

the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS
Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 21 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Fox Bend Golf Course, **Bob Kohlstedt** host.

May 4 — J. W. Turf's Golf and Turf Equipment Auction in Hampshire, Illinois.

May 10 — Sixth Annual North American Birdwatching Open on International Migratory Bird Day.

On Saturday, May 10, Audubon International will conduct its Sixth Annual Birdwatching Open. This event is open to all, and its purpose is to gather data on specific bird species that use managed lands, while also demonstrating publicly that many land managers are committed to responsible environmental stewardship. Over the course of 24 hours, participants identify as many different birds as they can on their property, which provides AI with useful information about bird species commonly found on different types of properties. To participate, visit www.audubonintl.org to register and download rules, as well as a bird checklist.

This from *Amazing But True Golf Facts*: The blooming of the azaleas is so important to the festive atmosphere at the Masters that the Augusta National grounds crew have been known to use ice or blow dryers to either delay the blossoms or goose them into a faster arrival. Only **Eddie Braunsky** could have dug that one up.

Speaking of plants, the *Sun-Times* recently ran an encouraging article on the 'Accolade' elm, a hybrid believed to be the replacement for the American elms that have suc-

cumbed to Dutch Elm disease dating back to the 1930s. The tree has all the characteristics of the American elm (glossy green foliage, vase-shaped canopy), but with the added benefit of showing great resistance to DED. Start chopping down those Chinese and Siberian elms! (And remember—*On Course* had the scoop on this back in January with the publication of **Greg Oltman's** "Shady Characters.")

Congratulations to **Dan Charlton**, formerly of Indian Lakes Resort, on being named superintendent of Evanston Golf Club.

MAGCS bids a fond farewell to **Dave Armentrout** of TPEC (and former MAGCS commercial advisory representative) as he heads to Colorado to enjoy his retirement. All of us who have had the pleasure to know Dave will miss his presence in the Chicago area.

A few words about the Wizard of MAGCS. **George Minnis**, for those of you who don't know, is our executive secretary. George is the person who makes the Association work—handling the day-to-day operations, fielding inquiries, posting job referrals, and umpteen thousand other tasks. That green binder filled with our members' information that you refer to practically every day? George. That e-mail you get whenever there's an announcement regarding employment or meeting information? George. That dues notice you get (most of us twice)? Yeah—George. He does it all for precious little, and does it efficiently and effectively. In recognition of George's invaluable service to MAGCS, it was decided at the March 4th Board of Directors meeting that one of the \$1,000 MAGCS Scholarships will from this day on become the George Minnis MAGCS Scholarship. It's a very small token of appreciation to a very BIG part of our great Association. Thank

you from all of us, George, and congratulations!



The Wizard of MAGCS,
George Minnis.

Welcome to our two newest MAGCS Board members—**Sylvia Lima** of TPEC (whose first Director's Column appears in this issue) is officially the new commercial advisory representative, while **Erwin McKone** of River Forest Country Club takes on the newly-created Class C advisory representative (assistant superintendent class). This latter position's purpose is to provide representation at the Board level for assistant superintendents and to provide assistance to the Board in arranging and staffing monthly meetings. Good luck to both of these dedicated individuals.



Erwin McKone and Sylvia Lima.

A very impressive write-up on the newly-coined **Fred D. Opperman** Editorial Award appeared in *Golf Course Management* (page 22 of the March 2003 issue). It's comforting to know that even though GCSAA proves year after year that they are not particularly fond of our magazine (as evidenced once again by our snubbing in the chapter newsletter contest), they DO in fact recognize that we exist. Oops—there goes our chances for next year. Congratulations again, Fred, and if you know anyone in Lawrence (or wherever they are located) with some pull, couldja put in a good word for us?

For those of you who are not members of the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS), I thought I should share a couple of thoughts penned by *Verdure* editor **Chuck Anfield, CGCS** of Heritage Bluffs Golf Club in his February issue. Chuck did an "Atlanta Highlights" wrap-up that had some dead-on observations of our host city during the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show. On driving through the streets of Atlanta upon his arrival Sunday night: "... many people were wearing NBA licensed and unlicensed attire. Vendor stands were set up everywhere to sell NBA-related merchandise. Men were wearing colorful baseball-style hats backwards, forward, sideways, inside out, etc. There was also a faction of people wearing matching velour suits and there also seemed to be a copious amount of booty, strutting their stuff. . . . We parked the car again and this time took a little (of our) stuff with us. I had to leave my beloved golf clubs in the trunk. I was not comfortable with this

arrangement, but had little choice. I thought about taking along a 9-iron to extract myself from any difficult 'lies' I may encounter or to practice my chipping in my hotel room, but wisdom prevailed and I left it in the bag. . . . The next morning we found out all of the details of what was going on. It turns out there were other conferences and events taking place in addition to the GCSAA. There was the NBA All-Star Game, a rodeo competition of some sort and the national pimp convention. Don't ask me any more details."



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*Chuck Anfield, editor of CAGCS
 newsletter Verdure.*

Equipment for sale: Six 1991 Toro GM1000 walking greensmowers with aluminum and/or cast iron-grooved rollers. Very good condition. Asking \$800 each. 1989 Hahn Spray Pro 44— 160-gallon boom sprayer with Raven controller, foam marker and handgun/hose for spot-spraying. Good condition— 2,216 hours. Asking \$1,900. Call Kurt at Exmoor C.C. at 847-433-1177.

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 Still for sale: John Deere 220 22" walking greens mower—used VERY little. Asking \$2,400. Call Jim Kopija at 630-879-1731.



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