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- Triplex mowing of fairways was just starting to catch on, and Ted Woehrle was considering using them on his fairways at Oakland Hills for the 1985 Open there.

AND 10 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH IN MAGCS:

- *The Bull Sheet* was still kinda pea/baby-food green with the cup-cutter guy on the cover, but many things were the same as they are now. **Don Ferreri** was hosting the September meeting at Seven Bridges (back then there were still only three bridges), Roger Stewart was praising the virtues of the new TurfTalk computer bulletin board (the precursor to our MAGCS Web site's Members Area), and Ruth Lake C.C. was digging stuff up (**Tom Lively** was installing a new Toro LTC Version 2.0 control system).

.....
On Saturday, August 14, the MAGCS held its annual and ever-popular Kane County Cougars outing at Elfstrom Field in Geneva. This year's rendition was similar to previous years in many respects (same general location in the right field "Leinie Lounge," same great atmosphere and same result—

Cougars win), but also featured some new improvements that were quite well-received. First off, we were treated to the all-new All You Can Eat dinner extravaganza, featuring burgers, dogs, brats, chicken, plus chips, pop, beer and Oberweis ice cream for dessert. Another popular new addition was face painter Marisa Lewis, sponsored by the Women's Center for Health (thank you, Linda and **Tim Anderson**), who kept the many children present both happy and more importantly, occupied. They also popped for the cookies that made the rounds, allowing for some creative ice cream/cookie concoctions. Every one of the 142 folks who attended had a fantastic time—many even forgot there was a ball game going on what with all the other things to do. Once the game ended, the fun was just beginning, as the Jesse White Tumblers took the field for a demonstration of their great talent. Time to go home, right? Nope—after the aerial display another aerial display began—the fireworks show. This is no Podunk fireworks display, either—this is a bona fide 4th of July kinda deal here without our crews having to clean up

after it. The finale was spectacular, but we weren't quite done yet. The last item on the packed agenda was the run around the bases for kids and parents alike (a perfect way to work all the cotton candy, ice cream and assorted other sweets out of their little systems before strapping them in for the ride home). I've described this event in these pages for years, and I must reiterate how great it is to bring the family out for an evening of pure fun (and at a very low cost). If you haven't participated in the Cougars outing, plan on it next year—it's an event that kids of all ages really enjoy. Thanks to our generous sponsors **Palatine Oil Company, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc. and Turf Professionals Equipment Company** for making this event possible, and to Jennifer and **Luke Cella** (okay—mainly Jenny) for arranging everything, including the kids' goodie bags and all the other fun glowy things to be had. Can't wait for next year!



Watching the fireworks extravaganza.



The Leinie Lounge, complete with extra umbrellas to deflect those pesky homers.



Marisa Lewis creates another masterpiece.



If you had the chance to look, there was actually a ball game going on, too.

Glenn Bereiter, Aldeen G.C. Host Northern Illinois Golf Day

The Northwest Illinois AGCS and ITF held their annual Northern Illinois Golf Day on July 12 at Aldeen Golf Club in Rockford, IL. Our host for the day was **Glenn Bereiter, CGCS**, and he and his



Host Glenn Bereiter, CGCS.

staff gave us a wonderful venue for the event (which also featured picture-perfect weather). The day's smashing success could not have been possible without the generosity of our sponsors and volunteers. President's Club sponsors were Bayer Environmental Science, Central Sod Farms, Inc.,

H & E Sod Nursery-Town & Country Landscape Supply, Lesco, Inc., Olds Seed Solutions, ProSource One, Syngenta and Turf Professionals Equipment Company (TPEC). Individual tee sponsors were DHD Tree Products, Inc., Dow AgroSciences, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc., Reinder's, Inc. and SePro Corporation. Many thanks to these companies for their financial support, and to Beth Whitehouse (Dow AgroSciences), **Sharon Riesenbeck** (Waupaca Sand & Solutions) and **Carl Hoppman** (ITF) for donating their time and energy on the fundraising holes. More than \$500 total was raised for turf research through their efforts (and through the pockets of the players). Prox-

imities on the course (all apparently won by Mike Vansistine) and raffles determined prizes for the day. Big winners included Doug Wells, Myron Seaver, Lyle Kristoferson and **Russ Wescott**. Thank you to all who contributed to this fine day, including Glenn and the staff at Aldeen, the sponsors, the volunteers and everyone in attendance.



