

the Bull Sheet

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Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 24 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Heritage Bluffs Golf Club in Channahon, IL, **Chuck Anfield, CGCS** host.

May 7 – JW Turf's annual equipment auction and consignment sale in Hampshire, IL. Call your JW Turf rep for details.

May 22 – MAGCS/ITF Annual Spring Golf Day at Midlothian Country Club in Midlothian, IL, **Dave Behrman, CGCS** host.

June 7 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Old Oak Country Club in Homer Glen, IL, **Chad Walk** host.

June 20 – 6th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing at Marengo Ridge Golf & Country Club in Marengo, IL, **Luke Roth** hosts.

Congratulations to the following old people (those who have earned the right to boast that they are the proud owners of a MAGCS 25-year pin):

Brad Anderson, CGCS—Midlane Country Club.

Dan Anderson, CGCS—City of Aurora.

Bob Breen—Retired, but only recently (Arrowhead Golf Club).

Brian Comiskey—Pinecrest Golf Course/Huntley Park District.

Phil Hall, CGCS—Emerald Hill Golf and Learning Center.

Tom Lively, CGCS—Medinah Country Club.

Robert Morrell—Class AA.

Mike Sauls—Butler National Golf Club.

Michael Sprouse—Randall Oaks Golf Club.

The busy off-season continues with major free-agent signings, a couple of blockbuster trades, and even a few minor league pick-ups that have made the starting lineups. And I'm not talking major league baseball, but the still-active job market in our own back yard:

- **John Ekstrom**, formerly assistant superintendent at Cantigny Golf Club is now the assistant at Hinsdale Golf Club.

- **Pat Maksymiu**, formerly assistant superintendent at River Forest Country Club is now assistant superintendent at Cantigny Golf Club.

- **Rob Foster**, former superintendent of Highland Park Country Club is now superintendent of Lake Bluff Golf Club.

- **Alan Perkinson**, former superintendent of Broken Arrow Golf Club has "crossed over to the dark side" and is now the General Manager at Broken Arrow (but insists he won't forget us little guys).

- **Adam Crissey**, former first assistant superintendent at Broken Arrow is now the golf course superintendent at same, under the watchful eye of that new GM guy.

- **Mike Mumper, CGCS** is the new superintendent at Arrowhead Golf Club. Congratulations, and best wishes for success and prosperity, gentlemen!

A couple other MAGCS members have new titles—and without even changing jobs. **Tommy Witt, CGCS** (Northmoor Country Club) and **Dan Marco, CGCS** (Ruth Lake Country Club) were elected to serve as directors for the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS) at the March 15 Annual Meeting at Oak Park Country Club (**Al Fierst** host). Congrats, and good luck to you both.

The late winter season in Chicagoland was once again chock-full of educational opportunities for our membership. It seems there wasn't even time to get my one tie dry cleaned after Atlanta before we were learning something somewhere from somebody. The first educational offering—and one which I believe will gain popularity in the future—was the 2nd Annual Assistant Superintendent Winter Workshop at Midwest Golf House on the 23rd of February. The program featured a great cast of characters including donuts, coffee, Phil Schwarz, meteorologist and weekend weather guy for ABC Channel 7-Chicago, lunch, **Paul Vermeulen**, USGA Agronomist, and wild wings from Buffalo. The day's theme was weather, and morning speaker Phil Schwarz hipped the

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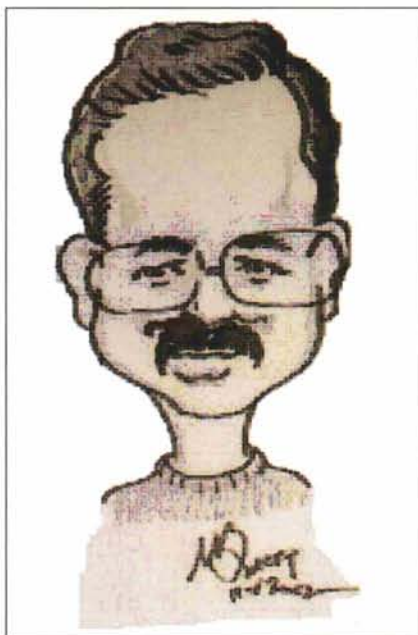


