

the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS
Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 12 – The first informal assistants' "Shop Talk" event at the Links at Carillon in Plainfield, IL, **Scott White** host. More information follows.

April 25 – MAGCS monthly meeting at White Pines Golf Club in Bensenville, IL, **Steve Partyka** host.

May 1 – J.W. Turf's annual equipment auction in Hampshire, IL.

May 16 – Penn State Alumni Golf Outing at the Glen View Club in Golf, IL, **Tony Frandria** host.

May 23 – ITF/MAGCS Combined Golf Day at the Ivanhoe Club in Ivanhoe, IL, **Tom Prichard** host.

June 13 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Phillips Park Golf Course in Aurora, IL, **Todd Schmitz** host.

June 29 – Annual John Buck Scholarship Outing at Hughes Creek Golf Club in Elburn, IL, **Darin Ayres** host.

After staging another very successful and entertaining Assistant Superintendent Winter Workshop in late February (more on this as you read on), your Class C Advisory Committee has come up with another innovative idea. As mentioned in Dates to Remember, the first of two planned "Shop Talk" events will be held at the Links at Carillon (**Mark Thibault** and **Scott White**) on April 12. The idea behind these gatherings is to unite assistant superintendents in the Chicagoland area for an informal afternoon of golf and industry chitchat—stressing INFORMAL.

This format will hopefully bring more assistants together, and promote the fellowship and common bonds so important in our industry. Information is forthcoming, and to find out more you can call Committee chairman **Chad Kempf** at Hinsdale Golf Club at 630-986-1323.

Also noted above is the Penn State Alumni Golf Outing on May 16. This year's event will be hosted by **Tony Frandria** and the Glen View Club, and promises to be another great gathering of alums old and new alike. For information, call **Tony** at 847-486-6106.

Mark your calendars for the annual J.W. Turf equipment auction and consignment sale, scheduled for Sunday, May 1 at their facility in Hampshire. As usual, a wide variety of used and demo equipment will be available for purchase, so get there early. For information, call **J.W. Turf** at 847-683-4653.

The February issue of *Golfdom* magazine ran a cover story called "Standing the Test of Time," highlighting six "seasoned" superintendents whose careers have spanned decades. One of those featured superintendents was our own **Eddie Fischer**, CGCS, the 25-year veteran of the Old Elm Club in Highland Park, IL. Ed's unique perspective—especially in regard to how he would describe a good day at work—is something every member of MAGCS can learn from. Congratulations, Mr. Fischer!

Also congrats to **Jon Jennings**, CGCS, who was featured in *Golfdom's* March issue. The article, "Sweet Home Chicago," traces Jon's career to his present post as superintendent of the historic Chicago Golf Club—home of this summer's Walker Cup matches.

This item was printed a year ago, but we have been granted a reprieve, and golf courses can use the soil fumigant methyl bromide for the remainder of this year. Make your gas 'n' grass plans quickly!

The numbers are in, and the Golf Industry Show's attendance was figured at around 23,000—not too shabby. The numbers, however, did not translate to booth visitors, according to several vendors. One in particular commented, "Nobody can convince me that Dallas (2001) didn't have two times the number of visitors." Let's think about that—Dallas . . . Orlando . . . Dallas . . . Orlando. Book Depository . . . Disney World. Perhaps the best way to ensure huge numbers on the floor is to hold the Show in boring cities with no other distractions to lure attendees away. Or not.

MAGCS salutes past Commercial Advisory Committee chairman **Paul Yerkes**—previously key account representative for Lesco—on his promotion to regional manager. Congratulations, Paul!



Paul Yerkes of Lesco (apparently taken about 10 years ago).

In an effort to become more familiar with the actual process involved in producing *On Course* magazine, several MAGCS Board members and employees recently toured the Darwill Press facilities where it all takes place. Senior account executive **Mark Pageau** and production manager **Kurt Paulson** led us through the process from start to finish, highlighting the incredible teamwork involved between our editor **Cathy Miles Ralston**, graphic designer **Mark Karczewski** and everyone at Darwill in order for this magazine to reach you each month. Everyone came

(continued on page 28)

away from the day feeling assured that our magazine is in very capable hands. Thank you to the fine folks at Darwill for their hospitality.



Mark Pageau of Darwill explains what all is involved in getting On Course magazine to your mailbox.

