



Happy New Year!

Now that it's the new year, it is the perfect time to introduce yourself to your peers, and what easier way than to fill out the MAGCS Personalities Profile? Just go to magcs.org, log in, and click on the Members tab and get creative. Your profile will be featured in *On Course* along with your favorite photograph of yourself, giving the members of your association an opportunity to get to know you, which can be a good thing, especially if you are selling something (and who isn't?). It's fun!

If you know of an equipment technician who you deem worthy of TurfNet's Golden Wrench Award for the Technician of the Year honor, you need to hurry and nominate him or her—the deadline is the 19th of February. The criteria on which the award is based include crisis management, effective budgeting, environmental awareness, helping to further and promote the careers of colleagues and employees, interpersonal communications, inventory management and cost control, overall condition and dependability of rolling stock, shop safety, and work ethic. Send nominations to jreitman@turfnet.com or mail them to 1500 Park Center Drive, Orlando, FL 32835, or fax them to 407-513-9108. Hurry!

Don't forget to do the Chicago thing and vote early (possibly too late for that) and OFTEN for our local representatives for Lebanon Turf and Golfdom's Dog of the Year contest to be awarded at the Golf Industry Show in San Diego next month. The dogs in question are Park Ridge Country Club's Tessa (belonging to **Joel Purpur, CGCS**) and Marley (**Nick Walters'** pooch), who were the featured dogs in August in the Dog Days of Golf 2010 calendar. Fill out as many ballots as you can and let Joel and Nick bring the hardware home!

Congratulations from the bottom of my heart to **Ed Fischer, CGCS** on his recent retirement after a long and storied career that began with Ed working for Dudley Smith at Silver Lake Country Club as a young lad, continuing with his long tenure at Butler National Golf Club where he hosted numerous Western Opens, and culminating with an even longer stay of 30 years at Old Elm Club. Ed has served as mentor to many current superintendents—myself included—and is the absolute epitome of all that is good about our business, demonstrating an unselfish willingness to share his vast experience with those around him, and always with the utmost of class. If there were a manual on how to comport

(continued on page 14)

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 20-22 – Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show at McCormick Place in Chicago, IL.

February 5-7 – GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic in Palm Springs, CA.

February 8-12 – 2010 GCSAA Education Conference in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show in San Diego, CA.

February 10 – MAGCS Hospitality Reception at the Hotel Solamar in San Diego, CA.

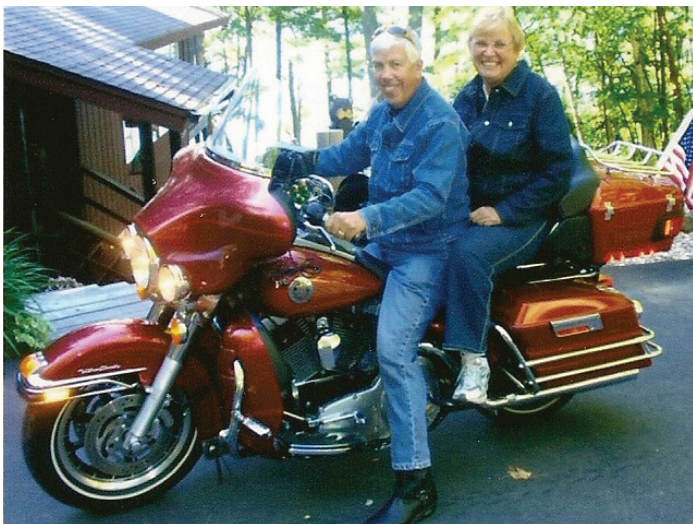
February 19 – Deadline to nominate your equipment technician for TurfNet's Technician of the Year Award.

March 6-14 – Chicago Flower & Garden Show at Navy Pier in Chicago, IL.

March 16 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL.

March 18-20 – International Golf Course Equipment Manufacturers Association's Virtual Trade Show at an internet-connected computer near you.

oneself as a golf course superintendent, Ed would have been the model by which all others could benefit. We wish Ed and Jan all the best in their future endeavors—which I imagine will include playing a lot of golf—and offer our congratulations on a long and illustrious career.



Ed and Jan Fischer getting an early jump on enjoying retirement.

