

the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS, Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 2 – I know, it's already over, but just in case, MAGCS monthly meeting at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL. Dr. Joe DiPaola, Marketing manager of Syngenta Crop Protection was (will be) our speaker, and his topic was (will be) "Professional Development for Golf Course Superintendents." .35 GCSAA education points were (are) available. That is (was) all.

March 8 – Research Update Seminar On Disease and Plant Care at Butterfield Country Club in Oak Brook, IL, **Mike Vercautren** host. (see below for more information)

March 14-16 & 28-30 – Toro Golf Customer Factory Service Training Programs in Bloomington, MN. Contact your TPEC representative for details.

March 15 – Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents Annual Meeting at Oak Park Country Club, **Al Fierst** host.

March 23 – Class C Shop Talk at Aurora Country Club in Aurora, IL, **Keith Krause** host.

April 24 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Heritage Bluffs Golf Club, **Charles Anfield, CGCS** host.



Matt Harstad.

- Sam MacKenzie, CGCS, formerly of Broadmoor CC in Indianapolis, IN is the new golf course superintendent at Olympia Fields Country Club.
- Eric Reed is the new Lesco sales representative for the northern Chicagoland territory, having been promoted from within the company.
- **Larry Chirico**, formerly in the above job, is the new golf course superintendent at Itasca Country Club.
- **Bruce Schweiger**, formerly with Reinder's in Janesville, WI, is now general manager of Marengo Ridge Golf & Country Club.
- **Scott Klingberg**, formerly of Elgin Country Club, is now the superintendent of Golf Club of Illinois.

First, if you made the trek to Atlanta, welcome back to the relative warmth of a Chicago winter, 2006-style. Additionally, welcome to our newest MAGCS members:



Vince Dodge.

- Vince Dodge** – Class A returnee – The Wilderness at Fortune Bay in Tower, MN.
- Matt Senatra** – Class A returnee – Mill Creek Golf Club, Geneva
- Michael J. Heustis** – Class C – Chicago Golf Club.
- Timothy Peterson** – Class C – Boulder Ridge Country Club

- Aaron Hearn** – Class C – Stonebridge Country Club
- Dan Kissee** – Class E – Rabine Paving
- Chris Lombardo** – Class E – Rabine Paving
- Steve Junk** – Class E – Dryject Chicagoland LLC (new owners of the Dryject franchise in Chicagoland)
- William Womack** – Class E – Dryject Chicagoland LLC

Also, welcome to the 2 new faces at Midwest Golf House—**Chris Painter**, who is the new golf course superintendent of the Sunshine Course, and **Derek Settle**, the new member of the CDGA turf staff. Best of luck to both of you!

The revolving door just keeps on swinging:

- **Matt Harstad**, formerly assistant at Butterfield CC is now golf course superintendent at Calumet Country Club.

Best wishes in your new jobs, gentlemen!

I would like to take the opportunity to express my extreme gratitude both personally and professionally to Cathy Miles Ralston. Cathy's work on this publication for the past 7 years has been exemplary, and I attribute my own personal growth and improvement as contributing editor, as well as the national industry-wide success and renown that *On Course* has achieved to her. Cathy made every contributor to this magazine a better writer through her skills and talents. Auf wiedersehen, Cathy!

One of our most renowned and revered members has decided to move up in status. **Oscar Miles, CGCS** announced his retirement in January, and will move back to his hometown of Quincy, Illinois. Oscar's career accomplishments are much too numerous to list here, but I will say that his most impressive achieve-

(continued on page 20)

ment—in my opinion—is the vast number of quality individuals who owe their success and station in life to Oscar’s tutelage. Thank you for all you’ve done to advance the proud profession of golf course superintendent, Oscar, and the best of luck to you in your future endeavors.



Oscar Miles

Another MAGCS member has joined the ranks of the extremely enviable—**Jerry Mach**, longtime superintendent of Lake Bluff Golf Club, has retired. Jerry, if you are looking for some card partners, give Oscar, **Jim McNair** or **Bob Breen** a call. Congratulations!



Jerry Mach.

The CAGCS Annual Meeting will convene at its usual venue this month on the 15th, and Al Fierst will once again serve as Oak Park Country Club’s gracious host. If you are a CAGCS member, make plans to attend—the food is always spectacular—by calling Al at 708-453-7525.

I’ll go out on a limb and assume this reaches you before the 8th, when the Research Update Seminar on Disease and Plant Care takes place at Butter-

field Country Club. If not, skip down to the next item. If so, the slate of industry experts that co-sponsors Lesco and BASF have put together is pretty impressive, and you should make plans to attend (it IS free, you know- all MAGCS class A and SM members have been invited to attend). Turf research leaders Dr. Bruce Clarke of Rutgers, Dr. Joe Vargas of Michigan State, Dr. Richard Latin of Purdue, and Dr. Randy Kane of CDGA will enlighten the audience with their large brains full of turf knowledge. If you wish to make reservations for this event, call **Paul Yerkes** at 630-904-5255.

Can I get a ruling? This story comes from Sydney, Australia—“Stolen Truck on Golf Course Forces Play to be Suspended.” Golfers at the New South Wales amateur championship had to deal with a different type of hazard—a stolen truck crashed on to the course, forcing play to be suspended while police chased an armed man.” According to Alex Johnston, director of golf, “The bloke drove down a laneway and straight through a fence onto the sixth hole.” As police helicopters hovered overhead and 25 police cars rushed onto the course, a two-hour siege developed before the man surrendered. Most players were allowed to finish their rounds out of sequence due to the disturbance, but the 4 groups that were on the sixth hole when the incident began had to wait out the entire 2-hour siege, as they were part of a crime scene. Funny golf stories without strippers are still funny.

