

# the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

## DATES TO REMEMBER

November 1 – 54th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club in Medinah, IL, **Tom Lively, CGCS** host.

November 9 – Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents' 22nd Annual Forum at Naperville Country Club, **Tim Anderson, CGCS** host.

November 18 – Annual MAGCS Fall Dinner Dance at Ruth Lake Country Club in Hinsdale, IL, **Bridget and Dan Marco, CGCS** hosts.

November 27 – **Northwestern Illinois GCSA and GCSAA Education** present "Cutting Edge Disease Identification & Management" full-day seminar at the Ramada Inn on 200 South Bell Road in Rockford, IL. Call (800) 472-7878 to register or for more information.

November 28 – 30 – **Illinois Professional Turf Conference** at the Pheasant Run Resort

in St. Charles, IL. Visit [illinoisturfgrassfoundation.org](http://illinoisturfgrassfoundation.org)

December 11 – Annual West Side Holiday Party at Dave & Buster's in Addison, IL from 12 noon to 3:00 PM.

January 10 – MAGCS Chapter-Administered GCSAA seminar at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL. The topic is "Taking Control of Your Grassy Weeds" and is presented by Dr. Fred Yelverton.

February 19 – 24 – GCSAA Education Conference in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show in Anaheim, CA (where the "answer" is).

February 22 – MAGCS Hospitality Suite Extravaganza at a spectacular venue to be named later from 6:00 to 10:00 PM. Note that this event has been changed to a one-night affair and has added an extra hour for that night. Hilton Anaheim – Pacific Ballroom D.

### Perusing the "pubs:"

The September issue of *Golf Course Management* featured Dr. Tom Voigt's research article titled "Turf and Native Grasses for Naturalized Roughs" on pages 89 through 92. Anyone considering "going native" on their courses should look into Dr. Tom's work, as it has valuable suggestions for proper grass choice in un-mowed areas.

In October's GCM, a photo on page 60 which ran in this very "pub" several years back prominently shows our Harley-hounds **Ed Fischer, CGCS, Paul Bastron, CGCS, and Chad Ball, CGCS** in Key West, Florida during a trip from Orlando down through the Keys after the

Conference and Show in 1999. The article, by Terry Ostmeyer, highlights the many positive benefits that GCSAA members glean from participating in the golf championship before each conference, with a focus on the lasting friendships and bonds forged from participating in it.

There has also been a story floating around about a meteorite being found on a West suburban country club by its superintendent. Now that my 15 minutes of fame is over, I can attest to the veracity of that claim. The thing that wasn't explained—the untold story if you will—is what REALLY happened... In a nutshell, I was scouting, I saw a spot on the 14th green (looked like

a pee spot from a fox), I checked it out and found a pea-sized object embedded in the soil in the center of the burn spot. I dug it out, it looked funny (you know, funny odd, not funny like a clown), so I took it to the office and googled "meteorite" as that is what I assumed it was. It checked out, so I gave it to my wife who works at Aurora University who gave it to someone else who passed it along to some expert at Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (lotsa hip kids there) who decided to test it in front of his class, the press, and representatives from various other planets. The first test involved determining its magnetism by using—go figure—a big magnet to attract the thing. Unfortunately, it WAS a big magnet, the table upon which the rock was placed happened to be of a steel composition, and the professor doing the test was NOT what one would characterize as "muscular." You can pretty much imagine what transpired next—magnet hit table with much force, crushing meteorite in the process. So feeling that our meteorite was in capable hands, Aurora Country Club donated its remains to both Aurora University and IMSA for further research and destruction. There.

Make plans to attend the CAGCS 22nd Annual Forum at Naperville Country Club (Tim Anderson, CGCS) on the 9th (if you are not a member, you can go by schmoozing one into bringing you as a guest). The day's talks all focus on a centralized theme—"Planning, The Roadmap to Success!" A slate of respected industry experts mixed with a little local flavor will present their views and experiences in planning for a wide variety of things from big-time golf events to your future finances. There will be something for everyone at this year's rendition of the Forum—see you there.

GCSAA has announced its slate of candidates for the election in February at the Golf Industry Show in Anaheim. For president, Ricky D. Heine from The Golf Club Star Ranch in Austin, Texas. For vice president, David S. Downing II,

(continued on page 20)



CGCS from Rivers Edge Golf Club in Shallotte, N.C. For secretary/treasurer, James R. Fitzroy, CGCS at Wallaston Recreational Facility/ Presidents Golf Club in North Quincy, Mass., and Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS from Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J. For director (electing 3) are Keith A. Ihms, CGCS at Country Club of Little Rock in Little Rock, Arkansas; John C. Miller, CGCS at the Golf Club at Yankee Trace in Centerville, Ohio; Robert M. Randquist, CGCS of Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, Florida; and Roger M. Ruff, CGCS at Mountain Dell Golf Course in Salt Lake City, Utah. Good luck, and may the best CGCS win.

.....  
MAGCS welcomes **Kirkwood Community College** and **Danville Community College** to its impressive list of honorary members.  
.....

