

Midwest Breezes



Making Greens Aerification Less Disruptive, More Effective at Rockford Country Club

Like many superintendents, Al Pondel of Rockford Country Club has been looking for a way to make aerification of greens a less disruptive experience for his members. Al now believes he has a plan in place to accomplish this. His plan involves a change in how he aerates and the equipment that he utilizes.

The first part of Al's plan was to change his thinking on how he aerates. Since coming to Rockford Country Club in 2000, he had been aerifying the greens once per year in the fall with half-inch hollow tines. This practice compromised playing conditions for several weeks during a time where we traditionally see some of our best golfing weather. Furthermore, aerifying once per year was not significantly reducing the high organic-matter content of the greens, which Al is working to correct. Aerifying twice per year had been recommended but was tough to institute. Al thought that if he went to three to four aerifications per year, but with quarter-inch hollow side-eject quadritines, he could get the same agronomic benefits in a much less invasive way. Al quadritined the greens in May and early July of this year and will quadritine again in September and October. Results thus far have been positive. All quadritine aerification is completed on Mondays and by that first weekend, the holes are only slightly visible and cause minimal disruption to play. By the second weekend, the holes are completely healed.

The second part of the plan was to update the aerification equipment. Al's most important criterion in

selecting the new aerifier was the quality of the holes being produced, followed by productivity and reliability. After testing several different aerifiers, Al found that all of the units produced quality holes. As for productivity, the Toro ProCore 648 claimed to cover up to 26,000 square feet per hour. Though the ProCore 648 was easy to maneuver and appeared to be well-built, it was new to the market and its track record was yet to be determined. Anxious to learn more, Al spoke with Toro engineers at the 2004 GCSAA show in San Diego specifically about the quadritine option, which was not available at the time he had demo'ed the unit. After Toro engineers assured him of its quality and productivity, Al decided to purchase a ProCore 648. This was a difficult decision for Al because he does not like to purchase newly developed equipment in its first year on the market. Happily, the ProCore 648 has met Al's expectations so far. In fact, he reports that he starts aerifying at 5:30 a.m. and can have all 127,000 square feet of greens completed by 3:00 p.m. User-friendliness is another strong suit of the ProCore 648. Al notes that changing from quadritines to regular tines can be done in about an hour. Also, the tine spacing and depth can be varied. Backing into tight areas is made easier with a convenient reverse handle at the operator's fingertips. Finally, the wheel base of this unit is inside the aerification pattern, which prevents the plugs from being compacted.

—*Brian Mores*
Inverness Golf Club

Controlling Dollar Spot at Stonebridge Country Club

Dollar spot in fairways has become one of the hardest pests to control in golf turf. Many Chicago-area superintendents have been experimenting with the Houston Couch concept of applying a tank mixture of two fungicides. The synergism that can be achieved with tank mixing allows for the reduction of rates for each fungicide respectively.

During the 2004 season, Dan Sterr has had success with the control of dollar spot by applying a mix of Propiconazole and Vinclozolin to fairways on two-week intervals. Dan reports that he has had success

with rates as low as 0.25 oz. of Propiconazole and 0.5 oz. of Vinclozolin.

In the early part of the season, Dan had success with 0.25 oz. of Propiconazole and 1.0 oz. rate of Chlorothalonil, though he is not convinced that this particular mix would hold up during periods of high disease pressure.

—*Brad Anderson*
Midlane Country Club

(continued on page 23)

Ruth Lake Country Club Undertaking a \$4 Million Facelift



Before.

After nearly three years of planning, on August 2nd Ruth Lake Country Club closed its doors to golfers and began major renovation. Throughout those three years, superintendent Dan Marco, CGCS worked tirelessly to give the membership all the information they needed to cast the deciding go-ahead votes. Dan, along with architect Arthur Hills and the firm of Discovery Management, put together a very powerful multimedia presentation that included hole-by-hole flyovers and professional commentary noting the proposed changes to the existing 6,400-yard layout.

