

Here Birdie,

Photos by Craig Nowack



Blue heron.



Wood duck.

Birdie, Birdie...

Go to your closet and get out your binoculars, bird-watching guide, a cooler filled with your favorite beverages, sunglasses and the most comfortable chair to sit in. It's time for Audubon International's sixth annual North American Birdwatching Open.

*In May 2002,
four area golf
courses participated
in the Birdwatching
Open, collectively
identifying some 100
different species of
birds. Let's increase
the MAGCS partici-
pation rate during
this year's event
on May 10!*

Audubon International is inviting everyone—and that includes golf course superintendents—to participate in the Open on International Migratory Bird Day, this Saturday, May 10. Over the course of 24 hours, participants identify as many different birds as they can on their properties. The data we gather provides useful information about bird species commonly found on different types of properties, in our case, golf courses! Members are encouraged to invite someone experienced in bird identification to help, if needed, to contribute to a more accurate count.

To participate, you may register right online at www.audubonintl.org under "Special Projects" then "Birdwatching Open." You can download rules and information, as well as a bird checklist. If you don't have Internet access, please call Jennifer Batza at 518-767-9051, extension 12, to register. OR—you may contact me (Gary Hearn) and I will take care of that information; either way, I would like to know who among our MAGCS membership has registered. Contact me at 630-773-4790 or via e-mail at Scgaryhgc@aol.com. Feel free to call me if you have any questions about the Open.

Don't forget the checklist and the rules. After the tally, please send your checklist to my attention at fax 630-773-0484. I will act as clearinghouse for channeling MAGCS members' results back to Audubon International, and they prefer to get results as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your participation; enjoy the day and may the sun gods be good to us!



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John Coghill, Sr.: A Name Synonymous with Progress and Perfection

John R. Coghill, the "Squire" of Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park, passed away on February 10, 2003, at the age of 88.

Mr. Coghill grew up at Coghill C.C., a 36-hole daily-fee golf course in Lemont, owned by his father and uncles.

In 1937, he and his father, Bert, purchased Silver Lake, an 18-hole course in Orland Park. A few years later, they acquired Euclid Hills, a private Masonic club adjacent to Silver Lake, and expanded the facility to 36 holes.

Mr. Coghill graduated from the University of Illinois in 1938; and on December 25, 1939, married Grace Dunne. The newlyweds honeymooned at Professor Lawrence Dickinson's winter turf school at Amherst, Massachusetts. They were blessed with three sons: John Jr., Dick and Bert.

Mr. Coghill was a captain in the infantry in World War II, and was wounded in the invasion of Normandy on D-Day, June 1944.

In June 1958, Mr. Coghill invited the USGA to hold their amateur public links championship on his North Course at Silver Lake. Since then, he has hosted the National Left-handers (1968), the Insurance Youth Classic (1978) and a U.S. Open qualifying (1988).

Mr. Coghill was a charter member of the Midwest Turf Foundation at Purdue University. In 1962, with his friends Paul Burdett, Robert Johnson, Ben Warren and Ted Woehrle, he

organized the Illinois Turf Foundation at Champaign-Urbana.

In 1962, he contracted architect Buz Didier to build an executive nine holes called Rolling Hills, expanding the club to 45-hole status. Rolling Hills' were the first greens seeded to Pennecross bent in Chicago.



John Coghill, Sr. (right) celebrating John MacGregor Jr.'s 75th birthday at the Ravisloe C.C. in 1960.

In 1965, when Moraine Valley College was established on the site of the Warren Sod Nursery, Mr. Coghill served as president of the board of trustees until 1971.

In 1977, Silver Lake added racquetball courts to the clubhouse, and actively pursued the banquet business to stay busy during the nongolfing season.

Mr. Coghill was an avid golfer and played at least nine holes early each weekday morning. In the afternoon, he was on the practice tee. Saturday and Sunday mornings would find him in the pro shop greeting customers.

In 1982, John and Grace sold the golf course to their three sons and retired to Jupiter, Florida. There, he relaxed as green chairman of the J.D.M. Country Club in Palm Beach Gardens.

Mr. Coghill liked to read and often my mailbox was cluttered with articles he insisted that I study. He was keenly aware of all turf problems and offered our nurseries for the university test trials. I have collected memos from Mr. Coghill for many years; they are usually highlighted, "Fix this, NOW!" Two words that best describe the man: PROGRESS and PERFECTION.

Mr. Coghill liked a manicured golf course and strived to provide the Augusta National of the North, which included flowering crabapples, gardens and undulating greens. He was firm in his dislikes as well: he abhorred SLOW PLAY, paved cart-paths, and buffer zones and wetlands. "They are just messy areas to collect candy wrappers and beer cans."

Recently, I listed to the Three Irish Tenors sing a ballad, "The Old Man." I will admit I shed a tear. Hundreds of Silver Lake employees respect John R. Coghill. We all miss the "Squire."