Shannon Barsten, Roger Johnson, Glenn Bereiter, Sharon Riesenbeck and Dave Marquardt.



Russ Wescott, Dan Murray, Mike Murphy and Nick Hongisto.



Tom Voigt, Jim McNair, Randy Kane and Tom Fermanian.



Al VanAlsborg, Beth Whitehouse, Brian McCarrin and Gordon Hagberg.



Mike Vansistine, Bruce Schweiger, Al Pondel and David Boyce.

July Meeting Venue, Fox Run Golf Links, Tests Seniors' Mettle at 2004 Championship

A balmy Monday, July 19 found members of MAGCS at the Fox Run Golf Links in Elk Grove Village. The day's main event was the Seniors' Championship, which turned out to be hotly contested on this ultra-TIGHT course.



Hans Hopphan, Lynn Wesson and Ray Schei.



Scott Speiden and Jim Meyer.



Ed Fischer, Tim Davis, Bob Kronn and Randy Wahler.

Our host, **Greg Thalmann, CGCS**, and his staff provided us with outstanding conditions on a golf course that was a true test of each competitor's mettle. Greens rolled quick and true, and the plush, narrow and well-guarded fairways just begged players to break out the big dog and let him eat. Eat sand, eat water, eat trees, you name it—accuracy AND length were the requirements of the day, and those who did not bring that combination to the table were left either helping their handicaps jump up a few strokes or asking their partners for a ball or two to get them through.

The leaderboard for the Seniors' Championship showed who had their A-game. The Elmer Bertucci Trophy, held until now by 2003 winner Tommy Robinson, went to **Tim Davis** of Shoreacres with a 73. The net winner was **Brad Johnsen**, taking the honors from last year's champion **Dave Nadler**. Second-place gross was won by **Ed Fischer, CGCS**, while net went to **Jim McNair, CGCS**. **Randy Wahler, CGCS** took third gross, and **Paul Bastron, CGCS** grabbed third net. As for the Super Seniors, first-place gross was won by **Bob Kronn**, while first net went to **Hans Hopphan**. **Lynn Wesson** took second gross, and **Ray Schmitz** won net. Third gross was won by **Russel Stratton** and net by **Ray Schei**. Congratulations to all seniors and super seniors on their great achievements!

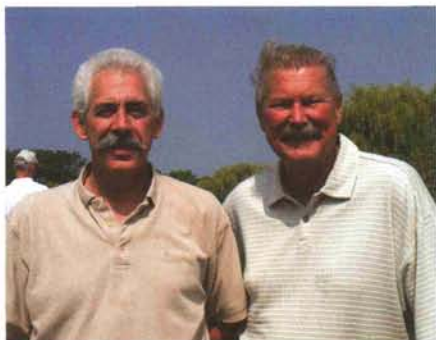
Although the seniors were the VIPs for the day, a regular event also took place, and winners were **Mike Nielsen** (low gross) and **Scott Speiden** (low net). The day's activities also included the presentation of three MAGCS scholarships to their deserving recipients. Patrick Maguire (**John Maguire, J.W. Turf**) was this year's George Minnis Memorial Scholarship winner; Brianne Smith (Peggy and **Jeff Smith, Springbrook G.C.**) was the inaugural winner of the Paul Burdett Scholarship; and Kelley Murray (Jill and **Dan Murray, CGCS** of Settler's Hill G.C.) won the at-large scholarship. Not in attendance, but honored June 30 at the John Buck Memorial Golf Outing, was John Buck Memorial Scholarship winner Tony Doruff (Sharon and **Ron Doruff** of Steeple Chase G.C.). Congratulations to all four of our 2004 MAGCS Scholarship winners!

