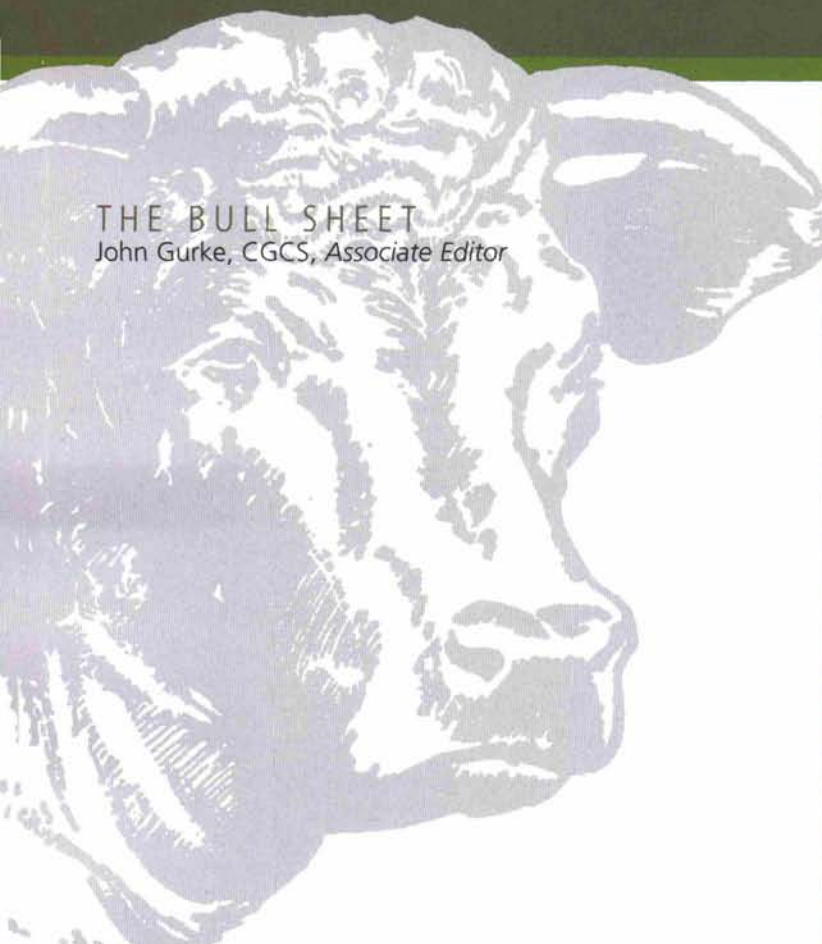


# THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



## January 2008



First a wish for a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2008 to all MAGCS members! A special welcoming wish to the newest members joining the fold in this young new year:

- Kyle C. Jacobson, Class SM, Twin Orchard Country Club
- Charles D. Hill, Class E, John Deere One Source
- Nicholas S. Hillyard, Class C, Lake Shore Country Club
- Ken Schwark, Class E, Watertronics

Welcome returning member **Bill Johnson**, formerly of Olds Seed Solutions now with Cleary Chemical Corporation as their new Technical Sales Representative for our state and a few others. Congratulations BJ.

We also welcome our newest member of the Board of Directors, **Mike Siefken** of Sportsmans Country Club. Mike joins the board as a willing appointee replacing outgoing director **Tom Prichard** for one year.



Mike Siefken

(continued on page 18)

### DATES TO REMEMBER

January 1 – The day Illinois knocked the crap out of USC. I'm taking a HUGE chance here.

January 7-9 – Michigan Turfgrass Foundation's Great Lakes Trade Exposition at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids. Go to [www.glte.org](http://www.glte.org) for details.

January 14 – Advance registration to the Golf Industry Show closes.

January 14-16 – 2008 Indiana Green Expo in Indianapolis. Go to [www.mrtf.org](http://www.mrtf.org) for details.

January 16 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Green Garden Country Club in Frankfort, Illinois, **Renny Jacobson** host.

January 16-18 – Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show in the Lakeside Center at McCormick Place in Chicago. Go to [www.midam.org](http://www.midam.org) for details.

January 21-23 – Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show at the Iowa State Center in Ames. Go to [www.iowagcsa.org](http://www.iowagcsa.org) for you-guessed-it, details.

January 25-29 – 2008 GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic in Orlando, Florida.