Inside On Course

The days are getting longer, as are the hours put in by MAGCS superintendents, assistants and commercial members. Before the crush of the golf season is fully upon us, please consider the following:

- You still have a few months to submit articles eligible for the 2003 Ray Gerber Editorial Award and the 2003 Fred D. Opperman Editorial Award. Superintendent-authored articles published through our August issue are eligible for this year's Gerber; articles authored by assistants and commercial members and published through our August issue will be considered for this year's Opperman. Look for the presentation of both awards during the 51st Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club in November.
- If you don't have the time or inclination to write an article, but you have a great topic in mind, please pass it along to your editor, contributing editor John Gurke, Editorial Committee chair Dave Braasch or a member of the Editorial Committee. We welcome your ideas!
- Remember—most articles appearing in *On Course* have not been subject to peer review. We strive to publish a variety of perspectives and opinions on diverse and timely topics. If you have feedback or comments on an article published in *On Course*, please submit those thoughts to the editor—we'll print your remarks in our Midwest Voices forum.
- As of late March, several premium advertising slots (most notably, our magazine's back cover) remained open. Please contact your editor (847-740-0962 or on_course@hotmail.com) regarding availability. *On Course* expresses its utmost gratitude to those commercial members who have committed their continued advertising support of this magazine even in these tough economic times.

Here's hoping for a better spring season than last year's!

—Cathy Miles Ralston
Editor



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George that there is no more that they can do.

To our membership, I ask only this: let us take a moment out of our busy lives, and after realizing how lucky we really are, and thanking God for that fact, say a little prayer for my good friend George. Give him a call or send him an e-mail; I am sure he would love to hear from you all.

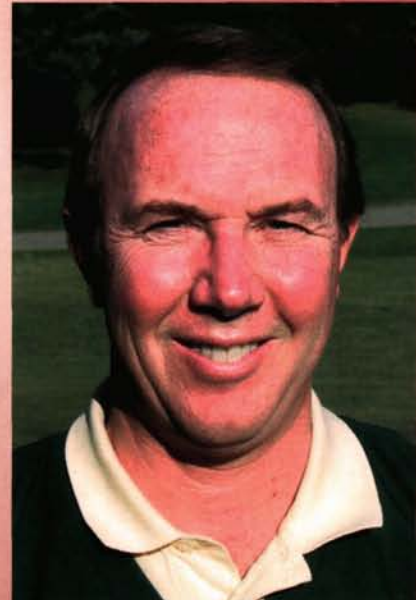
George, since joining our Midwest family, you have witnessed MAGCS almost double in size. Without you, that steady growth would have been impossible. You have brought tireless dedication and unparalleled professionalism to our Association. You have spoiled us with your efficiency and innovation. For this, we are eternally grateful. Personally, your undying spirit has had an everlasting positive impact on me, and that I can never repay.

Thanks for everything, George!



Mulligans

The cover of the February issue of *On Course* recognized Dudley Smith as the worthy recipient of the 2003 GCSAA Distinguished Service Award. A related article noted that prior to Dudley, the last MAGCS member to earn this award was Michael Bavier in 2000. In fact, Bruce Williams, CGCS, of Los Angeles Country Club—past president of the MAGCS and GCSAA—received this distinct honor in 2002. *On Course* apologizes for the error and assures Bruce that although he lives and works outside of the Midwest, the Midwest is always and forever proud and privileged to claim him as one of our own.



Bruce Williams, CGCS.



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MAGCS Members Chamberlin, Dinelli Win 2002 Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards

The GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Award (ELGA) recognizes the environmental stewardship efforts of the golf course superintendent at an individual facility. Syngenta Professional Products and Rain Bird Corp., Golf Division are the presenting sponsors of the award.

In 2002, winners were named in two national categories (public and private golf courses) and one international category, with an overall winner being selected. Additional recognition was given to the top entry for each GCSAA affiliated chapter, and merit honors were awarded to those who did not earn national or chapter honors, but in the opinion of the judges, deserved special recognition.

Midwest members Russ E. Chamberlin, Countryside Golf Club, Mundelein, IL, and Dan Dinelli, CGCS, North Shore Country Club, Glenview, IL were among 17 chapter winners selected from among

GCSAA's 102 affiliated chapters. Chamberlin earned the 2002 ELGA for facilities in the public sector, Dinelli for facilities in the private sector.

This year's national winners include (course and chapter):

- National Public: Patrick Blum, Colonial Acres Golf Course, Glenmont, NY, Northeastern Golf Course Superintendents Association.
- National Private: Scott Whorral, The Club at Mediterra, Bonita Springs, FL, Everglades Golf Course Superintendents Association.

- International: Pablo Cornejo Robinson, Las Brisas De Chicureo Golf Club, Santiago, Chile.

Golf course superintendents and their courses that were named national, chapter or merit winners were formally recognized February 13 during the Golf General Session at GCSAA's 74th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Atlanta, GA.

