

the Bull Sheet

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Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 10 — Chicago Steel hockey game outing at The Edge in Bensenville, IL.

January 12 — GCSAA and Central Illinois GCSA present "Employee Safety Training" seminar at the Par-a-Dice Hotel & Casino in East Peoria, IL.

January 13 — GCSAA and CIGCSA present "Management Strategies for the Turfgrass System" seminar at the Par-a-Dice Hotel & Casino in East Peoria, IL.

January 13 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Arrowhead Golf Course in Wheaton, IL, **Bob Breen** host. Details follow.

January 14-16 — Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show at Lakeside Center at McCormick Place in Chicago.

January 19-February 6 — Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

January 20 — GCSAA and MAGCS present "Developing Your Hazard Communication Program" seminar at Midwest Golf House.

January 21 — GCSAA and MAGCS present "Management Strategies for the Turfgrass System" seminar at Midwest Golf House.

February 12-13 — MAGCS Hospitality Suite at the Marriott Marina Hotel in San Diego, CA.

February 25 — "Couch Talk" seminar at Midwest Golf House featuring keynote speaker Dr. Houston Couch of Virginia Tech.

As noted in Dates to Remember, several GCSAA seminars will be making their way into our area this month. These are all full-day classes worth 0.70 education points toward Class A and certification renewal, and all carry a \$130 member fee (\$195 for nonmembers). "Employee Safety Training" takes place in East Peoria on the 12th and is facilitated by Sarah Bundschuh, a private consultant on golf course safety issues. "Management Strategies for the Turfgrass System" will follow on the 13th in East Peoria and again on the 21st at Midwest Golf House, and features Dr. Joe Vargas as its facilitator. "Developing Your Hazard Communication Program" takes place on the 20th at Golf House, with Sarah Bundschuh once more facilitating. To register for any of these seminars, contact GCSAA Service Center at 800-472-7878, or fax them at 785-832-3643. You may also register online at gcsaa.org; go to the Learning Center page.



Our January monthly meeting will again return to Arrowhead Golf Course with Bob Breen serving as our host. This will be a special one, as it will be the last time we will see the clubhouse facility in its current state. According to Bob, a major renovation/reconstruction project is slated for this fall, and the next time we experience Arrowhead's hospitality we will be in a brand-new, multimillion-dollar facility. Of course, this means that we will be conducting our January 2005 meeting elsewhere, and President

Fred Behnke has graciously offered up the Mount Prospect Golf Club's facility for that event. As for this rendition, a vast array of education will be on tap, including Phil Nixon, who will enlighten us on "Are You Being Bugged by Invasive Insect Pests," Joel Cheek from Yamaha who will speak on winter/periodic maintenance of golf car fleets, and Todd Lenard of GE Finances who will talk about equipment leasing options. GCSAA has approved 0.30 education points for this event, so sign up now (if you haven't already) and get your last look at the old AGC clubhouse.

On February 25, Midwest Golf House will be the site of another can't-miss educational opportunity. "Couch Talk" (not a sequel to the Rock Hudson/Doris Day classic *Pillow Talk*—okay, that was probably a stretch) is a seminar featuring keynote speaker Dr. Houston Couch of Virginia Tech, who visits courtesy of Lesco and BASF. This day-long seminar will include presentations from several nationally-known experts who will share research and best practices on turfgrass disease prevention and control. An application is in for GCSAA education points, and a mailing regarding registration details is forthcoming. Don't miss this one!

Mid-Am '04 is right around the corner—January 14-16—and this year's version will be bigger and better than ever. The Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show, sponsored by the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association, Illinois Nurserymen's Association, and the Wisconsin Landscape Federation, has a new location to boot: the Lakeside Center at McCormick Place in Chicago. A plethora of renowned experts in various areas of the horticulture industry will present seminars, and the three-day event promises to feature something for everyone in our business. For information and registration, go to www.midam.org.

MAGCS offers its condolences to **Roger Johnson** of Johnson & Associates on the passing of his wife, Georgia. Mrs. Johnson lost her bat-

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tle with ovarian cancer in November, and we keep Roger and the Johnson family in our thoughts and prayers.

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Another big event on the local horticulture scene—the North Central Turfgrass Exposition (NCTE)—took place last month at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles. This year’s conference and trade show featured a variety of seminars focusing on the many different aspects of our industry, including golf turf, sports turf, lawn care and landscape turf, and turf technician issues. A new and popular feature was the addition of pesticide-license testing, which gave attendees the opportunity to complete their Illinois Department of Agriculture required testing during the show. It wouldn’t be the NCTE without the ITF Annual Awards Reception and Dinner and the annual membership meeting, replete

