

An Affair to Remember

It was a smaller affair than last year's record turnout, but the 2004 MAGCS fall dinner dance on Saturday, November 13 at Aurora Country Club was nonetheless an affair to remember.



The end-loader of ice kept a bucketload of shrimp chilled throughout the evening.



Keith Krause and Scott Witte got things started on the dance floor (and were spotted exchanging numbers later on).

Some 66 members and significant others gathered on a starlit, frosty evening to enjoy warm conversation, a cozy ambiance and outstanding hospitality. Hosts Julie and **John Gurke, CGCS**, not only welcomed each and every couple, but also extended a blanket invitation to their nearby home for an after-hours party.

Cocktails and an array of yummy appetizers kicked off the festivities. Then, it was time to see if Aurora Country Club chef Henry Escobedo could equal last year's amazing dinner. The verdict is now in, and the answer is an unequivocal "yes!"

In a departure from years past, this rendition of the dinner dance featured a deejay rather than a live band. Translation: more dance floor space, and an opportunity to see who could out-groove the weird guy in the Six Flags-Great America commercials. Turns out that distinction goes to **Keith Krause**, who may have a future as a Solid Gold dancer if greenkeeping doesn't work out, with honorable mention going to a certain superintendent from Cantigny, who we hear may moonlight during this off-season as headmaster of the **Scott Witte** Dance School for More Inhibited Superintendents. Dancing continued until midnight, at which point some took the Gurkes up on their offer, others lingered and still others headed for home.

A magnificent evening like this doesn't just come together on its own; it requires the planning, hard work and generosity of many people. We extend special thanks to our commercial sponsors, Turf Professionals Equipment Company and Palatine Oil, and to Dave and Debbie Nadler/Nadler Golf Car Sales, who once again saw to it that we enjoyed an open bar for the duration of the evening. Hats off to the Gurkes for hosting and MAGCS Arrangements Committee chair **Dave Braasch** for his attention to detail, as well as Aurora C.C. manager Bob White, assistant manager Peggy Hess, chef Escobedo and the club's impeccably professional staff. Finally, thanks to the MAGCS members who turned out to lend their enthusiasm to the proceedings.

From the centerpieces created out of native grasses harvested on the course, to the rich autumn flavors that graced the plates, from the music selection to the camaraderie on display, this was a wonderful celebration of the close of another golf season. Members who attended the dinner dance had the unparalleled opportunity to relish good conversation, an excellent meal, lively music and a rowdy dance floor, all in the company of significant others and surrounded by friends. This event deserves to once again rise to the prominence it enjoyed 20 or 30 years ago as a "can't miss" gala.





Some, but not all, of those in attendance at the fall dinner dance. A couple tables apparently disbanded within seconds of consuming dessert and scattered (to the dance floor, to the lounge, to the bar) . . . never to be captured photographically for posterity . . .