Ruth Lake hired Landscapes Unlimited, LLC of Lincoln, Nebraska as its contractor. Together, they will be building eight new green complexes while gassing and regrassing 10 more. The greens and collars will all be seeded with A-1 creeping bentgrass. The course will also go through serious routing changes as hole number two will be changed from a par 4 to a par 5 and hole number three from a par 4 to a very challenging 230-yard par 3. A number of other changes will result in the addition of 300 yards to the championship tees. Dan chose L-93 for his new fairways and approaches.

The club will also be completely renovating their existing bunkers. Dan chose the "Tour Grade Signature Bunker Sand" coming from Best Sands in Ohio. Also in the works is a completely new practice facility with a T-1 bentgrass tee, low-mow bluegrass fairway and bentgrass target greens, complete with a mist irrigation system. The mist irrigation system will allow members to practice and Dan to irrigate.

The project doesn't end there; Liebold Irrigation has been contracted to do the \$250,000 worth of irrigation work. The new irrigation will afford the opportunity to irrigate all grassed bunker faces. Finally, Ruth Lake Country Club will be moving and constructing a new maintenance facility. The new facility is going to be 10,800 square feet with a separate 2,000-square-foot chemical storage building.

Ruth Lake Country Club hopes to have the contractors off the property by year's end and be ready to open sometime in June of 2005.

—Brian Baker
Chicagoland Turf



After.

Midlane Country Club's Recipe for Topdressing Greens

In 2004, we began topdressing our greens every seven days with rotary fertilizer spreaders, and our greens have never played better.

Two men are sent out in the afternoon to apply dried sand with Lesco rotary fertilizer spreaders.

The spreaders are set wide open.

The sand is applied to 130,000 square feet of putting surface in six man-hours.

A hopper full of sand is good for two passes across the green, on 12-foot centers. We are currently reloading our hoppers with shovels from a utility cart at the edge of

the green. If we had a silo for storing the sand and dispensing it into five-gallon buckets to be dumped into the spreaders, we would probably be able to reduce our man-hours considerably since much of our time is actually spent in shoveling the sand into the spreaders.

We have discovered that there is no brushing or dragging of sand required after application with the Lesco spreaders.

The application of sand with this method does not interfere with golf play. Actually, the greens seem to roll even better while the sand is being applied.

The greens are watered for nine minutes at night to move the sand below the turf canopy.

The amount of sand that is applied on this schedule is slightly less than the amount of sand that was formerly applied with our tow-behind topdressing unit, but our intervals are more consistent. I am expecting the weekly application of sand to better match our growth curve.

Using this method, there is no waste of sand from being thrown beyond the putting surface. And we have eliminated the compaction weight of the utility cart, which was used to brush the sand in.

Our former method of brushing the sand in after application required a follow-up mowing to clean up the tufts of grass, which were lifted by the drag broom. But the rotary-spreader method has eliminated the clean-up motions.

—Brad Anderson
Midlane Country Club

Selecting an Architect for Renovations at The Oak Park Country Club

The Oak Park Country Club has retained the services of Rick Jacobsen to develop segments of a renovation master plan, including greens, tees, fairways and bunkers. The master plan will also address trees that have grown to affect the playing surface and the game.

During the process of selecting an architect, Alan assured the committee members that he would be able to work with any architect that they chose. Alan also encouraged the committee to be absolutely sold on what the architect could bring to them and do for them, and to adopt completely the theme and concept of the architect's plan.

—Brad Anderson
Midlane Country Club



Master of the Links®

Course Accessories and A Lot More

www.masterofthelinks.com

Toll Free (888) TURF-888

Local (630) 545-2474

Fax (630) 545-2782



Global Distributor of

PHAIRWAY®

WATER TREATMENT AMENDMENT

announces the latest in
Irrigation Chemical Injection Equipment

G2



pH Control AND Fertigation
Applications in **one unit!**
New IntelliDose Controller
Technology



- ◆ Improved Sensor Response
- ◆ Multiple pH Set Point Flexibility
- ◆ Remote Control Capability
- ◆ Proven Reliable Components
- ◆ VFD Controller / Motor

Call for a free demonstration
800.677.8097

Visit our new website at www.primeturf.com



75 Years of Quality Service, Products & People



Milorganite®

The #1 natural organic fertilizer with golf course superintendents. You'll find it on top courses across the country. You'll also find it at our place.

