

the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS
Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 30-June 1 — Kellogg-Keebler Classic at Stonebridge Country Club, **Dan Sterr** host.

June 5-8 — LaSalle Bank Open at The Glen Club, **Tom Prichard** host.

June 12-15 — U. S. Open at Olympia Fields Country Club, **Dave Ward** and **Kevin West** hosts.

June 16 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Prestwick Country Club, **Tim Anderson**, CGCS host.

June 30 — 3rd Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing at Whisper Creek Golf Club, **Jim Wyffels** host.

July 3-6 — Western Open at Cog Hill Country Club, **Ken Lapp** host.

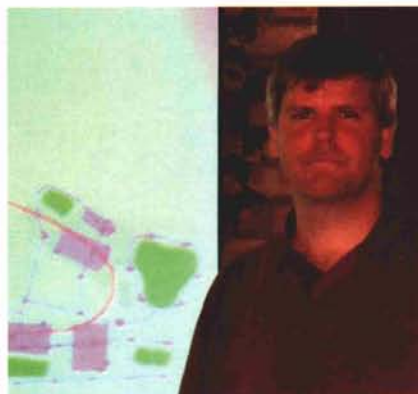
July 8 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Foxford Hills Golf Club, **Tom Jauch** host.

The MAGCS monthly meeting in April was held at the beautiful Fox Bend Golf Course in Oswego, Illinois on the 21st with **Bob Kohlstedt** and his staff hosting. As is the norm for our first golf event of the season, the format was a four-person scramble allowing all the rusty competitors to throw away their early-season bad shots (unless, of course, all four shots were bad). The weather for the day also followed our norm for an April event—windy, cool, rainy at times and cloudy—but it didn't seem to bother any of the competitors. The day started out with a really neat presentation on GPS mapping by Eric Gakstetter, followed by a great day of scramble golf on a finely-conditioned course. After the round, participants enjoyed finger food, refreshments

and the awarding of prizes in the comfy confines of the Fox Bend clubhouse. Many thanks to Bob and the staff of Fox Bend for the excellent job they did; to our generous sponsors—**Palatine Oil, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Turf Professionals Equipment Company, Feltes Sand and Gravel** and **Master of the Links**—for making the day possible; and to **Marsha Traves** and **Patti Thorson** of Illinois Lawn Equipment Co. for once again running the betting hole. For their herculean effort in sitting out in the cold and rain all day, Marsha and Patti were able to raise \$1,000 for the American Cancer Society—a donation that will be made on behalf of George Minnis. A true depiction of the generous nature of one of our MAGCS members occurred in the parking lot after the round, when **Pete Lieponis** (Prime Turf/Old Oak C.C.) learned that the girls had fallen short of their desired goal of \$1,000 and reached into his pocket to cover the shortfall. Way to go, everyone!



Mark Bobb, Mike Bavier, Kevin DeRoo and David Mayzel.



Education speaker Eric Gakstetter.



Host Bob Kohlstedt shows off his hardware.



Jim McNair, Jack McCormick, Bob Kohlstedt and Chuck Anfield.



Tom Savage, Luke Strojny, Greg Thalmann and Ed Braunsky.

Another great event was held on May 8th at the Arboretum Club in Buffalo Grove—the Pro/Superintendent Tournament. This day of golf is the perfect way for superintendents and PGA golf professionals to interact on common ground—the golf course. It was also a great way for those of us from the west and south sides to understand the incredible difference a few miles north or east makes in weather conditions, as the day went from temperate to downright cold throughout the round. Finally, it was nice to see all the pros with their shoulders slumped from toting the load of their high-handicapped, grip 'n' rip, "I didn't come all this way to lay up" superintendents. All in all, the day turned out beautifully, with no fisticuffs reported. Thanks to the folks at Arboretum (nice new clubhouse, guys) for hosting an event that always serves to improve the line of communication between grounds departments and pro shops.

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Congratulations to Brian Racette, the new assistant superintendent of Bryn Mawr Country Club. Brian hails from Kansas State University and was working in the Kansas City area before starting his assistantship at Bryn Mawr under **Brian Bossert, CGCS.**

Don't forget to sign up for the 3rd Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing, scheduled for the 30th at Whisper Creek Golf Club in Huntley, Illinois. This event supports the MAGCS Scholarship Fund and honors its namesake, John Buck, whose generosity and kind heart are legendary in the MAGCS family. Call your J. W. Turf representative for more details.

GCSAA's 2004 conference and show will be in San Diego, California, and there is a Web site available to begin making your plans. You can access this site either by going to www.gcsaa.org or by visiting www.golfcourseshow.com.

Congratulations to our old friend Jim Latham, who served as our area's USGA Green Section agronomist for many years, on receiving the USGA Green Section's Piper and Oakley Award. This award, established in 1998, periodically recognizes those who have contributed to the programs and activities of the USGA Green Section; and nobody deserves it more than Jim.

I hope everyone survived the wrath of Mother Nature this past month, which brought most of us huge amounts of rain culminated by hurricane-force winds on Mother's Day. Ya think Father Nature forgot to get her a gift?

Once again I am compelled to revisit this topic: PLEASE TURN OFF ALL YOUR COOL MODES OF COMMUNICATION DURING EDUCATION SESSIONS! Ringing cell phones, beeping beepers and even those watches with alarms are not only annoying to those listening to the presentation, they are disrespectful to our guests who take time out of their schedules to be with us.

Wondering what's next in the never-ending onslaught of pests to arrive on

your golf course? Log on to www.interactiveturf.com to find out. As a subscriber, you can get all the goods on local trends and alerts. But even nonsubscribers can find some very useful information at this address, to which Lee Miller, Randy Kane, Hank Wilkinson and countless other authorities on our business contribute.

Welcome to the neighborhood (again) to Mike Murphy, the new general manager of TPEC (replacing Dave Armentrout). Most recently, Mike worked in Arizona at a Toro distribution center, and before that he was a local boy serving as GM of Glendale Lakes Golf Club.



Sylvia Lima with TPEC's new general manager, Mike Murphy.

Finally, congratulations to the following MAGCS members who earned their 25-year pins this past April: **Tommy Robinson** (Ravinia Green C.C.), **Dave Behrman, CGCS** (Midlothian C.C.), **Steve Van Acker, CGCS** (Crystal Lake C.C.), **Tim Davis** (Shoreacres) and **Jim Knulty** (Big Foot C.C.).

Rusty's coming home! Former superintendent of Prestbury G.C. and current turf management instructor at Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, **Russ Stachlewitz** has accepted the position of turf management instructor at Kishwaukee College effective this fall. Rusty and Jenny will be moving to the Mendota area in June—best of luck to you both, and start bringing us some young interns to abuse!



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