MAGCS welcomes the following new members to the fold, and wishes them all the best in their endeavors:

- Dustin Hugen**, Class C,
Indian Hill Club
- Rick Jones**, Class E, J.W. Turf
- Jesse Lehman**, Class C,
Schaumburg Golf Club
- David Kloss**, Class C,
Medinah Country Club
- Todd Fregien**, Class E,
Pendleton Turf Supply
- Chad Twaddle**, Class C,
Medinah Country Club
- Scott Verdun**, Class C,
Medinah Country Club
- Nick Nate**, Class C,
Medinah Country Club

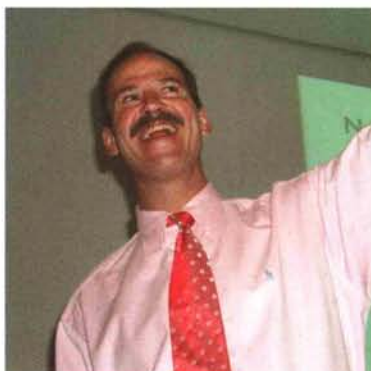
While Medinah Country Club has four new MAGCS members on its team, it has also lost one—**Brian Kimbrough**, formerly at Medinah C.C., is the new golf course superintendent at River Forest Country Club, replacing **Joel Purpur**, CGCS (Park Ridge C.C.). Congratulations, Brian!



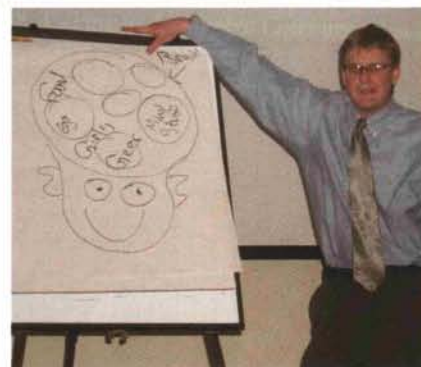
Brian Kimbrough.

Congratulations to **Tony Bisbee**, formerly assistant superintendent at Flossmoor Country Club, who is now the superintendent of Course No. 3 at Medinah Country Club.

The Class C Advisory Committee, as previously mentioned, has been very busy lately. Chairman **Chad Kempf** and his able-bodied band of assistant superintendents staged the second annual Assistant Superintendent Winter Workshop on February 24 at Midwest Golf House, and it was once again a stellar show. Keynote speaker **Pat Jones** of Flagstick Strategic Consulting, LLC (and former publisher of *Golfidom* magazine) gave a rousing presentation titled, “Your Career: Thinking Beyond Turf,” where he focused on the highs and lows of the golf industry as it stands today. Pat’s advice on perfecting one’s “non-turf survival skills” (writing, PowerPoint presentations, public speaking, etc.) was very well-received and pertinent to today’s world. Following a tough act, **Chad Kempf** gave his presentation on Hinsdale Golf Club’s Visual Improvement Process (VIP), a quality-control program utilizing employee reinforcement through the use of visual aids (digital photographs and graphic data). A roundtable discussion on “Getting Your Point Across—Communication Skills” followed, moderated by **Scott White**, **Aaron Willing** and **John Ekstrom**. Finishing off the day was **Keith Krause**’s examination of what makes the golfer tick—an in-depth and slightly tongue-in-cheek “crawl around inside the pelt” or exploration inside the head of the animal **Joe Golfer** that drives our industry. In all, the day was a great mix of prepared presentations and lighter-side open discussions that hit on all cylinders. Don’t miss next year’s rendition!



Pretty-in-pink Pat Jones.



Keith Krause crawls around inside the pelt of the golfer.



Class C Committee members Pat Maksymiu, Aaron Willing, Chad Kempf, John Ekstrom, Keith Krause, Brian Mores and Scott White.

