

THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



February 2008

A warm and friendly welcome to the newest members of MAGCS goes out to these individuals:

- Jedd Anderson**, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.;
- Dave Arden**, Glencoe Golf Club;
- Lucas Baker**, Park Ridge Country Club;
- James Burge**, Reinders;
- Andrew Cross**, Exmoor Country Club;
- Travis Dykstra**, Prairie Landing Golf Club;
- Chuck Heidt**, Ryan Inc. Central;
- Steve Jump**, Skokie Country Club;
- Justin Kirtland**, Cress Creek Country Club;
- Benjamin McGargill**, Oakland Hills Country Club;
- David Ohren**, Willow Glen Golf Club; and
- Dave Rutz**, The Golf Mat/Preferred Product Group.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 11-14 – 2008 Indiana Turfgrass Short Course in Lebanon, IN. Contact the Midwest Regional Turfgrass Foundation for details (mrtf.org).

February 12 – MAGCS/GCSAA Powerpoint seminar at College of DuPage in Glen Ellen, IL.

February 19-20 – Gateway Green Industry Conference (formerly the Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance School and Trade Show) at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville, IL.

February 21 – 2008 Annual Winter Workshop presented by the Class C Advisory Committee (formerly Assistants Winter Workshop) at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.

February 25-28 – 2008 Illinois Turfgrass Short Course in Willowbrook, IL. Contact the Midwest Regional Turfgrass Foundation for details (mrtf.org).

February 29-March 2 – 25th Annual Chicago Golf Show at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, IL.

March 7 – Deadline for submitting presentation proposals for the 2009 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show to be held in New Orleans, LA on February 2-7.

March 27 – MAGCS Full-day seminar at Midwest Golf House featuring Dr. Jack Fry of Kansas State University along with **Dr. Derek Settle** and perhaps a surprise visit by **Dr. Randy Kane**. Check magcs.org for more information.

MAGCS sends its best wishes for a speedy recovery to **Kerry Anderson** of Valent Professional Products after he underwent throat cancer surgery last month.



Kerry Anderson

If you have accumulated a bunch of those points from product purchases (Accolades, Green Partners), or if you have a bunch of seed bags with the blue tags still on them and you just don't know what to do with them, why not donate them to the MAGCS Scholarship fund? In so doing, you are assuring that the funds generated will benefit the son or daughter of one of your neighbors, or perhaps even your own progeny. Give Luke Cella a call to find out how to go about this.

Congratulations to **Justin VanLanduit** on his impending change of address. Justin, currently assistant superintendent at Ivanhoe Club, will start the next step in his career on March 1st when he moves to Briarwood Country Club to work alongside **Paul Voykin** and **Mo Sanchez** for the 2008

(continued on page 18)

season before taking the reins upon Paul's retirement on September 30th. Best of luck to you!



Justin VanLanduit

On the 12th of this month MAGCS will be exploring new territory when it conducts its first of hopefully many computer skills seminars at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn. This seminar replaces the usual January joint seminar presented by MAGCS and GCSAA, and plans to continue these sessions are already in the works. The first rendition will be conducted by Luke Cella who will instruct the lucky first 36 to have registered the intricacies of Microsoft PowerPoint (class size is limited because of the # of computers in the room- each attendee will have their own machine). The class will teach the basics of putting together a presentation that is clear and visually appealing, and how to utilize content and design elements that can be applied to the profession of golf course management with sample presentations for green committees, boards of directors, and the like. Future seminars in the works will address other aspects of computers that are used often in our profession such as Excel, Word, and Publisher. If you are like me and have always wanted to know how to use PowerPoint to an extent beyond watching a pps file sent by a sick but well-meaning friend, take advantage of this opportunity. Also, don't be disappointed if the class is full and you can't get in—if interest is high, an encore performance is imminent.

Just one week later, on the 19th and 20th of this month, the newly-dubbed Gateway Green Industry Conference will be held in Collinsville, IL (just outside St. Louis). Presented in partnership by the Illinois Green Industry Association, the Illinois Park & Recreation Association, the Southern Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance Association, and the University of Illinois Extension, this conference offers educational seminars and breakout sessions in a huge variety of topics. Many of the most respected authorities in the green industry will be presenting their research findings and offering their expertise, including **Hank Wilkinson**, Phil Nixon, Dave Williams, and John Stier to list a few. Continuing Education credits have been applied for through GCSAA, Illinois Nursery Association, International Society of Arboriculture, Illinois Landscape Contractors, and Illinois Park & Recreation Association. For information, go to www.extension.uiuc.edu/madisonstclair.

