

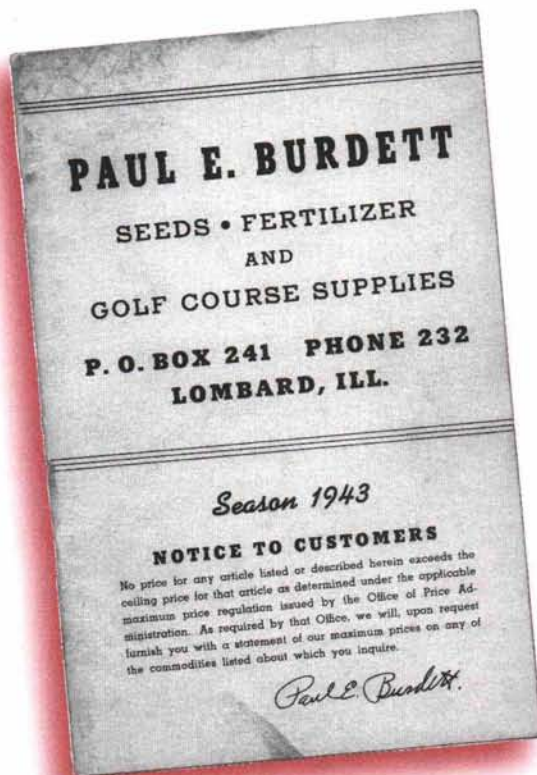
The end of an era . . .  
well, sorta!

# An Ode to Jim Burdett

*Jim Burdett, a "major force" in the Chicago-area turf industry, retired as of March 1, 2000. Now we know why three years ago, Jim produced a catalogue titled "The Catalogue Until 2000." Jim has sold Burdett's Inc. and Master of the Links to Michael J. O'Neill. Mike will continue to operate both businesses, and obviously has a new catalogue.*

Burdett's actually began in 1940 as Paul E. Burdett Co. (Paul was Jim's dad), with its principal business selling seeds, fertilizers and golf course supplies in the Chicago area. Paul Sr. knew the golf course business very well, having worked on many area courses during his youth. Among them was Olympia Fields. Paul's two sons, Paul Jr. and Jim, started working for their dad in the '50s (Jim started February 15, 1957). Paul Jr. passed away in October 1965, and Paul Sr. retired in 1972. Jim continued the Burdett business until it closed in 1977, but Jim wasn't out of the industry. For a short time in the early '80s, Jim worked for Builders Plumbing Supply before opening Burdett's Inc. in 1983. Good friends like Dudley Smith and Art Benson were instrumental in Jim reentering the golf supply business. They helped with ideas for new products, which Jim then produced. The famous 'seed-n-soil bucket' and 'steel step-down stake' are two such products.

*(continued on page 32)*



*The inaugural 1943 catalog came complete with tear-out order forms—an innovation Burdett's started from day one.*

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In 1988, Jim started Master of the Links with a small investment of \$1,300. Over the past 43 years Jim has logged more than a million miles in a variety of vehicles, which included, of all things, a bread truck before the advent of minivans. Jim is very appreciative of his customers. "The loyalty and comradeship of the golf course superintendents have been the most wonderful parts of this business," Jim reflects. Jim has seen many changes in the industry but feels "the biggest change is in the education and professionalism of everyone involved."

Art Benson, who Jim called on at Butterfield C.C. for many years, states, "The thing that I really liked about Jim was that he didn't try to do the greenkeeping for you. He had several products that he offered for a particular use and let you decide which to use." Dudley Smith of Silver Lake C.C.

adds, "Jim's biggest attribute was his service. There were times where he would make a delivery at 10 a.m. on a Sunday. Once when area superintendents were feeling a need to lower their soil pH, there was no local source of granular sulfur. Jim located a source in Louisiana and drove there overnight in his truck to bring back a truckload of sulfur."