Snow Mold Control

Conserv FS stocks a wide range of products to help you control snow mold.

Call your Certified Turf Specialist today!

27310 W Case Rd
Wauconda, IL 60084
847.526.0007

7851 W 183rd
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708.532.4723

4304 S Beaumont Ave
Kansasville, WI 53139
262.878.2048

the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS
Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 1 – 2nd Annual Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents Founders Cup tournament. Since you are most likely reading this after it happened, perhaps it should have fallen under the “Dates We Hope You Remembered” section.

October 4 – Rutgers University Professional Golf Turf Management School begins its fall session.

October 5 – The last MAGCS golf event of the season—the MAGCS/ITF Fall Golf Day and College Championship—will be contested at Calumet Country Club, **Keith Peterson** host.

October 8 – 24th Southern Illinois Turfgrass Field Day at the SIUC Horticulture Research Center in Carbondale, IL.

October 19–20 – Illinois Arborist Association’s 22nd Annual Conference and Trade Show at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Tinley Park, IL.

November 10 – 52nd Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club, **Tom Lively**, CGCS host.

November 29–December 2 – Illinois Professional Turf Conference (formerly the NCTE) at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL.

The Illinois Arborist Association will be conducting its 22nd Annual Conference and Trade Show on the 19th and 20th of this month at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Tinley Park. For the latest on equipment, supplies and everything else involved in the arboriculture industry, go to

www.illinoisarborist.org for details on how to register.

On August 30, Crystal Lake Country Club and **Steve Van Acker**, CGCS hosted the John Deere Team Championship. This great event gathers all of a golf club’s different department heads—the pro, superintendent and manager—along with its president, and puts them together for a fun day of golf with an interesting twist. The three amateurs play a scramble format, while the pro plays his or her own ball, and the best score of the two is carded for each hole. The J.W. Turf folks were out in force, with **Holly Gilmour**, **Mark Gilmour**, **Joe Hustler**, **John McGuire**, **Rick Uthe**, **Jeff Rehberg** and the gang all there to help make it such a fine day. The course was immaculate thanks to Steve and his staff, and it was only fitting (or the fix was in) that he and the team from Crystal Lake won the event with a scorching 56. Rounding out the top 10 finishers were (in order from 2nd to 10th) Midland G.C. and John Wagner; Royal Melbourne C.C. and **Dave Groelle**; Bryn Mawr C.C. and **Brian Bossert**, CGCS; Woodstock C.C. and **Bob Kronn**; Flossmoor C.C. and **Bob Lively**; Riverside G.C. and **Shane Kissack**; Davenport C.C. and Warren West; Orchard Valley G.C. and **Jim McNair**, CGCS; and finally, Aurora C.C. and **John Gurke**, CGCS. Thank you to the folks at J.W. Turf and John

Deere, as well as to the great people at Crystal Lake C.C. for the wonderful day!

While on the subject of J.W. Turf and John Deere, MAGCS bids a fond farewell and wishes the best of luck to **Gale Stenquist**, who resigned from J.W. Turf on August 19. Gale had been with J.W. Turf since February of 2002, and had become very active in not only MAGCS, but also ITF, NWIGCS and WTA. Having missed his children growing up while conquering the business world, Gale says he does not wish to make the same mistake with his grandchildren, and has resolved to do it differently this time around. Look for Gale’s farewell letter in “Midwest Voices,” page 32. Happy trails, Gale!

GCSAA Stuff:

The deadline for the 2004 GCSAA/*Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards is October 8. The ELGAs, presented in partnership with Syngenta Professional Products and Rain Bird Corp., Golf Division, recognize superintendents and golf courses for their commitment to environmental stewardship in the areas of resource conservation, water quality management, integrated pest management, wildlife/habitat management and education/outreach. To apply, go to www.gcsaa.org/resources/awards/elga/elga.asp.

