

# the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

## DATES TO REMEMBER

March 13 – MAGCS Chapter-administered GCSAA Education seminar at Midwest Golf House featuring Dr. Derek Settle of CDGA and Dr. Bingru Huang of Rutgers University speaking on management of the new bentgrass cultivars.

March 14-15 – Reinders 18th Turf & Irrigation Conference at the Waukesha Expo Center in Suburban Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

March 22 – Class C Assistants Shop Talk at Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton, Illinois, **Jon Jennings, CGCS** and **Michael Heustis** hosts.

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

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

May 6 – J.W. Turf's Annual Equipment Auction and Consignment Sale, Hampshire IL.

May 12 – 2007 North American Bird Watching Open (on International Migratory Bird Day). More information will be printed in the April issue of *On Course*.

May 14 – MAGCS/ITF Spring Scramble and meeting at Ivanhoe Club, **Tom Prichard** host.

June 18 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Shepherd's Crook Golf Course in Zion, IL, **Craig Lewis** host. The Dom Grotti (superintendent/assistant superintendent), 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.

On Course magazine and the MAGCS Editorial Committee ask for your help. To continue in our quest to keep On Course a truly member-focused publication, we are asking for contributions and input from you, our readers. If you have any high-quality digital photography that you feel would be of interest to your peers, whether golf-related or not, please submit them. A wildlife siting or cool winter vacation photo might not seem interesting to you, but others might find it highly interesting. If you have an article just sitting in your head waiting to be written, let us know and we can help you get it done. If you have comments or feedback about the magazine and its contents, give us a holler and we'll

see that it gets the attention it deserves. You can e-mail **Luke Cella** ([luke@magcs.org](mailto:luke@magcs.org)), Editorial chairman **Harry Lovero** ([hlovero@fvpd.net](mailto:hlovero@fvpd.net)), or contributing editor **John Gurke** ([boomding@aol.com](mailto:boomding@aol.com)) with any or all of the above. We look forward to hearing from you!

Recently, your Editorial Committee hit the road to sunny Hillside for a closer look at how this magazine is produced. We all know that articles are written (not ENOUGH of them, by the way), and that from the authors they go to Luke Cella for editing. But from there, it's a little less clear-cut. For example, did you know that once Luke has all the goodies for an issue of On Course,

he works closely with our longtime graphic artist Mark Karczewski to put everything where it goes and to add the creative touches that define our top-quality monthly magazine? And while all that is going on, did you know that Mark is working hand-in-hand with Kurt Paulson of Darwill, the company that prints and distributes On Course in order to get it in its finished form to your mailbox? It's all true, and the group comprised of editor Luke Cella, contributing editor me, Mark Karczewski, chairman Harry Lovero, TETA representative **Wes Danielewicz**, and members **Todd Schmitz, Virgil Range, Darrick Robbins, Josh Murray, Keith Krause, and Fred Behnke** were treated to a close-up look at the process and the facility in which it takes place. Led by Senior Account Executive Mark Pageau, we were guided on a step-by-step look into the inner workings of Darwill and how our magazine is ultimately produced. Darwill is a family-owned business since 1951, and has been in its current Hillside location (on Roosevelt Road across from that cemetery where Al Capone is) since 1993. They are open and running 24 hours a day, 6 days a week, and produce 2 to 3 million pieces of mail per month. Along with On Course magazine, Darwill produces numerous brochures, technical bulletins, calendars, and yes, the dreaded junk mailings. It was truly fascinating to see the machines and people responsible for producing what you are reading right now, and a great learning experience for all in attendance. We sincerely thank Darwill and Mark Pageau for hosting us, and for the fine work they do for us. To check them out, go to [www.darwill.com](http://www.darwill.com) and have a look around.



Senior account executive Mark Pageau shows the committee how our magazine is produced.

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On Course near completion—the "uncut" version.



After final trimming, what's left of the production process heads to the recycle bin.

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CDGA and MAGCS bid a warm welcome to **Sang-Kook (SK) Lee** who started March 1st as the web-based Interactive Turf (IT) Program Coordinator. SK brings a wealth of experience in web programming, digital photography, and agronomic/fertility expertise to complement the already-strong plant pathology knowledge base at Golf House. He has an MS in turfgrass science from Iowa State University under Dr. Nick Chrisitans, and is currently a PhD student in the Michigan State University's turfgrass program. We look forward to meeting and working with CDGA's newest addition to the family.

