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News from the north: **Steve Cook, CGCS**, of Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Hills, MI has an extra year to prepare for the Ryder Cup. The matches were scheduled to take place in 2003, but due to the events of September 11, 2001, a shift in plans postponed the 2001 event until 2002. Steve does not have actual dates yet, but expects it will take place between mid-September and early October of 2004. Good luck with all the renovations, Steve.

SHOP-CLEANING

TIME AGAIN . . .

Three sets of groomers for LF-100 and -128 heads for sale, great shape (just the groomers, not the entire cutting units). Call Bob Lively at either 815-385-0635 or 815-355-1285.

Three 1990 Toro GM 1000s and one 1994 GM 1000 for sale—\$1,780 each. Call Jake Vollbeer at 847-381-1963 to get yours today.

One 1992 TerraTopper 1.5-yard topdresser w/ 8-h.p. engine, good condition, for sale. Call Mike Fiore at 847-432-8130.

Two 60-h.p. turbine motors (from a pumping station—great condition and relatively new) for sale. Call Vince Dodge at 630-461-4564.

Five LF-100s, three in decent condition (2,063-2,245 hours) and two good only for parts. GK IV, Turfcut and six E-Z Go gas golf carts for parts only. Make an offer to Tom Tully at 847-343-4022 before he resorts to junking these items.

For sale: 1992 Foley Automatic Bed-knife Grinder in excellent condition, model #3084A, asking \$1,800. Call Paul Voykin at 847-945-3350—buyer also receives a complimentary photo of Paul in which he promises he is NOT flashing anything (i.e., peace sign, middle digit, etc.).

And for the handyman, Brian Bossert has the following equipment for sale: One Jacobsen S-60 tractor with protective cage (range-picker). Finicky, old, but fine for the right operator. Buyer receives the picker at no extra charge. 1989 Giant Vac Cushman-mount blower, needs an engine (so if you are one of the many who have a Giant Vac Cushman-mount blower engine lying around, this is your lucky day!). 1988 Smithco 110-gallon spray tank (also mounts to Cushman), no pump. And finally, two Jacobsen putting green mowers ('88 & '90), run but need tinkering. Make an offer—ANY offer. Call Brian at 847-677-4112.

Mulligans

In our December 2001 issue, we inadvertently misspelled the name of Phil Bersin. *On Course* regrets the error.

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Spreading the Holiday Cheer—Scenes From the Annual West Side Party

On Monday, December 10, the Annual West Side Holiday Party took place at Dave & Busters (and snow did not cause the event to be postponed TWICE as was the case last year). This year saw an apparently record-breaking crowd in attendance, all of whom enjoyed their day. Though this fledgling gathering does not compare in scope or scale to the notorious South Side Party nor "Adolphs Party" up north, it DOES have potential. As with all of our Association's various holiday gatherings, the common tie is the people who attend—folks from all facets of our business getting together to share holiday wishes with one another. This is what makes the holidays, as well as the members of the Midwest, special.



John Turner of Bayer fiddles with his joystick while Luke Cella (Tamarack G.C.—back left), Joel Purpur, CGCS (River Forest C.C.—back right) and Brian Baker (Simplot Partners—front right) gaze in astonishment.



Garry Anderson of Arthur Clesen and Joe Reents of Oak Meadows G.C. share a cozy moment.



Dr. Kane explains the genetic-engineering technology involved in the production of dollar spot-resistant bentgrasses to a captivated Holly Gilmour of J.W. Turf.



Harry Lovero of Orchard Valley G.C., Scott Adams of Reinder's and Jim Shone of Syngenta make nice for the camera.

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SUPER ASIDES

The fall season offers us the opportunity to pursue interests aside from golf, which is nice. When golf course superintendents and industry sales reps need to blow off some steam after a long season of killing grass and selling products that don't stop us from killing grass, they can sometimes be found out in a field or on a lake killing something else. Here are a few of our members displaying their Cro-Magnon tendencies toward hunting and gathering . . .



Rich Schau of Lesco, Inc., shows off his 36" muskie, which was caught in a lake in a state in more-than-a-few-but-less-than-several feet of water with something attached to the line to catch it. True fishermen are very coy about divulging information. Rich's guests, Bob Kohlstedt of Fox Bend G.C. and Dave Braasch of Hughes Creek G.C., sadly netted only a couple dozen "bottle bass."



Scott Speiden (Itasca C.C.), Jordan the Wonder-Retriever, Charlie Brugler (Bojo Turf Supply), Mike Mumper (Park Ridge C.C.), and Grace the City Dog Who Can't Hunt a Lick with their fine tally of pheasants from a recent hunt.



Jason Dempsay of Snodeen, Inc., gives new meaning to the phrase "carry-all," toting the 12-point, 225-lb. field-dressed buck that he bagged (in this case, boxed) off hole #5 of a local golf course. The deer received a net score of 161-7/8 (I presume for style points demonstrated while responding to the arrow).



