

I had convinced myself that if need be the course could make it through the night without any water. Finally, at 6:30 p.m., the UPS guy arrived with my VFD drive. I called Chris to let him know the package had arrived. He told me it would take him 30 minutes to get there and then a couple hours to be up and running again, if I needed to water that night. At this point I was exhausted from all that was going on with this whole situation, but through my afternoon travels around the course things looked okay. So I made the decision to have him come first thing in the morning to do the install, convinced the course would be fine without water for another evening.

The next day, Chris was there first thing in the morning and amazingly everything went quite smoothly. By 10 a.m., Chris had everything up and running and back to normal. I spent the rest of the morning turning heads on here and there just because I could again. The only concern I had

was the approaching 90° weather. But after the whole ordeal I had just gone through, I had a boost in my confidence to handle anything that would come my way.

What a great experience for me to prove my abilities, interact with members and learn what it is a superintendent must do everyday. It was experience and training I could not learn in school or on the job with the superintendent there. I am sure it took a lot of courage on my superintendent's part to leave the assistant in charge for a week in the middle of summer, but it was the greatest compliment I could receive in regard to my ability to do the job and make the difficult decisions. Hearing from the boss that he would not have handled it any differently and that he was not worried when he was gone really made me feel good. This is truly a win-win scenario for both the superintendent and the assistant.



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# Danville Area Community College Initiates One-Year Certificate Program For Golf Course Mechanics



*Ask a superintendent, "Who is your most valuable employee?" and he or she might very well answer, "My mechanic." Most of us have been assistants at one time or another, but are a little further removed from the days of grinding reels and adjusting carburetors. If we can help it, very few of us want to get back under a mower and if you don't have a qualified equipment technician running the shop, the task of maintaining a high-quality facility is nearly impossible. Additionally, there is a well-documented shortage of qualified technicians available (supported by the routine allegations of "mechanic stealing"). However, the tide could be turning due in part to a new training program at downstate Danville Area Community College (DACC).*

*... this program  
is going to graduate  
some excellent  
technicians and  
help raise the  
professional bar  
of the industry.*

The one-year certificate program will graduate its second crop this summer. In an ongoing effort to market the program and as an alumni of beloved DACC, I would like to let you know a bit more about the program. Perhaps you have an employee who could use the formal training or you yourself regularly speak at career days. There so seems to be a general lack of career awareness, so please keep the DACC program in mind if you ever get the chance to talk to high school students!

DACC, of course, has a well-established golf course management program. In fact, the faculty was encouraged to start this new training program at the beckoning of superintendents, many alumni of DACC. These same superintendents assisted the faculty in shaping the program—a real plus. Larry Korte, an instructor at DACC since 1971, teaches the majority of the courses. Mr. Korte has an extensive farming background and has taught auto mechanic, electrical and computer-related classes over the years. The one-year certificate program includes classroom work from August-March and concludes with an internship in April-July.

*(continued on page 24)*



Regarding the curriculum, it features 33 credit hours of classroom work; a full plate for any student in one year. Specifically, it breaks out like this:

**FALL SEMESTER**

- Preventative Maintenance & Safety
- Small Gas & Diesel Engines
- Turf Electrical Applications
- Reel Grinding & Adjustment
- Business Computer Systems
- Turfgrass Culture

**SPRING SEMESTER**

- Golf Cart Maintenance
- Turf Hydraulic Applications
- Turf Equipment Analysis
- Turf Spray Equipment
- Gas/Electric Welding
- Turf Equipment Internship

As you can see, all students are required to take a turfgrass class, a real must and a critical learning area that many technicians fail to grasp. Mr. Korte and current turfgrass instructor Chuck Schroeder are available to answer any questions that you



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might have about the program. They can be reached at 217-443-8573, are always on hand at the NCTE and have been at the international GCSAA conference for the past several years as well. They've done a great job launching this program and industry veterans like Mark Johnson helped secure a great deal of used equipment for the students to work on.

In closing, I'm sure this program is going to graduate some excellent technicians and help raise the professional bar of the industry. Danville offers a unique hands-on experience, small classes and fully-equipped labs. I believe the internship is critical; the graduates will have classroom training **and** experience. What they could really use now are a few more students!



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# the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS  
Contributing Editor

## DATES TO REMEMBER

May 4 — J.W. Turf's Golf and Turf Equipment Auction in Hampshire, Illinois.

May 10 — Sixth Annual North American Birdwatching Open on International Migratory Bird Day. Details can be found in **Gary Hearn's** article on page 31 of last month's issue.

May 12 — The Application Institute at Prairie Landing Golf Club, **Tony Kalina** host. More information below.

May 20 — MAGCS/ITF Combined Golf Day at Odyssey Golf Club, **Ray Schei** and **Sam Lehrfeld** hosts.

June 2-8 — LaSalle Bank Open at The Glen Club in Glenview, Illinois, **Tom Prichard** host.

June 16 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Prestwick Country Club, **Tim Anderson**, CGCS host.