Jim and his lovely bride of 40 years, Marilyn, plan to stay in the area. Their retirement plans include a trip to Hawaii this March, church activities, home remodeling and playing cards with their many friends. Jim also plans to help Mike O'Neill develop new products if his busy schedule allows.



quite valuable to me. We all share many common problems and issues regarding our courses.

I also discovered that we, as members and chapters, do not use the GCSAA enough. Headquarters features a fantastic staff just waiting to assist the membership. Each department gave us short presentations describing what they have to offer. I would suggest that when you have a concern with anything from public relations to membership, give them a call. Remember that the GCSAA works for you. While I don't want to sound like a commercial for the GCSAA, do remember—the GCSAA works for you.

In closing, I would again like to thank the membership for entrusting me with the responsibilities of my current office. It is a trust I do not take lightly. If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact me.



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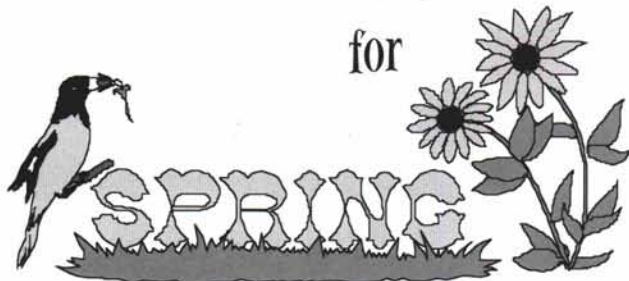
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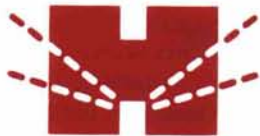
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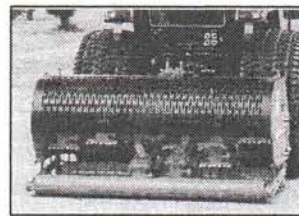
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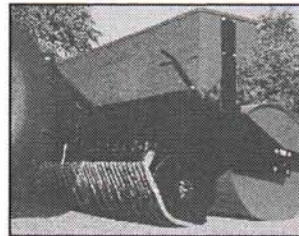
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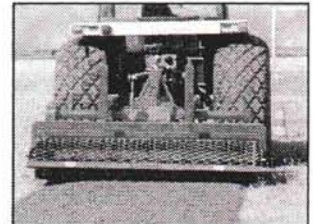
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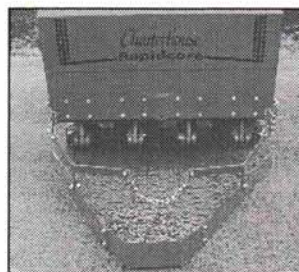
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# Dan Dinelli Receives Scotts Tradition of Excellence Award

*To the surprise of no one here in the Midwest, North Shore C.C. superintendent Dan Dinelli has added another feather to his cap: the 2000 Scotts Tradition of Excellence Award. This honor recognizes outstanding achievements among golf course superintendents who are dedicated to advancing the science of course maintenance and making golf the best it can be. Selection for the peer-nominated Scotts Tradition of Excellence Award was based on several criteria: teaching and mentoring experience; leadership; environmental responsibility; research and innovation in cultural or management practices; and professional involvement.*


Dan accepted the award in February at the GCSAA's national conference in New Orleans. A news release commented that Dan "continues to build his reputation for excellence in maintenance, not only on the golf course but also through his personal contributions to the profession. Integrated pest management (IPM) and biological pest management are arguably Dinelli's strong suits. As a result, North Shore Country Club was certified in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program in 1998. The club was a regional winner in 1998 and a Mid-Continent Region winner in

1999 and 2000 of the Environmental Steward Award . . . Dinelli, along with the North Shore Country Club, is also involved in turfgrass research. In 1997, a putting green was built at the club to evaluate bentgrass varieties for sponsors GCSAA, USGA and NTEP . . . In conjunction with the University of Illinois, Dinelli has conducted research on different composts used on turfgrass and locally, he serves on the Illinois Turfgrass Research Review Committee. Sharing his experiences with students and peers is also important to Dinelli. Each year, he teaches a

seminar on golf course management at Harper College and has provided leadership for the college's Park Management and Horticulture Advisory Committee for the past 15 years. His writing is often published in the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents' monthly magazine as well as in trade publications such as *Golf Course Management*, *IPM Practitioner*, *Biocycle* and *TurfNet Monthly*."