January 28 – February 2 – GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

January 31 – MAGCS Hospitality Suite at the Golf Industry Show. The grand event will be at the Renaissance Orlando Resort at Sea World from 7 to 10 pm.

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

February 21 – MAGCS Annual Winter Workshop presented by the Class C Advisory Committee at Midwest Golf House in Lemont.

A reminder to please take a moment to review your MAGCS membership renewal information, make any changes you see fit, and send it in to Luke at Golf House. Our renewal drive is winding down, so git 'er done quick.

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Though belated news, it is never too late to congratulate one of our own on a change in jobs. **John Turner**—as of October 1, 2007—is Senior Golf Sales Specialist for Bayer Environmental Sciences covering the Illinois/Wisconsin territory. Many of you who have known John over the years also know he held this position from 1980 to 2002, after which he managed the formulator and key lawn care accounts with the Midwest from 2002 to 2007. John is ecstatic to be back amongst us and looks forward to seeing many of his old customers and friends in the coming months and years. Welcome back, JT!

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Another reminder to assistants, superintendents and commercial members alike to keep February 21st open for the Annual Winter Workshop presented by your Class C Advisory Committee at Midwest Golf House. **Bruce Williams, CGCS** of the Los Angeles Country Club (also a past MAGCS and GCSAA president, and former golf course superintendent at Bob O' Link Golf Club) and David Downing, current GCSAA president will be the day's education presenters, and the event promises to offer something of interest to all who attend. GCSAA Education Points have been applied for. Contact **Michael Heustis**, Class C Advisory Committee chairman at 630-668-3588 for information.



*Bruce Williams*

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And just one more reminder for the new year's biggest event—the MAGCS Hospitality Suite during the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, Florida. The locale will be the Renaissance Orlando Resort at Sea World on 6677 Sea Harbor Drive—NOT the GCSAA Headquarter hotel as in past years. Hours are from 7 to 10 pm, and it will not disappoint. If you wish to volunteer your time to serve at the check-in table, call Commercial Advisory Committee chairperson **Sharon Riesenbeck** for details or visit the website for specifics.

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If you just can't seem to get enough education to satisfy your raging thirst for knowledge during the winter, you are

in luck. The Gateway Green Industry Conference might be just the tonic. Formerly known as the Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance School and Trade Show, the Gateway is an "IPTC-like" event with multiple education seminars and talks along with a trade show featuring the latest and greatest stuff our industry has to offer. The dates are the 19th and 20th of February, and the site is the Gateway Convention Center in downstate Collinsville, IL. If you are interested in learning more, call 618-650-7050, or register at [www.extension.uiuc.edu/madisonstclair](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/madisonstclair).

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MAGCS sends its best wishes for a successful showing to the competitors who are representing us in the 2008 GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic in Orlando later this month. The annual event begins on Friday the 25th with registration and practice rounds, followed on Saturday with another practice round and the Welcoming Reception (6 to 8 pm). Round One of the Championship and the Four-Ball are slated for Sunday, followed on Monday by round two of the National Championship and round one of the Golf Classic. Tuesday the 29th brings the final rounds of both events, with the 19th Hole wrap-up concluding the festivities. Again, good luck to the teams from MAGCS!

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**Other Golf Industry Show notables:**

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**Oscar Miles, CGCS** is one of three long-time GCSAA members who will be honored at the show by receiving the 2008 Distinguished Service Award. It would take several issues of this magazine to document all of Oscar's contributions to his profession and to our chapter's ascension to the lofty position it now occupies in the golf industry. Oscar has always been at the forefront of forward thinking, becoming renowned for his decades of soil temperature research and his "radical" lightweight fairway mowing concept (which is now an industry norm). The men and women who have served under Oscar that are now superintendents could easily fill a room—a true indicator of the man's dedication and contribution to our industry. Sharing the honor with Oscar are Donald Hearn, CGCS and Jim Loke, CGCS. Congratulations Oscar!



*Oscar Miles*

Toro and Syngenta are sponsoring the newly-created Assistant Superintendents Session to be held on Thursday the 31st from 2 to 5 pm in a TBD location. MAGCS will be represented well by **John Ekstrom** and Michael Heustis who will cover differing topics in the session much akin to the "Innovative Superintendents" sessions which have been so popular over the years. Please mark your show calendars and attend this session to show your support for our ground-breaking Class C representatives.