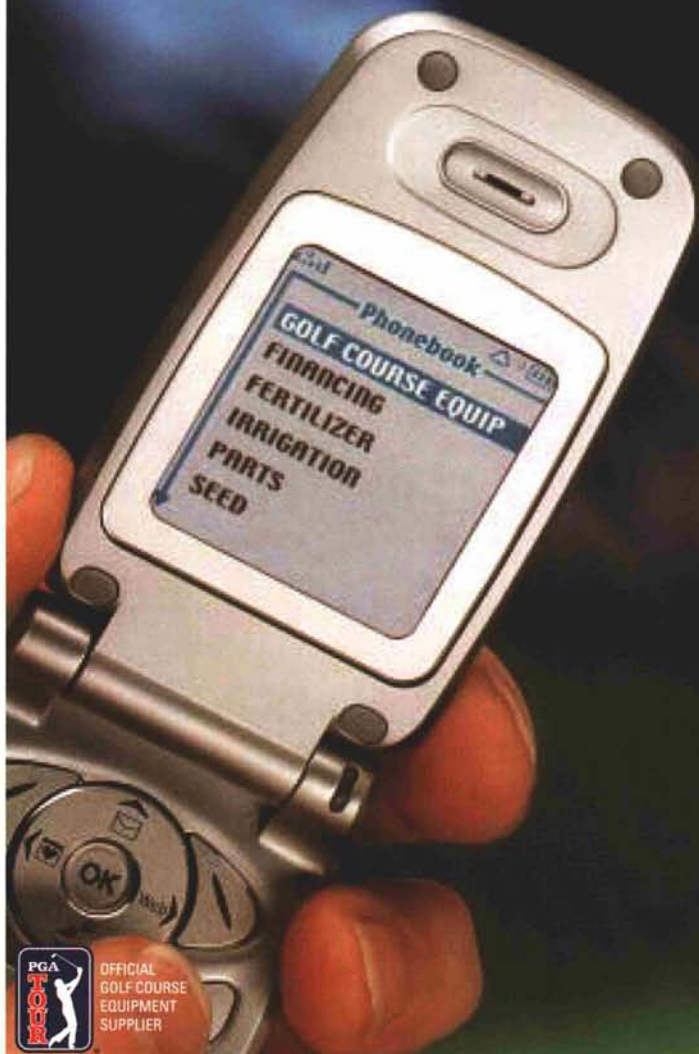
Registration for the 2005 Golf Industry Show to be held February 7–12, 2005 in Orlando, FL is now open. Visit www.golfindustryshow.com for details.

(continued on page 26)



Holly Gilmour, Joe Hustler, Mark Gilmour and Rick Uthe look on as Crystal Lake pro Casey Brozek gives the pre-shotgun spiel.

Instead of Calling
Everyone For
Everything...



Call Us.



J. W. TURF, INC.
14 N 937 US HWY 20
HAMPSHIRE, IL 60140
(847) 683-4653

John Deere Golf & Turf One Source™ is the one call that will give you everything you need. You won't find a wider range of products and professional services anywhere else. While you already know us for the best in equipment, parts, service and financing, our arsenal of products now includes irrigation and drainage expertise, landscaping products and supplies, seed, fertilizer, and more. Call your local John Deere Golf & Turf Distributor or 1-800-537-8233 to let them show you what John Deere One Source™ is all about.

ADVANCED MICROBIAL SOLUTIONS • AQUAMASTER • HANCOR
BLUEYELLOW™ PROFESSIONAL • CALCIUM SILICATE CORP. • HOWARD FERTILIZER
HUNTER GOLF • JOHN DEERE LANDSCAPES • NU-GRO • PROFILE
PROGRESSIVE TURF • SPRING VALLEY • TEE2GREEN • TURF SEED INC.

JOHN DEERE GOLF & TURF
ONE SOURCE™



www.johndeere.com/onesource

GCSAA is currently recruiting volunteers for its 2005 committees and task groups. If interested, contact Janet Satterlee at jsatterlee@gcsaa.org or call 800-472-7878.

.....
Congratulations to **Scott Adams**, who is now with Arthur Clesen, Inc.
.....