Finally, to top off the day, our Education Committee came up with a very appropriate presentation—a Father-and-Son Superintendents Roundtable. Our panelists were Ray and **Todd Schmitz, Dudley Smith** and stepson Rick Wilson, and **Mike and Mike, Jr. Bavier**. Moderator Henny Youngman . . . er . . . **Paul Voykin** posed several pointed questions to the panelists, and it turned out to be a really neat off-the-cuff event. When the **Leuzinger** team of **Peter and Jeff** were called upon for their thoughts, let's just say it was a touching moment that really summed up the day with its emphasis on FAMILY. Thanks to everyone who helped make the day such a success: Greg Thalmann, Education Committee chair Tim Anderson, our panelists, our competitors, our photographers/fundraisers **Marsha Traves** and Patti Thorson, and our gracious sponsors: Central Sod Farms, BTSI, Burris Equipment, J.W. Turf, Arthur Clesen Inc., Harris Motorsports, Nadler Golf Car Sales/Club Car, Turf Professionals Equipment Company and Palatine Oil.



MAGCS EVENT

John Gurke, CGCS Contributing Editor



Host Greg Thalmann and John Lebedevs.



Jim McNair, Rich Daly and Fred Behnke.



Ray Schmitz.



"Get a hole-in-one and win a track hoe!"



Russel Stratton and Mike O'Neill.



Paul Bastron and Brad Johnsen.



Patrick Maguire, the George Minnis Memorial Scholarship winner.



Paul Burdett Scholarship winner Brianne Smith with Mike O'Neill and Jim Burdett.



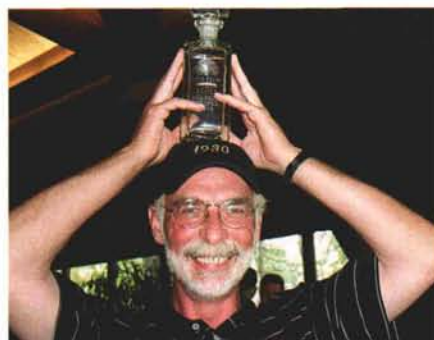
Senior moment—Jim Burdett, Mike Bavier, Paul Voykin, Dudley Smith (a.k.a. Don Ho), Rick Wilson and Pete Leuzinger.



At-large MAGCS Scholarship winner Kelley Murray (R) with Brianne Smith.



Ron, Sharon and Tony Doruff—the 2004 John Buck Memorial Scholarship winner—with Holly Gilmour and Fred Behnke on June 30.



Senior champ Tim Davis with the Elmer Bertucci headdress.

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A Beautiful Day at the Bog

It was a beautiful day on August 9 at the lovely Biltmore Country Club for the MAGCS golf meeting. Brian Thomson had every blade of grass in place at the most finely groomed peat bog on the planet.

Due to **John Gurke's** absence, I was on the beat, getting the scoop to share the day's happenings with our membership. I will attempt to live up to expectations, although I could never measure up to Mr. Gurke's acutely tuned roving-reporter skills, quirky personality, editorial savvy and linguistic manipulation.

The morning education featured Vicki Trost from K.A.R.E. (Kane Area Rehabilitation and Education). Special guests included "Frederick" the skunk and "What-the-Heck-Is-His-Name-Anyway" the red-tailed hawk.

Vicki works diligently to rehabilitate animals that have been injured in the wild. Her emphasis on educating the public is a valuable part of K.A.R.E.'s success.



Frederick skunk facts: He is an omnivore, he has very poor vision and oddly enough a great sense of smell??? Yeah, go figure. Frederick has been de-scented, and he is a very docile creature. Although skunks can carry rabies, there has never been a reported case of a virulent skunk in Illinois.