On behalf of the MAGCS—congratulations, Dan, on a well-deserved honor.





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different and must be managed accordingly. Push-up greens modified by core removal and addition of sand are different in their own rank; they perform more like sand greens than push-up greens, and must also be managed accordingly.

Doing what is agronomical and politically correct requires striking a balance between the needs of the golf course, the demands of the golfers and budgetary restraints. The best timing to do deep-tine aerating, and the incorporation of soil amendments, has always been a source of tremendous concern and a hot potato.

To deal with these issues, my recommendation is to consult with your USGA Green Section and/or an independent turf consultant.

### Conclusions

Achieving top-quality greens requires following all seven steps outlined above.

However, if budget restrictions prevent the implementation of all seven steps, then do as many of the steps as possible. As a base, the following four steps are absolutely necessary:


1) Eliminate the use of soluble inorganic products. Use natural organic products. Use animal, and animal waste, by-products only if the salt index is very low. Composting and compost products can be used only if not contaminated with sand, silt or clay; antagonistic microorganisms are sterilized, reinoculated with beneficial microbes and then pasteurized.

2) Deep-tine aerate USGA sand greens, California-style and push-up greens modified by the removal of cores and addition of sand, twice per year—once in the fall, and once in the spring. The aerating holes should be filled all the way up with an 80-20 mix of

the same parent materials the greens were constructed from, incorporating with it a good quality soil amendment.

3) Topdress lightly, biweekly during the growing season, and core aerate as needed to keep thatch and sand build-up under control to maintain a firm playing surface. It is absolutely necessary.

4) Do soil, water and tissue samples; and use the services of the USGA Green Section, as well as an agronomist or a consultant at least once per year.

These four step are the basic essentials . . . they are absolutely necessary. The other steps, when incorporated also, increase the excellence of the greens exponentially. 



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# the Bull Sheet

John Gurke  
Contributing Editor

## DATES TO REMEMBER

April 24 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Elgin Country Club—**Tod Hopphan** host.

May 15 — ITF Combined Golf Day at Silver Lake Country Club—**Dudley Smith** host.

June 19 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Winnetka Golf Course—**Henry Michna** host.

June 24, 2000 — World Shotgun 2000.

July 20 – 23 — U.S. Women's Open at Merit Club—**Oscar Miles**, CGCS host.

Check out the February issue of *Golf Course News*—there's a great two-page write-up on the preparations being done at Olympia Fields for the 2003 U.S. Open, complete with quotes from MAGCS members **Dave Ward** and **Kevin West**.

Following up on the PDI issue (on which **Tim Kelly** of Village Links of Glen Ellen enlightened us at January's MAGCS meeting), a quick way to learn the abcs of it all is to read the February issue of *NewsLine*. Past president **Bruce Williams**, CGCS wrote a nice "in-a-nutshell" article on the issue, and it fit ON ONE PAGE!

Let's give a big MAGCS welcome to **Jonathan Jennings**, CGCS, the new superintendent at Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton.

Jon hails from The Patterson Club in Fairfield, CT, and replaces Bill Whitley. Jon is no stranger to our area, as he served an internship at Olympia Fields several years back. Be sure to extend a congratulatory handshake to Jon at the next MAGCS meeting.

Congratulations to **Dan Sterr** (former superintendent of Fox Bend Golf Club) who is the new golf course superintendent at Stonebridge Country Club.