The 25th Annual Chicago Golf Show is coming to town at the end of this month (Feb. 29 through March 2) to Rosemont. If you've never been to this thing, it's worth a visit, as it is the nation's oldest and one of its largest of its ilk. Featuring over 300 exhibitors displaying everything from equipment (the kind you play golf with), golf travel destinations, courses, tournaments, apparel and the like, the show is a great way to spend a winter day for anyone interested in the game of golf, and expects 15,000 to 20,000 such people to attend. Hours are noon to 7 pm Friday, 9 am to 6 pm Saturday, and 9 am to 5 pm Sunday, and admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors 65 and older, and \$3 for kids 6 to 12. Go to www.chicagogolfshow.com for more information.

Exciting news from GCSAA—starting this year all Class A GCSAA members will receive *The Green: Golf Beyond the Links* magazine, a publication aimed at building awareness of a growing market segment in golf—the affluent multicultural market. Each facility will receive 10 copies 6 times throughout the year that can be shared with members, customers, and staff. The magazine's stories and features will appeal to men and women of all cultural backgrounds, supporting GCSAA's mission of enhancing the enjoyment, growth, and vitality of the game of golf. Your first copies should already have reached you, but if not, contact GCSAA Member Services.

If you have something to get off your chest (that other GCSAA members might find interesting), why not be a presenter at next year's Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in New Orleans on Feb. 2-7. There's all kinds of great benefits to doing it (besides the whole sharing your knowledge with others thing), such as free conference registration (a \$275 value) and .25 service points toward certification. There might even be a plaque for your wall in the deal. Proposals for education presentations are due in by March 7th—you can go to www.gcsaa.org and look around for the link, or just call Tanya Hartman at 800-472-7878, ext. 3636.

If you haven't seen it in enough places, here it is again: Effective January 2nd of this year, **Reinders Inc.** of Elm Grove, WI has acquired the Toro commercial equipment and golf irrigation distributorship for Chicago, northeast Illinois and Lake County, IN previously handled by Turf Professionals Equipment Company (TPEC) of St. Louis. Reinders will continue to operate the Franklin Park TPEC location, with all numbers for office, service, irrigation, and cell phones remaining the same. Note that there is a new toll-free number for parts which is 888-887-8124. Main contacts are as follows: Craig Reinders, President—800-785-3302; Dave Berg, Senior Business manager—800-785-3302; and **Mike Murphy**, Business Manager Franklin Park—888-838-5778.

Happy 40th Birthday to the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents. What began on April 21st, 1966 as an informal meeting of 7 Chicagoland area superintendents to candidly discuss a labor issue has grown into the CAGCS of today, with its original intent of focusing on open discussion and debate, and the free sharing of ideas relating to

current issues still its mantra to this day. The original board of directors consisted of the following ground-breaking individuals (some of whose names you may recognize): **George Druzisky** (Thorngate CC), **Bob Williams** (Bob O'Link GC), **Ben Kronn** (Twin Orchard CC), **Fred Opperman** (Elmhurst CC), **Jerry Dinelli** (Northmoor CC), **Ed Stewart** (River Forest CC), and **Bruce Sering** (Evanston GC). Congratulations on 40 great years, CAGCS, and here's to many more!

A little-known fact (in my world anyhow) was recently brought to my attention—Rain Bird was awarded the Tournament of Roses Sweepstakes Trophy in recognition of its 2008 Tournament of Roses Parade float. Who'da thunk? What's really remarkable, though, is that this was not the first time. Rain Bird—a manufacturer and provider of irrigation products and services familiar to all of us in the golf industry—has received an amazing 11 awards in the 12 years it has entered a float in the Rose Parade, taking the event's top honor 7 times! With that record of success, maybe they could give the Big Ten a few pointers on how to grab an occasional trophy when they send a football team out there for that bowl game thingie they do after the parade.

In its December, 2007 issue of *Turf Central*, **Dr. Tom Fermanian** (you remember—the retired guy?) is featured with his research on corn-based fertilizer. His studies were designed to evaluate the performance and safety of new fertilizer sources from Archer Daniels Midland's Decatur, IL corn and soybean processing plant which are made from lysine, and amino acid in corn. Results of Tom's studies indicated that turf treated with the corn-based product showed similar results to turf treated with urea or ammonium sulfate. Check out page B6 through B8 of that issue for more details on Tom's research.