Likewise, congratulations to Cubby O'Brien, who has joined the Chicagoland Turf team and covers the Wisconsin and northern Illinois territory.
.....

.....
Congratulations to MAGCS member **Steve Cook, CGCS, MG** of Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Hills, MI, on hosting the Ryder Cup matches on September 17-19. Although I am writing before the event, thanks to **David Esler** (Esler Golf Designs), we were able to have a sneak preview of the course undergoing preparations for the international event. The venerable

Oakland Hills is no stranger to major championships, having played host to the U. S. Open in 1924, 1951, 1961, 1985 and 1986, along with several PGA championships and U.S. Senior Opens scattered in the mix. Great job, Steve and staff!
.....

'Tis the season for the various golf leagues to hold their final hurrahs and disband for the winter (or at least segue from golf to another, more cold-weather sport, such as cards). Having personal knowledge of only one such league, the Fox Valley Golf League, I thought I'd



Bunker Raking 101 being taught on the 18th green with the famous clubhouse in the background.



And the perfect score on the final exam . . .



The notorious 16th hole.



There really IS a reason it's called Oakland HILLS—hole no. 11 for example.



Note to trees at Oakland Hills: You lean, you fall, as indicated by the "Husqvarna-orange ribbon of death."

throw a little something your way about it. The league started 12 years ago at the newly-opened Blackberry Oaks Golf Course in Bristol, IL and remains there to this day, having survived all philosophies of leadership from Emperor of Golf to Director of Fun and everything in between. The laid-back atmosphere of the course reflects the two men who have served as its superintendent: **Hans Hopphan** and **Steve Holich**. League members include MAGCS superintendents and commercial people from all over the Chicagoland area, and the list of charter members reads like a "who's who" list of involved MAGCS members. The closing banquet saw the crowning of this year's champions, and they were: **Chuck Anfield**, CGCS—A Flight; **Sam Wineinger**—B Flight; **John Lebedevs**—C Flight; and **Jeff Hoste**—D Flight. Congratulations to these gentlemen and to Jeff as well. Anyone interested in joining the Fox Valley Golf League can contact **Paul Yerkes** for info. This concludes my shameless plug, but I'd be glad to print shameless plugs for other golf leagues if you'll con-

tact me and let me know the scoop. I'm in the book.

.....
This item recently came across my screen, and it brings the conflict in Iraq even closer to our own hearts. It comes from the Julius and Vickie Albaugh family:
Since the MAGCS scholarship contestants wrote about the servicemen and women serving in Iraq, I thought you might be interested in knowing that Chief Warrant Officer David Albaugh, son of Vickie and Julius Albaugh, CGCS, has returned from a tour of duty there. He is a criminal investigator who investigated war crimes from September of 2003 until March of 2004 and was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service. He was involved in investigations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the prison at Abu Ghraib. He is now stationed at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, where he is the assignment officer for all the Warrant Officer CID agents in the Army. He has a wife and two children. He was formerly a personal security officer for Generals George Joulwan and Wesley Clark when they were Supreme Allied Commanders of NATO. David met