A visit to the [gcsaa.org](http://gcsaa.org) web site (and a few clicks here and there) will get you to a very cool link—the real-time online floor plan. You can plan your route around the floor, clicking on specific vendors' floor locations and adding them to your personal agenda (my expo). As of December 1, 847 vendors had signed on, accounting for 285,950 square feet of floor space, and attendance was projected to be at approximately 25,000.

Not to toot the horn of our Class C Advisory Committee too much, but these guys leave me no choice—you may have read in an earlier issue of the committee's efforts in regard to Habitat for Humanity, whereby they have agreed to provide materials and labor to landscape a HFH home on 119 North Sumner in Aurora, Illinois. The landscape design and plant list have been donated by **Martin Design Partnership** of Batavia, Illinois, and the sod came courtesy of **Dunteman Turf Farms** of Kaneville, Illinois. On a rainy, icy, and just plain nasty December 1st, a group of MAGCS volunteers descended upon the Aurora address and got really muddy

sodding the lawn just before the ice and subsequent snow hit. If you missed out on the fun, there will still be some work to complete come springtime—give Michael Heustis or Matt Breeden a jingle to find out the particulars.



*Mike Heustis*

This month on the 16th, the MAGCS meeting will be held at Green Garden Country Club in Frankfort with Renny Jacobson hosting. The education for the day will be something we all should be interested in—CPR/AED Training provided by the Frankfort Fire Department. Completion of this program will update your 2-year certification for both CPR and AED, which are eligible for GCSAA education points.

*(continued on page 20)*

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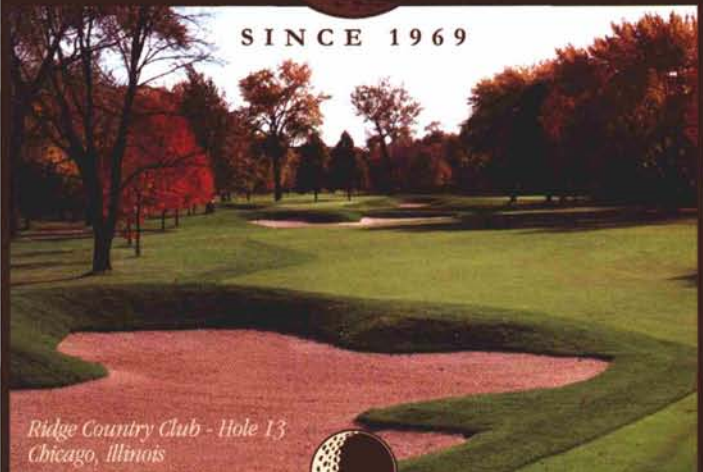
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Congratulations to Kyle Jacobson, former assistant superintendent at Butler National Golf Club on being named the new golf course superintendent at Twin Orchard Country Club. Kyle is an Iowa State University graduate who was the first assistant at Whistling Straits Golf Course during the PGA Championship, after which he moved to Nebraska to build the Jack Nicklaus Dismal River Club before joining **Mike Sauls** at Butler. Best of luck to you, Kyle.

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This news comes from Bruce Williams: **Robert M. Williams**, a former president of MAGCS and GCSAA, winner of GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award, inductee into the Illinois PGA's Hall of Fame, and the man responsible for naming both the Bull Sheet and *On Course* magazine (just to list a few of his accomplishments) has taken up residence with his caregiver. At 93 years young, Bruce says Bob is looking great and in fine spirits, but has slowed down enough to require more attention than assisted living could provide him. Bob's new address is 40899 Nevelier Drive, Antioch, IL 60002. Drop Bob a line, or stop on in if you're in the neighborhood—he'd love to hear from his MANY old friends.

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Here's a new one: The *Toronto Sun* ran a story in November about Keith Rasmus, the 42-year-old superintendent of the venerable Scarborough Golf and Country Club and his recent dismissal from the club. It seems Rasmus had informed management (with 3 months notice) that he'd be taking 9 months off from his job to spend time with his new baby son—a paternity leave of absence. The club responded the day before his leave was to begin by informing Rasmus that his contract would not be renewed when it expires next fall. While the club insists that its decision had nothing to do with Rasmus' request for paternity leave, he disagrees, citing that just a few months before being given his walking papers, he had been given 90% of his eligible bonus, and has had nothing but favourable (spelled like they do in Toronto) reviews ever since becoming superintendent in 1993. He now has launched a civil lawsuit against the club seeking \$825,000 in damages, while he has also cut his leave short and is back on the job in what he describes as an "uncomfortable" situation. No kidding?!?