Congratulations to **Mike Hubbard** of Hidden Meadows Golf Club, who was certified in December, and is now Mike Hubbard, CGCS. Has a nice ring to it, doesn't it?

Another congrats goes out to **Paul Schaefer** of Prairie Isle Golf Club, who also has earned the CGCS moniker. Word is that Paul passed the entire test on the first try, and with time to spare!

The GCSAA International Conference and Show in New Orleans is now behind us, but some of the memories will remain . . .



**Scott Witte** of Cantigny Golf Club received some amazing news just a few days after returning home. Bob Shively from GCSAA called Scott and asked if he were sitting down. Once that was taken care of, Scott learned he was the

winner of the 27-hole challenge and a new Cadillac Escalade SUV (or the cash equivalent). After investigating his options with the aid of his financial planner, Scott opted for the cash—a mere \$32,000—and plans to make good use of it by investing in pyramid schemes and teletype machines. Scott's secret to success? Bend the edges of the entry to keep it from sticking to the others in the bin, and you're on your way to (Big) Easy Street. The line for charitable causes forms outside Scott's office . . .

Before mentioning anything more about the conference, the MAGCS membership should recognize the following individuals and companies for their contributions to the VERY FINE MAGCS

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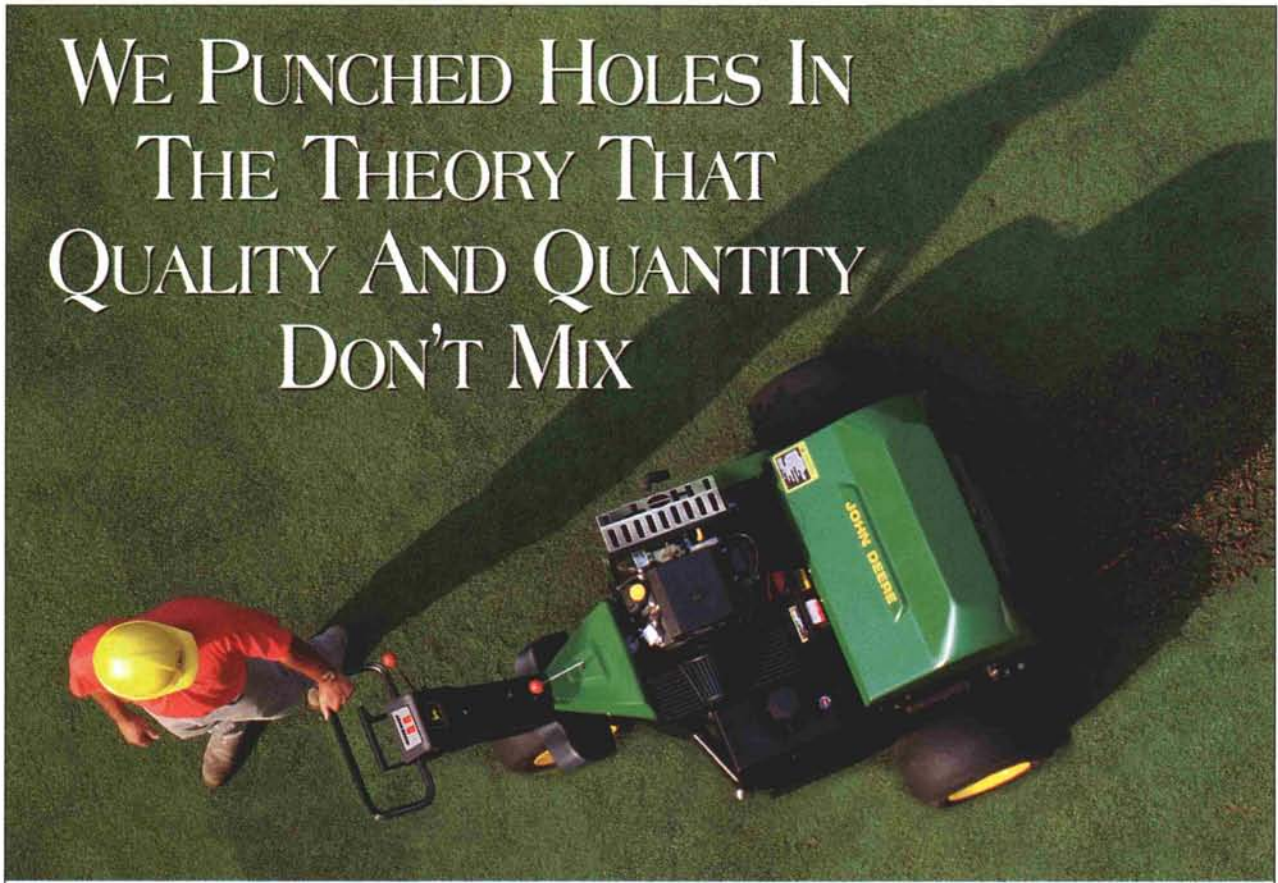
First, the man who got the ball rolling and took care of all the behind-the-scenes boring stuff in order for us to enjoy ourselves while in New Orleans: Andrew Jackson, winner of the Battle of New Orleans (with a little assistance from Jean Lafitte).

