

the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 10-11 & 12-13 – Toro NSN Regional Site Pro Intermediate Training classes at Turf Professionals Equipment Company's Franklin Park, IL location. Contact Steve Eisele at 800-861-8676, ext. 6178 for details.

April 19 – State of the Game Golf Summit at Olympia Fields Country Club in Olympia Fields, IL, **Sam MacKenzie**, CGCS host.

April 30 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Spring Scramble at Indian Lakes Resort, **Chuck Ardell** host.

May 6 – JW Turf's Annual Equipment Auction and Consignment Sale at the JW Turf headquarters in Hampshire, IL, **Holly Gilmour, Mark Gilmour, Danna Eberly, Gerry Hough, Joe Hustler, Rick Jones, John Maguire, Jeff Rehberg**, and **Rick Uthe** hosts.

May 12 – 2007 North American Birdwatching Open (on International Migratory Bird Day).

May 14 – MAGCS/ITF Spring Golf Day at Ivanhoe Club, **Tom Prichard** host.

May 31 – Assistants Shop Talk at Bryn Mawr Country Club at 6:00 PM, **Jeff Plasschaert** and **Brian Bossert**, CGCS hosts.

June 18 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Shepherd's Crook Golf Course in Zion, IL, **Craig Lewis** host. The Dom Grotti, Class C, and Senior Championships will be contested at this meeting.

June 26 – The 7th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing at Bartlett Hills Golf Course in Bartlett, IL, **Kevin DeRoo** host.

MAGCS offers a hearty welcome to the following new members:

Steve J. Johnson, Class E—

Alexander Equipment Co.

James A. Burge, Class E—

Turf Professionals Equipment Co.

Matthew Schmitt, Class C—

Schaumburg Golf Club.

Reynaldo Tijerina, Class SM—

Cardinal Creek Golf Course.

David Fedderson, Class DT—

Cedar Brae Golf and CC.

Scott Vincent, Class C—

Skokie Country Club.

Len Conley, Class E—

The Sanctuary

Don F. Nietzel, Jr., Class E—

BBF Fence Erectors, Inc.

Jason Kahlstorf, Class SM—

Old Oak Country Club.

Good luck to all of you!

The 2007 golf season is upon us, and to get you in the right frame of mind, here is a look at the MAGCS monthly meeting sites, the golf formats and education offerings coming at you this year:

April 30: Indian Lakes Resort, format is the Spring Scramble, and education is Carla Wagner of Wild Goose Chase on Managing Migratory Bird Populations "Legally!"

May 14: ITF Spring Golf Day at Ivanhoe Club, format is a scramble.

June 18: Shepherd's Crook, format is the Dom Grotti, Class C, and Senior Championships, and education is Mike Thurow and Cynthia Turski from Spectrum Technologies on utilizing environmental monitors to benefit your course and enhance your management practices.

August 7: Mistwood, format is individual low net/low gross/progressive logo ball, and education is Jack Pizzo on managing prairie areas on golf courses.

September 17: Stonewall Orchard, format is the MAGCS Championship.

October 2: ITF Fall Golf Day at Prairie Bluff, format is the College Championship.

Check out the March issue of *American Nurseryman* magazine and read one of our very own's first nationally published article. **Rusty Stachlewitz**, executive director of the Midwest Sod Council and fundraising director for the International Turf Producers Foundation has written a very provocative and inspiring piece titled "The Answer is Turf" in the magazine that is of interest to all of us in the Green Industry by extolling the virtues of the plants we grow and maintain for our livelihoods. Nice piece, Rusty, and a fine article as well...

Another MAGCS member has been spotted in the pages of a major trade publication. **Ken Lapp** of Cog Hill Golf & Country Club proffered his thoughts to GCM (Golf Course Management) on the effects an expanded daylight savings time will have on his operation. As you know, DST was extended by 3 weeks in the spring (now March 11) and by 1 week in the fall (to November 4), meaning, theoretically, more evening golf. See page 22 of the February issue to hear Ken's thoughts and those of other veteran superintendents on this subject.