Congratulations also to two men who are just starting their careers as golf course superintendents: **Ben McGargill**, who previously was an assistant superintendent for **Steve Cook, CGCS MG** at Oakland Hills Country Club is the new golf course superintendent at Wynstone Golf Club; and **Scott Vincent**, former assistant superintendent for **Don Cross, CGCS** at Skokie Country Club was named golf course superintendent at Onwentsia Club, taking over for the retiring **Skip Willms, CGCS**. Best of luck, gentlemen!

Well, next month is the big event—the GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic in Palm Springs followed by the Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in sunny San Diego. For those planning to “Kick it West to Success,” there is plenty to do while you are there. Among the highlights this year: The various golf events in Palm Springs including the championship, the golf classic, and the Four-Ball mixer; Celebrate GCSAA! on the 9th (formerly the Opening Session and Welcoming Reception) which will feature the presentation of the Old Tom Morris Award to Judy Rankin along with the other prestigious honors and awards; the keynote addresses by Chris Gardner (author of *The Pursuit of Happiness*) and Brian Little, PhD at the General Sessions on the 10th and 11th; the new Show Floor Happy Hour on the 11th from 4 to 6 pm; the new Celebrating Certification! Event (formerly the Certification Luncheon) on the 12th; the various field trips, sessions and seminars throughout the week; the trade show which is always a rompin’ stompin’ good time; and of course the MAGCS Hospitality Reception on the 10th at the Hotel Solamar. Many of our MAGCS members will be giving presentations at the Conference which shouldn’t be missed, including **John Ekstrom**, **Chuck Anfield** (whose presentation isn’t that bad), **Bruce Williams**, **Erwin McKone**, **Tommy Witt**, **Jon Jennings**, and **Bruce Branham** (I hope I haven’t forgotten anyone).

And although there are several GIS events before 2014 when we return to Orlando, GCSAA and its GIS partners pulled a major coup that will make the 2014 Show one of the best bargains in its history. GIS partners recently learned that they had placed the winning bid in an auction by the Professional Convention Management Association (I wonder if they have a convention?) for a package of services at the Orange County Convention Center in 2014. The bid of \$175,000 will ultimately save the partners around \$335,000 over the value of the package, which includes exhibit space, meeting rooms, and other discounted services. And of course these huge savings will be passed on to all attendees in the form of an envelope stuffed with cash! Not.

Good luck to those competing in the golf classic, and best wishes for a safe trip to San Diego to all attending.

Congratulations to **Dave Groelle, CGCS** who recently was recertified with GCSAA. Obviously Dave is still working on his American Snowmobile Society (ASS) certification...



There was a very cool item in the news recently about the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, a public school on the City’s southwest side which described the students’ collaborative effort in the construction of a 3-hole golf course on a preciously unused waste area adjacent to the school. With the help of an architect, the students cleared the land (including disposing of junked cars and various other items), graded, shaped, drained, grassed, and landscaped the course which is now maintained and operated by students, is handicapped-accessible, and is open to the public for use at no cost. Over 300 students took part in the project, which has received acclaim from national media outlets (and now this esteemed publication as well). Feel good stuff that.

Looks like there is some good news on the Emerald Ash Borer front. The team of Michigan State University entomologist Dave Smiley, PhD, research technician Kevin Newhouse, and research assistant Terry Davis conducted trials from 2005 to 2008 on ash trees in East Lansing and found that at least

3 insecticides were effective at protecting the trees as trunk injection systems, while at least 5 others exhibited control as a soil drench. Trunk injections of emamectin benzoate, acetamidiprid, and imidacloprid; as well as soil drench applications of clothianidin, imidacloprid, and dinotefuran exhibited canopy thinning of 30% or less (with 40% being deemed acceptable) as well as acceptable larval density. Check out www.emeraldashborer.info for all the latest information and research.

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 It's official—**Nick DeVries** has been officially welcomed to the CDGA Turfgrass Program team as of his hiring on December 3rd. Nick will be the program's electronic communications expert, as well as assist with all research and diagnostic endeavors. **Keith Rincker** will remain as Manager of Turfgrass research, and Dr. Derek Settle will keep doing whatever it is he does (he'd tell us, but he'd have to kill us). Congratulations, Nick!