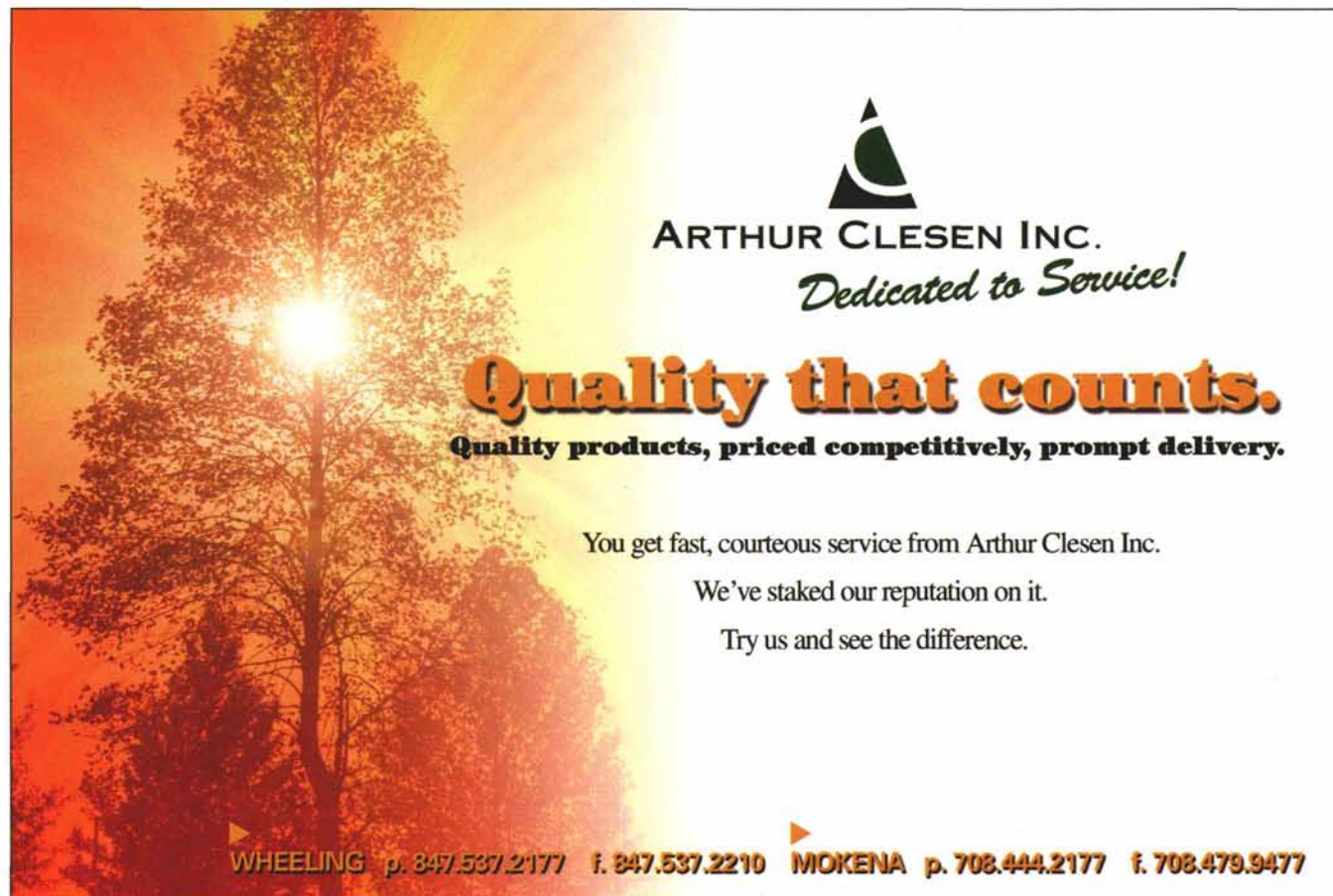
his wife, Stefanie, in Belgium when she was in the Army and was General Clark's secretary.


Thank you, Vickie and Julius, for that information, and thank you from the bottom of our hearts to David Albaugh for representing and defending our country.

.....
If you haven't had a look at September's *Golfidom* magazine, pull it out—there's a nice article by Anthony Pioppi titled "Tough Crowd" about the diverging nature of golf course budgets and golfer expectations. MAGCS president **Fred Behnke**, CGCS is one of the featured superintendents in the article and offers some wise insights into this alarming trend in today's market of budgets not increasing at the same rate as expectations for turf conditions.

.....
I feel it is appropriate to send our thoughts and moral support out to all of our colleagues in the Gulf and Atlantic seaboard states and throughout the Caribbean who

(continued on page 28)




ARTHUR CLESEN INC.
Dedicated to Service!
Quality that counts.
Quality products, priced competitively, prompt delivery.

You get fast, courteous service from Arthur Clesen Inc.
 We've staked our reputation on it.
 Try us and see the difference.

WHEELING p. 847.537.2177 f. 847.537.2210 MOKENA p. 708.444.2177 f. 708.479.9477

have been affected by the rash of hurricanes and associated natural disasters. We wish them the best in their efforts to recover from the devastation these storms wrought.