As far as the hospitality suite is concerned, **Brian Bossert**, CGCS of Bryn Mawr Country Club deserves our highest praise for arranging the excellent venue, food, beverage and service (including the now-famous Penny Nichols—the server whose parents had a wry sense of humor). Brian did not even get to enjoy the results of his efforts due to his impending fatherhood (see below), but **Luke Strojny** of Poplar Creek Country Club, **Kevin DeRoo** of Bartlett Hills Golf Club and **Paul Yerkes** of Lesco assisted with the onsite details to ensure we had the absolute best of everything. Double-kudos to Paul for arranging the green contributor-recognition ribbons worn by our many sponsors—they were a great idea.

(continued on page 40)



# WE PUNCHED HOLES IN THE THEORY THAT QUALITY AND QUANTITY DON'T MIX



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Triple-kudos to Paul for the livery service he provided several MAGCS members who may have overshipped the GCSAA merchandise booth.

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Paul Voykin (Briarwood C.C.) gives a stirring and humorous tribute to his old friend Mike.



Distinguished gentleman Mike Bavier flanked by his family, with wife Mary (L), daughter Holly and son Mike Jr. (Ivanhoe C.C.).

Mike Bavier of Inverness Country Club accepted his GCSAA Distinguished Service Award, and a nice party was held in his honor in the MAGCS hospitality suite on Thursday, February 17. Paul Voykin of Briarwood Country Club gave an eloquent talk about his friend, which segued into the cake-cutting ceremony. Mike's family was at his side (including Mike Bavier, Jr. of Ivanhoe Country Club) for the great evening.



Not to be left out of the action, Chris Johnson of Illinois Lawn

Equipment, Inc. got to show off the fruits of his labor—the Textron Two Million Dollar Club award. Congratulations to Chris and everyone at Illinois Lawn on this fine achievement.

Other MAGCS members enjoying the Hospitality Suite . . .



Taking the term "group photo" to the next level are Catherine and Dan Anderson (Fox Valley Golf Club) and Steve Vincent of Lesco.



L to R: Wally Fuchs (Turf Products Ltd., retired), Hans Hoppfan (Blackberry Oaks G.C.), Lynn Wesson (Phillips Park G.C.), Jim Latham (USGA agronomist, retired) and Tod Hoppfan (Elgin C.C.).



Brothers Tom and Rick Wilson (Glenview Park District).

Hard to see any resemblance.

As mentioned previously, Brian Bossert was unable to attend the conference this year due to the impending birth of his first child. Although mom Pam and yet-to-appear child were happy to have him home, they decided to wait until February 28 to "do the deal." Congratulations to Brian and Pam Bossert on the birth of their daughter, Bailey Lee.