

# the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS, Contributing Editor

## DATES TO REMEMBER

December 6 – GCSAA Education and the Northwestern Illinois GCSA present “Managing Turfgrass Root Systems in the North” and “Understanding Biostimulants” at the Ramada Plaza Hotel & Conference Center in Rockford, IL.

December 7-10 – 2004 Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Call 888-683-3445 for information.

December 8 – Chicagoland AGCS luncheon and biannual budget swap at Lake Barrington Shores G.C., **Steve Cummins** host.

December 15 – Annual West Side Holiday Party at Dave & Busters in Addison, IL. Contact **Gary Hearn** at 630-773-4790 to secure your spot.

January 6-11 – 56th Annual Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show at the Metro Toronto Convention Center. Call 905-602-8873 for info.

January 17-20 – Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference at the Holiday Inn South in Lansing, MI. Call 517-321-1660 for details.

January 17-February 4 – The Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School Three-Week

Preparatory Short Course in New Brunswick, NJ. Call 732-932-9271, ext. 630 for details.

January 19-21 – 2005 Mid-Am Horticultural Trade Show at the Lakeside Center at McCormick Place in Chicago, IL.

January 19 – GCSAA Education and MAGCS present “Annual Bluegrass Management” one-day seminar at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.

January 20 – GCSAA Education and MAGCS present “Managing Turfgrass Root Systems in the North” and “Localized Dry Spot and Wetting Agent Use” half-day seminars at Midwest Golf House in Lemont.

January 24 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Mount Prospect Golf Club, **Fred Behnke**, CGCS host. Again, a reminder that we are NOT at Arrowhead G.C. this year!

February 7-12 – Golf Industry Show at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL.

February 10-11 – MAGCS Award-Deserving Football-Field-Sized Hospitality Suite in Salons 11 and 12 of the Rosen Centre Hotel from 6 to 10 p.m. each night.

To start things off, let's talk about a few recently attained Midwest milestones . . .

MAGCS members **Dan Sterr** of Stonebridge Country Club and **Steve VanAcker**, CGCS of Crystal Lake Country Club joined the hole-in-one fraternity in October. (It was reported, though not confirmed,

that Steve's was a 124-yard 3-iron with the wind at Prairie Isle G.C.)

It is my great pleasure to report that this year's Illinois Turfgrass Foundation Distinguished Service Award winner is **Dave Ward** of Coyote Run. The award was presented to the very deserving Mr. Ward during the IPTC at Pheasant Run Resort.

Also in October, **Jon Jennings**, CGCS of Chicago Golf Club once again competed in the Chicago Marathon and turned in a time of 3:18:44, 3:20 under the qualifying limit for the Boston Marathon. This time placed Jon #2,113 out of 33,125 runners, and after five prior attempts, he will finally have his opportunity to compete in the grand-daddy of all marathons in Boston next year.

Finally, Gene Thompson—former longtime MAGCS member at Indian Lakes Resort—achieved a somewhat dubious milestone when he turned 50 years old on October 26. We haven't quite figured it out yet, but this photo is either of Gene when he was much younger, or it is just another example of what can happen to you when you move to the deep south.



Congratulations to all on your prodigious achievements!

Also congrats to **Dan Murray**, CGCS and **Dave Behrman**, CGCS on recently having their courses featured in other industry publications. Dan and Settler's Hill G.C. in Batavia were highlighted in an article titled “Land Reuse—Creating Greenspace in an Urban Area” in *Turf Central* magazine in October. It appears Dan will be busy very soon, as the landfill on the site is scheduled to close in 2006 and the course will expand to 27 holes. Dave's course, Midlothian Country Club, was featured in October's *Golf Course News*, which described the complete refurbishment of the 82 bunkers on the 106-year-old course. Due to decades of tree growth,

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dozens of fairway bunkers that had become meaningless were relocated as part of this project. Contractor **Golf Creations** broke ground immediately after Labor Day in 2003, and the bunkers debuted shortly after the course reopened for play in spring of this year.

MAGCS extends its sincerest sympathies to the family and many friends of Wayne Otto, who passed away on October 21 at the age of 65. Read more about the "Wee One" in Dan Quast's moving tribute on page 17 in this month's issue.

I'd like to take this opportunity to again express our thanks to those generous individuals and companies who have sponsored our events throughout this past year. Without the contributions of our commercial people, we could not have the good fortune of attending and enjoying the always first-class events that they sponsor, from monthly golf events to educational seminars to outings such as the Kane County Cougars game and fall dinner dance. You all truly are THE BEST!

Good news for ski and snowboard buffs: **Ted Sokolis** (retired MAGCS member) has moved to the Rockies. Ted and Avis Nosse's new address is P.O. Box 1046, 41 Legend Circle, Dillon, CO 80435, and their new phone number is 970-468-2726. Ted invites all Midwest supers who enjoy the winter sports to stop on

in—they have plenty of room, and there are no fewer than six world-class ski resorts within 50 miles of their home.

*On Course* magazine would like to congratulate the winners of the 2004 Ray Gerber Editorial Award and the 2004 Fred D. Opperman Editorial Award—Jon Jennings, CGCS and **Robert Graziano**, respectively. We also thank each and every MAGCS member who contributed to the magazine with an article or by serving on the Editorial Committee—it is your valuable input that drives this award-winning publication. Again, thank you!



investigate what changes might need to be made.

Finally, Kevin, Fred and Phil showed great insight in hiring Luke Cella as our executive director, a move that significantly enhanced our Association in the eyes of the GCSAA. Our Association is in great hands with Luke on board. He has allowed the Board of Directors to concentrate on their committees, thereby permitting them to expand their horizons to make the Midwest Association of GCS a proud organization that will allow our members to take their own leaps of faith towards success.

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