Best wishes and hearty congratulations to **Bob Williams** on the celebration of his 90th birthday this past September 26. We all know Bob has been contributing to this publication, this Association and this profession for the majority of those years, and we thank him for his dedication to MAGCS and the golf industry. Happy birthday, Bob!

Congratulations to Jennifer and **Derek Florian** (Fox Valley G.C.) on the August 17th birth of daughter Madeline Paige. Mom and baby are happy and healthy, and dad's a wreck.

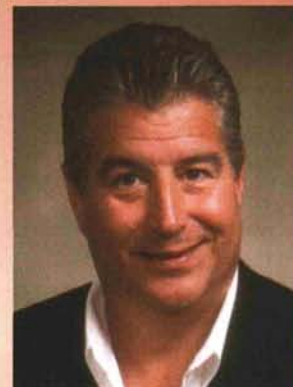
Also, congratulations to the **Leuzinger** family on the birth of Pete and DeeAnn's fourth grandchild. Daughter Megan and husband Chris Mogan welcomed their first child—Quinn Marie—into the world on August 13.

Equipment for sale: Bunton Model G813 walking greens mower in great condition. This mower was privately owned and was used to mow a personal putting green. It was maintained meticulously, and the asking price is \$1,000 OBO. Contact John Beckway at 847-683-0541 or 847-791-6446.



MULLIGANS

The Commentary "What's In YOUR Water?" published in the September issue of *On Course* should have been credited to Dan Glitto. *On Course* regrets the error.



Dan (not Jim) Glitto.

HAROLD FREDERICKSON IS NOW



Have Dogs • Will Travel • 708.923.6885

Check out our web page at www.goosesolution.com or e-mail us at goosesolution@comcast.net

“DryJect is a tremendous addition to our aeration program.”

Paul B. Latshaw,
Superintendent, Muirfield Village Golf Club



Seeing is believing. Call today for a free DryJect demonstration.

DryJect®

The only way to aerate, amend and play in 1 hour

We can aerate, amend, and have greens and tees each ready to play in an hour. Exclusive patented technology injects amendments into the root zone while shattering compacted layers and aerating 4" and deeper. No cores. No disrupted play. No lost revenue. Superintendents who DryJect do it year after year. It's that good, that effective, and that easy.

www.dryject.com

RTV900

The utility vehicle that's built as tough as a tractor.



Hard working, dependable and tough: the Kubota RTV900.

- **21.6 HP diesel engine** - Designed by Kubota engineers
- **Hydrostatic power steering** - Handle tight turns with ease
- **Variable Hydrostatic Transmission (VHT)** - No belts. No maintenance. No loss of torque.
- **Hydraulic wet disc brakes** - Smooth braking, even in mud and water
- **4-wheel drive** - Power through the roughest terrain
- **Ground-hugging suspension** - Fully independent front and semi-independent rear suspension
- **4 different models** - General, worksite, turf and recreational

Tractor tough. Kubota smart.
Martin Implement, Inc.

16400 104th. Ave.
Orland Park, IL 60467
(708) 349-8430

Kubota

EVERYTHING YOU VALUE
www.kubota.com



Consistent

Quality

Consistent

Service

Consistent

Soil Type

**Executive Blend Bluegrass Sod
Penncross & L-93 Bentgrass Sod
StrathAyr Soil-Free
42" Big Roll available**



**HUBER RANCH
SOD NURSERY, Inc.**

P.O. Box 188, Schneider, IN 46376

800-553-0552 • (219)552-0552

www.hubersod.com

Simplot

PARTNERS



**Delivering
Total Solutions**



**Programs Tailored to Fit
What You Need**

Contact Simplot Partners:

