

THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



July 2007

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 9 – 14 – United States Amateur Public Links Championship at Cantigny Golf Club in Wheaton, IL, **Scott Witte, CGCS** host superintendent.

July 17 – ITF Summer Play Day at Prairie View Golf Club, **Steve Storz** host superintendent.

July 17 – Midwest Regional Turf Field Day at the W. H. Daniel Center in West LaFayette, IN on the campus of Purdue University.

July 19 – Assistants Shop Talk at the Merit Club at 6:00 PM, **John Nelson** and **Scott Verdun** hosts.

July 21 – MAGCS Family Night Picnic and Kane County Cougars game at Elfstrom Field in Geneva, IL.

August 7 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Mistwood Golf Club in Romeoville wherefore art thou O Romeoville, IL, **Dave Drendel** host superintendent.

September 1 – Deadline for nominations to be submitted for GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award for 2007. Go to www.gcsaa.org for details.

September 3 – Deadline for making your dog famous in *SuperNEWS*' (now and forevermore *TurfNet* the Magazine) 2008 Superintendent's Best Friend calendar sponsored by Lebanon Turf.

September 3 – 9 – BMW Championship at Cog Hill Country Club in Lemont, IL, **Ken Lapp** host superintendent.

September 17 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Golf Championship at Stonewall Orchard Golf Club in Grayslake, IL, **Larry Flament** host superintendent.

September 24 – Annual Wee One Foundation Golf Outing at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, WI, Rod Johnson, CGCS host superintendent.

MAGCS extends a hearty hand shake and a heartfelt welcome to its newest members:

Craig Kight, Class A, Mill Creek Golf Club

Andew Pudenz, Class C, Mill Creek Golf Club

Brian Barnes, Class C, Rich Harvest Farms

Brian Christopher, Class C, Rich Harvest Farms

Jacob Mendoza, Class C, Rich Harvest Farms

Congratulations to the following MAGCS members and former members who have recently made career changes:

• **Kerry Anderson**, formerly with Bayer Environmental Science, is Strategic Account Manager with Arthur Clesen, Inc. (joining all the other Andersons over there).

• **Andy Johnsen**, formerly of Lake Shore Country Club is now assistant superintendent at Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton, IL.

• **Mike Crews**, formerly at Innsbrook Country Club is Field Sales Representative—Non-Golf Sports Turf for Arthur Clesen, Inc.

• Congrats also to **Bruce Williams, CGCS** of Los Angeles Country Club on earning the Spring 2007 Purple Cow Award from Bayer Environmental Science. The Purple Cow is awarded to superintendents who find innovative and successful ways to communicate the importance of their

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practices and their profession to golfers and the public. Bayer will feature a Purple Cow winner in an article in each issue of *Golf Advantage* magazine, and will award each winner 50,000 Accolades points.

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That Oakmont place looked OK, huh? Wow!
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Last month in *Golf Course Industry*, **Jeff Gerdes** and Bolingbrook Golf Club were featured for a unique reason— they have become the home for a pair of wild swans and their 7 cygnets. Apparently wild swans on golf courses (or anywhere around these parts) are a rare thing, and to have a nesting pair take up residence is quite the feather in one's cap. Get it? Feather... Swans...The lengths a guy quill go to for a laugh...
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Great news from Amanda and **Jeff VerCautren** of Rich Harvest Links—the couple had their second daughter on May 29. BreAnna VerCautren, along with mom and dad and sis are all happy, healthy, and home in time for the busy season.



BreAnna

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If you are a sports radio listener, you might occasionally catch Mac, Jurko (or is it Yurko?), and Harry on ESPN AM 1000. If so, you may also have caught them mentioning “their guy” **Don Ferreri** when on the subject of golf. Occasionally Don (Seven Bridges Golf Club) contributes his knowledge to their show, and for his efforts he gets a little pub on the airwaves. I wanna be somebody's “guy” too—it has to be cool to hear your name on the radio (unless it's in the news and it's something really bad that you did). [Ed note: John you can be my guy and I'll let you write Bull Sheet every month]
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Great job by **Steve Daurer** and everyone at The Glen Club for a highly successful LaSalle Bank Open this past May 31st through June 3rd. The OTHER sports radio station in Chicago was on site each day doing live broadcasts, and the course received rave reviews from all the different media outlets that were on hand. This Nationwide Tour is no minor-league deal—the LaSalle Bank Open was televised on Golf Channel all 4 days, and the purse was \$750,000, with the winner taking home a nifty \$135,000. Not bad for a few days' work. Again, great work Steve and staff!
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This month's gratuitous sex photo—or is this simply a friendly game of leapfrog gone bad? I'm sure there's a nasty reference to the French to be found here, but we won't take that route. Let's leave it at this—there is a bar in Warrenville called the Satisfied Frog. I now know where it got its name.



