



Luke Cella needs your help. He is participating in golf marathon to support the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation (CDGA's renamed foundation). He's going to play a 100 holes in a single day to give back to the most supportive golf association in our country. Help Luke help the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation. luke@magcs.org or 630-243-7900.

Please keep **Howie Shuck** (BTSI) and his family in your prayers while he recovers from open heart surgery following an aortic aneurism he suffered in early March. **Roger Ogalla** has been keeping us updated on Howie's progress, which we all hope will lead to a quick and full recovery.

Congratulations to MAGCS member **Dale Morrison** of Trappers Turn Golf Club on recently achieving certification with GCSAA; and to **Scot Spier, CGCS** of Arthur Clesen, Inc. on his recent recertification.

The deadlines are close at hand for 2 GCSAA programs that could be of benefit to you. The GCSAA Legacy Awards funded by Syngenta provide scholarship assistance to applicants who are children and grandchildren of GCSAA members who have been Class A, C, A-Retired, B-Retired, or AA members for five or more consecutive years. Applicants must be enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher learning, or in the case of high school seniors, must be accepted at such an institution for the next academic year. The deadline for applications is April 15th. The GCSAA Scholars Competition rewards undergraduate students who are GCSAA members and have shown excellence in academics, work experience, extracurricular activities, and have the potential to become a leading professional in the golf course management industry. The deadline for applications is June 1st. Contact Mischia Wright, GCSAA's senior

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 6 – Illinois Golf Forum hosted by the Illinois PGA and the CDGA at Bobak's Signature Events & Conference Center at Seven Bridges.

April 6-12 – The Masters golf tournament at Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia. Our season has begun!

April 15 – Deadline for applications for the GCSAA Legacy Awards funded by Syngenta Professional Products.

April 28 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Spring Scramble at Prairie Landing Golf Club, **Tony Kalina, Eric Mundt**, and **Travis Dykstra** hosts.

May 3 – JW Turf's Annual Equipment Auction at their headquarters in Hampshire, IL.

May 9 – North American Birdwatching Open held on International Migratory Bird Day.

May 15 – Deadline for MAGCS Scholarship Applications.

May 18 – MAGCS/ITF Spring Golf Day at Merit Club, **John Nelson** and **Scott Verdun** hosts.

May 19 – CAGCS monthly meeting at Glen View Club, **Tony Frandria** host.

June 1 – Deadline for applications for the GCSAA Scholars Competition.

June 15 – MAGCS monthly meeting at The Club at Strawberry Creek in Kenosha, WI, **Matt Kregel** host. The Dom Grotti, Class C, and Senior Championships will be contested at this event.

manager of development at 800-472-7878, ext. 4445 for more information and application forms.

While on the subject of GCSAA awards, our friend **Lee Miller**, formerly with the CDGA's Turfgrass Program, was one of the 2008 Watson Fellowship winners. The Watson Fellowship is funded by a partnership between the Toro Company and the Environmental Institute for Golf, and is

(continued on page 20)

named after Dr. James R. Watson, a retired vice president for Toro and a pioneer in turf research. It is awarded to students working toward masters degrees and doctoral degrees who have been identified as promising future teachers and researchers in the field of golf course management. Lee is working toward his doctorate in plant pathology at North Carolina State University, and his dissertation aims to identify the fungi involved in fairy ring biology and determine the soil temperatures at which they are active and assess their sensitivity to fungicides and other management practices. For his excellent work—and we all remember what an asset he was during his time with CDGA—he received a \$5,000 grant. Congrats to Lee—our little boy is all grown up now, maw.



Lee Miller

As you may be aware, the MAGCS has its own scholarship awards program. There are three \$2,000 scholarships available for 2009 to the children of MAGCS members who are outstanding students and have demonstrated strong potential for future success. To qualify the applicant must have a parent who is a current member in good standing for at least 3 consecutive years in one of these classifications: A, SM, C, D, or E. He or she must also be enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher learning, or in the case of high school seniors, must be accepted at such an institution for the coming academic year (I'm feeling a sense of déjà vu here). Any number of students from a single family may apply, but only one per family will be eligible to receive the scholarship. You can download an application at www.magcs.org.

On the move last month: **Jason Funderburg**, formerly co-superintendent at Rich Harvest Farms is now a sales representative for Chicagoland Turf where he will service the western and northwestern Illinois territories—all the best in your new career, Jason!

Also making a move recently were **James Chisolm**, former assistant superintendent at Naperville Country Club and **Nick Marfise**, former assistant with the Glen View Park District. James has accepted the assistant superintendent's position at White Eagle Golf Club under **Gilberto Velazquez**, while Nick has taken the second assistant's job at Park Ridge Country Club for **Joel Purpur, CGCS**. Best of luck in your new positions, guys.

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Congratulations to Aaron Reinhart, the new assistant superintendent for **Dave Behm** at Willowcrest Golf Club.

Friday the 13th of March may have been an unlucky day for the diaper services of Morris, Illinois, but it certainly was a lucky-charmed day for Wendy and **Andy Weadge** (Morris Country Club), who welcomed their 7-pound bouncing baby boy Parker into the world. Word has it that the Morris High School football and basketball coaches have already visited Parker with letters of intent in hand. Congratulations to the Weadges!



Wendy and Parker (or is it Packer?) with Moe Weadge, Larry Riesenbeck, and Curly Blomquist looking on.