This was passed along to me by **Mike Bavier, CGCS** (Inverness GC), and I thought it would be of interest (even though it is a sad, sad story that appeared in the *Daily Herald* newspaper). "A former St. Charles man accused of violating his parole on a reckless homicide conviction has been captured in Minnesota after a year on the lam. Richard Ruane was arrested on August 24 in Marshall, Minnesota...(and) has been a wanted man since August 25, 2005 when he failed to show in court on felony obstruction of justice and underage drinking charges...At the time of his arrest, Ruane was on parole for a crash that killed a groundskeeper at the Elgin Country Club. On June 30, 2001, Ruane was 16 and drunk when he ignored a stop sign at Randall and Bolcum Roads and crashed into Tod Hopphan, 37, of Aurora, who was on his way to work." The article goes on to talk about how this guy used court-ordered talks at victim impact panels to pick up girls, tested positive for alcohol during a work-release program, and ignored 2 years of substance abuse treatment. Let's all hope they keep him for a while this time, huh?

.....  
As usual, late September through October were packed with quality

golf opportunities for our membership. Three of the more prominent ones were the MAGCS Annual Golf Championship held at Makray Memorial Golf Club (**Chris Blake** host), the 3rd Annual Wee One Foundation golf outing at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI (Rod Johnson, CGCS)—both on September 25th, and the MAGCS/ITF Annual College Championship hosted by **Tom Prichard** and Ivanhoe Club on October 2nd. Although attendance at all 3 was impossible, thanks to friends like **Sharon Riesenbeck**, **Brett Grams**, and **Paul Bastron**, a thorough accounting of each through the written word as well as the digital camera was made possible.

.....  
**The 3rd Annual Wee One Foundation Golf Outing**

On a beautiful sunny day at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, the Wee One Foundation held its 3rd annual golf outing (a fund-raising event to assist golf course management professionals or their dependents who incur overwhelming expenses due to medical hardship). The golf course was in spectacular condition as per usual, thanks to our host Rod Johnson, CGCS. For those of you who have not yet played in the Wee One outing, or at Pine Hills, keep the last Monday in September open next year. Pine Hills is truly one of the best Wisconsin has to offer. As in past years, the fourth hole brat and beer stand and the thirteenth hole taco and beer stand kept players nourished throughout the two-person, alternating shot format. Afterwards, there were a slew of great raffle prizes and awards to be doled out. Paul Bastron and **Brad Roose** took top honors, but the real winners were the families who will benefit from the funds raised in the event. Thanks to all of our devoted and generous sponsors, all of the players who supported the outing this year (including MAGCS which contributed a \$1,000 hole sponsorship), and all of the people who support the Foundation through memberships and charitable gifts, the Wee One Foundation will continue to help families in our industry in their

time of need. To learn more about Wee One, or to read a more thorough description of the day, go to [www.weeone.org](http://www.weeone.org).



.....  
**The MAGCS Annual Championship**

Just a few hours south of Sheboygan, Chris Blake and the staff at Makray Memorial Golf Club in Barrington, IL had their new baby all dressed up for Sunday dinner and a little golf to boot. I will start this with my own observation: This is one tough course! With winds swooping in from all directions, with undulations, peaks, valleys, knobs, water features, and even the occasional waterfall, and with greens that ran quick (and deadly), this was a very formidable test for the best golfers our association boasts.

(continued on page 22)



When the dust settled and the blood dried, it was **Al Pondel, CGCS** of Rockford Country Club who won the cherished championship chair. Rounding out the Championship Flight (non-handicapped) were **Brian Racette** in 2nd and **Dave Kohley** in 3rd. First Flight winner was **Rick Wilson, CGCS** of Glenview Park District, followed by **Dave Groelle, CGCS** and **Chuck Ardell** (both of whom played with me, and took none of my advice). Second Flight was won by **Steve VanAcker, CGCS** of Crystal Lake Country Club, followed by **Gary Hearn** and **Todd Schmitz**. The Third Flight (commercial gross) winner was **Phil Taylor**, with **Ernie Kaplan** taking 2nd and **Andy Womack** 3rd. Third Flight net was won by **Bill Shaub**, followed by **Tom Clesen** and **Darrick Robbins**. Other on-course events included Closest to the Pin on #4 (won by **Holly Gilmour**) and #13 (**Tim Davis**); Longest Drive won by **Brad Legnaioli**, and Longest Putt won by **Mike Vukmir**. Congratulations to each of our champions, and to Chris Blake and the staff at Makray Memorial (now and forever renamed Makray Memorial), and huge thanks to our sponsors—**Arthur Clesen Inc., BTSI, Chicagoland Turf, JW Turf, Inc., Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc., Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Palatine Oil Company, and Turf Professionals Equipment Company**. Great job, everyone!



