

51st Midwest Turf Ends 2003



Host Tom Lively receives a gift from Kevin DeRoo.

Time to blow out that irrigation system, clean up those pesky leaves and make the final preparations for closing down the course. In other words, it's Midwest Turf Clinic time. This year's rendition, held on the 5th of November at the venerable Medinah Country Club (Tom Lively, CGCS host), was once again a season-ending highlight. The heavy rains that fell in the days prior to the event did not seem to deter our members from making the trip and filling the many seats.



Scott Witte shares his observations in "It's Been Eight Years . . ."

The day started off with our annual meeting, featuring reports by all officers and Board members highlighting the past year's activities. Among the more notable innovations was the creation of business-card reminders for the MAGCS hospitality suite in San Diego (which were available at the registration desk); membership also voted in favor of a \$30 dues increase for 2004.

With the annual meeting in the books, and the presentation of an appreciation gift to Tom Lively for graciously hosting, it was "on with the show." Morning moderator Aaron Willing, assistant superintendent at Chicago Golf



Tom D'Avello, Mark Bramstedt and Don Fehrenbacher of USDA NRCS.



Moderators Aaron Willing and Nick Baker.



Dave Ward, the winner of the first-ever Ray Gerber Editorial Award, accepts his third "Gerber" from presenter John Gurke.



Erwin McKone accepts his second consecutive Fred D. Opperman Editorial Award from Dave Braasch.



Dr. Micheal Boehm of Ohio State University speaks on "Microbiology of Soils, Products and Techniques."



Tony Kalina adds his two-cents-worth in "It's Been Eight Years . . ."

Clinic and Annual Meeting Season on a High Note

Club, introduced the day's first speakers—Don Fehrenbacher and Mark Bramstedt of the USDA NRCS. Their discussion revealed the many discoveries that can be gleaned from conducting a soil survey on a parcel of property (from differing turfgrass responses to “inputs” to dead mob guys). Next on the agenda was soon-to-be new Board member Scott Witte, who reflected on what's happened since his last time at the podium in “It's Been Eight Years . . .” Scott provided us with some painful reminders of the common mistakes we have probably all made, including substituting RoundUp for some other gold liquid in the spray tank (and the nasty results thereafter), and becoming so involved in our work that our spouses feel compelled to deliver the old “you gotta kick it up a notch” speech. Tom D'Avello followed Scott with a talk on GIS mapping of soils and its benefits.

Prior to the lunch break, the big moment came—the presentation of the Ray Gerber and Fred D. Opperman Editorial Awards. Dave Ward won an unprecedented third Gerber with his article “Preparing for the 2003 U. S. Open,” and Erwin McKone took home his second consecutive Opperman (soon to

be renamed the Erwin McKone Editorial Award).

Then Kevin DeRoo took center stage to recognize donations to the MAGCS Scholarship Fund. J.W. Turf donated \$2,500 toward the John Buck Scholarship, Simplot Partners donated \$4,000 from their Daconil early-order program and AXA Advisors donated \$500, which Larry Tomaszewski generously matched out of his own pocket. Thank you to all contributors to this important cause.

Following lunch (and a hasty trip to the Jewel deli section to replenish the meat tray), Dr. Mike Boehm of THE Ohio State University spoke on the “Microbiology of Soils, Products and Techniques,” stressing that most all of the “bugs in a jug” potions being sold are worthless without the employment of sound agronomic principles, first and foremost. Tony Kalina was next, offering his own reflections on the past eight years, and made a great point—that speaking at the MAGCS Clinic is not something to fret about, but an **opportunity**.

Topping off the day was keynote speaker Dave Kaplan of WGN Radio, who basically enter-

tained us with his views of the Chicago sports scene. Dave's team recaps were memorable: Bulls—Suck; Bears—Buy their quarterbacks at Costco, and wouldn't let Shoop be coordinator on his Madden Game Boy game; Sox—Ozzie was a good hire; Cubs—When will fans forget Steve Bartman?; and Hawks—Are they still playing?

After Dave (or Kap, as Mumper calls him) answered just about every question possible, it was time for the election of the 2004 Board of Directors. Your Board for 2004 comprises: President—Fred Behnke; Vice President—Phil Zeinert; Secretary/Treasurer—Gary Hearn; Directors—Tim Anderson, Dave Braasch, Scott Witte and Paul Bastron, along with Scott Speiden and Tony Kalina. Congratulations to all, and good luck!

MAGCS humbly thanks the sponsors of the Clinic: BTSI, Arthur Clesen, Simplot Partners, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Palatine Oil, TPEC and Nadler Golf Car Sales.



Keynote speaker Dave Kaplan of WGN Radio kept things amusing.



Incoming president Fred Behnke presents outgoing prez Kevin DeRoo with a token of appreciation for all the great work he accomplished in 2003.



Kevin does his last presidential thing—passing the gavel to Fred.