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In other exciting news from CDGA, a new research-grade Olympus BX 51 compound microscope is planned for purchase thanks to the generous support of the area golf course superintendents associations (including, of course, MAGCS) and the Wadsworth Endowment. This new microscope will replace the existing one purchased in 1985 by Dr. Randy Kane, and completely blows it away in its technological advances and capabilities. Look for digital images from this new bad boy in upcoming IT scouting reports. I'm all tingly.

Just a brief reminder to all MAGCS meeting attendees: Please be considerate to our hosts, educational presenters, and fellow members by turning electronic devices to the off or at least the vibrate position once you are inside. Likewise, read the dress requirements on your meeting notifications and understand what is expected. Regardless of whether it is Business Casual, Professional Business Attire, or whatever, leave your hats on the hat rack or in your vehicles—they do not belong indoors.

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On January 23, 100 MAGCS members convened at the beautiful and very exclusive Rich Harvest Links facilities—home of the 2009 Solheim Cup—for its monthly meeting. Hosts **Jason Funderburg** and **Jeff VerCautren** and the very attentive staff ensured that our day was one to remember for a long time. Upon entering the facility, it was clear that this would be a slight departure from the norm with numerous security personnel guiding us to our destination, and red Lamborghini with really weird door hinges greeting us inside the meeting hall. The morning's education forum was a high-energy presentation given by Mr. Todd Gray, Senior Vice President of Wells Fargo Financial and covered the basics and benefits of fleet leasing or traditional purchasing of golf course maintenance equipment. Prior to Mr. Gray's presentation, **Don Ferreri** gave his GCSAA Chapter Delegate's update, which was not only as exciting as its

name implies, but also tastefully brief. Also taking the podium was Janice Moy from Kids Golf Foundation and Kelly Hyne, LPGA representative and tournament director for the 2009 Solheim Cup, with short presentations on their respective programs. Following the main education event and a great lunch, we were treated to a really interesting tour of Mr. Jerry Rich's automobile collection flawlessly conducted by Jason Funderburg. But the fun wasn't over yet—those who hadn't succumbed to sensory overload proceeded to the new grounds maintenance facility for a look around. The entire day could not have been better thanks to Mr. Rich and the people at Rich Harvest Farms and to our day's generous sponsors—**Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc.**, **Hollemeak Construction, Inc.**, **JW Turf, Inc.**, and **Turf Professionals Equipment Company**. Thank you everyone for a memorable January meeting!



Hosts Jeff VerCautren (L) and Jason Funderburg of Rich Harvest Farms.

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Todd Gray of Wells Fargo, discusses capital purchasing and leasing options in one of the most unique settings for an educational event.



Jeff and Jason's Christmas bonus was on display in the lobby.



Todd Schmitz and Parin Schmidt (no relation)



Brian Christopher and Jake Mendoza, Assistants at Rich Harvest, greet MAGCS members.



MAGCS members enjoy a tour of the fine cars at the completion of lunch.

Congratulations to **Bob Maibusch, CGCS, MG and Fred Behnke, CGCS** on receiving their prestigious and coveted MAGCS 25-year pins (and thank you for 25 years of dues).



Fred Behnke and Bob Maibusch

Also congrats to **Nick Baker**, winner of a trip to Hawaii compliments of Growing Solutions and its early order purchase program raffle. Nick, wife Kara, and son Colin enjoyed a week on the islands where the surf was up even if the sun wasn't. Hey, I'll take a cloudy Hawaii over a sunny Illinois in January ANY day...



Nick, wife Kara, and son Colin

Another annual January event took place in ... take your best guess ... January! Give yourself a star. The Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS) held its very popular Winter Shop Tour on the 25th, visiting the maintenance facilities of Riverside Golf Club (Nick Baker), Hinsdale Golf Club (Bob Maibusch), and Ruth Lake Country Club (**Dan Marco, CGCS**). It was, as it always is, a great way to get out of one's own work environs with one's assistant and technician (and whoever else one deemed worthy of a day away from work) and see what the other guys have. A big thank you to the 3 hosts and to all responsible for arranging the day.

