

THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



March 2008

The 14th of this month marks the deadline to fill out the GCSAA Pesticide Use Survey (which can be found at gcsaa.org). The fourth part of GCSAA's comprehensive Golf Course Environmental Profile Project, this survey can be completed online, and you can participate regardless of whether you completed the previously-released surveys. Funded by the Environmental Institute for Golf with a grant from the Toro Foundation, participation by GCSAA members is strongly encouraged, and all results will be strictly confidential. Participants will be entered in a drawing for a flat screen TV (a \$2,500 value) and seven \$250 gift cards (one per agronomic region), and will receive .50 service points on their transcripts, making it well worth the effort.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

March 12 – 4th Annual Ground Control Conference at Northern Illinois University's Hoffman Estates campus. For more information, call 262-250-9945 or email lauraj@ero-tex.net.

March 14 – Deadline for filling out the GCSAA Pesticide Use Survey (the follow-up to the Golf Course Profile, Water Use, and Nutrient Use surveys).

March 26-28 – 11th Annual Flower Expo in the Guangzhou Gymnasium in Guangzhou, China. In case you're in the neighborhood.

March 27 – Full-day seminar at Midwest Golf House featuring Dr. Jack Fry of Kansas State University, **Dr. Derek Settle** of CDGA, and **Dr. Randy Kane** of... Peoria. More information is available at magcs.org.

April 28 – MAGCS monthly meeting and season-opening golf event at White Eagle Golf Club, **Gilberto Velazquez** host.

May 12 – Annual ITF/MAGCS Spring Scramble at St. Charles Country Club in St. Charles, IL, **Jim Keith, CGCS** host.

In the "better late than never" category, MAGCS wishes a fond farewell and good fortune to **Phil Taylor**, who has left Burris Equipment Company and the Midwest on December 31st for Houston, Texas. Phil has joined Luber Bros. who own and operate multiple Jacobsen distributorships in Texas, and will run the new Houston branch. Phil's and Marilyn's eldest son, wife and only grandchild reside in Corpus Christi, Texas, bringing the family much closer together. We wish Phil and his family all the best.



Phil Taylor

Also in December—on the 18th—an unfortunate sign of the times occurred in our midst. The Orchard Hills Golf Club in Waukegan ceased operations as a golf facility. Former superintendent **Bob McCallum, CGCS** reports that the property is tentatively slated to be utilized as sports turf, including soccer and baseball fields. This news comes on the heels of the recently-released report that 2007 was the second consecutive year in which nationwide golf course closings outpaced new course openings.

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Congratulations go out to **Luke Baker**, former assistant superintendent at Park Ridge Country Club, who has accepted a position with Chicagoland Turf as sales representative for its Indiana territory.



Luke Baker

In completely unrelated news, **Joel Purpur, CGCS** has announced that the assistant superintendent's position at Park Ridge Country Club is open. Interested parties should call Joel at 847-823-8682.

Further congrats to **Andy Weadge**, who has taken the huge step of moving from his assistant's position at Black Sheep Golf Club to take on the golf course superintendent's responsibilities at Morris Country Club in Morris, IL as of February 1st.



Andy Weadge

In late January, BASF Crop Protection announced that it will provide limited access to its triticonazole fungicide to Bayer Environmental Science for US and Canadian turf and landscape ornamental uses (including golf turf use). Triticonazole is the active ingredient in BASF's Trinity fungicide, as well as in Bayer's new Chipco Triton.

In other news involving Bayer, **Scott Witte, CGCS** has a Purple Cow. A little explanation is probably needed here: In each issue of *Bayer Golf Advantage*, a superintendent who best discovers successful ways to communicate the importance of their practices and their profession to golfers and the public is awarded a Purple Cow (and 50,000 Accolades points to boot). Another bonus is that said superintendent gets to have his mug on the cover of said magazine, which Mr. Witte did (and in fine coif I must add). Congratulations to Scott and Cantigny Golf Club on this colorful achievement.

MAGCS offers its condolences to Life Member **Bill Leith** and his family on the loss of Bill's wife Della on January 26th. Bill was the long-time superintendent of Elgin Country Club, and an active MAGCS member for over 40 years.

MAGCS offers its condolences to **Dr. Hank Wilkinson** on the passing of his father William C. Wilkinson in January, as well as **John Meyer** on the passing of his father in December.

DHD Tree Products and **Dan Quast** recently introduced Matt Kinnard as their new sales representative. Matt hails from Rock River Hills Golf Club in Horicon, WI, and will bring a strong commitment of service to his customers and a vast knowledge of the products that DHD offers.

Toro and Reinders, Inc. recently announced that they are the first equipment and irrigation system suppliers to enter into a formal partnership with the Club Managers Association of America and the Club Foundation. The 5-year partnership is intended to support the CMAA and its members in their professional development, to keep in touch with the most pressing issues facing club managers, and to establish deeper relationships with industry leaders and their respective organizations to help drive growth and prosperity for all in the game and business of golf. So there you have it.