L to R. Dr. Derek Settle, Keith Rincker and Nick DeVries.

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 As most Rain Bird users have learned, the local distributor of Rain Bird products, Hydrologic has closed its doors. Unfortunately, many people were affected by this including MAGCS members **Scott Pace** and **Kevin West**. We hope for the best for Scott and Kevin and the folks from Hydrologic. Stay tuned for any developments on this story.

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 The December, 2009 issue of *Superintendent* magazine had a nice feature by Nancy Riggs titled "A Round With **Glenn Bereiter**," the certified golf course superintendent at Aldeen Golf Club in Rockford, IL. The Q and A format allowed Glenn to expound on his thoughts on various topics including his most challenging aspect of turf management at Aldeen, and his view of the future of golf course management.

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 Also seen in print recently was Rich Harvest Farms' **Jeff VerCautren's** article "Budgeting Tools," which appeared in the *Green Breeze*, the official publication of the Greater Cincinnati Golf Course Superintendents Association.

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 So FMC Professional Solutions had this Crash Course contest where you tell them about the goofiest thing you've ever encountered on the golf course and you win \$5,000 cash for your course if your story is the goofiest. Although non-MAGCS member James Sprankle of the Loxahatchee club in Jupiter, FL won with some ridiculous tale of finding Mayan ruins and human bones—BORING—on his course when he was superintendent at Cabo del Sol in Cabo San Lucas, two MAGCS members did win honorable mention with their

tales. **Erwin McKone** and yours truly each earned \$250 for our clubs with our much more interesting stories of alien encounters on our respective courses. We'd love to share them with you, but the tales are now property of FMC and all its subsidiaries, all rights reserved, any use of the articles or descriptions contained therein is prohibited without express written consent of FMC and/or God.

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 The Holiday party circuit was in high gear last month, with the West Side and South Side parties playing bookends for a weekend. On Friday the 4th, **Don Ferreri** welcomed the West Side Superintendents Party to Seven Bridges for an afternoon of great food and drink. Strictly due to its proximity, many of the attendees dropped in to the Tilted Kilt—if I need to describe it, you don't need to know—to continue the festivities (or to allow all that nasty holiday traffic to clear). Adopting a "Why stop now?" attitude, some hearty party-goers continued on to Walter Payton's Roundhouse in downtown Aurora to catch the live music of This End Up, a band fronted by vocalist Stephanie Brinegar (the better half of Jeff Brinegar of LaGrange Country Club) for a marathon, 3-set extravaganza that lasted well into the wee hours.



Three captains of industry: Captain Crunch, Captain Morgan and Captain Kangaroo.



A feel-good holiday moment between Krause and Zartmann.

(continued on page 17)



John Anderson and Jay Lemanski yuk it up.



The father and son team of Justin and John Kirtland.



Still can't figure why the next stop was so popular...



Stephanie Brinegar belts out a tune at Walter Payton's Round House with her band This End Up.

Thank goodness for the Bears—a chance to sleep it all off over the weekend before Monday, when the South Side Superintendents Party made its return to Chef Klaus' Bier Stube in Frankfort. A huge turnout enjoyed the warm atmosphere of dead wild animals and their various antlers, hooves, paws and parts hanging from the walls and ceilings; and of course the crazy-good Bavarian fare of schnitzels and sausages and more sausages and of course bier. Keith Peterson and Eddie Esgar put together another winner (or would wiener be more apropos?), and all who came left happy and full. What a great way to usher in the holidays!



Ed Esgar applies the "Brain Sucker" to Keith Peterson—he found very little to suck.



Joe Schneider, Luke Cella and two folks who went straight from the West Side to the South Side party.

(continued on page 19)



Dave Kohley consults with elder statesmen Renny Jacobson and John Lebedevs.



Chrissy the bierfrau demonstrates what happens to those who get overly festive, but Chuck Barber came prepared.



Dick Trevarthan gives John Turner and Dan Marco a little Christmas nooky.



The hard-working German family of Todd, Ray, and Mark Schmitz.



Holly Gilmour shows off the fare for the day, which included all the basic food groups (pig, pig, pig, and baby cow).



Poor Wally...

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