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the scenes and not at meetings. If you have not done so, support our social/family events. We already purchased additional tickets for the Kane County Cougars outing and have an extra special evening in mind for our 75th anniversary dinner dance. Lastly, our association has a great Web site, complete with a message board. This is an excellent forum for sharing information. To date, the reading is not as spicy as the GCSAA version, but offers very useful info. Log on!

Switching gears, I should speak to the PDI proposal. The position of the Board was to not get too opinionated until the final version was developed. PDI, as it will be presented in Dallas, is less drastic than the original product. GCSAA went to great efforts to research and pitch the product, gather feedback and amend accordingly. I believe they demonstrated, first-class, how an association can strive to represent, as well as it can, the members' wishes. I guess that's of little consolation if you disagree with the whole premise of PDI. At our January meeting, we will present the PDI proposal again, and individuals in attendance will have the opportunity to vote. The MAGCS will not be casting a unanimous vote in either direction unless dictated by those in attendance. Down and dirty, honestly assessing your abilities and educating yourself in areas where you may be lacking, seems like a pretty good idea to me. Count me in.


A few other hot topics are flying around our business lately; namely unionization and management companies. This would sure be a neat forum to fuel the fire. However, after reading our association's purpose a few times (pretty wordy stuff, I might add), I'm not sure where my opinion furthers our association's purpose. Besides,

I really can't speak for what is best for everyone. I know that as far as unionization is concerned, several clubs were petitioned during the last half of the year. I would strongly suggest making use of the off-season to educate yourself on the topic of unionization. We are going to hear plenty more on this matter and a very proactive approach is an option (carefully chosen words).

Moving on, I hope to see more activity within a couple of our committees this year. We are still in the organizational stages, but one committee that may be revamped is the Employment Committee. I served as chairman last year and nearly 40 positions were advertised through MAGCS. I did a poor job following up on whether the jobs were filled and with a larger committee, that will improve. In the case of superintendent openings, we may send a couple members out to meet the course or club officials in charge of hiring. They often lack direction in their search and ultimately, we hope to give qualified members the fairest opportunity to fill these openings. This has worked well within a few other chapters and rumor is, this is something MAGCS did years ago.

I also look for the Public Relations Committee to be busier. We need to strengthen our ties with the media and continue to promote the positive impact of the golf course superintendent. We have heard this before, but the fact remains, a large percentage of the golfing public still doesn't have the foggiest idea what it is we do. Along with Mike Mumper at Park Ridge Country Club, I am participating in a pilot program offered through the GCSAA. It is called the Chapter Leadership Institute and is geared at training superintendents involved at the board level of their respective chapters.

In November, we met for a two-day session in Lawrence, Kansas, and my "project" for the 16-month program will be improving our association's ties with the media. I have asked Oscar Miles to mentor me through this endeavor and will report as we go along. Fred Behnke has served on the Board for several years and is chairing the Public Relations Committee this year.

That is a little bit of what is going on; I look forward to a busy and productive year. With your input, we can strengthen the association in the year ahead. In closing, I can't resist including tidbits that have nothing to do with golf, but something to do with life and keeping things in perspective. On that note, my grandparents celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Thanksgiving. It was a blessing to witness; not something you get to see too often in a lifetime. They have been shining examples of what it means to be a friend, of service to their community and of service to their Lord. I am grateful I got the opportunity to let them know that I felt that way. The beginning of the year always seems to be an appropriate time to take a look at our lives and scout out where we need to make improvements or reprioritize our time. My problem is in making the changes last more than a couple minutes. Don't be too proud to ask for help, and all the best to everyone in the year ahead. See y'all in Dallas! 

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“A cementing of relationships” is how Bob Williams describes the 1st Annual Pro-Greenskeepers Golf Tourney, held September 13, 1948 at Tam O’Shanter G.C. “It marked the first obvious cooperation between the pros and superintendents. It was a physical display of unity between two groups that had, until that time, generally speaking, gone in two different directions. We’ve had excellent relationships since then.”

The above photo comes from Bob, living legend, past president of the MAGCS, CAGCS and the GCSAA, and a revered “elder statesman” of the Chicago golf scene. Pictured here (far left) is Charles Penna, then golf pro at Beverly, who had been assistant to Tommy Armour at Medinah. Next to Charles is Bob himself, then superintendent at Beverly; he was the assistant at Medinah from 1938-40 and went on to Bob ‘O Link from 1959-1980. Next to Bob is Norm Johnson, then superintendent at LaGrange C.C., a past president of the GCSAA who was superintendent at Medinah from 1937-1944. Finally, we

have Jim Foulis, then pro at LaGrange C.C. He was the son of the second U.S. Open champion (1896).

The host of the tourney, Tam O’Shanter, is renowned as the course where entrepreneur George May launched televised golf events with sizeable purses in the early 1950s.