So I'm flying home from Orlando on Super Sunday, my plane is delightfully on time, I get a last-minute change of seat which lands me in the exit row and all the leg room that entails, our ETA will get me home and in my chair with 15 minutes to spare before kickoff (of what turned out to be one of the best Super Bowls EVER), and I am generally in a great mood, even contemplating purchasing a lottery ticket. Then something happens to put me in even better spirits (besides the drink cart coming by)—I take out the February issue of *United Hemispheres* and begin to flip through the pages when I stumble on an article called "Golf's Superheroes." I assume it's about caddies or beverage cart chicks until I read the first sentence, at which point I'm hooked. It says "Although architects are forever linked with the courses they design, golfers are beginning to recognize that the biggest VIP at any country club is its superintendent." This was in an airline magazine! After my obligatory gasp, I read the article, which described fairly accurately the world of the modern golf course superintendent and how it has changed from the days of "the glorified farmer" of decades ago. Recommended inspirational reading, and only 3 pages in length, so if you want to check it out, book a REAL short United flight—like to Kenosha.

GCSAA announced it can now offer full access to the Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information File (MSU and TGIF respectively) to all Class A members. TGIF is a searchable database presented in partnership with the Turfgrass Information Center through the MSU libraries, and covers the turfgrass industry with more than 125,000 searchable items for over 300 journals and magazines (this very one soon to be included), research reports and conference proceedings, extension bulletins and technical reports, and much more. Also, all classes of GCSAA members can search the online archive of

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GCM content published over the last 74 years. Or you can do what everyone else does and call **Dan Dinelli** for the information you seek. [Editor's Note: That same TGIF started to scan and archive *On Course* this past month. MAGCS is adding over 900 records to the database. **All MAGCS members** will have access to the complete database through a portal on our website very soon. Pete Cookingham, Project Director and Cliff Haka, Director MSU Libraries will teach us how to use the online database at our June meeting.

On January 28th members of the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents and their guests converged on 3 maintenance facilities in the western suburbs for the Annual CAGCS Shop Tour. This always popular event is an opportunity for superintendents to bring key members of their organizations to visit OPS (other peoples' shops) and gather ideas on how to better equip, operate, and organize their own facilities. It's also a chance to compare, to gloat, or—as was the case this year—to cry over what some have that others don't. Shop Tour 2008 began in Aurora at the Stonebridge Country Club where **Dan Sterr** runs the show, then continued east to Glen Ellen to visit **Andy Dauksas** and the Glen Oak Country Club's 2004-vintage facility (complete with attached gun club). After touring the 13,000 square feet of floor space (and basketball court), a short trip south landed the 100+ attendees at Naperville Country Club's brand spankin' new shop and its 15,000 square feet of pristine floor area. **Tim Anderson** hosted this final leg on the trek, and after our cruise around Fantasy Island we were treated to a great lunch in the clubhouse (which is also nice, but the shop is still better). Great job by everyone involved!



Glen Oak Country Club's shop, Andy Dauksas host.

Speaking of lunch, did you read about the 2 golf course employees in Hawaii who ate a dog? OK, tasteless segue into a seriously deranged story. The owner of Caddy, an 8-month-old German shepherd/Labrador mix had obtained permission to bring the dog to the course and tie him out while he played. Caddy vanished while tied up near the clubhouse, and an investigation led to the gruesome crime committed by Saturnino Palting and Nelson Domingo, who stole off with the dog, took him to a nearby home, butchered and ate him (and were subsequently fired). The two face five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine if convicted. Enjoy the prison food, fellas.

Congratulations to **Phil Zeinert**, CGCS of Elgin Country Club on winning the Growing Solutions raffle conducted at their booth at the Golf Industry Show. For the Herculean effort Phil exerted (dropping a card into a box), he was rewarded with a vacation for 2 to anywhere in the continental United States including airfare, rental car, hotel accommodations, and \$500 in pocket cash. Sweet!

-OC



Naperville's Tim Anderson, CGCS brand new shop didn't even need to be swept to end the shop tour.



Stonebridge Country Club and Dan Sterr started the shop tour.

CLASSIFIEDS

For sale or barter: 7 Water cooler stations—recycled green plastic houses from Eagle One, 24" x 23" x 5'6" tall, peaked roof, includes coolers and trash bins. New ones cost over a grand, so if you're in the market, give these a look. Excellent condition—make an offer. Also have numerous Standard Golf tapered litter caddy baskets (black) to part with. Call John at Aurora Country Club at 630-892-3600.

For Sale: 20 Par Aide benches, overall good shape, (frames in excellent condition, wood is OK = good shape). \$25 each, first come first served. Contact Ed at Old Elm (847) 432-6276 or email oesupt@hotmail.com