



THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



December 2007

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 3 – Annual South Side Holiday Party at Chef Klaus' Bier Steub restaurant in Frankfort, IL beginning at 11:30 am.

December 5-7 – Illinois Professional Turfgrass Conference (IPTC) at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL.

December 9-11 – 28th International Irrigation Show at the San Diego Convention Center in—have a guess—San Diego, CA.

December 10 – Annual West Side Holiday Party **NOT** at Dave & Buster's! New venue this year is the Salt Creek Golf Course and Top Golf USA facility, **Gary Hearn** host. More information follows.

December 18 – Midwest Regional Turf Foundation's "Basic Training: Turf Management" seminar in Indianapolis, IN. Contact www.mrtf.org for details.

January 7-March 18 – The Rutgers University Professional Golf Turf Management School Winter Session on the Rutgers University campus in New Brunswick, NJ. Interested? Go to www.golfturf.rutgers.edu.

January 15, 2007 -MAGCS January Monthly Meeting: Green Garden Country Club, Renny Jacobson, host. (Test out the new section of I-355)

January 28-February 2 – GCSAA Education Conference at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FL.

January 31 – MAGCS Hospitality Suite at the Renaissance Orlando Hotel and Resort at Sea World in Orlando, FL. Details will follow.

February 21 – 2008 MAGCS Annual Assistants Winter Workshop at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL. Yes, details for this event will also follow—keep reading.

Congratulations to **Chuck Barber**, former assistant superintendent at Beverly Country Club, who is the new golf course superintendent at Indian Lakes Resort.

MAGCS extends its best wishes to **Tom Lively**, CGCS as he opens the next chapter in his career. Tom has resigned as golf course superintendent at Medinah Country Club effective March, 2008. Good luck to you, Tom!

So this retirement thing is either a big hoax, or the folks in our industry just can't take life after the golf course. It seems that as soon as it's announced that someone has retired, they get back in the game. The latest example of this phenomenon is **Tim Kelly**, the former superintendent of the Village Links of Glen Ellen and past MAGCS president in 1993, who is the new sales representative for Abbott Tree Care Professionals, LLC of Wayne, IL. Congratulations and best of luck, Tim!

Congratulations also to **Michael Heustis** of Chicago Golf Club on his appointment as Class C Advisory Committee representative. Michael has big shoes to fill with the departure of **John Ekstrom** after his highly productive 2-year term ended last month.

The Annual West Side Holiday Party on December 10th takes a major turn this year, as we exit I-355 a tad further north to our new destination—Salt Creek Golf Course and Top Golf

USA. Lunch and libations will be served in the clubhouse, while afterward we will adjourn to the adjacent Top Golf facility for fun and games. Host **Gary Hearn** describes Top Golf as playing darts with golf balls, and a true test of skill

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with the golf club. Plenty of clubs are available on site, so don't bother bringing yours. Call Gary or **Don Ferreri** for more info.

The MAGCS Hospitality Suite—to be held on the 31st of January—will also take a new turn this time around. The venue will *not be* in the GCSAA Headquarter hotel as in the past, but down the street a bit at the Renaissance Orlando Resort and Hotel at Sea World on 6677 Sea Harbor Drive. The always grand event will commence at 7:00 pm, and promises to be the best yet. Make a note of it.

Once you get back from sunny Florida, check out the Annual Assistants Winter Workshop at Midwest Golf House on February 21st. The full-day event, which is open to all MAGCS members and encourages superintendents and commercial members alike to attend, will feature presentations by **Bruce Williams, CGCS** of Los Angeles Country Club and David Downing, President of GCSAA. Contact **Michael Heustis**, or any Class C Advisory Committee member for details.

MAGCS sends its condolences to **Paul Yerkes** (John Deere Landscape) and his family on the loss of Paul's father Edward Yerkes, Sr. on October 21st.

