

A Beautiful Day at the Bog

It was a beautiful day on August 9 at the lovely Biltmore Country Club for the MAGCS golf meeting. Brian Thomson had every blade of grass in place at the most finely groomed peat bog on the planet.

Due to **John Gurke's** absence, I was on the beat, getting the scoop to share the day's happenings with our membership. I will attempt to live up to expectations, although I could never measure up to Mr. Gurke's acutely tuned roving-reporter skills, quirky personality, editorial savvy and linguistic manipulation.

The morning education featured Vicki Trost from K.A.R.E. (Kane Area Rehabilitation and Education). Special guests included "Frederick" the skunk and "What-the-Heck-Is-His-Name-Anyway" the red-tailed hawk.

Vicki works diligently to rehabilitate animals that have been injured in the wild. Her emphasis on educating the public is a valuable part of K.A.R.E.'s success.



Frederick skunk facts: He is an omnivore, he has very poor vision and oddly enough a great sense of smell??? Yeah, go figure. Frederick has been de-scented, and he is a very docile creature. Although skunks can carry rabies, there has never been a reported case of a virulent skunk in Illinois.



Hawk facts: They are just plain COOL! Actually:

- The most common raptor on golf courses is the red-tailed hawk, whose habitat preferences overlap with its nightly counterpart, the great horned owl. Both hunt on the edges of fields and nest in woods.
- Red-tailed hawks and other raptors are at the top of the food chain, feeding on rodents, squirrels, rabbits and, occasionally, snakes and birds. Manage tall grass areas or prairie cover with small brush piles or grouping of shrubs to offer habitat for their prey. Allow dead tree limbs to remain in areas posing no threat to people or buildings to serve as perching sites.
- Red-tailed hawks are common in their range throughout North and Central America. Standing 19 to 24 inches, they are often seen perched on poles and dead tree limbs, which provide an open view of the surrounding terrain.
- Red-tailed hawks lay two to three eggs on average each year in a nest that is 15 to 70 feet high in the crotch of a large tree with a commanding view. The female incubates the eggs for 30-32 days and cares for the young for about 45 days before they are ready to fend for themselves.
- The first year of a raptor's life is so challenging that a mere 20 to 50 percent are estimated to make it to their second year. Adult birds have an average yearly mortality rate of 20%.

Thanks to **Dan Dinelli**, CGCS and the *USGA Green Section Record* (July/August 2004) for those raptor factoids.

Vicki is always looking for volunteer release sites for rehabilitated animals. If you have any interest in being a release site, you can contact her via e-mail at vatrost@yahoo.com. If you have any other questions pertaining to injured wildlife, she can be reached by phone at 630-377-1895.

What about the golf? Oh yeah!

One hundred and twenty players came out to enjoy the perfect weather in Barrington. The intense competition (or scorecard raffle) hinged on the steady hand of **Sharon Riesenbeck**. Lucky winners were: **Tom Horwath**, **Scott Speiden**, **Jim Meyer** and **Sean Creed**; **John Ekstrom**, **Byron Ambrose**, **Scot Spier** and **Tim Keating**; and **Chris Smith**, **Craig Lewis**, **John Maguire** and **William Walton**. These three fine foursomes received gift certificates for the fabulous Biltmore pro shop. Additional raffle foursomes **Kathy Newyear**, **Bob McCallum**,

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David Beno and Greg Benson, and Tommy Robinson, Randy Wahler, Bob Kronn and Al Pondel all won some highly coveted MAGCS logo golf shirts. This last four-some shot a 75, 77, 79 and 72 respectively. I'm glad they won something!

Gee whiz Al . . . tough to shoot par all the time, eh?



John Kiraly, Charlie Brugler, Pete Kiraly and President Behnke.



Tim Keating, John Ekstrom, Byron Ambrose and Scot Spier.



Our host Brian Thomson, Jesse, Jake Volbeer, Joe Etten and Adam Pierce.



Brian Mores, Aaron Easter, Luke Cella, Kevin DeRoo and a less-than-perfect backdrop considering the beautiful golf course directly behind the photographer!!!



Dave Schlagetter, Michele (beverage cart service professional), Dave Blomquist, Dave Radaj and Shane Kissack breaking up the potential "quadruple Dave foursome."

Tom Clesen and Scot Spier won the longest putts holed on no. 16 and no. 12, and the champion of all superintendents Tommy Robinson took home the longest drive prize. I think he hit it 380 or something like that . . . yeah . . . yeah, that's it, 380.

A.J. Huey and Sharon Riesenbeck volunteered their services on the betting hole no. 5 where \$850 was raised for the MAGCS scholarship fund. All those who hit their shot inside the circle "doubled their tickets" for the big raffle. The grand prize was a \$200 gas card, which went to John Kiraly.

Thank you again to our generous sponsors who helped make this event possible: Turf Professionals Equipment Company, Nadler Golf Car Sales Inc./Club Car, Anton's Greenhouse, Nels Johnson Tree Care Experts and Burris Equipment.



Justin Wheeler, and the always organized, always happy, all-around nice guy Tony Kalina. Thanks for all your hard work in organizing this great day!!!