And if you still haven't read enough, take a look at the February issue of *Club and Resort Business*, where **Dan Dinelli**, CGCS is a featured contributor in the Super to Super section. Dan was privileged to interview a very unique character in our industry—Scott Anderson, CGCS of the Huntington Valley Country Club in suburban Philadelphia. Scott (The Water Wizard) takes a "road less traveled" approach to his maintenance practices, especially when dealing with water and inputs to his turf and soil. He even goes

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so far as to employ an ancient technique commonly associated with finding underground water called dowsing, or "water-witching" to locate "geopathic stress"—distorted earth energies that cause injury to susceptible plant and animal species. Even if you are a skeptic, it's really fascinating to read about, and Dan's interview with Scott is a good place to start. Those of you who are TurfNet subscribers should be familiar with this subject, as it was covered in depth in the December, 2006 issue.

Next month on the 12th is the 2007 North American Birdwatching Open for our region. Sponsored by Audubon International, this event is free and open to all AI golf program members. The rules are pretty simple: list all bird species observed on your golf course during the 24-hour period and send it to Audubon International. This can be beneficial in several ways, including a positive public relations event at your course for your more bird-brained golfers, and also to fulfill certification requirements in Outreach/Education and Wildlife and Habitat Management categories of the ACSP for golf courses.

The 19th of this month brings a first to our area—the State of the Game Golf Summit at Olympia Fields Country Club. Our distinguished group of allied associations, including MAGCS, CDGA, IPGA, IJGA, and CCMA has an outstanding slate of speakers from across the country who will address the key issues facing the game of golf in today's business and economic climate.

Congratulations to **Josh Murray**, formerly of Cantigny Golf Club who is now with Illinois Pump, Inc and will work as a Sales Technician.

Class C Advisory Committee news: First off, more kudos to **John Ekstrom** on his selection to the GCSAA National Assistant Superintendents committee which will meet in Lawrence, KS on the 11th and 12th of this month. John also announced recently the additions of **Scott Verdun** of Merit Club and



The Class C Committee welcomes Jim McLoughlin at their annual Assistant's Winter Workshop.

James Chisolm of Harborside International to the Class C committee, while also lamenting the loss of longtime member **Josh Murray**, whose contributions will be missed. This committee is one of only several throughout the country, and is far and away the most active. Case in point: The Annual Assistant Superintendent Winter Workshop, held at Midwest Golf House on February 8th. This year's rendition featured a well-fed (we'll get to that in a bit) **Jim McLoughlin** and his presentation on Strategic Career Planning. An audience of 50 assistant superintendents, 5 superintendents, and 2 commercial members took in the day's educational offering, and none left disappointed. In the days leading up to the event, the committee chauffeured, wined, dined, and entertained their distinguished guest during some horrible Chicago weather, leaving a lasting impression on Mr. McLoughlin and further raising the bar that they themselves have set in this important endeavor. Great job by everyone involved!

The members of MAGCS have lost another old friend. **Marvin Gruening**, born in Schofield, Wisconsin in 1928, passed away in Florida on March 5th. Marv was a longtime MAGCS member who began his career at Bonnie Dundee Golf Course in the early 50's. Marv met his wife Lorraine during that time, and they moved on to a short stint at Woodridge Golf Club before landing the superintendent's job at the Midwest Club from 1955 to 1979. In '79, the family "loaded up the truck" and moved north to Park Ridge Country Club where

Marv remained until his retirement in 1994. We send our sympathies to the family and friends of **Marvin Gruening**—he will be missed.

Congratulations to **Matt Senatra**, formerly at Schaumburg Golf Club, who has joined the Forest Preserve District of Cook County golf courses under the management of **Billy Casper** Cook County Golf LLC (**Jim Wyffels**) as golf course superintendent.

Also congratulations to **Steve Kashul**, formerly of Harris Motor Sports, who has accepted the membership directors position at Kemper Lakes Country Club in Kildeer, IL.

Just one more congratulatory item: **Ted Woehrle** was recently inducted into the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame by the Michigan Golf Foundation. Ted was superintendent at Beverly Country Club where he hosted 2 Western Opens and 2 Western Women's Opens, was superintendent of Oakland Hills CC for 24 years, grew in Point O' Woods CC in Benton Harbor, was MAGCS president in 1961, and GCSAA president in 1977, to name but a few of his accomplishments. He was also mentor to a vast number of current superintendents and is truly deserving of the honor bestowed upon him by the Michigan Golf Foundation. Congratulations, Ted!

If the opportunity to travel to the bustling megalopolis of Sylacauga, Alabama to take in the "Farmlinks Experience" comes your way as it did for me recently, give it a try. The Pursell family has created a really

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impressive resort-type setting on their sprawling property, including rustic but modern lodges, a spectacular 18-hole golf course which is a testing ground for all kinds of equipment and turf products, and some nice fishing to boot. The experience gives the visitors a look at several companies' products, both in classroom and field atmospheres, a nice couple of days' stay with golf, fishing, or just lounging around in their spare time, and some of the best and most bountiful food imaginable.



