

was raised through the purchase of raffle tickets. Many MAGCS members were in attendance, and Scott and Howie would like to thank them all. Special thanks go out to guest bartender Diane Poliakoff, to **Sharon Riesenbeck**, Tracy Check, and Dawn Speiden for running the raffles, and to **Charlie Brugler** for collecting the money. Scotty says he had an amazing night, and only now can he fully appreciate how hard bartenders work! Great job everyone!



*Dawn Speiden with her bodyguard Scott, who it appears is about 8 months preggers.*



*Howie Shuck at home in Carpentersville. After the January meeting at Seven Bridges, MAGCS will host a fund-raiser to benefit Howie through the Wee One Foundation.*

Don't know if you read *Golfdom* or not, but the November issue had an interesting story about GCSAA's Old Tom Morris Award and how it ended up for sale on Ebay. Christopher Gray, who wrote the article, was surfing Ebay looking for an iPod when he decided (as we all would) to type in "GCSAA." There was one item under the heading—an Old Tom Morris Award that was presented to the late Byron Nelson in 1994. To make a long story short (that's what we do here at Bull

Sheet), Gray made sure he was the winning bidder, paying \$142.50, and once it arrived he set about trying to get it back into the hands of the Nelson family. He contacted Steve Mona who put him in contact with Mr. Nelson's widow Peggy, and one thing led to another and the Nelson family was once again in possession of the award. So how, you may ask, did the award end up on Ebay? Peggy Nelson's best guess is that when they sold their vacation home in Kerrville, Texas, the award somehow got included in the items that were sold to a local thrift shop. The award was purchased—for a dollar—by a person who then put it on Ebay. So everyone ended up happy—Chris Gray helped get the award back to the Nelson family and the guy who sold it made a cool \$141.50. Alright, I thought it was a cool story.

It appears that the efforts to slow the cancellation of methyl bromide have worked. The chemical's manufacturers asked for a deadline of 2014 to allow for suitable alternatives to be developed. This was nixed by EPA, but the hope is that the agency will agree to at least a 3-4 year phase-out schedule. The worst-case scenario now is that methyl bromide will be done at the earliest at the end of 2011.

On the 4th of last month, 136 members attended the 57th Midwest Turf Clinic and Annual Meeting at beautiful Medinah Country Club (**Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** host). The day's education offerings were as diverse as they were enlightening, with morning moderator **Eric Mundt** (Prairie Landing GC) introducing MAGCS Class C members **Joe Schneider** (Beverly CC), **Steven Biehl** (Naperville CC), and **Josh Therrien** (St. Charles CC) for their unique perspectives; followed by **Jeff VerCautren's** talk about hosting the 2009 Solheim Cup at Rich Harvest Farms; and winding up with Stuart Lindsey's (Edgehill Consulting Group) controversial and eye-opening discussion on turf care in tough times. Before lunch the annual elections were conducted with the expert help of the **Eddies Fischer** and **Braunsky** as they always do. The new MAGCS Board of Directors consists of the following dedicated individuals: President **Scott Witte, CGCS**; Vice President **Dan Sterr**; Secretary/Treasurer **Harry Lovero**; Directors **Mike Siefken** and **Mark Thibault** (each with one year remaining in their terms), **Jim Keith, CGCS**, **Bob Kohlstedt**, and **Dave Groelle, CGCS** elected to two-year terms, and **Mike Mumper** elected to a one-year term, and **Tony Kalina** taking over as immediate past president. Congratulations and many thanks to these guys, and many thanks to **Dave Braasch** whose board duties are officially ended. After lunch the hardware was passed out, with the Ray Gerber Editorial Award going to Scott Witte, and the Fred D. Opperman Editorial Award going for a third time to **Greg Martin** (okay, the actual awards were not actually passed out to these guys since the person responsible for getting these awards made is getting older and more forgetful, and if I could remember his name I'd tell you) (okay, ME). Following the presentation of the invisible plaques, Tony Kalina presented his President's Award for Meritorious Service to **Mike Bavier**—a great choice for which a real plaque was actually presented to its recipient. Then there were the 25-year pins given to those who marked their 25th year as a

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member of MAGCS, who are **Ron Doruff, Al Pondel, CGCS, Tom Prichard, Joel Purpur, CGCS, Luke Strojny, Paul Wagner, and Vence Zolman**. Congratulations to these gents. Afternoon moderator Ed Braunsky took over and introduced Argonne's Doug Sisterton (the guy with the whip and something to do with sonic booms), followed by a panel discussion of MAGCS members who have taken on the dual role of superintendent/general manager of their respective facilities. These four panelists—**Tim Anderson, CGCS MG, Don Ferreri, Mike Matchen and Al Pondel, CGCS**—provided some truly interesting insight into what they do, what they didn't expect, and what they dislike most about their jobs. To wrap up the day, keynote speaker Jay Hilgenberg, all-pro center from the Bears 1985 Super Bowl team and owner of the Club at Strawberry Creek, shared his views on all things golf and football, taking many questions from the audience. In a nutshell, no, the Bears offensive line is not going to improve. Thanks go to Curtis Tyrrell and the staff at Medinah for their hospitality, to the day's speakers and moderators, and of course to the sponsors whose generosity made the day so great: **Arthur Clesen, Inc., Bayer Environmental Science, Great Lakes Turf, John Deere Golf & J. W. Turf, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc./Authorized Club Car Distributor, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., Palatine Oil Company, Quali-Pro, Reinders, Inc., and Syngenta Turf & Ornamental**. Thank you all!



*They arrived in a black and white VW. They hooked up all the A/V equipment. They are the Geek Squad.*



*Medinah Country Club hosts the 57th Midwest Turf Clinic and the 82nd Annual Meeting of the Association.*

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*The Midwest's newest Board Members, Dave Grolle and Michael Mumper.*



*President Kalina (l to r) awards our 25 year members, Al Pondel, CGCS, Luke Strojny, CGCS and Joel Purpur, CGCS.*



*Scott Witte, CGCS captures the 2009 Ray Gerber Editorial Award for his work, "Something's Fishy at Cantigny". (Editorial Chariman, Harry Lovero, pictured right)*



*Dave Braasch is congratulated and thanked for his commitment to the Midwest. Thanks Dave for seeing it through even after your move to the North.*



*Author of "Golf's DNA", Greg Martin takes home the Fred Opperman Editorial Award for his contribution to On Course.*



*A smiling Mike Bavier, CGCS is awarded the Presidential Award from Tony Kalina for his generous contribution of time and talent to the Midwest.*



*Jay Hilgenberg laments over the Bears current struggles while sharing memorable stories of when the team had it.*

.....-OC