

to pursuing the CGCS designation. "Climbing the Ladder to Success through the GCSAA Certification Program" can be obtained by calling the same above number and then punching in extension 4484 or 4424.

How about this news from MAGCS member **Dean Styburski** of Western Acres Golf Course to put things into perspective: Dean will be leaving on August 28th to join his unit, and arrive at Fort Bragg, North Carolina on September 30th for a 45-day training stint before being deployed to Afghanistan. AFGHANISTAN. Dean gives his wife Ro (Rosetta) all the credit for taking care of the homestead while he has been training at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, and also mentions their son Steve will complete basic training on August 22nd and is loving Army life. Steve is working toward attending Airborne school, and his unit is set to deploy in the same time frame as his dad's. Let's all wish the Styburskis the best and keep them in our thoughts—they are the guys that are keeping us all safe here at home, and they are heroes. If you want to keep in touch with Dean, contact him at dean.w.styburski@us.army.mil.



Dean with his favorite MRE (meal, ready-to-eat) vegetarian style.

Looks like **Mike Vercautren** will be very busy in the coming year—Butterfield Country Club has retained the services of golf course architect Steve Smyers to do a major renovation to all 27 holes of the 1922 William Langford design. The scope of the project will include major drainage improvements and stabilization of the eroding Ginger Creek and Midwest Club tributary that run through the property, as well as restoring the Langford philosophy to the golf course design, including bringing back the traditional landing areas, restoring original bunker patterns and green contours, and increasing the yardage of the 18-hole course from 6,600 yards to 7,200 yards. Best of luck to Mike and his staff in this ambitious project.

News from one of our retired friends: **Jim McNair**, former superintendent at Orchard Valley Golf Course and currently residing in Eureka, IL recently went through knee replacement surgery. Jim says he hardly ever hits the "drip" button to relieve the pain, and has been home and rehabbing since July 17th. Still no news as to what happened to the original knee and how it was lost, but conventional thinking has Jim's rigorous exercise regimen as the culprit. If you want to hear from Jim, give him a call at 309-530-5462 and say hello to an old buddy.

Great news from **John Ekstrom** recently—he and his wife Erica welcomed their new son Aiden Roger into the world on July 15th at 11:43 AM at Edward Hospital in Naperville. Aiden arrived in "typical Ekstrom fashion—1 week late," and was delivered by Dr. Linda Anderson (wife of Tim Anderson, CGCS). Congratulations to the Ekstrom family!



John and son, Aiden

There was a great article in June's *Golf Course Industry* magazine featuring MAGCS member **Steve Cook, CGCS, MG** of Oakland Hills Country Club. "Motown Major Man," written by Pat Jones details Steve's rise to his current position and his knack for hosting major championships such as the Ryder Cup and this month's PGA Championship. Steve mentions **Dan Anderson** as the friend who got him interested in the golf maintenance business and professes his lifelong love of the Cubs as one of his favorite pastimes.

Had enough of those Penalty-Stroke.net "AST/Toro Company spitting match" emails yet?

On July 7th the Highlands of Elgin and **Brad Legnaioli, CGCS** hosted the 8th Annual John Buck Golf Outing to a packed house. This event has become a yearly must-do for MAGCS members as it honors the man whose name it bears while providing scholarships for 3 separate organizations: MAGCS, Northwest Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association, and the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation. As usual, the golf event was a four-person scramble with many fun surprises on the course throughout the round (such as the stuffed bra hole—figure it out from the photo). When the dust had settled and the scores were tabulated, the winning score of 61 was carded by the team of **Dave Blomquist, John Gurke, Jeff Hoste, and Andy Weadge**. Longest Putt was holed by **John Maguire**; Longest Drive was belted by Ryan Knox; Closest to the Pin on #8 was finessed by **Tim Johnson**, while Ken Bartels took that honor on #13; and Straightest Drive was striped by **Jeff Rehberg**. Many thanks to the Highlands of Elgin and Brad and Mike Lehman, to the folks at JW Turf including **Holly and Mark**

(continued on page 27)