Hawk facts: They are just plain COOL! Actually:

- The most common raptor on golf courses is the red-tailed hawk, whose habitat preferences overlap with its nightly counterpart, the great horned owl. Both hunt on the edges of fields and nest in woods.
- Red-tailed hawks and other raptors are at the top of the food chain, feeding on rodents, squirrels, rabbits and, occasionally, snakes and birds. Manage tall grass areas or prairie cover with small brush piles or grouping of shrubs to offer habitat for their prey. Allow dead tree limbs to remain in areas posing no threat to people or buildings to serve as perching sites.
- Red-tailed hawks are common in their range throughout North and Central America. Standing 19 to 24 inches, they are often seen perched on poles and dead tree limbs, which provide an open view of the surrounding terrain.
- Red-tailed hawks lay two to three eggs on average each year in a nest that is 15 to 70 feet high in the crotch of a large tree with a commanding view. The female incubates the eggs for 30-32 days and cares for the young for about 45 days before they are ready to fend for themselves.
- The first year of a raptor's life is so challenging that a mere 20 to 50 percent are estimated to make it to their second year. Adult birds have an average yearly mortality rate of 20%.

Thanks to **Dan Dinelli**, CGCS and the *USGA Green Section Record* (July/August 2004) for those raptor factoids.

Vicki is always looking for volunteer release sites for rehabilitated animals. If you have any interest in being a release site, you can contact her via e-mail at vatrost@yahoo.com. If you have any other questions pertaining to injured wildlife, she can be reached by phone at 630-377-1895.

What about the golf? Oh yeah!

One hundred and twenty players came out to enjoy the perfect weather in Barrington. The intense competition (or scorecard raffle) hinged on the steady hand of **Sharon Riesenbeck**. Lucky winners were: **Tom Horwath**, **Scott Speiden**, **Jim Meyer** and **Sean Creed**; **John Ekstrom**, **Byron Ambrose**, **Scot Spier** and **Tim Keating**; and **Chris Smith**, **Craig Lewis**, **John Maguire** and **William Walton**. These three fine foursomes received gift certificates for the fabulous Biltmore pro shop. Additional raffle foursomes **Kathy Newyear**, **Bob McCallum**,

(continued on page 38)

David Beno and Greg Benson, and Tommy Robinson, Randy Wahler, Bob Kronn and Al Pondel all won some highly coveted MAGCS logo golf shirts. This last four-some shot a 75, 77, 79 and 72 respectively. I'm glad they won something!

Gee whiz Al . . . tough to shoot par all the time, eh?



John Kiraly, Charlie Brugler, Pete Kiraly and President Behnke.



Tim Keating, John Ekstrom, Byron Ambrose and Scot Spier.



Our host Brian Thomson, Jesse, Jake Volbeer, Joe Etten and Adam Pierce.



Brian Mores, Aaron Easter, Luke Cella, Kevin DeRoo and a less-than-perfect backdrop considering the beautiful golf course directly behind the photographer!!!



Dave Schlagetter, Michele (beverage cart service professional), Dave Blomquist, Dave Radaj and Shane Kissack breaking up the potential "quadruple Dave foursome."

Tom Clesen and Scot Spier won the longest putts holed on no. 16 and no. 12, and the champion of all superintendents Tommy Robinson took home the longest drive prize. I think he hit it 380 or something like that . . . yeah . . . yeah, that's it, 380.

A.J. Huey and Sharon Riesenbeck volunteered their services on the betting hole no. 5 where \$850 was raised for the MAGCS scholarship fund. All those who hit their shot inside the circle "doubled their tickets" for the big raffle. The grand prize was a \$200 gas card, which went to John Kiraly.

Thank you again to our generous sponsors who helped make this event possible: Turf Professionals Equipment Company, Nadler Golf Car Sales Inc./Club Car, Anton's Greenhouse, Nels Johnson Tree Care Experts and Burris Equipment.