There are two frogs in this image.

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With golf course closings outnumbering openings this year, it's nice to welcome the newest member of the Chicagoland golf course fraternity—White Tail Ridge Golf Club just outside Yorkville has opened for play as of last month. The Greg Martin design is situated on a gorgeous piece of land that includes low-lying wetlands as well as far-reaching views from the ridge where the Morgan Creek watershed is funneled down into the Fox River. Best of luck to superintendent Russ Wescott and Green Visions Golf on this exciting new venture.
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There was another great article in national print from one of MAGCS' own Class C members. **Michael Heustis** of Chicago Golf Club penned “Up For The Challenge?” for the May issue of *Golf Course Industry* highlighting the challenges that await the assistant superintendent as his or her career progresses. Great job, Michael.
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Golf season is in full swing (ouch—another bad pun), and the MAGCS membership has had 2 recent events in which to participate.
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Monday, May 14th found us at the beautiful Ivanhoe Club in Ivanhoe, IL, with **Tom Prichard** and **Justin VanLanduit** serving as our generous hosts. The day was windy and unseasonably warm—both understatements—and the course was again perfect. Some high scores were posted as a result of the blustery conditions in the 4-person blind-draw format, but everyone who played had a great time on a fabulous golf course. On hole #6 of the Forest course, **Marsha Traves** of Burris Equipment manned (womanned?) the betting hole with aplomb, exceeding the \$1,000 goal by bringing in \$1,025 for ITF research. Thank you to Marsha for her efforts. The day also honored a great friend of MAGCS as he moved on to the next phase of his career. **Dr. Tom Fermanian** of the University of Illinois, and in whose office the ITF was born, was feted with a moving tribute by longtime friend **John Turner** (Bayer Environmental Science) in recognition of his retirement. Tom
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promised to remain active in turfgrass research, but also vowed to take some time to enjoy his retirement as well. We all wish nothing but the best for Tom—he will be missed. Once all the scores were added up (no small task), the golf prizes were awarded, including a Closest to the Pin for Justin VanLanduit; a Longest Putt for **Jimmy Frels** (Prime Turf); a Straightest Drive for yours truly; and a Closest to the Pin for **Chris Smith** (Chicago Heights PDGC). Other big winners included the raffle and auction participants who left with valuable stuff. Particular thanks go to Mike and **Sharon Riesenbeck** (Waupaca Sand and Solutions), **Paul Carlson** (Central Sod), and everyone else who generously donated prizes for the auction. Thanks also to the day's sponsors, without whom none of it could have been possible:

President's Club—BASF, Bayer Environmental Science, Central Sod Farms, Inc., Dunteman Turf Farms, H & E Sod Nursery – Town & Country Landscape Supply, Lesco, Inc., Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc., Syngenta, and Turf Professionals Equipment Company.

Director's Club—BTSI, Chicagoland Turf, Growing Solutions, JW Turf, Inc., Lebanon Turf Products, and Palatine Oil Company.

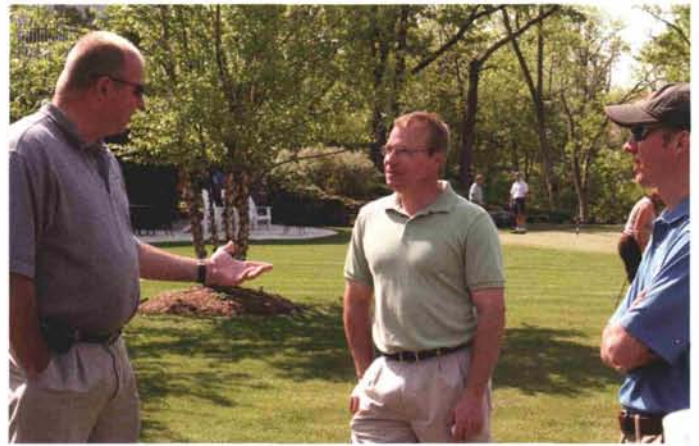
Individual Tee Sponsors—Agrotain International, Burriss Equipment Company, Kaplan Trucking and Paving, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Rabine Paving, and The Andersons. Finally, thank you to Tom Prichard, Justin VanLanduit and everyone at Ivanhoe for their great golf course, their hospitality, and their generosity. Ten stars!