This is where you play golf and this is where you stay—nice, huh?

Anaheim Had Answers... And Waffles.

The big question surrounding this year's Golf Industry Show was, "How's it going to be with all those managers there?" The answer would be in Anaheim, no doubt. Now that the show's over and all the booths are packed up and almost everyone is back home, my own answer would be "I didn't really notice the difference, except for the waffles."

I hadn't really given much thought to the types of different vendors and booths that our new attendees would bring to the floor. Would there be big shiny stainless steel refrigerators? Rich oak-paneled locker displays? Maybe some wine and spirits vendors to make things interesting? There were all of these and more—more plates and dishes to shake a stick at in fact. But it really didn't affect my enjoyment of the trade show; it actually enhanced it. I chose to walk those aisles with the plates, glasses, lockers, clubhouse artwork, and the like because I was curious. I also freely admit that another influence that lured me in was the aroma of food. Not the crummy pizza offered up by the convention center vendors for ten bucks a crummy slice, but

real food from companies trying to get their products into golf course kitchens across the country. Food like smoked turkey and bacon. Food like 12-year old Scotch and cabernet (they're food to me anyhow). Food like the best damn waffles I've ever had. So yeah, the show was a little different from those of the past, but I'm not complaining.

Before the show, of course, was another noteworthy event—the Golf Championship. Our MAGCS competitors did very well against increasingly tough opposition, with the following folks meriting mention: Championship Flight:

- Tim Scott—8th place (226);
- Dave Kohley—10th place (229).

Third Flight:

- Ron Fox—5th place.

Fifth Flight:

- Steve VanAcker—2nd place.

Sixth Flight:

- Don Cross—10th place.

Senior I:

- Paul Bastron—2nd place;
- Brian Chalifoux—8th place.

Senior II:

- Ed Fischer—1st Place!;
- Tim Davis—2nd place;
- Tom Van DeWalle—6th place.

In the team competitions, MAGCS03 (Dave Kohley, Al Pondel, Tom Robinson, and Tim Scott) took 3rd in the Gross division. MAGCS06 (Ed Fischer, Brad Johnsen, Paul Schaefer, and Steve VanAcker) took 1st place and MAGCS04 (Don Cross, Al Fierst, Bob Maibusch, and Tommy Witt) took 8th in the Net division.

Congratulations to all of you! Once the tournament was over and everyone settled in to Anaheim, the Show was off and running. The Opening Session on Thursday the 22nd featured a pair of golf legends in Charlie Sifford, this year's Old Tom Morris Award winner, and Johnny Miller as keynote speakers in what was to be a lively presentation. Also featured were GCSAA president Sean Hoolihan and CEO Steve Mona, and additional honorees receiving their awards were, among others, Dr. William Meyer of Rutgers University, one of this year's Distinguished Service Award recipients.

The big event of the Show (aside from that Lesco/John Deere thing) was the MAGCS hospitality suite on Thursday the 22nd in the Hilton Anaheim. When all the figures were tallied, it turned out that 435 people enjoyed our Midwest hospitality, and I don't think any were disappointed. The switch to one night was enthusiastically received, and the entire evening couldn't have been nicer. Thanks to Sharon and Luke for all of their leg work, and to our sponsors for their generous financial support, and to everyone who made the MAGCS room a place to stop in and visit, this was the best yet.

When it was all said and done, this latest rendition of the Golf Industry Show turned out pretty nicely, Anaheim, managers, and all. The verdict is still out on those airlines, though.



CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: 6 Network 8000 complete cabinets, 17 VT-3 cabinets, and a complete VT-3 Central, all in good working condition. Call Russ at 847-968-3316.

For Sale: True Surface Vibratory Rollers; only used 2 seasons. Great shape; currently set up for late-model John Deere Triplex. Also: 1996 Terra topdresser in good shape and a couple hundred home-made cart control wooden blocks with a spike on the bottom. Call Brian at Bryn Mawr; 847-677-4112.

For Sale: Like new 1994 Jacobsen Tri-King 1684-D with only 360 hours. Asking \$3,000 or best offer. Call Ray Schei at 630-963-9862 for information or email: masha62@sbcglobal.net