Now that we've seen the last of winter with its prolonged ice cover, frigid temperatures, and wild mood swings with thaws and heavy rains causing flooding on many of our properties, we can look back and be thankful that we got through it with minimal damage (hopefully). Widespread reports of severe flooding, fish kills, erosion, and the usual famines and pestilence were popping up everywhere, and I thank the superintendents who shared their photos and stories of the havoc wreaked by Mother Nature on their courses.



A submerged bridge on a local golf course in March.



Lack of oxygen under the winter's thick and prolonged ice led to fish kills in many golf course ponds.

And now that the floodwaters have receded, it's a great time to inspect all those drain lines and catch basins and give 'em a good spring cleaning. Who says we don't have any fun working on a golf course?



Another glamorous job for the guy who showed up late.

Look for the 2010 Golf Industry Show in San Diego to have a stronger USGA presence than ever before—it was announced in February that the USGA has formalized its long-term involvement in the Golf Industry Show with an increased presence including additional programming, promotion, and sponsorship activities.

Also from the USGA, a reminder that the Green Section has regular Regional Updates on its website. These updates are designed to keep you abreast of the latest turfgrass and maintenance developments, or unusual happenings throughout the region. Go to usga.org/turf/regional_updates to see what's going on.

Congratulations to **Todd Schmitz** and the City of Aurora on the recent certification of Phillips Park Golf Course through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. The March 18th issue of the Aurora Beacon News had a very nice (and BIG) column on the certification process, including Todd's efforts to promote environmental awareness at Phillips Park, the 48th course in Illinois and the 681st in the world to achieve ASCP certification.



Todd Schmitz

(continued on page 23)

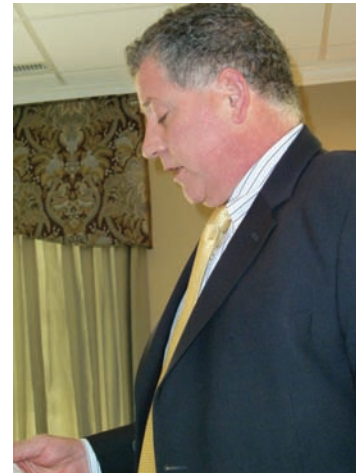
So you might think that working for a municipality like Todd does would be too structured or regimented, right? It does have its perks, though, as the resources a village or city has are vast and can be shared. In my days at the village-owned Bartlett Hills Golf Course, many a tee was built using one of the village's big ol' honkin' endloaders. Todd took that thinking to the next level this winter—he made a bulk lime application to the Phillips Park Golf Course fairways using a City of Aurora salt truck. Saved a bunch of money, and worked like a charm. Thinking outside the box like Taco Bell is what that is.



On March 7th, the CDGA held its annual Directors Seminar at Medinah Country Club. The purpose of these events is to gather officials from golf courses throughout the region together in one venue in order to share information and exchange ideas in an open format. After the general remarks, participants break out into several subgroups that focus on more specific areas of golf club governance, such as finance, house, golf, and grounds and greens. This year, the subject for the grounds and greens group was the current economy and its effect on course conditioning. A panel consisting of moderator Sheldon Solow (green chairman at Briarwood CC), **Dr. Derek Settle** (CDGA), **Dave Esler** (Esler Golf Designs), **Ty McClellan** (USGA Green Section), and golf course superintendents **Bob Maibusch, CGCS**, MG (Hinsdale GC), **Dan Marco, CGCS** (Ruth Lake CC), **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** (Medinah CC), and me fielded questions from the audience of green chairmen, fellow superintendents, and various other course officials throughout a lively morning of open discourse. These seminars are a great way to bond with and educate the people that we answer to at our courses—think about attending next year's event, you won't be disappointed.

Another of our affiliate groups held its annual shindig in March as well—the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS) presented the 24th Annual Chicagoland Forum at Naperville Country Club (**Tim Anderson, CGCS**) on the 11th. The morning session featured GCSAA's effervescent Lyne Tumlinson and CAGCS president **Jon Jennings, CGCS** and their "Taking Control of Your Career: Make it Magic" seminar. The afternoon was highlighted by CDGA's Director of Rules and Competitions Jodi Ciotti's talk on "Effectively Marking the Golf Course," followed by past MAGCS member Tom Brodeur of TPC Boston speaking on "Successfully Hosting

an Annual PGA Event." On a personal note, I would have better insights to offer about the presentations had I taken better notes, but I found myself distracted by the near exact similarity between the valances above the windows at Naperville and the tie I chose to wear that day. It was spooky weird knowing that I accessorize in the same manner as a banquet room at a country club. But I digress. Again. Thanks to everyone who made this another great Forum, to the guests who travelled great distances to share their knowledge, and to Tim and the staff at Naperville Country Club—yes, even the decorator who chose the damn valance material—for a great day.



Tom Brodeur nods off while reading the creed.

(continued on page 25)

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Stately Naperville "Wayne Manor" Country Club.


Club Car Turf II For Sale. Not stolen, but very HOT. This unfortunate utility vehicle ventured too close to a controlled (how ironic) burn of a native prairie last month, and is a good reminder of how intensely hot these fires can burn. The aluminum components of the cart literally melted.

My...er, I mean this particular course's...mechanic has an ultimate set of tools, and says he can fix it.



Don't forget about JW Turf's Annual Equipment Auction on May 3rd. If you are in the market for pre-owned equipment, this is the place to spend the first Sunday in May. Contact Danna at JW Turf with questions at danna@foxvalley.net or call her at 847-683-4653.

-OC



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