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BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

At the November 14, 2001, meeting, the MAGCS Board of Directors:

- Announced the formation of an ad hoc committee to investigate and facilitate the transfer of certain MAGCS operations to Midwest Golf House. This year's officers
- (Luke Strojny, Kevin DeRoo, Fred Behnke) and past presidents Brian Bossert and Don Ferreri will sit on the committee.
- Voted to donate \$13,000 to the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation. This donation matched 2000's gift.
- Voted to donate \$1,000 to the Evans Scholars Foundation and \$1,000 to the Secret Santa Fund.
- Confirmed deadlines for the 2002 MAGCS Scholarship competition. Entries will be due by March 31, 2002.

Kerry Anderson

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Nostalgia, Reflection Mark 49th Annual

More than 150 members of the MAGCS convened at Medinah C.C. on November 7, 2001, for the 49th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic. Sterling weather by November standards made for a few absentees (toiling at their courses, no doubt), but those in attendance enjoyed an unusual and intriguing program that celebrated the Midwest's 75th anniversary. Part history lesson, part exercise in clairvoyancy, the program afforded the opportunity to reflect on the past, comment on the present and anticipate the future. Featured speakers included Carl Hoppman, Bob Maibusch and Mike Bavier. Panelists Ed Fischer, Pete Leuzinger, Danny Quast and Paul Voykin participated in a roundtable Q & A, while Dr. William Meyer covered the science angle with "Genetic Enhancement of Turfgrass for Golf Courses."



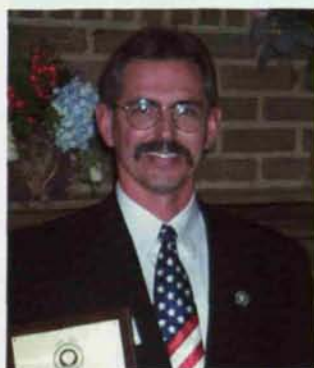
The Lake Park High School choir began the day with a lovely rendition of "America the Beautiful."



Carl Hoppman started the morning session with a "History of the MAGCS."

Keynote speaker Paul Konrad, zany weather forecaster for WGN's morning news, discussed how September 11 has impacted television news and touched upon the art of meteorology. Konrad hung around for the presentation of the 2001 Ray Gerber Editorial Award to Henry Michna of Winnetka G.C.

The day concluded with the election of officers (Luke Strojny – president, Kevin DeRoo – vice-president, Fred Behnke – secretary/treasurer) and new Board members (Luke Cella and Dave Braasch) and the reelection of director Tim Anderson.



Bob Maibusch, CGCS spoke on the "Evolution of Turfgrass Maintenance Equipment."



Ed Fischer, CGCS, Dan Quast, CGCS, Paul Voykin and Peter Leuzinger, CGCS — the "Statesmen of the MAGCS."



Keynote speaker Paul Konrad of WGN News offered his expertise on the weather, local newscasting and how to dress for a speaking engagement.

Midwest Turf Clinic



MAGCS past presidents turned out en masse for the Midwest Turf Clinic during the Association's 75th-anniversary year. Pictured here are, front row, L to R: Albie Staudt, Brian Bossert, John Berarducci, Fred Opperman, Don Ferreri, Dave Meyer. Back row, L to R: Paul Voykin, Pete Leuzinger, Ed Braunsky, Bob Maibusch, Don Cross, Joel Purpur, Ed Fischer, Ted Woehrle, Mike Bavier.



Henry Michna, CGCS receives the Ray Gerber Editorial Award from Fred Opperman.



Dr. Bill Meyer filled us in on "Genetic Enhancement of Turfgrass for Golf Courses."



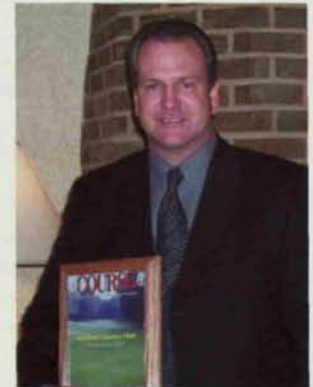
Mike Bavier, CGCS attempted to enter the bar after his talk—"MAGCS—A Vision for the Future"—but was thwarted by two of Medinah's finest bouncers.



Don Ferreri, CGCS accepts the customary "in recognition of your many years of service blah blah blah" gift from outgoing president Brian Bossert, CGCS. To ensure this authentic game-worn Cub jersey was clean, Brian procured it from Todd Hundley.



Brian Bossert, CGCS passes the gavel to incoming president Luke Strojny, CGCS.



First-time host Tom Lively, CGCS with the coveted framed issue of On Course magazine.

Turf Conferences: Professional Opportunity or Waste of Time?

Winter is the time when several educational opportunities arise for superintendents to attend turf conferences and seminars. With so many seminars and meetings to choose from, it is possible to spend a substantial amount of time away from the course. This can prompt managers and course officials to start wondering if the seminars are a legitimate educational opportunity for the superintendent or just a chance to waste the club's time and money for relaxation away from the course.

