schools in Eldridge, Iowa (his hometown). There IS life beyond the golf course, and John is living proof of this.
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Condolences from MAGCS to **Don Spier** of Novartis and his family on the passing of their mother on May 27. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Don.
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Penn State alumni boosters gathered at the Sheraton in downtown Chicago on May 9, and several MAGCS members were there to rub shoulders (literally!) with Joe Paterno, "soon to be the winningest coach in history," adds John Berarducci.



Pictured here are (L to R) Shane Kissack, Dudley Smith, Dominick Berarducci, Coach Paterno, J.R. Murphy and "Tse, Tse Bear."

To all members without a current handicap: the CDGA can help! Give them a call at 630-257-2005 to get the ball rolling (no pun intended). Remember, you MUST have a current handicap in order to qualify for prizes in MAGCS events.

MAGCS welcomes Rich Schau to the area. Rich is the new Lesco sales representative in the south Chicago territory. Welcome, Rich—now get out the check-book and join MAGCS!

Congratulations to **Mike Bavier, Jr.**, formerly assistant superintendent at Ivanhoe Club, on being named superintendent of Deerfield Golf Club. Mike replaces **Al Pondel, CGCS**, who moved to Rockford C.C.

Congratulations to **Eric Radkowsky** on being named the new superintendent of Mill Creek Golf Course. Eric hails from another American Golf property—the Woodlands—in Michigan, and replaces **Brett Hultquist** at the Geneva, IL course. Welcome to the Chicago area, Eric.

Point O'Woods Golf & Country Club in Benton Harbor, Michigan is accepting resumes for a second assistant superintendent. Interested parties should contact **Ron Fox, CGCS** at 616-944-1800.

Villa Olivia Country Club is looking for an assistant superintendent. Contact **Ed Joerns** at 630-289-5200 for details.

Finally, with all the violence and crises in the news lately, a little levity: A man stranded on a desert island for 10 years sees an object on the horizon. As the object gets nearer, it's apparent to the man that it is not a boat or raft. When it finally reaches shore, the object turns out to be a beautiful, shapely woman in a wetsuit. She walks from the surf to the man and asks, "How long has it been since you had a cigarette?" "Ten years!" the guy anxiously replies. She unzips a pocket on the sleeve of her wet-

suit and pulls out a pack of cigarettes from a waterproof container and gives him one, lighting it for him. He takes a long puff and says, "Man oh man is that ever good!" She then asks, "How long has it been since you had a sip of bourbon?" "Ten years!" says the man. She unzips another pocket and produces a flask and hands it to him, and the man takes a long pull from it and says, "Wow! That's absolutely terrific!" The woman then starts to slowly slide the zipper on the front of her skintight wetsuit down, looks at the man seductively and says, "How long has it been since you've played around?" The man, with tears in his eyes, replies, "Oh sweet mercy sakes alive! Don't tell me you've got golf clubs in there, too?!"

Dear MAGCS Members,

As I write this, I'm sitting amidst boxes in the den of the Ralston family's new home in northwest suburban Round Lake. I really should finish unpacking my office, but a monthly magazine's production schedule is relentless. Maybe when this issue goes to press, I'll finally settle in!

During the last week, I've gone through Ameritech limbo and I apologize for any inconvenience suffered by the readers of this magazine. In any case, effective immediately, *On Course* has a new mailing address, phone number and fax number, as follows:

**68 S. Waterford Drive
Round Lake, IL 60073
phone/fax: 847-740-0962**

I check messages daily, but sometimes don't have the opportunity to return a call during business hours until one or two days later. If you ever need to speak to me **immediately**, please don't hesitate to call my home number, 847-740-0758, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

My e-mail remains the same: **on_course@hotmail.com**. Again, thank you for your patience during this transition period.

Regards,
Cathy Miles Ralston
Editor, *On Course*