Al Pondel, CGCS  
the MAGCS 2006 Champion  
claims the chair.







of the Danville Area **Brian Bossert, Brock Burton, Ron Dohman and Dennis Buck. Scott Jacobs** sunk the longest putt, and the proximities on the par 3's were awarded to **David Mills, Paul Carlson, and Dennis Buck.** Thanks to **H & E Sod Farms** for donating over \$2000 to the University of Illinois Scholarship Fund and to those of you that hit the green on that hole. Thanks to **Central Sod Farms** for donating the tailgate package for the U of I Turf Club (raised \$640) that was won by **Keith Krause.** As always, thank you to **Sharon Riesenbeck** for the Grey Goose Gift Baskets. (Ed note: thankfully they were not won by Keith Krause.) Thanks to all who participated, overall 8 Colleges and Universities were represented in the event. Those who didn't win a prize were greeted by a plethora of food at the round's end including lobster, beef, turkey, desserts, lobster and more lobster. A special thanks to the Food and Beverage Staff and Managers at Ivanhoe Club for your hospitality to our members.

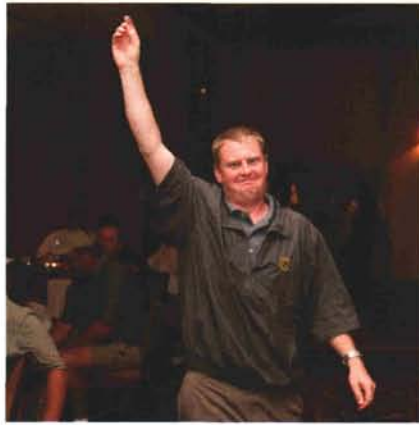


**MAGCS/ITF Annual College Championship**

The ITF and MAGCS held the Annual College Championship on October 2 at Ivanhoe Golf Club. Thank you to Tom Prichard and Staff for a fantastic day of golf. As always the golf course was in immaculate condition and another tough course where players did battle. The winners this year of the *Dudley Smith Award - Intercollegiate Championship For Turfgrass Alumni* (actual name of the trophy) was **Justin Kirby, David Mills, Greg Rounds and Randy Wahler** representing the University of Illinois with a low gross of 132. The low net winners represented the fine Community College







considered personal gain). The machine stalled, the operator rode it backwards for 40 to 50 feet until it stopped in this creek. The engine never became submerged, though, and the unit was driven out and back on the fairway in no time (with a different operator). Kidding about the different operator.



There was another event in September that, while it didn't include golf, proved to be an educational coup d'etat: The 2006 Turfgrass Research Field Day at Midwest Golf House presented by the University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, and the CDGA. Ten manned "stops" on the tour featured the latest results of research being conducted by the presenters, and an additional 8 unmanned stops highlighted a variety of other research topics currently being done at Golf House. After the tour, a barbecue lunch was served followed by equipment demo's from many of the local distributors. Congratulations to everyone involved in the great success that the day was!

"Do you want the good news or the bad news?" **Erwin McKone**, CGCS of Briar Ridge Country Club was full of news this past month—all SORTS of news.

**The good news:** Assistant superintendent **Andrew Reynolds** was selected to attend the John Deere and Bayer Green Start Academy in late September (which *Golf Course Management* magazine labeled a smashing success). Congratulations, Andrew!

**And the bad news:** John Deere invited him because he did this to a Toro. Actually, that is not Andrew operating the machine, but another of Erwin's staff, nor did he do it for personal gain (unless his photograph in this magazine can be

Hey, it's GCSAA's 80th anniversary! Funny, it seems like only five years ago when we were celebrating the 75th anniversary. How time does fly...



**Correction from the OCTOBER issue of Bullshead –**

Erik Swenson resigned as Grounds Manager for Lincolnshire Country Club and Lincoln Oaks Golf Course (the Country Club manages both) and purchased Shambole Golf Club in Petersburg, IL. Brian Racette, who was the Superintendent of the Lincoln Oaks Golf Course now oversees the Country Club as well. Best of luck to Erik in your endeavor.

.....  
 You should have already received the new slick brochure for the 2006 Illinois Professional Turf Conference to be held on the 28th through the 30th at Pheasant Run in St. Charles. If this is not so, contact Luke Cella ASAP to arrange to get one, or go online at [www.illinoisturfgrass-foundation.org](http://www.illinoisturfgrass-foundation.org) to be a part of this event. There is something for just about everyone at the IPTC, so plan on nothing getting done at your course for those 2 to 3 days.



**Paul Yerkes**  
630-514-9373

**Sam Wineinger**  
630-768-9275

**Eric Reed**  
224-629-3061

**Rich Wall**  
815-341-4438



**LESCO®**

For 24/7 Service Visit Us On The Web At  
[www.lesco.com](http://www.lesco.com)

LESCO is a registered trademark of LESCO Technologies LLC

**1444 Bernard Drive    Phone 630.268.8871**  
**Addison, IL 60101    Fax 630.268.1357**

Natural & Organic Fertilizers

**Trent Bradford**  
630.742.2327

**Walter Fuchs**  
630.258.8765

**John Lebedevs**  
630.742.4905

**Brian Baker**  
630.546.1454

**Sean Hearden**  
630.742.4135