For some courses with tight budgets, it is difficult for the superintendent to justify the time and expense to attend conferences and seminars. A recent article in the *New Zealand Turf Management Journal* by Richard Odgers offers some great points regarding the importance of attending seminars and helping to justify such attendance to your club management.

Time Off

Some may argue that attending seminars is simply time off. True, it is time off, but for the purpose of professional development to allow superintendents to do a better job. It is so easy to get tunnel vision when looking at the same golf course day after day. A seminar, conference or simply visiting another course down the road provides an opportunity to challenge your current method of operation, pick up new tips and compare notes with other professionals.

Work

Attendance at a seminar is definitely work-related and should not be considered personal time. Skeptical managers or course officials might object that you went to the same conference last year or that the expense of the seminar is just more

money spent on nothing. Odgers related an old story about Albert Einstein, who asked one of his students to hand out the weekly test paper he just finished writing. After the papers were handed out, one of the students spoke up and informed Einstein that the test contained the same questions as last week. "True," replied Einstein, "but this week, the answers are different." The point is that as superintendents, you are faced with many of the same challenges and high expectations, but you are expected to come up with new and innovative answers to solve these problems and produce even better golf course conditions. Attendance at a seminar and collaborating with colleagues can help you come up with some of these answers, and possibly help you learn from someone else's experience or mistake.

Value

The money spent on attending a seminar is a good value to the course and your employer. Many industry professionals, including company representatives, consultants, featured speakers and fellow superintendents, are typically in attendance, providing a great opportunity to ask questions and pick their brains either during the formal presentations or in casual

conversation during the breaks or lunch. Chances are, somebody in the audience has experience with the same problems facing you. It is also important for you to report back to your committee or employer on what you learned at the conference. You may wish to make a short written report outlining the important information gathered at the seminar and how it might impact your staff and golf course maintenance operation. Also, don't forget to thank your employer for the opportunity to attend the conference and seminar and let them know what a valuable experience it was for you and your club.

When conference season is in full swing, it is important to schedule your time to make the most of the available educational opportunities. Information is changing at a rapid pace, and it is important for superintendents to tap into all the available resources at their disposal. Trade journals and the Internet are a good starting point, but these references cannot provide the valuable personal interaction, camaraderie and enthusiasm of attending a conference in person.



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A Tribute to Gary Adams

On June 24, 2001, the McHenry C.C. and Taylor Made/Adidas Golf came together to celebrate the life of Gary Adams.

For those of you that didn't know Gary Adams, you are still probably connected to him in some way, just by the clubs that you carry in your own golf bag. In 1979, by manufacturing and successfully marketing woods made of stainless steel, Adams initiated a transformation in golf equipment that spanned the world of golf. "He was a visionary," said Don Hojnacki, a lifelong friend and golfing partner. "No one was using metal woods, now no one uses wood woods anymore."

Although metal woods have been around since the late 19th century, Adams revised the woods with a perimeter-weighted design, and they became the club of choice for both young and old.

In 1984, Adams was named "Man of the Year" by the National Golf Foundation. He left Taylor Made in 1988 and started the Founders Golf Club Company, featuring more sophisticated metal wood designs, moving more weight to the center of the club face. Soon after, in 1991, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer; he sold the company in 1992.

Though he fought and beat the disease, Adams lost most of his intestines due to the intense radiation treatments. Unable to eat solid food for nearly two years, his weight dropped nearly 60 pounds. Terribly gaunt but continually interested in golf, Adams founded McHenry Metals in 1997, naming his new business after his hometown. In 1999, he developed severe pneumo-



nia, resulting in the removal of his left lung. At the age of 56, on the first Sunday of the new millennium, Gary Adams died in his home.

"He had such a short life and so much to dream about and accomplish," Hojnacki said. "He never tooted his own horn." A lot of people in McHenry had no idea how prominent Gary was in the world of golf, and how very dedicated he was to his hometown.

Taylor Made Golf Company approached Hojnacki (a McHenry C.C. member) with plans for a memorial for Gary Adams a few months after Adams' death. Hojnacki brainstormed with Adams' family and friends, and came up with an idea for a bridge over the creek on McHenry C.C.'s signature no. 8 hole, where Gary learned to play the game. A memorial plaque, to be mounted on one of the bridge's endcaps, will mark a permanent place for Adams in the history of McHenry.

Adams' family members were the first to cross the Memorial Bridge at the dedication ceremony.

"This bridge is symbolic of Gary's pioneering spirit, one that brought technology and the core golfer together," said John Stienbach, marketing and PR director for Taylor Made/Adidas Golf. "And it'll be a reminder for everyone that plays this course that a small-town boy with dreams made a difference in the lives of millions worldwide."

"Gary is an international figure, known all over the world in golf circles," said his father, Vale Adams (former McHenry C.C. golf pro). "He could see things other people couldn't see. He had a terrific understanding of the golf business and could see concepts that few others could understand." 