



THE BULL SHEET  
John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor

# January 2009

Happy New Year one and all! May 2009 bring all members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents prosperity and most importantly good health.

Congratulations to **Matt Harstad** (Calumet CC), who was married to his sweetheart Lauren on October 18th.



*Matt and Lauren Harstad*

Big news from our friends at Burris Equipment Company—on December 1st Burris acquired Wisconsin Turf of Janesville, WI after its owner decided to retire his territory. This move expands Burris' coverage from Milwaukee and Kenosha

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

January 13 – 4th Annual TETA Vendor Day at High PSI, Ltd. on 75 N. Brandon in Glendale Heights, IL, **Tim Layden** host.

January 14-16 – Mid-Am Trade Show at McCormick Place West in Chicago, Illinois.

January 15 – CAGCS Shop Tour, Beverly Country Club, **Keith Peterson**, Coyote Run GC, **Dave Ward** and Olympia Fields CC, **Sam MacKenzie, CGCS**.

January 15 – Deadline to receive the advanced registration rate for the 2009 Golf Industry Show in New Orleans, Louisiana.

January 22 – MAGCS January Meeting, Arrowhead Golf Club, **Mike Mumper** host.

February 1-3 – GCSAA National Championship and Gold Classic in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

February 2-7 – GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in New Orleans, Louisiana.

February 3-4 – GCSAA and Habitat for Humanity Special Work Days in New Orleans, Louisiana.

February 5 – MAGCS Hospitality Reception at the Loews New Orleans Hotel at 300 Poydras Street.

February 5 – University of Illinois Turfgrass Alumni reception at the Loews New Orleans Hotel which is coincidentally located on 300 Poydras Street.

February 5 – Audubon international's Champions in Golf celebration at the Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans, Louisiana.

March 11 – Annual Chicagoland Forum at Naperville Country Club, **Tim Anderson, CGCS** host.

March 11-12 – Reinders 19th Turf & Irrigation Conference at the Waukesha Expo Center in Suburban Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

throughout the southern portion of Wisconsin. The Janesville location is closed, and all operations for the new territory will originate from the Waukegan location. Also, Mike Thornton—longtime Burris demo-equipment-bringer-outer-guy—has joined the sales staff and will cover the McHenry, Boone, and Rockford area as well as two counties in Wisconsin. Congratulations to Mike, and to everyone at Burris on the exciting news.

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This month marks the return of the Mid-America Horticulture Trade Show (Mid-Am) to the McCormick Place West in Chicago on the 14th through the 16th. This is the Midwest's premiere Green Industry event combining hundreds of exhibits from leading suppliers, plus education and networking opportunities. Owned and sponsored by the Illinois Green Industry Association (IGIA), the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association (ILCA), and the Wisconsin Green Industry Federation (WGIF), it is a not-for-profit event whose proceeds go directly back to the industry to support the work and programs of these organizations. And hey, if you are a University of Illinois alum or a friend of one, stop on by the Illinois Reception in room 20AB of the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Conference Center on the 14th between 5 and 7pm for cocktails and munchies. Visit [www.midam.org](http://www.midam.org) for information and details.

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One of Mid-Am's participating organizations—the Irrigation Association—recently unveiled a new logo and tagline, both of which are part of IA's strategic plan to become the recognized authority on irrigation. The new logo, whose predecessor served the association for more than 30 years, communicates a critical link between irrigation and making things grow; while the tagline, "Smart practices. Sustainable solutions" is a powerful message of IA's mission and its members' commitment to better water management. So there.



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Whole lotta stuff going on next month at the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show—especially on the 5th, which seems to be the chosen date for all the big-time happenings in New Orleans. Among the can't-miss sessions, receptions, cocktail parties, and hospitality rooms are, of course, the MAGCS Hospitality Reception at the Loews New Orleans Hotel which takes place from 7 to 11pm, and promises to impress with its usual fabulous venue, food, drink, and friendship all thanks to our wonderfully generous sponsors. Also on the 5th and in the same hotel is the University of Illinois Turfgrass Alumni gathering from 5 to 7pm. And if you are involved with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for golf courses, you may want to stop by the Aquarium of the Americas from 7 to 9pm for

their Champions in Golf Celebration sponsored by Agrium Advanced Technologies and Audubon international. Earlier in the day, from 9 to 11am, the Opening Session kicks off the Education Conference and will feature keynote speaker Paul Azinger, the captain of the victorious U.S. Ryder Cup team. Also on tap will be the presentation of GCSAA's highest honor—the Old Tom Morris Award. This year's recipient is Colonel John Morley, the founder and first president of our association, and it will be posthumously accepted by attending past presidents on his behalf. The next day has a few items of note as well, including Hall of Fame baseball player Mike Schmidt delivering the keynote address at the certification luncheon and business meeting from 12:30 to 2:00pm; and the 2009 Annual Meeting at 2:30pm in room 243-245 of the New Orleans Morial Convention Center. Sounds like a busy couple of days in the Big Easy!