Many thanks to Bob for sharing this photo, and the story behind it, with the MAGCS on the occasion of our chapter’s 75th anniversary year. 

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the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS, Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 8-10 — Midwest Regional Turf Expo (Purdue) in Indianapolis, IN. More below...

January 17-18 — GCSAA's "Managing On The Job Behavior" seminar (1.4 CEUs) in Oak Brook, IL.

January 17-19 — Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show at Navy Pier, Chicago, IL.

January 22 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Poplar Creek Country Club, **Luke Strojny, CGCS** host.

January 23-24 — Golf Industry Hockey Tournament in Ontario, Canada.

February 14-15 — MAGCS Hospitality Suite at Adam's Mark Hotel, 6 to 9 p.m. in Dallas, TX during the GCSAA International Conference and Show.

March 20 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Schaumburg Golf Club, **Nick Hongisto** host.

As mentioned above, the Midwest Regional Turf Expo will take place January 8-10 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. MAGCS's own **Dudley Smith** will be honored as the recipient of the 2001 Distinguished Service Award. The MRTF will be hosting a luncheon on Wednesday, January 10 and provide recognition for

Dudley's accomplishments and contribution to the MRTF. For more information, contact Beverly Bratton at the MRTF office at 765-494-8038.

Congratulations, Dudley—there can not be a more deserving recipient for this honor!

Also mentioned above is the January monthly meeting at "Not Arrowhead" Golf Club (now known as Poplar Creek Country Club in Hoffman Estates). This meeting's education session will be a presentation by **Tim Kelly** of the FINALIZED version of GCSAA's Professional Development Initiative (PDI). At this meeting, all MAGCS voting members will cast their ballots to determine how we as an association vote at the conference and show in Dallas next month. You can refer back to last month's Director's Column by **Fred Behnke** to review the procedure we will employ. Everyone who wishes to have a say in how we vote as an association should attend this meeting!

The North Central Turfgrass Exposition (NCTE), held last month in St. Charles, was another success. Of special note was the great diversity and quality of educational presentations offered. Many of our MAGCS members participated in these sessions, including **Tim Davis** of Shoreacres, **Dave Ward, CGCS** of Olympia Fields Country Club, **Dr. Randy Kane** of CDGA, and all the good doctors from the University of Illinois and

Southern Illinois University (including our pal **Luke Cella, Drs. Tom Voigt, Andy Hamblin, Tom Fermanian, Hank Wilkinson and Bruce Branham**). One of the highlights of the event was the ITF Awards Luncheon, where all those big checks get donated for turfgrass research and scholarships. **Dale Habenicht**, founder of H & E Sod, was this year's recipient of the ITF Distinguished Service Award, which was presented by his son, **Darin Habenicht**, in a touching testimonial. Congratulations to all scholarship winners, to Dale Habenicht and to Jack Lagerhausen and the folks at ITF for another fine event.

This item was passed along to me by an unnamed superintendent, who points out that if one's crew decides to string yellow rope through the woods at a height of, say, five feet, with slip knots in it so as to snare a large, say, ten-point buck if it were to stumble into it causing it to become hopelessly entangled by its rack, for the purpose of enjoying a hearty venison holiday meal, one's crew should advise him of said plan, so that one does not take a pole saw and cut the deer loose thinking it has become entangled by accident. This can make one's crew VERY upset.

If, in the same week, one's crew surrounds a yearling doe against the maintenance building wall with visions of another holiday venison meal (albeit smaller portions) and the doe in question becomes imaginative and jumps through the window into the lunchroom (albeit prematurely, as she is still breathing and contains all her vital organs), then proceeds to kick the lunchroom into a pile of shattered drywall before continuing on to the bathroom, producing the same result before finding a door

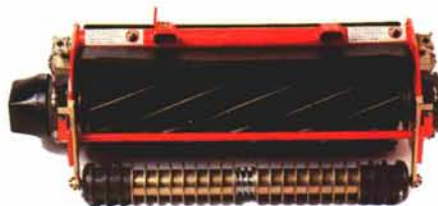
(continued on page 28)

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to make her exit, one's crew would find that this would make the boss VERY upset.

.....
An update from past editor **Fred Opperman** up in Big Sky Country arrived recently. Having just received his 35-year pin from GCSAA, Fred remarks, "My, how time flies." He adds, "You know, I was one of the first 40 [superintendents] in the country to be certified and the first president of the MAGCS to be certified. A bunch of those first 40 were grandfathered in. I think **Oscar [Miles]** was the only other one from the MAGCS who also took the test at that time [when I did]. The year was 1972."