If you have attended any of the MAGCS meetings over the past few months, you have more than likely heard about the chapter logo/branding issue and the changes adopted by GCSAA at its spring board meeting. Essentially, the idea is to unify all chapters by branding them with GCSAA, having one recognizable logo (GCSAA's) with the chapter's name included—in our case "Midwest Chapter." This is an issue for which your board of directors needs your input. Please contact, president **Dave Braasch**, or any board member with your thoughts on this concept.

Huge thanks to hosts Kristi and **Ben Exline** and everyone at Eaglewood Resort for the wonderful job they did with last month's Fall Dinner Dance. It was a lovely evening for everyone in attendance. Also, we thank the generous sponsors for the event, without whom we could not have such fantastic accommodations. **Turf Professionals Equipment Company** and **BTSI** sponsored the open bar/cocktails; **Burris Equipment Company, Syngenta Turf & Ornamental**, and **The Andersons** sponsored the Hors d'oeuvres; **JW Turf, Inc.** and **Bayer Environmental Science** sponsored the entertainment portion; and **Reinders, Inc.** provided the roses for the ladies. Thank you all!

It's finally back! GCSAA's long-awaited and much-anticipated new and improved web site (gcsaa.org) is up and running and waiting for you to check it out. The first thing you will be asked to do upon entering is to register, and after that you can fly around and see what's what. One noticeable improvement is the MUCH easier access to your transcript and the ability to log education points without jumping through hoops. The new site also features all past issues of GCM magazine (and all of its prior incarnations)

archived online, allowing for the person with either no life or way too much time on his hands to read every article ever written in its 74 years of existence. Give it a look.

Just when theirs is back, MAGCS.org will be down for a few days of cleaning. Starting on December 14th thru the 16th www.magcs.org will not be online. The company we use to host our site is physically moving to a new location and taking our site with it. It will be back up and running at litespeed.

GCSAA also announced recently that beginning next month it will conduct a national survey of golf courses focusing on pesticide use. The survey is part of a multi-year, first-of-its-kind project that will document environmental stewardship practices and establish an environmental profile of golf courses. Look for results of all phases of this project in upcoming issues of GCM magazine.

If you are planning to take the CGCS exam in Orlando during the GIS, GCSAA wants you to know that you must be an approved applicant in the program by January 2nd, 2008 (which is PDQ). Call the certification department at (800) 472-7878 ASAP for information.

A big announcement from American Golf Corporation came across the wires recently. The firm is divesting 28 of its golf properties over to Orlando-based CNL Income Properties in a transaction that will also shuffle 14 properties to Evergreen Alliance Golf Limited LP (EAGLE). This move affects several area golf courses, with CNL acquiring Mission Hills in Northbrook, Eagle Brook in Geneva, Ruffled Feathers in Lemont, and Tamarack in Naperville; and EAGLE acquiring Fresh Meadow in Hillside and Mill Creek in Geneva.

The Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS) held its 23rd Annual Forum on November 14th at Naperville Country Club (**Tim Anderson, CGCS** host). The day's theme, "Help Wanted," addressed the challenges faced in today's labor market, and Vice President **Dan Charlton** put together a compelling roster of speakers which included **Tommy Witt, CGCS** presenting "The Value of a Contract—How to Protect All Parties Involved."

Another November tradition took place at Medinah Country Club on the 7th—the Annual Midwest Turf Clinic. In this, the 55th rendition, the 140+ members in attendance were treated to a day whose theme was Balance. Starting with the high-energy Darryl Harris of the Carroll Keller Group and his "Balance in Leadership and Communication" presentation (which included some really great analogies involving wildebeasts, geese, and monkeys) through keynote speaker General David Grange and his provocative Q and A session, the education program was excellent. Achieving balance in personal health, finances, character, and in green speed and plant health were all topics for the day (See the education write up in this very issue).