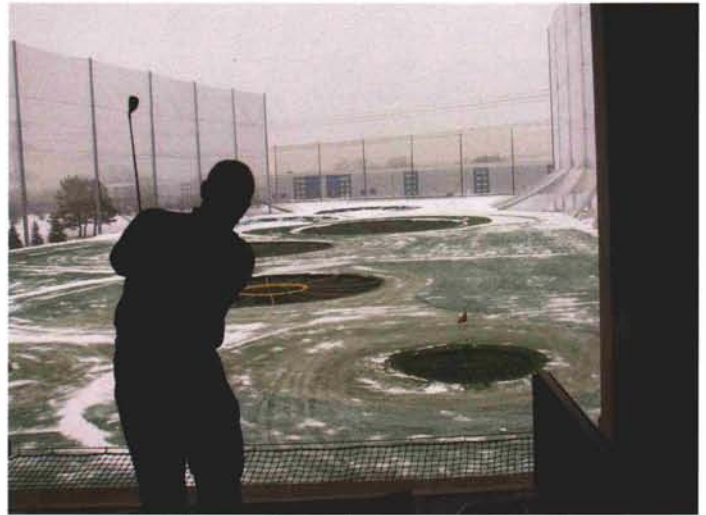
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Remember SuperNEWS? That was the magazine that then became *TurfNet* the Magazine last year. Well, you have seen the last of it in all of its print forms—after its December, 2007 issue, *TurfNet* will discontinue publication of the magazine and focus solely on online products in 2008 and the future.

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The annual holiday party circuit was in full throttle last month with the 2 mainstays providing MAGCS members with the opportunity to get away from work for a while and visit with friends. The Annual Southside Superintendents Party was held on December 3rd at Chef Klaus Bier Stube in Frankfort, featuring the old-world atmosphere and cuisine for which it is famous. Many thanks to Eddie Esgar and Keith Peterson for making all the arrangements once again. The following week saw the West Side Superintendents Holiday Party take its act to a new venue. The Salt Creek Golf Course and Top Golf hosted the party, which included

lunch and refreshments followed by games in the new \$9 million facility. If you get bitten by the golf bug this winter, check out Top Golf—it is truly unique, and a great way to spend an afternoon. Thanks to Gary Hearn and Don Ferreri for putting it all together, and to Growing Solutions for providing the beanbag games.



*West Side Superintendent Partygoers tee it up at Salt Creek Golf Course's Top Golf facility.*



*Can you hear the laughs now? Ed Braunsky and Jim Burdett share a few.*



*Who needs Dave and Buster's? We bring our own games to the party. Gary, can you get them to raise the ceiling?*

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Q: How do you make it snow in Chicagoland?

A: Hold the Illinois Professional Turfgrass Conference.

The Pheasant Run Resort was the place, and December 5th through 7th was the date, and as usual we received our first taste of winter during the proceedings. Word from the trade show floor was very positive, and despite the weather, attendance was up. Kudos to the person or persons who decided to put the lounge area on the show floor—it was a great venue for wheeling and dealing, and you certainly couldn't complain about the price of a beer!



*Tim Johnson proves for once and for all that you CAN operate a greens roller with one hand.*



*Paul Bastron spiffies up the Rabine paving booth with his good looks.*

The education programs were all top-rate as well, offering a WIDE variety of topics and speakers from all walks of Green Industry life. Thursday evening's Hospitality Reception sponsored by **Chicagoland Turf** and **Bayer Environmental Science** was a big hit as well, featuring food, drink, cards,

Bears football (if that is an appropriate name for it), and even an impromptu eating contest involving several of MAGCS' most famous chow hounds. Competitors be advised—Sharon has ordered 15,000 hot dogs and 1,750 crab cakes for the hospitality suite in Orlando, so start preparing now.



*"Nobody ever eat fifty crabcakes."  
Chris Plumb and Kevin DeRoo tried to best each other.*



*Brian Baker serves up a couple of plates to the contestants.*

Congratulations to **Don Cross, CGCS** (Skokie CC) on winning the raffle conducted by Prime Turf at the IPTC last month. For dropping his card in the bucket, Don walked away with a brand new I-Phone. Luckily Don has all winter to figure out all the stuff he can do with it. **-OC**

## CLASSIFIEDS

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