Dr. Tom Fermanian

Another really engaging story appeared in the December, 2007 issue of *Club & Resort Business* about the Inverness Country Club of Birmingham, Alabama and the devastating fire which burned its clubhouse to the ground. Of interest was the story behind the "rise from the ashes" of the club in its resiliency and determination to rebuild. Also, the cause of the fire was somewhat thought-provoking. It seems that while the blaze was still being fought, a 14-year old boy confessed to intentionally starting the fire with another

14-year old as an accomplice. Furthermore, they were both sons of club members who had practiced in advance how they would get on the roof to set the fire. And to top that off, they were both among the many onlookers who watched the building burn from the golf course! The lessons one can take from this tragic story are many, but none as important as planning in advance for the possibility of disaster. Luckily for Inverness, firemen were able to salvage several computers from the club's office before it was destroyed, allowing staff to retain all records. Had this not been the case, all of those important records would have been lost. So, take a lesson from Inverness and back up all of your important files and keep copies in several different locations!

The most recent edition of *Chicago District Golfer*—the official publication of the CDGA—prominently features MAGCS member **Rick Jacobson** (Jacobson Golf Course Design, Inc.) and his extensive international travels in building golf courses around the world. Rick's recent work in China, where he has 2 projects under construction, include Lion's Lake—a 36-hole community in Guangzhou scheduled to open in October of this year—and Chaozhou, an 18-hole resort facility (with the possibility of another 9 being built) also located in the south-east region of the country. The article touches on many of the interesting differences in cultures as they relate to golf course construction and the perception and growth of golf in China, and also details some of the culinary delights Rick has experienced in his foreign travels such as pig stomach, camel, blowfish, and scorpion soup. Yum.



Rick Jacobson

And the hits just keep on coming. Natural gas is outrageous. Oil hit a hundred bucks a barrel. The housing market sucks. Polar ice caps are melting and global warming is for real. Now we face another serious crisis that will have long-term effects on our industry—RESTLESS LEG SYNDROME! And the medicines available to cure it have warnings to DIScontinue use if you experience uncontrolled urges to drink, gamble, or have sex! OK, that's not the crisis to which I was referring (but there really is such a malady according to the utmost of reputable sources—TV). The latest crisis facing our industry is the scary scarcity (you like that?) of many of the raw materials used in fertilizer production. Here's the explanation that's making the rounds: Because agriculture continues to drive the fertilizer market, increased

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corn production means increased need for raw materials. Between growing ethanol plant openings and vastly increased exports to foreign countries, we are producing huger amounts of corn, which requires more fertility than the other typical rotation crops like soybeans. Bring in the high cost of natural gas which directly affects raw material production, and we find fewer manufacturers of domestic raw materials, leading to an increased dependence on imported (and costlier) raw materials. Obviously, by doing the math we see the bottom line for us—fertilizer is more expensive, and will continue to be into the foreseeable future. Another ouch.

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On the 16th of last month, Green Garden Country Club and **Renny Jacobson** hosted the MAGCS January monthly meeting. The day began with a brief MAGCS business meeting followed by a GCSAA delegate update courtesy of **Don Ferreri**. Education for the day was CPR/AED training and certification provided by the Frankfort Fire Department. For those of us who have not kept current on these procedures, this meeting was a great way to gain re-certification while learning the newest techniques being taught (and even getting a few chuckles from the entertaining group of firefighters). The theme of the day—dummies—was apparent upon walking through the way cool automatic doors of Green Garden's clubhouse, as there to greet us were several life-size dummies (some people call 'em mannequins, I call 'em dummies) in various styles of attire. Carrying the theme into the education portion were the CPR dummies with removable faces named Brad lying all over the floor. And then of course there were the dummies like me who chose not to bring their golf clubs even though Green Garden offered free balls and hitting stations in their big ol' dome for all in attendance. All that aside, it was a great day at the Garden, and we thank Renny and the staff for their hospitality, the boys in black from the Frankfort Fire Department for their expertise, and the generous sponsors—**Nadler Golf Car Sales/Club Car, Palatine Oil Company,** and **Reinder's, Inc.**—for making the day a complete success.



Green Garden's back yard and really nice indoor practice range.