Assistant Golf Course Superintendent Justin VanLanduit and Golf Course Superintendent Tom Prichard of Ivanhoe.



John Turner of Bayer Environmental Science and Dr. Tom Fermanian at the Spring Golf Day at Ivanhoe.



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 Next up was another trip north—WAY north—to the beautiful Shepherd’s Crook Golf Club in Zion, IL for the June 18th MAGCS meeting. **Craig Lewis** and his staff played host for our day which included the contesting of the Dom Grotti, Class C, Senior, and Super Senior Championships. We were again greeted by a hot, gusty day on a golf course that featured a lot of trouble to be found if the ball flew astray. The links nature of Shepherd’s Crook with its fescue roughs (beautifully weed-free, by the way), its SPOTLESS Poa-free greens, and its undulating terrain that took us from open prairie into dense woodland and back out again provided a lovely backdrop for the carnage that would ensue. When it was all over, our champions were crowned, a fine meal was served, and a much-appreciated thunderstorm system moved in. These are your MAGCS Champions:

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Dom Grotti Superintendent/Assistant Champs—The K-squared team of **Bob Kronn** and **Bob Kronn, Jr.** from Woodstock Country Club. Taking second place were Scott Witte, CGCS and Pat Maksymiu of Cantigny Golf Club, and third were Dave Drendel and Ben Kelnhofer of Mistwood Golf Club.

Class C Champ, Gross Division—Matt Bourne. In second was Justin VanLanduit, and third went to **Brad Roose** of Glen Flora Country Club.

Class C Champ, net Division—Pat Maksymiu, followed by Bob Kronn, Jr. in second.

Senior Champ, Gross Division—Paul Bastron, CGCS, Glen Flora Country Club. Second went to **Tim Davis** of Shoreacres, and in third was **Steve VanAcker, CGCS** of Crystal Lake Country Club.

Senior Champ, Net Division—Jay Druhan of Palos Hills Municipal Golf Course.

Super Senior Champ, Gross Division—Bob Kronn, followed by second place finisher **Ed Fischer, CGCS** of Old Elm Club and third place surprise **Caroline Repenning** of Green Cycle Inc.

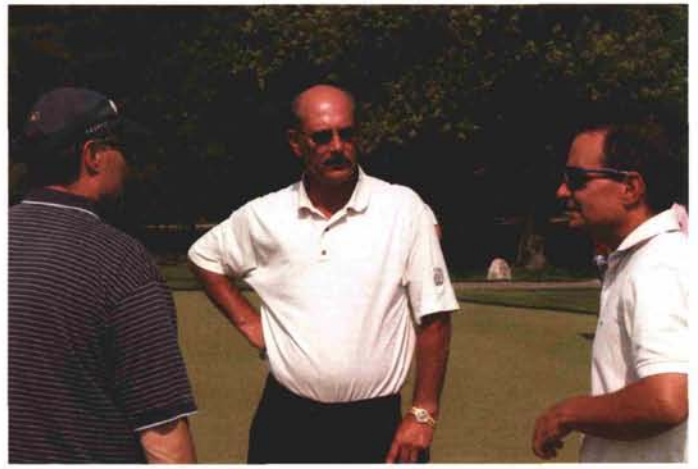
Super Senior Champ, Net Division—Mike Bavier, CGCS of Inverness Golf Club.

Congratulations to all of the deserving champions, and to Craig Lewis and his staff on a superb golf course. Thank you to the staff at Shepherd's Crook for making our day such a great one, and to our sponsors who once again made it all happen: **Burriss Equipment Company, Harris Golf Cars, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc., Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., Palatine Oil Company, Pumpstation Professionals, Turf Professionals Equipment Company, and Chicagoland Turf.** You're the best!



Mike Thurow of Spectrum Technologies leads the education at Shepherd's Crook on the putting green.





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Class C Champion, Matt Bourne of Schaumburg Golf Club.

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CLASSIFIEDS

For sale:

300+ Toro 650 sprinklers in good condition. \$30 each. 13 Osmac controllers with base station-negotiable. Please contact George Ott, 847-540-5146.