Justin Wheeler, and the always organized, always happy, all-around nice guy Tony Kalina. Thanks for all your hard work in organizing this great day!!!



VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

Bruce Williams, CGCS The Los Angeles Country Club

What We Have Here . . . Is a Need to Communicate

Golf course superintendents do a wonderful job of providing great golfing conditions. Some have learned the trade through formal education and others have learned through hard work and good mentors. At some point, we all have the skills to keep the turfgrass looking super within the constraints of our budgets and weather conditions. However, there is one area that I believe to have a wide variance in competencies, and that is our ability to communicate.

I have a couple of theories on communication and how it can affect superintendents. By sharing them in this article, I am not expecting everyone to agree with me, but it may start a few people thinking about the value of communication.

More people lose their jobs over poor communication than poor turfgrass conditions.

Many superintendents miss opportunities to shine by not telling their story.

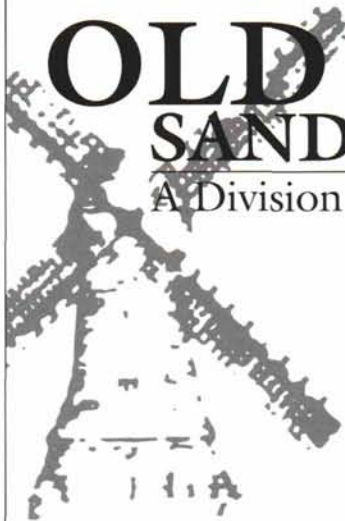
Writing, speaking, providing reports, etc. is not a natural talent but one that is acquired. It takes practice and effort.

Let's look at a few things that you might be able to put into practical application at your golf course.

I hope you have some vehicle to

convey your message to your golfers. Standard vehicles would be a golf course newsletter, a Web site, bulletin boards in the pro shop or lockerroom, etc. Every month I receive about 100 newsletters from clubs, all across the country, via our GM. Only 20% have monthly articles from the superintendent, yet all of them have monthly articles from the pro and GM. The same is true with Web sites. Some superintendents have done a marvelous job of contributing to their golf course Web sites, but again, the golf pros and managers outshine us in this category. It is easy to say that you don't have time to write a monthly message, but I would say that you can't afford not to take the time to communicate clearly the great and

(continued on page 43)



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2003-2004
RAY GERBER EDITORIAL
AWARD CONTESTANTS
 Cathy Miles Ralston *Editor*

Twenty-two years have elapsed since the inception of the Ray Gerber Editorial Award in 1983. Articles eligible for the 2003-2004 award were written by a member of the MAGCS who at the time of writing and publication was currently a golf course superintendent. All articles published in On Course between September 2003 and August 2004 that meet this requirement were considered; however, "On Course with the President," "Director's Column," "Super-N-Site" and "Midwest Breezes" articles are not eligible. Articles originally published elsewhere and then published in On Course are not eligible for the award.

| Year/Month | Article | Author |
|-------------|--|--------------|
| 2003 | | |
| September | "Burn Baby Burn" | Jon Jennings |
| October | "Surviving the Information Age" | Luke Cella |
| | "Building Customer Satisfaction" | Tony Kalina |
| December | "Skin Deep" | Tim Anderson |
| 2004 | | |
| January | "Safe Snow-Removal Procedures" | Bob McCallum |
| March | "A Yankee in Yorkshire: Working the 2003 Walker Cup" | Jon Jennings |
| | "The Haj" (Part I, March; Part II, April) | John Gurke |
| April | "Superintendent's Perspective: The NTEP Putting Green at North Shore Country Club" | Dan Dinelli |
| June | "Is Perception Reality?" | Tony Rzadzki |
| July | "Golf Without Boundaries" | Dave Braasch |
| | "Was This Engagement Meant to Be?" | Dave Braasch |



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