"I applaud the commitment to environmental stewardship displayed by these golf course superintendents and their facilities," said GCSAA president Michael Wallace, CGCS. "We in the golf course management industry know of the great strides that have been made as a result of research and education. It is a great source of pride that the industry is now being recognized by those in the environmental community, as a model for its concerted and collaborative efforts in this area."

"Since 1995, the editors of *Golf Digest*, with the help of a balanced panel of judges, have identified courses, individuals and municipalities that are breaking new ground in environmental leadership," said Roger Schiffman, *Golf Digest* managing editor. "Golf can have a positive effect on a community and we are pleased to join GCSAA in communicating how that happens on the course."

An independent panel of judges equally representing national environmental groups, turfgrass experts, university researchers and members of the golf community conducted the award selection.



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The MAGCS Board of Directors met at Bartlett Hills Golf Course on Tuesday, March 4. The following are highlights from that meeting. Full meeting minutes, once approved, appear on the MAGCS Web site (www.magcs.org).

- President Kevin DeRoo reported the GCSAA Board of Directors election results. Although Bob Maibusch did not get elected as our national secretary/treasurer, the vote was close and Bob did get elected for another term on the BOD.
- On a very sad note: Kevin had a meeting with our executive secretary, George Minnis, only to realize that George's health is impeding him in being able to carry out his duties as our executive secretary. Steps are being taken to immediately reduce George's workload. Luke Strojny motioned and Gary Hearn seconded the naming of one of the MAGCS scholarships for George Minnis in recognition of his exemplary, longstanding contributions to the growth and professionalism of this Association. The motion passed.
- Thank-you letters were received from Sue Braunsky for the flowers, Horizon House for the \$100 donation, and the ITF for the MAGCS donation given at the NCTE.
- Kevin received a resignation letter from Dave Armentrout concerning his duties as commercial advisory representative. Sylvia Lima gladly accepted the appointment by Kevin to fulfill the vacancy left by Dave. Kevin also welcomed our new Class C advisor, Erwin McKone.
- Cathy Miles Ralston, *On Course* editor, reported that revenues are up and expenses are lower than last year through the end of February; she asked that members please keep sending in articles and other news.
- The hospitality suite once again was a huge success, as evidenced by the large participation and by the record number of sponsorships. Thank you, vendors, for your continued support. The Commercial Advisory Committee will fine-tune this event to ensure future success.
- Fred Behnke confirmed that he would be attending the GCSAA Affiliate Chapter Workshop in March in Lawrence, Kansas. During the Mid-Am, Fred also attended a meeting with other allies of the green industry, and expects many good things to become of our efforts within the green industry.
- Phil Zeinert reported that the affiliation agreement with the GCSAA in nearly complete.
- Guest Larry Tomaszewski, AXA Advisors LLC, reported on the performance of the Midwest's long-term investments. Although these investments have declined with the decline of the equity markets, the decline was less than that of the benchmark indices with which our investments are com-

pared. Larry also suggested some slight changes to the portfolio so we stand to gain the most during an upcoming market upturn. Scott Speiden motioned and Fred Behnke seconded that we follow the reallocations recommended by Larry, subject to a follow-up review in six months. The motion passed.

- Gary Hearn reported approval of the following new members:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Bill Ahlstedt | |
| Chevy Chase C.C. | Class C |
| Tim Schnepf | |
| Golf Creations | Class E |
| Daniel Eden | |
| Whisper Creek G.C. | Class C |
| Stephen Daurer | |
| The Glen Club | Class C |
| Chuck Odierno | |
| Prime Turf | Class E |
| G. Peter Pieponis | |
| Old Oak C.C. | Class A |
| Philip Anello | |
| Atlas Bobcat, Inc. | Class E |
| Todd Vermillion | |
| Northmoor C. C. | Class C |
| Kristen Rosonke | |
| E Z Go Textron | Class E |



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The following are my further observations and review of some of the traits and philosophies observed in today's successful golf course superintendents. (Part two of a three-part series)

- **Play the game:** Love the game of golf and learn to play reasonably well, at least better than average.
- **Employee relations:** Treat your employees as "family." Be considerate and responsive.
- **Your main mission:** Objective #1—make your superiors "look good" be they chairmen, committees and boards of directors and/or owners.
- **Cooperation:** Be cooperative and in harmony with other department heads and sales representatives, etc.
- **Friendships:** Choose your friendships with care. Your reputation is usually a reflection.
- **Success:** As a result of attaining various degrees of success, you will be raising your head "above the crowd" so to speak and you can expect people to "throw rocks" at you.
- **Sobriety and gambling:** Has been observed to be a stumbling block for a minimal few over the years.
- **Innovation:** Superintendents with innovative imagination usually develop one or more new ideas to improve our profession during their careers.
- **Planning:** Plan the work—work the plan. "Nuff said." Daily, weekly, monthly, yearly and long-range.



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