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black bears, cougars, moose, snakes and poison ivy, etc. to watch out for constantly." After that adventure, Fred was able to spend a week with his son, Todd, and family in Christchurch, where Todd is working for the New Zealand Forest Research Institute during his year's leave of absence from the U.S. Forest Service. The amazing thing about this is that it was not planned for Todd to be in New Zealand—pure luck and coincidence brought father and son together halfway around the world! Fred sends his best wishes to all of us here in Illinois, and welcomes all visitors to Montana. Thanks for the update, Fred, and keep in touch!

.....  
 Congratulations to **Dan Dinelli**, CGCS and North Shore Country Club on being named private club runner-up in the Golf Inc. Renova-

tion of the Year Awards. North Shore's renovation focused not on a new look, but rather a return to the Colt/Allison-designed course's classic past. Dan was also featured in the *Northbrook Star's* "Northbrook Personality" column on April 7 for being certified not only by Audubon International for his work at the club, but for having his home in Northbrook certified by the National Wildlife Foundation as a backyard wildlife habitat. Nice going, Dan!

.....  
 Instead of that old humdrum fireworks thing, why not stay at home on the 4th of July and enjoy the Golf Channel's "What's In the Bag" show filmed at Chicago Golf Club. The show is a weekly program hosted by Adam Barr that goes inside the world of golf to review the latest products, technology and information. This particular episode

will highlight Jon Jennings, CGCS and cover the technology behind golf course maintenance and the role of the golf course superintendent. Jon will reveal the methods, equipment and technology behind golf course management at the revered club, which will host the Walker Cup this August. The show airs at 9:30 p.m. on July 4th. Be there.

.....  
 It's going to be another great year for marquee golf events in our area this summer. The LaSalle Bank Open at The Glen Club this month kicks it off, featuring the largest full-field purse (\$750,000) on the Nationwide Tour. Just a few weeks later, the PGA Tour makes its customary stop at Cog Hill for the Cialis Western Open, followed in mid-August by the Walker Cup at Chicago Golf Club. Great venues and great golf!

## Golf Meetings Resume at White Pines in April

The April MAGCS meeting was held on the 25th at White Pines Golf Club on a beautiful spring day for our kick-off scramble event. Host superintendent **Steve Partyka** and the staff at White Pines did a fantastic job of providing a great golf course and amenities before, during and after the golf event. The day began with the business meeting, where **Luke Cella** announced that our potential mission statement as well as a Best Management Practices item are posted in the Members Area of the magcs.org Web site, and we are soliciting your opinions of both. E-mail Luke (luke@magcs.org) with your thoughts on these items of interest. The education portion of the day was next, and a very interesting presentation asking "Are You Ready for a Severe Weather Disaster?" was given by Jim Alsopp of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Association and National Weather Service in Chicago. Among the highlights of Jim's talk was the revelation that a whopping 90% of all tornado deaths occur in mobile homes. Go figure that one. Scramble golf followed, where the team of **Brian Bossert, Chuck Anfield, Dennis Buck and Brian Racette** took top honors with a ridiculously low score. Afterward, cocktails and

dinner were doled out with the prizes for the winners. MAGCS thanks everyone at White Pines for their hospitality, and also thanks the committee volunteers who assisted with the event, from arrangements to education to scoring. Finally, we thank the sponsors for the day—Nadler Golf Car Sales, Harris Motor Sports, Palatine Oil and TPEC—for their generosity and support.



Host Steve Partyka.



Tim Scott and Scott Witte ponder the idea of a merger where they become Tim Scott Witte from this day forward.



The winning team of Brian Bossert, Dennis Buck, Chuck Anfield and Brian Racette.



MAGCS members bonding after a day on the golf course.



## Running the Dream

April 18, or Patriots Day—celebrated in Massachusetts—is also the day for the annual running of the Boston Marathon. Boston is the runners' equivalent of the U.S. Open in golf. After six previous attempts to qualify, I achieved a long-desired goal and completed the Boston Marathon.

The first Boston Marathon was held April 19, 1897. Since that time, the Boston Marathon has become the oldest annually contested marathon.

On a warm, sunny, 75-degree day, I ran the course in 3:37:07, with a net finish time of 3:33:29, placing 4,444 out of 17,528 finishers. I went out too fast in the first half, running 13.1 miles in 1:38:58. I was tired and hot by the time I reached the hills at mile 18.

The Boston Marathon was the most challenging course I have run. The crowd support along the way



is terrific. People are cheering for you the entire way from its start in Hopkinton to the finish in Copley Square. I plan to run Boston again next April. Now that I am familiar with the course, I know I can run a smarter race.

—Jon Jennings, CGCS  
Chicago Golf Club

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with on establishing better working relations with both media and the public.