While many MAGCS members were in Atlanta, sad news of the passing of a local legend came across the wires. **Peter Vandercook**, a long time MAGCS member and true southsider to the bone, passed away on Sunday, February 5th, leaving, amongst others, his wife Lois of 47 years. Mr. Vandercook had a long and storied career in the Chicagoland area, including serving as fire chief of the Flossmoor Fire Department while working for over 35 years for Illinois Lawn Equipment Company. Our younger members may recall Pete’s article in *On Course* in July of

2001 in which he regaled us with “The Secret World of the Night Water Man,” recounting the many wondrous experiences and pratfalls of that bygone era of manual irrigation (apologies to those who still have them). Pete was a larger than life kinda guy who dedicated his entire existence to our industry, and he (and his kind) will be missed. Memorial donations in Pete’s name can be made to the Flossmoor Fire Department, per his wishes. Condolences to the family and many friends of Mr. Peter Vandercook.

Big and happy news from Bayer Environmental Sciences—**John Turner**, who recently was named senior sales specialist for the lawn and landscape division, was also honored with the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation’s 2006 Distinguished Service Award on February 8th in Indianapolis. This is only the most recent in a long line of honors bestowed on JT, including the Bayer Masters Award, the Bayer Leadership Award, the Howard Johnson’s Enterprise Achievement Award, and the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation’s 1995 Distinguished Service Award (and who can forget his reaction when he saw that his wife Pam was there for the presentation). Congrats, JT—a most prestigious award for a most deserving recipient.



John Turner.

Hey, assistants! Be sure to sign up
(continued on page 22)

for the Shop Talk get-together at Aurora Country Club coming up on the 23rd of this month. This informal meeting will be a great way for you to exchange ideas, discuss current issues, talk shop and bitch about your superintendent overlords. Call **John Ekstrom** or Keith Krause to reserve your spot. Contrary to its name, the event will not be held in the shop, but in the actual CLUBHOUSE where members go. How can you resist? However, please bring your own bathroom.

.....
The January MAGCS monthly meeting was held at Prairie Landing Golf Club, with the always affable **Tony Kalina** serving as our host. This meeting's education presentation was a departure from the norm, featuring Dr. Harvey Drucker of Argonne National Laboratories and the University of Chicago with his discussion of "Bioterrorism—Risks, Threats, and Cures." I will chime in at this point to mention that Dr. Drucker, if given a scatter gun, an orange vest, and a guy bleeding from like 92 little holes laying next to him would be a dead ringer for our own Vice President Dick Cheney.



Dr. Harvey Drucker.

.....
After getting past the Cheney thing, the actual content of Dr. Drucker's presentation was quite enlightening, albeit a little unsettling. Focusing mainly on infectious diseases, their spread, and their use as terror agents, the good doctor warned us that, in his own words, "any idiot can make a bio-weapon." The nuts and bolts of his talk got down to the nitty gritty of those little viruses and bugs that can travel at the speed of an airplane, infecting huge numbers of people in a short

time, and causing all kinds of mayhem. Yuck! Then we ate lunch. From a buffet line. With no sneeze shields. And then **Ed Braunsky** broke out a pair of those medical inspection gloves during his Dead Poets Society....um, Past Presidents Committee report, keeping everything on subject. When it was all said and done, however, the day was a very nice diversion from our typical meeting subject matter, and all in attendance left with a new appreciation for what really goes into keeping our homeland safe from the threat of bioterrorism. Thanks go to Tony, Dr. Drucker, and the staff at Prairie Landing for a really great day!

.....
Got email? Sign up for MAGCS email notification. It's quick, easy and free. Stay on top of the latest events from the Association. Call Luke at 630-243-7900 or email him: luke@magcs.org and let him know.

.....
On January 24th at 9:11 AM—while many of us were at Prairie Landing for the MAGCS meeting—a very happy event took place. Ethan Derek Florian, the son of Jennifer and Derek, came into the world. It is difficult to imagine any upside to tragedies such as Derek's death, but the birth of this beautiful, healthy, 7 pound, 10 ounce bundle of joy is surely proof that, without sounding too cliché, every dark cloud truly has a silver lining.

Mom and sister Madeline are doing wonderfully and little Ethan has been nothing short of perfect—heck, he didn't even cry when the doctor slapped him. Congratulations, Jennifer, and nothing but our warmest wishes with your new little miracle.



Jennifer and Ethan Florian.



CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale:

- 20 Standard ball-washers, crank-style, red, in good condition with many extra parts. Asking \$20 each. Call Bill at McHenry C.C. at 815-385-0635.
- The Palatine Park District has the following equipment for sale, all in good condition:
 - * 1999 Toro 5200-D Fairway mower with 4,500 hours.
 - * 2003 Toro Greensmaster Flex 21 mower with under 100 hours.
 - * 2002 Toro Greens Aerator, under 50 hours.
 - * 1999, 2000 and 2001 John Deere 220-A Greensmowers.
 - * 1992 Ryan GA-30 Aerator.
 Call **Brad Helms** at 847-359-4022 or e-mail him at bhelms@palatineparks.org to make an offer or get more information.
- 2004 Toro Sand Pro 5020 in excellent condition—\$6,000 OBO. Call Dan or Mark at Barrington Hills Country Club at 847-381-0140.
- Befco 14' tow-behind rotary mower. Good condition. \$3,000 or best offer. Contact Mike Bavier at 847-358-7030.