Fred has been up to his usual easy retirement life, which includes landscaping his house (with the assistance of a Penn State grad—is there anything they can't do?); working one-two days a week for Habitat for Humanity on four homes currently under construction; fly-fishing once or twice a week with the gear MAGCS gave him at his retirement party; hiking on Tuesdays with a group of retired guys into the high meadows (where, he notes, in July you can't take a step without stepping on a flower); and some light travel, including a visit to his son Todd at a large fire camp in Salmon, Idaho where he managed a helicopter on the Clear Cut fire (about 400,000+ acres of fire running between Idaho and Montana). Fred's home was spared from the wildfires, but his usually-stunning mountain vistas were blanketed by smoke from the more than 1 million acres of fire. But wait—there's more . . . Fred and his wife Judy also visited New Zealand in October, where they drove more than 3,600 miles venturing about the beautiful countryside before spending Thanksgiving in the

Grand Canyon at their son and daughter-in-law's home. Ah, the life of retirement sounds boring, doesn't it? You can keep in touch with Fred at opperman@avicom.net.

.....
Heartfelt condolences go out from MAGCS to the family of one of our members who recently passed away. **Don Strode** of Don's Sharpening Centre in Batavia died of pancreatic cancer late last year, leaving daughter Brenda to run the business. Don was a good neighbor to all of us in the Fox Valley, and a truly nice man—he'll be missed.

.....
Just when you thought it was over comes another report of an Asian long-horned beetle infestation in our midst. A grove of 22 scrub trees adjacent to O'Hare Airport was discovered to be infested, and was destroyed in December, bringing the total number of trees removed in the Chicago area to 1,370. If only these critters were trainable . . .

.....
Congratulations to president of Autumn Tree Care, **Matthew Dziedzic**, on his elevation to presidency of the Illinois Arborist Association for 2001. Autumn Tree Care also recently promoted Dan Klindera to the position of vice president, where he will focus on organization and structure.

.....
Fernando Fernandez, Sr., CGCS weighs in with an announcement that bilingual classes in Pesticide Operator, Pesticide Applicator and Turf Management will begin the week of January 22 in the North Shore area. Pesticide Operator and Pesticide Applicator courses comprise 30 hours of training; the Turf Management class is 48 hours of training. For information on cost, location, dates and times, please contact

Fernando at 847-705-5738 or 847-204-6225 (mobile); fax at 847-705-8574; or e-mail at Elpayo@msn.com

.....
For sale: 1994 Ty-Crop TD400 4-cu.yd. Topdresser in excellent condition. Asking \$7,000 OBO. Contact Darin Habenicht (not Hoffman as was previously printed—sorry) at H & E Sod at 815-472-2364.

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Since 1995, Luke has served on the Board of Directors of MAGCS, serving as chairman of the Membership, Golf, Arrangements, Scholarship and Employment Committees; and carrying out the duties of secretary/treasurer in 2000. Currently, Luke is the vice president of MAGCS, and is eager to lead our association in 2002. His work ethic is apparent in the manner in which he has tackled both his job and his association responsibilities.

Luke could not have achieved his current status if not for the support of his family. His wife, Debbie, son Kyle (9), and daughter Julia (4) are his inspiration, and his time away from work is spent doting on them. Luke

enjoys coaching his son in Little League, and participating in their soccer and hockey leagues as well.

The January meeting is extremely important to the future of our industry, as our association will decide how we will vote on GCSAA's Professional Development Initiative in February in Dallas. Luke and the entire Board of MAGCS hope to see a big turnout on the 22nd. Remember Florida—our vote DOES count!



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All those opposed to dressing up for a night out, enjoying the company of your significant other, commiserating with associates and friends, laughing until your cheeks hurt, spoiling yourselves to exquisite dining, listening to the soulful music of a live band and dancing the night away should by all means stay away from any MAGCS dinner dance. Those who agree to partake in such activities do so with enthusiastic exuberance and never any regrets. Well, not until the next morning anyway.

This year's event, hosted by Kevin and Cheryl DeRoo at Bartlett Hills Golf Course on Saturday, December 9, was thoroughly enjoyed by 27-1/2 couples who attended (Dave Braasch, you have "some 'splaining to do"). One of the highlights of the evening was the magic trick performed by Paul and Tiffany Yerkes. Their vanishing act was one that even David Copperfield would be proud of. Rumor has it they were last spotted going south on Route 355, at an accelerated rate of speed.

A sincere special thanks goes to Dave and Debbie Nadler of Nadler Golf Car Sales for once again partially sponsoring this event, to Gene Thompson and The Grand Canyon band for jamming some outstanding tunes all night long, to all who made time out of their busy schedules to attend and to the entire staff at Bartlett Hills Golf Course for doing a fantastic job—the food, service and circuses was absolutely tremendous. 10s across the board.

Hope to see you all (and more) again next year! 



Party hosts Kevin and Cheryl DeRoo.