



October 2007

Hopefully you all received your electronic message from Luke Cella in mid-September with instructions for accessing the new and improved MAGCS web site (magcs.org). If this is not the case, please give Luke a call at 630-243-7900 or email him at luke@magcs.org. He'll set you straight.

Also, congratulations to Luke and the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents on their new "partnership." Luke's namesake Cella Solutions, Inc. has been retained to manage and oversee the day to day operations of CAGCS, including billing, web site renovation, and meeting arrangements. All CAGCS correspondence should now be directed to the following address: Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Midwest Golf House, 11855 Archer Ave., Lemont, IL 60439.

And further congratulations are in order for **Dave Blomquist, CGCS** who, as of September 13th, is the new Product Support Specialist for the Knox Fertilizer Company's Shaw's Plant Food line of professional products in the Chicagoland market. Best of luck in your exciting career move, Dave.

Big thanks to September's selfless host superintendents of the various events and outings. On the 17th **Larry Flament** and Stonewall Orchard Golf Club held the Annual MAGCS Championship. On the 24th it was Rod Johnson, CGCS and Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan, Wisconsin holding the Annual Wee One Foundation's golf outing, followed by **Fred Behnke, CGCS** and Mt. Prospect Golf Club taking on the 20th Annual John Deere Team Championship on the 27th. So many events, so little time. Here's hoping you were able to make it to any of these great events and show your appreciation to their fine hosts. Thanks, guys!

Let's talk a little FedEx Cup. First, hats off to **Ken Lapp** and the staff at Cog Hill for another excellent presentation. After all the inclement weather in August, it was nothing short of miraculous to have the course in such great condition for the BMW Championship. The following week's Tour Championship and FedEx final at Eastlake Golf Club in Atlanta had a Shakespearean theme to it as all the pre-tournament press about the greens turned out to be "Much Ado About Nothing." This thing took on a life of its own, with GCSAA and Golf Course Industry magazine both sending out emails urging our support of superintendent Ralph Kepple, CGCS; and even going so far as to include a

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

October 2 – MAGCS/ITF Fall Golf Day and College Championship at Prairie Bluff Golf Club in Lockport, IL, **Ken Shepherd** host.

October 2 – Member registration opens for the 2008 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FL from January 28 through February 2.

October 15 – Deadline for nominations for GCSAA's 2008 Excellence in Government Relations Awards.

November 7 – 55th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club, **Tom Lively, CGCS** host.

November 15 – Signup deadline for the Audubon Green Golfer Challenge. More follows.

November 17 – MAGCS Annual Fall Dinner Dance at Eaglewood Resort in Itasca, IL, Kristi and **Ben Exline** hosts.

December 5 – 7 – Illinois Professional Turf Conference (IPTC) at the Pheasant Run resort in St. Charles, IL.

link to Ralph's email address so we could personally let him know we're behind him. Okay, this is a really nice feel-good "band of brothers" story and all, but doesn't it just serve to further magnify the one thing that should have been downplayed? In the end, the whole thing could have been a non-issue based on what I saw on my TV—the greens putted fine, and the best player won. There was no "Mickey Mouse golf" as Robert Allenby's intelligent contribution to the matter suggested (a week before he even stepped foot on the golf course), and whatever gag rule that was put into action by the Tour seemed to work, because the players and commentators said very little about it. Sometimes grass dies. Paint it green for TV, roll it smooth, and party on, and just shut up about it.

Kudos to XM Satellite Radio and its "Making the Turn With Peter Kessler" show which regularly features interviews with golf course superintendents in the spotlight. Instead of reporting secondhand news about the inner workings of a televised golf event, this show goes straight to the horse's mouth for the real scoop. Recently two horse's mouths of local note were heard on Mr. Kessler's segment—the aforementioned Ken Lapp and ex-MAGCS member Tom Brodeur whose TPC Boston course hosted the Deutsche Bank Championship last month.

GCSAA's 2007 Nominating Committee proudly announced its slate of candidates for the 2008 Board of Directors election to be held on February 1 in Orlando. The following Class A members have been nominated:

- **President** – David S. Downing II, CGCS, Signature Golf Group in Myrtle Beach, S.C.
- **Vice President** – Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS, Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J.
- **Secretary/Treasurer** – James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, Presidents Golf Club in North Quincy, MA and Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, FL.
- **Director** (2 to be elected) – Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS, The Olympic Club in San Francisco, CA; John J. O'Keefe, CGCS, Preakness Hills Country Club in Wayne, N.J.; Sanford G. Queen, CGCS, City of Overland Park, KS; and Roger M. Ruff, CGCS, Outlaw Golf Club in Park City, Utah.
- Keith A. Ihms, CGCS, Country Club of Little Rock in Little Rock, Arkansas and Ricky D. Heine, CGCS, Golf Club Star Ranch in Austin, Texas will remain on the Board for one more year, while Sean A. Hoolehan, CGCS, Wilderness Resort and Casino in Oregon will retire from Board service.

Among the many pressing issues to be voted on at GCSAA's Annual Meeting in Orlando in February will be a proposed 6% dues increase (translating to \$20 for Class A and SM, and \$10 for Class C members). This will be the first increase since 2003 when a 20% increase was passed. Prior to that, a 19% increase was enacted in 1998. According to President Ricky Heine, the 20% increases have historically been associated with significant backward momentum in membership growth, thus the smaller (but probably more frequent) proposal for 2008.

The much-anticipated launch of GCSAA's redesigned web site (gcsaa.org) has run into some technical snags and was thus delayed (as of press time). Members may not be able to make changes or updates on the site until these snags are resolved, so in order to log Education Points or make other changes to your membership status, contact GCSAA Member Solutions at 800-472-7878.