June 30 — 3rd Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing at Whisper Creek Golf Club in Huntley, Illinois, **Jim Wyffels** host. More info on this event can be found if you keep reading . . .

What is the Application Institute, and why should I be interested? I knew you'd ask, so here's the scoop: The Application Institute is a hands-on approach to spray application strategies being held at Prairie Landing Golf Club on May 12. Spray technicians will learn valuable and practical knowledge on the intricacies of pesticide application technology, including calibration, formulation technology, equipment

review and chemical/fertilizer management. Dr. Bob Wolf of Kansas State University will be the keynote speaker, and the day promises to be very beneficial to all spray techs. Sponsors for the event are Syngenta, J.W. Turf, Simplot Partners and Spraying Systems. Cost for the day is \$35; info can be obtained by calling **Jim Shone** at 708-217-8509.

Also noted in Dates to Remember is the 3rd Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing on June 30 at Whisper Creek Golf Club. As you may or may not know, all proceeds from this event go to two very worthy causes—the Farm Bureau for upcoming farmers' scholarship and the MAGCS Scholarship fund. This event is a humdinger, starting out with registration, bag drop and practice facility use from noon to 1:30; a shotgun start at 1:30; a pig roast with all the fixins at 6:00; and an open bar after golf. There will also be—as usual—tee gifts and prizes. This is a great day of golf at a primo facility, it is dedicated to a great man who has given so much to our industry, and it supports the most important of causes—our children. Call your J.W. Turf rep for more details.

The Reinders 16th Turf & Irrigation Conference was held at the Waukesha Expo Center on March 12-13, and offered a wide range of educational and networking opportunities to those in attendance. Included among the guest speakers were Pat Jones of *Golfdom* magazine, Dr. Joe Vargas of Michigan State University, Dr. Jerry Pepin and Dr. John Stier of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As is the custom for this event, homemade donuts were served daily, along with a buffet lunch followed by a social hour in the evening complete with door prizes, refreshments and plenty of time to visit with fellow green industry professionals. Jim Hicks, golf course superintendent at Westmoor

C.C. in Brookfield, Wisconsin, was the lucky winner of a limited edition Reinders/Green Bay Packers scooter (where do I sign up for one of those?). If you have not had the chance to attend this event, make your plans now to be at the 17th rendition in March 2005 (it's a biannual).



MAGCS thanks our sponsors for the April 21st monthly meeting at Fox Bend Golf Course (**Bob Kohlstedt** host). They are Palatine Oil, Inc., Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc., Turf Professionals Equipment Company, Master of the Links, and Feltes Sand and Gravel Company. Without the generous sponsorship from these folks, our monthly meetings would not be possible.

Congratulations to Jodie and **Dan Sterr** (Stonebridge C.C.) on the birth of their daughter Delaney Danielle on St. Patrick's Day (March 17). Delaney weighed in at 8 lb., 2 oz., and 19-3/4" tall or long or whatever the proper wording for baby dimensions is. Note to Dan: Even if you give up hunting, keep the shotgun—dating starts in about 15 years, and it may come in handy scaring off the "undesirables."



Mom Jodie and daughter Delaney Sterr bonding.

Another "Miles-stone": Great news from the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame—our very own **Oscar Miles**, CGCS of Merit Club has been chosen as only the third golf course superintendent ever to be inducted into its elite group. Oscar joins

(continued on page 28)



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fellow superintendents Bob Williams and Ray Gerber in this prestigious "who's who" list of famous names in Illinois golf. Congratulations on this great honor, Oscar—we look forward to the ceremony in October.



Oscar Miles.

Another chance to check out the Midwest Golf House was made available to MAGCS members at the March 11th monthly meeting, along with the opportunity to find out what type of personality you are. Liz Pollack of Safe Choices gave an enlightening presentation on "Building and Maintaining an Effective Team" to a full house of attendees who perhaps learned more than they wanted about their personalities. A highlight of the day was taking the

Keirsey Temperament Sorter—a test that helps determine the types of personalities people working together possess, and how they may interact. Lee Miller and Dr. Randy Kane grabbed some podium time to discuss the Interactive Turf program, and the numerous research projects they are undertaking on the three-hole golf course situated on the grounds of Golf House. MAGCS thanks the people at Golf House for the great venue for this meeting, as well as **Ken Lapp** and the folks at Cog Hill Country Club for our lunch and meeting accommodations.



Speaker Liz Pollack.



Golf House's auditorium proved to be a user-friendly site.

A cool thing came in the mail today—ITF sent out its new pocket-sized *Cool-Season Turfgrass Disease Identification* booklet, along with information on how to order additional copies (both in English and Spanish). Now you can give one to each of your crew members and let them do the scouting for you!

Finally, MAGCS commercial member Prime Turf has named Dan Glitto to the position of vice president for sales and business development. Dan, formerly with U.S. Filter, brings 24 years of experience to his new position, including a background in water chemistry, specialty chemicals and chemical feed equipment. A warm MAGCS welcome to Dan!



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