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Also from GCSAA: Effective 2010, the Conference and Show schedule will change based on member feedback from attendees and exhibitors. The 2010 Show in San Diego, CA will be modified so that all events are held on weekdays, freeing up the weekends for family and personal time. The trade show will be open on Wednesday and Thursday, while education will be held on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday.

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Your 2009 MAGCS Board of Directors is already hard at work planning for the coming year. All committee chairs are in place, and they are seeking volunteers to help keep our association moving forward in 2009. If you would like to join one or several committees, please contact these chairpersons (most of whom appear on the cover of this very issue):

- Arrangements: Bob Kohlstedt
- Benevolence: Dan Sterr (let's hope he doesn't need much help on this committee)
- By-Laws and Nominating: Dave Braasch
- Class C Advisory: Scott Verdun
- Class E Advisory/Hospitality: Sharon Riesenbeck
- Employment & Membership: Mark Thibault
- Editorial: Harry Lovero and Tim White
- Education: Mike Siefken and Jim Keith
- Financial Task Force: Tony Kalina
- Golf: Jim Keith and Mark Thibault
- Media & Public Relations: All MAGCS officers
- Past President's Council: Ed Braunsky (Must be a past president AND be able to tolerate Braunsky)
- Partnership Task Force: Scott Witte
- Scholarship: Tim White

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Although the holidays are over, the gift of giving is never out of season. As part of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) "Revive a Rainforest" campaign, you can have a rainforest tree sapling planted in honor of a friend or family member for \$10. The program targets Costa Rica, where rampant deforestation has led to the near extinction of many of the country's exotic rainforest species. If you are interested in giving "the greenest of gifts," go to [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org) and click over to the "Revive a Rainforest" icon.

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Whilst on the subject of "green," Audubon International has announced that Crane's Landing Golf Club in Lincolnshire, IL, and Willowcrest Golf Club in Oak Brook, IL have achieved certification through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. Congratulations to Marriott Golf's **Tom Hildreth** at Crane's Landing and **Dave Behm** at Willowcrest on achieving this distinction.

Bayer Environmental Science held its "Stomp Out Stress" seminar at Ruth Lake Country Club recently, with **Dan Marco, CGCS** hosting. The half-day session featured 3 interesting presentations which all dealt with stress, but of different sorts. Dr. Joe Vargas of Michigan State University led off with a lively discussion on management of biotic and abiotic stresses on golf turf, followed by Bayer's Product Development Manager Dr. Richard Rees who spoke on new fungicide technology and Bayer's *StressGard*. Finishing off the day was Dr. Wes Sime, Health and Sports Psychologist of the First Step Wellness Center, whose topic dealt with coping with pressure both in one's professional life and personal life. Among the more humorous observations were Dr. Joe's "Trees are just weeds that got hard," and Bob Maibusch's inquiry "Why 3 to 5 days old? Is it never ONE day old?" That one actually caught the good doctor off guard after relating to the crowd that the youngest turfgrass leaves are typically 3 to 5 days old. Finally, Dr. Sime offered some good advice for all of us: "My grandma told me never to walk around with my mouth open—something will either fly in there, or people will question my intelligence." Nice warm thoughts on a cold day. Thanks to **John Turner** and Bayer, and to Meredith Setzman of the Tierney Agency for her fine photography, and finally to Dan Marco and the staff at Ruth Lake Country Club for a fantastic day.



*John Turner and host Dan Marco*



*R to L: Speakers Dr. Wes Sime, Dr. Richard Rees, Dr. Joe Vargas, and Ed Vandenberg, Bayer Field R&D specialist in Canada.*

Some news from the industry: Syngenta Professional Products announced both distributor and agency agreements with John Deere Golf, allowing its products to be available to golf and lawn care markets through the more than 630 branches in the United States.

Also in the news, BASF Turf & Ornamentals has named Randy Lusher its sales specialist for the Illinois and Wisconsin territory. Previously, Lusher was a sales specialist with BASF Vegetation Management for 24 years.

On November 15, Steve Partyka and his wife Dawn hosted the Annual MAGCS Fall Dinner Dance at White Pines Golf Course. All the attendees were treated to a wonderful evening of fine food, beverages and a little dancing.