The MAGCS expresses its' sincere condolences to Mark Kowaliczko and his family on the loss of Mark's mother last month. Please keep Mark and his family in your thoughts during this difficult time.

In case you were wondering whether you won the contest to name the newest course at St. Andrews, you didn't (unless your name is Edwin Burtnett). For only the 7th time in over 600 years, a new course at the Home of Golf has been given a name through a naming competition that attracted more than 4,000 entries. The Castle Course, designed by David McLay Kidd will open officially next spring. The cliff-top layout will be a par-71, with 5 sets of tees ranging from 5,600 to 7,200 yards, and will be public like the other 6 St. Andrews Links courses.

Nice job by Class C Advisory Committee Chair **John Ekstrom** in the January 2007 issue of *Golf Course News*. John's mug and article on "Becoming More Involved" appears in full splendor (and complete with the lovely MAGCS logo) on page 10. Take a look—it is a great example of how advanced and forward-thinking the Midwest association is in comparison to other chapters.

And then there were...another merger in the golf course market: **Deere & Co.** is buying **LESCO Inc.**, the Cleveland-based supplier of fertilizer, seed and chemicals for lawn and golf course maintenance. Deere will pay \$135 million, or \$14.50 per share, for LESCO, which will become part of its John Deere Landscapes, doubling the number of its stores by adding 332 LESCO locations. The price is a \$4 premium over Lesco's closing stock price on Friday (February 16). With approval by both LESCO shareholders and regulators, the deal is expected to close in June.

20 years ago this month in Bull Sheet (for those of you who don't remember, this magazine was called Bull Sheet from 1948 until 1996): Olympia Fields Country Club superintendent **Brian Chalifoux** (currently

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at Fort Wayne CC in Indiana) did a Director's Column on the bentgrass conversion programs at OFCC. Using Penncross on the greens, Brian noted that failures were experienced only in areas of dense shade. Thinning turf, algae, and poor rooting were symptoms caused by excessive shade, and these problems were exacerbated by the ultra-low cutting height of 9/64". Also in the March issue, a young assistant superintendent at Poplar Creek Country Club (**Dave Blomquist**) wrote of their irrigation system modernization that they underwent the previous spring. The renovation brought Toro 690 heads to the fairways, 650's to greens and tees, brand new Toro VT-4 satellites, and an IBM personal computer to run the system (probably one of the first of its kind in 1986). Midwest Irrigation did the work for a total cost of \$163,000.

15 years ago this month in Bull Sheet Director **Ed Braunsky** wrote an article about the "yo-yo winter" of temperature fluctuations and a peculiar weather trait called "El Nino." Meanwhile, in the Midwest Breezes section (similar to Bull Sheet now), **Fred Opperman** was strong-arming MAGCS members to send in stories and photos of their winter golf, ski, and snowmobile trips. God help me—I've become Fred Opperman!

10 years ago this month Bull Sheet reported that Bruce Williams, CGCS of Bob O'Link Golf Club had accepted the position of Golf Course Superintendent at the Los Angeles Country Club effective April 1. I guess that worked out okay for Bruce, huh?



**CLASSIFIEDS**

- For Sale: 6 Toro Network 8000 complete satellite cabinets, 17 Toro VT-3 complete satellite cabinets, and a Toro VT-3 central. Call Russ at 847-968-3316.
- For Sale: 1986 Telescopic Grove Boom Lift. 5500 Hours. Engine Blown, \$5000 for new engine (not from us). All new hoses for bucket in 2006. \$5000 OBO. Call Jeff at Rich Harvest Farms, 630-466-7610
- For Sale: 400+ Toro 650 sprinklers, \$40 each, 12 Toro 690 sprinklers \$25 each, 13 Toro OSMAC controllers – negotiable. Call George: 847-540-5146.
- For Sale: John Deere Sprayer \$5000 OBO; 1991 Toro 223-D fairway mower, 2800 hrs, all winter maint. Complete - \$5000; Roseman 5-gang hydraulic verticut unit...complete or for parts. Call Brian 847-295-0288.
- Help Wanted: Full time golf course mechanic position available with benefits. Call John C. Kuehne at Bittersweet Golf Club at 847-855-9569.



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