For the fifth year, Bayer Environmental Science has teamed with The Environmental Institute for Golf to send five golf course superintendents to the 2008 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Orlando. These grants were created to assist superintendents with their professional development through participation in the event, and are available to any superintendent who has not attended the last two GIS events. Interested parties for these grants should go to gcsaa.org, eifg.org, or contact GCSAA member services at 800-472-7878 for an application form. The grants cover airfare, hotel accommodations for 6 nights, full-pack conference registration, 2 education seminars (half-day, one-day, or two-day), and \$200 pocket dough. Hurry—deadline is October 26th!

Those of you who have benefited in any way from all the valuable research being conducted at Midwest Golf House (**Derek Settle, S.K. Lee** and **Chris Painter**) can now do something to pay it forward—donate equipment. At present, Chris Painter reports that a self-contained rotary rough mower is needed (the out-front deck type). If you have a machine that fits this description and is in running condition (or any other machine that you have little or no use for any more), give Chris a call at the Sunshine Course at 630-685-2311. Remember, your club or course might get more for it as a tax deduction over a trade-in.

The Audubon Green Golfer Challenge deadline for pledging is quickly approaching. What is it you ask? It's a way for golf courses to encourage their golfers to take the Green Golfer Pledge as a simple way to support environmental stewardship while playing golf and to carry on the sport's venerable tradition of preserving the *nature of the game*. The pledge, which can be found online at [www.GolfandEnvironment.org/greengolfer.htm](http://www.GolfandEnvironment.org/greengolfer.htm), is a simple 8-point statement that golfers agree to observe while playing. And if environmental stewardship isn't reason enough to spend 5 minutes of your online time, perhaps the raffle prizes available to all participants is—the grand prize is 2 tickets to the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines next summer, including 3 nights accommodations. Take a look and see what you think.

Just to clear up the insecticide thing, here's the deal—Valent Professional Products will market and sell Arena Insecticide (clothianidin) starting December 1, while Arysta Life Sciences will market and sell Aloft Insecticide (a premix of clothianidin and bifenthrin) at that time. There.

The August issue of *Golf Course Industry* magazine prominently featured several of our more renowned MAGCS members. The cover story, "The Right-Hand Man—

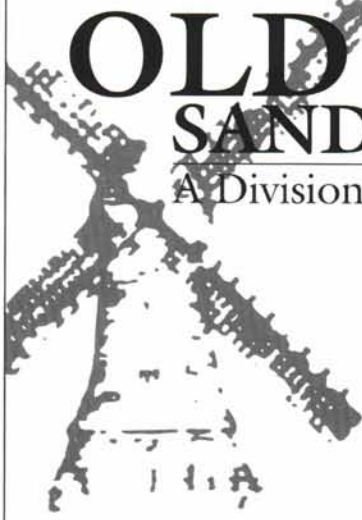
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Superintendents Value Their Longtime Assistants" highlighted "perhaps the superintendent and assistant who have worked together the longest" **Paul Voykin** and **Moe Sanchez** who have been a team at Briarwood Country Club for 43 years. Amazing! Also in the magazine was an article titled "Irrigation of the future in 1973" detailing Northmoor Country Club superintendent **Jerry Dinelli's** computerized irrigation system—an idea he put into use long before its time. Although the board of directors were not sold on the idea of computer-controlling every head on the 27-hole layout along with the pump house, within 3 years the club president and board had approved the project at a cost of about \$278,000. The system took up most of a 10' x 12' room, and included another crazy newfangled idea—fertigation. Look on page 15 for a priceless photo of Jerry at his computer. Finally, **Scott White**, superintendent at Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Country Club has his article "The Fork in the Cart Path" in print as well, describing the trials and tribulations assistants face in moving up to their first superintendent positions, and the need for some to pursue other options. All good stuff.

And to wrap up another installment, a suggestion for those who spend any time in their vehicles throughout their week. Jack MacKenzie, Jr., CGCS of North Oaks Golf Club in Minnesota recently wrote in TurfNet that "Change is Good, Very Good." By this he meant that sometimes a break from the ruts we seem to get ourselves in can be refreshing. One way Jack accomplished this was by turning off the sports radio talk show he had become accustomed to listening to every day to and from work and listening to every CD he had ever bought. EVERY one. I'm trying it now, and it has been a great trip down memory lane. From one to the next I find myself saying, "How could I have just put this thing away and forgotten about it? It's outstanding!" followed by "What the hell was I thinking? Toad the Wet Sprocket???" Go on dust 'em off and give 'em a listen.

**Larry Flament** hosted the 2007 MAGCS Championship at Stonewall Orchard in Grayslake on September 17. Larry and Assistant Golf Course Superintendent **Mike VanDeVelde** had the course in great shape. The greens were quick and true as the wind blew throughout most of the day. A new name will appear on the MAGCS Championship chair – **Brian Racette**, Superintendent of Lincolnshire Country Club is the 2007 Champion leading the field with at 75. Brian made birdie on the last hole to clinch the victory over the chasing past MAGCS Champion **David Kohley** who finished with a 77. Winner of the flighted superintendent competition was **Bob Kronn, Jr.** of Woodstock CC and of the Commercial Flight was **Mark Norville** of Shoreline Sand. Thank you to our sponsors (**Anton's Greenhouse, Arthur Clesen, Inc., Burris Equipment Company, Clesen Wholesale, Growing Solutions, Inc, Irrigation Rx, Nadler Golf Cars Sales / Club Car, Nels J Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., Palatine Oil Company, Rabine Paving, Inc. and Turf Professionals Equipment Company**) and all the staff at Stonewall Orchard for a great event. **-OC**



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