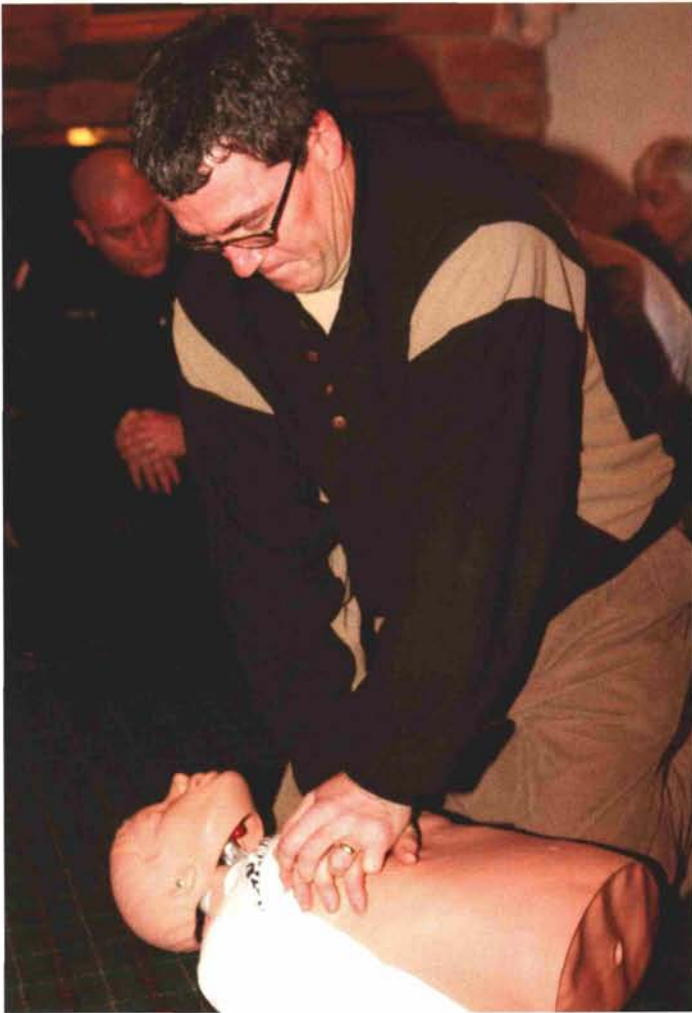


Firefighter Dennis Merz led the group through the CPR-AED training at Green Garden CC.

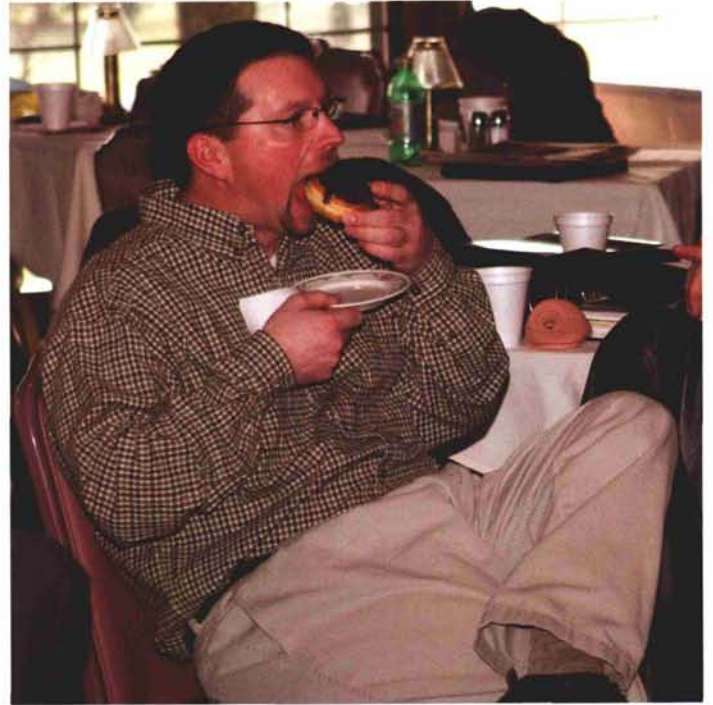


Renny Jacobson wore his Sunday best to greet us.





John Gurke even practiced the face he would make when he cracked the ribs of his victim.



Dave Braasch takes a break from saving lives.



Jim Keith goes in close to listen for a breath from his dummy.

-OC

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