MAGCS 3rd Annual Assistant Winter Workshop Attendees

crowd of 45+ to about a gazillion web sites that have cool weather stuff (making it obvious that his job is basically surfing those sites and then regurgitating what he sees to those who actually watch weekend weather on channel 7). That sounded meaner than I intended—Phil was really a fun speaker, and one who gave us a ray of hope in saying that summer of 2006 would be cool with just the right amount of rainfall (that’s what I heard, anyhow). After lunch (and the hottest jardiniere I’ve ever tasted), Paul Vermeulen spoke about the summer of 2006 and the best methods to deal with difficult growing conditions. One scary point Paul made—a good green with proper ventilation (no trees blocking the breeze) on a 96° day will have an afternoon surface temperature of 106°. A bad green, beset with shade and air circulation issues will have a surface temperature of 121°+! That’ll leave a mark. We were then reintroduced to the 60 60/40 rule of how much sun is needed to successfully grow bentgrass—60% of each day’s sun is necessary, with 60% of that being morning sun (before solar noon). Moderator and excessively-ribboned-nametag-guy **Keith Krause** found that datum to be “awesome,” as he did with pretty much everything else about the day. Congratulations to everyone on the Class C committee who made this day successful.

Only a week later, on March 2nd, MAGCS members were treated to another fine day of education at Golf House. Dr. Joe Dipoala of Syngenta gave a terrific half-day presentation on “Career Enhancement & Personal Development for Golf Course Superintendents.” May I just blurt out here that all cell phones and pagers should be switched to either silent (if your wife is about to give birth or your blood test results are due) or off (the preferred choice) modes while attending these education seminars? Brad Anderson has the gist of Dr. Joe’s talk in his article, but I can’t help but pass along this advice from the esteemed speaker—if you are caught redhanded sleeping at your desk by someone of

importance, say “Amen.” And then go and TRY to make your resume fit on one dang page.



Joe Dipoala, or the best likeness we could get of him, presents to the membership at the March Meeting.

Another week, another seminar—this one was an all-day affair at Butterfield Country Club (**Mike Vercautren** host) on the 8th, dubbed the “Chicago Super Seminar” by its sponsors BASF and Lesco. The line-up of presenters was impressive, with such notables as Dr. Rick Latin of Purdue, Dr. Bruce Clarke of Rutgers, **Dr. Randy Kane** of CDGA (or IS he? You’ll have to

ask him), and Dr. Joe Vargas of Michigan State taking the podium with their multitudes of knowledge. I came away with 5 pages of notes—and I nodded off for about 3 hours, so there was obviously a LOT of stuff to learn about the new poop and the latest jazz concerning the most current industry dope from the university jamokes.

Although the aforementioned professors of higher learning may have the goods on the latest in research and technology for our industry, Travel Guard International, the self-proclaimed leading provider of travel insurance in the nation, has the market cornered on an AWESOME product for those of us who are cursed with “TTROHMB-WHUGAHIO,” or the “Tendency To Regardless Of How Many Beers We’ve Had Unwittingly Get A Hole In One” syndrome. The company’s 19th Hole coverage offers up to \$250 to golfers who incur extraordinary bar bills resulting from a hole-in-one. Sweet!



CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale:

- 18 Classic style Par Aide benches. Green cast aluminum ends with wood boards. Top of board covered with Cylcolac plastic laminate. \$75 each.
- 1990 Toro Fairway Aerator model 9500. Pull-behind, PTO-driven. \$1,000 OBO.

Call Mark Bobb at 847-381-0140.

- Smithco Red Ryders—1986 & 1991. Good runners. \$200 each.
- 1992 EZ-Go GXT 804 with cab cage for range picking—engine needs work. \$200.
- Water cooler enclosures for 10-gallon coolers—4 available, built by local carpenter, rough-sawn cedar with shingle roof, similar to ones commercially available, post included. \$150 each.

Call Kurt or Mike at Exmoor Country Club at 847-433-1177.