A new educational event took place last month in northern Michigan; it was originally advertised by **Mike Morris**, CGCS of Crystal Downs Country Club in his presentation at the Midwest Turf Clinic last November, and a handful of MAGCS members had the opportunity to attend. The first (hopefully) annual Ski and Learn Symposium was held on March 7-8 at the Crystal Mountain Resort, and featured **Mike**’s presentation of “The Morris Method of Achieving the Ideal Green Speed for Your Course,” along with **Dr. Thomas A. Nikolai** of Michigan State University’s talk highlighting the findings in his book, *The Superintendent’s Guide to Controlling Putting Green Speed*. This unique format featured educational sessions and roundtable discussions from 8 a.m. until early afternoon, and allowed for the afternoons and evenings to be spent on the slopes of Michigan’s #1-ranked resort. Fortunately, new powder fell as if on cue, and conditions went from icy-treacherous to ideal during the event. The educational presentations were nothing short of outstanding, and the extracurricular activities made the whole shebang a

(continued on page 30)

great winter-ending opportunity to get the juices flowing for the coming season. "Bull Sheet" will keep you posted on future symposia, and rates the inaugural event a 10.



most of my time communicating verbally, in person, with the crew, staff and members. This daily presence with the crew has elevated worthiness and productivity. The golf staff and clubhouse staff are always on the same page. Furthermore, I can rest assured that the members feel comfortable in communicating their needs to me with respect to playing conditions and the property. Plus, once I leave the

course, my staff is only a cell phone call away and I can make changes to the irrigation settings from my home computer. In many ways, technology has made my life easier.

I'm sure new devices will pop up in the near future and I will be the first to take a look at and utilize them—but only if they will make my life easier.



CLASSIFIEDS

Positions Available:

Due to Tony Bisbee's departure, **Bob Lively** is looking to fill two assistant superintendents' positions at Flossmoor Country Club. Both positions are full-time, and interested parties should contact Bob at 708-798-4700, ext. 241 or at 708-906-8817.

Equipment Wanted:

Jacobsen 30-inch fairway mowers and frames in any condition. Please call Ron at 815-468-3438.

Equipment for Sale:

Bunton Model G813 walking greens mower in excellent condition. This mower was privately owned and was used to mow a personal putting green. It has been meticulously maintained, and the owner will entertain all offers. Call John Beckway at 847-683-0541 or 847-791-6446.

Inverness Country Club has a Jacobsen TriKing 1900D in excellent condition for sale or trade—\$4,500 cash or equivalent. Please call Mike at 847-358-7030 or e-mail questions to MagicGrKpg@aol.com.

- 1988 Toro Greens Aerator: Model 09110, good condition—\$950.
- 1992 EZGO GXT804 with steel cage for range use, needs engine—\$450.
- 1993 Toro Tri-Rollers for triplex, good condition—\$400.
- 1982 Ryan GreensAire II with quadratine coring heads and newer short block—\$350.
- Toro VertiCut units for triplex, age unknown, good condition—\$150.
- (20) Toro 750 complete sprinklers—\$20 each.
- 1982 Turfco Meter Matic self-propelled top-dresser—still runs—almost free!
- 1968 Rogers Model 40 blower for 3-point hitch, well-rested—almost free!

Call Kurt or Mike at Exmoor C.C. at 847-433-1177.

Timber Trails C.C. still has the following items for sale:

- Jacobsen Greens King V diesel with groomers, very good condition.
 - Jacobsen Greens King VI diesel.
 - Jacobsen TriKing 1900D, very good condition.
 - Jacobsen LF-128, very good condition.
 - Jacobsen GK IV heavy blades.
 - Myer 300-gallon 25 gpm sprayer.
 - TI International reel/bedknife grinder.
 - (2) LF-100s, new reels/bedknives.
- Call Don at 708-372-4482.

The Indian Hill Club offers the following historically significant equipment at crazy low prices—they're practically GIVING the stuff away:

- 10-year-old Club Car Carry All 2—best offer.
- 12-year-old Toro Hydroject, use for parts or large boat anchor—best offer.
- AgriMetal 3-point hitch blower, almost never used, come see it and make your offer.
- Very old Ryan Greens Aire, free with any equipment purchase while supplies last.
- Sort-of-old Jacobsen 3-point hitch blower—best offer.
- TIP Spiker-Seeder, almost new, purchased just before bensusmec application—best offer.
- John Deere 2653, 2,450 hours, make an offer after seeing this beauty!

Call Dave at 847-528-6656 to schedule an appointment and prepare to be wowed. No calls before 8 a.m. please.

Flossmoor C.C. has four complete sets of blue, white, red and gold artificial pine-log tee markers for sale. They are in very good condition and ready to be used. We have decided to use a different style, and would like to find a home for these where they'll actually get used. Contact Bob Lively at 708-798-4700, ext. 241 or 708-906-8817.