Scot Spier (630) 546-0222

5300 Katrine Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Phone (630) 963-8787

www.simplotpartners.com

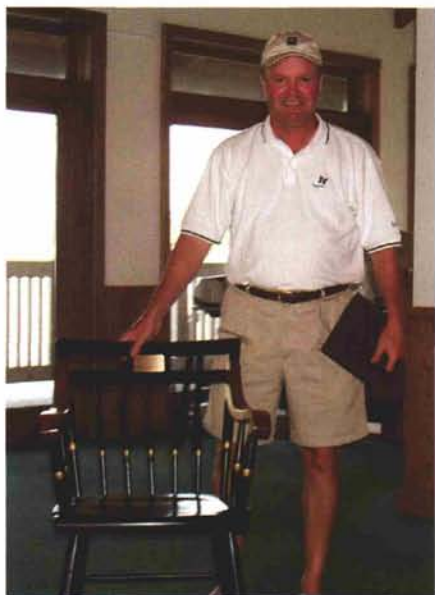
©2002 J. R. Simplot Company. All rights reserved.

Summer's Swan Song: September Meeting at

The September monthly meeting and MAGCS Golf Championship took us to God's Country—Harvard, IL and Oak Grove Golf Club. For those who traveled far, the trip was well worth it! Paul Sandall and his staff, and owner John DelGato and the great folks at Oak Grove (including, as Lynn Wesson so aptly put it, "the most efficient bar-cart girls ever"), put on a show for us that will be remembered for a long time to come.



Our hosts John and Paul (George and Ringo were in the kitchen cooking).



Champion Randy Wahler and his throne.

The weather on this fine September day was more reminiscent of summer, with a stiff, hot breeze blowing from the south wreaking all kinds of havoc on even the most well-crafted shots. Mother Nature aside, the course itself with its twists and turns, its forests and prairies, and its sneaky-slick greens and bountiful bunkers was challenge enough for the 55 MAGCS members who competed for the honor of being dubbed champion. One thing is for certain, the 89 golfers who experienced Oak Grove were treated to a fine golf course in excellent condition.

The coveted (and somewhat mysterious) winner's chair was again on the line for the Championship Flight, and its new owner for 2004 is **Randy Wahler**, CGCS of Knollwood Club, who shot a 74. Coming in two strokes back in second place was defending champ **Dave Kohley** of Silver Lake Country Club with 76, followed by **Tommy Robinson** of Ravinia Green Country Club with 77.

The Commercial A Flight champion was **Tim Keating** of Cleary Chemical with a net 73. **Phil Taylor** of Burris Equipment was second, followed by **Ernie Kaplan** of Kaplan Paving in third, who defeated **Charlie Brugler** (BTISI) in a scorecard playoff.

Commercial B Flight was won by **Eric Nadler** of Nadler Golf Car Sales with a net 73. Taking second was **Larry Tomaszewski** of AXA Advisors, and third was **Peter Leuzinger** of PL Consulting.

First Flight champion for 2004 is **Rick Wilson**, CGCS (Glenview Park District) with a net 71, defeating second-place winner **Pat McDonagh** (Red Tail G.C.) in a scorecard playoff. Third place in the flight went to **Pete Kiraly** of Schaumburg G.C.

Your Second Flight champion is **David Groelle** of Royal Melbourne C.C. with a net 72, winning another scorecard playoff against **Steve Van Acker**, CGCS of Crystal Lake C.C. Host superintendent Paul Sandall took third place with a 73, defeating **Dan Anderson** (City of Aurora) in yet another scorecard playoff.

In the Third Flight, **Brad Johnsen** of Klein Creek G.C. was champion with a net 65. Second place was won (yep—in a scorecard playoff) by **Scott Speiden** of Itasca C.C. and third went to **Dean Tomaselli** of Cary C.C.

Proximity event winners were Dean Tomaselli and Lynn Wesson for longest putt holed, and **Mark Stephan** for longest drive (against that aforementioned stiff southern breeze).

The betting hole, which was administered by **Sharon Riesenbeck** of Waupaca Sand and Solutions, netted \$500 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The raffle was won by **Tom Prichard** of The Glen Club, who won a \$200 Citgo gas card (about a full tank at today's prices).

After golf, the party moved inside for the presenting of the awards and a hearty spread of appetizers, big steaks and all the trimmings. The generous folks at Palatine Oil donated six box seats to a Cubs game; these were