

Highlights from Atlanta

The soon-to-be-renamed GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show (it will become the Golf Industry Show in 2005 when the merger of GCSAA and the National Golf Course Owners Association is finalized) held in Atlanta, Georgia in mid-February is now past, and hopefully everyone returned safe and more knowledgeable. As most people I spoke with would agree, our host city was a pleasant surprise, with decent weather, lots to do and easy access to the conference from almost anywhere. If you could avoid being accosted by the homeless, and get out of town on Saturday with minimal flight delays, I'd say you had a successful trip. One note to Atlanta: If you find you have too many Hooters girls, don't hesitate to send them to Chicago!

Some highlights included the MAGCS Hospitality Suite in the Marriott Marquis Hotel (more to follow) and **Dudley Smith's** great acceptance speech when presented with GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award on Wednesday the 12th. Some lowlights were **Bob Maibusch**, CGCS's narrow defeat by **Tim O'Neill**, CGCS in the race for secretary/treasurer of GCSAA. Bob remains a director of GCSAA, so fear not—our voice will still be heard. Also, the passing of a \$50 dues increase means digging even further into your pockets to continue to have the privilege to "suck upon the corporate nipple" that is GCSAA's.

MAGCS once again fielded a star-studded team in the Annual Golf Championship, with some limited successes. A recap of the top-10 finishers in the various divisions goes as follows:

- **Al Pondel, CGCS** (Rockford C.C.)—8th place, Championship Flight by gross
 - **Chad Ball, CGCS** (Conway Farms G.C.)—10th place, Third Flight by gross
 - **Tim Davis** (Shoreacres)—3rd place, Senior 1 Flight by gross and 8th place by net
 - **Ed Fischer, CGCS** (Old Elm Club)—3rd place Senior 2 Flight by gross and 8th place by net
- Four Ball Championship:
- **Tommy Robinson** (Ravinia Green C.C.)—5th place gross
 - **Al Pondel**—6th place gross
 - And finally, **Dave Radaj II, CGCS** (Green Acres C.C.)—Nearest to the Line

Congratulations to all contestants for . . . showing up.

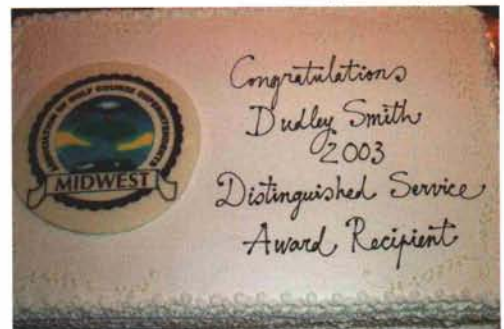
Now back to the highlight of the show—the MAGCS Hospitality Suite. The accommodations could not have been better for our two evenings of revelry—both rooms were huge, allowing the numerous food and drink stations to be accessed easily (and frequently). Many of our members and their guests enjoyed the excellent food and beverage service, making the room a great success. MAGCS expresses its deepest thanks to everyone behind the scenes who worked so hard to make it all possible. They are **Paul Yerkes** (Lesco—past Commercial Advisory Representative), **Dave Armentrout** (TPEC—immediate past Commercial Advisory Representative), **Sylvia Lima** (TPEC—brand spankin'-new Commercial Advisory Representative) and **Tim Anderson, CGCS** (Prestwick C.C.—current MAGCS Arrangements Director). More importantly, MAGCS thanks all members of the Golden Tee Club, whose generous contributions ensured that nobody left the room hungry or thirsty. You're the best!



(more photos on page 32)



Congratulations to **Jim Hall** of Inwood Golf Course, who was one of Syngenta's three winners at the Syngenta booth in Atlanta. For his efforts in finding the Syngenta booth, Jim won a \$500 gift certificate to Sports Authority. Also pictured is Syngenta's **Jim Shone**.





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