

# the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS, Contributing Editor

## DATES TO REMEMBER

December 5 – The Annual South Side Holiday Party at the Bier Steub in Frankfort, IL. GCSAA education points have been applied for.

December 12 – The Annual West Side Holiday Party at Dave & Buster's in Addison, IL. You didn't really believe that bit about the GCSAA points, did you?

December 12 – Uh oh, schedule dilemma: Northwestern Illinois GCSA and GCSAA Education present "Turfgrass Stress Management" featuring Karl Danneberger, Ph.D., Ohio State University and Joseph M. DiPaola, Ph.D., Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc. at the Ramada Suites & Rockford Conference Center in Rockford, IL.

December 15 – Deadline for applications to be postmarked for the AXA Achievement Scholarship in association with *U.S. News and World Report*.

January 3–March 10 – The Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School's Two-Year Certificate Program Winter Session in New Brunswick, NJ. Call 732-932-9271 for info, or go online at [www.cookce.rutgers.edu](http://www.cookce.rutgers.edu).

January 16–February 3 – The Blah blah Rutgers blah blah Three-Week Preparatory Short Course in New Blahblah, NJ—same number, same address as above.

January 17 & 18 – MAGCS and GCSAA Education seminars at Midwest Golf House—keep an eye on your mail for more details.

January 24 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Prairie Landing Golf Club in West Chicago, IL, **Tony Kalina** host.

Welcome to the following new members of MAGCS, and best wishes for a long, prosperous stay:

**Jeff Frentz**, superintendent of Lake Shore Country Club;

**Tim Fischer**, assistant superintendent at Joe Lewis G.C.

Hey you new guys, and old guys alike: Want to get MAGCS news quick and hot off the presses? Sign up for e-mail notification by contacting executive director Luke Cella at [luke@magcs.org](mailto:luke@magcs.org). And if you already have this service, but haven't heard from us lately, could it be you've changed your e-mail address recently? If so, let Luke know your new one and he'll get you back in the loop toot-sweet.

You kinda knew this was coming—from the Bolingbrook Golf Club (home of the 76,000-square-foot clubhouse and **Jeff Gerdes'** stomping ground) comes word that John Daly and architect John Robinson will collaborate on a new golf course across the street tentatively named Big Stick. The course will stretch more than 8,200 yards, making it one of the longest tracks in the country. And golf isn't hard enough as it is . . .

You know, nothing beats this time of year when we can finally take a breather and get away for a few days of much-needed rest and relaxation. Good old **Scott Speiden** (Itasca C.C.) would qualify as an example of taking the R & R motif a little too far . . .

It starts with a visit to Wisconsin's oldest bar . . .



After that, of course, it's time to mount the all-terrain vehicles for some fun . . .



Which leads, inevitably, to the triple-lindy-end-o crash in the mud pond . . .



And the Al Jolson-looking male-mud-wrestler result . . .



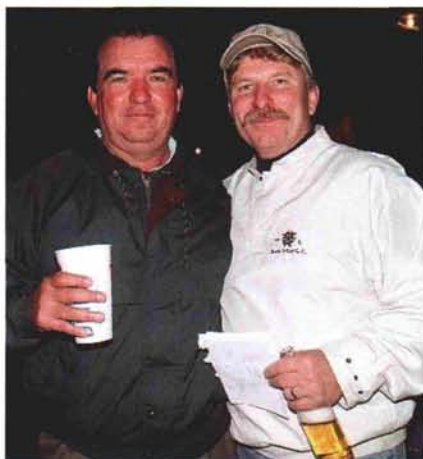
Where I can I sign up for some of that fun?

Congratulations to **Mark Gilmour** (J. W. Turf) on recently getting old. Mark turned 50 in October, and his wife, Barb, and family threw a down-home barn dance-type deal with hayrides, bonfires, burgers and just about all the other stuff that barn dances are famous for (except there

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were no sorority girls). About 100 of Mark's closest friends and family members attended, and a great night was had by all. Happy 50th, Mark!



*The man of the hour with his best girl, Barb, and his good buddy Gil.*

Congratulations to **Brian Racette** on becoming the golf course superintendent at Lincoln Oaks Country Club in Crete, IL. Brian was most recently assistant superintendent at Bryn Mawr C.C.



*Brian Racette.*

Also congrats to **Keith Peterson** on being named golf course superintendent of Beverly Country Club.

Keith leaves Calumet C.C. to take on his new position up the road.



*Keith Peterson.*

On November 8, the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents held its 21st Annual Forum at Naperville Country Club (**Tim Anderson**, CGCS host). This event is a one-day education-only affair that caps off the year of education offerings (mostly low-key, roundtable discussion formats where participants share their experiences and knowledge with their peers) in fine style. This year's theme, "Communication is the Key to Success," was expounded upon very capably by the panel of speakers, including **Tommy Witt**, CGCS of Northmoor C.C., **Ken Mangum**, CGCS of Atlanta Athletic Club, **Steve Mona**, executive director of GCSAA, **Paul Vermuelen** of the USGA Green Section, **Mr. Doug Kaiser**, green chairman of North Shore C.C. and **Mr. Joe Valenti**, green chairman of Bob O'Link G.C. Hats off to **Rick Bowden** (Bob O'Link) and all the CAGCS members who ensured the day was such a success. And thanks to Tim and the staff at Naperville for once again hosting.



*Joel Purpur accepts the Founders Cup from Rick Bowden.*



*Ken Mangum of Atlanta Athletic Club.*

Speaking of Naperville Country Club, **Tim Anderson** will soon be a very busy guy. The club voted to proceed with an extensive course renovation to begin next summer. The **Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest** project will include the rerouting of several holes, complete regrassing of all surfaces, a new well and irrigation system, and a new maintenance facility. Good luck in the exciting months ahead, Tim!

If college-tuition bills are staring you in the face, **Aquatrols** is sponsoring its third annual Scholarship Essay Contest for children of turf management professionals who will be attending an accredited college or university during the 2006-07 academic year. Entrants will compete for a \$2,000 first-place scholarship, with runner-up taking home \$1,000. Full instructions, rules and eligibility requirements are available at [www.aquatrols.com](http://www.aquatrols.com) or by calling 800-257-7797.

Taking any cool winter trips? Doing some cool course remodeling? Having a baby? Keep us informed! "Bull Sheet" readers want to hear about what's going on in your neighborhood, so take pictures (either digital or otherwise) and let us know. Send your stuff to [boomding@aol.com](mailto:boomding@aol.com), or call me at 630-826-7874.