I gained a lot of ideas that could improve others' awareness of us and enhance this chapter's visibility, for instance:

- Adding GCSAA or MAGCS logo on your course's scorecard next to your name.
- Inviting sports media to your course to play golf or holding a sports media tournament with superintendents.
- Implementing a First Tee program or putting course for kids; inviting teachers/professors, having a five-minute education at each hole, talking about IPM.
- Inviting city commissioners to your maintenance shop for a shop/course tour.

Both Luke and I also met with Jeff Bollig, GCSAA public relations officer, about what steps are needed to get our Committee going. As of now, we (as a chapter) are taking baby steps, thanks to Tony Kalina who

started last year in sending out press releases on a timely basis; hopefully I will keep this going and try to build momentum. Jeff Bollig had some good suggestions, including that our chapter build a media list and attach this list to the Midwest Family Tree. We could send our directory to the media, including phone numbers. We need to stay on top of news releases and get all information from all our members on golf events at their clubs. We should also keep pumping the local newspapers, try to get help from CDGA and USGA, write turf tips, perhaps send the "Super-n-Site" article from each *On Course* to the facility's local newspaper. We might solicit college interns who understand media and public relations to aid with this committee and Luke Cella. Another avenue for our enhanced visibility is the Illinois Green Industry; Luke Cella is strongly involved with this along with being a GCSAA advisor for Executive Officers.

Personally, we all can get involved by being visible in the pro

shop and attending local events, social activities and church. Remember, we are trying to reach the other 90% of the people THAT don't play golf. Reaching out to our #1 resource and the future of the game—our kids—by educating them, makes our jobs more fun and ultimately easier.



#### Weathering . . . (continued from page 3)

With all the adversity experienced by a weather-dependent industry, it is no wonder that we have developed so many ways to lessen weather's effects on scheduling, revenue and safety of our patrons. I'm sure the year 2005 will throw a few weather curves our way, but we can all be glad we have many tools at our disposal with which to cope.





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# 15 Quick Facts About Golf Courses

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1. A properly repaired ball mark heals completely in 2-3 days, while an unrepaired ball mark takes 15-20 days to heal properly.
2. A typical 18-hole golf course covers approximately 125-150 acres of land. The total landmass of golf courses in the United States equals about half the state of Connecticut.
3. A typical 18-hole golf course produces enough oxygen to support 4,000 to 7,000 people.
4. Golf courses nationwide combine to filter 13 million tons of dust from the air every year.
5. Golf courses have a cooling effect during the hot summer months. The average temperature on the golf course is typically 5-7 degrees cooler than a residential area and 7-15 degrees cooler than an urban downtown setting.
6. The infield of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway is home to four holes of the Brickyard Crossing golf course. The remaining 14 holes outside the oval are accessed through a tunnel under the track.
7. Golf courses delay play on frost-covered turf (especially greens) because stepping on frost-covered grass causes the frozen leaf cells to rupture. The turf will turn brown and eventually die.
8. The Old Works Golf Course in Anaconda, MT, is the first golf course built on an Environmental Protection Agency Superfund Site. Designed by Jack Nicklaus, the land served as a smelting location for the mining of iron ore. The golf course opened in June of 1997.
9. Why do golf course superintendents aerate turf? Because it reduces compaction on a golf course by removing soil cores from the ground, allowing the movement of water, air and nutrients to the turf roots. Highly traveled areas plus poor soil composition creates compacted surfaces.
10. What is the origin of the Stimp-meter? In the early 1900s, a man by the name of Edward Stimpson was looking for a means to create more fairness in the game of golf. Specifically, he was looking to make putting surfaces on a particular course all relatively the same speed. He developed the Stimp-meter to achieve this purpose. By using this device, he could determine, for example, if the fourth green was the same speed of the 17th. The device is often misused and misinterpreted by the novice and avid golfer alike. It is best used to compare greens on the same course, **NOT** to compare greens from one course to another.
11. How much has technology and research improved speed and quality of a putting green? In the early 1960s, professional tour event superintendents cut putting green turf heights at about 1/4". Today, the height of putting green turf for professional tournament competition is 1/8" or less.
12. How do trees affect the quality of a putting surface? All things being equal, a putting green with air circulating around it will be in better shape than a green with little or no air circulation. Trees tend to reduce circulation, thereby having a negative effect on putting green quality. Older, more mature trees adjacent to putting greens will negatively impact surface conditions because the tree roots will grow under the putting surface and disrupt the flow of water and nutrients.
13. What is a golf course superintendent doing when he/she syringes a green? Syringing is the process of spraying a light cover of water on a green during hot weather to reduce the temperature of the turf. This prevents putting surfaces from becoming "baked" and "dried-out," and having a negative impact on putting surface quality.
14. What is topdressing? It is the practice of spreading material over a putting green to level and smooth the surface. The material is generally sand and/or organic matter that improves drainage, controls thatch and maintains biological balance.
15. Golf courses have a positive impact on the economy. It is estimated that more than 25 million people annually spend 2.5 billion hours outside, playing one of the nation's 17,000-plus golf courses. The impact of golf facilities on the economy is \$20 billion annually.



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