Thank you to our sponsors for the evening: **Chicagoland Turf, BASF, Syngenta, Rienders, BTSI, JW Turf and Burris Equipment Company.**



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We wish **Ed Esgar** all the best in his new position as golf course superintendent of Woodbine Golf Course in Homer Glen, IL. Eddie takes the reins from retiring **Ted Mochel** (who has been there since before electricity). Congratulations to both of these gentlemen.



*Ed Esgar*

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Last month, on a snowy December 1st, the Annual South Side Superintendents Holiday Party took place at Chef Klaus' Bier Stube in Frankfort. Hosts **Keith Peterson** (Beverly CC) and Ed Esgar put together another great afternoon of fine German food enjoyed in a warm and relaxed atmosphere with a great group of folks. By the way, just because you're not from the South side doesn't mean you can't go—just don't wear a Cubs hat. Another reason to attend (aside from the assorted schnitzels, thuringers, and wursts) is that all proceeds remaining after paying the tab go to the Salvation Army. Thank to everyone for another great South Side party.



*Hosts Eddie Esgar and Keith Peterson gladly take people's money.*



*A horny Dave Louttit sports his new hat.*

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*The south siders with der Bier frau.*



*Our wunderbar haus fraus.*

Erwin McKone, Kevin DeRoo, and everyone with the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation who helped put the event together and man the registration tables, as well as to all speakers, vendors and attendees who together made it such a smashing success.



*Paul Yerkes with grand poobah Erwin McKone*



*Luke Cella with former ITF president and man with the coolest glasses ever, Don Altman.*



*Andy Weadge tries out the Drop Zone, much to the dismay of its owner.*

Also last month, another big event took place when the Illinois Professional Turfgrass Conference (IPTC) convened at its new location at the Schaumburg Convention Center and Renaissance Hotel (though I'm told Eddie Braunsky showed up at Pheasant Run both days). The 3-day extravaganza featured over 50 excellent education sessions, a trade show with over 90 exhibitors, and ample networking opportunities for the attendees from all areas of the Illinois green industry to avail themselves of. In addition, there were some added bonuses this year, including complimentary lunch on the trade show floor on Thursday, the IPTC Reception on Thursday evening (and the subsequent Bears-Saints game viewed in various locations throughout the hotel), and the Turf Cup Championships that included competitions for great prizes like Nintendo Wiis, Flat screen TV's, and a ton of other raffle prizes and giveaways. The consensus was that the new venue was a big hit, not only from an accessibility standpoint, but from the cool names they had for the meeting rooms. A walk down the hallway revealed rooms with monikers like Nirvana, Utopia, Epiphany, Serenity, Men, and Women—all of which conjure up comforting and relaxing thoughts, huh? This event helped raise funds for research at the University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, and the Chicago District Golf Association. Thanks to Luke Cella,



*Howie Shuck, Pete Kiraly, Melissa-the-Rabine-Chick, and Gary Hearn.*

**West Side Party**



*The Frozen Tundra*

November's GCM magazine had a nice feature on MAGCS member **Kerry Satterwhite, CGCS** titled "The Sky is the Limit" about his leap to a new career. Kerry had been superintendent in charge of the City of Bloomington, Illinois' 3 golf courses for the last 10 years before deciding recently to leave the golf industry altogether and take a position with a company called Sky is the Limit as its executive director of the business and technology division. Among the reasons he cited for making such a drastic move were the economic outlook for the City of Bloomington and its financial problems, the stress related to his job of overseeing 3 golf courses, and the lack of time he was able to dedicate to his family. We wish Kerry the very best in his new endeavor.



*Kerry Satterwhite*



*Mike Bavier and Wally Fuchs get festive*



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Mickey (Jon Anderson) with best pal Goofy (Brian Winkel of course)



Gary Hearn and Don Ferreri—the day's set-up men

**Mulligan** from December's Bull Sheet: If you are planning to help out with the GCSAA/Habitat for Humanity project in New Orleans next month, please pack a pair of hard-soled shoes (not tennies), as these construction sites typically have nails and other sharp objects lying about that can puncture a softer shoe. And call John Ekstrom if you are planning to participate! Thank you.

-OC

### CLASSIFIEDS

If you are in the market for used equipment that is available locally, check out the magcs.org web site's new classified listing.

#### For sale:

- 1995 Toro Hydro-Ject with trailer, \$4,000
  - 1986 E-Z Go 4-speed truckster, \$500
  - 1991 Ryan Renovaire Fairway Aerator, \$1,000
  - 1987 Toro Greens Aerator, \$750
  - 2001 Toro Flex 21 Greens Mowers (5 available), \$1,000 each. All equipment is in good working condition.
- Contact Mark Bobb at Barrington Hills CC at (847) 381-0140.

*Pictured below: Cantigny's celebration of Veteran's day. They lit 2100 luminaries to honor our soldiers.*