with presentations of the scholarships and donations to research, as well as the coveted ITF Distinguished Service Award. The 2003 Awards Dinner, sponsored by Bayer Environmental Science, Chicagoland Turf, Lesco and Syngenta Professional Products, took place on the 2nd, and showcased the presentation of the 2003 ITF DSA to the **Jemsek Family** for their years of invaluable service to the turf industry. **Frank Jemsek** accepted the richly-deserved award on behalf of his family. The annual membership meeting was where the big bucks were passed around (in the form of donations and scholarships) to deserving students and organizations dedicated to the betterment of the turfgrass industry. Tim Egan from SIU won the Valley Crest Scholarship, and Tom Boniak, also of SIU, won the Bayer Scholarship. University of Illinois students

awarded scholarships included Travis Williams, who won the Jackie Butler Outstanding Student Award sponsored by ITF and the U of I Turfgrass Alumni; Craig Shepard won the Ben Warren Scholarship sponsored by Summit Seed Company; and Justin VanLanduit won the Bayer Scholarship sponsored by **Kerry Anderson** of Bayer Corp. Congratulations to these deserving students. The MAGCS was not remiss either in the holiday spirit of giving, as President Fred Behnke presented the ITF with a check for \$13,000 for turfgrass research. Also congratulations to **Jeff Gerdes** of Bolingbrook Golf Club on winning Prime Turf’s raffle on the trade show floor—Jeff walked (stooped) away with a 32” flat screen television.

The 19th Annual Chicagoland Forum—the year-end educational highlight conducted by the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents—was held on November 18 at Naperville Country Club, and attendees were treated to a day of timely educational topics. Amongst the highlights was a talk given by Chuck Price, a union expert, on the resurgence of union activity in Chicagoland. Mr. Price pointed out that new legislation recently passed with our governor’s blessing that will make it much easier

for unions to sign up new members. Lee Miller of CDGA followed with a fine update on and year-end review of the Interactive Turf program, which he administers out of Midwest Golf House. One big topic of discussion was whether or not to solicit sponsors for the Web site in an effort to cut or eliminate subscription costs. In keeping with the CAGCS tradition of open sharing of knowledge, several round-table discussions took place on a variety of subjects, from master plans to phosphite technology to growth-regulator use and

strategies. The big bang to finish off the day was an all-encompassing talk on USGA green management given by Paul Vermeulen of USGA’s Green Section. Most memorable of Paul’s many quotables was, “Verti-draining a poorly-drained green is like putting lipstick on a pig—it’s still a pig.” I’m sure we all have our “pigs” that we constantly battle in an effort to grow quality turf. In all, the day was quite a success, and we thank the folks at Naperville Country Club for again hosting the forum.



Chuck Price.



Lee Miller.



Paul Vermeulen.



Congratulations to **Erwin McKone**, former assistant superintendent at River Forest Country Club, who is now the director of golf at Briar Ridge Country Club in Schererville, Indiana. Erwin gets a lot of ink, doesn't he?

News from new member **David Marquardt**. His former company, Bio-Grow Technologies, has a new name—Dirt-n-Turf Consulting of Hinckley, IL. These high-tech names sure get confusing, don't they?

We now have all the good dope on Luke Cella's whereabouts, and more importantly, how to find him. Luke's physical address is The Midwest Golf House Complex, 11855 Archer Ave.,

Lemont, IL 60439. The phone number for MAGCS business is 630-243-7900 and for ITF business is 630-243-9483. Fax number is 630-257-0362. Finally, you can e-mail Luke at lcella@cdga.org. If you have any questions pertaining to your association, or your membership therein, give Luke a jingle.

This update comes from **Brian Green, CGCS** of Sunset Valley G.C. regarding the tragic murder of his daughter last year: "On Friday, December 5th, the murderer of our daughter was finally sentenced to 35 years after an exhausting, lengthy trial and a very long 30 days of waiting for the sentence. We are thankful to all the supers that supported our family throughout the last year. All prayers and thoughts helped immensely. This sentence is better than the original plea bargain of 17 years, which frankly was insulting. We now have the opportunity to raise our grandchildren without worrying about this scum hurting this family anymore." Let's all keep the Greens in our thoughts.

Equipment for sale: 1988 Jacobsen LF-100 with 3,065 hours, in good running and mowing condition; 1990 Jacobsen LF-100 with 3,045 hours, also in good running and mowing condition; and a 1989 Jacobsen 1671 Tri King gas model with 4,123 hours—usable. Call John at Aurora Country Club at 630-892-3600 and make an offer.

1984 and 1985 Toro triplexes with additional mowing and verticutting units available. Both units run, and a set of True-Surface Rollers is available that fits the triplexes. 1989 Smithco Red Rider that runs; 1967 Ford 3000 Tractor with PTO that runs; 1987 4-wheel Cushman Truckster, needs engine work. Call Brian at Bryn Mawr C.C. for details—847-677-4112.

Toro sprinklers—690 series for \$35 each and 670 series for \$25 each. Contact Mark at Barrington Hills C.C. at 847-381-0140 for details.



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