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After the traditional major league lunch, Editorial Committee chairman **Harry Lovero** presented the **Ray Gerber Editorial Award** to **Fred Behnke, CGCS** for his September, 2006 article "The Last of the Western Open." Following Fred's gracious acceptance (and appeal to all MAGCS members to put pen to paper and tell a story), Harry announced that the **Fred Opperman Editorial Award** winner was **Raymond Hearn** for his article "Ok, So Maybe Speed Doesn't Kill—But It Sure Can Hurt," making Ray a repeat winner.



Fred Behnke

Next up was **Don Ferreri** and his GCSAA delegate's update, touching on the major issues under discussion in Lawrence, including the plans to replace outgoing Executive Director Steve Mona. Don wasn't allowed to sit down for long, as President Anderson followed him to the podium to present him with the President's Award for Meritorious Service, recognizing all that Don has done for our association over the years. **Holly Gilmour** (JW Turf, Inc.) and **Darin Habenicht** (H & E Sod Nursery) were next, presenting MAGCS with checks for its Scholarship fund.



Don Ferreri

Next on the agenda was our annual election, which was deftly handled by the **Eddies (Braunsky and Fischer)**. Your 2008 Board of Directors will be: President **Dave Braasch** (our first-ever foreign leader, hailing from Glen Erin Golf Club in Janesville, WI); Vice President **Tony Kalina** (Prairie Landing GC); Secretary/Treasurer **Scott Witte, CGCS** (Cantigny GC), and Directors **Jim Keith, CGCS** (St. Charles CC), **Bob Kohlstedt** (Fox Bend GC), **Harry Lovero** (Orchard Valley GC), **Todd Schmitz** (Phillips Park GC), and **Dan Sterr**

(Stonebridge CC). Leaving the board were **Paul Bastron, CGCS** and **Tom Prichard**, with Tom's vacancy to be filled by board appointment in the near future.



Tim Anderson

Following the afternoon education session, Tim took the floor again to thank outgoing President Emeritus **Gary Hearn** for his 10 years of service on the board, and then performed the traditional gavel pass to incoming president Dave Braasch, who thankfully kept his comments short and sweet. A day like this takes the hard work and dedication of many, and we sincerely thank everyone involved for their assistance in making the Clinic such a success. Thanks go to Tom Lively and the staff at Medinah, to Scott Witte and his Education Committee for a great program, to **Nick Baker** and **Erwin McKone** for serving as moderators, to the members of the Class C Advisory Committee and to **Sharon Riesenbeck** for manning the registration table, to our speakers Darryl Harris, Lyne Tumlinson, Tammy Swanson, **Ty McClellan** of the USGA, **Dave Biery, Tim Davis, Bob Maibusch, Tom Prichard**, and David Grange, and of course to our sponsors: **Arthur Clesen, Inc., BTSI, Chicagoland Turf, Inc., Harris Golf Cars, JW Turf, Inc., Nadler Golf Car Sales/Club Car, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., Palatine Oil Company, and Turf Professionals Equipment Company.** Great job everyone!

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MAGCS members in print: The November/December issue of *Chicago District Golfer* prominently featured several of our members, including the larger than life cover shot of **Dan Dinelli, CGCS**. The article, penned by the very talented Cathy Miles Ralston (former editor of this very publication) was titled "Going Green," and quoted Dan, **Chris Pekarek** (Village Links of Glen Ellen), **Peter Leuzinger** (Kishwaukee College), and **Luke Cella**. The October issue of *Club & Resort Business* has an article featuring Matt Springer, who spent 8 years as assistant superintendent at Sunset Ridge CC before taking the superintendent's position at Quincy Country Club in 2004. Justin Wheeler, former assistant at Prairie Landing GC, who is now superintendent-in-training with the US Air Force on their base golf course in Charleston, SC wrote about the transition from bentgrass to bermudagrass in October's *Golf Course Industry* magazine. In that same issue, Evanston Golf Club's **Dan Charlton** was one of the featured superintendents in the "From Public to Private" piece. **Professionals Equipment Company. -OC**

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(dinner dance photos on page 24 and 25)



